

# West Point cadet sees smooth sailing Heritage House set for open house

**NORCO:** Geoffrey Hewitt, of Corona, interned at a local Navy base studying explosive devices.

SPECIAL TO THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

Probably unlike any other West Point summer internship, Cadet Geoffrey Hewitt, of Corona, spent his summer at a Navy base.

With the Army-Navy football game looming Dec. 11, that pairing might seem unlikely. But the friendly service rivalry was put aside during the summer to fight a common enemy in the war on terror — the threat of improvised explosive devices.

Hewitt, 22, who will graduate this month, interned for three weeks at the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Corona Division, in Norco, where he worked with experts on pattern analysis and used mathematics to predict when enemy forces are most likely to attack Army combat units with IEDs.

His mom, Laura Hewitt, heads NSWC Corona's Force Training Analysis and Assessment Division and suggested her son work at the base where his late father, Clifford Hewitt, and she met years ago as young engineers. Hewitt intends to become the third generation of engineers in the Hewitt family, but the cadet plans for his career to be in Army engineering.

"He was the ultimate intern," said Taylor Cole, who mentored the cadet in the pattern analysis section at the base. Cole said Hewitt added a new dimension — a military mind-set — that other interns from area uni-



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West Point Cadet Geoffrey Hewitt, sitting next to his mother, Laura Hewitt, interned at the Naval Surface Warfare Center over the summer. He graduated from Corona Santiago High.

versities lacked in previous internships. "He's got the mind-set to do what we do here. Geoff has all the tools," Cole said. A command performance even if he's still in college.

Top guns run in the Hewitt family. Cadet Hewitt won the academy's Top Gun Award for mathematics in his sophomore year. And early in her career, his mom provided battle group assessment to the Top Gun naval training range at Miramar, the top naval aviator training school portrayed in the Hollywood blockbuster, "Top Gun, starring Tom 'Maverick' Cruise.

Cadet Hewitt's internship took him to a different training destination, however, Fort Polk, La., where the NSWC team conducted analysis work for Army brigades preparing for combat tours in Afghanistan.

"You have to see Geoff,"

the proud mother said of her burly son. She said her son, at 6-foot-1 and 245 pounds, cut an imposing figure on the base where mostly government scientists, engineers and mathematicians work in and around three premier laboratories and assessment centers.

The vaunted defensive lineman, who chose West Point from among many other universities offering academic and athletic scholarships, played his junior year, but his football career was later sidelined by a back injury. The cadet is the "runt" of the Hewitt sons, with two older brothers, standing at 6-foot-5.

Now back in the swing of a hectic class schedule, Hewitt said the internship was rewarding. "I really enjoyed my experience working at NSWC Corona over the summer. I learned a lot, and it

was great getting a firsthand account on what our civilian counterparts are doing to help in our efforts against the war on terror."

The cadet took the analytical workload in stride, too. "West Point is far more intense," he said of the endless homework and long days with little sleep. "When you play football (at the academy), you're constantly catching up."

He said he's looking forward to the fall season and summed up his feelings this way, "Go Army football!"

West Point's 4,000 cadets are nominated by members of Congress or by the Department of Army, and must serve a minimum of five years on active duty upon graduation. Hewitt, an star athlete at Corona's Santiago High School, was nominated by U.S. Rep. Ken Calvert, R-Corona.

The Heritage House of Riverside Metropolitan Museum will hold its annual holiday open house on Dec. 12, from noon to 4 p.m. at the Victorian mansion at 8193 Magnolia Ave. in Riverside.



MARYLIN JACOBSEN

This was Catherine Bettner's home, in the days when citrus was being planted to make Riverside a center for citrus growing in California.

The house will be decorated in festive Victorian Christmas style by Heritage House docents and volunteers. This year's open house committee is headed by Nancy Morgan and Beth Kleiner. Every room, from parlor to dining room, will be decorated, and docents will be in period costume welcoming guests.

Many musical groups will perform throughout the day, arranged by committee member Charlotte Kaukani. Traditional refreshments of spiced cider and Christmas cookies made by the docents will be served. Virginia Dugan has secured participation of "Father Christmas," who will distribute special Christmas ornaments to "good little boys and girls."

New this year will be a

Heritage House Heirloom Gardener's Tale. Cynthia Covert, chair of the landscape committee, and her volunteer gardeners will display a living succulent wreath created at their Fall Harvest Festival. Committee member Sherry Collins and other experienced gardeners will talk about the heirloom gardener program at Heritage House and will provide a hands-on demonstration for interested guests on how to make their own succulent wreaths.

During the afternoon there will be opportunity drawings for items including the succulent wreath, a lovely Victorian hat and a Christmas basket. The Heritage House gift shop will also be open.

The Heritage House Christmas Open House is free and no reservations are required.

## Residents sought for boards, panel

**SEATS:** Riverside has several positions available on committees and commissions.

BY ALICIA ROBINSON  
THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

The city of Riverside has extended the deadline to Dec. 15 to apply for seats on the charter review committee and several city boards and commissions.

The charter, which is like the city's constitution, must be reviewed every eight years, and any proposed changes would go before voters for approval. A nine-member review committee will be chosen by the mayor and City Council and likely begin meeting in January.

The city also wants to fill other vacancies:

- **From Ward 1:** On the Community Police Review Commission and human resources board.

- **From Ward 2:** On the parks and recreation commission, the parking commission and the public utilities board.

- **Citywide:** On the human relations commission, airport commission, cultural heritage board, the may-

or's commission on aging and downtown parking commission.

Charter review is expect-

ed to take about a year; regular board and commission terms are four years. Information is available at

www.riversideca.gov or by calling the city clerk's office at 951-826-5557.

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EXCLUSIVE ENGAGEMENT

THE TOY TRAIN IS COMING TO NORTH MAIN CORONA

This year the Toy Train will have one exclusive Riverside County engagement at North Main Corona Metrolink Station

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11

4:30 pm to 5:45 pm  
North Main Corona Metrolink Station  
250 E. Blaine Street, Corona, CA 92879

Enjoy a family tradition  
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LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT

This year, reach out from your family to a family that is less fortunate, bring a new unwrapped toy for the Spark of Love Toy Drive.

www.metrolinktrains.com

## Classics & Carols

Dvořák Mass in D

Sunday, December 5, 2010  
4:00 pm  
First Congregational Church  
3504 Mission Inn Avenue  
Riverside, CA 92501

Karen Garrett  
Director

Judy Johansen  
Accompanist

Riverside Master Chorale.com  
P.O. Box 2263  
Riverside, California 92516  
Affiliated with Riverside City College

Ticket Information

Concert tickets:  
\$15 General Admission  
\$12 Students/Seniors

Seating is general seating for all concerts.

Tickets will be available at the door and may be purchased via PayPal through the Chorale's website: www.RiversideMasterChorale.com or by calling Cathie Mason at 951.784.3604. Tickets are non-refundable.

TICKET ORDER FORM

CLASSICS & CAROLS

MAIL THE ORDER FORM AND CHECK PAYABLE TO:  
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P.O. Box 2263  
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GENERAL @ \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENTS/SENIORS @ \$12 \_\_\_\_\_

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