

WINGSPAN



Vol. 19, No. 2

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

January 24, 2013

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.
A Proclamation.
 Whereas, on the twenty-second day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, a proclamation was issued by the President of the United States, containing, among other things, the following, to wit:
 "That on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held in slavery within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever, free; and the Executive government of the United States, including the military and naval authority thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons, and will do its utmost to rescue such persons, or any of them, in any effort they may make for their actual freedom."

**Black History Month:
 "At the Crossroads
 of Freedom and
 Equality: The
 Emancipation
 Proclamation and
 the March on
 Washington."**



Garza to be Honored
page 11



Slow Down
page 3

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi is *StormReady*



Capt. Dave Edgecomb, commanding officer of NAS Corpus Christi, joined Air Station Emergency Management personnel and National Weather Service representatives to accept the StormReady designation Jan. 11. NASCC is the 2,000th community to receive the designation, which means it has shown it is better prepared for severe weather. *Story on page 5.*

Assistant Secretary of Defense finds logistics for success at Corpus Christi Army Depot

By **Brigitte Rox, CCAD PA**

The federal government is not typically seen as a business, but Corpus Christi Army Depot (CCAD), the Army's only rotary wing maintenance and repair facility, has caught the attention of one high-level Defense official who thinks that this is exactly what the government needs.

Alan F. Estevez, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Logistics and Materiel Readiness, paid CCAD a visit Jan. 8-9.

He wanted to see how CCAD is driving down the cost of sustaining some of the Department of Defense's most critical helicopters.

Estevez is responsible for providing world-class military logistics support to the United States armed forces, both in current operations as well as in the future.

He came down to CCAD because of the criticality of the military's organic base - something he intends to make clear on Capitol Hill.

"Most people do not understand what is done in our depot structure,"

he told CCAD Commander Col. Christopher B. Carlile.

"Depot structures are a crown jewel of America's defense capability.

"What is being done here at CCAD is a prime example of the best of the best - just spectacular work.

"The depot system is not going to go away because we need them. We need it for the next generation.

"In order to sustain the force structure we'll need [in the future], we'll have to do things from a logistics perspective at a lower cost.

"I think the things you're doing are exactly what needs to be done in order to do that.

"If you can't deliver a Black Hawk for less, then you're not going to get that Black Hawk. That's the reality."

Defense leaders understand that the future of defense helicopters is sketchy.

Budget concerns and a changing operational tempo have stalled any efforts to replace the current fleet
CCAD continued on page 8



Roy Hollins, Director of Aircraft production identifies some of the distinguishing feature on a OH-58 D Kiowa Warriors to the Honorable Alan Estevez, Assistant Secretary of Defense (Logistics & Materiel Readiness). Photo by Kiana Allen, CCAD PA

Skipper's Column Come Try Our New Club - Soon

by Capt. Dave Edgecomb



Edgecomb

Within the next few weeks, we plan to open the new All Hands Club, across the street from the existing Bay Club.

It's been a long time coming – we broke ground in December 2011 – but it's finally done except for some finishing

touches.

With luck, we may have it open for Super Bowl Sunday – but if not, we're prepared to

throw the annual Super Bowl Party in the old club one last time.

Either way, in early February we will have it open with lunch Monday through Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and a bar menu on Monday through Friday evenings.

We're also planning to have Sunday Brunch and themed dinners at least twice a month.

And of course, the bar section has a number of high-definition large screen televisions, which will normally be tuned to sporting events and/or news.

It also will be the home for the Winging ceremonies, parties and other events.

Call MWR to schedule an event or request something special.

We've built it – now we need your help to make it a success.

As a Category C facility, the club has to be self-supporting. So we'd like to see everyone taking advantage of the improved facility.

We're working to make it the best club possible – and I and MWR would like to hear your suggestions on how to make it better.

On related note, you may have noticed that the McDonalds franchise on base has closed.

The NEX has plans, detailed elsewhere in this issue.

But in the interim, MWR has expanded the hours of the Flight Deck; it is now open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday, closed Sundays and holidays.

So stop in for Starbucks coffee, breakfast sandwiches, panini sandwiches, pizza, pasta, soups and salads.

Chaplain's Message

by Lt. Stephen Warne, Chaplain

There are many things in this world that I have not experienced, many of them due to my lack of knowledge concerning them.

I will admit that I am willing to try most things at least once and usually enjoy the experience of trying something new.

So when I moved to South Texas and discovered that duck hunting was readily available, I decided to try it out.

I have always enjoyed the outdoors and quickly landed an invitation among duck hunters to experience the thrill of the duck hunt.

My first experience was great.

In fact, I enjoyed it so much that I bought a small boat to aid in my new found hobby.

I am now a full-fledge duck hunter,

although I must admit that more duck evade my position than venture within shotgun range – probably due to my inexperience of placing decoys and learning the ducks' habits.

Nevertheless, I am committed.

You may be wondering why a chaplain is writing about hunting instead of a more "appropriate topic."

Good question.

Have you ever considered what you may be missing by not visiting any number of local churches and worship centers?

Like my duck hunting, you may discover something amazing and very fulfilling.

Please know that it is not about getting "all your ducks in a row" before you go, it is about the journey; learning and experiencing

Trying Something New

as you go.

I will once again try something new this evening.

Several of the harvested ducks have been marinating overnight and will take to the grill this evening.

My greatest challenge now is convincing my family to enjoy this journey with me at the dinner table.



Warne

Editor's Corner

by Rod Hafemeister



Hafemeister

In fact, if you hesitate, you may end up owing them money.

Command Master Chief Rick Mathis sums it up this way:

"Make your financial plans carefully when factoring in BAH as a contributing source of income for your house payment.

"If you live in military/privatized housing you must go into the housing office and change your allotment to the new BAH scale.

"This must be done by the 1st of February this year.

"Remember, BAH is calculated on local rents; mortgage amounts are not used to compute Basic Allowance for Housing.

"You may be able to offset some or all of your monthly mortgage payments using BAH, but it's not designed to do so."

In other words, if you live in Base Housing, your BAH is signed over to the PPV housing partner.

Way back in the day, when I wore a uniform, you didn't see this – but the effect was the same.

If you lived in government quarters, you simply didn't get BAH.

Either way, you didn't have it to spend. Of course, those of us living off base aren't necessarily doing any better.

The principal and interest on my mortgage are stable from year to year (Thank you, VA!), but the property taxes and insurance are subject to change.

And somehow, they don't often seem to

Live on Base? Read this!

go down – only up.

And we won't even talk about property maintenance expenses.

Renters don't really have it any better, either.

The landlord has to pay those taxes and insurance, and includes those costs in the monthly rent.

And my experience renting back then, supported by a few studies, was that the landlords all knew how much the housing allowance was going to go up even before we did.

And they raised the rent accordingly.

But what are you going to do? You have to live somewhere – unless you're looking to sleep under a highway bridge or something.

And whatever roof you put above your family's heads, it's going to cost you.

So move into the New Year with a clear eye towards your housing expense.

And if you live on base – go adjust your allotment...

Before they come looking for you.

Wingspan

NAS Corpus Christi

"Exceeding Expectations Through Pride In Performance"

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(7341 McArdle Rd.)
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Slow Down: Speed limit reduced around Main Gate



A radar-controlled speed display helped drivers remember the new, lower speed limit on Lexington Ave. between the Main Gate and the NEX gas station starting Jan. 14. The speed limit was reduced in both directions to decrease the possibility of accidents and injuries with heavy traffic and the final denial barrier near the gate. Eventually, speed bumps will also be installed and the speed limit will be reduced outside the gate.

Photo by Rod Hafemeister

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Transition GPS – Investing in your future after your service

by Tito Perez, FFSC Transition Coordinator

One of the most difficult hurdles that has always faced separating and retiring service members is finding rewarding and satisfying career opportunities that will bring them prosperity after leaving the military service.

The service members who have been the most successful in navigating from the military to the civilian world have been those individuals who invested the time and effort to plan their transition and who allowed themselves adequate time to prepare and adjust for unforeseen circumstances.

Effective as of Nov. 19, 2012, the Departments of Defense, Labor and Veterans Affairs implemented a new initiative that encourages service members and spouses to heavily invest their time and efforts to plan and prepare for a profitable future.

This new initiative is called Transition GPS (Goals, Plan, Succeed).

Transition GPS was first conceived in 2011, when Congress passed the Veterans Opportunity to Work Act of 2011 (commonly referred to as the VOW Act) to assist both transitioning active duty service members and their spouses, as well as, to provide employment and career support services to veterans no longer on active duty.

To comply with the VOW Act and to support transitioning active duty service members and their spouses, DOD, DOL, and the VA joined to implement a redesigned

Transition Assistance Program (Transition GPS.)

The new five-day Transition GPS course is a comprehensive program that includes pre-separation counseling, military to civilian skills review, VA benefits briefing and application sign-up, financial planning support, job search skills building, and the development of an individual transition plan.

In addition to the five-day workshop, service members will also have the opportunity to attend at least one of three additional workshops that will be offered to address entrepreneurial, educational, or technical (training, credentialing, licensure, etc.) issues.

Service members and spouses are encouraged to begin participation in Transition GPS as early as 24 months prior to retirement or 12 months prior to separation.

Why invest in Transition GPS?

If you are an active duty service member scheduled to separate or retire, the amount of time you invest in preparing, researching, and planning will generate a return on investment that could yield rewarding returns including good jobs and career paths, enhanced education and credentialing, and even opportunities to pursue personal business goals.

Your investment of time and effort in the transition process is crucial and key to a successful crossover to the civilian sector.



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Without your investment of energy, effort, and dedication, you are guaranteed nothing in return.

So, take a risk and begin investing in your future.

Meet with your Navy Career Counselor and schedule yourself for a Transition GPS workshop and begin the process of assessing

and understanding who and what you are and what you can offer the private or public sector that will motivate and encourage them to invest in you.

For more information on the Transition GPS program or to schedule a workshop, call the Fleet and Family Service Center at 361 961-2372 (DSN: 861).



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National Weather Service recognizes NASCC as *StormReady*

Story & photos by Rod Hafemeister

Those weather alerts that pop up on your computer or your cell phone?

They help NASCC by StormReady.

National Weather Service on Jan. 11 presented the Air Station with their StormReady certification, the 2,000th community awarded the certification since the program began in 1998.

“We’re here to honor the Naval Air Station as being the 2,000th storm ready community in the National Weather Service,” said Michael Coyne, Deputy Director of Performance and Resources at the National Weather Service.

“That means that they have done a lot of work, groundwork, to prepare for storms, and they have a plan in place to take action whenever threatening storms approach the region.”

NASCC Commanding Officer Capt. Dave Edgecomb said the credit belongs to the Air Station’s Emergency Management team.

“They’re the ones who did all the work; they deserve the credit,” he said.

“What this means it that we’re better prepared to handle storms when they come – and they will come, in South Texas.”

That work won’t stop – StormReady certification has to be renewed every three years.

According to the NWS, the top goal of StormReady is to prepare communities with

an action plan that responds to the threat of all types of severe weather – from tornadoes to tsunamis.

The voluntary program was created by the National Weather Service’s Tulsa, Okla. forecast office, after a series of devastating tornadoes.

StormReady provides clear-cut advice to community leaders and emergency managers and media to would improve their local hazardous weather operations.

Once a community meets preparedness criteria, outlined by a partnership between the National Weather Service, and state and local emergency managers, it will be pronounced “StormReady.”

However, before that happens, communities must:

- Establish a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center;
 - Have more than one method of receiving severe weather forecasts and warnings and alerting the public;
 - Create a system that monitors local weather conditions;
 - Promote the significance of public readiness through community seminars;
 - Develop a formal hazardous weather plan, which includes training severe weather spotters and holding exercises.
- So when the alert pops up – be StormReady.



National Weather Service officials present Capt. Edgecomb the StormReady sign in the NASCC Emergency Operations Center.

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ET2 Cardwell reenlists



ET2 Alexander Cardwell receives his "Texas Plaque" from Senior Chief Jeremy Harris at his Jan. 10 reenlistment. Harris gave Cardwell the oath of reenlistment.

BM2 Midland reenlists



BM2 Kenneth Midland looks on as his wife, Amber, receives a Certificate of Appreciation from Lt. Chris Carmichael at Midland's Jan. 18 reenlistment.

Photos by Rod Hafemeister

LT. j.g. Woods becomes Lt. Woods



Navy nurse Tiffany M. Woods was promoted to lieutenant by Cmdr. Sheri R. Coleman, NC, on Jan.2. A native of Tyler, Texas, Woods has served in the Navy for four years and is a member of Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi Medical Home Port Team Mercy. Her significant other, Mike, participated in the pinning ceremony.

Photo by Bill Love, NHCCC PAO

‘Good Job!’



Capt. Bill Davidson, acting commanding officer at NHCCC, praises LS2 (SW) Ricardo J. Cardoza (right), on Jan. 10 for his outstanding efforts & contributions to the command’s physical fitness initiatives.

Photo by Bill Love, NHCCC PAO

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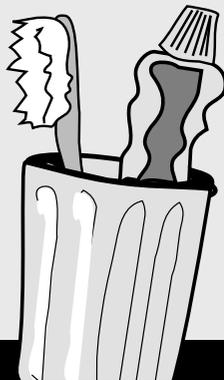
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CCAD continued from page 1

but Mr. Estevez made one thing clear: "We'll have to sustain them if you want to buy them."

While there is still no word on the next generation of combat helicopters, a venture that would cost billions of dollars to execute, the military makes do with what they already have – the Black Hawks, Apaches, Kiowa Warriors, the Air Force Pave Hawks.

Those helicopters come to CCAD to get repaired, modified, upgraded and reset for another round of use.

It's the most cost-effective solution to replacing worn aircraft with brand new birds each time a helicopter has a hard landing or needs a modified engine or component.

In recent years, however, the Army depot has been looking for ways to drive down the cost and time it takes to reset the fleet.

That's when depot leaders began to look at processes, logistics and even the paperwork involved in getting helicopters back in the air.

What they needed was a business make-over.

CCAD instituted a new way of doing business as a DoD maintenance facility by implementing efficiency and cost reductions at every level.

Through the adoption of an effective Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system, the Logistics Modernization Program (LMP), CCAD has made strides in reducing the cost of maintenance support while maximizing production to sustain vertical lift operations.

Similarly, the Electronic Shop Production System (ESPS) streamlines the logistics of traveling parts and components throughout CCAD's 2.3 million square feet of industrial space.

Leaders at the depot credit the commercial sector for showing them how to do business smarter.

ERPs are something used by every major corporation, it turns out. It could be that

federal entities need to shift their perspective to something that can balance better business practices with the Nation's needs on the Nation's dime.

It's certainly the way Estevez sees the future of Defense.

"ERPs are critical to our [DoD's] ability to monitor our workload, determine our cost and, in fact, increase our productivity," he said.

"It's the same thing that's done in the civilian sector. It's critical to our ability to return value to the American taxpayer and, more importantly, to return value to the Warfighters.

"The initiatives that Col. Carlile is driving in this depot to lower cost and increase production are the types of action that needs to be taken by all our industrial sites.

"These are the types of actions that we owe the American taxpayer, that we owe to the Warfighter in order to sustain the best military in the world.

"At the end of the day, I think you're doing what this country needs."

Estevez also highlighted a parallel need: that the industrial base needs to accept more joint work from other areas of government.

Though most of the programs at Corpus Christi Army Depot are specifically for the Army, they accept work for other armed force helicopters.

CCAD has an entire hangar dedicated to the Air Force Pave Hawk, a variant of the Army's UH-60 Black Hawk and they are looking to accept more work from Coast Guard and Homeland Security.

But the future of defense, Estevez says, will require even more cooperation between services – a concept that truly embodies the concept of One Team, One Fight.

America needs to emphasize the need for more joint work and for sustainment to

CCAD continued on page 9



James C. Dwyer, Deputy Chief of Staff, Logistics G-4; Bill Andrews, Deputy Commanding General, AMCOM; the Honorable Alan Estevez, Assistant Secretary of Defense (Logistics & Materiel Readiness) and Moheb Assad, Director of Manufacturing/Process Production discuss future efforts for the Bearing Reclamation Facility

Photo by Kiana Allen, CCAD PA

CCAD continued from page 8

achieve a fiscally conservative government.

During Estevez's visit, he had the opportunity to tour CCAD's production facility and the offices responsible for all the technical aspects of logistics, production schedules, and process improvement.

"[When] you walk along the floor, you see increasing production of Black Hawks, increasing production of [rotor] blades, increasing production in components – all at a lower cost than it was four or five years ago or even seven or eight years ago. You see a drastic [cost] decrease," he said.

"This is what it's about. It's about taking great production techniques, taking lean six sigma techniques, taking continuous process improvement and continuing to get better and then using the backbone of LMP to increase that as a multiplier effect."

"It's a great return on investment for the American people.

"Work doesn't go to the depot because we have one. We go there because it's costing what it needs to cost at a competitive rate.

"We need to sustain that."

Contrary to the idea that government facilities will stand head-to-head against the private industrial base, CCAD demonstrates that the two could co-exist symbiotically.

Most Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) maintain that they derive just as much benefit from working with CCAD because they augment their workload through some of CCAD's most unique capabilities when times get tough.

"There are things that the commercial sector does very well and there are things that we do well in the organic base," Estevez said.

"We need an industrial base in the United States. The next generation of helicopters is going to come from the innovation that comes out of our industrial base.

"When you get those great partnership agreements is when we marry up what they do well.

"What [CCAD] does well is the touch labor and repair and you bring that best value right back to the community."

That community includes the nearly 6,000 civilians that make up CCAD, nearly half of whom are veterans.

They work around the clock because they know a soldier out there is waiting to see that helicopter dot that horizon to take them home.

"No one in our workforce is twiddling their thumbs waiting and expecting their paycheck," Estevez said.

"We need to recognize that and carry that message back to Capitol Hill."

Liberty Center Fish & Kayak

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Community Support

VT-31 goes to a Science Fair



Members of VT-31 helped judge a science fair of first through sixth graders at Most Precious Blood Elementary School on Jan. 17. Capt. Andre Jonckheere, Capt. Brian Simmons, Lt. Tom Younghans and Cmdr. Todd Copeland, VT-31 commanding officer, were paired up with other local volunteers with a science or engineering background to judge the projects and choose the best three and one honorable mention. The top three projects from each class advance to a regional science fair and then possibly to the Coastal Bend Science fair held on March 8-9.

Photos courtesy VT-31

NJROTC Students get a Dog & Fire Truck Show



Naval JROTC students from Vista Ridge High School in Leander, Texas, visited and a Military Working dog demonstration. Later, they toured the Coast Guard harbor facilities.

Photo by Bob Torres

Awards and Achievements

Winging — January 11



Photo by Hugh Lieck Event Photography

Winging officials, from left: Kim Erwin, Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce; Cmdr. Todd Copeland, Commanding Officer, VT-31; Cmdr. Scott Kramarik, Executive Officer, VT-35; Lt. Col. William Maclean, USAF, Commanding Officer, VT-35; Col. David Krebs, Commanding Officer, MATSG-22; Capt. Rex Curtin, Commodore, Training Air Wing Four.

Wingees, in alphabetical order: 1st Lt. Andrew Glenn Brock, USMC; 1st Lt. Charles Swift Buckley, USMC; Ensign Josue Saul Castrejon; Ensign Paxie Martin Cordova; 1st Lt. Joshua Daniel Culver, USMC; Ensign Lance Alan Fitzwater; Lt. j.g. Samuel Page Hays; Capt. Nathan Ernest Houle, USMC; Ensign Gavin Xavier Karski; Ensign Seth Brennan Labak; Ensign Erik Lee Osmundsen; Lt. j.g. Bradley James Pendock.

Honors for Mary Jane Garza

Mary Jane Garza, School Liaison Officer for NAS Corpus Christi, will be among the women recognized Jan. 24 as the 2013 YWCA Women In Careers. Here, she is receiving the Senior Civilian of the Quarter Award from Capt. Dave edgecomb, NAS Corpus Christi commanding officer.

Photo by Rod Hafemeister





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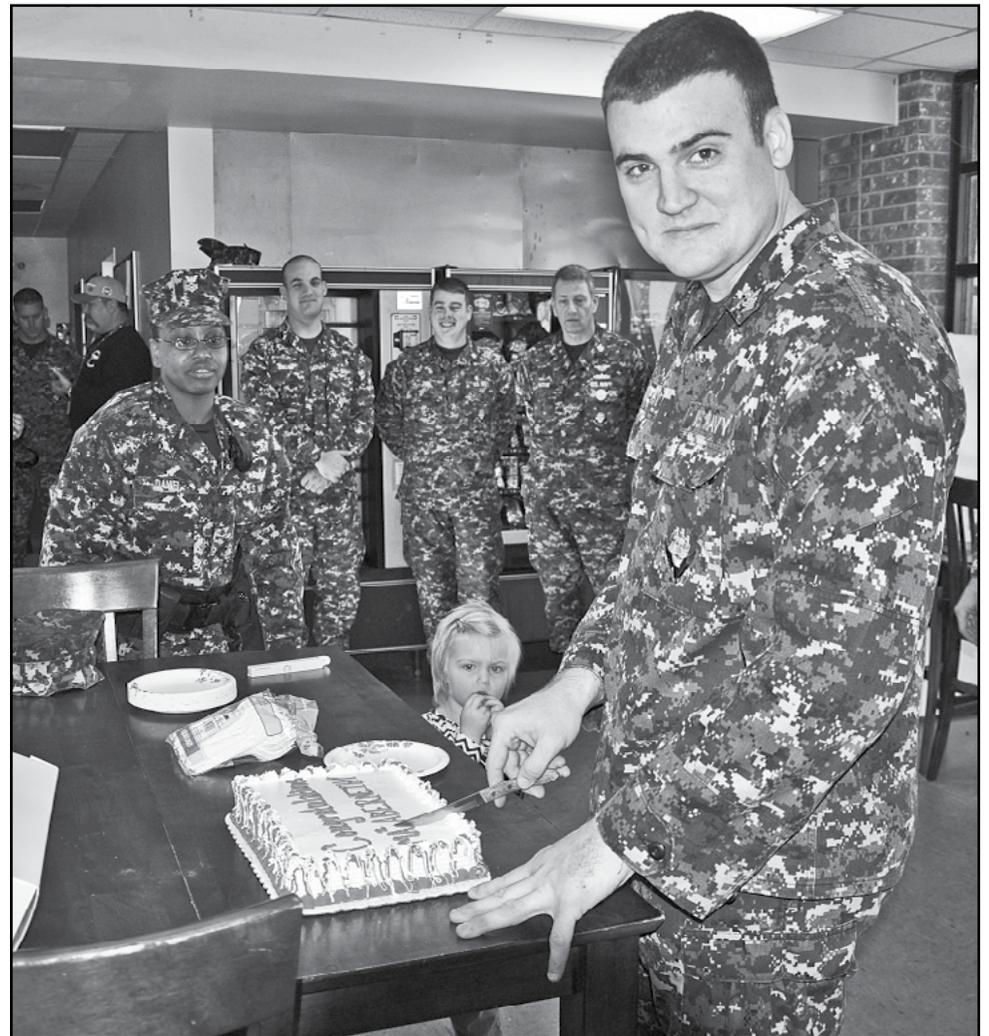
The Tournament will be a four-player team scramble. The best shot is played on each hole and continues until any player holes out. The team receives a score for the hole, rather than the individual. Mulligans will be offered.

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MA3 Timothy Abernethy reenlists



MA3 Timothy Abernethy cuts his reenlistment cake with a waiting audience of hungry MAs – and one little observer. Abernethy reenlisted on Jan. 18.

Photo by Rod Hafemeister

NEX bringing new food options

by Rod Hafemeister

McDonalds may have closed on base, but NEX Manager Steve Evans says patience will be rewarded with something better.

"We are excited to be moving forward on three food service initiatives aboard NAS Corpus Christi," he said.

"By the end of the year, we should expect to see new food offerings to replace McDonald's, the reopening of the Prop Stop at Hangar 57, and the addition of new food offerings at CCAD in Building 8."

McDonald's closed earlier this month; the restaurant was not able to support the sales threshold expected by the corporation to maintain profitability.

NEXCOM has contracted Kahala Management to replace them.

Kahala has a presence in airports and on other Navy bases.

"In the vacated McDonald's location, they will be opening three concepts: Great Steak, a Philly cheesesteak based concept, America's Taco Shop, a carne asada based menu, and Cold Stone Creamery for those looking for quality ice cream," Evans said.

"Grand opening at this location is targeted for mid-April."

To get a look at these restaurants, visit

www.kahalamgmt.com.

"For our second food initiative, we have turned to our friends Chuck and Wendy Martin of Smokeshack Bar-b-que, who will be re-opening the Prop Stop at Hangar 57," Evans said.

Although the location is not suitable for a full Smokeshack menu, they will be offering burgers and fries, chicken sandwiches, tacos, a BBQ special of the week and a soup of the week.

Opening date is still to be determined; some construction is necessary first.

And in the fall, NEXCOM is looking to expand the food offerings at Building 8, again working with Kahala.

"In addition to sandwiches, you can expect to get the full Great Steak menu along with a third concept yet to be determined," Evans said.

"Most likely this third concept will be a sausage based offering.

"We think that Kahala's experience operating food establishments in airports makes them well suited to handle the rushes of high customer traffic that are such a challenge in providing food to the many customers in and around CCAD."



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Naval Safety Center Summary of Mishaps

‘Don’t try this at home - or anywhere else, for that matter’

Editor’s Note: The Naval Safety Center periodically sends out a “Summary of Mishaps” email. This is the first of 2013.

To sign up, send an email to: summary_of_mishaps-subscribe-request@listserv.safetycenter.navy.mil

Welcome to the latest edition of the Summary of Mishaps, hot off the press for 2013, a year in which we once again hope that we run out of material but we aren’t going to bet on it.

A. In Washington state, a civilian education tech was doing a pre-trip inspection on a school bus, which is a good thing, since it gives you a chance to check for leaky tires, loose or damaged equipment, and any other whatnot that would interfere with safely picking up and dropping off young scholars.

However, the safety focus of this inspection is undercut when the inspector steps around the bus’s “Stop” paddle, trips on the curb and sprains her ankle.

B. Here’s a little story about why you shouldn’t just wear a life preserver when you think you might need it.

Our instructor is an E-3 master-at-arms who is one of three passengers in a vessel motoring north through a narrow, well-marked channel off the tip of Florida.

It is 0100.

The dark and presumably peaceful night is suddenly livened up by the sudden appearance, just 50 yards away, of another boat’s navigation lights.

Apparently, whoever is at the controls of that boat didn’t have them on, perhaps not expecting to meet another boat after midnight in that particular channel.

The captain on the E-3’s boat eases off the throttle, but between the boat’s forward momentum and the stiff currents in the channel, he collides with one of the channel markers.

The sudden stop catapults the E-3 into the dark sea, where he receives a 3-inch gash on his leg from an unidentified object.

The captain fishes him out, motors to the dock and drives the Sailor to a medical center, where docs close the wound with six staples.

The report doesn’t say whether the E-3 was wearing a life preserver or not. Let’s assume he was.

I think we can also assume that he didn’t foresee that the boat would hit a marker and pitch him overboard.

Just go ahead and put on your life preserver. And furthermore, turn on your lights after dark.

C. An electrician’s mate second class had to clean and inspect a motor controller on a lube-oil purifier.

During the tag out process, he consulted a drawing in the tech manual.



This is a good thing.

However, he assumed that the drawing was what the report called “general,” which somehow meant that he could safely ignore a label plate that read, “This equipment is energized from multiple power sources.”

This assumption was not a good thing, dramatized by the “Brrrrzzaaapp!” that is lurking in his very near future.

The tag out was approved through the Engineering Officer of the Watch.

The EM2 then lined up another hole in the Swiss cheese while using a fluke meter to make sure all of the circuits were de-energized.

He didn’t check all of the wires, because he thought that some of the auxiliary contacts were loads and not power supplies.

“The NSTM 300 requirements were not violated,” the report said, which I’m sure made him feel much better after he took off his PPE and got shocked.

D. Aboard a submarine, an E-3 culinary specialist was trying to open a #10 can, using a technique that is near and dear to all of our safety-centric hearts, namely the good old “approved means.”

I think we can assume this meant an electric can opener.

For some unspecified reason, this time-honored method failed.

Which of the following techniques did he then try?

Find another can opener? Nope.

Get a pair of pliers and a pair of work gloves? Nah.

Grab the razor-sharp, jagged, semi-detached lid with his bare hand?

Bingo.

Directly the contents of the can became something like “peas in blood sauce,” so he had to hustle over to medical for seven stitches.

Nine days of light duty ensued.

A word to the wise: If you can’t do something using the approved means, don’t assume you’ll be able to do it with unapproved means, either.

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We definitely could use your help! Without each volunteer, none of this would be possible. I would like to provide you with information in reference to volunteering with Habitat for Humanity. We have ongoing projects at various sites. We have various construction locations in Corpus Christi, Texas. We need the help of every volunteer that would be willing to roll up their sleeves and offer a helping hand.

Let’s face it! We can’t complete these homes without your help! Any amount of time you provide us with would be greatly appreciated.

Please email to: habitat.volunteers@yahoo.com or contact the Habitat for Humanity office at (361)289-1740 and ask for Ada 9am - 5pm

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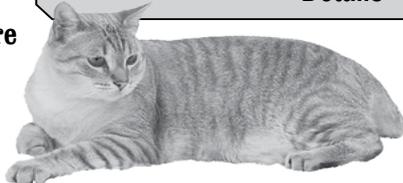
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- As we receive funding we will have special event days where all surgeries will be a reduced price, so please check back often!
- Owned and stray cats must be friendly and arrive in secure carriers. Only one cat per carrier.
- **Feral cats must come to clinics in traps. The package includes spay/neuter surgery, ear tip, microchip, and Rabies vaccine. We are working to obtain funding to reduce the feral cat package to \$10, so please check back for these specials.

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Navigating Non-Support Claims

by Lt. Courtney Gordon-Tennant, JAGC, USN

One of the unique things about the military is that, unlike the private sector, commands can be contacted by spouses, ex-spouses and ex-partners who claim that the servicemember is not providing (any or enough) financial support.

Alimony vs. Child Support?

Financial support to a former spouse is called alimony or spousal support, while support for the children is child support.

If a person is ordered by a court to pay alimony, the individual paying the alimony may deduct that from their income taxes and the person who receives the alimony must declare it on his/her taxes.

Alimony is not an automatic entitlement. Judges will consider many factors such as the length of the marriage, the age and health of the spouse, education, previous salaries and earning potential when they decide if that spouse needs alimony, how much and for how long.

Child support, on the other hand, is never tax deductible no matter how high the payment.

For the servicemember (or anyone else about to go through a divorce), it is vital to leave a paper trail to document support.

Why? Because divorces and custody battles get ugly, and bitter soon-to-be-exes may lie to receive more support.

One day, the parties may be very agreeable, but the next day things can be very different.

It is better to get an agreement in writing (i.e. email) so that it doesn't become one person's word against another's.

Instead of giving the soon-to-be-ex cash, it is best to give him/her a check, an electronic transfer, or an allotment (keeping bank statements handy), followed up by an email.

This protects the servicemember when their senior enlisted/OIC/etc. asks about your spouse's/ex's claims of non-support; it also helps prevent the ex from getting back support (also known as arrearages), a penalty paid on top of the required support.

Guidelines for each service

NAVY - MILPERSMAN 1754-030:
<http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/reference/milpersman/1000/1700Morale/Documents/1754-030.pdf>

The Navy's guideline is suggested in the absence of a mutual agreement or court order.

If a spouse claims non-support, but there is a written agreement between the two parties, that agreement is valid and will govern.

The MILPERSMAN is NOT an entitlement or a punitive order, so commands cannot directly punish Navy servicemembers (i.e. Captain's Mast) for disregarding the MILPERSMAN standards.

That doesn't mean that commands can't take indirect measures such as denying reenlistment.

Once support becomes a court order, commanding officers can punish a



servicemember for failing to follow the court order or the amount can be garnished directly from the servicemembers wages by DFAS.

ARMY - Army Regulation 608-99:
http://www.apd.army.mil/pdffiles/r608_99.pdf

In contrast to the Navy, the Army Regulation is punitive.

This means that in the absence of an agreement or a court order, the Army battalion commander can order the servicemember to pay a specific amount based on the formula located in AR 608-99.

If the servicemember fails to pay, then the battalion commander can take him/her to an Article 15.

MARINES - MCO P5800.16A or the Marine Corps Legal Admin Manual Chapter 15:

<http://www.donsapro.navy.mil/PolicyandInstrctions/MCO%20P5800.16A%20CH%201-5.pdf>

Like the Army, if there is no agreement between the parties or a court order, the Marine's commanding officer can order the Marine to provide support.

The order is punitive, and Marines who refuse to provide support are subject to punishment under the UCMJ and/or adverse administrative action.

COAST GUARD - COMDTINST M1600.2 (pp. 2-27 to 2-34):

http://www.uscg.mil/directives/cim/1000-1999/CIM_1600_2.pdf

In the absence of a court order or mutual agreement, the levels of support set forth in the instruction govern.

Coastguardsmen who fail to support their dependents may face negative counseling on their performance evaluations, and/or administrative separations.

AIR FORCE:

Unlike the rest of the branches, the Air Force does not list any specific dollar amount or fraction for support. If the servicemember gets an allowance for dependent support, the servicemember should use it for support.

If an Airman receives BAH (or basic allowance for housing) at the higher with dependents rate but doesn't support his/her dependents, that BAH may be reduced to the without dependents rate for the months of non-support.

Support continued on page 15

Jurisdiction for Family Law Cases

by Lt. j.g. Emil Marcinkas, JAGC, USN

Where to file for divorce or other matters related to family law is often very confusing.

Before judging the merits of a case, a court must be satisfied that it has personal jurisdiction (power over the parties in the suit) and subject matter jurisdiction (power to handle the matter at issue).

Personal jurisdiction is determined by the parties' domicile, the state where a party resides and intends to remain indefinitely.

Generally the law of the state in which the petitioner is domiciled at the time of filing governs, unless the petitioner consents to filing in or is compelled to file in another state.

Many servicemembers have ties to multiple states.

In order to determine domicile, the following are important considerations: the location of real property, the state where one is registered to vote, the state where one's vehicles are licensed and registered, and the state listed on a LES for state income tax withholding purposes.

Every state has its own specific requirements to establish personal jurisdiction.

In order to file for divorce in Florida, the petitioner must have lived in Florida for six months immediately prior to filing.

Alabama, Mississippi, and Texas require that at least one party be a resident of the state for six months prior to filing. Louisiana requires that the petitioner be a resident of the state for 12 months prior to filing.

In the event that both spouses live in separate states, either party may file in their respective state, provided that they meet the jurisdictional requirements.

Some states offer residency exceptions to servicemembers who are stationed there, allowing them to file a petition for divorce in their jurisdiction, even if they are not a legal resident.

If a party is not satisfied with where the petition has been filed they can initiate a

proceeding to challenge a state's jurisdiction.

Cases Involving Child Custody

The Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (UCCJEA), which is enforced in every state except Massachusetts, establishes "exclusive and continuing" jurisdiction for child custody litigation to the child's "home state;" all suits where child custody is an issue need to be brought in the child's "home state."

A child's "home state" is established when he/she has lived in that particular state for six consecutive months.

If the child is less than six months old, then the child must have lived in the state since birth.

Alternatively, if the child has not lived in any one state for six consecutive months, then the state which has the most "significant connections" with the child and at least one of the parents will be considered the "home state."

A state can lose jurisdiction if it is determined that the child or the parents no longer have a significant connection with the state.

In order to modify an existing child support order, the parties would have to go back to the original state that issued the order or file in the child's new "home state."

Once jurisdiction has been established and an order is finally entered, the Full Faith and Credit clause of the United States Constitution ensures that the order holds true in all states.

Identifying the proper jurisdiction for filing a legal petition is complicated, and will require examination of multiple factors.

For assistance contact the nearest Region Legal Service Office legal assistance department.

Please visit us at http://www.jag.navy.mil/legal_services/riso/riso_southeast.htm for more information or for office locations.

If granted, spousal support may be waived, but not child support.

Although in some branches, in the absence of a court order, a spouse's misbehavior (i.e. adultery, abuse, abandonment, or incarceration) may excuse the servicemember from paying spousal support, child support can never be excused.

If there is a court order directing support payments, garnishment can take several weeks or even months. To prevent arrearages (i.e. a penalty for missed child support payments) contact the state child support agency to arrange payment to them.

In sum, these guidelines apply when the servicemember is on active duty and there is no court order and no agreement between the parties.

The unsupported spouse/ex cannot go into court and ask for support under the military guidelines; she/he would refer to the state's specific guidelines.

For assistance contact the nearest Region Legal Service Office legal assistance department.

Support continued from page 14

Commanders have no authority to consider disciplinary or administrative action.

When can support be waived?

Sometimes, the Navy and the Coast Guard allow the servicemember to contact Defense Finance and Accounting Service if the spouse has deserted the servicemember without cause, physically abused the servicemember, or committed adultery.

The Army allows spousal support to be waived when the spouse's income is greater than the soldier, if the soldier has been substantially abused by the spouse, the spouse is in jail, or the soldier provided support for 18 months.

The Marine Corps allows a waiver when the spouse's income is greater than the Marine's, the Marine has been abused by the spouse, the Marine provided support for 12 months, or the Marine is already providing regular support such as rent or car payments, medical bills, etc.



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League begins February 19, 2013

Registration Deadline:
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Mandatory Manager's meeting
at the E-Street Gym on
February 14, 2013 at 4:30 pm.

Games will be played
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Active Duty and Reserves participate for Free.

DoD/Contractor Price: \$25 per individual player or \$300 per team. Payment deadline is February 12, 2013

Individuals may sign-up. Players will be added to a team.

For more information, please call the E-Street Gym at 961-2401.

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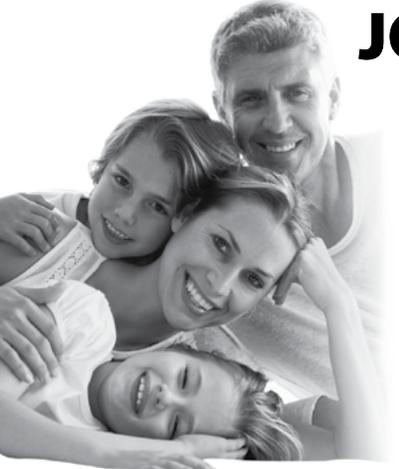
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Elizabeth

Elizabeth is about 9 months old
as of 8/15/2012.

She got her name because her and another puppy walked into Christus Spohn Shoreline Emergency room. Both were in very bad shape. After the doctors cared for them for just a little while, they called Chanel 3 news and they were transported to us. (Feb. 2012) This sweet girl is receiving weekly mitaban dips until her hair has fully grown back as she had some mange when brought in. She is already starting to look much better. Her brother-Christus found a new home, however Elizabeth is still waiting. We invite folks to come in and meet her-and give her the gift of a loving home for the holidays.



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What's Happening by Tina Konwerski

There will be a Benefit Bake and Treat Sale from 9 a.m. to noon on Friday, January 25 at the Prosperity Bank, 1005 S. Commercial St., Aransas Pass. You are invited to attend this Bake and Treat Sale fundraiser to raise funds and awareness for the Texas Coastal Bend Bark For Life event scheduled for February 23 at the Live Oak Park in Ingleside. Bark For Life is an American Cancer Society Relay For Life fundraising event that honors the care giving qualities of canine companions. Registrations are still being accepted at www.relayforlife.org/barkaransaspassinglesidetx and by mail. Committee members and friends of the Bark For Life are sponsoring the sale. For more information contact Martha Habluetzel, 361-776-7768

Needed, two or three volunteer crocheting and knitting instructors to meet at the Garcia Public Library, 5930 Brockhampton Street, one evening a week. This is a free class to the public... For more information call 361-334-7300.

Creative Connections Gallery & Studios' ART in the PARK on First Saturdays and Sundays 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Historic Merriman Bobys Home/Heritage Park 1521 N. Chaparral - S.E.A. District 361-883-ARTS or info@creativeconnectionscc.org Come out to Corpus Christi's S.E.A. District to the oldest home in Heritage Park. Open to the public for viewing as the second oldest home in Corpus Christi and the business office for the annual Festival of the Arts, enjoy great live musical entertainment for the weekend. ART in the PARK KidZone free art activities for the youth and unique new Art Gallery Exhibits.

There will be a FREE Special Education Parent Workshop presented by Partners Resource Network - TEAM Project called "Contents of the IEP" that will be held on Tuesday, January 29, 2013 from 10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. at the La Retama Central Library, 805 Comanche, Corpus Christi, TX in the La Retama Room. Please call Leslie Sowles at 361-687-6310 or email lsowlesprnteam@sbcglobal.net to reserve a seat for this workshop. Partners Resource Network is a Parent Training

Annual Valentine's 2000-Meter Swim at Collier Pool Pre-registration closes February 1. The Corpus Christi Parks & Recreation Department invites you to its Annual Valentine's 2000-Meter Swim on Saturday, February 9, 2013 at Collier Pool, 3801 Harris Drive. Get a jump on fitness and challenge yourself by participating in this swim event. Swimmers of all ages are invited to participate. Swim start times are 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. Space is limited, so

please register early to reserve your spot! Cost is \$20 per swimmer (t-shirt is included for all persons completing in the swim who pre-registered). For more information, call 361-852-0243.

Coastal Bend Quilt & Needlework Guild presents "Kickin' Quilts of Texas" Quilt Show. February 15-16, 2013 at American Bank Center, Watergarden Room, 1901 N. Shoreline, Corpus Christi, TX Hours: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Admission: \$6 contact: birrgonzalez@yahoo.com Website: www.corpuschristquilters.com

Saturday, February 16, 2013 - 8:00 a.m. 5K Run and 8:15 a.m. 5K Walk, at Whataburger Field, 734 North Port Avenue, Corpus Christi. Join us for a 5K Run-Walk to raise money and awareness for the Rise School of Corpus Christi. The celebration continues after you cross the finish line. We will have food, drinks and other activities for the entire family. The Rise School of Corpus Christi is a nationally recognized preschool specializing in the development and education of children from 18 months to six years with and without disabilities. Fees: \$13 to \$28 per person. No additional online registration fees! "The price is the price." Packet Pickup Registration and Race Day Registration incur an additional \$7.00 fee. Register Now and Save!!! Awards: All Awards are based on Gun Time. Timing: Pendgo Timing will time the 5K Run-Walk using the most state of the art equipment. Pendgo Timing uses a disposable bib chip that is attached to your race bib. Parking: Free parking is available at Whataburger Field. Race Director: Sherry Peterson, riseschool@centurytel.net, (361) 814-9399 For more information, visit us at: <http://www.riseschool.org/>

REGISTER TODAY - Softball Leagues Registration closes February 22
The Corpus Christi Parks & Recreation Department will be offering its Spring 2013 Softball Leagues for four adult divisions at the Greenwood Softball Complex, 4501 Greenwood Drive. Each league will feature a nine-game season that will begin the week of March 4, 2013 and include a playoff format at the end of the season. REGISTRATION for all four leagues is open now through February 22, 2013. Late Registration is February 25-27, 2013. Team registration fee is \$400. Late team registration fee is \$450. For more information and registration, please call 361-826-3588 or 361-826-3478.

- Coed Division League games for men and women will be held on Mondays.
- Church Division League games for local church teams will be held on

See Happening, Page 19

Happening, from Page 18

Mondays.

- **Men's Division League** games will be held on Thursdays.
- **Industrial Division Softball League** games for men will be held on Thursdays.

FMI www.ccparkandrec.com. We invite you to **Live. Learn. Play!**

The Texas Coastal Bend Bark For Life is seeking Participants, Venders, and Sponsors. The event is set for Saturday, Feb. 23, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., at the Live Oak Park, in Ingleside. Participants may register online at www.relayforlife.org/aransaspassinglesidetx for \$25 for first dog and \$10 for second dog. After registration, participants may participate in the Top Dog "beauty" Photo Contest. Venders may register for \$0 to \$25. Fees based on whether non-profit, government, dog-related, or other and whether they are selling food, providing a game for the participants or dogs, providing a service for the dogs, or just selling their own items. We are eager to have artist, crafters, shelters, groomers, kennels, caterers, suppliers, organizations & businesses. After paying any fee, all proceeds belong to the vendor; no % required. We are still searching for sponsors and underwriters. We need \$2,500 to offset costs. For more information, visit the website or call Martha Habluetzel 361-776-7768.



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