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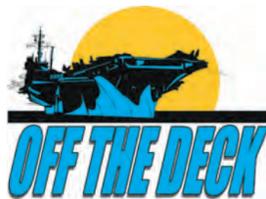
2008 CHINFO Award Winner

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www.mayportmirror.com

THURSDAY, January 14, 2010



CPO Exam Is Jan. 21

The Navywide CPO exam will be held on Jan. 21 at the NS Mayport Gym. Report no later than 6:30 a.m. in the uniform of the day with your ID card. Food, drinks, cell phones and wrist watches are not allowed into the site.

PTS On Line Fully

From Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

Perform to Serve (PTS) results released Jan. 11, mark the full implementation of the program since it was expanded in early 2009 to include all E-3 through E-6 Sailors with less than 14 years of service. More than 95 percent of Sailors requesting to "stay Navy" in Zone C received a quota to reenlist.

"This is the first time we have utilized these force-shaping measures in Zone C. The December results are the consolidation of six months of input. It will be the largest month of separations for that zone. You will see much smaller [separation] numbers in future months," said Capt. Robert Loken, head enlisted community manager for the Navy.

Navy granted 1,339 reenlistment quotas to Zone C Sailors, who are Sailors with 10 to 14 years of service. Of the 98 Sailors who did not receive a quota for reenlistment, 31 submitted a PTS application indicating they desired not to reenlist. The other 67 Sailors may receive involuntary separation pay, if they meet certain criteria. Each record was individually reviewed for performance, paygrade, Navy Enlisted Classification qualifications, and the number of PTS reviews.

Several options are available to qualified Sailors who were not retained through the PTS process. Continued military service is available in the Selected Reserve or in the Army through the Blue to Green program. Other support services and benefits are still available through Navy's job transition assistance program and the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

PTS is a centralized reservation system utilized by the Navy to manage reenlistments of active duty and full-time support Sailors in grades E-6 and below with less than 14 years of service. While most Sailors are permitted to reenlist in their current rate, Sailors in overmanned ratings may be offered reenlistment in an undermanned rating. Performance is a critical factor in PTS selection.

PTS was first launched in 2003 as a method for the Navy to shape manning to match mission requirement. It initially applied only to "first-term" Sailors in overmanned ratings. Last year, Navy expanded PTS to Sailors E-3 through E-6 with

See PTS, Page 10

New Guidance On SRB Program

From Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

Navy officials provided a status update for the Selective Reenlistment Bonus (SRB) program Jan. 8 notifying Sailors that some SRB awards may be discontinued as manning levels in critical skills are met.

As reenlistment goals for particular skills are achieved, SRB award levels for those skills will be removed from the plan, but no earlier than 30 days following the release of a NAVADMIN

announcing award levels, according to NAVADMIN 006/10.

SRBs enhance the Navy's ability to size, shape and stabilize manning by using a monetary incentive to encourage Sailors with critical skills and experience to stay Navy. It is a market-based incentive and award levels are strategically adjusted as retention needs dictate.

The message also reminds commands to refamiliarize themselves with the program, which was revised last year, as

announced in NAVADMIN 006/09.

Commands must submit SRB reenlistment requests for eligible Sailors 35-120 days prior to the requested reenlistment date. SRB requests submitted less than 35 days in advance without substantial justification will not be accepted. Sailors can reenlist for SRB no more than 90 days prior to their end of active obligated service (EAOS). Exceptions to this policy as well as complete SRB guidance are listed in OPNAVINST 1160.8A.

Commands should refer to NAVADMIN 250/09 for the most recent list of SRB eligible ratings and award levels.

More than 1,300 Sailors have already received SRBs this fiscal year. SRB funding is limited so SRB eligible Sailors are encouraged to plan ahead.

For more information, review the NAVADMIN at www.npc.navy.mil/NR/rdonlyres/2BE37815-AAA-420A-A26F-455C21A27D11/0/NAV10006.txt or speak with a career counselor.

USS Farragut Hosts Three Baptisms

By Lt.j.g. Michelle Martinez
USS Farragut PAO

USS Farragut (DDG 99) had the honor of inscribing the names of three infants inside her bell after the trio were baptized aboard the ship on Dec. 20.

Miles Templar Bates, son of Ensign and Mrs. Aaron Bates, Ella Grace Benz, daughter of Sonar Technician 1st Class and Mrs. Anthony Benz and Charles James Silver, son to Boatswain's Mate Seaman and Mrs. Travis Silver were all baptised on the ship.

Conducting baptisms aboard Navy ships is a naval tradition that dates back several hundred years to the British Royal Navy.

Baptisms aboard ships were originally for infants born at sea or in foreign ports. Navy tradition allows for a child to be baptized in the ship's bell. After the baptism, the child's name is engraved inside the bell, forever connecting them with the legacy and history of that ship.

The ceremony was also unique in that there were three separate denominations present to perform the baptisms. Chaplain Deirdre Green, a Baptist, performed the invocation and dedication. Lt. Dietz, a Presbyterian, and Reverend Sprague, a Methodist, presided over the baptisms and benediction.

Prior to the ceremony,



-Photo by Lt.j.g. Cayanne McFarlane

Charles James, son to Boatswain's Mate Seaman and Mrs. Travis Silver, Ella Grace, daughter of Sonar Technician 1st Class and Mrs. Anthony Benz, and Miles Templar, son of Ensign and Mrs. Aaron Bates, are held by their parents in front of USS Farragut's bell. The three children were baptised on Dec. 20 by Chaplain Peter Dietz, Rev. Gee Sprague and Chaplain Deirdre Green. This is the first time a baptism has been held aboard USS Farragut. The names of all three children have been inscribed on the bell in remembrance of the occasion.

Charles James Silver was baptized in the Catholic Church, marking a fourth denomination involved in this event.

"It was great to have Christians of different denominations come together to sup-

port the Sailors in their wishes to have their children baptized before deployment," Green said about the uniqueness of the baptisms.

It was an extraordinary day for all three of Farragut's

families and for the ship. Farragut's Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Philip E. Sobeck, attended the baptism, welcomed all three infants into the Farragut family and presented each family with a

baptismal certificate.

Now, Farragut is deployed with the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) IKE Carrier Strike Group with these three special names engraved on the bell.

SERMC Sailor Awarded Bronze Star Medal

By Bob Hickey
SERMC Command Support Services Department Head

In an awards ceremony attended by many of his new shipmates and his wife, Chief Electronics Technician Michael W. Neff was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his meritorious service while assigned as Non-Commissioned Officer In Charge to the Director for Communications (J6), Afghan Regional Security Integration Command-East (ARSIC-E) during Operation Enduring Freedom.

Neff and his team were assigned to ensure all equipment and networks were running to ensure the timely flow of operational and intelligence information to the equivalent of 11 brigade and 28 battalion imbedded transition teams in Afghanistan, according to the award contents. He was singled out for his ability to work long hours under the most arduous conditions, to include multiple rocket attacks and more than 120 mounted combat patrols. Additionally, he volunteered for the most difficult assignments and even served as a weapons operator during patrols in contested terrain.

Neff was also lauded for his ability to train his junior communications operators and work well alongside U. S. and Afghan troops.

"Like many others tasked for Individual Augmentee (IA) duty, I wasn't looking forward to a year in Afghanistan," Neff said. "However once I got there I realized that this was a challenge I was ready to take and reliable communications were essential to the mission. I also enjoyed the privilege of working with our other dedicated services who are engaged in Afghan operations. It was heartwarming to see the appreciation from the majority of the Afghan people. To know we are helping improve their



-Photo courtesy of SERMC

Capt. Pete Schupp (R) presents the Bronze Star Medal to Chief Electronics Technician Michael Neff at a recent awards ceremony.

quality of life is well worth the time and effort we have provided thus far."

SERMC Commander, Capt. Pete Schupp, escorted Chief Neff's wife Robbin to the ceremony and presented the award to her extremely surprised husband. She had received the award (forwarded by the U.S. Army) in the mail and contacted the command to see if it could be presented more appropriately. The SERMC staff was able to make all arrangements to do so without his knowledge.

"While I do greet every Sailor who reports aboard, it's not everyday you get to recognize a top-notch Sailor who has truly spent a year out there at the tip of the spear and in harm's way," added Schupp. "It really puts it in perspective for all of us here in Mayport who are working to keep our ships up and running."

Balfour Beatty Wins In Safety

From Balfour Beatty Communities

Since the start of their military housing project in March 2008, the Navy Southeast project team in Mayport, Florida, has removed 169 existing homes, constructed 49 new single family homes, and logged almost 107,000 man-hours. But what makes this project truly unique is that they did it all with no recordable accidents, no OSHA violations, and no environmental violations - a notable achievement for which they were recently honored as recipients of the Southeast Division's 2009 Safety Legacy Award.

"Zero Harm is not just about hitting the numbers - it's about doing something different. And with this group, it really was a team effort of building relationships with the client, subcontractors, and the local community; then selling safety through continual training and recognition," explains Mike Corless, loss prevention director for the Southeast Division.

Through monthly sub-

contractor safety appreciation lunches and giveaways, combined with constant positive reinforcement, the team addressed safety issues as they occurred and recognized those who were performing their duties in a safe manner. In addition, loss prevention manager Scott Greene identified and coordinated additional safety training opportunities for the BBC team and its subcontractors, as well as for our client and sister company, Balfour Beatty Communities.

The Safety Legacy Award will be awarded annually to the most outstanding project team in safety and Zero Harm in the Southeast Division.

As winners, each Mayport team member receives a personalized certificate of achievement with a monetary award, and the project team's name is added to a bronzed Zero Harm trophy. The team keeps the physical trophy until the next Safety Legacy Award winner is announced the following year - at which point it gets passed on.

CO Column

2009 was a spectacular year for the Naval Station as this team has excelled in every area possible. Your hard work and dedication is always appreciated and I look forward to a great year ahead. Here is a quick look back at some of 2009's major accomplishments:

* Achieved VPP Star certification, one of only 10 Naval Stations to do so.

* Hosted "Unitas Gold;" the largest international exercise ever held on U.S. soil.

* Our MWR Department provided the most positive cash flow of any other base of its size in the Region.

* Harbor Operations moved 1,219 ships mishap-free, including 20 foreign ships/submarines, 30 Coast Guard cutters and 36 submarines.

* Air Operations Department conducted 96,000 mishap-free



Capt. Aaron Bowman
flight hours.

* Pumped 18,938,523 gallons of ship/aviation fuel without incident.

* Fleet and Family Support center served 40,727 customers from the Mayport, Blount Island and Orlando areas.

* Safely released 900 sea tur-

bles, including the first leather-back turtles in 35 years, in the area.

* Fire and Security teams responded to 3,255 emergency calls, saving countless lives.

* Base services painted and refurbished several of our buildings here saving the base over \$200,000.

So many more accomplishments and these are just a few. Thank you so much for all that you do.

I would be negligent if I didn't mention the huge success of our Ride 2 recovery event that ended here on Dec. 17.

Huge thanks to MWR, our Navy Seabees, the Navy Band, LT Chet Wykoff, and everyone who had a hand in making this event the success that it was. The Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) ADM Gary Roughead participated in the Ride 2

Recovery bike challenge and was impressed by your professionalism during the "All Hands" call at the base gym. You shined as usual, and that day I couldn't have been more proud to serve as your skipper. Well done.

On Dec. 27, we welcomed back the crew of USS Stephen W. Groves (FFG 29) as they returned from a highly successful Standing NATO Maritime Group One (SNMG-1) deployment. USS Stephen W. Groves, along with Portuguese frigate Alvares Cabral (F331) and German auxiliary ship Rhoen (A1443), worked together during the Mediterranean surge deployment and conducted a wide variety of information operations, maritime security spotchecks, and maritime surveillance operations in the Western Mediterranean Sea in

support of NATO Operation Active Endeavor. These missions focused on developing a cooperative relationship with the Mediterranean maritime community while protecting freedom of navigation within the NATO area of operations. Welcome back and well done.

The Chief's exam is just around the corner (Jan. 21), and I hope that those of you that are taking the exam are ready. The Chief's mess needs your leadership and I want to see all of you make that shift to the next level. Good luck and study hard! The increase in pay is great, but the increase in responsibility and chance to guide our Sailors is life changing in many ways.

Please keep safety in mind when at the work place and at home. Safety is key to any successful operation and we have an excellent safety department

standing by to help if you need the guidance. Keep up with your ESAMS training, and if you own or operate a space heater in these cold times we find ourselves in, be smart about it. These things cause tragedy nation wide during the winter months, and should NEVER be left unattended.

I look forward to the challenges of the year ahead and there is nothing we can't accomplish together. Thanks again for a great year and I look forward to serving the next one with the best team in the Navy.

Your concerns are my concerns, so keep those suggestions rolling in to the CO's suggestion box located at the base galley, or email them to aaron.bowman@navy.mil

Chaplain's Corner

"What color is God?" That was the question that a six-year-old African-American boy named James McBride asked his Jewish mother. James was the offspring of an interracial marriage. As he became more aware of the important things of life, his thoughts had turned to God. So, as is natural of children his age he started asking questions which brings us to the question: "What color is God?" In his autobiographical account (*The Color of Water*, Riverhead Books 1996) Mr. McBride relates that the question came up one day as he and his mother walked home from church. The young McBride wanted to know whether God was black or white. A very wise mother answered the question in the following fashion: "Honey, God is not black. God is not white." Smiling, she continued, "God is the color of water. Water



Chaplain Joe Molina
CDS40 Staff Chaplain

doesn't have color and everybody can drink it, regardless of color."

That was a wise response! Her answer did not miss a beat and it came from the mind and lips of one who had captured a teaching/learning moment with her child. Those moments with our children represent great

opportunities to pass along eternal values and truths that will plant seeds of understanding for living healthy lives.

The six-year-old was responding to a natural instinct in the human being. He had a need to know. The child was also prepared to start perceiving God through the prism or lens of a particular culture, race or tradition. His mother had set the matter straight by heading off any misconception. She had pointed out the timeless truth that God cannot be placed in a cultural "box." She wanted her son to understand that if we are to worship and come to know God, it must be unhindered by personal prejudice or cultural stereotype. We must be careful not to categorize God through our own misconceived expectations. God is so much greater than our own, small misconceptions. You see, God's reality

transcends our personal agendas.

What color is your God? What language does my God speak? What ethnicity/culture does my God prefer? Through the experience of a James McBride or a Martin Luther King Jr. we are challenged to examine our view of the Almighty and shatter any and all pre-conceived personal notions of God's eternal character. The sobering reality is that God is for everyone! God speaks everyone's language and invites every person to a living relationship.

It is recorded that nearly two thousand years ago a certain woman from Samaria (present day Palestine) approached a young Jewish Rabbi. She had a need to know the "color of God." She had felt a sense of awkwardness in worshipping

and knowing the person of God because she wasn't quite sure whether her God had a "cultural/ethnic" preference. The young Rabbi had the opportunity to set the matter straight in her mind and in our minds.

The Rabbi's insight was compelling in its simplicity. It cut through all cultural, ethnic and racial stereotypes as he addressed the very core of the matter. The Rabbi explained that if we are to know and worship God we must do so unhindered by any form of personal prejudice. He was way ahead of his times in affirming basic civil rights. But his approach and focus was spiritual and always pointed towards issues of ultimate importance. Here's how he answered the woman of Samaria: "God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth." In other words, God is spirit, that

is, no color (color of water), no material body and no cultural/ethnic preference. "Spirit and truth" are the overriding realities.

Well, let's do this. Close your eyes. Look into your soul and ask: What color is my soul? What culture is it? What language does it speak? Now, open your eyes. My friends, the family of God is a homogenous race. What this means is that after all his been said and done and this journey of life is complete neither race, language nor culture will be the final arbiter because God is for everyone who know and worship the Almighty in spirit and truth.

On behalf of DESTROYER SQUADRON FOUR ZERO, have a happy and safe MLK DAY as we celebrate the life of one who embraced spirit and truth!

Know the Ropes Time To Start Anew In New Year

This time of year provides a perfect opportunity for you and your child to discuss areas in which there is room for improvement or change - like New Year's resolutions. Here are some ideas on how to develop these resolutions from Adele Brodtkin, Ph. D., a senior child development consultant for Scholastic.

Getting Started
The feeling of starting the year anew could be lost on younger children; therefore, Dr. Brodtkin recommends introducing the concept of resolutions to upper elementary-age children (in grades 3 and up). "Start by talking about your own goals," she says. "What are you going to do? Share them with your child and explain why you have decided to make a change." "Talk about the calendar year and how January is the perfect time for a fresh start," says Dr. Brodtkin.

Taking the Next Step
The next step involves asking your child if he has any ideas or suggestions for a resolution of his own. "You may be surprised at the motivation he displays," says Dr. Brodtkin. "Whatever his suggestion is, let him know that you think it's a worthwhile undertaking and that you'll help him see it through." Encourage your child every step of the way. Ask other family members to come up with their own resolutions. You can even ask your child to help assist this by collecting each family member's resolution and making a chart of them.

Making the Resolution
The possibilities are endless. Your child can resolve to be more organized at home and at school!
break a bad habit!
eat healthier foods!



Judy Cromartie
School Liaison Officer

get a good night's sleep!
improve academic habits!
text less and read more!

Breaking Resolutions
Resolutions can get broken! Don't worry; it is natural. So what to do when a few weeks into January, your child goes back to his old ways? Draw on these motivating tips:

- Encourage him to start again.
- Offer him small rewards for renewed success.
- Offer him helpful assistance (like making a favorite food lower in calories!)

Remind your child that while it is great to strive for big changes and to have high expectations, it is hard to follow a resolution perfectly. But do encourage him to keep trying. Making a New Year's Resolution and following through can be rewarding and a great learning experience!

Judy Cromartie is the School Liaison Officer for NS Mayport. If you have questions about this article or concerns about an educational issue impacting your child, she can be reached via email at Judith.cromartie@navy.mil or by phone at (904) 270-6289 ext. 1305.

Mayport Navy Leaguer Recognized Nationally



-Photo courtesy of Mayport Navy League

Juan M. Garcia III, assistant secretary of the Navy, Manpower and Reserve Affairs, left, presented William E. McLoughlin with the Navy Meritorious Public Service Award during the October Annual Convention of the Navy League of the United States. McLoughlin was honored for his service with the Mayport Council and the National Navy League. The Navy League of the United States will hold its annual convention in 2010 in Jacksonville.



Roman Catholic Mass
Sunday 9 a.m.
Monday-Friday 11:30 a.m.
Confessions: before & after mass or upon request
CCD: Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Baptisms: class 3rd Sunday of month

Protestant Worship
Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Sunday school 9:15 a.m.
Baptism: For information contact your chaplain

Women's Bible Study
Wednesday 9:30 a.m.
Protestant choir
Wednesday 7 p.m.

Interdenominational MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers)
1st & 3rd Tuesdays each month 9:15 a.m.
For more information contact MOPS coordinator at mayportmops@yahoo.com

Marriage
Contact Chaplain 6 months prior. PREP is required
For more information, call 270-5212.



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Balfour Beatty Offers College \$

By Dianne Borges

Balfour Beatty Communities

In 2009 Balfour Beatty Communities, responsible for the privatized family housing at Naval Station Mayport, formed Balfour Beatty Communities Foundation, a non-profit organization committed to honoring military personnel – active, disabled and fallen – and their families.

One of the primary goals of the Foundation is to promote the pursuit of education and a commitment to community leadership through educational scholarships to the children of active duty military members that reside in family housing.

The Foundation is again offering scholarships that reward high school and undergraduate students in need of financial assistance, recognizing their educational and leadership efforts.

Family housing residents with high school and undergradu-

ate students are encouraged to apply for these scholarships for the 2010-2011 academic year; valued up to \$2,500. The application, details and requirements can be found at www.bbcommunitiesfoundation.org. The application deadline is April 15.

Balfour Beatty Communities Foundation was proud to award 17 academic scholarships to students residing in its communities across the country for the 2009-2010 academic year.

According to Bruce Robinson, president and CEO, "Balfour Beatty Communities is committed to providing a quality living environment that supports the diverse interests and needs of our military families. Through Balfour Beatty Communities Foundation, we say thank you for the work that you do and the sacrifices military families make."

New Ombudsmen Join The Rank



-Photo by Paige Gnann

Naval Station Mayport Commanding Officer, Capt. Aaron Bowman, and Executive Officer, Cmdr. Mike Watson, stand with the newest Ombudsmen to complete the Fleet and Family Service Center Ombudsman Training class on Jan. 12.

Homefront in Focus

By Beth Wilson

Military Spouse Contributor

World War II brought many changes to the United States, the military and for women. In August 1942 the first woman was sworn into the newly authorized women's component of the Navy, the WAVES or Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service. The WAVES were an official part of the Navy and members held the same rank and ratings as male personnel. They received the same pay and were subject to military discipline.

While WAVES could not serve aboard combat ships or aircraft, and initially could not serve abroad, their service as enabled their male counterparts to serve in those capacities. Within a year the WAVES numbered over 27,000. While a large number served in clerical positions others took posi-

tions in the aviation community, JAG (Judge Advocate General) corps, medical professions, communications, intelligence, storekeeper, science and technology.

I want to introduce you to the Navy WAVE in my life. Grandma Terry is my husband's grandmother. As a young woman from the Midwest Grandma Terry sought shelter from a cold, wintery night while waiting for the bus so she ventured into the Navy Recruiting station to get warm. That little decision changed her life. She walked out a Navy WAVE and soon found herself on the train to California for basic training. She then volunteered for assignment to a brand new base, China Lake Weapons Station in the middle of the Mojave Desert.

When Grandma Terry arrived at China Lake it was only six

buildings with the female barracks one of the many other buildings under construction. As a Yeoman, she thought her days would be 'pushing papers' in an admin building. Not so for this adventurous soul. Grandma Terry was part of the team testing armaments (yes, bombs) that would help the United States in its fight at sea. Rather than working from the comfort of an admin building, Grandma Terry was out in the field, on the bombing range, taking readings and documenting statistical data on the latest weapons and delivery systems being developed and tested at that time.

Terry was one of only six women at China Lake at that time. It was there that Grandma Terry met the love of her life, Al, an Aviation Ordnanceman. It wasn't long till these two sailors became a couple and a legacy of service began. After ful-

filling their obligation to serve both Terry and Al went to work as civilian employees at China Lake. They had a family; two boys and two girls. Both sons and one daughter also joined the Navy, as did one grandson – my husband. Three other grandchildren also served in the Army, including one currently deployed to Afghanistan.

When I married my Sailor this amazing woman welcomed me into her family with love, acceptance and support. Grandma Terry loved life! She loved to laugh; she loved God and her children. She set an example of an adventurous woman of virtue. She loved and valued her service to her nation as a Navy WAVE and as such was interviewed by Bonnie Hunt this past Veteran's Day.

Grandma Terry is an amazing woman that cannot be conveyed in this short column.

Her health started to fail in 2009 and we learned shortly before Christmas that Grandma Terry's time with us was coming to a close. True to her character Grandma Terry faced death the same way she faced life; head on and with enthusiasm. She had her affairs in order and she was ready to join her husband and her Lord in heaven. She wanted to spend Christmas with Jesus in heaven and, indeed, God answered that prayer. Grandma Terry joined the host of heaven at 9:30pm on Christmas Eve.

This Navy WAVE taught me much about life, about loving, about giving freely. She made such an impact on many. It is often at the funeral that we see the impact one life can have. The church was full at her memorial service and included friends, fellow veterans, family and even the current command-

ing officer of China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station. She was buried with full military honors and, for this family, that may have meant the most.

The WWII generation brought us much and Grandma Terry was a shining jewel of that generation. Enjoy your rewards in heaven; we have the watch.

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A Families Eyes Opened First African-American EOD Technician Honored

By MC2 Sunday Williams

Navy Public Affairs Support Element East Detachment Southeast

Cynthia Byrd Conner, a Management and Program Analyst for Southeast Regional Maintenance Center (SERMC), at Naval Station Mayport, Fla. has lived most of her life without her father, Master Chief Boatswain's Mate Sherman Byrd, who died in April 1971 after a morning physical training exercise when she was just 13 years old.

"He was such an amazing father. My family and I looked to him as this strong man who was the protector but at the same time he was very quiet with a commanding presence," said Conner. "He was just dad to us, we had no idea all he had accomplished."

Byrd joined the Navy Dec. 26, 1947 as an undesignated seaman and later became a Boatswain's Mate. In 1955 he graduated from the Navy Deep Sea Diving School at Washington Navy Yard. He graduated from the elite U.S. Naval School Underwater Swimmers at Key West, Fla. in 1957. Then in 1958 he found his calling with Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) after graduating the Naval School Explosive Ordnance Disposal (NAVSCOLEOD) at Indian Head, Md.

Byrd continued to excel becoming the Navy's first African American EOD Technician as well as the first African American to graduate from the above schools.



-Photo courtesy of the Byrd family

Cynthia Byrd Conner, in red, is joined by her sisters Yolanda Byrd Blount, twin Sandra Byrd Watkins and brother Andre Byrd, Sherlyn Byrd Walker, Laurie Byrd Peele and Azelle Byrd Hunt in front of the EOD training building right after it was dedicated to her father Master Chief Boatswain's Mate Sherman Byrd, the first African-American EOD.

In August of 1969 he became a Master Chief Petty Officer and one of the first African American Master Chiefs. The Byrd family is investigating weather or not Master Chief Byrd was in fact the first African American Master Chief.

Conner and her siblings knew their father dedicated his life to the United States Navy in defense of his country but they had no idea what their father's lists of accomplishments were or the impact he made in the history of the Navy.

"My sister Yolanda got a phone call the Friday before Mother's Day this year from a retired chief at the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Training and Evaluation Unit Two at Fort Story, Va. He told her that they

were having a dedication ceremony to honor dad and would like for the family to attend," said Conner.

Conner and her family were shocked to learn that their father was the first African American EOD technician in the Navy.

"We were so excited; this was such a great honor and surprise. We knew dad was EOD but we had no idea what that meant. I have learned that my father protected four U.S. Presidents," said Conner laughing. "I mean are you kidding, my dad. He protected Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon."

Conner said she is learning so much about who her dad was outside of him being a father and husband, that it has brought long overdue closure to a very empty spot in her heart.

"Losing dad was heart breaking and going through important things in my life where I wished he could have been there was very hard, but this experience has opened doors to a side of dad that we never knew and it is like getting to know him all over again," said Conner. "My youngest sister, Laurie, was just a baby when dad passed so this has helped her a lot because she did not know him at all. We are truly blessed."

Conner and her family attended the dedication ceremony on Sept. 25 where they heard people who knew him speak words of kindness and appreciation.

"People's words had such a huge impact on me, there was so much love and hard work that went into this, my mind still can't process all of it," said Conner. "Here is a black man, my dad who was a service member during a time when racial relations were still very volatile and he managed to touch so many hearts of various races that none of them saw him as black, just a fellow brother."

Conner said it all started to make sense because she always remembered her dad being a "teacher."

"Education was very important to my dad, he was a teacher in many ways, and he always did his best to instill in the younger EOD techs and in

See Byrd, Page 5

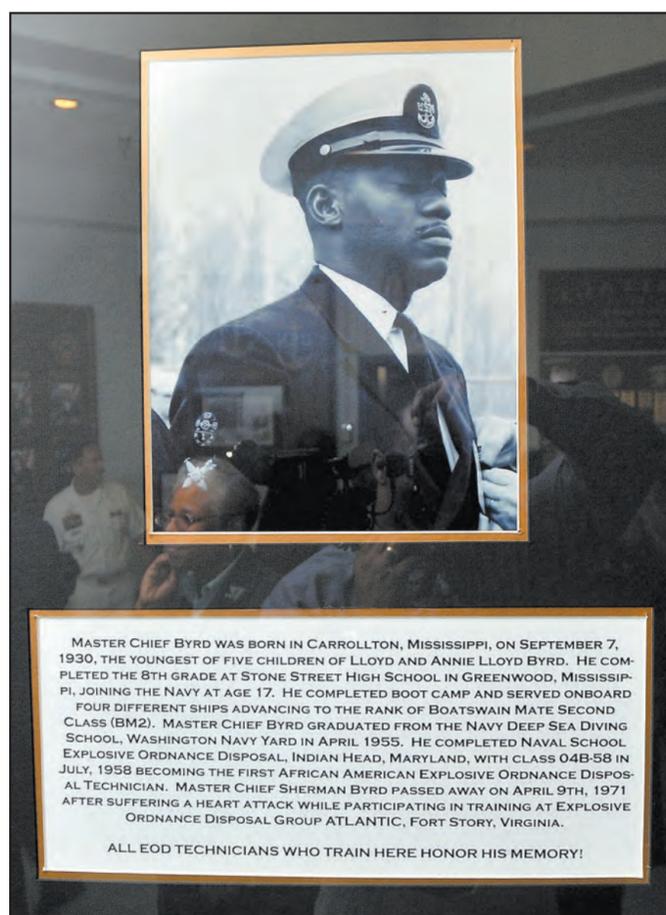


Chief Boatswain's Mate Sherman Byrd gets an award.



-Photo by MC2 Sunday Williams

Cynthia Byrd Conner looks over photos of her father, Master Chief Boatswain's Mate Sherman Byrd, and reflects on her memories of him in her home in Jacksonville.



MASTER CHIEF BYRD WAS BORN IN CARROLLTON, MISSISSIPPI, ON SEPTEMBER 7, 1930, THE YOUNGEST OF FIVE CHILDREN OF LLOYD AND ANNIE LLOYD BYRD. HE COMPLETED THE 8TH GRADE AT STONE STREET HIGH SCHOOL IN GREENWOOD, MISSISSIPPI, JOINING THE NAVY AT AGE 17. HE COMPLETED BOOT CAMP AND SERVED ONBOARD FOUR DIFFERENT SHIPS ADVANCING TO THE RANK OF BOATSWAIN MATE SECOND CLASS (BM2). MASTER CHIEF BYRD GRADUATED FROM THE NAVY DEEP SEA DIVING SCHOOL, WASHINGTON NAVY YARD IN APRIL 1955. HE COMPLETED NAVAL SCHOOL EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL, INDIAN HEAD, MARYLAND, WITH CLASS O4B-58 IN JULY, 1958 BECOMING THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL TECHNICIAN. MASTER CHIEF SHERMAN BYRD PASSED AWAY ON APRIL 9TH, 1971 AFTER SUFFERING A HEART ATTACK WHILE PARTICIPATING IN TRAINING AT EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL GROUP ATLANTIC, FORT STORY, VIRGINIA.

ALL EOD TECHNICIANS WHO TRAIN HERE HONOR HIS MEMORY!



Sherman Byrd with his Basic Explosive Ordnance Disposal Class, Indian Head, Md., May 1958

This photo hangs at the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Training Facility at Fort Story, Va., to honor Byrd for his accomplishments and example in the Navy as the first African-American EOD technician and many accomplishments including protecting four U.S. Presidents.



-Photo by MC2 Sunday Williams

Cynthia Byrd Conner poses with a picture of her father, Master Chief Boatswains Mate Sherman Byrd, in her home in Jacksonville. Conner works at SERMC Mayport as a Management and Program Analyst.



Master Chief Boatswains Mate Sherman Byrd's headstone.



Byrd shakes hands with an unknown officer during a graduation ceremony at Naval School Explosive Ordnance Disposal.

Byrd

From Page 4

people in general to “get it right the first time” because you may not have a second chance. This made sense because I learned recently that the EOD motto is “Initial Success or Total Failure,” said Conner.

Conner also stated the door that had been opened to her father’s past feels more like a door opened to the future because now her and her family can move forward honoring their father in every way they can so that he can continue to have an impact and motivate people to strive at being their absolute best.

“I have asked the Lord to not let me miss appreciating every kind moment, or word of the things being done and said about my dad. I am so grateful and I am learning so much, it really means a lot to me and my family. We just don’t want to miss any of it.”

Conner and her family said they are so grateful to the Navy for the honor they have shown Master Chief Byrd and for allowing them to be part of it all.

“Our family would like to thank the Navy for the assessment and foresight to afford our Father the opportunity to excel to the competency of Master EOD Tech. We also would like to thank the EOD Community, which spans the Navy, Air Force, Army and Marines, for keeping his memory alive throughout all these years. We sincerely thank all you!”

Former Mayport EOD Sailor Receives Naval Sword As JU ROTC Grad

From MOAA

Ensign Jason Junker was the recipient of a naval sword as the distinguished graduate of the Jacksonville University’s ROTC unit at its Commissioning Ceremony on Dec. 12. Retired Lt. Cmdr. John Snyder, vice president of the Mayport Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), presented the sword.

Junker is from Olympia, Washington, and is the younger of two children of David Lee and Sandra Inez Junker. He enlisted in the Navy in February 1999 and attended Recruit Training in Great Lakes, Illinois, where he was selected as Honor Graduate and meritoriously advanced to Seaman.

He then attended Sonar Technician “A” School and upon graduation received orders to Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Dive School in Panama City, Fla. After graduating EOD Dive School, he went on to EOD Technician School at Eglin AFB, where he was advanced to Petty Officer 3rd Class.

Upon completion of Army Airborne Training, Junker reported onboard Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit (EODMU)

TWO in November 2000. While attached to EODMU TWO, he completed deployments to the Khandahar, Afghanistan; Souda Bay, Crete; Dili, East Timor; Cartagena, Columbia and Guam. During his time at EODMU TWO, Junker was advanced to Second and First Class Petty Officer and qualified Senior EOD Technician, Air Warfare Specialist and Surface Warfare Specialist. He received orders to EODMU SIX Detachment Mayport in May 2005.

As Leading Petty Officer of Detachment Mayport, he was responsible for all explosive ordnance disposal operations from Jacksonville to Key West Florida and the Caribbean. While onboard EODMU SIX Detachment Mayport, Junker qualified Master EOD Technician.

In February 2007, he reported to Naval Science Institute (NSI) Newport, RI. Upon completion of NSI he returned to Jacksonville to attend the University of North Florida as part of the Seaman to Admiral commissioning program. His first tour of duty as an officer will be deployment in special operations.

EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL TRAINING EVALUATION UNIT TWO

is dedicated to the memory of

BMCM Sherman Byrd

Master Chief Byrd graduated from NAVSCOLEOD in Indian Head, Maryland with class 04B 58 in July 1958 as the first African American EOD Technician, he was a pioneer in EOD, equality and was a trail blazer who set an example for every EOD technician to follow. All EOD technicians who train here honor his memory.

This memorial marker was unveiled during a ceremony honoring Master Chief Boatswains Mate Sherman Byrd Sept. 25, 2009, at the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Training Facility at Fort Story, Va. Byrd was honored for his accomplishments and example in the Navy as the first African-American EOD technician.



Happenings

Jan. 14: CPO Social Hour (Right Hand Man/Boss's Night). 3-7 p.m. at Foc'sle CPO Club with thirty-five cent wings, drink specials and all-you-can-drink soft drinks for only \$1. Thursday night is reserved for active and retired Chief Petty Officers and their guests. For CPO Club activity information, call AWRC Jon Abell at 850-748-5941 or 270-5431.

Jan. 17: Bowling Family Fun Night. 4-7 p.m. every Sunday at Mayport Bowling Center. Cost is \$9 per person and includes All-You-Can Bowl with shoes, spaghetti dinner, music videos, light show and colored headpin bowling for prizes. 270-5377

Jan. 17: Women's Volleyball Organizational Meeting. 12 p.m. in the Gym lobby. League begins Jan. 31. (Free) 270-5451

Jan. 18: MLK Holiday Bowling Special. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at Mayport Bowling Center. Two hours of Xtreme bowling with shoes, spaghetti dinner and colored headpin bowling for prizes. Cost is \$10 per person (free for ages 3 and younger). 270-5377

Jan. 18: Spaghetti Monday. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Fast Lanes Grille. Buffet includes spaghetti, garlic bread, salad and a drink for only \$6 per person. 270-5377

Jan. 19: All Khaki Wings and Trivia Night. 3-7 p.m. at Foc'sle CPO Club with 35-cent wings, drink specials and all-you-can-drink soft drinks for \$1. Trivia begins at 5:30 p.m. All Khakis welcome (Chief Petty Officers, Officers and their guests). For CPO Club activity information, call AWRC Jon Abell at 850-748-5941 or 270-5431.

Jan. 20: Wednesday Bowling Special. 5-10 p.m. every Wednesday

during January at Mayport Bowling Center. All-You-Can-Bowl is only \$15 per lane for up to five people per lane. 270-5377

Jan. 22: Comics on Duty World Tour. 8 p.m. at Castaway's Lounge. All Hands welcome. (Free) www.comicsonduty.com 270-5228

Jan. 23: Live - The 7 Street Band. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. at Castaway's Lounge. All Hands welcome. (Free) www.myspace.com/the7streetband 270-7205

Jan. 25: Badminton League Begins. Captain's Cup league for singles and doubles. (Free) 270-5451

Jan. 27: Post-Holiday Fitness

Meltdown. 6:30-8:30 a.m. at the Gym for Active Duty. 4:30-6:30 p.m. at Surfside Fitness Center for all authorized patrons. Melt off that holiday weight gain and sample a variety of fitness classes offered by Mayport Navy Fitness Trainers. (Free) 270-7718

Jan. 27: Family Steak Night. 3-7

p.m. at Foc'sle CPO Club. Cost is \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door (limited tickets available at the door). All Hands welcome. Sponsored by HSL 42 Chief's Mess. For tickets, contact AWRC Spence Wait at 270-6122 ext. 112.




A FREE program for children of active duty military, ages 7-17.

WHAT PARTICIPANTS LEARN...
Fun, integrated golf and life skills lessons help young people discover how skills essential to success on the golf course can help them succeed in everyday life. These skills include identifying and overcoming challenges, managing emotions, interpersonal communication, goal setting, effective conflict resolution, and others.

Each FREE session meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays for six weeks at Windy Harbor Golf Club.

SESSION 3:
Jan. 19-Feb. 25, 4:30-5:30pm

SESSION 4:
March 2-April 15, 5-6pm
No lessons on April 1, 6 and 8.

Limit 15 participants per session.
REGISTER AT THE MWR YOUTH CENTER... 904.270.5680

January Bowling Specials

Valid Wednesdays during January 2010
5pm to Close

All You Can Bowl \$15.00 per lane
Up to 5 people per lane

Get a group together and save \$\$\$!

Mayport Bowling Center... 904.270.5377

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Monday, Jan. 18, 2010
11am-5pm

HOLIDAY BOWLING SPECIAL

2 hours of Xtreme bowling with shoes and spaghetti dinner
PLUS... Colored Headpin Bowling (bowl a strike with a colored headpin and win a free game pass)

\$10 per person (Free for ages 3 & under)
Mayport Bowling Center... 904.270.5377

Kid Zone

Jan. 16: Youth Lock-In. 7 p.m.-7 a.m. at the Youth Activities Center for grade K through age 12. Cost is \$15 if advance sign-up or \$20 the day of, if space. 270-5680

Jan. 16: Teen Lock-In. 7 p.m.-7 a.m. at Club Teen for age 12 through grade 12. Cost is \$12 if advance sign-up or \$15 the day of, if space. 270-5680 or 246-0347

Jan. 17: Bowling Family Fun Night. 4-7 p.m. every Sunday at Mayport Bowling Center. Cost is \$9 per person and includes All-You-Can Bowl with shoes, spaghetti dinner, music videos, light show and colored headpin bowling for prizes.

270-5377
Jan. 18: MLK Holiday Bowling Special. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at Mayport Bowling Center. Two hours of Xtreme bowling with shoes, spaghetti dinner and colored headpin bowling for prizes. Cost is \$10 per person (free for ages 3 and younger). 270-5377

Jan. 19: The First Tee - Session 3. Military youth, ages 7-17, learn golf and life skills lessons for everyday success. This session meets from 4:30-5:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays for six weeks at Windy Harbor Golf Club. Pre-registration is required. Space is limited to 15

participants. (Free) 270-5680 or 5421

Jan. 23: Circus Trip. 11:30 a.m. show time. Cost is \$12 per person. Trip is open to school age children and their parents. Parents are welcome to attend with younger children. Deadline to sign-up and pay is Jan. 20. A minimum of 12 sign-ups are required for trip to go. 270-5680 or 5421

Jan. 26: Parent Workshop - The Financial Aid Process. 6:30 p.m. at the Youth Activities Center hosted by Mayport's School Liaison Officer. Workshop will include an overview of federal and state student aid programs (scholarships, loans, grants, work study), including the

Bright Futures Scholarships. (Free) 270-6289 ext. 1305

Jan. 29: Youth Freedom Friday, Movie Night. 7-11 p.m. at the Youth Activities Center for grade K through age 12. Cost is \$7 if advance sign-up or \$9 the day of, if space. 270-5680 or 5421

Jan. 29: Teen Center Extended Hours, Movie Night. 7-11 p.m. at Club Teen for age 12 through grade 12. Hotdogs, nachos, snacks and drinks available for purchase. Movie starts at 8 p.m. (Free Admission) 270-5680 or 246-0347

All Ranks * All Services

A military-focused job fair!

MOAA / Corporate Gray Job Fair

January 29, 2010 * 10 am - 2 pm
(Plus career planning seminars at 9 am)

Jacksonville - Morocco Shrine

Meet face-to-face with great employers, including Lockheed Martin, ManTech International, Aramark, BAE Systems, Allstate Insurance, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida, AAR Corporation, Defense Intelligence Agency, Department of Homeland Security, United States Secret Service, Department of Veterans Affairs, Transportation Security Administration, U.S. Department of State, Defense Contract Management Agency, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Mission Essential Personnel, Omega Protein, Overseas Military Sales Organization, Wyle, and more!

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<p>CLAY COUNTY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * COVENTRY AT OAKLEAF PLANTATION Townhome-style Condos From the '120s 15 miles from Jax Naval Air Station * HAMILTON GLEN AT OAKLEAF PLANTATION Single-family homes From the '190s 15 miles from Jax Naval Air Station 	<p>DUVAL COUNTY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * WYNNFIELD LAKES Single-family homes From the mid '200s 10 miles from Mayport Naval Station * LEXINGTON PARK Single-family homes From the upper '100s 25 miles from Mayport Naval Station 	<p>ST. JOHNS COUNTY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * CHANCELLOR'S RIDGE Single-family homes From the mid '200s * WILLOWCOVE AT NOCATEE Single-family homes From the '300s * JOHN CREEK II Single-family homes From the '200s
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Liberty Call

The following activities target single or unaccompanied Sailors. For more information, call 270-7788/89 or stop by Planet Mayport Single Sailor Center and pick up the monthly activity calendar with a complete listing of all upcoming Liberty events.

Jan. 14: Deadline for Greg Behrendt Trip on Jan. 17. Van departs Planet Mayport at 5 p.m. to see the stand-up comedy act from the author of "He's Just Not That Into You". Cost is \$10. Pre-registration is required.

Jan. 15-16: Tampa Breeze LFL Trip. Van departs Planet Mayport at 1 p.m. for this

Tampa overnight trip to see the Tampa Breeze LFL. Cost is \$80 and includes tickets, hotel and transportation. Deadline to sign up is Jan. 9. www.lflus.com

Jan. 18: Barracks Break-In. Food, soda and a movie starting at 6 p.m. in the lounge of Barracks Bldg. 2105. (Free)

Jan. 19: Car Buying Class. 6 p.m. at Planet Mayport. Includes refreshments. (Free)

Jan. 20: Pool Tourney Wednesdays. Pool tournaments every Wednesday starting at 6 p.m. with prizes for the winner. (Free)

Jan. 21: Big Screen Tournament. 6:30 p.m. start at Planet Mayport. This gam-

ing tourney for prizes will be held on the big screen. Food and soda served. (Free)

Jan. 22: Comics on Duty World Tour. 8 p.m. at Castaway's Lounge. All Hands welcome. (Free) www.comicsonduty.com 270-5228

Jan. 23: Mystery Trip. Van departs Planet Mayport at 1:30 p.m. Liberty will call 72 hours in advance to tell you what to bring.

Jan. 29-30: Liberty Lock-In. Planet Mayport is locking its doors at 11 p.m. Friday night and will not reopen until 7 a.m. Saturday.

MWR Sports/Fitness

Fitness
Surfside Fitness schedule is as follows:

Monday
7 a.m., **Spartan Training**
Unconventional training for the unconventional warrior which centers on the art of developing the body through refined functional tactics. Spartan Training employs a combination of kettle bells, calisthenics, sprint and distance running, tire flips, sledge hammers, sled drags, and many other advanced training techniques. Meets behind Surfside Fitness Center.

9:30 a.m., **Resistance**
10:30 a.m., **Broken Hearts**
11:30 a.m., **Step n Kick**
1 p.m., **Moms in Motion**
4:30 p.m., **Zumba**

A fusion of hot, sexy and explosive Latin American and International dance music. Caloric output, fat burning and total body toning are maximized through fun and easy to follow dance steps. Come experience the ultimate dance party in this high energy, motivating class that is great for both the body and the mind.

3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., **Youth**

Fitness Factory
5:30 p.m., **Yoga**

Tuesday
7 a.m., **Command TRX**
9:30 a.m., **LoImpact**
11:30 a.m., **Intro TRX**
1 p.m., **Strength Solutions**
5:30 p.m., **Yoga**
4:30 p.m., **Zumba**
3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., **Youth**

Fitness Factory
Wednesday

6:30 a.m., **Functional Flexibility**
9:30 a.m., **Intro Mind Body**
Mind Body programs focus
10:30 a.m., **Broken Hearts**
11:30 a.m., **Zumba**
1 p.m., **Moms in Motion**
2:30 p.m., **Command/FEP**

TRX
5:30 p.m., **Kids' Clinic**
5:30pm **Kickboxing**

Thursday
9:30 a.m., **Walking**
11:30 a.m., **Adv. Mind Body**
1 p.m., **Strength Solutions**
3:30pm - 6:30 p.m., **Youth**

Post-Holiday **NAVY FITNESS** FITNESS MELTDOWN Wednesday, Jan. 27



Active Duty Military
6:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.
Gymnasium

All Authorized Patrons
4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Surfside Fitness Center

Melt off that holiday weight gain with an intense workout that continues until no person is left standing.

Sample a variety of group fitness classes in limited intervals and meet Mayport's Navy Fitness Trainers.

MWR Info? (904) 270-7718

Fitness Factory
5:30 p.m., **Mommy, Daddy, Me**

Friday
7 a.m., **Beach Bootcamp**

(weather permitting) This Commando PT utilizes various training techniques to achieve the highest fitness levels possible. Meets behind Surfside Fitness Center.

11:30 a.m., **Spartan Training**
The Gym Schedule is as follows:

Monday
11:30 a.m., **Adv. Weight Training for Warriors**

2:30 p.m., **Command Rowbics**

3 p.m. **Victory PRT**
3:30pm - 6:30 p.m., **Youth**

Fitness Factory
5:30 p.m., at YFF KidsYoga

Tuesday
6:30 a.m., **Command Jump and Jab**

11:30 a.m., **Steel Anchor Training**

Show your commitment and motivation by becoming a Steel Anchor. Successful completion

of a percentage based combination of the bench press, squat, and dead lift will win you this prestigious award.

3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., **Youth**

Fitness Factory
Wednesday

7 a.m., **Command Cardio Pump**

11:30 a.m., **Rowbics**
2:30 p.m., **Conditioning for Running**

4:30 p.m., **Spinning**

Thursday
7 a.m., **Cardio, Combat and CORE**

11:30 a.m., **Spinning**
2:30 p.m., **Intro to Weight Training for Warriors**

3:30pm - 6:30 p.m., **Youth**

Fitness Factory
5:30 p.m., at YFF **Mommy, Daddy, Me**

Friday
6:30 a.m., **Command Spinning**

9:30 a.m., **Intro to Spin**
11:30 a.m., **Strength Training Basics for Women**
11:30 a.m., **Steel Anchor Testing**

COMICS ON DUTY
LIVE AT NAVAL STATION MAYPORT
FRIDAY, 22 JANUARY
SHOWTIME: 8:00 PM
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Jax Cub Scouts Troop Visits HSL-46

From HSL-46

Cub Scout Pack 35 Den 3 of the North Florida Council recently visited Naval Station Mayport and the Grandmasters of HSL-46.

Arriving Dec. 23, they were welcomed by HSL-46 Public Affairs Officer Lt.j.g. Tony Bomba. The Scouts watched a video presentation about Navy helicopters and the SH-60B Seahawk, in particular. The Scouts asked many questions about being a pilot, the experience of flying a helicopter, and how to become a Naval Aviator.

The Cub Scouts then learned about various components of aviation survival gear and were taught how to use signaling devices, such as sea dye markers, and survival flares.

HSL-46's Lt. Justin Davis also instructed the Scouts on how to operate night vision goggles (NVGs). The Scouts were given the opportunity to turn off the lights, crack open infrared chemical lights (normally invisible to the naked eye) and find lights hidden in the Ready Room while looking through the NVGs.

Lastly they toured HSL-46's hangar, where they were greeted by Air Warfare Rescue 2nd Class Derek Weikart and Lt. Brian Fojt. The Scouts had the chance to see a real SH-60B and to ask questions while inspecting the aircraft.

Weikart identified components found in the aircraft cabin and how to work various components found on the Sensor

Operators panel. He even showed the Troop how swimmers jump out of the helicopter, rescue victims from the sea, and get safely hoisted back into the aircraft. The Scouts climbed inside the cockpit and were given an in-depth tour by Fojt, much to their excitement.

The Scouts were interested to learn the uses of the Forward-Looking Infrared camera, laser, radar, and various other features of the SH-60B. One of the tour's chaperones, Cmdr. Jon Singleton, is a former HS pilot who said he was thrilled to show his son Brandon and friends the typical gear and aircraft of an HSL squadron. The trip was a memorable and educational holiday experience for the scouts.



Cub Scouts from Pack 35 Den 3 get a tour of HSL-46 with Lt. Brian Fojt, Weikart, Lt.j.g. Tony Bomba and Lt. Justin Davis.



Weikart shows off the inside of an SH-60B Seahawk helicopter.



-Photos courtesy of HSL-46

Air Warfare Rescue 2nd Class Derek Weikart talks to the Cub Scouts about survival gear.

NAVSO, Naval War College Hosts Maritime Information Sharing Workshop

By MC2(SW)
Robert A. Wood

Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command

Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command (NAVSO), in conjunction with U.S. Naval War College (NWC) staff, hosted personnel from various U.S. and foreign partner nations during the Maritime Information Sharing Workshop Dec. 8-9.

"NAVSO is delighted to host partner nations, academics, government and non-government representatives in this forum to discuss Maritime Information Sharing," said Capt. Eric A. Taylor, NAVSO Intelligence department head.

The "Cooperative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower" states simply that "although we can surge when necessary to respond to crises, trust and cooperation cannot be surged."

The most fundamental foundation of this trust relies on honest information sharing.

Dr. Derek Reveron, NWC professor, welcomed the participants to the workshop and talked about the importance of information sharing in the U.S. Southern Command region of the Caribbean, Central and South America.

"The nature of today's security challenges requires multilateral solutions enabled through trust, communication,

and information sharing," said Reveron. "Navies have a common bond and face similar challenges. By sharing information, navies can more efficiently confront challenges that undermine sovereignty."

NAVSO is the naval component command for U.S. Southern Command and is responsible for all Naval personnel and assets in the area of focus. NAVSO conducts a variety of missions in support of the Maritime Strategy, including Theater Security Cooperation, relationship building, humanitarian assistance and disaster response, community relations, and counter-illicit trafficking operations.

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FRCSE Helps Florida Striders Earn Guinness

By FRCSE Public Affairs

Three Fleet Readiness Center Southeast (FRCSE) personnel were among the 100 Florida Striders track runners who recently broke the Guinness World Records™ in the 100 X 10K relay.

FRCSE Electronic Measures Equipment Manager Keith Poythress along with Aerospace Engineers Mark Grubb and John Funk of NAVAIR In-Service Support Center Jacksonville helped the team earn the world record.

Each runner completed a 10K (6.2 miles) with an overall time of 77 hours, 17 minutes, 25 second. The runners, ranging in age from 10 to 68 years, covered 620 miles beating the previous record by 12 hours.

The four-day race was held at Bishop Snyder High School Dec. 3-6. The event not only broke the world record but also raised more than \$6,000 for The Donna Foundation, a local charity that provides assistance to women with breast cancer.

Taylor Shines At INSURV

By Lt. Phillip Jones

USS Taylor

Despite a hectic schedule, USS Taylor (FFG 50) achieved high scores during the 2009 INSURV inspection.

Taylor ended a two-month SRA period in August, and the crew had been preparing for the impending INSURV inspection and the training cycle ever since. In between running early morning drills and the daily routine, Taylor's crew scoured the decks and spaces, identifying and correcting dozens of discrepancies. For weeks, Tiger teams carried on the task of correcting material deficiencies well into the night. Some of the corrected discrepancies included valve maintenance, replacement of damaged lagging, electrical cabling, watertight doors, hatches and scuttles, and general preservation.

The inspection team came aboard Nov. 16, wearing their trademark gray coveralls to inspect the material condition and operational readiness of the ship. After a quick inbrief and introduction, Taylor's crew quickly executed the schedule of events; getting the ship underway safely, performing demonstrations and checks on various systems and equipment.

All departments on board Taylor enjoyed receiving high praise in various areas. The Navigation Department was assessed as green across the board. The inspectors noted that their flags, charts, and installed

equipment were in impeccable condition.

Taylor's medical department received high praise from their inspector, Lt. Wilhite. "This is the best department I've ever seen in my three year as an inspector."

Taylor's Engineering Department received acclaim for having their full power run, which was considered by the Propulsion Inspectors as the best full power run they have ever seen on an FFG. Their Electrical Safety Program, and the overall condition of various fuse panels and motor controllers received high marks.

Taylor's 76MM OP-DEMO and gun systems were considered perfect, and achieved a score of 100.

"Your Gunners Mates have an exceptional level of knowledge and professionalism," said Capt. (SEL) Harder. He also stated that with an overall grade of 95 percent, Taylor's USW OPDEMO "was the best and smoothest run OPDEMO that INSURV has ever seen."

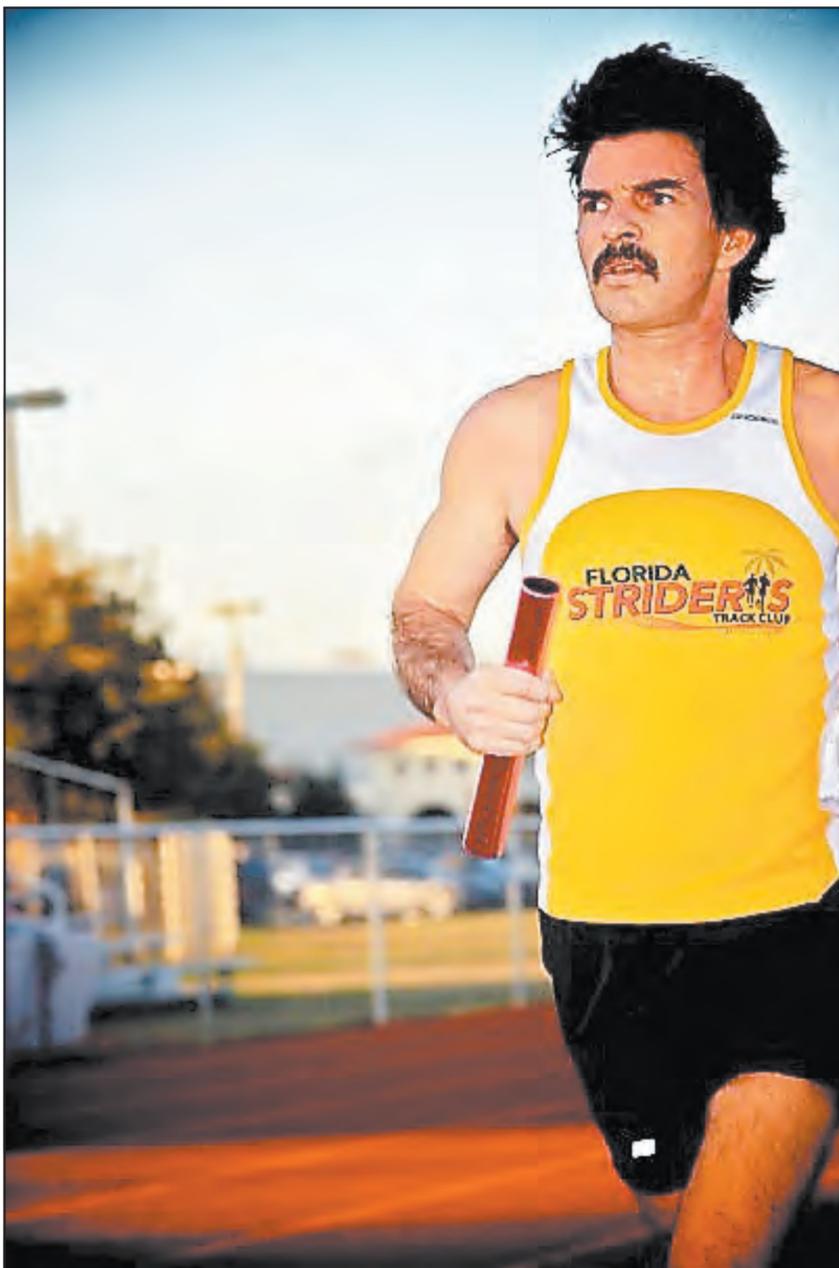
The material condition of Taylor couldn't have been improved upon or maintained without the superb performance of the Supply Department. Despite significant time and budgetary constraints, Taylor's Logistics Specialists flawlessly processed, expedited, and delivered over \$450K in material requirements. Led by Chief Logistics Specialist (SW/AW) Kena Dickey and Logistics

Specialist 1st Class (SW) Nestor Garcia, Taylor's Supply Support Organization tirelessly processed over 1000 maintenance requirements, including numerous open purchase requests and visits to outside sources, ensuring no request was left unfilled.

Logistics Specialist 1st Class (SW/AW) Marcus Maultsby managed a Hazardous Material Program consisting of 159 line items valued over \$35K. Utilizing the "Cradle to Grave" concept, Petty Officer Maultsby processed over 300 issues of hazardous material to ship's personnel and prepared over 500 pounds of hazardous waste for offload. The combined efforts of Taylor's entire Supply Department resulted in an exceptional score of 85% on the 2009 Board of Inspection and Survey, well above the fleet average."

The ship's crew was assembled on the flight deck on Friday evening, Nov. 20 as Cmdr. Knutsen announced that Taylor had officially passed the inspection!

All of the long days and nights that Taylor's Sailors spent in preparation for INSURV paid off. "There are good inspections and bad inspections," said Harder. "There are inspections that are enjoyable and there inspections where the inspection team can not wait to leave. You guys were good, and enjoyable."



-Photo courtesy of FRCSE

FRCSE's Keith Poythress runs a 10K leg for the Florida Striders track club, earning the team a coveted spot in Guinness World Records™ for the fastest 100 X 10K relay. Each of the 100 runners completed 6.2 miles, beating the previous world record by 12 hours.

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Two New Navy Working Uniforms Announced

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs
Two new Navy Working Uniforms (NWU) will hit the fleet in fiscal year 2011.
The first, NWU Type II, a desert digital camouflage uniform of four colors with the anchor, Constitution and eagle (ACE) logo embedded in the print, will be worn by special warfare operators and Sailors who support them during deployment and deployment training

exercises.
"The desert camouflage uniform is not going away," said Capt. Vince Drouillard, branch head within Navy's personnel, plans and policy division.
"Sailors, other than Navy special warfare operators and supporting Sailors, will continue to wear the current tricolor desert camouflage utility uniform in desert environments when issued by

authorizing commands."
The second, NWU Type III, is a woodland digital camouflage uniform which also has four colors and the ACE logo embedded in the print. It will be the standard camouflage uniform worn in non-desert environments and stateside.
Both uniforms, announced in NAVADMIN 374/09, are organization-

al clothing provided to Sailors by commands authorized to issue them.
The unisex uniforms will begin conformance testing to validate design, fit and wear later in fiscal year 2010. Fleet implementation is expected to begin in late 2011 with deploying combat and direct command support commands and units receiving priority in the distribution process.

Both new uniforms have an authorized matching pattern Gortex parka with a removable fleece liner. Sailors can get complete information on the new NWU Type II and Type III uniforms in NAVADMIN 374/09 available at www.npc.navy.mil.
For more information on Navy uniforms visit <http://www.npc.navy.mil/commandsupport/usnavyuniforms/>.

'Game On!' Alerts Commissary Patrons To Savings Blitz

By Kevin L. Robinson

DeCA public affairs specialist

As football fans prepare for their big game viewing events, the Defense Commissary Agency is launching a promotion blitz for authorized customers who want to grab all their snacks and party food at savings approaching 50-60 percent.

Under a campaign titled "Game On!," DeCA is reminding its customers that the commissary should be their first stop as they prepare to watch the National Football League's conference championships on Jan. 24, the Pro Bowl on Jan. 31 and Super Bowl XLIV on Feb. 7.

"We are kicking off 2010 with the best selection of snacks and beverages at promotional prices that go beyond our normal savings of 30 percent or more," said DeCA Director and CEO Philip E. Sakowitz Jr. "The football action on television is expected to be hot, but that's nothing compared to the sizzling savings our commissaries have for our customers."

Through Feb. 10, commissaries will showcase posters, banners and displays pointing customers toward extra savings on items such as snacks, chips, beverages, chicken wings, chicken breasts, chili, turkey bacon, shrimp, ham and turkey sub kits, franks, cooked ham, pizza, pizza rolls, and paper towels, said agency promotions manager Charlie Dowlen.

"Customers can already save an average of 30 percent or

more when shopping in commissaries vs. commercial grocery stores," Dowlen said. "But during promotional periods, savings can approach 50-60 percent for certain discounted items. There's no doubt about it; shopping for your Big Game items in the commissary will net you substantial savings."

Dowlen said the commissary agency's product buyers have done their homework to find products that military customers want for the big games. Topping the list are items that require little or no preparation along with a wider variety of healthier snacks for customers who are showing an increased interest in watching their weight as well as the action on the gridiron.

Traditionally, the days leading up to the Super Bowl have been prime time for commissary customers stocking up for their viewing parties. Now, with the NFL Pro Bowl moved to the week before football's biggest game, DeCA is ensuring that its stores' shelves are ready for even more patrons to get their "Game On!" fare.

"It's a big time of year for our customers to stock up for the big games, be it the playoffs, the Pro Bowl and the Super Bowl," Sakowitz said. "In fact, the Saturday before last year's Super Bowl was our best single shopping day ever. Our stores know how to prepare for our customers' big game food needs."

Internet Based NSIPS Applications Require Common Access Card Login

From Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

Internet-based access to Navy Standard Integrated Personnel System (NSIPS) and related systems have been upgraded to require Common Access Card (CAC) login.

NSIPS and related systems residing on shipboard NSIPS servers will not be affected by this upgrade.

According to the NSIPS information assurance team, all Internet-based applications associated with NSIPS will be affected, including Electronic Service Record (ESR) and Career Information Management System (CIMS).

As announced earlier by the chief of Naval Personnel, all Sailors are required to have an ESR self-service account. Sailors who access NSIPS-hosted applications, like ESR,

through <https://nsips.nmci.navy.mil/> will be affected by the upgrade.

"The old NSIPS user ID and password screens will be disabled during the maintenance period," said Art Tate, NSIPS/ESR/CIMS implementation manager assigned to Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command Systems Center Atlantic New Orleans Office. "When the system comes back online, users will only be able to access the system via the CAC login button on the NSIPS home page."

Mandatory CAC login brings NSIPS into compliance with a Naval Network Warfare Command Computer Task Order requirement for Public Key Infrastructure (PKI). With CAC login, service members provide a Department of

Defense PKI certificate that verifies their identity and helps protect their private personal data.

CAC login streamlines access by eliminating the need to remember an NSIPS user name and password. Other popular Navy websites, such as Navy Knowledge Online and Career Management System/Interactive Detailing, use CAC login with good results.

"I like the convenience of CAC login," said Personnel

Specialist 1st Class (SW) Valton A. Triche, personnel clerk assigned to Navy Operational Support Center Fort Worth. "It's faster and easier than having to remember a bunch of complicated passwords."

Anyone having problems with their accounts should contact the NSIPS/ESR/CIMS Help Desk by calling toll-free (877) 589-5991 or DSN 647-5442, or emailing nsipshelpdesk@navy.mil.

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PTS

From Page 1

six to 10 years of service (Zone B), and then to Sailors E-3 through E-6 with 10 to 14 years of service. Sailors in paygrades E-1 and E-2 cannot apply to reenlist.

Sailors should consult their career counselors 15 months before their end of active obligated service to complete the appropriate paperwork, enabling the command to submit a PTS application, regardless of their reenlistment intentions.

"Get the applications in on time. Commands need to submit applications as early as possible in order to ensure Sailors get the maximum number of reviews," said Loken.

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GATE	11461 OLD ST AUGUSTINE RD	JAX	SPRINT	12743 ATLANTIC BLVD./GIRVIN	JAX
GATE	10455 OLD ST AUGUSTINE RD	JAX	SPRINT	301 ATLANTIC BLVD.	ATL BCH
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Updated: FEBRUARY 1, 2007

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FFSC Holds Workshops For Sailors, Families

From FFSC

The following classes and activities are offered by the Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) and are free of charge. Pre-registration is required and childcare is not available. For more information about the classes or to register call 270-6600, ext. 1701. FFSC is located in Building One on Massey Avenue.

Jan. 14, 8-11 a.m., Anger Management, FFSC

What does anger do for you? Communicate for you? Keep people at a safe distance from you? Keep you in charge? For many people, anger serves them many uses, but all too often, it is at a high cost...usually of relationships, unhappiness in the workplace, and a general feeling of disdain. If you want to be able to break out of the "get angry/get even" syndrome, come to this class. Participants learn how anger and judgment are related, about irrational beliefs and faulty self-talk, what "E + R = O" means, and the roles of stress and forgiveness in anger.

Jan. 14, 9-11 a.m., Resume Walk-in Review Assistance, FFSC

Jan. 15, 9-11 a.m., Credit Report, FFSC

Budgeting means using dollars with sense... making sure there's enough money available at the right time. Money is needed for food, fun, clothes, savings, shelter, emergencies, transportation and charity. So it's never too early to learn the basic skills you'll need...for today and in the future. INVEST your time and learn some basic budgeting skills, how to set financial goals, and begin planning for your future. The "school of hard knocks" has a high tuition. Instead of paying for your mistakes, come to this training.

Jan. 19, 9-11 a.m., Resume Walk-in Review Assistance, FFSC

Jan. 19, 9-11 a.m., Parenting Class, FFSC

The program is based on Dr. Michael Popkin, PH.D ACTIVE PARENTING NOW 6 classes. This program is designed to assist you and your family put into practice the skills learned in the class. Specific parenting skills that are discussed as well as some of the challenges that are faced by all families include: understanding yourself and your child, the four goals of misbehavior, building courage and character in your child, encouraging and listening to your child, helping children cooperate, discipline that makes sense. Each week a different topic is thoroughly covered via discussion, video vignettes, and handbook information. Participation in all 6 sessions is required.

Jan. 20, 9 a.m.-noon, Tottletyme Playgroup, USO

Parents and children together

meet to share parenting concerns, ideas, and fun! The group invites professionals to address specific areas of concern such as nutrition, toilet training, etc. We even take field trips several times a year to local parks, museums and playgrounds. This group is designed for moms new to the area or moms who want their child to interact with other children their child's age. All children age four and below are invited to attend.

Jan. 21, 9-11 a.m., Resume Walk-in Review Assistance, FFSC

Jan. 21, 9-11:30 a.m., Smooth Move, FFSC

This workshop is designed for inexperienced, as well as experienced military members on permanent change of station (PCS) orders. The Personal Property Shipping Office will provide information on how to deal with movers and personal property entitlements. The travel section of Personnel Support Detachment (PSD) will present a section on travel pay and allowances. FFSC staff will discuss the emotional cycles of relocation, budgeting for a PCS move and provide some strategies for families.

Jan. 22, 9-11 a.m., Establishing A Sound Family Budget, FFSC

Budgeting means using dollars with sense... making sure there's enough money available at the right time. Money is needed for food, fun, clothes, savings, shelter, emergencies, transportation and charity. So it's never too early to learn the basic skills you'll need...for today and in the future. INVEST your time and learn some basic budgeting skills, how to set financial goals, and begin planning for your future. The "school of hard knocks" has a high tuition. Instead of paying for your mistakes, come to this training.

Jan. 25-28, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., TAP Separatee Workshop, Building 1 Room 104

Designed for Military personnel within 180 -90 days of leaving the military. The seminar focuses on benefits for service members and their family members. Participants receive help in translating their military acquired skills into civilian language and are exposed to the civilian job market and how to successfully compete in the civilian employment arena; learning about resumes, employment interviews and marketing themselves. If you are within a minimum of 180 days of leaving the military see your career counselor for a quota for this highly successful program.

Jan. 25, 9-11 a.m., What About the Kids?, FFSC

Children who witness family violence are often forgotten as the unintended victims. A wide range of child adjust-

ment problems has been found to be associated with exposure to domestic violence. Parent's need to see and understand the effects of domestic violence on children as encompassing behavior, emotion, development and socialization. Parents need to understand that there is an intergenerational cycle of violence and they may be creating a legacy for their child of learned violent behavior. The purpose of this program is not to shame parents for events that have already happen, but to instill hope that things can change. The knowledge that the violence, which many parents incorrectly believe is unseen by their children, is negatively impacting their children's growth and development and may provide an additional motivator for ending the violence and seeking intervention.

Jan. 25, 6-7 p.m., IA Family Discussion Group, USO

Jan. 25, 6-7 p.m., Ombudsman Assembly, Building 1, Room 104

Jan. 25-26, 8:30-3:30 p.m., Three is a Crowd, FFSC

Jan. 25, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Military Spouse 101, FFSC

The Fleet and Family Support Center offers this class to military spouses new to the area, and those new to the military way of life. Guest speakers from the military and civilian communities will present useful information to help you have a pleasant tour here at Naval Station Mayport.

Jan. 26, 9-11 a.m., Parenting Class, FFSC

The program is based on Dr. Michael Popkin, PH.D ACTIVE PARENTING NOW 6 classes. This program is designed to assist you and your family put into practice the skills learned in the class. Specific parenting skills that are discussed as well as some of the challenges that are faced by all families include: understanding yourself and your child, the four goals of misbehavior, building courage and character in your child, encouraging and listening to your child, helping children cooperate, discipline that makes sense. Each week a different topic is thoroughly covered via discussion, video vignettes, and handbook information. Participation in all 6 sessions is required.

Jan. 26, 9-11 a.m., Resume Walk-in Review Assistance, FFSC

Jan. 26, 9-11 a.m., Overseas Living, FFSC

Overseas Living is a class designed to prepare you for living in new and different setting. This class will provide helpful information about living on the economy to dealing with potential terrorist activities. You will have a chance to understand the

emotional cycles of overseas living to making this tour the best part of your Navy career. Specific information about visas and absentee voting will be discussed.

Jan. 27, 9 a.m.-noon, Tottletyme Playgroup, USO

Parents and children together meet to share parenting concerns, ideas, and fun! The group invites professionals to address specific areas of concern such as nutrition, toilet training, etc. We even take field trips several times a year to local parks, museums and playgrounds. This group is designed for moms new to the area or moms who want their child to interact with other children their child's age. All children age four and below are invited to attend.

Jan. 28, 9-11 a.m., Resume Walk-in Review Assistance, FFSC

Jan. 28, 8 a.m.-noon, FAP Key Personnel Training, Building 1 Room 1616

Jan. 29, 9-11 a.m., Home Buying, FFSC

Feb. 2, 9-11 a.m., Parenting Class, FFSC

The program is based on Dr. Michael Popkin, PH.D ACTIVE PARENTING NOW 6 classes. This program is designed to assist you and your family put into practice the skills learned in the class. Specific parenting skills that are discussed as well as some of the challenges that are faced by all families include: understanding yourself and your child, the four goals of misbehavior, building courage and character in your child, encouraging and listening to your child, helping children cooperate, discipline that makes sense. Each week a different topic is thoroughly covered via discussion, video vignettes, and handbook information. Participation in all 6 sessions is required.

Feb. 9, 9-11 a.m., Parenting Class, FFSC

The program is based on Dr. Michael Popkin, PH.D ACTIVE PARENTING NOW 6 classes. This program is designed to assist you and your family put into practice the skills learned in the class. Specific parenting skills that are discussed as well as some of the challenges that are faced by all families include: understanding yourself and your child, the four goals of misbehavior, building courage and character in your child, encouraging and listening to your child, helping children cooperate, discipline that makes sense. Each week a different topic is thoroughly covered via discussion, video vignettes, and handbook information. Participation in all 6 sessions is required.

Three Is A Crowd

From FFSC

Can a marriage survive an affair? Yes, and not only can it recover, but it can grow. Join the Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) for a two-day seminar facilitated by licensed counselors.

This workshop will give participants an opportunity to explore their marital styles and begin the work of rebuilding their lives. The program will consist of fun, hands on exercises. The workshop will be held Jan. 25-26 from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at FFSC Building 1.

To register for the "Three is a Crowd" Class contact Rose Ann Lickenbrock, FFSC Mayport, at (904) 270-6600, ext 1712 or Wendy Snee, FFSC Mayport, (904) 270-6600, ext 1713.

Learn How To Have A Smoother Move

From FFSC

The Mayport Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) is presenting a Smooth Move Workshop designed for inexperienced as well as experienced military members on permanent change of station (PCS) orders.

The program is scheduled for 9-11:20 a.m. on Jan. 21 in the Building One FFSC Conference Room. The Personal Property Shipping Office will provide information on how to deal with movers and personal property entitlements. The Travel section of Personnel Support Detachment will present a section on travel pay and allowances.

FFSC staff will discuss the emotional cycles of relocation and relocation strategies for families. The program will also present information on how to budget for a PCS move. The class is limited to 16 participants.

For further information or to register for the class, please contact the FFSC at 270-6600 ext. 1701.

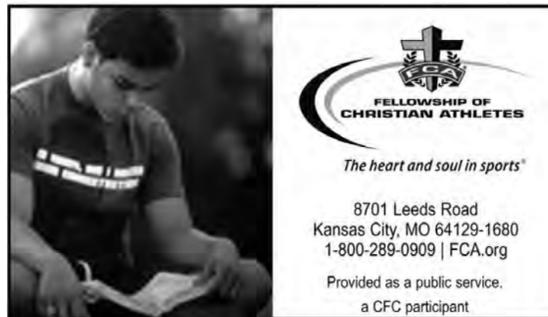
Learn What You Need To Know About Overseas Duty

From FFSC

Fleet and Family Support Center will hold an Overseas Living workshop on Jan. 25 from 9-11:30 a.m. at FFSC in Building One.

Learn information and services related to a Permanent Change of Station (PCS) overseas move. Find out what are realistic and attainable goals for household good shipments, securing Visa and passports and arranging for transportation to the new destination. Family members will also receive safety/anti-terrorism training. You will also receive culturally sensitive support and encouragement to family members.

For more information or to register, call FFSC at 270-6600 ext. 1701.



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Learn How To Plan For Second Career

From FFSC Mayport

The NS Mayport Fleet and Family Support Center is sponsoring a once-a-year lecture regarding transition. It will be presented by The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), and is entitled "Marketing Yourself for a Second Career." The event will be held on Feb. 23 from 9-11:30 a.m. at the Ocean Breeze Conference Center Ballroom on NS Mayport.

This top-shelf presentation is a great professional development opportunity. Transition is of course ultimately a part of all military careers. Therefore, the lecture is perfect for those who are contemplating retirement in one to five years. However, it doesn't stop there. Regardless of whether any particular officer or senior enlisted member has reached the point of being in their own transition, they should be educated about the process in order to mentor and counsel those who work for them and are contemplating or going through their transitions. This "executive summary" presentation can prepare them for that role as well as many multi-day programs. Simply stated, it's a great fit for any commander, officer, or senior enlisted supervisor -- from the most senior, to the most junior.

The lecture will be given by

Colonel Dan Koslov, USAF (Ret), now a deputy director of transition services on MOAA's national staff. The presentation, given annually at over 150 military installations of all Services worldwide, is universally praised by audiences as, "up-to-date, hard-hitting, and sharply focused—a must see."

It includes comprehensive information on the retirement decision itself, employer perceptions, your competition, resumes, cover letters, job search, networking, career fairs, interview techniques, salary negotiation, benefits packages, the current job market, and other relevant and important transition topics.

The presentation is geared toward officers and senior enlisted, but those of all ranks are warmly welcomed. SPOUSES are highly encouraged to attend as well! All who attend will receive a free copy of the lecture's companion book, also titled "Marketing Yourself for a Second Career." It is an in-depth, all-in-one resource for the transition process.

For further information, contact Pamela Ottesen, FFSC, 904-270-6600 ext. 1606.



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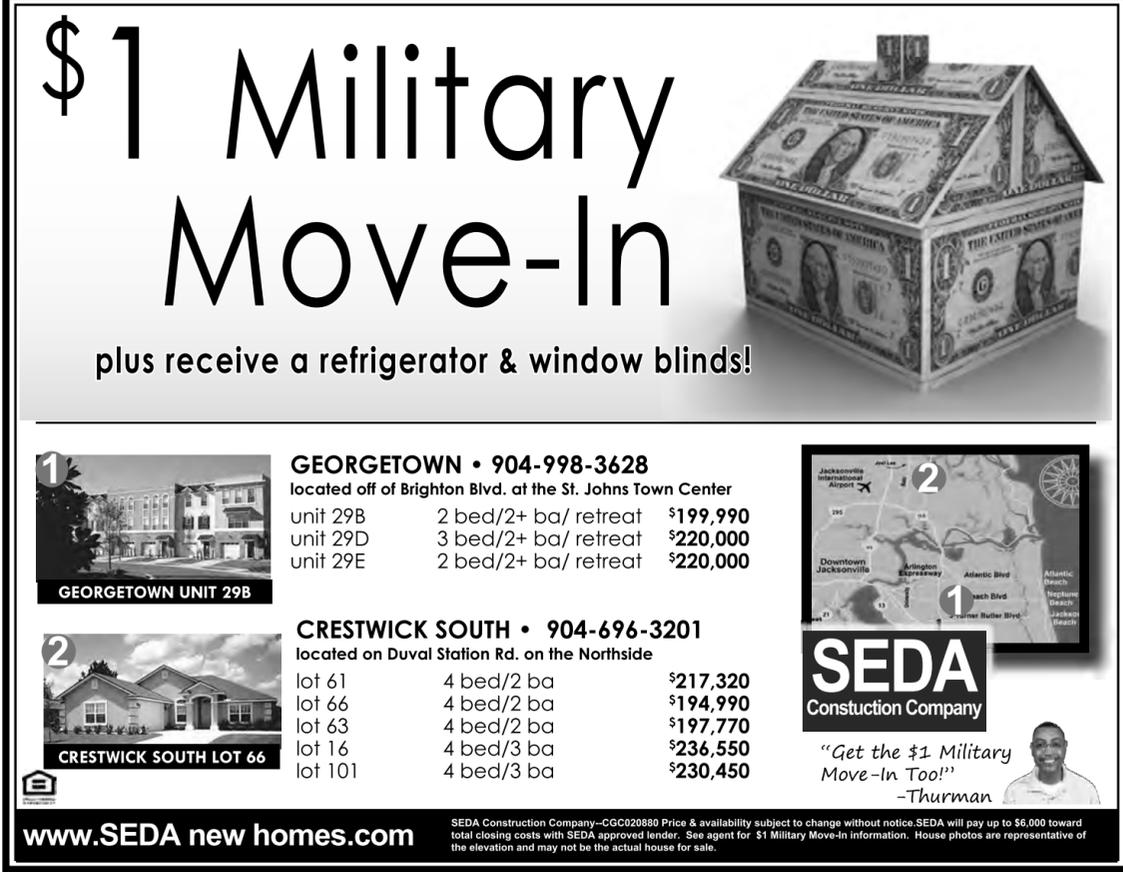
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Tickets for the Jan. 21-22 Ringling Bros., Barnum & Bailey Circus shows are available for purchase for only \$7.50 per ticket. This is a FANTASTIC SAVINGS and a great idea for Christmas stocking stuffers! Again, first come, first served - active duty and families only.

A tribute program that has provided free admission to SeaWorld and Busch Gardens for more than 4 million members of U.S. and coalition armed forces and their families has been extended through 2010. "Here's to the Heroes," a program sponsored by Anheuser-Busch, was launched in February 2005 to celebrate the service of military men and women and the sacrifices made by their families.

Any active duty, active reserve, ready reserve service member or National Guardsman representing any of the five service branches is entitled to free admission under the program. He or she need only register, either online at www.herosalute.com or in the entrance plaza of a participating park, and show a Department of Defense photo ID. Also included in the offer are members of foreign military forces serving in the coalitions in Iraq or Afghanistan or attached to American units in the U.S. for training.

Inactive, standby and retired reserve members, military retirees, U.S. Merchant Marine and civilian Department of Defense workers are ineligible

for the program. The program does not include Discovery Cove or SeaWorld's waterpark, Aquatica.

Your Greater Jacksonville USO has signed up to participate in the Give a day program with Disney. We have a limited number of spots available to volunteer for January and February.

If you are interested please go to www.Disneyparks.com to register. Once you have completed your opportunity and we verify your attendance you will be eligible for a ticket to Disney. Please see complete rules at Disneyparks.com. You do not receive the tickets from our Centers and you must register online to participate.

Jacksonville Morocco Shrine Job Fair is presented by Corporate Gray/ Military Officers Association of America on Friday, Jan. 29, 2010 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. This event will be held at the Morocco Shrine 3800 St. Johns Bluff Road, South Jacksonville, FL 32224-2620. Meet with military- friendly companies and government agencies. This is open to all military personnel and spouses. Business attire recommended, bring plenty of resumes. For more information please visit www.corporategray.com or www.moaa.org/career-fair.

The Veterans History Project First Coast is dedicated to honoring the many veterans of Northeast Florida and those who supported war efforts. We record the memories of those



-Photo courtesy of NFCU

Navy Federal Credit Union's area branches had a canned food drive for the USO's food bank. NFCU collected 200 pounds of food and dropped the donation by the Mayport USO on Monday, Dec. 28. This food will go into their pantry to be used at their Monday dinners or will be distributed to those in need as the USO decides. Pictured is Navy Federal Mortgage Manager Lynn Ferrie and USO Center Director Ed Champagne.

who have served our country by conducting interviews. These stories are placed on our website for others to listen and learn: www.vhpfirst-coast.org. We are a partner

with the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. where the memories of those we interview are archived for future generations: <http://www.loc.gov/vets/>.

Our goal at VHPFC is to

reach the more than 200,000 veterans in our area. If you are interested in volunteering to help us achieve this goal, please visit our website for more information on how you can enrich

your life and honor a veteran.

Troops overseas are in need of Mach-3 replacement razor blades and wet wipes. If anyone would like to donate just bring them into the nearest USO and we will send them to the troops.

United Through Reading program makes it possible to share in the enjoyment of reading to the children in your life, even while thousands of miles apart. The Mayport Center and NAS Center can record you reading a book to your children and send it to them after you have gone on deployment.

It is a great way to make them smile on their special day even when you can not be there with them. Please contact your local USO center for more information.

There is a computer resource center available to all service members with email, Internet and word processing. Fax, copy and free notary service is also available.

Watch TV or a movie from the video library. Service members can also enjoy video games or use the sports equipment.

There is a full kitchen, showers, a quiet reading room and a meeting room available at the USO. The USO is available for meetings, support groups, receptions, parties and pre-deployment briefs. A TV, VCR and overhead projector are available for use.

For more information about activities or meeting availabilities, call 246-3481 or stop by the center at 2560 Mayport Road.

USS Underwood Sailors Support USO Food Drive

By Ensign Kim Hanson

USS Underwood PAO

Each year hundreds of local families are unable to have a Christmas dinner with their loved ones because they are unable to afford the food required to provide their family a meal.

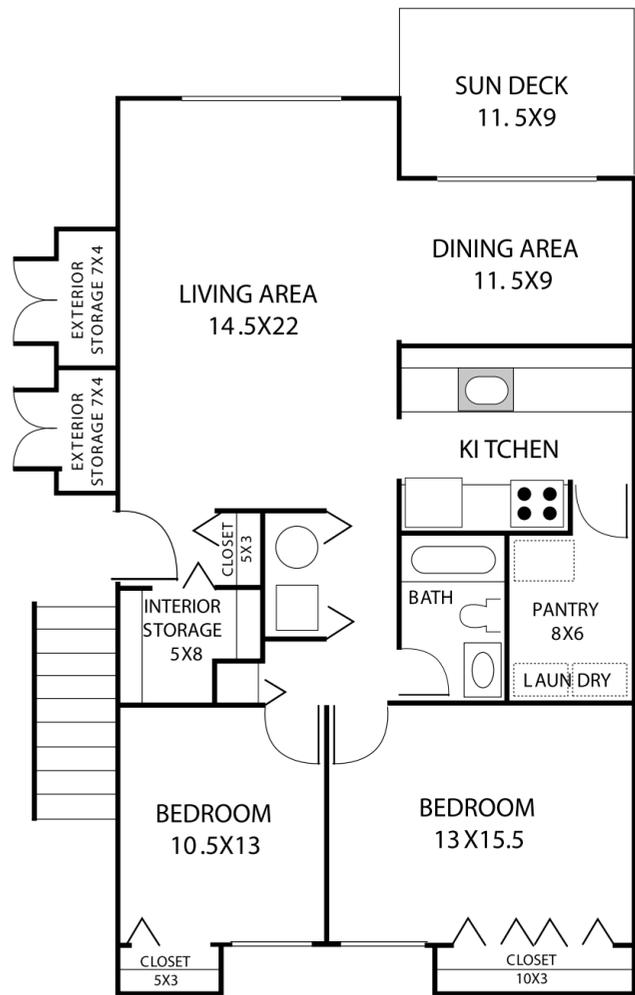
This year the USO sponsored a Food Drive to provide food for local families in need. USS Underwood's First Class Petty Officer Association supported this charity drive, and

had boxes located onboard Underwood to collect donations.

Yeoman 1st Class (SW) James Campbell asked Sailors to "take a minute tonight and throughout this week as you eat dinner to reflect on those who aren't as fortunate."

Donations came in the form of canned goods, boxed and/or packaged non-perishable items. The food donated by Underwood Sailors will help provide a better holiday for local families.

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With the recent \$8,000 first-time homebuyer tax credit extension and the \$6,500 credit for current homeowners, the time is now to find your dream home. Drees has a variety of homes ready now offering you the chance to still earn the tax credit by the April 30, 2010 deadline. And with prices starting from the \$120's, buying a new Drees home is more affordable than ever. Turn the key to your American dream. Visit a model today and learn more about the value of buying a quality home from Drees.

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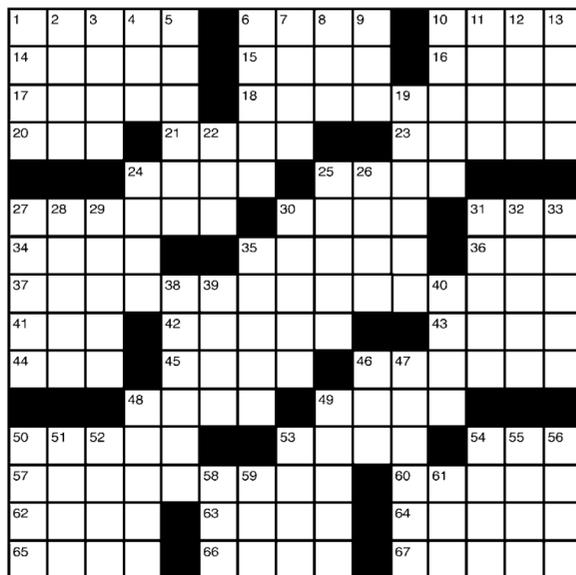
www.dreeshomes.com or visit us on your phone at mobile.dreeshomes.com
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THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

- 1 Perhaps
- 6 Lunch spot
- 10 Actor Garrett
- 14 Egg-shaped
- 15 Very eager
- 16 Solitary
- 17 "Aida" composer
- 18 Make a deal
- 20 Before
- 21 Couples
- 23 Beneath
- 24 Marquee light
- 25 Choose
- 27 Created anew
- 30 In a __; blue
- 31 Gobbled up
- 34 Plow animals
- 35 Social blunder
- 36 Become firm
- 37 Aboveboard
- 41 Slip up
- 42 Castle surroundings
- 43 Ascend
- 44 Pronounce
- 45 Undersized
- 46 One making progress
- 48 Casual farewell
- 49 Has to
- 50 Of the eye
- 53 "Why don't we!"
- 54 Hairy animal
- 57 Man's heavy outer garment
- 60 Prefix for violet or sound
- 62 One whose pants are on fire?
- 63 A single time
- 64 Muffles
- 65 Actress Samms
- 66 Do garden work
- 67 Cairo's nation



1/14/10

THIS WEEK'S ANSWERS

- 8 Mist in the air
- 9 Psyche part
- 10 In the __ of an eye; instantly
- 11 Highway
- 12 Feed the kitty
- 13 Graceful animal
- 19 __ out; become exhausted
- 22 Misfortune
- 24 Grandma
- 25 Cream __; filled pastries
- 26 Facts
- 27 Valentine's Day gift, perhaps
- 28 Special edition of a newspaper
- 29 " __ Christmas!"
- 30 Like cheap hamburger
- 31 Once more
- 32 Not wordy
- 33 Firstborn of two
- 35 African nation
- 38 Have a direct effect on
- 39 Form of arthritis
- 40 Court order
- 46 Stomach
- 47 Accept as true
- 48 Regal headwear
- 49 Doled out
- 50 Make eyes at
- 51 Overly proper
- 52 Reds or Rams
- 53 Bridal veil material
- 54 Lawyer; abbr.
- 55 Get ready, for short
- 56 Orient
- 58 Milk producer
- 59 Small bill
- 61 Schlep

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Calendar

Out in Town

Friday, Jan. 15

The Fleet Reserve Association Branch 290 is hosting a Country Buffet Dinner, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Branch Home at 390 Mayport Road, Atlantic Beach. A donation of \$8 is requested for each dinner. Carry out orders are accepted. The public is always invited to dinner. Starting at 9 p.m. the music of DOUG BRACEY will entertain until 1 a.m. Happy hour precedes the dinner from 4 to 6 p.m., all drinks are 50¢ off.

First Coast families are invited to Mary Lena Gibbs Community Center, 6974 Wilson Blvd., to enjoy a dance from 6-9:30 p.m. commemorating the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The celebration will offer free music, dancing, fellowship and fun. Parents are encouraged to attend with their children. Free refreshments will be available while they last. For more information on events and activities hosted by JaxParks, call (904) 630-CITY or visit www.jaxparks.com.

Saturday, Jan. 16

Come join the Fleet Reserve Association for a night of Karaoke at the Branch Home, 390 Mayport Rd. Featured will be host DOUG BRACEY, from 9:00 PM to 1:00 AM. The bar will be open for drinks and snacks.

The United Methodist Men of Christ United Methodist Church Neptune Beach are cooking up a spaghetti and meatball dinner from 5-7 p.m. Cost is \$6 for adult, \$4 for children under 12; 5 and under eat free. Take out available. 400 Penman Road, Neptune Beach. 249-5370.

Join a park ranger at 10 a.m. for a walk on the beach as they explain the importance of undeveloped beach habitat, including many interesting facts about sea creatures and common shells found in the area. The program will take place at pavilion one on Little Talbot Island. No reservations are necessary and the program is free with regular park admission.

Monday, Jan. 18

The Fleet Reserve Association, Branch 290, invites you to play Bingo at the Branch Home, 390 Mayport Road, Atlantic Beach. Games

start at 6 p.m. and are usually finished by 8 p.m. Snacks will be available for a small donation.

Tuesday, Jan. 19

The Duval County Extension Agency will hold a workshop "Plant Propagation Workshop -How to Grow for Less" from 2-4 p.m. at Webb Wesconnett Regional Library, 6887 103rd St. Perhaps you want to save a piece of your grandmother's favorite plant or start a butterfly garden. Then, this is the class for you. Come learn how to save money by propagating your own plants. There will be a hands-on activity on how to recycle newspaper into seed pots. Call Becky at 387-8850 to pre-register. Class is free, but space is limited.

Thursday, Jan. 21

City of Atlantic Beach Recreation & Special Events will host its January exhibit, "Always New" - Rama Malone, painter and poet at the Adele Grae Cultural Center, 716 Ocean Blvd., from 6 to 8 p.m. until January 28. Gallery is open weekdays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Closed for lunch 12-1 p.m.

Kiwanis Club of Jacksonville Beaches will meet at noon at Crab Cake Factory, 1396 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville Beach. Speaker will be Lucy Croft, Volunteer for Kiwanis International who will speak about volunteering for the organization. Cost for non-members is \$15. For more information, contact James Lee, Past-President: ☎904-382-9646 or go to www.beachskiwanis.com

Friday, Jan. 22

Come join the Fleet Reserve Association for a night of Karaoke at the Branch Home, 390 Mayport Rd. Featured will be host DOUG BRACEY, from 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

First Coast families are invited to Blue Cypress Park to enjoy JaxParks "Movies in the Park" from 6-9 p.m. This free evening of cinema promises to be fun for the entire family. Free refreshments will be available while they last. Featured Movie is The Game Plan (Rated PG). For more information on events and activities hosted by JaxParks, call (904) 630-CITY or visit www.jaxparks.com.

Saturday, Jan. 23

The Jacksonville

Genealogical Society will hold their monthly meeting at the Webb-Wesconnett Branch Library, 6887 103rd Street, at 1:30. Please note this is a date change from our normal meeting time. Our speaker will Mr. Dick Cardell, the society's historian and parliamentarian. His topic will be his latest genealogical trip to Europe. Mr. Cardell has always given our members and guests an informative and fun program. Please plan to attend. For additional information, please contact, Jim Laird, (904) 264-0743.

The Fleet Reserve Association Branch 290 is hosting a BBQ Pork dinner, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Branch Home at 390 Mayport Rd. A donation of \$8 is requested for each dinner. Carry out orders are accepted. The public is always invited to dinner. Starting at 9 p.m. the music of DOUG BRACEY will entertain until 1 a.m. Happy hour precedes the dinner from 4 to 6 p.m., all drinks are 50¢ off.

Join one of our knowledgeable park rangers at 10 a.m. for an informative talk on the natural history of sea islands and their important role in coastal ecology. The topics addressed will include beach erosion, island migration, island formation and the natural communities present on such barrier islands today. The program will take place at pavilion one on Little Talbot Island. No reservations are necessary and the program is free with regular park admission.

Monday, Jan. 25

The Fleet Reserve Association, Branch 290, invites you to play Bingo at the Branch Home, 390 Mayport Road, Atlantic Beach. Games start at 6 p.m. and are usually finished by 8 p.m. Snacks will be available for a small donation.

Saturday, Jan. 30

Join a park ranger at 10 a.m. to learn about the many common species that inhabit the natural communities of the undeveloped barrier islands of northeast Florida. The program will take place at pavilion one on Little Talbot Island. No reservations are necessary and the program is free with regular park admission.

Friday, Feb. 5

SPRING RUMMAGE SALE at Christ United Methodist Church Neptune Beach, 400 Penman Road, Neptune Beach. The United Methodist Women will be hosting their annual Spring Rummage Sale on from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Looking for shoes, linens, clothing, purses, luggage, toys etc? Join us and find your special treasure! For more information, please contact the church office at 904-249-5370

Saturday, Feb. 6

SPRING RUMMAGE SALE at Christ United Methodist Church Neptune Beach, 400 Penman Road, Neptune Beach. The United Methodist Women will be hosting their annual Spring Rummage Sale on from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Looking for shoes, linens, clothing, purses, luggage, toys etc? Join us and find your special treasure! For more information, please contact the church office at 904-249-5370

Friday, Feb. 12

The hottest new and exotic automobiles will steer towards North Florida when the Jacksonville International Car and Truck Show returns at the Prime Osborn Convention Center. The show highlights more than 150 vehicle brands from more than 20 manufacturers, with dealer and factory representatives on hand to help compare prices and features and to answer any questions.

Additionally, the show features the Kid's Stop Pit Stop-a video gaming arcade cen-

ter- and a motorcycle showcase. Show visitors can skip the lines and purchase tickets in advance by visiting www.jaxautoshow.com. Groups of 10 or more can save \$3 with online purchase. In recognition of our troops, this year active military are admitted free with proper ID. Show hours are Friday from noon-9 p.m.; Saturday from 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; and Sunday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Admission is \$8 for adults; \$6 for seniors; \$4 for children ages 6-12; and free for children under 6. Discount coupons for \$2 off admission are available at area Gate gasoline stations. The Jacksonville International Car and Truck Show is presented by The Florida Times-Union and sponsored by the Jacksonville Automobile Dealers Association. For more information, please call toll free 800-261-6498 or visit www.jaxautoshow.com.

Saturday, Feb. 13

Join a Park Ranger at 10 a.m. for a leisurely paced hike to discover the island's natural communities. Participants are encouraged to bring bug spray and bottled water. The program will take place at pavilion one on Little Talbot Island. No reservations are necessary and programs are free with regular park admission. For additional information on any of these programs, contact the Talbot Islands Ranger Station at (904) 251-2320. For more information about Florida State Parks, visit www.FloridaStateParks.org.

org.

Saturday, Feb. 20

Join a Park Ranger at 10 a.m. for a presentation and leisurely guided hike through different Florida ecosystems on a quest to characterize tracks left by an assortment of critters. This program will take place at the Ribault Club on Fort George Island Cultural State Park. No reservations are necessary and programs are free with regular park admission. For additional information on any of these programs, contact the Talbot Islands Ranger Station at (904) 251-2320. For more information about Florida State Parks, visit www.FloridaStateParks.org.

Saturday, Feb. 27

Join a park ranger at 10 a.m. to learn about the many common species that inhabit the natural communities of the undeveloped barrier islands of northeast Florida. The program will take place at pavilion one on Little Talbot Island.

No reservations are necessary and programs are free with regular park admission. For additional information on any of these programs, contact the Talbot Islands Ranger Station at (904) 251-2320. For more information about Florida State Parks, visit www.FloridaStateParks.org.

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THE MIRROR

JaxAir News

Periscope

Published by
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Reaching Out

The following are just a sample of volunteer opportunities available through NS Mayport and Volunteer Jacksonville. For more information, call NS Mayport volunteer coordinator CS1 Terry Jackson at 270-5373 and AC1 Chandra Chaney at 270-6130 or Dianne Parker at 542-5380 or you can immediately sign-up online for opportunities using www.volunteer.gatewayjacksonville.org.

Keep Jacksonville Beautiful

Keep Jacksonville Beautiful invites residents to participate in a volunteer project to plant flowers and collect litter at Jacksonville senior centers on Jan. 16 from 9-11 a.m. at various senior centers throughout the city. Site captains will be on hand to register volunteers, provide trash bags and gloves. In addition, students can earn community service hours by volunteering. Certificates will be provided at project site and pre-registration is not required. Volunteers 18 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. To learn more, call Clean It Up, Green It Up at (904) 630-3420 or visit www.coj.net, key word search KJB. Centers are: Hammond Senior Center: 3312 W. 12th St., 32205 (cleanup); Moncrief Senior Center: 5713 Teeler Ave., 32208 (cleanup); Bennie Furlong Senior Center: 281 S.19th Ave., 32250 (planting/cleanup); Oceanway Senior Center: 12215 Sago Road, 32218 (planting/cleanup); Leroy D. Clemens Senior Center: 55 N. Jackson St., 32220 (planting/cleanup).

First Coast "No More Homeless Pets"

First Coast No More Homeless Pets brand new high capacity Spay /Neuter Clinic opens this month. The new facility will be able to help thousands of pets and owners as well as stray and feral cats -each year, with free or low cost spay/neuter and low cost vaccinations. We still need lots of volunteers for the clinic at the new location on Norwood Avenue. No medical experience needed. For more information, email Debbie Fields at dlfields@bellsouth.net

Mayport Lions Club Volunteers

The Mayport Lions Club is looking for Volunteers to help with various projects. If you are interested (military & civilian), please contact either Bob Krepps, Senior Chief Petty Officer, USN(Ret) 509-4945 or Chuck Carroll, Commander, USN(Ret) 463-2884.

Jacksonville International Airport Volunteer Ambassador Program

We are looking for volunteer to assist travelers with locating arrival and departure gates, telephones, baggage claim and ticketing areas. The Ambassadors provide vital customer assistance and a lot of smiles to ensure a pleasant and memorable experience while traveling through our airport. Benefits of being in the Ambassador program include gratitude of the passengers served each day, invitations, to volunteer appreciation events, free parking at the airport, meal voucher

for every four-hour period worked, service recognition and the opportunity to meet people from all over the world. Contact Yvonne Pooler at 904-741-2006 or email yvooler@jaa.aero.

Jacksonville Zoo

The Jacksonville Zoo is asking for volunteers. Volunteers are needed to educate varied audiences about the natural world, teach conservation messages, beautify the grounds, assist guests in various areas of the park, input data, lend a hand in animal care areas, answer questions, drive trains and enhance guests' experiences. You provide the interest and enthusiasm, and the zoo will provide the training. Scheduling is flexible. Volunteers receive special discounts, free admission, newsletters and special programs only available to employees and volunteers. Take this opportunity to meet others who share your interests in the animal kingdom. New Adult Volunteer Orientations are held at the PepsiCo Foundation Education Campus. All interested personnel please CS1 Hopkins or call 270-5373 for more information.

Children's Home Society of Florida

Children's Home Society of Florida is getting ready to permanently place seven or eight children in loving homes within the next couple weeks. Seeking children's furniture. Contact Nick Geinosky at 904-493-7738.

Homeless Pet Shelter

Jacksonville Homeless Pet Shelter seeks volunteers. The new Homeless Pet Shelter is seeking help at a Temporary Clinic on surgery days. Days and hours vary. Contact dlfields@bellsouth.net.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentoring

Big Brothers Big Sisters is providing an in-school mentoring program at Mayport Elementary School. Little Brothers and Sisters are needed just as much as Big Brothers and Sisters! If you are interested in this opportunity, please visit our website for more information: www.usojax.com

Navy-Marine Corp Relief Society Needs You

The Navy Marine Corp Relief Society is in need of Volunteers to give a couple of hours of their time each week to help others in need. The mission of the Navy-Marine Corp Relief Society is to provide emergency financial help and educational assistance to members of the Naval Services - active, retired, and family members - when in need: to assist them achieve financial self-sufficiency and to find solutions to emergent requirements. Navy-Marine Corp Relief Society firmly believes in personal financial responsibility. By helping the service member and family through difficult times and by assisting them to develop their own problem s If you are interested in volunteering and would like more information, contact Bill Kennedy at 270-5418

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Besides protecting our country, military personnel stationed in our communities donated 650,620 hours of volunteer service in Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia last year. Their time was given to community organizations, church groups, youth activities, scouting and more.

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