

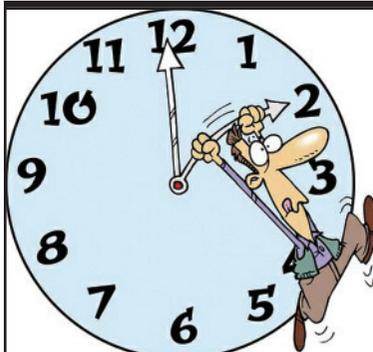
# WINGSPAN



Vol. 19, No. 5

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

March 7, 2013



**Spring Forward!**  
Daylight Savings begins  
2 a.m Sunday, March 10

*The 'Demon' Bentley*

**6000 HOURS**

...NO YOU DIDN'T



**6,000 Flight Hours**

page 3



**NASCC Youth is  
Finalist for Military  
Child of the Year**

page 4

## Bishop Buckon 'flies high' during visit to NASCC

Story & photos by Rod Hafemeister

He came to perform a Roman Catholic sacrament – and also got a chance to check out the newest pilot trainer on board NAS Corpus Christi.

Bishop Neal J. Buckon started the day on Feb. 27 with prayer and breakfast with the Air Station Chaplain's staff and others, including Rear Adm. Mark Leavitt, Chief of Naval Air Training.

But his primary duty, officiating over the confirmation ceremony, wasn't until that evening, so he had a chance to visit the Air Station executive officer and Training Air Wing Four.

The Wing gave him a treat – a chance to "fly" one of the new T-6 Texan II simulators that will be used to train student pilots in the near future.

The simulator uses video projectors inside a dome to give the view of actually flying over the Coastal Bend, with real terrain and landmarks. The system can be set for day or night, cloudy or clear.

*Bishop continued on page 8*



Neal J. Buckon, the Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese for the Military Services, gets advice from an instructor while 'flying' a T-6 Texan II simulator Feb. 27. Buckon was on board NAS Corpus Christi to conduct a confirmation service.



## Citadel Shield tests disaster response

A budget-reduced Citadel Shield 2013 did not mean training was sacrificed. On Feb. 20, Naval Air Station Corpus Christi emergency personnel teamed with Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi and Texas' Emergency Medical Task Force 11 to conduct a simulated mass casualty exercise, from initial response through triage to evacuation to local medical facilities. Here, firefighters prepare to load a casualty on a stretcher.

*More photos on page 10.*

# Skipper's Column No Air Show This Year

by Capt. Dave Edgecomb



Edgecomb

Our 2013 Air Show, planned for April 13-14, has been cancelled.

Not very surprisingly, it is one of the first effects of the sequestration that began March 1, bringing with it a number of mandatory cuts in spending.

Some of those are big, such as shutting down a carrier air wing in April, with plans to stand down more as the sequestration continues.

In a message to the fleet March 2, Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus outlined the various cuts, delays and deferrals being planned.

Among those was this: "Announce intent to cancel Blue Angels shows scheduled for April 2013 [four shows: MacDill AFB (Tampa, FL), NAS Corpus Christi TX, Vidalia GA, MCAS Beaufort SC]..."

The Blue Angels are the main event; it wouldn't be much of a Navy air show without them.

On March 5, we received official guidance from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) Robert F. Hale that cancels the air show.

I want to personally thank everyone involved in the planning for the hard work they put in preparing for the air show.

And I want to apologize to those who were hoping to attend. We were looking forward to hosting you, but tight budgets mean hard decisions on priorities for Navy leaders.

On other sequestration issues, we expect to get guidance later this month concerning furloughs of civilian employees.

If implemented, furloughs are expected to begin in late April; the commissary is expecting to close on Wednesdays if that happens.

I understand this would have a significant financial impact for many of you; most of you already have been living with a pay freeze for more than two years.

I would like to again reiterate that no decision has been made as yet by the federal

government to enact furloughs, though the Secretary of Defense has indicated to Congress that this is a measure being considered to address sequestration.

I anticipate that we will experience other impacts associated with sequestration and limited funding. It will likely become more difficult to address maintenance and repair issues on the installation unless they have a direct mission impact, and even then we will have to justify every penny.

We are certainly facing some challenges, but the Navy has faced budget crunches before. NAS Corpus Christi will remain committed to providing our tenants and residents with the best services and support possible within these budget constraints.

We will work through this one too.

Secretary Mabus' message: <http://navylive.dodlive.mil/2013/03/02/department-of-the-navy-response-to-sequestration/>  
"Five things you need to know..." about sequestration, : <http://navylive.dodlive.mil/2013/03/01/five-things-you-need-to-know-about-march-1/>

## Chaplain's Message Springtime Transformation

by Lt. Cmdr. Gabriel Mensah, Chaplain

Spring this year begins on March 20, but you would not know it in South Texas, since we never really had winter this year.

The Texas panhandle is a different story. Early last week, that area got slammed with what weather experts described as "a crippling, historic blizzard."

Nevertheless, Spring is almost here and we have to make the best of it.

Traditionally, Spring is a time to, as it were, awake from our slumber during the winter months and "spring back" into action (no pun intended).

Nature is buzzing with vitality. It is time to renew, recharge and enliven the world around us.

What word associations come to mind

when you hear the word "Spring?"

The following is a non-exhaustive list of things we normally associate with Spring – spring cleaning, gardening/pruning, Easter egg hunt, spring break, and the list goes on.

Spring, I believe, is a period of transformation.

Besides the obvious transformation in the weather, we transform ourselves as well.

With the holiday season over, when our calorie intake was awfully high, and with the rise in temperature, it is time to dust off our jogging shoes and begin to pound the pavement.

The new year's resolution you made to join the gym is enforced in earnest.

The arrival of Spring instills in us

the desire to shake off the lethargic tendency that winter brought in our lives and truly enjoy the rejuvenation that Spring offers.

Spring is, inarguably, a season of new beginnings in nature, and self-awareness not only to take care of ourselves, but our environment as well.

Make a positive impact this Spring on your overall health and well-being and all areas of nature.



Mensah

## Editor's Corner

by Rod Hafemeister



Hafemeister

The Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Ray Odierno, testifying before Congress last month on the possible effects of sequestration, tossed out a term that brings shivers to Old Soldiers like me.

"I began my career in a Hollow Army," Odierno said. "I am determined not to

end my career in a Hollow Army."

The term "Hollow Army" apparently first came into public discussions in 1980, when then-Army Chief of Staff Gen. Edward "Shy" Meyer used it – again to Congress.

Because of the timing, the term is often associated with presidential administration of Jimmy Carter.

As someone who lived it, I consider that unfair – in early 1977, as Carter was taking office, I was an E-5 filling an E-6 infantry squad leader position – which was typical.

As America pulled out of Vietnam, we transitioned from a draft to an all-volunteer force.

## 'Hollow Force'?

At the same time, there was a move to reduce the size of the overall active duty force.

But President Gerald Ford and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld decided to increase the number of Army units while decreasing the number of soldiers.

And that meant a whole lot of units were seriously under-manned before Carter even took office.

For an interesting read, check out Army War College Prof. Frank L. Jones' "A 'Hollow Army' Reappraised" at [www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pdffiles/PUB1125.pdf](http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pdffiles/PUB1125.pdf).

Seems there's plenty blame to share.

## Wingspan

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## 6,000 Flight Hours – and counting

Lt. Cmdr. Damon ‘Demon’ Bentley (center) receives a shirt from Cmdr. Todd Copeland, commanding officer of VT-31, recognizing his achievement of exceeding 6,000 military flight hours on Feb. 19. Bentley’s wife and Capt. Rex Curtin, Training Air Wing Four commodore, joined them in the VT-31 instructor pilot wardroom. During his 19 year career; Bentley has spent more than 250 full days flying and has traveled nearly two million miles – enough to circle the earth 80 times. Of the 6,000 hours, more than 4,000 hours were T-44 instructor hours. ‘Lt. Cmdr. Bentley has worked extremely hard to reach this milestone and his enthusiasm and dedication to his job has ensured the Navy, Coast Guard, Air Force and the Marine Corps received the finest Naval Aviators in the world,’ Copeland said.

Photo by Bob Torres

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# Jack Lund, Finalist for 2013 Military Child of the Year

Story and photo by Dr. Mary Jane Garza, NASCC School Liaison Officer

The son of a Naval Air Station Corpus Christi military family was selected as a finalist in the 2013 Military Child of the Year.

Jack Lund said he was honored – but felt he was representing all military children.

“Every Military child is unique and deserves recognition,” he said.

Jack considers himself a seasoned military “child.”

At 13, Jack is the oldest child; he has two younger sisters.

Jack takes on a host of deployment-related challenges while his Navy father is deployed.

But rather than focus on the separation, he helps other military kids deal with deployments and separations by participating in the NASCC Youth Sponsorship Program.

Jack is home schooled and takes every opportunity to participate in extra-curricular activities.

Jack is no ordinary student. Highly intelligent, Jack aspires to be an inventor, creating inventions to help others, possibly in the area of prosthetics.

Jack lends a helping hand to military students as well as any person he encounters who may need assistance.

“We can all use a helping hand,” he said.

Jack has had many challenges: paralyzed at age 5 from a rare illness – transverse

myelitis – doctors thought he would never walk again.

But with treatment and physical therapy, Jack regained his strength. Today, he enjoys playing tennis.

Another challenge came soon after: Jack was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome at age 8 and struggled with sensory and neurological issues, and basic social skills.

Jack has lived in five new places during his life, and his father has deployed several times; once living on the USS Stennis for two years away from the family.

His father, Cmdr. Brice Lund, just left again, for a nine-month deployment to Qatar.

Jack tries hard to do the right thing when his dad is gone; babysits his younger sisters, and is learning how to cook simple foods and take care of a household.

Jack has always been an honor student. He was accepted to the prestigious John Hopkins Center for Talented Youth program, and is in gifted classes.

He began public school at home this year, to avoid bullying, as well as to work on his life skills and community service.

Jack was selected as one of the five finalists of Operation Homefront's 2013 Military Child of the Year Award for the Navy Branch of Service.

Operation Homefront, a nonprofit

*Jack continued on page 6*



Jack Lund, with his mother Doreen

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# Naval Air Station Corpus Christi celebrates Black History Month



About 100 people attended the Black History Month celebration Feb. 28, which included a humorous description of times past by Angel Hazley followed by a luncheon of traditional foods. Photos by Rod Hafemeister

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*Jack continued from page 4*

organization, provides emergency assistance to military families.

It annually gives the award to an outstanding military child from each branch of service, including the Coast Guard.

"The sons and daughters of America's service members learn what patriotism is at a very young age," said Jim Knotts, president and CEO of Operation Homefront, in a news release.

"Children in military families demonstrate leadership within their families and within their communities. This is what the Military Child of the Year Award honors."

A committee of active duty service members, family readiness support assistants, teachers, military mothers and community members select the children from a pool of more than 1,000 nominees.

Jack said he felt honored and appreciated being selected as one of the top five finalists. He said he was in "awe" when he made the top 20.

And then after the formal telephone interview and notification of being in the top five, he felt a sense of responsibility of being a military child finalist.

"We, as military children, face challenges

unlike others," he said.

"The number of moves throughout the world, adjusting to new environments, trying to make new friends, and then being ready for a parent's absence are major challenges.

"I am proud that my efforts to be involved in assisting other military students can make a difference."

His mother, Doreen Lund, smiled when asked how she felt about Jack's selection.

"Jack has worked hard academically and involves himself in helping others," she said.

"As we completed the application process, it reinforced the accomplishments.

"And when the call and emails came, it was wonderful to know that others recognize my son's, Jack's efforts.

"As Jack, said, 'if I am selected as Military Child of the Year, I will be very excited and grateful and if I am not, I am still excited and grateful. Being a finalist is a great recognition and I am proud of my accomplishments.'"

His father posted on Facebook: "My son Jack made it into the top 5 for the military child of the year, but was not selected as the winner. He is a winner to his mom and I though,

"I Love you Jack!"

## Recipients announced for 2013 Military Child Of The Year Award

SAN ANTONIO—Operation Homefront on March 5 announced the five recipients of the 2013 Military Child of the Year® Award.

The five awardees will receive \$5,000 each and will be flown with a parent or guardian to Washington, D.C. for a special recognition gala on April 11.

Following are 2013 Military Child of the Year award recipients.

**Army - Nicole Marie Daly, 16, Fort Lee, Virginia**

Nicole, age 16, has moved nine times and so far, attended three high schools. Despite these constant changes, Nicole is ranked first in her class with a 4.7 GPA, a weighted score based on her coursework of Honors and Advanced Placement classes. She has earned varsity letters in both cross-country and track, and runs half-marathons with her father. Nicole served as the Military Child Education Representative for Fort Lee on a panel determining ways to help military children transition between schools. Nicole is the daughter of Cathy and Edward Daly.

**Marine Corps - Abigail MaryRose Perdw, 17, Kingdom of Bahrain**

Abigail is student council president and captain of the cross-country team and track and field team. She carries a 4.1 GPA as a full International Baccalaureate (IB) senior with advanced placement courses in economics, calculus, European history and physics. She has volunteered more than 200 hours this year including math tutoring and as president of Student 2 Student, has grown the outreach of this group which helps new students acclimate to their new school and host country culture. Abigail is the daughter of Jessica and Jason Perdw.

**Navy - Alexander Ray Burch, 17, Grand Forks, North Dakota**

Born at 25 weeks and 1.5lbs, Alexander Ray Burch was not expected to survive the night. He pulled through but at age 4, doctors discovered he was hearing impaired and would continue to lose his hearing with age. Instead of limiting him, Alexander excels in doing for others. While living in Guam, then 9-year old Alexander collected food and water and delivered supplies to villagers who lost their homes in a devastating typhoon. Alexander is the son of Joanne and David Burch.

**Air Force - Mark Newberry, 17, Medical Lake, Washington**

Mark moved for the tenth time, from Virginia to Washington state, the summer before his senior year. He carries a 4.25 GPA with a course load of Advanced Placement statistics, anatomy, physiology, European history and literature. Mark earned three varsity letters in cross-country and placed third at the state championship. He earned the prestigious rank of Eagle in Boy Scouts at just 13 years old. He is the son of Jill and Brian Newberry.

**Coast Guard - Amanda Wimmerberg, 18, McGuire AFB, New Jersey**

Amanda is a gifted and talented senior with a 4.0 GPA and is captain of the varsity soccer team and track team. She is a member of the Peer Leadership program which helps freshman acclimate to their new school by providing an older student to talk to about problems and make sure they aren't getting bullied. Amanda is the daughter of Christina and Richard Schultz.

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## Naval Safety Center Summary of Mishaps

Welcome to the latest edition of the Summary of Mishaps, in which we ask you to pay close attention as a couple of Sailors stop paying attention.

(Hint: What you are doing right now is much less hazardous than what they were doing).

1. In this week's "Boy Am I Glad I Buckled Up" department, we have a logistics specialist second class who was driving along an interstate highway in California, three days into four days of liberty and a couple hundred miles into his trip.

He felt thirsty. The good news was he had a water bottle. The bad news was that it wasn't handy, so he had to root around for it.

Conditions weren't bad at all. It was mid-morning, and he was driving on a level curve in light traffic.

But what followed documents just how fast stuff can happen at 70 miles per hour.

He got distracted and let his car veer left. He overcorrected and went off the pavement.

His truck's tires dug into some sand. The truck flipped and rolled three times.

So it was back to the good news and bad news.

The former was that, thanks in large part to his seatbelt, he emerged unscathed.

The latter was that his truck was worth \$10K less.

2. A hospitalman in Florida was motoring along one afternoon when, like the LS2 above, he tried some multi-tasking.

The tasks involved were first, steering, second, watching the road, and third, lighting a cigarette.

One would think the first two would invariably take priority, but not in this case.

Temporarily, no doubt, but just long enough to miss seeing a Nissan truck that was stopped to make a left turn.

The Sailor didn't miss hitting it, though. More proof that smoking is bad for you.

3. Overseas, seven foreign civilian employees were waging war on cockroaches in a sewer line.

Six manholes gave them access to the battleground.

Their primary weapon was a pesticide fogging machine.

They partly opened one manhole at a time, then lowered the machine on a rope down to the combat zone.

Two minutes into the drill on the fourth manhole, something exploded down in the sewer line.

The blast knocked down a worker who was standing two feet away.

According to the mishap report, the pesticide was flammable, making it an "inappropriate item for use."

The bad news was that the worker suffered burns, scratches and cuts on his neck and face.

Docs had to fish a lot of rusty metal fragments out of his eyes. He was off the job for three weeks.

On the plus side, that section of sewer was absolutely cockroach-free.

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### IN THIS ISSUE

- Why Advertise .....page 9
- Money saving classifieds ..... pages 13 & 15
- Dining and What's Happening ..... pages 17, 18 & 19



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### Bishop continued from page 1

With assistance from an instructor, Buckon took off, flew around the area, did some aerobatic maneuvers and then landed almost perfectly... until he ran off the runway into the grass.

"This is pretty amazing technology," he said after the flight.

Buckon is an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese for the Military Services (AMS), covering most military installations west of the Mississippi River.

He spends much of his time traveling to various installations to perform confirmations, starting in the fall on the west coast and moving east until late spring.

The AMS was created by Pope John Paul II to provide the Catholic Church's full range

of pastoral ministries and spiritual services to Catholics in the U.S. Armed Forces, Veteran Affairs Medical Centers, civilian jobs outside the U.S. borders and their families.

The AMS is geographically the nation's largest archdiocese, spanning the globe.

It has no parishes nor parish registries, so the AMS maintains all records of sacraments celebrated on U.S. military installations since 1920 at its chancery in Washington, D.C.

The AMS also is the Promoter of the Cause for the Beatification – a step toward sainthood – of Father Vincent Capodanno, a Maryknoll priest who was killed Sept. 4, 1967, on a battlefield in Vietnam attending to dying Marines of the First Marine Division.

Capodanno was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.



Bishop Buckon has breakfast with Rear Adm. Leavitt, CNATRA, and others.

## NASCC Admin Officer Chris Carmichael promoted to Lt. Cmdr.



NASCC Admin Officer Chris Carmichael's father and wife pin his new rank - lieutenant commander - on him at his promotion ceremony March 1 while his daughter looks on. Carmichael, a former enlisted Sailor and a former Limited Duty Officer, served as an enlisted recruiter and later as an officer recruiter in his home state of Michigan.

Photo by Rod Hafemeister



## NMCRS annual active duty fund drive going on

Active duty Sailors and Marines are holding their annual fund drive for the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society during March.

This is the only fund-raising for NMCRS, which provides financial and other assistance for Sailors and Marines in times of need.

Worldwide, in 2012 NMCRS provided \$34 million in financial assistance to 61,320 active duty and retired Sailors, Marines and their families, representing nearly 100,000 cases.

Locally, NMCRS in 2012 provided \$144,845 in interest free loans and \$11,234 in grants issued in 255 financial assistance cases.

The local 2012 Area Fund Drive raised more than \$93,000 – and they hope to do even better this year.



NASCC personal can report a sexual assault by calling:

**DoD Safe Helpline**  
877-995-5247

or

**NASCC 24/7 SAPR Victim Advocate response Line**

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or

**Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC)**

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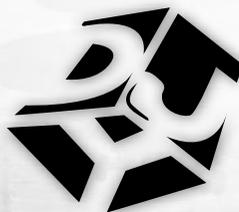
containing vital day to day information that military personnel and their families can obtain through no other source: changes in regulations, Exchange and Commissary sales, transfers, promotions, daily military base movie listings, entertainment schedules, religious services, on-base classified ads, and much more.

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# Citadel Shield 2013



The Citadel Shield 2013 mass casualty exercise simulated people injured when a part fell off an aircraft during an air show and landed in the crowd. Emergency personnel did initial evaluations, then delivered casualties to an inflatable tent from EMFT 11, manned by medical personnel from NHCCC. EMFT 11 also brought their 'ambulance bus' for transporting large numbers of injured. NASCC Skipper Capt. Dave Edgecomb explained the exercise to local media.



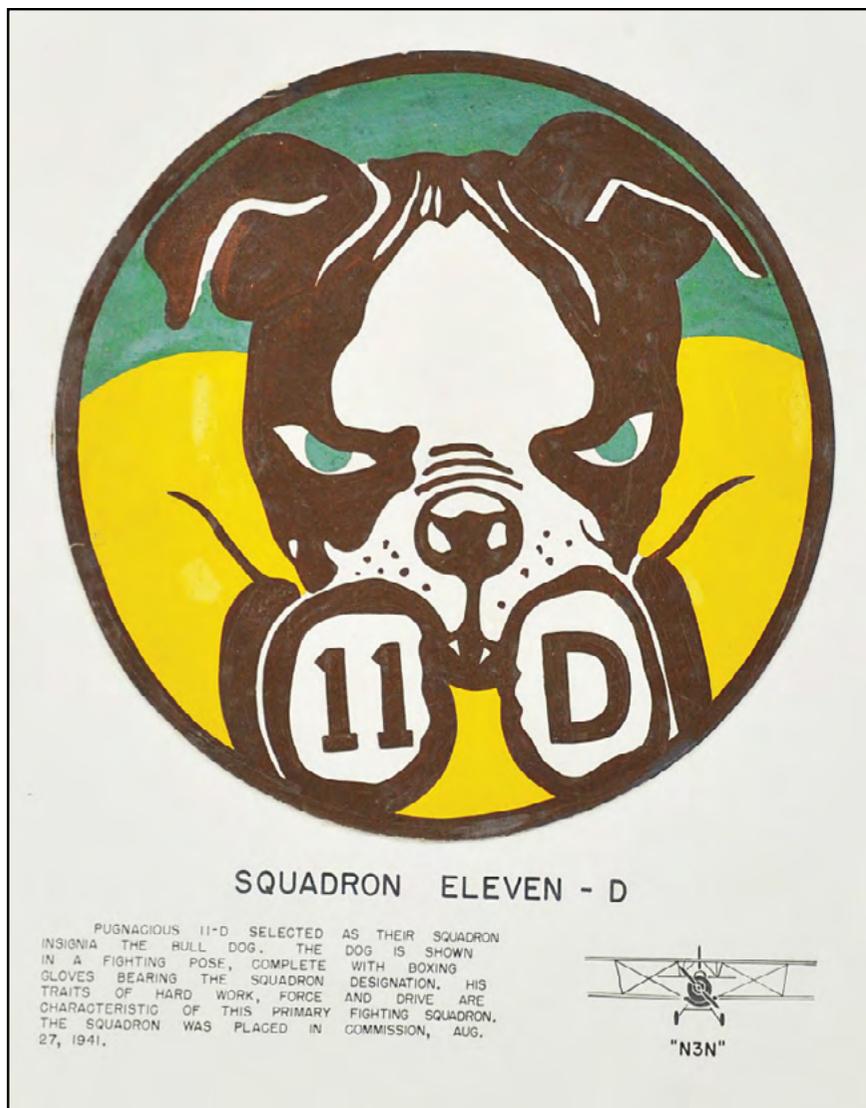
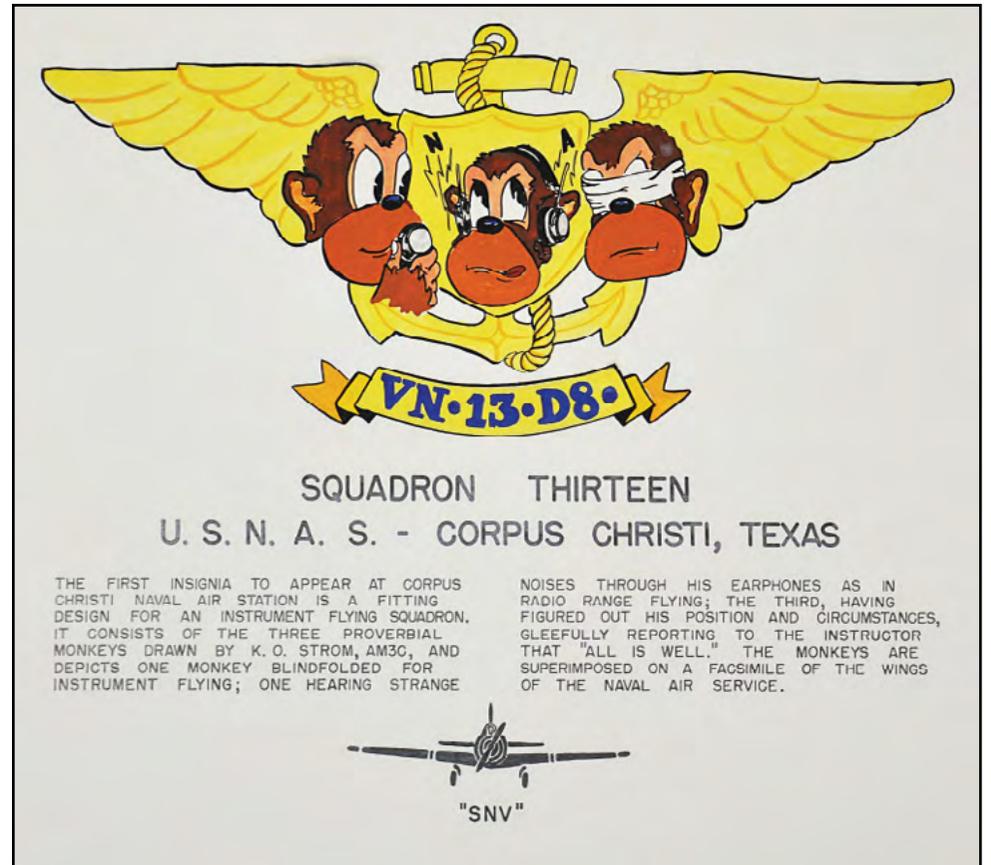
Photos by Rod Hafemeister

# NASCC - Early Years



In 1942-43, 22-year-old Dorothy McIntosh worked as a civilian employee at NAS Corpus Christi. During that time, she painted insignias on airplanes and also did paintings of several squadron insignias designed by military personnel. (The insignia for Squadron 14 was designed by Ensign J.P. Giosso, an instructor in the squadron.)

Dorothy McIntosh Fischer went on to a distinguished career as an artist. She died in 2002 and her family recently discovered some of her work at NASCC and donated it to the Air Station. Plans are to put it on display in the new All-Hands Club, opening later this month.





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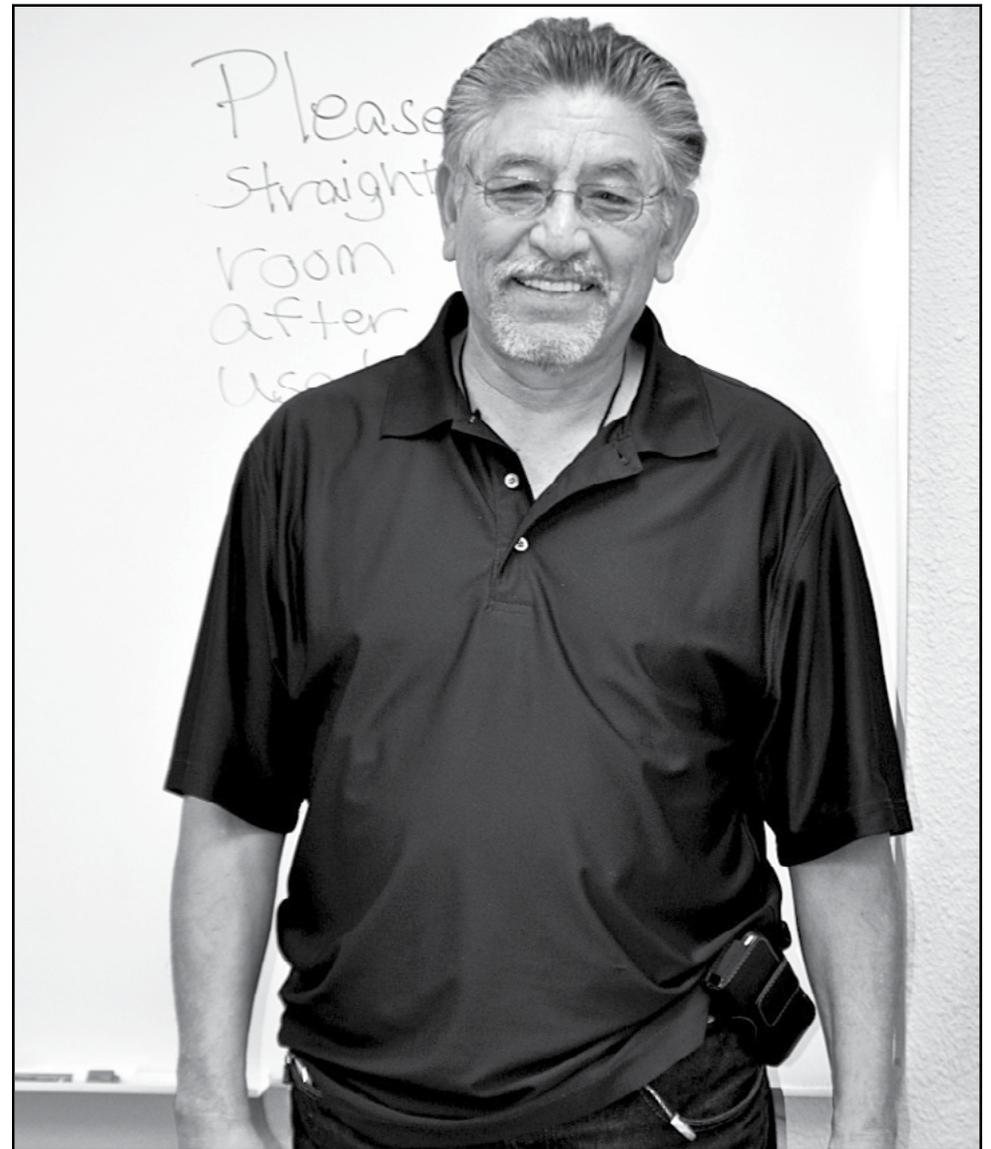
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## Felix Hernandez retires



Safety Specialist Felix Hernandez retired from federal service on Feb. 28 after 28 years of federal service. A Vietnam Era veteran, Hernandez has worked in the NAS Corpus Christi Safety Office for more than 10 years. Prior to coming to Corpus Christi, he worked at Mare Island, Calif., in the Radiation Safety Program and then at Defense Logistics Agency in Corpus Christi. Felix plans to spend time in California with his son and family, and eventually return to the San Antonio area where his mother, son, and grandchildren reside.

Photos by Bob Torres

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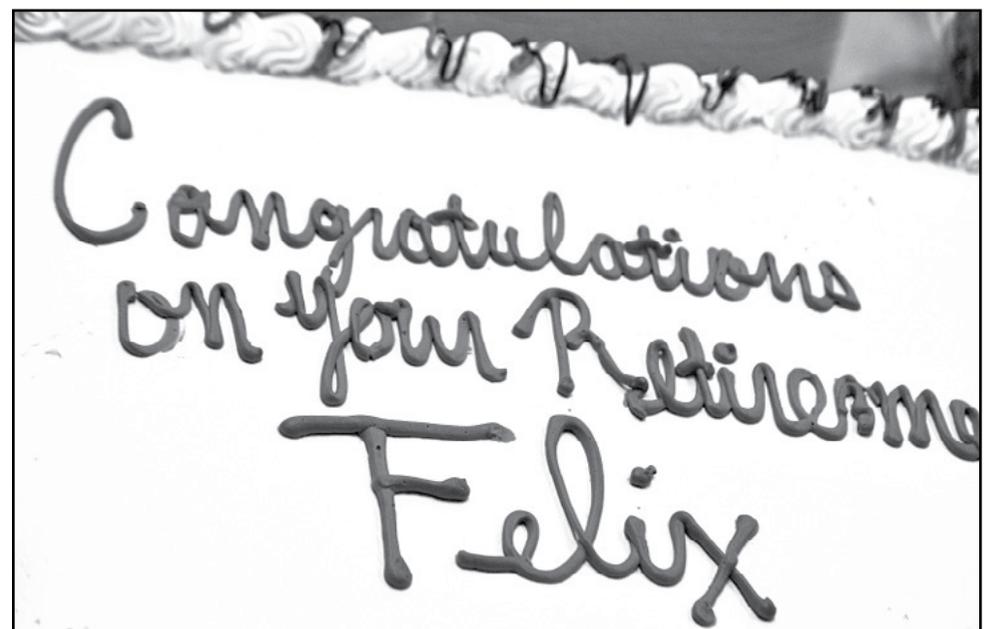
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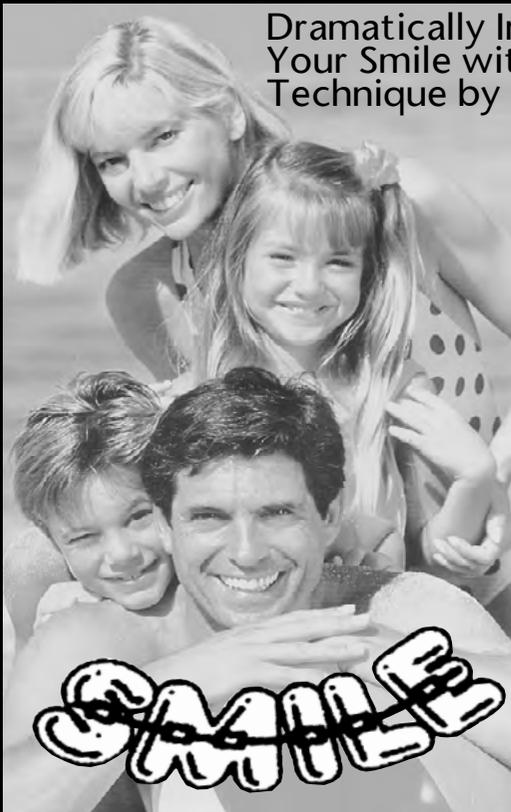
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## Wind Damage - Feb. 25



Winds gusting to gale force on Feb. 25 did minor damage to some NASCC facilities. Most serious was damage to a portion of the railing on the RV Park fishing pier.

Photo by Bob Torres



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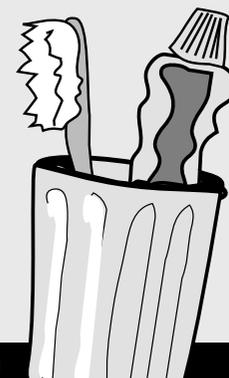
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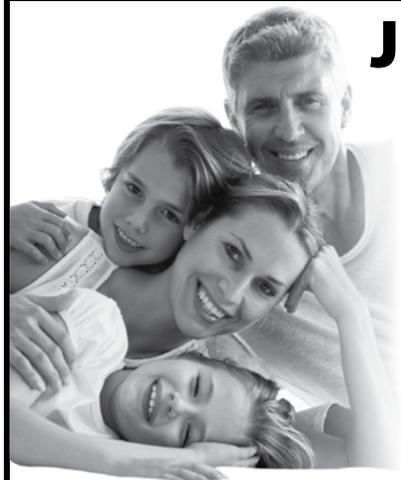


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## Correcting Credit Report Errors

by Cynthia L. Catalan, Civilian Legal Assistance Attorney, RLSO SE

Are you thinking about borrowing money to buy a home or car?

Do you need a line of credit to make home repairs?

Have you applied for a new credit card?

If your answer to any of these questions is "yes," it is important to make sure information on your credit report is accurate and up to date.

Even if you are not planning on borrowing money, your credit report has special importance if you are an active duty military member, DoD civilian employee or contractor who requires any level of security clearance.

If you fall into any of these categories you must undergo a security clearance background investigation which is subject to periodic review.

The investigation will identify any adverse information contained in your credit report such as judgments; property repossession; or delinquencies on debts (90 days delinquent or more on current debts and/or 180 days delinquent or more on debts in the previous 7 years).

You should review your credit report before you submit any credit applications and well before your security clearance is up for renewal.

Reviewing your credit report in advance will provide an opportunity to correct information.

Since September 2012, the federal government, through the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, has been actively monitoring and conducting on-site investigations to assure that the credit reporting agencies are complying with the law.

Previously, there was not much federal oversight.

Now may be the best time to correct any inaccurate information on your credit report.

How do you go about correcting errors on your report? You need not hire a "credit repair" company!

The first step is to obtain a credit report from each of the three major nationwide credit reporting agencies: Equifax, Experian, and Trans Union.

Each maintains your personal information and individual credit history.

Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA), you are entitled to receive a free report from each credit reporting agency once a year.

Since creditors are not required to submit information to all three of the agencies, your credit report from one agency will likely contain different information from the others.

Initially, you should request a report from all three. Afterwards, you can stagger your request once every four months to take full advantage of the free report allowance

(for example, you can request a report from Equifax in January, Experian in May, Trans Union in September and Equifax again the following January and so on).

To obtain your free report, request it online through [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) (a central website maintained by the three agencies), call 1-877-322-8228, or request it by mail by filling out the Annual Credit Report Request form and mailing it to Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA 30348-5281.

Once you receive your reports, closely inspect your personal information and each entry.

Although you can make corrections or submit a dispute online, it is recommended that you submit a dispute in a written letter to the credit reporting agency clearly explaining the dispute and requesting the inaccurate information be removed, corrected or updated. It is in your best interest to also include supporting documentation.

The following are the addresses for the three credit reporting agencies:

Equifax  
1550 Peachtree Street, NW  
Atlanta, GA 30309-2468

Experian  
701 Experian Parkway  
Allen, TX 75013

TransUnion  
555 West Adams St  
Chicago, IL 60661

After receiving your letter, the agency must initiate an investigation and notify the entity that provided them the information of your dispute with a copy of the information you provided.

When notified, the entity must conduct its own investigation. Once complete, that entity must provide the credit reporting agency with a report of the outcome.

If your dispute results in a change, the agency must provide you with the results along with a free copy of your credit report.

If your dispute is not resolved, you can place a statement of the dispute in your credit file.

Taking the time to review your credit reports can save you from a headache down the road.

If you would like help with this process, you can meet with an attorney at the Region Legal Service Office Southeast.

Please visit us at [http://www.jag.navy.mil/legal\\_services/rlso/rlso\\_southeast.htm](http://www.jag.navy.mil/legal_services/rlso/rlso_southeast.htm) for more information or to find out the location of the legal assistance office closest to you.

### Helpful Links

Consumer Financial Protection  
Bureau  
<http://www.consumerfinance.gov/>

Fair Credit Reporting Act  
<http://www.ftc.gov/os/statutes/fcrajump.shtm>

## DFAS Garnishments

by LN1 Sharlissa Barefield

Defense Finance and Accounting Service Garnishment Operations, in Cleveland, processes all court ordered garnishments for military members, military retirees and Department of Defense (DoD) civilian employees.

Types of garnishment include: child support, alimony, commercial debts, Chapter 13 and 7 bankruptcy orders, and division of military retired pay under the Uniformed Services Former Spouses' Protection Act.

### Child support and Alimony

The Consumer and Credit Protection Act (CCPA) limits the amount that can be garnished for child support or alimony to a percentage of an individual's disposable pay. Disposable pay ("pay") are wages, salary, bonuses and incentive pay less authorized deductions, such as income tax withholding or debts owed to the government.

The maximum percentage that can be deducted from pay is as follows:

- **50 percent** when the obligor provides more than half the support of dependents, other than those for whom the support is to be deducted, and has not accrued an arrearage (back pay).
- **55 percent** when the obligor provides more than half the support of dependents, other than those for whom the support is to be deducted, and has accrued an arrearage.
- **60 percent** when the obligor does not support other dependents and has not accrued an arrearage.
- **65 percent** when the obligor does not support other dependents and has accrued an arrearage.

If the ordered amount of child support or alimony is lower than the maximum percentage allowable, then the full amount will be deducted.

### Commercial Debt

Active duty members are typically not subject to garnishment for commercial debt; however, they can be forced to set up involuntary allotments.

The percentage cap cannot total more than 25 percent of pay.

If there is no pay available to comply with the court order due to garnishments for child support or alimony, DFAS will return the garnishment order without action, and the creditor will have to re-apply when there is sufficient pay available.

Involuntary withholding for the collection of a commercial debt from civil service employees is limited to a *maximum of 25*



percent of pay. If the governing state caps the percentage at a lower rate, then that rate prevails.

Orders for child support, alimony and related arrearages have priority over any commercial garnishment.

Retired military or civil service members' pay is exempt from garnishment for commercial debts; however, pay due pursuant to the Uniformed Services Former Spouses' Protection Act, child support, spousal support, or a property division can be garnished.

### Taxes

If DFAS is served with a levy by the Internal Revenue Service, DFAS must honor the tax levy irrespective of whether the obligor is Active Duty or retired.

In the case of garnishments, the collection action is mandatory and any rebuttal concerning the levy must be addressed with the IRS.

Levies are continuous, and collection will run until the entire amount is either collected or the IRS informs DFAS that they are released from collecting the levy amount.

### Bankruptcy

DFAS can withhold up to 100 percent of the obligor's pay.

If DFAS withholds 50 percent for child support, DFAS will withhold the remaining 50 percent of pay for the bankruptcy order.

The automatic stay provisions of the bankruptcy law require that all commercial garnishments, involuntary allotments and debt collections stop once a person files for bankruptcy; however, child support, alimony, and their arrearages do **NOT** terminate.

Garnishments are very complicated. For more information, please visit DFAS' website at <http://www.dfas.mil/garnishment> or contact your nearest legal assistance office.

## Legal assistance temporary gap

The Legal Assistance Attorney at Region Legal Service Office Southeast Branch Office Corpus Christi is set to PCS on March 8.

After March 8, the billet will be tentatively gapped until at least April 1.

Remaining appointments are for

Active Duty only, with deployers having priority.

Servicemembers are encouraged to utilize the services, while they are available.

To schedule an appointment please call 361-961-3765 ASAP.

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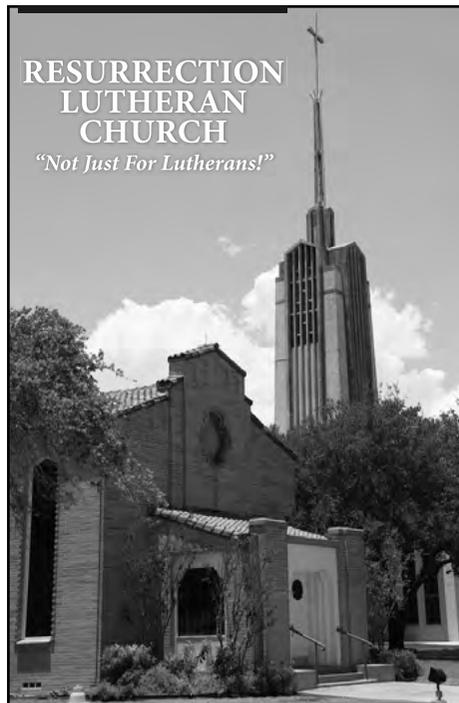
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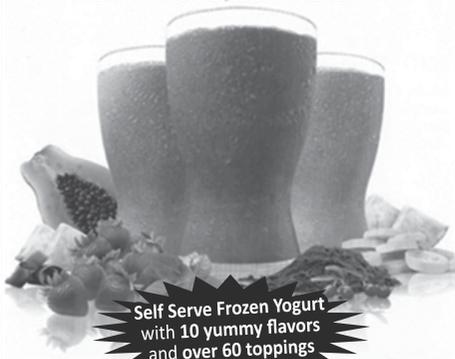
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# What's Happening

**March 16, 2013 Spring Break Open Chess Tournament** - 4 rounds - USCF G/45; d5 with two sections: U1200 & 1201 28 player limit - 14 per section. Must be a USCF member to play. On-site USCF registration available. 1st Prize: \$50.00 2nd Prize \$30.00 per section. Entry Fee: \$25.00 - Free awesome food and beverages. All ages. Children under age 16 must be accompanied by an adult. 4 rounds - USCF G/45; d5. Bring your own chess board and clocks. Tournament being held at 362 Baker Dr. Corpus Christi, Texas 78408. Next tournament is Saturday, April 27, 2013. Sponsored by the Corpus Christi Chess Clinic, a USCF Affiliate Member. For further information, contact Steve at 361-429-0204 or: cc\_chessclinic@yahoo.com

**CORPUS CHRISTI PARKS & RECREATION TO OFFER Fitness, Dance & Cheer Classes During Spring 2013** Register Online Today at [www.ccparkandrec.com](http://www.ccparkandrec.com)!

**Body Sculpting Aerobics Classes** will be offered by the Corpus Christi Parks & Recreation Department for adults on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. at **Lindale Recreation Center**, 3133 Swantner Dr. This is a great class to get in shape or to simply live a healthier lifestyle! This class will get your heart rate going! It provides physical conditioning with low and high impact exercises to increase blood flow to the heart and lungs. Professional instruction is provided by Cheryl Vandever. Cost is \$25 per month, or a \$10 drop-in fee. Registration is ongoing. Call 361-855-0392.

**Zumba Classes** will be offered by the Corpus Christi Parks & Recreation Department. These fitness classes incorporate Latin and international music with dance movements. This unique program will combine cardio and dynamic resistive exercises that will have you shedding pounds and looking sleek. These classes are exhilarating, different, challenging and effective...so kickoff the New Year and join the party! Cost is \$20 per month or a \$3 drop in fee for adults. Registration is ongoing.

SCHEDULE:

**Zumba & More Class** is offered on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. at **Joe Garza Recreation Center**, 3204 Highland Ave. Professional instruction is provided by Wanda Gonzalez. Call 361-882-1408.

**Zumba & More Class** is offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7 p.m. - 8 p.m. at **Oso Recreation Center**, 1111 Bernice Dr. Professional instruction is provided by Wanda Gonzalez. Call 361-991-3700.

**Zumba Fitness Class** is offered on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6 p.m. - 7 p.m. at **Lindale Recreation Center**, 3133 Swantner Dr. Professional instruction is provided by Johanna Ramirez. Call 361-855-0392.

**Cheer & Advanced Cheer Classes** will be offered by the Corpus Christi Parks & Recreation Department. Youth will be taught chants, cheers, dance, routines, and other fundamentals of cheerleading. These 12-week classes combine fitness with fun. Classes provide excellent physical activity and opportunities to gain experience in cheerleading and meet new friends! It's fun, different, easy, and effective, and especially designed for kids! Professional instruction is provided by Texas Cheer Company. Cost is \$40 per month, plus a \$10 seasonal registration fee. Uniforms are optional (not included in the class fee). **Registration will be ongoing.** For more information about the optional extracurricular activities (exhibitions, parades, competitions, etc.) and other details, call.

SCHEDULE:

**Cheer Class** is offered on Mondays from 6:10 p.m. - 7 p.m. for ages 4-12 at **Oso Recreation Center**, 1111 Bernice Dr. Class starts on February 4, 2013. Call 361-991-3700.

**Cheer Class** is offered on Tuesdays from 6:10 p.m. - 7 p.m. for ages 4-12 at **Joe Garza Recreation Center**, 3204 Highland Ave. Class starts on Feb. 5, 2013. Call 361-882-1408.

**Lindale Recreation Center** (3133 Swantner Dr.): The **Cheer Class** is offered for

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# by Tina Konwerski

ages 4-12 on Tuesdays from 6:10 p.m. - 7 p.m. The Advanced Cheer Class is offered for advanced and returning students on Tuesdays from 7:10 p.m. - 8 p.m. Classes start on February 5, 2013. Call 361-855-0392.

**Cheer Class** is offered for ages 4-12 on Wednesdays from 6:10 p.m. - 7 p.m. at **Northwest Senior Center**, 9725 Up River Rd. Class starts on February 6, 2013. Call 361-883-3912.

For more information about the wide-range of programs and services provided by the Corpus Christi Parks & Recreation Department, visit [www.ccparkandrec.com](http://www.ccparkandrec.com). We invite you to Live. Learn. Play!

**OPEN HOUSE - Mark your calendar and head on down to the Art Center of Corpus Christi for their 2013 Open House!** They will be having family art time, vendor booths, live art demonstrations, a Bridal Open House, and much more. Go and see all the wonderful things the Art Center has to offer our community! Saturday, March 23, 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.; Sunday, March 24, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. [www.artcentercc.org](http://www.artcentercc.org)

Fellowship of Oso Creek Easter Festival - Bring the whole family to the Fellowship of Oso Creek's **13TH ANNUAL EASTER FESTIVAL, SATURDAY, MARCH 30 FROM 10 A.M. TO 1 P.M. at 7402 Yorktown Blvd.** Egg hunts by age groups, games, moon bounces, hay rides, the Easter Bunny AND MORE! Enjoy Hot Dogs, So Cones and Drinks while supplies last. EVERYTHING IS FREE. We will be collecting nonn perishable food items for the Food Bank of Corpus Christi. FMI 993-4463 OR VISIT WWW.OSOCREEK.ORG

Easter 1000-Meter Swim at Collier Pool - The Corpus Christi Parks & Recreation Department invites swimmers to compete in its **Easter 1000-Meter Swim on Saturday, April 6, 2013 at Collier Pool**, 3801 Harris Drive. Come test your endurance and set your personal best time. It will be a day of fun and fitness, and you may even go home a winner! Swimmers of all ages are invited to participate.

Swim start times are 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and 12 p.m. Space is limited, so please register early to reserve your spot! Cost is \$20 per swimmer. Cost includes a t-shirt for persons competing in the swim and who **pre-register by Friday, March 22, 2013**. For more information, call 361-852-0243. For more information about the wide variety of programs and services offered by the Corpus Christi Parks & Recreation Department, visit [www.ccparkandrec.com](http://www.ccparkandrec.com). We invite you to Live. Learn. Play!

**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](mailto: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.



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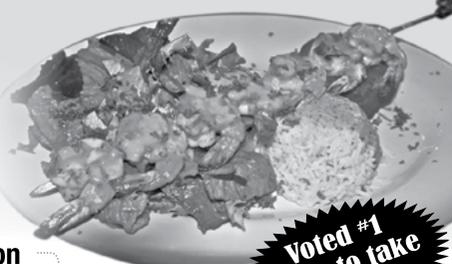
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**Please Call (361) 445-4FIX (4349) or email [MASH@thecatterycc.org](mailto:MASH@thecatterycc.org) for more information or to schedule an appointment!**

**Vaccines, tests and microchips are only done at the time of surgery and are not offered as separate services at this time.**



- \*Cat Spays and Neuters will be \$10 (which will include a Rabies vaccine) for those who qualify while funding is available. To qualify, you must be 18 years or older with a picture ID or proof of address and able to demonstrate financial need by providing documentation of any one of the following: Medicaid, Current Unemployment, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), State Disability Assistance, WIC, or LoneStar. There is a maximum of 2 cats per address.
- 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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\*Reservists may be called on to serve on a full-time basis during national emergencies.

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