

NEWS BYTES

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Mississippi school district OKs \$5K incentive for recruiting

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78,000 pounds of infant formula arrives in US

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Mississippi Red Snapper season opens Memorial Day weekend

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'Top Gun' and Tom Cruise return to the danger zone

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Delegations from Sweden, Finland hold NATO talks in Turkey

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Public Works makes runway repairs

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Hangar named in honor of Mississippi native, Korean War veteran



Top: Installation personnel and guests take their places for the Ensign Jesse L. Brown Hangar Dedication Ceremony in the hangar onboard NAS Meridian, May 13. Above right: Members of Ensign Brown's family gather for a group photo after the ceremony; over 30 members of the Brown family -- from all over the country -- attended the ceremony. Above left: CAPT Brent Moore, right, commanding officer of NAS Meridian, presents a plaque commemorating the event to Pamela Brown Knight, Ensign Brown's daughter. Left: CAPT Donnie Cochran (Ret.), guest speaker and first African-American commanding officer of the Blue Angels, delivers remarks during the ceremony Bottom Left: Knight and Kris Gianokos, one of the mural artists, pose in front of the mural inside the hangar.

Photos by MC1 Krystina Coffey



Mural showcases aviation history

From Staff Reports

The hangar onboard Naval Air Station Meridian was dedicated in honor of Ensign Jesse L. Brown during a ceremony May 13. Brown was the first African-American naval aviator, and also the first African-American naval officer to lose his life in combat in the Korean War on Dec. 4, 1950. The guest speaker was retired Capt. Donnie Cochran, the first African-American commanding officer of the

Blue Angels in 1994. He was a command pilot with ratings and experience in nine types of aircraft and more than 6,000 hours of flight time. "Brown was both a source of inspiration and a trailblazer for all Navy pilots," Cochran said. "Ensign Brown's story is a true American story. And more importantly for the United States Navy, it is one of those proud moments in naval history." **● Hangar, page 4**

Fourteen aviators earn 'Wings of Gold' in May pinning ceremony

There was a naval aviator designation ceremony May 20 onboard Naval Air Station Meridian.

Fourteen aviators received their "Wings of Gold" during the ceremony. The naval aviator designation ceremony is not prescribed specifically by U.S. Navy regulations, but has emerged as an honored product of the rich heritage of naval tradition. It marks the culmination of nearly two years of specialized training, which has prepared these officers for the rigorous demands of aerial combat and carrier operations -- earning each the title of "Naval Aviator" and the right to wear the coveted "Wings of Gold."



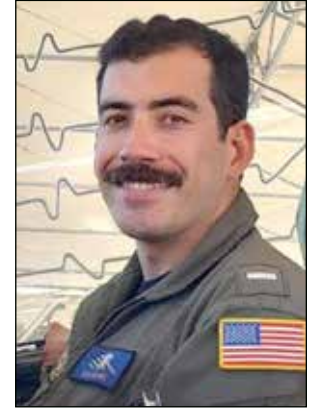
LTJG Alexander Ballou



LTJG John Brooks



LTJG Seth Brooks



LTJG Alexander Clark



LTJG Will Coward



LTJG Daniel Fisk



LTJG Jacob Kay



LTJG Connor Koehler



LTJG Reed McDonough



1STLT Daniel Park



1STLT John Pettas



LTJG John Roakes



LTJG Forrest Taylor



1STLT Thomas Williams

Golden Stick



Photo by Adam Prince

CDR Greg Enzinger, commanding officer of VT-7, presents 1STLT Thomas Williams with the Golden Stick award during a ceremony in the chapel onboard NAS Meridian, May 20.

Arcan Frocking



Photo by Adam Prince

Senior Chief Air Traffic Controller Kathleen Arcan, center, is joined by her fellow chief petty officers during a frocking ceremony at Air Operations onboard NAS Meridian, May 20. She was frocked to Senior Chief Petty Officer during the ceremony. Arcan -- who also reenlisted for four more years during the ceremony -- celebrated the 20th anniversary of her first day in the Navy.

The Skyline ~ Naval Air Station Meridian, Miss.

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Chaplain: 601-604-2015
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Local Happenings

MAY

26: Glenn Miller Orchestra at 7:30 p.m. at MSU Riley Center.

The sweet sound and lush melodies of the Glenn Miller Orchestra continue to captivate audiences 78 years after Miller himself disappeared while flying over the English Channel during World War II. Tickets range \$45-100; call 601-696-2200.

30: Memorial Day Ceremony from 10-11 a.m. at Lauderdale County Courthouse. The annual Memorial Day Ceremony gives the community the opportunity to pause and reflect on the sacrifices made by our local men who have given their lives in the defense of our nation. Guest speaker for the occasion will be Kerry Gilmer, Master Sergeant, U.S. Army (Retired). Call 601-604-0097.

JUNE

3: State Games of Mississippi Opening Ceremonies from 7-8:30 p.m. at City Hall. Join the Parade of Athletes, marching with others from your hometown! March with your team and show your team pride. Call 601-482-0205. Free to the public.

6-10: CenterStage Summer Workshop from 9 a.m.-noon each day at Meridian Little Theatre. MLT is excited to bring back the CenterStage Summer Workshop for children and youth ages 6-12! This workshop develops students' dramatic abilities and they will experience all aspects of live theatre - Drama, Music, Movement, Design. \$100 Registration Fee; call 601-485-6371 or email meridianlittletheatre.02@gmail.com.

16: Third Thursday in Downtown from 5-8 p.m. at Dumont Plaza. Live music, food trucks, beverages and art exhibitors. Call 601-693-2787; free to the public.

Awards Quarters



Photo by Adam Prince

Sailors and civilians pose for a group photo during an awards ceremony in the Air Operations building onboard NAS Meridian, May 19.

NATO Begins Vigilance Activity Neptune Shield 22

NATO is conducting vigilance activity NEPTUNE SHIELD 2022 (NESH22), which integrates high-end maritime expeditionary strike capabilities of Sea, Air and Land assets. The activities will take place in the Baltic, Adriatic and Mediterranean Seas, from 17-31 May.

In support of Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum and Allied Joint Force Command Naples, NESH 22 is the execution phase of a long series of activities known as Project Neptune, conceptualized in 2020.

As a day-to-day activity, NESH 22 will involve the participation of multiple nations. The already planned participating nations are: Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania,

Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, the U.K. and the U.S.

The activity focuses on overcoming the complexities of integrating command and control of a carrier strike group, an amphibious ready group and a Marine expeditionary unit to NATO.

During NESH 22, we will conduct the handover of command and control of the USS Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group (CSG) and the Combined Task Force 61/2, which includes the USS Kearsarge Amphibious Ready Group (ARG), and the 22d Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) from SIXTHFLT to STRIKFORNATO and the wider Alliance.

-- From STRIKFORNATO Public Affairs

[Read more, click here](#)

Exercise Phoenix Express 2022 set to begin in Tunisia

Exercise Phoenix Express 2022, the 17th iteration of the North African maritime exercise, takes place May 23 - June 3, 2022, in Tunis, Tunisia, and throughout the Mediterranean Sea.

The exercise focuses on regional cooperation, maritime domain awareness, information-sharing practices, and operational capabilities, enhancing efforts to promote safety and security in the Mediterranean Sea and territorial waters of participating North African nations. Thirteen nations will participate in the exercise.

"Tunisia regularly demonstrates their commitment and willingness to partner with the U.S. in our shared vision of peace and maritime stability in North Africa and the surrounding Mediterranean waters," said Adm. Robert Burke, commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa and Allied Joint Forces Com-

mand Naples. "In the past six months, aircraft from the Harry S. Truman carrier strike group flew with Tunisian aircraft to conduct strike training on their ranges, and U.S. Navy ships sailed together in bilateral exercises with the Tunisian Navy. Exercise Phoenix Express is yet another opportunity to continue building our partnership and readiness with Tunisia by training together."

The exercise will be hosted at the La Goulette Naval Base in Tunis, and will include a preparatory in-port phase as well as five days of maritime security training in the Mediterranean Sea. The at-sea portion of the exercise will test North African, European, and U.S. maritime forces' abilities to respond to irregular migration and to combat illicit trafficking and the movement of illegal goods and materials.

-- From U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa Public Affairs

[Read more, click here](#)

Together for mental health: May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Health is wealth, especially when dealing with mental well-being. Growing up, kids are taught if they are hurt physically in any area, to seek help. The same should go for anyone's mental health.

Lt. Nicholas Grant, the embedded clinical psychologist for Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, expressed his thoughts on mental health.

"Mental and physical health are interconnected. Mental health is a core component of overall health, and a holistic perspective is important in order to understand the relationship between these variables and allows individuals to deal with their cognitive, be-

havioral, and emotional well-being head on," said Grant.

When left untreated, mental health can have a negative toll on an individual's success, happiness, and safety. Therefore, the negative stigma around mental health must be fought by understanding, providing support, and educating members and families on the importance of asking for help.

Despite how it may seem, Mental Health Awareness Month is a celebration of mental health. The purpose is to raise awareness of struggles people are dealing with and to commemorate their recovery and progress.

-- From Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

[Read more, click here](#)

Sale... Or

BOATS/CAMPERS/TRAILERS

2018 Mallard M185 Travel Trailer. Sleeps 4 with 1 queen bed/2 bunks. Easy to tow at 3,575 lbs; only selling because military member is moving overseas. Great living quarters with lake view. Hooked up and ready to live in, including cables, hoses, plus the \$500 towing kit. Asking \$17,000. Call 360-434-3035.

AUTOMOBILES, ETC.

2018 Subaru Outback 2.5 limited, 12k miles; Subaru safety features and warranties included. Asking \$29k. Call 601-480-5100.

2017 Dodge Challenger, grey with racing stripe. \$24k. Call 601-880-3237.

HOMES/APARTMENTS

New! For Rent: 1BD/1BA furnished apartment; 12 minutes from the base. Perfect for single Sailors. \$500 per month. Call 601-480-1601.

For Rent: 3BD/2BA home with 1 car garage, all new appliances and flooring. 13 miles from NAS. Rent \$1200, security deposit will be half of 1st month

rent. Move in ready June 1st. Call 757-589-2174.

For Rent: Lake Cabin near NAS Meridian. 1 BD/1 BA; \$700 month. Unfurnished. More info and photos can be viewed at: <https://www.facebook.com/marketplace/item/851262408853834/>

For Rent: 2BD/1.5BA single family home in Dalewood - fully renovated. Pets allowed. Pet deposit \$300. \$1,300 rent

per month. Call 973-876-5006.

For Rent: 2BA/1BA on the water at Dalewood \$600 per month. Call 601-683-6038.

For Sale By Owner: 3BD/3BA brick home with sunroom, large fenced in yard. Convenient to shopping and base. \$139K. Call 601-513-3395 or 601-227-1870.

MISCELLANEOUS

New! Service for Hire: Dixie Perfect Lawn LLC, lawn care in Meridian. Call 850-376-4499. Military owned company.

To submit an item to the "Sale...Or" column, e-mail adam.prince@navy.mil. Deadline is the Thursday prior to publication.

Listings in the "Sale...Or" column are free for anyone who works at NAS Meridian. To include your announcement, email adam.prince@navy.mil

Water Line Repair



Photo by Matt Copeland

BZ to Benjamin Carpenter, Tyler Hagwood, Chris Robinson and Tom Herrington for a job well done while replacing a water line on Fletcher Road. The existing water line was ductile iron and was embedded in lignite soil, which causes corrosion to ductile iron. This water line has failed in the past and is being replaced with C-900 plastic pipe that will not corrode.

Runway Concrete Repair



Photo by Scott Knuth

BZ to Eric Jefferies and Derondrick Harris for a job well done while repairing a concrete spall on taxiway echo. The concrete had cracked and was coming apart causing FOD issues.

● Hangar

Captain Cochran retired from the Navy in November 2000 and continued his extraordinary contributions to aviation in the civilian aviation industry.

He was a flight-training supervisor for United Parcel Services (UPS) and a manager of Aviation Programs for the Coca-Cola Company for 10 years. Now, Capt. Cochran is a recognized expert and motivational teacher in both the military and business sectors, who inspires high performance in individuals and organizations to achieve heightened and sustained performance in both their personal and professional lives. Cochran is a 2022 inductee to the Georgia Aviation Hall of Fame.

Brown was born in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, on Oct. 13, 1926. He graduated from Eureka High School and attended Ohio State University where he joined the Naval Reserves at the age of 19. He received his Wings of Gold on Oct. 21, 1948.

Brown married Daisy Nix Brown and they had one daughter, Pam Brown Knight, who was only 23 months old when her father was killed in action in Korea. Pam Knight has two children, Jamal Knight and Jessica Knight Henry.

“My family and I are so proud to carry on the legacy of Jesse Brown, and with the help of folks like you, we are able to continue this and continue to inspire generations for years to come,” Pamela Knight said.

In October of 1950, Brown was assigned to the fleet carrier Leyte (CV-32), which joined Fast Carrier Task Force 77, on its way to assist United Nations forces in Korea. On Dec. 4, 1950, Brown was shot down on a mission in North Korea.

Brown’s life is the subject of a book “Devotion” by Adam Makos. The U.S. Navy named a ship in his honor, USS Jesse L. Brown (DE 1098), in 1973. It was decommissioned in 1994. Brown’s medals include the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal, and the Purple Heart.

DOD: It’s not just state hactors who pose cyber threat to U.S.

By. C. Todd Lopez

DoD News, Defense Media Activity

It’s not just hackers operating at the behest of adversarial nation states who pose a threat to U.S. cyber infrastructure — it’s cyber criminals who are just in it for the money, the deputy assistant secretary of defense for cyber policy said.

Many in the Defense Department have long viewed the cyber threat in terms of nation-on-nation said Mieke Eoyang, who spoke Friday at TruCon2022, the Truman Center for National Policy’s annual conference.

“I think that’s because we thought that those are the most technical, the most sophisticated and the ones that would have the greatest impact,” she said. “But I think we’ve seen over time with the development of the non-state actor — the criminal cyber market — is that capabilities that were once reserved for state actors are available on the dark web for purchase.”

The criminal hacker, Eoyang said, is also able to act in a disruptive manner and greatly impact the American way of life — such as with last summer’s attack on Colonial Pipeline.

Differentiating between the criminal hacker and the nation state hacker complicates the defense of the nation, Eoyang said. Further complicating the issue is that some nations,

while they may not have ever directly perpetrated a cyber attack on the U.S., do make themselves hospitable to criminal hackers who are interested in benefiting from such attacks.

“How do you then make decisions about how to impose costs if you’re not confident that it is in fact a state actor, a criminal ... [or] a state actor pretending to be a criminal,” Eoyang asked. “This is really a very complicated environment.”

The Defense Department is frequently unwilling to talk about its security capabilities when it comes to cyber, but Eoyang did let out a glimpse of the U.S. capabilities when it comes to cyber criminals.

“We have publicly acknowledged that there are categories of criminal actors who have capabilities that are sophisticated enough that we consider them targets that we might choose to disrupt,” she said. “I’m not going to talk about who; they probably know who they are. We’re coming for them.”

It’s not the DOD alone that defends the nation’s cyber network. Eoyang said DOD works closely with law enforcement to keep the U.S. safe.

“We have very strong partnerships with law enforcement, because at the end of the day, many of these people are motivated by money,” Eoyang said. “They’re in it for the ransom. They’re not necessarily in it for harming [the United States.]”

[Read more, click here](#)

Remember the hot dogs, but never forget the heroes

“Why did I come into this room again?” I often mutter to myself, while pattering around my house. At the commissary, I spend the first few minutes mumbling, “Now, what was it that I needed?” Without fail, an hour after entering a Target store, I find myself in the checkout line, inquiring, “Wait, what was that thing I came here to buy before I threw all this other stuff into my cart?”

I’ve been known to search for sunglasses that were perched conspicuously on my head. I’ve forgotten to take my kids to orthodontist appointments, piano lessons, and sports practices. I’ve assembled an entire lasagna, only to realize I forgot the mozzarella. I’ve bumped into people I’ve known for months, and drawn a total blank when trying to recall their names.

COLUMN



Molinari

I’ve run a finger over my armpit while getting dressed, wondering, “Did I forget to put deodorant on?”

It hasn’t always been this way. In my twenties, my mind was a steel trap. As I observed the world, all data was efficiently processed and stored for rapid recall. When someone asked if I needed to write down a number, list or appointment, I would say with all sincerity, “Nah. I’ve got it all up here,” tapping a finger to my temple with confidence.

But somehow, after 28 years of marriage and military life, my brain cells are shot. Maybe it’s hormones. Maybe my reckless college years finally caught up with me. Maybe I’ve ingested too many artificial sweeteners. Maybe raising three kids causes premature dementia.

I’m not quite sure what it is - or maybe I’ve simply forgotten - but I have enough smarts left to know that I must compensate for my intellectual decline.

Nowadays, my home office looks like a Punjabi taxicab, covered in grocery lists, appointment cards, bills, schedules, recipes, and a calendar the size of Texas, all highlighted in fluorescent marker and affixed with a garish display of souvenir magnets. It isn’t sleek or

stylish, but it helps me remember things. And besides, who needs trendy decor when you live in a house that hasn’t been updated since the Carter administration?

Thanks to my gigantic calendar and kitsch magnets, one of which doubles as a nifty bottle opener, I’m reminded that there is an important national holiday coming up.

Although we never seem to forget the hot dogs, pickle relish and cold beer for our Memorial Day cookouts, we tend to forget the underlying reason we get the day off to begin with. On May 5, 1868, Major General John Logan declared that flowers should decorate the graves of fallen Union and Confederate soldiers of the Civil War at Arlington Cemetery, stating, “Let no neglect, no ravages of time, testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten as a people the cost of a free and undivided republic.”

By the end of World War I, “Memorial Day” was being recognized across the country as a holiday to honor those soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines who gave their lives fighting for our country’s freedom in all American wars.

Although over 1.3 million Americans have died in battle or while serving in theater in all

conflicts since the American Revolution, about 150,000 men and women voluntarily raise their right hands to enlist in the U.S. military every year. They take an Oath, promising to defend the U.S. Constitution “against all enemies, foreign and domestic.” Whatever the reason they decided to enter the military — most join to serve their country, to get the GI Bill, to see the world, or to learn job skills — when they take this solemn vow, they know that they could face danger, injury, or even death. Monday is the day that we show respect for those who paid that ultimate price.

This Monday, May 30th, I’ll make a list to remember hamburger buns, Cool Whip, plastic forks and charcoal briquettes. But if the heroes who fought for our freedom slip my scattered mind, I’ll only need to glance up from my lawn chair at the American flag flying from our porch and remember —

Of course, it’s Memorial Day ... how could I ever forget?

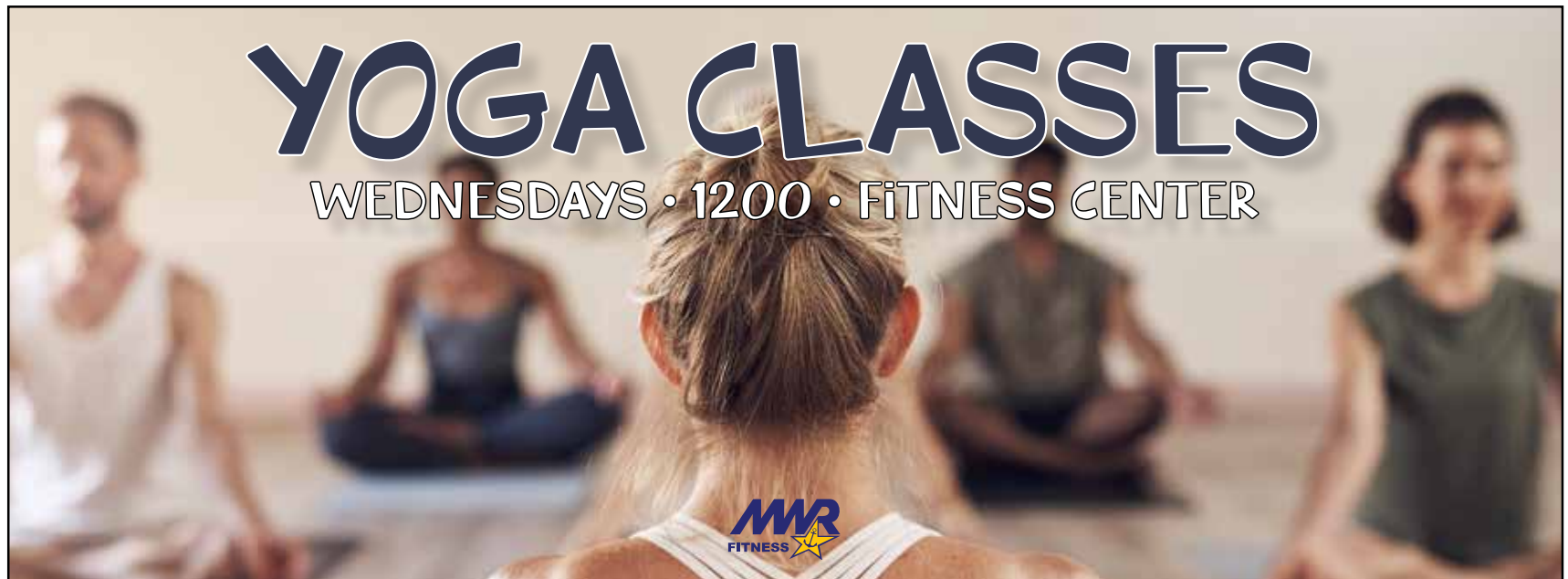
Lisa Smith Molinari’s self syndicated columns appear on her blog, www.themeatandpotatoesoflife.com and she recently co-authored *Stories Around the Table: Laughter, Wisdom, and Strength in Military Life* Follow Lisa@MolinariWrites.com



NAS Meridian, MS • Morale, Welfare and Recreation

Facility Phone Numbers

Fitness Center	679-2379	Library	679-2326	MWR Admin.	679-2551
Liberty Center	679-3760	Rudders Pub & Grill	679-2780	MWR Jobs Line	679-2467
Tickets	679-3773	CDC/CDH	679-2652		
McCain Rec Center	679-2651	SAC	679-5252		
Equipment Rental	679-2609	School Liaison	679-2473		



SWIM LESSONS

SESSION 1: JUNE 6-30 SESSION 2: JULY 5-AUGUST 1

Course:	Age:	Days:	Time:
Parent/Child	Ages 6mo-3yrs	Monday/Wednesday	1115-1145
Preschool Level 1	Ages 4-5	Monday/Wednesday	1200-1230
Preschool Levels 2-3	Ages 4-5	Monday/Wednesday	1245-1315
Learn to Swim Levels 1-2	Ages 6-12	Monday/Wednesday	1330-1400
Learn to Swim Levels 3-4	Ages 6-12	Monday/Wednesday	1500-1530
Learn to Swim Levels 5-6	Ages 6-12	Monday/Wednesday	1545-1615
Learn to Swim Levels 1-2	Ages 6-12	Monday/Wednesday	1715-1745
Adults (Free to Active Duty)	Ages 13+	Monday/Wednesday	1800-1830

Course:	Age:	Days:	Time:
Parent/Child	Ages 6mo-3yrs	Tuesday/Thursday	1115-1145
Learn to Swim Levels 1-2	Ages 6-12	Tuesday/Thursday	1200-1230
Learn to Swim Levels 3-4	Ages 6-12	Tuesday/Thursday	1245-1315
Preschool Level 1	Ages 4-5	Tuesday/Thursday	1330-1400
Learn to Swim Levels 3-4	Ages 6-12	Tuesday/Thursday	1500-1530
Preschool Levels 2-3	Ages 4-5	Tuesday/Thursday	1545-1615
Adults (Free to Active Duty)	Ages 13+	Tuesday/Thursday	1715-1745
Learn to Swim Levels 5-6	Ages 6-12	Tuesday/Thursday	1800-1830

REGISTRATION CAN BE COMPLETED AT THE MCCAIN RECREATION CENTER FOR \$50/SESSION (8 LESSONS), AND \$25/SESSION FOR EACH ADDITIONAL CHILD. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL (601) 679-3384.

LESSONS WILL BE LIMITED TO 10 PARTICIPANTS/LESSON A PARENT OR GUARDIAN MUST BE IN THE WATER IF THEIR CHILD IS UNABLE TO STAND UP IN THE POOL OR MANAGE INDEPENDENTLY. MAKEUP LESSONS WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAYS (SESSION 1: JUNE 10, JUNE 17, JUNE 24 & JULY 1 / SESSION 2: JULY 8, JULY 15, JULY 22, JULY 29). MAKEUP LESSONS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR NO CALLS/NO SHOWS.

