

# WINGSPAN



Vol. 16, No. 10

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

May 20, 2010



**50 years of training aviators**

page 3



**To war in small boats**

page 4



**Plan for your pets**

page 5

## TW-4 'Price-less' as Commodore sets sail for academia



**TW-4 Commodore Capt. Dave Price with wife, Susan, at a recent awards ceremony. Price turns over command of the Wing on June 1.**

Photo by Rod Hafemeister

by Bob Torres

After almost two years as Commodore of Training Air Wing Four, Capt. Dave Price is leaving for a new job: Dean of the Navy's Engineering School in California.

The Wing will hold their change of command on Tuesday, June 1 in Hangar 42 at 10 a.m. Capt. Scott Cooledge will relieve Price as the Commodore during a traditional ceremony.

Price has been Commodore almost two years, having taken command of TW-4 in July 2008.

For Price, this was a return to NAS Corpus Christi, where he'd served as the Commanding Officer of VT-28 from 2001 through April 2004.

"This is the second best assignment (as Commodore) I've had," Price said. "The very best tour in any Naval Officer's career is the Squadron CO tour, when the commanders have their own squadron and their own ready-room.

"That's the best there is in my estimation. And then a close second is probably this job and the third best job was as the Advisor to

the Iraqi Navy."

He went on to explain what he felt the biggest challenge has been during this tour.

"Just trying to keep everyone safe," he said.

Price is an imposing figure, big, wide, with a moustache sprinkled with gray and a commanding presence. He easily fits a "fatherly" role.

"You know, I worry about them. And I worry about keeping them flying," he said. "We've got 800 people out here flying every day. I don't think they need to get hurt in training, they're going to be put into harm's way when they get out into the real world. I don't want them to get hurt here."

Price smiled as he continued. "I get pleasure from the pure daily reward perspective of teaching another kid how to fly. It's unbelievable," he said.

He refers to student aviators as kids because he has sons about the same age as the students. That's how he relates to the students, as 'his' kids.

*Price continued on page 10*

## Rain doesn't dampen spirits of Beach to Bay runners

Story & photos by Rod Hafemeister

Rain and wind pummeled the runners in the 35th Annual Beach to Bay Relay Marathon, but most seemed to take it in stride.

A few wore rain jackets or trash bags, but most seemed to enjoy that fact that, for a change, they were not running in 90 degree heat.

Official reports were that 14,136 runners, in 2,356 teams participated – a new record number of runners.

Other official reports were that more than a half inch of rain fell – at times in heavy downpours – and wind gusts occasionally topped 50 mph.

But with the cooler, wetter weather, news reports said only three runners were taken to hospitals, two from accidents and one who suffered a seizure.

Hundreds of volunteers as well as security, medical and safety personnel lined the route through Naval Air Station Corpus Christi – and reported no incidents or injuries.



**Rain and wind reduced the chances of over-heating and dehydration for runners crossing NASCC this year, but many still grabbed a drink from the water stations along the route. At the peak, 50 or more runners came through the gate each minute. More photos on page 14.**



## Skipper's Column

by Capt. Randy Pierson



**Pierson**

The Beach to Bay Marathon was created 35 years ago to celebrate Armed Forces Day and also to encourage and highlight the participation of the military members and their families.

This year's race was one I will not soon

On May 15, I had the honor of celebrating our Armed Forces Day.

Making the day most memorable was my invitation to "start" the Beach to Bay Marathon Relay in honor of our Armed Forces.

The Beach to Bay Marathon was created 35 years ago to celebrate Armed Forces Day and also to encourage and highlight the participation of the military members and their families.

This year's race was one I will not soon

forget. It began with the highest level of participation of any Beach to Bay race since its inception in 1975 – mustering more than 14,000 runners in more than 2,400 teams.

The sight of the runners in position and anxious to start near Bob Hall Pier at 7 a.m. Saturday was amazing.

Nearly 50 people wide and 460 people deep, with an additional 2,400 waiting for their second leg – the logistics for the teams were a challenge, but the reward of participation high.

As thunderstorms loomed over the water and waves crashed in at Bob Hall Pier, the National Anthem and High School Color Guard honored our Flag and our Country and motivated the runners.

The excitement in the crowd spiked at the conclusion of honors and the commencement of the race with the sound of my air horn – the

## A race to remember

first leg runners were off...26.2 miles to go!

Through my own participation in the race, I developed the highest level of admiration for all the runners.

Despite the squall line and thunderstorms, lightning and thunder, the race went on.

Racers were huddling in the rain, waiting for their hand-off, or going face-first into horizontal rain showers...it was an inspiration to me and to many others.

I want to offer a specific note of appreciation to our installation coordinators and volunteers.

Headed by MA1 Ryan West of Security, each and every one of our logistic, medical and water stop volunteers made our Armed Forces proud – definitely showing the thousands who ran through our installation this weekend what the men and women of our military are made of. Thank You!

## Chaplain's Message

by Lt. Rob Fasnacht, Chaplain

The United States of America is the "Land of the Free."

But we have rules that govern our freedom.

We have laws that protect our citizens and regulations that protect our workforce.

As I preach through the Book of Deuteronomy on Sunday mornings at our Protestant Chapel, I am struck by how other nations viewed the Israelites as a blessed nation because of their righteous laws and decrees.

The concept of freedom has been elevated to a near idolatrous standard these days; people walking around claiming they are free to do what ever they want.

History has proven that anarchy – total freedom from laws – is unproductive, dangerous, and unattainable.

True anarchy can only work with absolute peace, where everyone is equal, totally

provided for, and there is no war, hunger, displacement or poverty.

Not even the concept of heaven is one of anarchy; it is a theocracy.

For there to be absolute freedom, someone else has the right, privilege and expectation to come and take whatever they want of my stuff.

Generally, your freedom ends when it violates my personal space.

Anarchy can never work because someone will always want to be in charge. You may call it our sin, nature, or survival of the fittest, but people are typically driven by animal instinct to survive – even if that means you take something that someone else owns.

When that happens, war and conflict soon happen.

With war, someone is always leading the charge and in charge; therefore, this anarchy, total freedom from laws, is thrown out the

## Freedom and rules

window.

As a civil society, we don't need absolute freedom, we need laws that properly govern our nation and are justly enforced.

One of the many beauties of our "land of the free" is that our laws not only tell us what we can't do, but what we have the right to do: the freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly, and petition.

To support what we are free to do, we must also support what we are not to do.

As we follow our righteous laws, other nations will see that the USA is a blessed nation.



**Fasnacht**

## Editor's Corner

by Rod Hafemeister



**Hafemeister**

Many of us heard it – 80 miles away, it rattled the windows on my house in Tacoma. And everyone, over the next few days, experienced ash fall, some

Anyone who was living in the Pacific Northwest at the time has strong memories of May 18, 1980 – the day Mount St. Helens blew in a catastrophic eruption that did billions of dollars in damages and killed 57 people.

Many of us heard it – 80 miles away, it rattled the windows on my house in Tacoma. And everyone, over the next few days, experienced ash fall, some

light, some heavy.

The mountain had been active for months and the eruption had been expected at any time. But the actual lateral explosion of ash, debris and scalding gases was a surprise.

In the 30 years since, scientists have learned much, much more about how such volcanoes work.

Less well known is the bizarre experience of a small group of soldiers – a squad of new Rangers going through the Ranger Indoctrination Program (RIP) before reporting to the battalion and an A-Team of Special Forces (Green Beret) Reservists.

I got the story from both sides, eventually – although it took months for people to talk about it.

## Kaboom!

As part of their field training, the RIP students were playing local guerillas with which the Green Berets were supposed to make contact.

The RIPPies had a camp set up on a hillside on the south end of Fort Lewis.

When the air was clear, Mount St. Helens dominated the southern horizon – complete with periodic outpourings of smoke and ash.

As part of the training, the A-Team had to "earn" their trust.

The RIP kids decided to take advantage of the view: One was designated "shaman" and his job was to seek guidance from the "mountain spirit" about whether the A-Team should be trusted.

*Kaboom continued on page 19*

## Wingspan

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## VT-28, VT-31 celebrate 50 years of training aviators at NASCC



Members of VT-28 and VT-31 gathered May 13 to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries of the two training squadrons, with VT-31 members showing off their anniversary patch. Pictured, left to right: Capt. Dave Price, Commodore TW-4; Maj. James Schebel, VT-31; Cmdr. Tony Tellado, VT-31 XO; Lt. Heath Leggett, VT-31; Cmdr. Bill Cox, VT-28 CO; Lt. Cmdr. Keith Demetriades, VT-31; Lt. Charles Allen, VT-28.

Photo by Lt. Sheila Baber, TW-4 PAO

by Rod Hafemeister

Two of Training Air Wing Four's squadrons celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries this month – VT-28 and VT-31 were both founded on board Naval Air Station Corpus Christi on May 1, 1960.

On May 13, they held a joint press availability to explain their missions and their history.

“As hard as it is to stop the production machine, taking a brief pause to celebrate and acknowledge our Instructor Pilots as well as civilian admin and maintenance support is important as we look forward to another 50 years of training and safety excellence,” said Cmdr. Bill Hearther, Commanding Officer of VT-31.

The two squadrons have seen many changes over five decades.

Initially, the primary mission of VT-28 was advanced multi-engine flight training for Student Naval Aviators (SNA's).

The squadron was staffed with 44 instructors, 400 enlisted personnel and averaged 125 students. They flew 48 TS-2F “Tracker” aircraft.

By the mid-sixties, the flight syllabus, augmented by simultaneous ground training, had expanded to include Familiarization, Basic and Radio Instrument Navigation, Cross County, Night Familiarization and Carrier

*Anniversary continued on page 8*



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## Reserve boat detachment prepares to deploy

Story and photo by Rod Hafemeister

Not every Sailor goes to war on a big ship – some are happy to deploy on small boats.

Such are the members of MESRON One, Boat Det Bravo – Navy Reservists who will be heading for the Middle East region this summer for a deployment of four to six months or more.

In recent weeks, they have been checking equipment and training, both on board Naval Air Station Corpus Christi and in the surrounding waters.

“We depart for San Diego the end of the month,” said Lt. Cmdr. Eric Cox, Detachment OIC.

“We’ll do final pre-deployment training there and then head to the AOR.

“It’s scheduled to be four to six months, but it could go longer if we’re needed. We’re taking 54 Selected Reservists and two Full-time Sailors on the deployment.”

Det Bravo – formally, Maritime Expeditionary Squadron Boat Detachment Bravo – has six 34-foot Sea Ark patrol boats, typically manned by four or five crew men.

The boats are small, but heavily armed: they carry 7.62 mm and .50-cal. Machinguns and the Mark 19 40 mm grenade launcher.

“Our primary mission is protecting high-value targets,” Cox said.

The unit’s newly designed patch includes an image of the USS Cole, the ship hit by a suicide attack in October 2000 in the port of Aden in Yemen.

“Our unofficial motto is, ‘No More Coles,’” Cox said.

Many of the Sailors deploying have done it before, including several who are not normally assigned to the detachment.

In 2006-2007, what was then called the Inshore Boat Unit deployed to the Persian Gulf and took a number of Reservists who were working “out of rate.”

Several volunteered to deploy again, even though they had not been back long enough to be involuntarily deployed.

One such is Chief Aviation Boatswains Mate Conrad Lake, who in civilian life is a district manager for Sprint in California.

“I’m assigned to Navy Security Forces in California,” Lake said. “But I mobilized in 2006-2007 with the IBU and I learned the boats back then.”

BM2 Charles Weiss and GM2 Richard Rodriguez served as engineer and coxswain, respectively, on an orientation ride for a reporter.

Both worked together during the previous deployment and both volunteered to go on this one.

“I was just looking for a vacation from work,” Rodriguez said, adding that he works for the Arizona Department of Corrections.

Weiss also has a law enforcement job – in civilian life, he’s a federal armed guard at Glen Canyon Dam in Arizona.

“Yeah, we’re a long way from the salt at



One of the 34-foot Sea Ark patrol boats of MESRON One Boat Det Bravo practicing maneuvers near the USS Lexington in Corpus Christi Bay. The Detachment’s Reservists are preparing to deploy to the Middle East Area of Operations later this year.

home,” he said.

Not everyone is experienced. HM Sergio Gonzalez is a nursing student in El Paso and volunteered to deploy as a corpsman.

And AO3 Kayla Topper has only been in the Reserves since July, after 15 months on active duty – but she said she’s looking forward to qualifying on the guns.

The Reservists can’t or won’t say where

they expect to go, exactly. But they said they’ll be ready to do whatever they are tasked to do.

And they have faith in their boats – and each other.

“They’re fun boats,” Rodriguez said. “We’ve got some skilled coxswains out there – we compensate for our lack of speed and size by being good at what we do.”

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## Is Your Pet Ready For Hurricane Season?

by Sgt. Tim Hair, US Army Veterinary Clinic

With hurricane season upon us – the season runs June 1 through Nov. 30 - it is time for us to begin developing and preparing emergency evacuation plans.

Have you remembered to include your pets as part of your household disaster planning?

The Humane Society of the United States, the American Red Cross and FEMA offer disaster planning tips for pet owners.

If you must evacuate, you should always take your pets with you. For public health and safety reasons, pets are not usually allowed in public emergency shelters, so prior planning is essential.

If you have a trained service dog, check with local emergency management to ensure they will be allowed to stay in the shelters with their owner.

Prepare a pet survival kit. Make sure you have a secure pet carrier, leash, or harness for your pets so they will not be running loose. A carrier will be required if you need to keep your pet in an emergency shelter.

You will need a pet carrier that your pet can stand in and turn around inside. Train your pet to become used to the carrier prior to a disaster by feeding it in the carrier or placing a favorite toy or blanket inside.

Make sure your pet has a properly fitted collar with an up-to-date identification tag, license, and rabies tag. If possible include the address and telephone number of where you will be evacuating on the tags.

If your pet normally wears a chain link or choke chain collar, you will need a nylon or leather collar that can be left on your pet for several days. Pets could become tangled, trapped, or strangled if left alone with a chain collar.

Include a picture of your pet in your home emergency kit to aid in identifying them later should they become separated from you.

Microchipping your pet is strongly encouraged prior to a disaster. Microchipping is a simple procedure that can be accomplished during a routine visit to any veterinary clinic.

A small microchip is implanted underneath the skin. It is virtually no different than when you pet receives any injection.

While the microchip is not a tracking device, it provides a method of permanent, positive identification for your pet that will allow any veterinary clinic or shelter with a scanner to retrieve your registered contact information and reunite you with your furry family member in the event of separation.

Include in your pet's kit, at least a week's worth of food, water, kitty litter, and any medications, to include flea, tick, and heartworm preventatives. Also, remember to pack a first aid kit, food and water dishes, a litter pan and a can opener, if needed.

Include emergency numbers (vet, animal control, Red Cross, etc.) and a copy of your pet's medical record to include current vaccinations.



If your dog has to be sheltered or boarded, it will require a current Bordetella vaccination. Bordetella, often referred to as kennel cough, is an upper respiratory infection that can spread quickly through boarding and grooming facilities and any place dogs congregate.

Bordetella vaccinations are normally required within the last six months. Not all veterinary clinics give a Bordetella vaccine as part of the dog's annual vaccinations, so you should be prepared to ask for it when you take your dog in for his routine visits.

Do not wait till the last minute to get vaccinations or copies of your records. Remember, during an emergency, your local veterinary staff may be preparing to evacuate as well.

Before a disaster, contact your local animal shelter, humane society, veterinarian or emergency management center to see if any shelters will be set-up for pets in an emergency.

If no shelters will be available, check with local veterinarians and boarding facilities to see if they will accept pets in an emergency. This is a risky option since the boarding facilities or veterinary hospital may not be any safer than your home.

Do not wait until the last minute to evacuate with pets. Once disaster is imminent, the only way out may be by official rescue transport and officials may not allow you to bring pets with you.

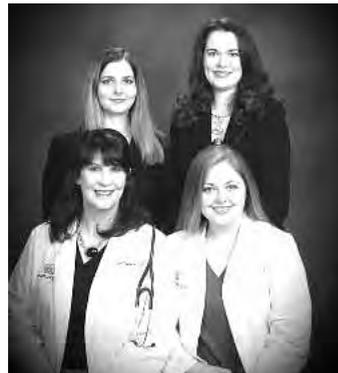
*Pets continued on page 18*



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## Chaplain Fasnacht promoted to Lieutenant – May 10



Naval Air Station Corpus Christi's Chaplain Rob Fasnacht was promoted from Lieutenant junior grade to Lieutenant in a May 10 ceremony attended by his family, friends and co-workers. NASCC Commanding Officer Capt. Randy Pierson administered the Oath of Office and presented Fasnacht with his Certificate of Permanent Appointment to his new rank - but the Chaplain's



children got the best job: Removing Daddy's old rank and putting on his new. Above left, Lily and Seth removed the shoulder boards from Daddy's uniform and a few moments later, above right, Gabriel and Caleb installed Daddy's new rank.

Congratulations to the new Lieutenant!

Photos by Bob Torres

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# K-9 team visits Career Day at Odem Junior High



MA1 Nick Webster, in the protective suit, and MA2 David Gutierrez, with his Military Working dog, put on a demonstration for students at Odem Junior High School's Career Day on May 13.

Photo by Bob Torres

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# Memorial Day

Monday, May 31st

1:00 p.m.



A Memorial Day Service is scheduled for Monday, May 31, 2010 at 1pm at Seaside Memorial Park and Funeral Home, 4357 Ocean Drive, Corpus Christi Texas. The following guests/activities will be presented:

Juan Garcia, Assistant Secretary of the Navy

Invocation by Msgr. Richard Shirley

“Snow White” dove release

Bob Jones, Guest Speaker

Young Marines Drill Team

Corpus Christi Corvette Club

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U.S. Marines

“Fly Over” by the U.S. Navy

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Corpus Christi Fire Department Pipe and Drums

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Anniversary continued from page 3

Qualification.

The squadron carrier qualified students in the Tracker until its retirement in 1979 when it was replaced by the T-44A.

In 1990, CNATRA directed the squadron to change its mission and become the first Instructor Training Squadron.

On April 1, 1993, VT-28 again changed its mission, this time to provide Primary/Intermediate Maritime and Helicopter instruction to Student Naval Aviators while flying the T-34C.

A new squadron patch was designed. The new patch depicts the silhouette of a Texas Ranger mounted on a rearing horse.

This patch symbolizes the proud tradition of VT-28's nickname and radio call sign, “Ranger.”

VT-31 was also commissioned on 1 May 1960, and began training with a new aircraft, the P2V “Neptune.”

That lasted for 17 years, until the “Wise Owls” of VT-31 began to transition to the Beechcraft T-44A in spring of 1977.

The T-44A is the military version of a Beechcraft King Air 90 and is equipped with a full range of avionics equipment for instrument conditions including a weather radar and GPS.

Students and instructors work in a fully pressurized and air conditioned cabin which provides an ideal learning environment.

In 1996, VT-31's aircraft fleet began to grow.

The USAF joint training program resulted in VT-31 being tasked to train all Air Force C-130 students.

With student numbers almost doubling, the need for more aircraft became apparent.

Since the T-44A is no longer in production, the UC-12B now supports the current fleet of T-44A aircraft.

The UC-12B designation was changed to TC-12B and its primary mission was changed from cargo to training student Military Aviators.

In 2006, the T-44A fleet of aircraft began transitioning to an updated avionics suite to include an integrated flight management system providing an all “glass” environment to better prepare students for advanced fleet aircraft.

VT-31 is one of two advanced multi-engine training squadrons in the Navy.

The squadron has historically trained students from the Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, Air Force and foreign students in all phases of advanced multi-engine flight procedures.

Those include Aircraft Familiarization, Radio Instruments, Airways Navigation, Visual Navigation and Formation flying.

After receiving their “Wings of Gold” or “Silver”, the newly designated Military Aviators will head to their particular aircraft, usually a P-3C Orion (Navy), C-130 Hercules (Marine, Coast Guard and Air Force) or HU25 Falcon (Coast Guard).

As part of the celebrations, the guest speaker for the April 30 Winging ceremony was Capt. Chuck Hollingsworth, Deputy Commander of the Navy's Center for Personal and Professional Development – and a graduate of VT-31 25 years ago.

## Ask Dr. Garcia



**Garcia**

**Q:** I am considering using a commercial dating service. How effective are they for meeting people?

**A:** Increasingly, adults, mainly in their 30s and 40s, are using a variety of commercial methods for meeting potential partners, such as personal ads, matchmaking consultants, on-line e-mail and chat rooms, and commercial matchmaking Web sites.

What these techniques all have in common is that the selection is made before the participants meet.

This presumably cuts down on the importance of physical attractiveness in the first encounters and, theoretically at least, promotes a more rational basis for meeting potential partners.

Here's the answer to your question. We have no national follow-up studies on this topic, but commercial dating services do not seem to be particularly effective in promoting marriages, which is the ultimate goal of most of their clients.

Age is an important factor here: Most men who use these services want younger women (in their 20s), but most women who use commercial services are older (in their 30s and 40s).

Also, commercial matching often brings people together who like the same things but not each other.

Love has rational and logical

aspects; but it also has mysterious aspects that elude computers, cameras, consultants, and conversations – not to mention the lovers themselves.

**Q:** I'm planning on getting married next Spring. I'm also a little nervous. Is there any way to predict if a marriage will last?

**A:** Beginning with the pioneering work of sociologists Ernest Burges and Paul Wallin in the 1940s, social scientists have tried to predict and explain which marriages will last, which will not, and why.

Psychologically, the factors that have been found to be most important in predicting lasting marriages include secure attachments to parents (as a child) and to others; realistic expectations; compatible personalities; good communication skills; ability to resolve conflicts; healthy, secure children; a gratifying sexual relationship; having a servant's heart, and roles in the household.

Sociologists these days have been focusing more on social conditions and similarities in the social backgrounds values, attitudes, and interests of partners in predicting lasting marriages.

In an article entitled, *Premarital Predictors of Marital Quality and Stability*, researchers Jeffrey Larson and Thomas Holman have noted other factors that are strongly associated with lasting marriages.

These include older age at first marriage; higher socioeconomic status (higher levels of education and income); a long period of getting to know (and like) one another before marrying; and approval of the choice by friends and family.

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.

## 'About Boating Safety' – June 12

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will conduct an About Boating Safety class on June 12 at CBRAC, 1201 Laguna Shores Road, in Flour Bluff.

This is a one-day classroom instruction course and covers the basics of boating safely - A great introductory course!

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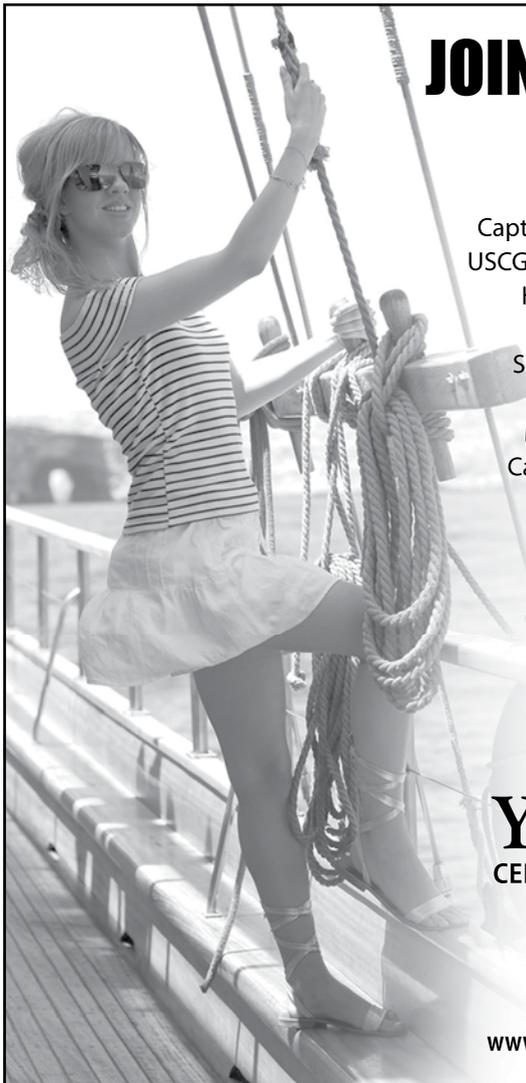
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Price continued from page 1

"Because you see rewards immediately," he said. "You get immediate feedback on whether or not you succeeded, because – he flies the airplane. You've passed on a skill-set that you have, that's very second nature as a pilot, to someone who's never flown before – that's just pure fun.

"And the reason that I came back and flew the T-34 again is because that's the most pure flight instruction out there.

"We've been doing it about the same way for 50 years. We know what works. The kids really go through the same training I went through, almost to the exact maneuver elements that we did with the T-34 when they were brand new. We train them just about the same in the T-44.

"We've upgraded the technology a little bit, and we'll continue to do so. So from a technology perspective, the digital cockpit on the T-44, that brings the kids into the future and they're good for it because they're better at that stuff than my generation. They're not afraid of all those buttons, you know, and all that whiz-bang stuff we've got in that airplane."



One change Price won't be here to see is the transition to the T-6 Texan.

"It will be a digital aircraft as well, and so we'll train them at the very start of Naval Aviation to what they're going to fly in the fleet – all in a digital cockpit," he said. "But how we actually train a pilot is the same – nor should we change that."

And how do you take a person who gets here and has no idea of how to be a pilot?

"In my estimation you do that by immersing them in a very difficult and unfamiliar environment," Price said. "An environment that the human body is not meant to be in, and you get then to conquer physics basically by taking an airplane up and we do things up there that we could not do – without an airplane."

NAS Corpus Christi is the "best place for military flight operations," in Price's opinion.

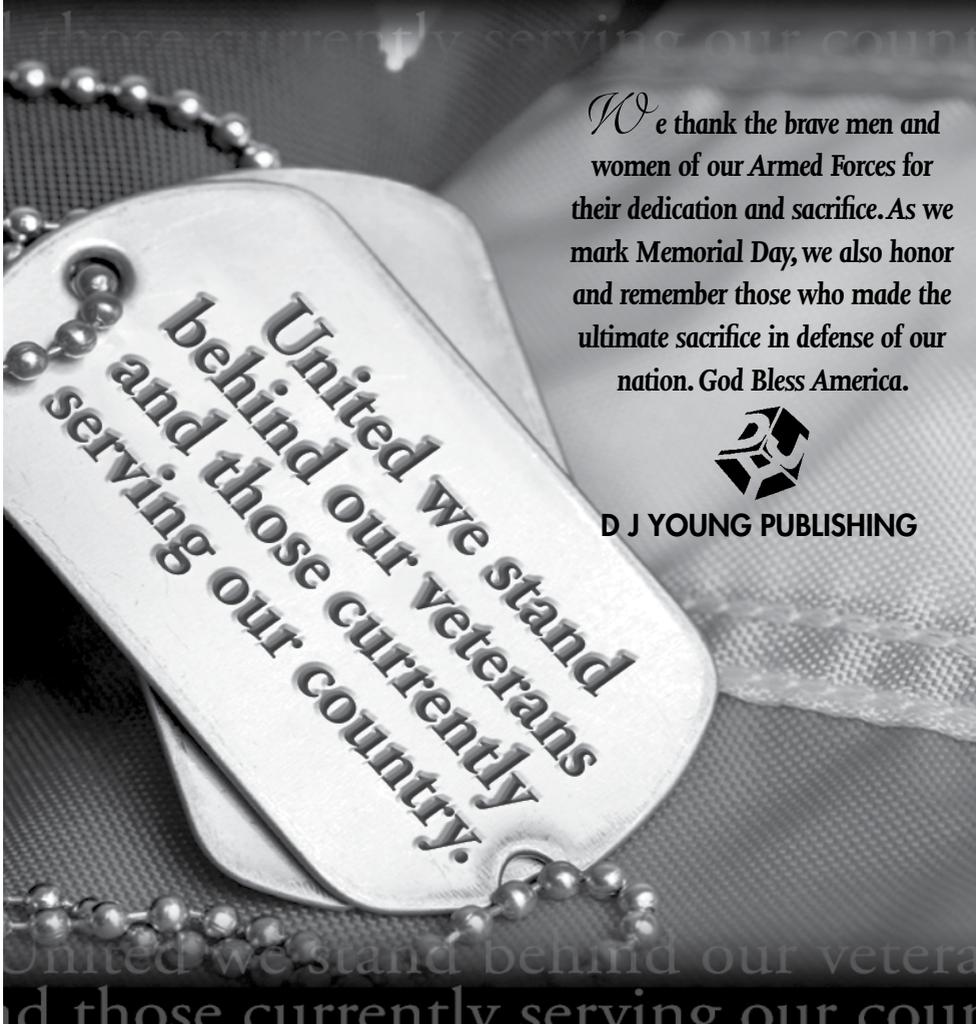
"There is no such thing as a more supportive community for the military than South Texas," he said. This is great. Nobody knows this or maybe nobody remembers this, but South Texas has built more military aviators than any other place in the country combined. Between NAS Corpus Christi and Kingsville and old Beeville (NAS Chase Field) we've built more than anyone else."

That training also leads to what was one of the highlights of the job as Commodore.

"I think the 'Wingings' (where Aviators earn their wings) are probably for me, the best

Price continued on page 11

United we stand behind our veterans



*We* thank the brave men and women of our Armed Forces for their dedication and sacrifice. As we mark Memorial Day, we also honor and remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our nation. God Bless America.



D J YOUNG PUBLISHING



### This issue at a Glance

**Money Saving Coupons**  
 ..... pages 19, 21, 25 and 26

**Money Saving Classified ads**  
 .....start on page 16

**Dining, Entertainment and Events**  
 .....start on page 25

**How to place a FREE or PAID Classified ad**  
 ..... page 17

**Price continued from page 10**

visual that indicates our success," he said.

"And these kids are getting their wings. After they're done with us they go out to the fleet replacement squadrons and fly whatever plane they're going to fly in the real world.

"I hope that the families are proud of them, because I'm proud of them."

The Commodore made it a point to take "non-aviators" flying, because he felt it would be good to do so, and sometimes as a reward – for being a good Sailor.

"I've taken a bunch of the air controllers flying over my time here," he said. "One, to make sure that we keep a relationship with the guys in the tower and in the radar facility that are working with us out there in the air space.

"It's also good for them to see what it's like on the flying side. It's good for their professional development. There's nothing more thrilling than to share that love of flying with a young person. Officer or enlisted, it doesn't matter."

Between assignments at the air station, Price spent seven months with the Iraqi Navy.

"As a 'knuckle head' Aviator, I was on the ground in Iraq with the Iraqi Navy and Marines. That was 2005 and 2006," he said.

"I think when you go to actual war like that, and have had close calls and have seen other guys lose their lives, you get a little less worried about the future and little more happy in whatever you're doing and wherever you're at, at the time.

"They're pretty fatalistic over there. If it's a good day today then it's a good day. That rearranges your priorities. It puts things in a bigger, broader perspective."

Price suspects many of the student aviators consider him "a crazy old man."

"I do talk to them a lot and I probably get more out of it than they do, I don't know," he said, chuckling.

"I want them to go out and be great aviators and warriors. And I want them to put the team ahead of themselves.

"It's not about themselves, it's about us. I hope they take with them that it's an incredible privilege to get to wear the uniform and fly airplanes and that there's an incredible amount of trust that we put in them to go out and do what they need to do.

"The country is not defended by 50-year-olds like me; it's defended by 25-year-olds. If I have anything to do with it, we won't have sickly, unlucky or stupid aviators. Those guys are going to be invited to do something else with their lives. I think they get that."

"Training these kids for me is a guardianship. I'm going to make the best quality pilots I can make while I'm in command. Then we're done and then the next guy has to be doing it too.

"The goal is to turn over the Air Wing in the very best condition possible to the next guy. There are always challenges. If it were easy we'd let the Ensigns and the Airmen run the business.

"My job, in my estimation is that for two years I did everything that I could to keep that standard up to make it better where I could in small ways and then hand it off to

**Price continued on page 13**



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## Navigating through unfamiliar seas – Transitioning from military to civilian life

### TAPS – the last call (Part 1 of 5)

by Tito Perez, Transition Assistance Program Manager, F&FSC

One morning you wake up and say to your self, "Today I'm going to do it! I am going to fulfill a life-long dream and buy a sailboat and circumnavigate the world."

You rush down to the nearest sailboat dealer and select one that looks like it can handle ocean crossings. You have the boat delivered to a pier.

You go to the grocery store and buy enough provisions that you think will last long enough to get you to the first port you find where you will buy more provisions.

You wait for the next sunrise and cast off.

Soon you are in blue waters with your sails set at full mast. You are finally realizing your dream.

Or, are you about to experience your worst nightmare?

Of course, no one would plan to sail around the world without first conducting extensive, detailed planning, including seeking professional advice, doing comprehensive research, and developing contingency, "what if" preparations.

Yet, there are many who do "set sail" away from their military careers without properly addressing the most rudimentary issues, such as charting a course and adequately preparing for what may be an arduous and time-consuming journey.

Self-reliance, confidence, and determination are good Sailor attributes, but are not enough to ensure successful navigation toward one's intended destination.

Unfortunately, many cast off without proper preparation – only to flounder and become disoriented in uncharted, turbulent seas of uncertainty, or to find themselves forced to enter unfamiliar, unfriendly ports that can pose threats to their well-being and their journey.

Over the years, as manager of the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) for NASCC, I have heard many service members refer to me as the "TAPS" manager.

The inaccurate acronym is not as significant as the implied metaphor.

The last thing service members may hear when lying in their bunks may be the sound of a bugle playing Taps to signify that



## Navigating Transition

unauthorized lights are to be extinguished. This is the last call of the day.

(The call is also sounded at the completion of a military funeral ceremony.)

The poignancy of the term is a reflection of service member attitudes that the TAP program is the "last call" before leaving the military.

The TAP program is a Department of Defense, Congressionally-mandated initiative to assist service members chart courses to navigate and traverse the gulf between the shores of military and civilian life.

The four part series that will follow in coming weeks will explore several key elements – Teamwork; Planning and Preparation; Understanding and Overcoming Stresses; and Adaptability and Flexibility – that experience has shown will help service members and their families succeed in charting a course and adequately preparing for a voyage that will get them to where they want to go.

Hopefully, the information will serve as aids-to-navigation to assist every service member to eventually cruise into the port of their dreams.

Keep your eyes out for the Sailboat logo in future issues.

## 4th Annual Kids Ceramic Summer Camp

Come join us for another fun filled Summer of learning the art of ceramic and clay building. Camp will be every Wednesday starting June 2 through August 4, 2010 from 12 pm until 3 pm.

Cost: \$25 for one week; \$20 if you sign up for four weeks (any four weeks during the summer); \$15 for second child

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Price continued from page 11

the next guy.”

Now, the family is going home.

“I’m going to Monterrey (California), as the Military Dean of the Engineering School,” he said. “It’s not going to be the in-your-face responsibility that having 800 guys flying every day is – it will be more of an academic environment.”

A sadness sets in his shoulders as he acknowledges the time is over – as the Commodore.

“I’ll miss this,” he said in a low voice. “There’s something great about the guy that gets to lead all these kids. Hopefully I’ve done it from the front. I know I’ve done it from the cockpit because I’ve flown more T-34 hours than any other Commodore – ever. And I’ve taken more kids through the program than anyone – ever.

“I’d do this again in a heart beat. But, I’m ready to go. After 25 years of doing this and two years in command – I’m ready to go.

“When you’re in command and it’s over, you’ve given everything that you should have given to your command. You shouldn’t have a whole lot left – which means that you’ve paced yourself correctly. You gave the folks that were under your command, what they deserved.

“I’m tired and I’m happy to hand it off to Capt. Cooledge. And take my wife and go somewhere she wants to live. That’s home for us, so we’re going back home. She can play golf. After 14 military moves in 25 years, she deserves a little golf.

“What I offer Captain Cooledge is – have fun, it goes fast.”

## School physicals – schedule early

from Naval Health Clinic corpus Christi

Children enrolled at the Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi Primary Care and Pediatric Clinics are eligible for school physicals.

Appointments are available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., beginning June 7 through Sept. 3.

Call (361) 961-6000 or 1-877 Navy-Med (877) 268-9633 for appointments.

Schedule early to avoid the rush!

Please bring current immunization card, medical records, and school physical forms for updates during this appointment. The clinic does not stock school physical forms.

Sports physicals’ are not a TRICARE covered benefit.

We will be happy to perform your child’s “annual school physical exam” and address sports issues.

If you prefer a “sports physical” you may contact the Doctor’s Center for fees and dates that sports physicals are offered at any one of three convenient locations in Corpus Christi: 4637 S.P.I.D, (361)852-6824; 5536 Saratoga, (361)992-0227; and 11559 Leopard, (361)241-1116. [www.doctors-center.com](http://www.doctors-center.com)

You may visit our website for more information about Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi: <http://www.med.navy.mil/SITES/NHCCC/Pages/default.aspx>



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# BEACH TO BAY RELAY - MAY 15



The Beach to Bay Relay Marathon began when Capt. Randy Pierson blew the starting horn at 7 a.m. (above left & right). Runners ranged from serious competitors to those dressed for fun (left). Pierson changed clothes and ran the relay leg through NASCC (middle right). Rain and wind dogged the runners for most of the race - slogging through puddles was the norm (far right). Although the course through NASCC was mostly flat, it also presented the longest single relay portion, starting near S.P.I.D. with runners handing off to their relay partner outside the Ocean Drive gate (below left). The last runner did not leave NASCC until after noon (below right).

Photos by Bob Torres and Rod Hafemeister



# AWARDS and ACHIEVEMENTS

## Winging — April 30



Photo by Hugh Lieck Event Photography

Winging officials, from left: John Michael, Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce; Lt. Col. Robert Blagg, USAF, Commanding Officer, VT-35; Cmdr. Patrick Foley, USCG, Training Officer, TW-4; Maj. Anthony Muralt, Executive Officer, MATSG-22; Cmdr. William Hearther, Commanding Officer, VT-31; Capt. Chuck Hollingsworth, Deputy Commander, CPPD; Capt. Dave Price, Commodore, TW-4.

Wingees in alphabetical order: Ensign Colin Michael Cleary; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Caitlin Thérèse Curran, USAF; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Chay Michael Derbigny, USAF; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Catherine Erin Donnell, USAF; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Eric Rush Duncan, USAF; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Duane Roy Griffith, USAF; Ensign Ryan David McFeely; Ensign Justin P. Moore; 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Roland Wood Olmstead, USAF; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Cory Joseph Pilinko, USAF; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Calen Edwin Pope, USAF; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Daniel Robert Putz, USAF; Ensign Ray Edward Ratliff, Jr.; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. David Gerardo Rodriguez, USAF; 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Joshua Paul Romeo, USMC; Ensign Daniel Justin Russell; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Tyler Frederick Sickles, USAF; 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Stefan Yuri Stanko, USMC; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Lindsay Arin Volaski, USAF; Ensign Jonathan Paul Wandersee; Lt. j.g. Bryan Richard Weber, USCG; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Jeffrey Scott Weger, USAF; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Sara E. Weimar, USAF.

## NASCC Awards – May 4



Naval Air Station Corpus Christi held an awards ceremony May 4. Pictured, from left: Capt. Randy Pierson, NASCC CO; ABH2 (AW/SW) Wesley Urban, Letter of Commendation; BU1 (SCW) Marcos Arreola, Letter of Commendation; AO2 Cristopher Polsen, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal; ET1 Steven Short, Certificate of Appreciation as 2010 VITA Coordinator; Lt. Cmdr. (Chaplain) Gabriel Mensah, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal; ETC Jeremy Harris, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal; Master Chief Daniel Stark, Acting Command Master Chief. (not pictured) EO2 Mardi Ros, Letter of Commendation.

Photo by Bob Torres



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## MN1 McCoy re-ups – behind bars



NASCC Executive Officer Cmdr. Bruce Lankford (left) shakes hands with MN1 William McCoy after administering McCoy his reenlistment oath on May 6. McCoy has been working at the Detention Facility and chose to reenlist in a cell.

Photo by Rod Hafemeister

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**GOLF Clubs** - Left-handed Kunnan irons. All slices, mis-hits, missed balls taken out of clubs by current owner. Excellent condition. \$75. Taylor made driver - used once \$125. Dunlop driver, \$50. Nike Sumo Sasquatch driver, \$100. Assortment of clubs and bag - \$70. Please call 774-7104 to see clubs. Great buys. Golfer discovered - he's right-handed.

**FOR SALE:** Trailer \$300, Trampoline \$50, Hospital Bed \$20 and assorted furniture as various prices. Call 937-3375.

**FOR SALE:** Refrigerator, Black, Icemaker and water dispenser in door. Good condition. \$650. Glass bottomware hutch, Light wood, w/drawers at bottom. \$350. Moving Must Sell. 361-991-3921.

# Marina gets new boat shed



CMWR Director Kass Varner and MWR Director Dave Sullivan cut the ribbon opening a new boat shed at the NASCC Marina on May 5 as CO Capt. Randy Pierson and others look on.

Photo by Bob Torres

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**HAVE YOU BEEN CONTACTED BY IRS?** Do you have taxes to file? Call your income tax center...Toni McIntyre, CPA FREE initial consultation! 361-945-2688.

*Pets continued from page 5*

Prior to a disaster, you should call ahead to motels and hotels in safe areas to identify those that are pet friendly. The following website offers a search engine for pet friendly hotels: <http://www.pettravel.com/>

However, be sure to contact the hotel directly and ask about any restrictions based on size, number, breed, or species of pets that they will accept.

If you and your pet cannot stay together when you evacuate, contact family, friends, veterinarians and boarding kennels in safe areas to arrange for care. It is important to be proactive as availability will likely be limited.

Don't forget your pet's medical records for proof of vaccination.



**Hurricane Rita evacuee with her dog**

If you must leave your pet behind, decide on a safe location in your home to leave your pet, such as utility areas or bathrooms which have access to water, rooms with few or no windows or rooms with counters or areas where animals can climb to safety in case of flooding. NEVER leave an animal chained outside.

Be sure your pets have safe collars with proper identification. Leave out plenty of dry food (self-feeders work well) and put water in a no spill container.

Large animals can get water from a filled bathtub or if possible, a faucet can be left slightly open to drip into a large container.

Try to keep multiple pets in separate areas if possible. Dogs and cats should be separated from each other and from smaller pets.

The anxiety associated with an emergency situation may cause animals that normally get along to not.

If you have a bird, remember they must eat every day to survive. Obtain a bird feeder that dispenses regular amount of food and cover the cage with a thin cloth or sheet to provide security and filtered light.

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- Provide grief and bereavement support for families
- Assist in the office with administrative and clerical tasks
- Help recruit and train other volunteers
- Work in your own home making special items for patients
- Contribute your professional expertise

www.VistaCare.com  
 361-854-1540

*Pets continued on 19*

**Pets continued from page 18**

Finally, post a note outside in a visible location stating where the pets are inside and contact information for you.

Remember, pets are unlikely to survive on their own so if at all possible they should not be left behind unattended.

When a disaster begins, bring pets inside immediately to help stop them from running away. Animals have instincts and will often try to isolate themselves in severe weather.



After a disaster, leash or fence in your pets for the first few days and remain with them while outside for reassurance. Familiar scents and sights have changed and your pet may become confused.

Watch for downed power lines and for snakes and other dangerous animals that may be brought into the area due to flooding; all are dangerous to unsuspecting pets.

Finally, look for changes in your pet's behavior before and after the disaster. Pets that are usually quiet and friendly may become aggressive or defensive.

Some helpful websites are listed below:  
<http://www.fema.gov/plan/prepare/animals.shtm>

[http://www.hsus.org/hsus\\_field/hsus\\_disaster\\_center/](http://www.hsus.org/hsus_field/hsus_disaster_center/)  
<http://www.peteducation.com/article.cfm?cls=2&cat=1677&articleid=2886>

**Kaboom continued from page 2**

The kids found an animal skull for the shaman and pulled some powder from some blank ammo to throw in the campfire for effect. The shaman danced around the fire, chanting gibberish, and asking the "Great Spirit of the Smoking Mountain" for guidance.

The whole act started the Sunday morning of May 18, 1980 – just about 8:30 a.m. Timing is everything.

At what had to be about 20 seconds after 8:32 a.m., the shaman threw a handful of smokeless powder in the fire and cried out, "Give us a SIGN, Oh Great Spirit!"

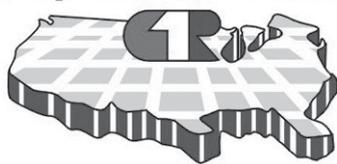
In the distance, the whole side of Mount St. Helens began to slip. Then explode. Then the sound arrived, all but driving out the scream of one of the Green Berets.

**"What did you do?"**

Months later, the shaman – who ended up working for me in the anti-tank section – told me his side of the story.

And it was obvious – somewhere in the back of his head, he still wondered: Did **HE** make the mountain explode?

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## Reiser receives Commendation Medal



Chief Hospital Corpsman (Fleet Marine Force/Surface Warfare) William G. Reiser received the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (sixth award) for meritorious service while serving as leading chief petty officer of the patient administration department at Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi from March 2008 to May 2010. Capt. Randy Kelley (left), commanding officer, made the presentation May 13.

Photo by Bill Love, NHCCC PAO

## A PET'S TEN COMMANDMENTS

1. My life is likely to last 10-15 years. Any separation from you is likely to be painful.
2. Give me time to understand what you want of me.
3. Place your trust in me. It is crucial for my well-being.
4. Don't be angry with me for long and don't lock me up as punishment. You have your work, your friends, your entertainment, but I have only you.
5. Talk to me. Even if I don't understand your words, I do understand your voice when speaking to me.
6. Be aware that however you treat me, I will never forget it.
7. Before you hit me, before you strike me, remember that I could hurt you, and yet, I choose not to bite you.
8. Before you scold me for being lazy or uncooperative, ask yourself if something might be bothering me. Perhaps I'm not getting the right food, I have been in the sun too long, or my heart might be getting old or weak.
9. Please take care of me when I grow old. You too, will grow old.
10. On the ultimate difficult journey, go with me please. Never say you can't bear to watch. Don't make me face this alone. Everything is easier for me if you are there, because I love you so.

Take a moment today to thank God for your pets. Enjoy and take good care of them.



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# Happy Birthday, Navy Nurses



To celebrate the 102st birthday on May 13 of the creation of the Navy's Nurse Corps, a junior and senior nurse - Lt. Lonetta Canales (left) and Capt. Holly S. Bennett - cut a cake on the Quarterdeck at Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi. Public Law No. 115, H.R. 20471 of May 13, 1908, established the Navy Nurse Corps. Photo by Bill Love, NHCCC PAO

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## Cinco de Mayo — extended version



With May 5 falling in the middle of the week this year, Cinco de Mayo celebrations were extended over several days. It began with a May 5 luncheon (above) at the USO on board Naval Air Station Corpus Christi and continued again on Friday, May 7, with a short concert (below) by Leticia Maldragon outside the Navy Exchange. It closed that evening with a dinner and dancing at the Bay Club, sponsored by CMWR (facing page).

Photos by Bob Torres

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# Cinco de Mayo — extended version



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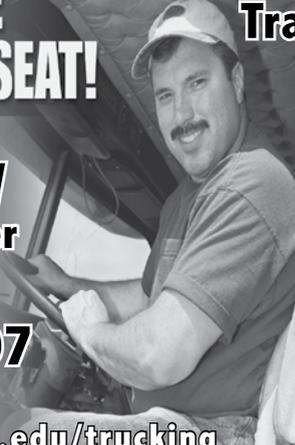
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The cost is \$60 per person, which includes cart and green fees for both days.

Lunch serving hamburgers, fries and soda will be included after 2nd round with award ceremony.

Trophies will be awarded for 1st place in all flights.

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Tracy Watson  
Pastor, PIBC



Pastor Tracy Watson



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- 2 tbsp prepared pesto

*Mix red peppers, beans and garlic in a small saucepan.  
Cook over low heat until warmed through. Stir in pesto and  
serve. Serves 2*



# BEST BITES DINING GUIDE

## Fine Wines and Felines



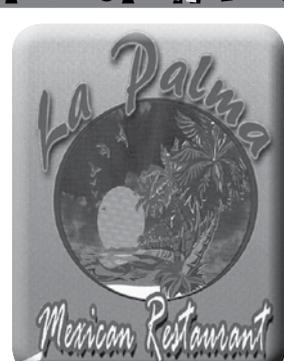
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### What's Happening

by Tina Konwerski

**Continuing through Friday, May 28 THE ART OF EGGERY** will be on display at the John E. Conner Museum in Kingsville. See San Antonio artist Janie Arteaga's work with decorating a variety of eggs a variety of ways will be featured. The Conner Museum is open from 9 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 to 4 Saturdays, except university holidays. Admission is free. For more information, call 361-593-2810.

**Corpus Christi Bird Club's Spring Bird & Reptile Mart - May 29th 9AM-5PM** at the Al Amin Center 2001 Suntime Rd - Corpus Christi, TX. 78409 fmi [www.cbcbirdclub.com](http://www.cbcbirdclub.com) (361)241-6243 Birds, Reptiles, Cages, Feed, Seed, Toys and a great Raffle.

**A Memorial Day Service** is scheduled for Monday, May 31, at 1pm at Seaside Memorial Park, 4357 Ocean Drive. Guests include Juan Garcia, Asst. Secretary of the Navy, CC Corvette Club, "Fly Over" by the U.S. Navy, Patriots Band and Honor Guard, CC Fire Department Pipe & Drums, Army Scorpion Tank, Lorrissa Chapa (Wicker Recording Artist), FREE Food and Refreshments after the ceremony. For more details visit [www.seasidefuneral.com](http://www.seasidefuneral.com) or call 992-9411.

**Monday, May 31, 11 am - 11 pm. 1ST ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION USO SOUTH TEXAS - Concert is FREE** to Military Personnel with current valid I.D. -- CONCERT, RAFFLE & OPEN MARKET Come & Enjoy Our Local Texas Musicians: Steve Hansen, Dave Martinez Band, Scarlet, & Chad Johnson WITH SPECIAL GUEST: Granger Smith. Comedians Berto Garcia, Fabian Rivera and Raymond Orta. EXECUTIVE SURF CLUB-DOWNTOWN CORPUS CHRISTI Win Music Memorabilia: Texas & National Artists Eat, Drink, Shop, Dance & Remember the Holiday.

Disabled American Veterans E.G. Perales Chapter 150 are holding their **5th Annual Memorial Day Bar-B-Que** Brisket Plate with all the trimmings fund raiser on Memorial Day, Monday May 31, 2010 from 12PM-3PM at V.F.W. Post 2397 - 4441 Ayers Street C.C. TX Donations are \$6.00 per plate. Contact 225-4831 or 779-6456 for more information.

**Attention all car enthusiasts!** Memorial Day Weekend, May 29th through the 30th, the Coastal A's & Rods will be hosting the biggest car show in South Texas. With over 300 registrations expected! All proceeds to Driscoll Children's Hospital. Last year's donation was over \$9000. This is the 18th Annual Fun Run where many dif-



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# BEST BITES DINING GUIDE

### What's Happening continued

ferent categories of cars are judged for plaques that are presented on Sunday at a special awards ceremony. Games for children and adults on Saturday. Prizes, vendors, food booths, drink stands and live auction. Admission is free but donations are appreciated! FMI Maria Elena Renojo 361 215-1617 email megarunner922@yahoo.com

South Texas All Airborne Chapter, 82nd Airborne Association Inc., will host the **28th Annual Southwest Memorial Airborne Days Convention June 11-13** at the Holiday Inn Emerald Beach Hotel, 1102 S. Shoreline, Corpus Christi. All airborne qualified troopers from all branches of the service, veterans, and supporters are invited to attend. FMI: 361/443-4060. www.south-texasairborne.com

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR;** Monday, June 14, 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Join us for our 2nd Annual LOCKS OF LOVE Cut-a-Thon. Get your hair cut for FREE when you donate 8 inches or more to Locks of Love!! Door Prizes & Goodie Bags!! Planet Sol Hair Salon, 4401 S. Alameda, Corpus Christi FMI: Contact Angel Carmona at 814-8899 To volunteer, call 814-8899 or by email at planetsol@grandecom.net

**June 19, 2010 Wine, Cigars, Music and Tapas** -- 7:00 p.m. on the grounds of St. Helena Catholic Church - Cigars provided by Tobacco World - Music provided by South Coast Jazz - Silent Auction. \$25 per person - \$45 per couple - 7643 Wooldridge Road - fmi 361-994-8783.

**Please consider joining us as a sponsor on Wednesday, June 23**, for lunch at the Solomon P. Ortiz Center as we Celebrate 30 Years of PDAP in the Coastal Bend. Your sponsorship is very important as we continue to fight the rising tide of substance abuse and chemical dependency in the Coastal Bend. We are winning, but it takes your help. Call 887-8900 or email m.orf@grandecom.net for a sponsorship form today.

**PARKWAY Presbyterian Church** - Calling and Equipping Disciples For the Kingdom of God - Join us for our service, Sunday 10:55 a.m. EVERYONE Welcome! 3707 Santa Fe - 361-852-7349 - www.parkwaypc.org.

**Your EVENT here FREE** on a space available basis. Is your Church, School or other non-profit organization holding a fund raising event? Submit the details in 50 words or less (and we will print on a space available basis) - send 3 or more weeks before the event to publisher@coffeeneewscorpuschristi.com

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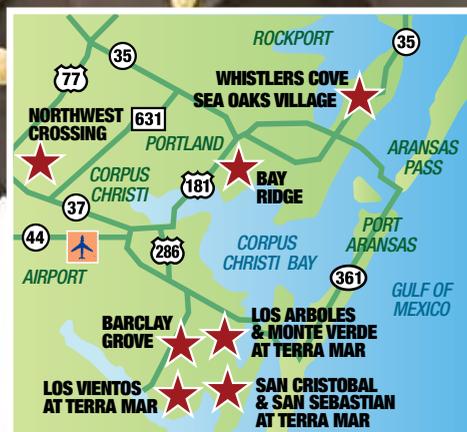
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