

# WINGSPAN



Vol. 15, No. 25

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

December 3, 2009



**NASCC Holiday Party Dec. 10**

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**Memorial Service for Lt. Houston**

*Page 3*



**Bronze Star for Corpsman**

*Page 4*

## \$1.075 million and counting!

**Coastal Bend CFC smashes 2008 fund-raising record**

by Rod Hafemeister

The 2009 Coastal Bend Combined Federal Campaign shattered its 2008 fund-raising record.

The not-quite-final total for the 2009 campaign, as of Nov. 20, was \$1,075,632 - \$45,000 more than last year's record of \$1,030,799.

The new record was achieved despite continuing economic woes and a smaller pool of federal workers than last year.

It's the second time the regional CFC has broken the \$1 million barrier.

Last year, it was one of only 35 CFC programs worldwide to exceed \$1 million.

And CFC Director Shannon Chaves said she still expected a little money more to come in.

*CFC continued on page 9*



Col. Joe Dunaway, Corpus Christi Army Depot Commander, pops a champagne cork with CCAD CFC volunteers to celebrate more than doubling CCAD's 2009 Combined Federal Campaign goal of \$300,000 by raising \$603,362. Overall, the Coastal Bend CFC raised \$1,075,632 as of Nov. 20, smashing 2008's \$1,030,799.

Photo by Bob Torres

## Honoring the 'Greatest Generation' and other veterans



NASCC Commanding Officer Capt. Randy Pierson and Coast Guard Senior Chief Boatswain's Mate Bryan D. Hulse present a certificate and medal to World War II veteran Jesus Godines in recognition of his service to the nation. Pierson was Master of Ceremonies and Hulse was Guest Speaker at a Nov. 21 ceremony honoring more than two dozen veterans at The Palms Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Corpus Christi. Patricia Frelix, a worker at Corpus Christi Army Depot, annually organizes a veterans' recognition ceremony at an area nursing home.

Photo by Rod Hafemeister

# Skipper's Column

by Capt. Randy Pierson



Pierson

I would like to share with you a recent experience that I will value for years to come.

In recognition of Veterans – in particular, those of Corpus Christi – I participated in a ceremony at a local Nursing and Rehabilitation Facility.

Supporting us and setting an impressive start was the Color Guard of Naval Health

Clinic Corpus Christi.

Against the background of our National Ensign was Ms. Lauren Rader, an aspiring vocalist at Texas A&M Corpus Christi, singing our National Anthem.

The main program was kicked off by guest speaker BMCS Bryan D. Hulse, from U.S. Coast Guard Sector Corpus Christi.

At the conclusion of his presentation, Corpus Christi's own Veterans' Band played in the background as the dozen veterans of WWII, Korea and Vietnam were honored with an appreciation medal and an accompanying certificate.

With the utmost pride and admiration, I wanted to pass to you my experience in presenting medals and certificates to the Veterans.

# Thanks to our Veterans

To look into eyes that have seen so much in their time and see them brighten (even with tears), their smiles, or to hear the "Thank you's" meant everything to those of us present.

There are few words that could adequately capture the significance of how touched the Veterans were when they were approached by Sailors and Coast Guardsman in uniform and presented with their medal.

The above and similar ceremonies over the last 12 years have only been made possible through the coordination and volunteerism of Ms. Pat Frelix of Corpus Christi.

We offer her our most sincere thanks for her selfless service to our Veterans and for inviting us to share in the ceremony.

# Chaplain's Message

by Lt. j.g. Rob Fasnacht, Chaplain

"So what would you do for a Klondike bar?"

"How many licks does it take to get to the center of a Tootsie Roll pop?"

"Two all beef patties, special sauce, lettuce, cheese, etc..."

What do all three of these have in common? They are commercials that do their job and do them well. We remember these jingles and slogans. We buy their products and perpetuate the cycle.

Our media is enslaved to the advertisers. So if we want to know the news, we must also know what is new to buy.

This holiday season, kids will be bombarded with TV commercials and print ads. Over and over, our children will be told that they are not complete without the latest and greatest toy.

Here is a question: Has anyone else ever notice that only kids' DVD movies make you sit through the previews?

Here, watch this movie, but as soon as it is over, rush out and buy the next one.

I really can't judge; every year I buy my

kids a new DVD so that they can watch it, scratch it, and pack it away.

Do we as parents or caregivers take the same intentional approach to teaching our children about the reason for this Christmas season? Do we bombard their minds with facts about the birth of Jesus?

Do we show them that there are kids around the world, around the country, even around our state and city who don't get new toys this year and won't have a holiday meal?

We can't blame kids for wanting every new toy that they see. I still want a new cell phone and PS3 (hint, hint, Honey).

But we can blame ourselves if we don't teach our children that life is not all about "me" and obtaining "stuff".

My kids lose toys and games all the time because they have too much stuff. Yet this year I will buy them more.

However, I can make this year different by weeding out their unused and excess stuff and donating it to those who are less fortunate.

# The gift of giving

I can take my kids to be involved with feeding the hungry and giving to Marine Reserve's Toys for Tots.

This year, I can give my kids the gift of me not being part of the problem and spoiling them and spoiling the reason for the season.

I can give them the gift of servitude, caring for others, and being generous.

This year, may we all give the gift of education about the Christmas meaning to our kids. This year, may we all commit to instilling in our children values and character of which we are proud.

We cannot control the amount of commercials our kids will see, but we can control the amount of influence that they have on them.



Fasnacht

# Editor's Corner

by Rod Hafemeister



Hafemeister

It was almost like a flashback to Ranger School.

We set out at 0dark30, scheduled to hit multiple objectives.

My wife had worked out such a detailed plan of attack that I felt obliged to give her a copy of the

standard Operations Order format as a checklist.

Mission: Get Christmas presents.

Commo checked (cell phones), rally

points established ("Meet me by the Legos"), Essential Elements of Information (who has what on sale and what opens when) prepared.

We put the teenager on rear security (baby sitting his siblings) and moved out.

First objective: Toys R Us, which kicked off Black Friday by opening at midnight.

Parking was a zoo, and that was the easy part.

Shoppers filled with the spirit of "Gimme that" pushed and shoved their way to the sale items offered as loss-leaders to get you into the store.

Special displays filled the aisles, making it almost impossible to maneuver the shopping cart even when you could get around people.

# Give to those in need

But superior planning – and dumb luck – let us get through the mob scene in relatively short order with most of the things we wanted in the cart.

And check out actually ran very smoothly.

I was only moderately grumpy as we headed for the door – and then I saw something that made me grin: the Marine Reserve's Toys for Tots donation box was almost full.

My favorite charity.

Guess I shouldn't be so hard on the other shoppers.

If you haven't yet, donate a toy or two.

And if you know someone in need, see page 22 for how to request toys.

Make Christmas merry for someone less fortunate than you.

# Wingspan

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**Commanding Officer**  
 Capt. R.F. Pierson

**Public Affairs Officer**  
 Robert D. Torres  
 Robert.Torres1@navy.mil

**Editor**  
 Rod Hafemeister  
 rodney.hafemeister@navy.mil

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## Memorial Service for VT-28's Lt. John Joseph Houston - Nov. 20



A Memorial Service was held Nov. 20 for Lt. John Joseph Houston, the second of two Instructor Pilots who lost their lives during a T-34 mishap Oct. 28. Houston's body was recovered from the wreckage of the aircraft on Nov. 18 after the plane was found about 1.5 miles off Matagorda Island. The body of Houston's fellow

pilot, Lt. Bret Travis Miller, had been found at sea Oct. 30; a service was held for him Nov. 6. (left) Fellow Sailors salute their fallen comrade as 'Taps' is played. (right) Some of Houston's friends examine a photo and letter tribute to Houston from his son, Asher. An aviation mishap board is investigating the accident.

Photos by Bob Torres and Rod Hafemeister

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## Navy Corpsman awarded Bronze Star for Iraq duty

Story and photo by Bill W. Love, NHCCC Public Affairs Office

Commander, Navy Medicine East (NME) Rear Adm. William R. "Bob" Kiser, Medical Corps, presented the Bronze Star to Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Ricardo D. Wilson in a Nov. 18 ceremony at Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi (NHCCC).

Wilson was awarded the Bronze Star for his actions while assigned to 11th Iraqi Army Division Military Transition Team (MTT), Multinational Division, Baghdad, Iraq from September 2008 to August 2009.

Kiser was in South Texas to get a first-hand look at the work being done by Navy medical professionals stationed in the region.

He took advantage of his visit to NHCCC to personally recognize Wilson for his actions while deployed.

"Heroes are made when preparation meets opportunity," Kiser said.

"We have very little to say in when the opportunity is going to arise."

"We have a lot of say to how prepared we are when those things meet up."

Pointing out that Wilson was in a very difficult place at a difficult time, Kiser praised Wilson's vigilance and acknowledged the countless American families who benefit from Navy Medicine staff going to war.

"Our calling as members of Navy Medicine is to place ourselves in harm's way for the benefit of others," he said.

"And I would suggest to you that the exemplar of what that looks like, in this room and at this moment, is HM1 (Wilson)."

Since 2003, NHCCC has deployed 474 staff members in support of OIF/OEF, including 17 who are currently deployed.

As MTT's corpsman, Wilson participated in more than 90 logistical combat patrol missions, resulting in no loss of life.

As a medical advisor to the Army's newly formed Transportation and Provisioning Regiment (TPR) medical platoon, Wilson mentored his Iraqi Army counterparts on the importance of providing medical support in garrison operations as well as on transportation and combat missions.

He also instructed the medical platoon to become proficient in triage, proper diagnoses, I.V. administration, trauma casualty treatment and medical evacuation, preventive medicine, field sanitation, and medical supply management.

Wilson, a 14-year Navy veteran and a preventive medicine technician at NHCCC, thanked his Army teammates who made it possible for him to return home, adding that Army life was a major challenge.

"I fought the battle everyday in letting them know that I am a Navy Corpsman and not an Army Medic, and by the time I left they got that," he said.



Commander, Navy Medicine East (NME) Rear Adm. William R. "Bob" Kiser, Medical Corps, on Nov. 18 presented the Bronze Star Medal to Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Ricardo D. Wilson for his actions while assigned to 11th Iraqi Army Division Military Transition Team, Multinational Division, Baghdad, Iraq from September 2008 to August 2009. Kiser was in South Texas to get a first-hand look at the work being done by Navy medical professionals stationed in the region. Wilson is a preventive medicine technician at Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi.

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## VT-31 to hold change of command Dec. 10

from VT-31 PAO

The senior "Wise Owl" of Training Squadron 31 is flying off to a new perch: Cmdr. Dennis R. Crews is turning over command of VT-31 to his Executive Officer, Cmdr. William A. Hearther.

The change of command will take place at 10 a.m. Dec. 10, in Hanger 42.

The change of command follows tradition: Crews had been the XO of VT-31 before assuming command in September 2008.

Crews' previous assignments have included multiple tours with P-3C units.

His sea duty included a tour as operations Admin officer aboard USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN-71).

While aboard "TR", he deployed to the Arabian Gulf and the Mediterranean theater during the 1999 Kosovo Campaign and was designated as a Tactical Action Officer and Underway Replenishment Conning Alongside Officer.

He later supported Operation Enduring Freedom as a member of VP-45.

In January 2004, he reported to the Pentagon for assignment with the J-3 Operations Directorate as a Special Technical Operations Planner.

After his Pentagon service, he graduated with distinction from the Naval War College in Newport, R.I., having earned a Master of Arts degree in National Security and Strategic



Crews

Studies and received the Professor Michael Handel Award for Strategy and Policy Studies. He came to VT-31 in July 2007.

Crews' next assignment will be with NAVCENT Detachment Afghanistan as Assistant Officer in Charge.

Hearther is a native of Northern California and a 1992 graduate of the United States Naval Academy. He earned his "Wings of Gold" as a United States Naval Aviator at Naval Air



Hearther

Station Corpus Christi in 1995.

His first squadron tour was with Patrol Squadron 47 (VP-47) at NAS Barbers Point, Hawaii.

As a member of the "Golden Swordsmen," Hearther deployed to Misawa, Japan, and to the Arabian Gulf in support of Operations Southern Watch and Desert Thunder.

Subsequently, he reported to Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Force Pacific at

MCBH Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, as the Weapons and Anti-Surface Warfare Officer as a member of the Weapons and Tactics Unit (WTU).

In November 2001, he reported to Commander, Cruiser Destroyer Group Five in San Diego, Calif. aboard the USS Nimitz.

In 2003, Hearther deployed to the Arabian Gulf in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom while serving as the Nimitz Battle Group Communications Officer.

Following refresher training at VP-30, Hearther reported to Patrol Squadron 46 (VP-46) at NAS Whidbey Island, Wash.

There, he served as Administration Officer and Maintenance Officer.

As a "Grey Knight" he deployed to Misawa, Japan and served as Detachment Officer in Charge in the Philippines supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

From May 2006 until July 2007, Hearther served as the Aide de Camp to both the 33<sup>rd</sup> and 34<sup>th</sup> Commandants of the United States Marine Corps in Washington D.C.

After his Pentagon service, he graduated from the Marine Corps War College in Quantico, Va., having earned a Master of Arts degree in Strategic Studies.

Commander Hearther is married to the former Kellee Simpson of Downey, Calif., and they have three daughters: Katie, Jamie, and Jessie.

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## Thanksgiving dinner at the Liberty Center makes the news



When the NASCC Liberty Center threw a Thanksgiving feast for single Sailors and other single servicemembers, KIII TV-3 anchor Rudy Trevino decided it was a good news story for the day. (left) Trevino interviews EN1 Carol Winkler, director of the Liberty Center. (Photo by Maria Bullock.)

(right) Trevino and his cameraman with Thanksgiving dinner volunteers. From left, SA Timeka Turner, Mary Petrasek, Victoria Prewitt, Trevino, cameraman Jessie, Maria Bullock, EN1 Ronald Petrasek and MN2 Dana Baynard. (Photo by Bob Torres.)

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# If you ride, get recertified

## Questions and Answers about the Navy Motorcycle Recertification process

by Mary Anne Broderick Tubman, CNRSE Public Affairs

Since motorcycle recertification training became mandatory for all U.S. Navy and DoD personnel, fatalities for the Navy have decreased more than 60 percent.

To fine tune those lifesaving skills, all motorcycle riders are required to complete follow-on

recertification training every three years.

Connie Policastro, lead motorcycle safety specialist for Navy Region Southeast, answered some of the most frequently asked questions about the recertification process.

### Q. Why is recertification required?

A. The OPNAV states that the training is "to enhance the skills and competencies of every motorcycle rider." I would like to think that you are now being given an opportunity to refresh and fine tune your skills.

### Q. Who must recertify?

A. Recertification is mandatory for all military riders, whether they ride on or off base, and for all DoD civilian personnel who ride on base or while on duty.

### Q. What courses are required for recertification?

A. Any Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) course will qualify.

Typically, the one-day Experienced Rider Course (ERC) is used by anyone who rides a cruiser, but it can also be taken by sport bike riders who are currently properly licensed.

The Military Sport Bike Rider Course (MSRC) is mandatory for all sport bike riders, and should be taken within 60 days after completion of the Basic Rider Course. The MSRC also qualifies for recertification.

Tenant commands at Navy

installations can also contact their local Safety Office to request a special class to recertify their personnel. Scheduling depends upon the number of students and instructor availability.

Command ERCs offer two distinct advantages. First, all riders can catch up immediately on their certifications. Second, they allow skilled cyclists in the command to identify newer, less experienced riders and offer additional support.

### Q. How does a motorcycle rider know when it's time to recertify?

A. Look at the issue date on the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) completion card. Plan on taking the MSRC or ERC three years from that date.

### Q. How do riders register for the ERC or MSRC?

A. You can enroll at [www.navymotorcyclerider.com](http://www.navymotorcyclerider.com) through the Enterprise Safety Application Management System (ESAMS). There is a link to ESAMS at the bottom of the home page.

**Q: In addition to certification, what else is required for any active duty military rider to operate**

### **a motorcycle on or off base?**

A: All riders need the following:

- Personal protective equipment, including a helmet, full-fingered gloves, long pants, sturdy, over-the-ankle footwear, and eye protection. A complete list appears in OPNAVINST 5100.12H Ch. 1, at [www.safetycenter.navy.mil/instructions/index.asp](http://www.safetycenter.navy.mil/instructions/index.asp)

- An MSF course within the last three years

- A motorcycle endorsement on your driver's license

- Registration
- Insurance

### Q. Where can I learn more about motorcycle training and safety?

A. The Naval Safety Center Web site (<http://www.safetycenter.navy.mil>) is an excellent resource for every aspect of owning and operating a motorcycle, and includes a directory of installation safety offices by region.

The Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) (<http://www.msf-usa.org>) provides descriptions of each course and motorcycle safety-related material.



NASCC Motorcycle Safety Instructor Dan Miller explains a braking exercise to a student in an Experienced Rider Class. Miller has graduated more than 300 motorcyclists this year.

Photo by Rod Hafemeister

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## Commodore honors NASCC



Capt. Dave Price, Commodore of Training Air Wing 4 (left) presents Capt. Randy Pierson, Commanding Officer of Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, with a plaque Nov. 20 in recognition of the support and great working relationship between TW-4 and NASCC.

Story and photo by Rod Hafemeister

More than a dozen Fridays each year, Training Air Wing 4 conducts a "Winging Ceremony" to pin Wings of Gold or Silver on newly graduated aviators.

The ceremony also honors top graduates and the spouses who put up with aviators going through training.

But on Nov. 20, Capt. Dave Price, Commodore of TW-4, honored another group: The Sailors and civilians of Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, who provide the infrastructure and support that allows the Wing to conduct its training.

"Underpinning every air wing, in operations and administration and the myriad things that have to go to make that air wing capable of doing what it does, there is either an aircraft carrier or a Naval Air Station," Price said.

"I've been associated with air wings for 25 years – here in the United States, overseas on deployment and on aircraft carriers. In all of those years, I've never seen a better relationship between an air wing and its air station than we have here at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi.

"Their support covers the gamut – infrastructure, all those buildings that we use and the runways we fly off of. Logistics – all the supplies that we use, all of the fuel, all of the parts – everything that has to make its way out there on that flight line so we can fly airplanes.

"Emergency Services – yes, every once

in a while we have an emergency out here on the runway, and they're always there for us with the first response.

"Air Traffic Control – just like the FAA has, the Navy and the rest of the military has Air Traffic Controllers, and they're the ones who get us out from the airport and back to it.

"The list goes on for days about how much support we need – and we get – from this Naval Air Station."

The pilots and the students are just the tip of the iceberg in the amazing operation that it takes to create aviators.

"There are very many who labor behind the scenes to make sure we've got all the elements in place to build the world's best aviators – government civilians, government contractors and uniformed military.

"Without any one of them, we would not be able to achieve the job that we have to achieve here."

Price called NASCC Commanding Officer Capt. Randy Pierson forward and then, one group at a time, had the NASCC Team stand and be recognized.

Price then presented Pierson with a photo of training aircraft flying over the USS Lexington as recognition of NASCC's support to the Wing, which he called a 'model partnership.'

"This is on behalf of a grateful Air Wing to all of you here at the Air Station, because you all make it happen" Price said.



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**CFC continued from page 1**

"We'll probably get some stragglers bringing in their paperwork," she said.

"Maybe about \$5,000 more, I'd expect."

Chaves said she started the campaign concerned about whether or not it could even reach its goal of \$800,000.

The region lost a number of federal workers due to the imminent closing of Naval Station Ingleside and transfer of HM-15 from Naval Air Station Corpus Christi to the East Coast.

"I think we lost more than 1,000 people, and we still broke last year's record," she said. "It goes to show that federal employees are the most generous."

As in previous years, the large workforce at Corpus Christi Army Depot led the fundraising, this year contributing more than half the area total: \$603,362, almost 27 percent more than the \$476,059 it raised in 2008.

When this year's CFC campaign kicked off in September, CCAD's Sgt. Maj. Charles Beckman said he had little doubt CCAD would once again exceed its official goal.

CCAD exceeded even his high expectations.

"Even though my goal was \$300,000, I wanted to double it," he said. "And we did."

Beckman was even more pleased with the increase in Leadership Eagles – people who donate \$1,000 or more.

At the kickoff, he said the 95 Eagles in 2008 left him short of the 100 he wanted, and promised CCAD would get 100 or more this year.

"I wanted at least 120 Eagles," Beckman said. "We got 175!"

Still unanswered is whether or not Beckman will get his final wish before retiring in mid-December: Seeing Chaves and the top two military officers in the Coastal Bend CFC campaign jump out of an airplane with parachutes because the campaign again broke the \$1 million mark.

Beckman issued the challenge at the campaign kickoff to Chaves and to Capt. James Crabbe, Chief of Staff for Commander, Naval Air Training and chairman of the Local Federal Coordinating Committee for CFC, and Capt. Phillip Waddingham, Commanding Officer of Naval Air Station Kingsville and this year's Coastal Bend CFC Chairman.

"We exceeded \$1 million again – I think those two captains and Shannon Chaves should jump out of an airplane," Beckman said.

"And if they can schedule it before Dec. 13, when I leave for retirement, I'll be there."

Chaves said, at least in her case, Beckman will be disappointed.

"I am not jumping out of an airplane!" she said.

Regardless, Beckman said the most important thing was to keep the focus on always getting more people to contribute to CFC, the only annual charity collection for federal employees worldwide.

"You never want to step backwards – you always want to go forward," he said.

"I told them, I may not be here, but next year's goal for CCAD is \$700,000."

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## Cold Weather Tips for Your Pets

Sgt. Timothy S. Hair, U.S. Army Veterinary Services



Sled dogs like these may be adapted to extremes of weather, but your pets are not. They need extra attention when it is cold just as they do when it is hot.

Winter is just around the corner.

Officially, it starts December 21, but our weather here in Corpus Christi is already starting to fluctuate.

We are blessed in South Texas with generally mild winters, but it is always best to be prepared.

Sometimes it is not "how cold it is" but more "how much the temperature has changed."

Our pets can easily be affected by sudden temperature changes.

Despite their "fur" coats, domesticated animals like cats and dogs depend on humans for protection from freezing temperatures and wind-chill.

Most pets are better off indoors.

If your dog is an outdoor dog, he must be protected by a dry, draft-free doghouse that is large enough to allow the dog to sit and lie down comfortably, but small enough to hold in body heat.

The floor should be raised a few inches off the ground and covered with cedar shavings or straw.

The house should be turned to face away from the wind, and the doorway should be covered with a flap of heavy waterproof fabric or heavy plastic.

Outdoor cats should also be provided with adequate shelter.

During the winter, outdoor cats sometimes sleep under the hoods of cars for warmth. When the motor is started, the cat can be injured or killed.

If there are outdoor cats in your area, bang loudly on the car hood before starting the engine to give the cat a chance to escape.

Also remember that pets that spend most of their time outdoors may need more food in the winter; keeping warm depletes energy.

Clean, fresh water is a must, regardless of the temperature outside.

During freezing weather, routinely check that your pet's water bowl is not frozen over.

Care of your pet's skin and hair coat is very important. You should never shave your dog down to the skin in winter, as a longer

coat will provide more warmth.

When you bathe your dog in the colder months, be sure to completely dry him before taking him out for a walk.

Own a short-haired breed? Consider getting him a coat or sweater with a high collar or turtleneck with coverage from the base of the tail to the belly.

Brush your pet regularly. Brushing your pet helps maintain healthy skin and hair coat and aids in circulation.

With thick furred dogs, it is especially important as fur may become wet and matted, which will cause irritation.

Also, clean fur lofts and holds air in a manner similar to layering clothes, thus helping the animal stay warm.

Antifreeze, de-icing chemicals, and salts are often toxic to animals. Use extra care when using and storing these items. Read the labels and try to find non-toxic, animal friendly alternatives.

Antifreeze poisoning is especially serious and needs immediate emergency veterinary attention.

Be extra careful with space heaters, candles, and fire places. Our pets like to stay nice and toasty warm as well, but many of these items pose a danger.

Be sure to use appropriate safety measures and barriers to prevent your furry friend from getting too close.

Remember, even though our winters are generally mild, our pets are not accustomed to colder weather. They rely on us to protect and shelter them. Please do not forget your furry companions in your winter preparations.

If you are planning to travel with your pet this winter, be sure to check the weather conditions where you will be travelling to and plan accordingly. Additional care needs to be taken if you will be in an area with snow and ice.

The following websites provide additional information on winter care of your pet.

<http://www.aspcapet-care/pet-care-tips/cold-weather-tips.html>

<http://vetmedicine.about.com/cs/diseasesall/a/coldweatherlist.htm>

## Family Care Plan revisions include deployment deferment option

by MCC Maria Yager, NPC PAO

Navy officials announced revisions to its Family Care Plan policy Nov. 23 which include a new deployment deferment option for eligible Sailors.

"Under the new policy, Sailors who are required to complete a family care plan and may be deployed to an area authorized imminent danger pay are allowed to request a deferment of deployment due to unforeseen circumstances," said Kathy Wells, Navy Family Care Plan policy coordinator.

The change is a result of guidance from the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, section 586, Family Care Plans and Deferment of Deployment of Single Parent or Dual Military Couples with Minor Dependents.

"Servicemembers on active-duty make requests for deferment to their commanding officer. Commanding officers can grant deferments for up to four months," said Wells.

More information can be found in the Family Care Plan instruction, OPNAVINST 1740.4D.

The updated policy also incorporates Navy Guidelines Concerning Pregnancy and Parenthood which allows a female Sailor a 12-month deferment from travel away from the home station after childbirth.

A Family Care Plan is a group of documents, including a Family Care Plan certificate NAVPERS 1740/6, which identifies and outlines who will provide care for a Sailor's minor children in the event the Sailor is deployed.

"Ensuring proper care for a Sailor's minor children or adult family member/dependents reduces stress on the Sailor and strengthens a deployable asset for the command," said Wells.

A Family Care Plan is required under any of the following conditions:

A Sailor with primary or shared physical custody of a minor child or children who is not married to the other natural or adoptive parent of the minor child or children.

Both members of a married dual-military couple where one or both have primary or shared physical custody of a minor child or children.

Sailors who are legally responsible for an adult family member who is incapable of providing for themselves in the absence of the Sailor.

Support for caregivers designated in Family Care Plans is available Navy-wide through Fleet and Family Service Centers, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, Military One Source, base Child Development Centers, Navy Operational Support Centers and community and family support groups.

For more information visit the Family Care Plans section on the NPC web site at [www.npc.navy.mil/CommandSupport/CommunitySupportProgramPolicies/familycareplan.htm](http://www.npc.navy.mil/CommandSupport/CommunitySupportProgramPolicies/familycareplan.htm).

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## Cold Weather Recipe Cinnamon Hot Chocolate

- 1/3 c unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/4 c granulated sugar
- 1 tsp ground allspice
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1/2 c water
- 3 1/2 c milk
- 1/4 c mini marshmallows
- 4 cinnamon sticks

Directions: Whisk together the cocoa powder, sugar, allspice and cinnamon in a Medium Sauce Pan. Slowly whisk in the water until a smooth paste is formed. Place the pan on the stove over medium low heat. Gradually whisk in the milk. Simmer until well heated while whisking occasionally being careful not to scald the milk.

Pour into small mugs and top with mini marshmallows and garnish with a cinnamon stick prior to serving.



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# Around NASCC

## Students visit NASCC



Cadets from the Leadership program at Greiner Middle School, in Dallas, toured Naval Air Station Corpus Christi on Nov. 17-18. (Top left) Ensign Jordan Stewart explains the workings of the T-34C Turboprop training aircraft to the seventh and eighth-grade students. (Lower left) The cadets toured the NASCC Control Tower and learned how aircraft are managed both on the ground and in the air. (Top right) The cadets got up-close and personal with Rex following a military working dog demonstration. (Photos by Rod Hafemeister)

(Lower right) Coast Guard AMT2 Jonathon (Pee Wee) Harris teaches second graders from Port Aransas Elementary School about the HH-65C Dolphin Rescue Helicopter. (Photo by Lt. Nick Leiter, USCG Sector Corpus Christi PAO)



## Early Morning Workout



Sailors with Naval Air Station Corpus Christi didn't let a little morning fog interfere with physical training on Nov. 23.

Photo by Bob Torres

# Awards and Achievements

## Winging — November 20



Photo by Hugh Lieck Event Photography

Winging officials, from left: Lt. j.g. Robert Fasnacht, Chaplain; Kresten Cook, Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce; Lt. Col. Scott Proffitt, USAF, Senior Air Force Advisor TW-4; Maj. Anthony Muralt, XO MATSG-22; Cmdr. Kevin McGee, XO VT-35; Cmdr. William Hearther, XO VT-31; Cmdr. Dennis Crews, CO VT-31; Capt. Robert Paulison, CO Sector Corpus Christi Coast Guard; Capt. Dave Price, Commodore TW-4.

Wingees, in alphabetical order: Ensign Denis Patrick Alford; Ensign Alex L. Bos; Lt. j.g. Bryan Patrick Brownlee, USCG; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Christopher Paul Carlen, USAF; CWO2 Timothy Brian Charriere; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Patrick Keith Croasdale, USAF; Lt. j.g. Cory Denton Grizzle; Ensign Kenneth Joseph Kaplan; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Michael Jonathan Jones, USAF; Ensign Ryan N. Jones; 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Michael Louw Larsen, Royal Danish Air Force; Ensign Valerio Mariani, Italian Navy; 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Ryan Allan Oliphint, USMC; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Michael James Reese, USAF; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Corey Alan Reynolds, USAF; 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Steven Edward Schulze, USAF; Ensign Sara Lindsey Tassan.

## Commodore thanks NASCC for support



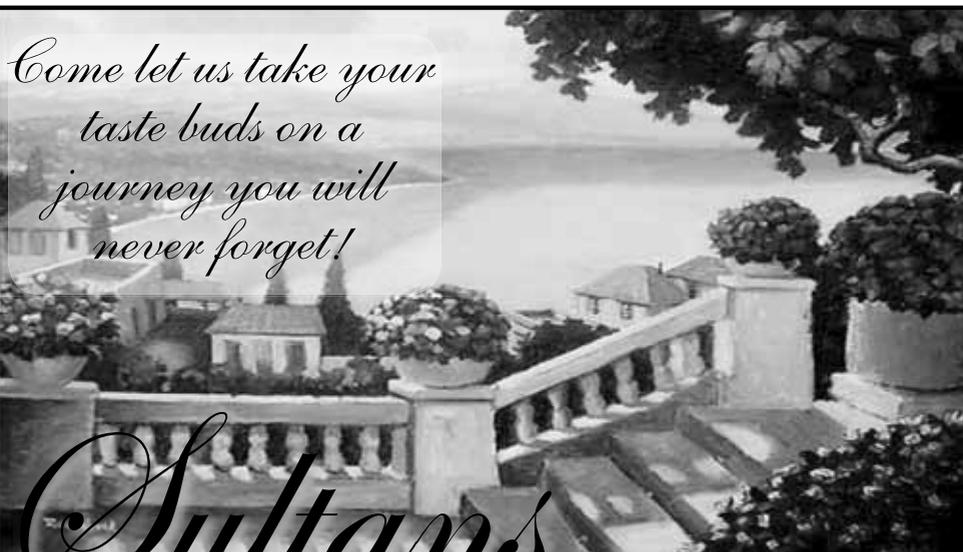
Capt. Dave Price, Commodore of Training Air Wing 4, used the Nov. 20 Winging Ceremony as an opportunity to thank the men and women of Naval Air Station Corpus Christi for the support they give to the Wing in its mission to train Naval aviators. Above, Price (holding photo) with NASCC Commanding Officer Capt. Randy Pierson (fourth from right) and NASCC workers.

Photo by Bob Torres



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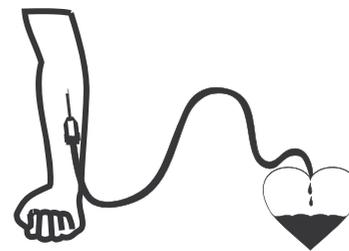
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### What's Happening

by Tina Konwerski

**Saturday, Dec 5th** at 11:30am. See the Kites Fly! At Festival Grounds, Rockport. "Tropical" Christmas Festival hosts the Coastal Bend Sky Pirates and friends to a day of fun. Watch the Kits fly. [www.skyiratesonline.org](http://www.skyiratesonline.org)



**Saturday, December 12.** Blood Drive/Avon-USO fundraiser 11 am. to 1 pm. The Blood Mobile will be at 4020 Weber Road (Hamlin Shopping Center). You can donate Blood and/or make a donations for the USO fundraiser. Your donation of \$11.63 (\$10 + tax + handling fee) Avon ships a USO2GO Kit (5 full size toiletry products) to the USO which will then be sent to isolated troops deployed abroad. Avon Products, Inc. then donates \$4 of the \$10 to the USO to help provide emergency relief programs, family assistance activities, entertainment tours and more.

**Sunday, December 13.** NOON to 5:00 p.m. – Sutherlands, 4041 S. Staples. Your help is needed to fill the SANTA'S Wish List for the abandoned dogs that have been saved and are being nursed back to good health in Foster Homes. "For the Love of Strays" needs collars, leashes, feeding bowls, doggie blankets, treats and Diamond BRAND Dog Food.

Continued next page



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What's Happening continued from page 14

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**Friday Holiday Cinema at Cole Park Amphitheater.** Starting at sunset (7 pm). For movie titles call 361-826-3410 **Dec. 11th** Comedy – 1996. Harried mattress salesman Howard Langston is late for his son Jamie's karate class. To placate his unhappy son he asks him if there is anything he wants for Christmas. He wants Turbo Man. Howard naturally forgets to get it and being Christmas Eve no stores have it in stock. So Howard embarks on a comical quest to find one.

**Holiday Cinemas at Cole Park Amphitheater. Dec. 18th** Starting at sunset – Drama – 1947. Doris Walker, a no-nonsense Macy's executive desperately searches for a new store Santa. She hires Kris Kringle who insists that he's the real Santa Claus. But he has many skeptics like Doris and her six year old daughter Susan. So Kris goes to court to try and prove it. Is he the real Santa Clause?

**December 19.** Celebrate the Holiday Season at Stephen F. Austin State Park. Christmas Caroling Hayride — Enjoy caroling through the park on a hayride, then share cookies and hot chocolate afterwards. 6-8 p.m.; admission is one canned good per person (979) 885-3613.

**December 19** at Stephen F. Austin State Park — 8-10:30 a.m. Pancake Breakfast with Santa — Join Santa for a breakfast of pancakes with homemade syrup, sausage, juice and coffee and let him know all your dreams for this Christmas. Fee \$4 per person (979) 885-3613.

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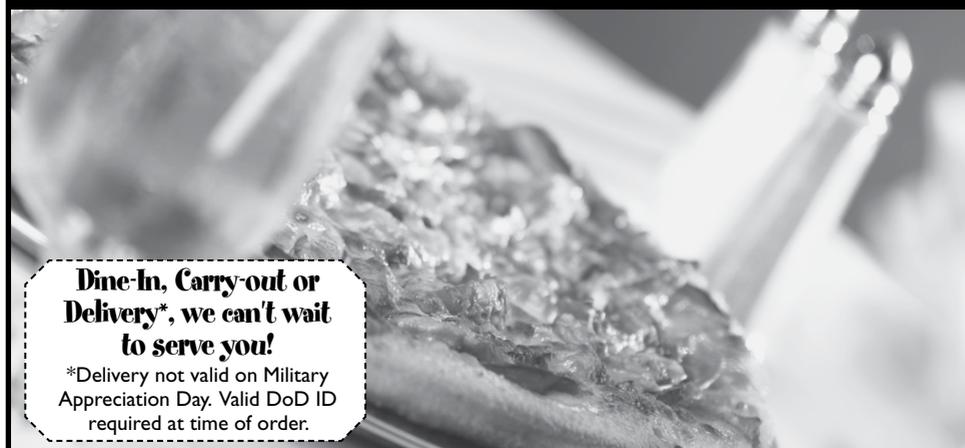


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**Ask Dr.  
Garcia**



**Garcia**

**Q:** The priorities in our marriage are scrambled. How can we make our marriage a priority again?

**A:** Many people say the right words to their spouses about their love and devotion, but they never demonstrate that love and devotion in *real* terms.

Therefore, the violated spouse is seldom comforted by empty words and promises.

And while a partner may verbally insist that they love their spouse, here are four ways priorities are proven in what I call "real" terms:

**Sacrifice** – If your spouse is a priority to you, then you should be willing to sacrifice things of lower priority for him or her. If your spouse is not a priority, then he or she will be the one sacrificed for your real priorities.

Parents, work, children, school activities, friends, church, soccer – all of these are competing for attention. But without a clear, set list of priorities – and the willingness to sacrifice things of a lower priority to protect the higher ones – you will live under constant stress as the lesser priorities rob you of the most precious things in life.

**Time** – If your spouse is truly a priority, then you will give him or her a dedicated and protected amount of your time. If you do not hold your spouse at that higher level of priority, then you will complain when he or she requires – or demands – your time.

**Attitude** – When a man and a woman first meet, they not only prioritize each other, but they also demonstrate an attitude of pleasure about it. Oftentimes, however, after a man and a woman marry, they may not have priorities that are more important than each other, and they may even spend a great deal of time together, but they do it with the wrong attitude.

They start acting as though pursuing each other and meeting one another's needs is a "ball and chain" that they are sentenced to drag with them through life. Their attitude translates as rejection for their spouse.

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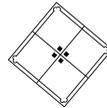
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**Energy** – The reason people fall out of love is because they get lazy. They stop working at the relationship and then wonder why it doesn't work.

Your energy – your supply – is essential in making your relationship with your spouse successful, and keeping it first place in real terms.

**Q:** My husband and I are divided when it comes to our parental duties. How can we develop a united front?

**A:** One of the most important things a child needs is security.

Children are very sensitive to the emotional state of their parents and their marriage. When parents are divided and argue, it causes insecurity and anxiety for children.

This damages the marriage because there is resentment that is created by one parent dishonoring the wishes of the other.

In answering your question, you and your husband need to work hard behind closed doors to find agreement on every significant issue on your parenting. Then decide how it will be communicated to your children.

Also, honor each other in front of the children. Dishonoring your spouse in front of your children means you are divided. Don't allow dishonor of the other. Allowing your children to dishonor your spouse while you sit idly by is divided parenting as well.

United parenting means you take time to communicate and agree about those things that affect your children.

It is one symphonic voice of love and truth in the ears of your children.

**Ruben G. Garcia, Ph.D., LMFT** is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and co-founder of The Healing Institute. Submit your questions to Dr. Garcia via email at [troubadour55@hotmail.com](mailto:troubadour55@hotmail.com). You can also contact Dr. Garcia at (361) 814-4556.

## Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, Dec. 12

8:30-10:30 a.m.

### Youth Activities Center

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**\$249 Sweetheart Package**

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## AC1 Jason Hathaway retires



NASCC CO Capt. Randy Pierson presents AC1 Jason Hathaway with his certificate transferring him to the Fleet Reserve during a Nov. 25 retirement ceremony aboard the USS Lexington. Hathaway and his family are moving to Oregon, where he already has a job lined up.

Photo by Bob Torres

## CLASSIFIED

### HOMES - SALE OR LEASE

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**HOME FOR RENT:** Everhart/Woodridge. Exceptional interior, NEW Kitchen Tile Floors. 3/2/2 1,700 sq. ft. \$1,395 per month. RE-MAX, Deb Walter 813-8398.

**Lease where your NASCC buddies do - Beach Club Condos - one bedroom, Gulf view, available Dec 1. Walk to Whitecap Beach, cable, pool, new fitness center, 6 mo lease. No: pets/smoking. W/D, \$750 + elec/water. Call owner: 305-393-0312.**

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### VEHICLES FOR SALE

**FOR SALE - Ocean Kayak, Malibu Two, 12 ft, seats 2, \$350.00, includes 3 paddles, back braces and life jackets. 361 946-2844.**

**FOR SALE:** \$7000 Jetta 2003, VW, 88900 miles, black, four door, automatic (915)356-9098.

**FOR SALE:** 1990 MasterCraft Tristar 190 ski boat, 19'6" long, Ford 351 Windsor engine, 850 hours, White/Teal. Wake post, Bimini Top, M/C trailer. \$6,000. Jay: (229) 269-6027.

**FOR SALE:** 1999 Chrysler Sebring Convertible. Only 70M miles. Good condition, leather, cold A/C. "Have Fun in the Sun." \$4,500. OBO 779-8288.

# Career counselor reenlists



Chief Sabino Rodriguez, the career counselor for Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, normally talks to other Sailors about the advantages of reenlisting. But on Nov. 25, he took his own advice and reenlisted. NASCC Executive Officer Cmdr. Bruce Lankford administered the oath and, above, presented Rodriguez with his reenlistment certificate. Photo by Rod Hafemeister

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## CLASSIFIED

### HELP NEEDED

Looking for a Nanny for my 3 year old son and 2 other school age children (8,15 ) while I recover from major surgery. Monday - Friday 8-4, starting in January for 3-4 months. We live on NAS Corpus Christi. If interested, please call 877-7761 for all the details. Thanks!!

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Classified continued on page 22

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## Champion Strong Man



Fred Esquivel demonstrates the strength that made him the Men's Overall Winner in the Strongman Competition held at the Fitness Express Oct. 29 - Nov. 3. He also took first in the Men's Super Heavy category. Photo courtesy MWR



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# Champion Strong Woman



Shannon Cruz holds her trophy as Women's Overall Winner in the Fitness Express Strongman Competition. Cruz also placed first in the Women's Super Heavy category.

Photo courtesy MWR

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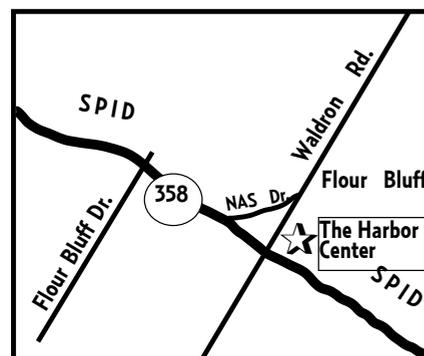
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**Toys for Tots Applications**

If you would like to request toys for children, contact one of the agencies listed below.

Contact by phone, FAX or email; email is recommended. Provide your name, phone number and address; the ages and gender of your children and request that Christmas toys be provided for them.

**Catholic Charities** - YiYi Dean - 1322 Comanche St, Corpus Christi, Texas 78401 - (361)884-0651 Ext 215 - 9a-3p - Mon-Fri - ddean@diocesecc.org

**Catholic Charities** - Linda McKamie - 1322 Comanche St, Corpus Christi, Texas 78401 - (361)884-0651 Ext 217 - 9a-3p - Mon-Fri - lmckamie@diocese.org

**Corpus Christi Housing Authority** - Judy A. Garcia - 1435 Sulaine, Corpus Christi, Texas 78415 - (361) 889-3342 - fax (361) 889-3344 - 3p-7p - Mon-Fri - judy\_garcia@hacc.org

**Corpus Christi Housing Authority** - Rachel Benavides - 3701 Ayers, Corpus Christi, Texas 78415 - (361) 889-3343 - fax (361) 889-3344 - 3p-7p - Mon-Fri - rachel\_benavides@hacc.org

**CPS Community Partner** - Linda Moya - (361) 510-6233 - maria.moya@dfps.state.tx.us

**NASCC/Flower Bluff** - Mimi Gutierrez - (361) 232-7123 - marina.gutierrez@navy.mil

**Nueces County Community Action Agency** - Dorothy Wade - 2835 Blake St, Corpus Christi, Texas 78405 - (361) 882-4193 - (361) 888-6072 - 9a-12p - Mon-Fri - dwade@nccaatx.org

**Nueces County Community Action Agency** - Matilda Garcia - 2835 Blake St, Corpus Christi, Texas 78405 - (361) 882-4193 - - 9a-12p - Mon-Fri - mgarcia@nccaatx.org

**Nueces County Community Action Agency (Robstown Rural Area)** - Diana Flores - 515 Pat Shutter #112 Robstown, Texas 78380 - (361) 387-1527 - - 9a-12p - Mon- Fri - dflores@nccaatx.org

**Salvation Army** - Major Sheila New - 521 Josephine St, Corpus Christi, Texas 78401 - (361) 884-9497 - shestoocute@yahoo.com

**St Paul Catholic Church** - Margie Eickleberry - 2233 Waldron Rd, Corpus Christi, Texas 78418 - (361) 937-6908 - 12p-4p - Mon-Fri - HjoBear@aol.com

More information on the area Toys for Tots Program, including where you can donate toys, is available online at <http://corpus-christi-tx.toysfortots.org/>

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December 13, 2009  
NOON to 5:00 p.m.**

**If you prefer to mail a donation, our address is:  
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**Mobile Dog groomer will be available to do  
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### Ready for a forever home...361-813-7443



**Lani means "heaven" in Hawaiian which is a perfect name for this beautiful one-year old brindle Aussie/ border collie mix.** She was found starving and wandering the streets of Corpus Christi. After lots of TLC, Lani is heartworm negative, spayed, current on all shots, and housebroken. She weighs around 30 lbs., is full of energy and loves to please. In her foster home, Lani enjoys playing with other dogs and small children. Lani bonds very quickly to anyone who gives her love and attention. Because she is an active dog, we believe Lani would make a great working dog, Frisbee dog or jogging partner. Lani is desperate to find love and stability in a new forever home. Please call her foster mom at 267-495-6821 for more information on this sweet girl.



**Cooper is a 2-year old black and white border collie who loves to please.** He is neutered, current on shots, heartworm negative, microchipped and housebroken. Cooper is amazing with small children and other dogs. He loves to play and would be happy in a home with a large yard and another playful dog! Cooper's foster mom drove all night to a town in Central Texas to save his life after learning he was just 24 hours from being put down. Cooper does have hip dysplasia and requires medication for this that costs around \$20 per month. When adopted, he will come with a 2-month supply of meds, vet records, and hip x-rays. Please open your heart and give Cooper a second chance. He desperately needs a forever home.



**Blondie is a 2-year old german shepherd/lab mix.** She is spayed, current on shots, housebroken, and walks well on a leash. Blondie is in a home with other dogs and small children and gets along well with both! Blondie had a hard start in life. She was found wandering down Airline drive, rescued, and then abandoned again when her new owner left her in the backyard after moving to an apartment. However, she is extremely playful, loyal, and loving (especially when you rub her belly!) Blondie gets sad when left alone but does well staying in her crate with a blanket to comfort her. Can you blame her? Right now, Blondie is heartworm positive but will soon be ready for a new home. We are asking for donations to help cover her heartworm treatment. It's time Blondie had some happiness in life! Could you be her forever family?





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