

THE SKYLINE



Volume 62, Number 24

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December 12, 2024

On Base

Story Time

Every Wed. at 10 a.m.

Located at the Andrew Triplett Library

Liberty Pool Tournament

Dec. 19 at 6 p.m.

Located at the Liberty Center

Only open to single and unaccompanied active duty military personnel

Cosmic Bowling

Every Sat. at 6 p.m.

Located at the McCain Rec. Center

Get Connected



SCAN for NAS Meridian App



SCAN for the Captain's Virtual Suggestion Box



Follow us!

Welcome RDML Hewitt!



Photo by MC2 Molly Tice

Commander, Navy Region Southeast, Rear Adm. John Hewitt, tours the Regional Counterdrug Training Academy (RCTA) onboard NAS Meridian, Dec. 10. The tour of RCTA was hosted by NAS Meridian Commanding Officer, CAPT Luke H. Davis, NAS Meridian Executive Officer, CDR Mike Missler, RCTA Noncommissioned Officer-In-Charge, First Sergeant Kei Heussler. Rear Adm. Hewitt's visit to NAS Meridian allowed him to see how our base supports the Navy's mission. Hewitt relieved RDML Ian Johnson as Commander, Navy Region Southeast during a ceremony aboard Naval Air Station Jacksonville, May 23.

Congrats Sailors, Civilians of the Year!



Senior Sailor of the Year
MA1 Calvin Green

Junior Sailor of the Year
MA2 Stephen Todd

Blue Jacket of the Year
ACAA Hunter Reeves



Supervisor of the Year
Tony Furline
Security

Senior Civilian of the Year
Jonathan Stanley
Security

Junior Civilian of the Year
Brittney Butchee
Fleet & Family

Navy League Honors Military Members



Photos by Penny Randall

The Mississippi Council of the Navy League honored NAS Meridian's military members of the year at their annual meeting at Northwood Country Club, Dec. 10. The guest speaker for the event was Rear Adm. John Hewitt, commander, Navy Region Southeast, center. Those honored included from left, VT-9 Navy Instructor Pilot of the Year LCDR Staton Pruitt, Naval Technical Training Center Meridian Sailor of the Year LS1 Calvin Roldan, Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Unit Meridian Senior Sailor of the Year HM1 Paul J. Keenum, Marine Aviation Training Support Squadron One Instructor of the Year Sgt Hunter Hill, Navy Reserve Center Meridian Senior Sailor of the Year HM1 Angela Navarro-Fuentes, VT-7 Navy Instructor Pilot of the Year LT Aaron Vanada and VT-7 Marine Instructor Pilot of the Year Maj Jason Hartwig. Not pictured is NAS Meridian Senior Sailor of the Year MA1 Calvin Green and VT-9 Marine IP of the Year Capt Thomas Lepick.

4 STEPS TO FOOD SAFETY

CLEAN 💧

SEPARATE ⬅️ ➡️

COOK 🔥

CHILL ❄️

Thank You Volunteers!



Photo by Penny Randall

Volunteer workers with Navy Marine Corps Relief Society NAS Meridian Office were recently honored for their hard work throughout 2024 with a lunch at Rudders, Dec. 10. Pictured are LS1 Adrian Ashton, LN1 Salisbury, Teresa Frontz with the Gulfport NMCRS office, Desiree Griffith, Sgt Donterrius Bell and RP2 Michael Halloran. Second row, Staff Sgt Samantha Smego, Chief Tina Marie Anthony and Bill Whitmire with the Gulfport NMCRS office. Not pictured are Chief Amanda Glover, Chief Amanda Urrutiaesteve, RP2 Kentaija Brown and MC2 Molly Tice. Thank you all for your hard work.

2d Marine Division Band Holiday Concert



Photo by Lance Cpl. Hunter Kuester

U.S. Marines with the 2d Marine Division Band, perform during the 2d MARDIV Band Holiday Concert at the River of Life Church in Jacksonville, North Carolina, Dec. 6. The 2d MARDIV Band performed a selection of holiday songs to give back to the families of the local community.

The Skyline ~ Naval Air Station Meridian, Miss.

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Hotlines & Helpful Numbers

SAPR Victim Assistance: 601-604-3037
 SAPR Civilian Victim Assistance: 601-486-3122
 SARC: 601-481-4274
 SAFE Helpline: 877-995-5247
 Suicide Hotline: 800-273-8255
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 Chaplain: 601-604-2015
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LOCAL HAPPENINGS

DECEMBER:

12-: Lazy Acres in Lights - Enjoy all of the sights and sounds of "Lazy Acres in Lights" from our tractor drawn wagon rides. The farm is covered with lights & scenes of joy. All ages will love visiting with our costumed characters, and creating something special with our Elves in Santa's Workshop. Located in Chunky, MS. [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

14: Merry at the Museum, 7 - 11 p.m. - From festive live music and enchanting performances to mouth-watering bites and elevated cocktails, you won't want to miss this opportunity to make merry and celebrate the season. Dress to impress and join us for an unforgettable night of festive fun! Festive cocktail attire • Jacket required. **Must be 21+ to attend!** Located in Downtown Meridian. [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

19: Scott Bradlee's Postmodern Jukebox, 7:30 p.m. - Scott Bradlee, on piano, leads a group of singers and musicians on his arrangements of modern-day songs reimagined in the classic genres of ragtime, 1920s jazz, country and western, swing, doo-wop, and '60s soul. Located at the MSU Riley Center in Downtown Meridian. [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

20: Downtown Meridian Merry Ale Trail, 5-10 p.m. - Downtown Meridian get into the holiday spirit with our annual Merry Ale Trail! Visit participating downtown eateries! Enjoy festive drinks and holiday cheer! Ales, Cocktails, and Small Bites. End the night at City Hall Lawn for photos with Santa and a chance to win door prizes and best festive dress awards. Pick up ale cards outside Fare on Eighth from 5-7 p.m. Located in Downtown Meridian. [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

31: Noon Year's Eve, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Join us for Noon Year's Eve, a celebration for revelers of all ages! Ignite your creativity and inspire your dreams for the year ahead with confetti-filled festivities, cheerful melodies, do-it-yourself party gear crafts, and a BIG burst of confetti at 12:00pm. Located in Downtown Meridian. [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

AREA HAPPENINGS

DECEMBER:

12 - Jan. 5: 29th Annual Magic Christmas in Lights, 5 - 9 p.m. - Explore the enchanting 29th Annual Magic Christmas in Lights at Bellingrath Gardens & Home, a festive paradise on the Gulf Coast. Wander through a dazzling 65-acre Garden estate adorned with thousands of lights. Located in Theodore, AL. [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

14: Whiskey Myers & Friends Concert, 8 p.m. - Concert features a performance from Cody Canada. Located in New Orleans, LA. [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

28: Parker McCollum Concert, 7:30 p.m. - Concert features performances from Randy Rogers and William Beckmann. Located in Little Rock, AR. [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

31: Moonpie Over Mobile, 7:30 p.m. - Celebrate New Year's Eve by enjoying live music, great food, and watching a giant moonpie drop! Located in Mobile, AL. [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

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Roman Catholic Service
at the NAS Meridian Chapel

December 14
0930: Confession
1000: Mass

COMMAND PATCH SALE

Cash, card or
Venmo @meridiannavyball

\$10

Located in the Public Affairs Office
Bldg 255 Ste 163

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NAVAL AIR STATION
MERIDIAN
NAVY
TRAINING THE WARFIGHTER

Sale... Or

HOMES/APARTMENTS

NEW! For Rent: 2BD/1 BA home located off Hwy 39. Has Day Room with sleeper, kitchenette with microwave, air fryer, convection oven, refrigerators (2), hot plate, washer/dryer, central heat/air, patio & grill. No pets. \$1600/month includes utilities and wifi. Call Tony or Blair at 601-527-4098 or 601-480-0476.

For Sale: 3 BD/2 BA home. 1,496 square foot heated and cooled. 200 square foot utility room/pantry. Poplar Springs Elementary school district. Huge fenced back yard and storage building. New roof Dec 2012. New AC April 2017 and remains under warranty until 2027. Around the corner from Northcrest church (North Hills). Asking \$150,000 but there are a few little cosmetic things that could be done so will take \$125,000 as is. Contact Jared or Felicia Monsour at (601) 938-4810 or (601) 934-0931

For Sale: 3 BD/4 BA home with 2965 sq ft of lake view home in beautiful, gated Lake Eddins in Pachtuta. Entertainer's kitchen with huge eat at bar. Brick floors in main living areas, all new floor covering in remaining areas, total remodel. Gorgeous brick w/natural cypress home, 2 car garage w/bonus room. Asking \$299,900. Will include additional lot on water for fishing/boat storage w/asking price. Call 601-720-1420.

For Rent: 3BD/ 2BA house offers beautiful lake views, perfect for fishing and relaxing by the water. This house has recently been remodeled. Monthly Rent: \$1,500. Deposit: \$1,000. Additional Fees: Dalewood Renter Privileges Fees. Please contact Carlos at 601-604-9986.

For Rent: 1 BD/1 BA. Entire House in North Hills District. Listed on AIRBNB or can book direct. Daily or Weekly rates plus cleaning fees. Contact: 601-504-5415

For Rent: 3 BD/2 BA, only 5 mins from main gate of NAS Meridian. Nice size private yard / garbage and water provided. Pets permitted with deposit. \$1,150 a month. Contact 601-480-1324.

For Rent: 3 BD/1.5 BA home 15 minutes from NAS at 4814 36th Ave. New refrigerator and 2-year old AC & furnace. Call Terrance at 469-318-9769.

MISCELLANEOUS

For Sale: Double wall Frigidaire oven \$500; Bosch dishwasher \$500. Both three years old. Call 601-616-4242.

Nanny or caregiver services. Call Alice at 601-934-1866 or 601-679-8112. Has installation access; can take children to school and pick up and available days, nights and weekends.

Event Space for Rent: Deer Creek Banquet Hall. 6000 sq. ft. indoor with 1600 sq. ft. outdoor spaces for rent for gatherings and events. Call Reginald at 251-455-1559.

Listings in the "Sale...Or" column are free!
Submission deadline is the Wednesday prior to production.
Email information to nasmeridianpao@gmail.com

NAS Meridian Nostalgia



File Photo

NAS Meridian spreads holiday cheer at the Child Development Center (CDC), Dec. 14, 2001. Santa is posed alongside a child and Michelle Maples, an employee of the Child and Youth Program. Maples still works for the Child and Youth Program and has been employed there for 36 years.

Quick and easy
ENERGY TIPS

- Do laundry during off-peak hours!**
or opt for an electric washer / dryer
- Seal up the drafts!**
weather stripping can help you save up to 10% on your total energy bill
- Not in use? Turn down the juice!**
unplug devices from wall outlets and save up to 25%
- Install Low-flow water.**
low-flow showerheads, faucets, and toilets reduce water consumption costs by as much as 50%
- Get with the program!**
try a programmable thermostat this heating season
- Try tankless water heaters!**
the environmental way for saving on your energy bill

Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony Honors Past, Passes Legacy to Young Service Members

By **Kyler Hood**
Commander Navy Region Hawaii

On the 80th anniversary of Pearl Harbor Day in 2021, about 135 World War II veterans attended the observance of the Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor. Last year, fewer than 30 veterans attended Dec. 7 events.

As veterans and Pearl Harbor survivors pass away, their legacy lives on with the next generation of service members. This year's 83rd Pearl Harbor Day commemoration features a series of observances co-hosted by the National Park Service and Commander, Navy Region Hawaii (CNRH), including the interment of a former Pearl Harbor Day survivor aboard the USS Utah (AG-16) and the Blackened Canteen ceremony. Young service members play an active in the commemoration rituals, reinforcing this year's theme of Forging Ahead.

Units from the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps will be participating in events and the granddaughter of a Pearl Harbor survivor will be the keynote speaker at the main Dec. 7 ceremony. "Although we honor those who passed away, we want to look forward to the future," explained Jim Neuman, history and outreach manager for CNRH and one of the lead planners for the Pearl Harbor Day observance.

This year, the remains of Pearl Harbor survivor Gilbert Meyer will be interred aboard the wreckage of the USS Utah. Meyer passed away in 2023 at the age of 100. He served in the Navy for 22 years and retired as a Chief Petty Officer. He was an 18-year-old Fireman First Class assigned to the USS Utah when it was hit by a torpedo. On his 100th birthday last year, Meyer donated two acres of land in his hometown of Lytle, Texas, to the Veterans of Foreign Wars for a new meeting hall. He also wrote a book about his time in the Navy and how he survived the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Meyer's nephew, Gilbert Benton, 79, said the interment ceremony for his uncle will be especially meaningful for his family.

"I've seen three of these interments over the years and it's so moving to watch that, but it will be so special for us this year because it's him," said Benton, who emphasized how important it will be for his uncle to join his shipmates at rest.

To date, a total of 16 interments have taken place aboard the USS Utah.

The Pearl Harbor Day commemoration concludes on Dec. 8 with the Blackened Canteen ceremony aboard the USS Arizona Memorial (BB-39).

"This actually is in connection to the Park Service's mission here at Pearl Harbor," ex-



Photo by Kyler Hood

Organizers, Jim Neuman, the history and outreach manager for Navy Region Hawaii (left) and David Kilton (right), the interpretation, education, and services lead for the National Park Service, pose for a photo in the contemplation circle near the USS Arizona Memorial after discussing plans for the commemoration ceremonies this week, which honor the 83rd anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

plained David Kilton, the interpretation, education, and services lead for the National Park Service. "We are the keeper of those stories that are brought to us and then we share them and try to honor all the different aspects of those stories."

Kilton explained how this unique remembrance ceremony began:

On the night of June 20, 1945, during a bombing raid over Shizuoka, Japan, two B-29 aircraft collided and crashed, killing 23 crewmen. When a local Shizuoka businessman and farmer pulled fatally wounded U.S. airmen from the wreckage, he found a blackened canteen in one of the aircraft, distorted from heat and bearing what appeared to be the seared handprint of its late owner.

The farmer, who was a devout Buddhist who believed all life is precious, started conducting an annual ceremony honoring the Japanese and Americans who lost their lives as a result of the war. The ceremony included a silent prayer and the pouring of bourbon whiskey from the blackened canteen onto the crash site as an offering to the spirits of the fallen. Two monuments were later erected near the crash site in memory of those who died.

The Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Ceremony on Dec. 7 is the main ceremony of the an-

nual commemoration. It's held at the Pearl Harbor National Memorial, which is dedicated to the memory of more than 2,300 service members and civilians who died during the Pearl Harbor attack. Central to the memorial is the USS Arizona Memorial, which rests above the remains of the sunken battleship and commemorates the 1,177 crewmen who died aboard. The USS Arizona suffered half of all casualties on the day of the attack.

Neuman explained how the design of the Arizona Memorial highlights the dual focus on the past and future and emphasized how he seeks to emulate this focus when he plans the details of Pearl Harbor Day.

"This ties into how I look at the ceremony," he said. "It's a memorial to the past because we're honoring the greatest generation. We're honoring those who gave their lives on Dec. 7, 1941. It's a memorial to the future because when you look at the design of the memorial it starts out high, which is before the attack on Pearl Harbor. As you come aboard the memorial, you're at a high point. It goes low over the center of the memorial, the center of the wreckage because Dec. 7, 1941 was a low point. Then it tapers to a high point over the shrine room."

Alfred Preis, the architect who designed the Arizona Memorial, used the shrine room to accentuate the ideals of peace, renewal, and remembrance of those who lost their lives on the day of the attack, Neuman explained.

"On either side of the shrine room, you've got the Tree of Life. From a biblical perspective, that would be the Book of Revelations, healing of the nations, and from Alfred Preis' perspective, it was the idea of renewal and lasting peace," said Neuman. "We're honoring those who were lost on Dec. 7, but we're also looking forward to the future because he hoped that the victory at the end of World War II would be one that would lead to lasting peace and renewal and partnerships with our allies."

The last survivor of the Arizona crew, Lou Conter, 102, passed away on April 1, 2024.

Neuman acknowledged the significance of that loss and said our generation's ability to move on resembles how veterans and survivors of the Pearl Harbor attack were forging ahead with their lives with resilience and tenacity, which is part of the reason why "forging ahead" is this year's theme for the observance.

"Part of honoring that legacy is knowing that they did push ahead within their lives with the trauma and horror of war," explained Neuman. "For those of us who live in 2024, we see that memorial and it reminds us that if we're going to carry on this lasting peace that the greatest generation fought and died to secure, it's going to be up to our generation and the generations moving forward."

N9 Nook

Check here to see the latest news with
Fleet & Family, Child and Youth Programs, & MWR!

FFSC **NOV-JAN 2024** SCHEDULE

- NOV MILITARY FAMILY APPRECIATION MONTH**
Take the time to say thank you to our military families!
- COMMAND FINANCIAL SPECIALIST TRAINING** **DEC 2-6**
Located at The Fleet and Family Support Center, BLDG 405
- DEC 9-13 TAP CLASS**
Located at The Fleet and Family Support Center, BLDG 405
- WOMEN'S SELF DEFENSE CLASS** **DEC 3&5**
Chaps is teaming up with FFSC to present two classes in women's self defense! These classes will be held at Lakeside from 1430-1600.
- DEC 1-15 LETTERS TO SANTA**
Let your little one send a letter to Santa, and they will get a reply back!
- COOKIES FOR SAILORS** **DEC 18**
Do you love to bake? Great! Sign up to bake cookies for our sailors for Christmas!
- JAN 7 WELCOME ABOARD**
Located at The Fleet and Family Support Center, BLDG 405
- STALKING AWARENESS & FAP MONTH** **JAN**
FAMILY EMPLOYMENT READINESS MONTH
FINANCIAL WELLNESS MONTH

COOKIES for Sailors

DO YOU LOVE TO BAKE HOLIDAY COOKIES? GREAT!
JOIN FLEET AND FAMILY IN DONATING COOKIE BAGS TO SERVICE MEMBERS!

DECEMBER 18TH AT THE FLEET AND FAMILY CENTER

This is an opportunity where you can make delicious cookies for the service members on board NAS Meridian that aren't able to make it back home during the holiday season. All you have to do is contact Fleet and Family and let us know you would like to donate a batch of your favorite cookies!

If you are interested in donating cookies, please contact the Fleet and Family Support Center | *Fleet and Family Support Center 601-679-2360 or email kasie.d.mcinnis.naf@us.navy.mil*



PLAY TO WIN.

Worldwide Online Tournaments

- APEX LEGENDS** - December 12, 13 & 18
- CALL OF DUTY BLACK OPS 6** - December 19, 20 & 21
- APEX LEGENDS** - December 27 & 28
- HALO INFINITE** - January 24 & 25
- VALORANT** - February 7 & 8

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 \$10 fee (shoes included)



MWR BOWLING