

On Base

♦ NMCRS:

Beginning in January 2022, Education Loans & Scholarships for Navy Families & Marines between \$500-\$3,000 per academic year will be available through the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society. The link to find out more information is: https://www.nmcrs.org/ pages/education-loansand-scholarships

~ MLT ~

MLT Youth Production, Mary Poppins Jr. Jan. 10-14 at Meridian Little Theatre, click here





~ page 4 **~**

You can renew your passport online

Navy Captain becomes first woman to command US nuclear carrier

From AP Wire Service

The USS Abraham Lincoln deployed this week from San Diego under the command of Capt. Amy Bauernschmidt, the first woman to lead a nuclear carrier in U.S. Navy history.

Bauernschmidt, who previously served as the Abraham Lincoln's executive officer from 2016 to 2019, took over command from Capt. Walt Slaughter during a ceremony last August, CBS 8 in San Diego reported.

The carrier deployed Monday from Naval Air Station North Island as part of the Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group.

"There is no more humbling sense of responsibility than to know you are entrusted with the care of the people who have chosen to protect our nation," Bauernschmidt said, according to a Navy news release. "Thank you, Capt. Slaughter, for turning over the finest ship in the fleet."

Bauernschmidt previously served as the commanding officer of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 70 and the amphibious transport dock San Diego.

She has completed more than 3,000 flight hours during her career, the news station reported.

The Abraham Lincoln completed its maintenance period in April, following a 294-day, around-the-world deployment. • Lincoln, page 3



Photo by MC3 Jeremiah Bartelt

Capt. Amy Bauernschmidt, left, incoming commanding officer of the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72), reads her orders during a change of command ceremony held on the flight deck on Aug. 19, 2021. Lincoln deployed Jan. 3, 2022, from San Diego under the command of Bauernschmidt, the first woman to lead a nuclear carrier in U.S. Navy history.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA



Photo by MC1 Krystina Coffey

As part of the annual Wreaths Across America, members of NAS Meridian volunteer to place wreaths on gravestones at Mississippi Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Newton, Dec. 18.

First USMC F-35C squadron deploys

From 1st Lt. Charles Allen

ect warfighting capabilities through

US hospitals seeing different

3rd Marine Aircraft Wing

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 314 of 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (MAW) has marked a key milestone for Marine Corps history as they departed San Diego Bay with Carrier Air Wing Nine aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72) as the first Marine squadron to deploy the F-35C on an aircraft carrier.

"The Black Knight's deployment of F-35C Lightning II aboard USS Abraham Lincoln is the newest chapter in the Marine Corps' long history of naval integration," said Maj. Gen. Bradford J. Gering, 3rd MAW commanding general. The upcoming deployment represents years of hard work and innovation by the Marines and Sailors of VMFA-314, MAG-11, and 3rd MAW. It also reinforces our commitment to fielding the most lethal and ready Navy-Marine Corps force as we projout the Indo-Pacific region, or globally wherever our nation calls."

The Marine Corps possessing the capability to deploy the F-35C is significant as the F-35C was designed and built specifically for aircraft carrier operations and brings with it the ability to enhance the inherent battlespace awareness of all naval aircraft it operates alongside. Deploying this asset in a contested maritime region provides the Marine Corps a flexible, mobile force that provides security to the United States and allied nations abroad, contributes to regional stability and expands the U.S. military advantage at sea.

3rd MAW has recently demonstrated the F-35's strike capabilities by utilizing its F-35 squadrons in longrange aerial strike exercises. During Exercise Summer Fury 21, a 3rd MAW squadron flew the F-35 from Miramar to Washington State ...

Read more, click here

kind of COVID surge this time

By Rodrique Ngowi, Michael Casey and Don Thompson AP News

Hospitals across the U.S. are feeling the wrath of the omicron variant and getting thrown into disarray that is different from earlier COVID-19 surges.

This time, they are dealing with serious staff shortages because so many health care workers are getting sick with the fastspreading variant. People are showing up at emergency rooms in large numbers in hopes of getting tested for COVID-19, putting more strain on the system. And a surprising share of patients — two-thirds in some places — are testing positive while in the hospital for other reasons.

At the same time, hospitals say the patients aren't as sick as those who came in during the last surge. Intensive care units aren't as full, and ventilators aren't needed as much as they were before.

The pressures are neverthless prompting hospitals to scale back non-emergency surgeries and close wards, while National Guard troops have been sent in in several states to help at medical centers and testing sites.

Nearly two years into the pandemic, frustration and exhaustion are running high among health care workers.

"This is getting very tiring, and I'm being very polite in saying that," said Dr. Robert Glasgow of University of Utah Health, which has hundreds of workers out sick or in isolation.

About 85,000 Americans are in the hospital with COVID-19, just short of the delta-surge peak of about 94,000 in early September, according to the CDC.

Read more, click here

For optimal digital viewing, open The Skyline with an internet browser or turn off protected view on your Abode reader.

Settlemoir Promotion



Photo by MC1 Krystina Coffey Command Chaplain Jon Settlemoir is pinned with his new rank of commander by his wife during a promotion ceremony at the chapel onboard NAS Meridian Jan. 3.

Joyner Retirement



Submitted photo

Cmdr. Rob McCharen, left, presents Larry Joyner with a retirement certificate at Public Works onboard NAS Meridian.

Ross Award



Submitted photo Cmdr. Rob McCharen, right, presents Eric Ross with his 10-year service certificate during the holiday picnic at Lake Martha onboard NAS Meridian, Dec. 16.

Hook Award



Military Working Dog



Photo by MC1 Krystina Coffey

Military working dog Daryl charges at Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Shane Ortlieb during training onboard NAS Meridian Dec. 15. Military working dogs can be trained to attack hostile threats when needed.

Lake Drawdown



Photo by JP Beaudouin

PW Wildlife Biologist Jeff Mangrum verifies the water level at Lake Martha. Lake valves have been opened during the winter season to reduce the lake surface area by a third in an effort to reduce and control over-abundant, submerged vegetation throughout the lake.

Boom Deployment



Submitted photo

Cmdr. Rob McCharen, right, presents Scott Hook with his 10-year service certificate at Public Works onboard NAS Meridian.

Submitted photo

The PW environmental team deploys an oil boom on Wright's Creek onboard NAS Meridian during an Exercise. These booms are designed to let water pass under it while holding back oil on the surface. While the entire PW environmental team participated, Jamie Brown and JP Beaudouin are pictured on either side of the creek banks.

The Skyline ~ Naval Air Station Meridian, Miss.

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Local Happenings

JANUARY

8: MAXEats: Dinner with Chef Enrika Williams from 6-8 p.m. at the MAEX. Enjoy a curated sit-down dinner with Chef Enrika Williams inspired by the Cross Colours clothing line. Registration required. (If seats are still available day of the event, diners can purchase tickets at the door.) Tickets: members \$35, non-members \$40; call 601-581-1550.

15: Storytelling Festival from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Mississippi Children's Museum - Meridian. Tickets \$10; call 601-512-0278.

27: WineDown: Sparkling Wines from 6-8 p.m. at the Mississippi Arts + Entertainment Experience. Put together a team of 2–3 wine lovers and bring three identical bottles of your favorite sparkling wine (two for tasting, one for "the pot") to our January WineDown. Each participant will receive a complimentary MAX wine glass. Space is limited. Registration required. Admission is \$15 per person, free for members. Call 601-581-1550.

29: Sam Bush, Mike Marshall, Edgar Meyer, George Meyer at 7:30 p.m. at the MSU Riley Center. American music masters Sam Bush, Mike Marshall, and Edgar Meyer join with George Meyer for the kind of special collaboration usually heard only at a bluegrass festival. Tickets range from \$25-\$75; call 601-696-2200.



U.S. Navy to implement drinking water recovery plan

The U.S. Navy will begin flushing water lines at the Pearl City Peninsula military housing neighborhood on Dec. 20.

Part of the Drinking Water Distribution System Recovery Plan and in preparation for flushing the system, the Navy is assembling the Granulated Activated Carbon (GAC) filtration equipment that has been delivered over the past week. The GACs will be connected to fire hydrants, and the filtered water will be discharged to storm drains with Hawaii State Department of Health and

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency oversight.

In accordance with the Water System Flushing Zone Map, Pearl City Peninsula will be flushed first to serve as the safe test case given its proximity to the Waiawa well, which has been the source of the Navy's drinking water since securing the Red Hill and Halawa wells on Nov. 28 and Dec. 3, respectively. Flushing of the distribution system at Pearl City Peninsula is expected to take one day.

-- From US Navy

Read more, click here

Active Duty, Reserve Sailors encouraged to get boosted

Vice Adm. W. R. Merz, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Operations, Plans and Strategy, OPNAV N3/N5, released NAVADMIN 289/21 today, encouraging all Active and Reserve Component Navy personnel to obtain a CO-VID-19 booster shot.

The new NAVADMIN indicates that while a booster is not currently mandatory, Navy leadership anticipates that it may become so in the future.

We know the vaccines are effective they're protecting our Sailors," said Merz. "Studies are showing the booster is a critical step in continued protection against COVID-19 and we absolutely

The Carrier Strike Group is led by

the command staff of Carrier Strike

Group 3 and consists of Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln,

Carrier Air Wing 9, the guided-mis-

sile cruiser USS Mobile Bay and the

guided-missile destroyers of Destroyer

Squadron 21 — USS Fitzgerald, USS Gridley, USS Sampson and USS Spru-

The strike group is deploying with what the Navy is touting as its "most

Lincoln

ance.

encourage everyone to receive it."

The guidance applies to Active Duty and Reserve Sailors who completed the primary Pfizer-BioNTech/Comirnaty or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine series more than six months ago, or who received a primary dose of the Johnson & Johnson/ Janssen COVID-19 vaccine more than two months ago. The NAVADMIN further states that individuals may "mix and match" their dosing, allowing Sailors to choose any U.S. authorized COV-ID-19 vaccine booster that has received either FDA licensure or FDA Emergency Use Authorization (EUA).

-- From US Navy

Read more, click here

advanced air wing" and is heading to the Indo-Pacific region.

The first women to serve in the Navy were nurses in the early 20th century and the first large-scale enlistment of women came during World War II, according to an official military history website.

The Navy designated the first woman as an aviator in 1974 and women were first assigned to a combat ship, the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower, in 1994.



Sale...

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. grev with racing stripe. \$24k. Call 601-880-3237. 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/

HOMES/APARTMENTS

For Rent: 3BD/2BA private gated home with 2-car garage in West Lauderdale; 15 minutes from the base. Call 601-737-4569 or 601-934-0739.

For Rent: 2BD/1.5BA Home at 3702 Rollins Dr, Lauderdale in Dalewood. 2136 sq ft on a .29 acres lot. Beautiful newly renovated single family home with a new roof, new central AC unit, new stainless steel kitchen appliances, new floor, paint interior and exterior, recessed lights throughout, new sinks and faucets. Call 973-876-5006.

For Rent: 2BD/1.5BA single family home in Dalewood - fully renovated. Fenced in back yard with boat slip & pier. 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

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

sunroom. larged fenced in

yard. Convenient to shop-

ping and base. Below mar-

ket price for quick sale.

\$139K. Call 601-513-3395

or 601-227-1870.

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

Oldest US veteran of WWII, Lawrence N. Brooks, dies at 112

By Leah Willingham and Rebecca Santana AP News

Lawrence N. Brooks, the oldest World War II veteran in the U.S. - and believed to be the oldest man in the country — died on Wednesday at the age of 112.

His death was announced by the National WWII Museum and confirmed by his daughter.

Most African Americans serving in the segregated U.S. armed forces at the beginning of World War II were assigned to noncombat units and relegated to service duties, such as supply, maintenance and transportation, said Col. Pete Crean, vice president of education and access at the museum in New Orleans.

"The reason for that was outright racism — there's no other way to characterize it," Crean said.

But Brooks, born on Sept. 12, 1909, was known for his good-natured sense of humor, positivity and kindness. When asked for his secret to a long life, he often said, "serving God and being nice to people."

"I don't have no hard feelings toward nobody," he said during a 2014 oral history interview with the museum.

"I just want everything to be lovely, to come out right. I want people to have fun and enjoy themselves - be happy and not sad."

On sunny days, Brooks was known for sitting on the

front porch of the double shotgun house he shared with daughter Vanessa Brooks in the Central City neighborhood of New Orleans. Neighbors would call out to the local celebrity, wave and bring him soda and snacks.

Brooks was passionate about the New Orleans Saints football team and never missed a game, his daughter said. His church, St. Luke's Episcopal, was also close to his heart and he never missed a Sunday service until the coronavirus pandemic hit.

Originally from Norwood, Louisiana, near Baton Rouge, Brooks' family moved to the Mississippi Delta when he was an infant. He was one of 15 children, and lived too far from the nearest school, so his parents taught him what they could at home.

Brooks was working at a sawmill when he was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1940. After Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, he was assigned to the mostly Black 91st Engineer General Service Regiment stationed in Australia. Later in the war, troop losses virtually forced the military to begin placing more African American troops into combat positions. In 1941, fewer than 4,000 African Americans were serving in the military. By 1945, that number increased to more than 1.2 million.

The 91st, where Brooks served, was an Army unit that built bridges, roads and airstrips for planes. Brooks was assigned as a caretaker to three white officers. His job

was to cook, drive and take care of their clothes.

Brooks did not often speak publicly about the discrimination he and other Black soldiers faced in the war, or the discrimination his family faced in the Jim Crow Deep South, his daughter said.

Crean, who got to know Brooks and his family through his work at the museum, said Brooks did talk about noticing how much better he was treated as a Black man in Australia compared with the U.S.

But Brooks told Crean thinking about it would make him angry, so he tried not to. During his oral history interview, Brooks said the officers he cared for treated him well and he considered himself fortunate not to have to fight in combat.

"I got lucky. I was saying to myself, 'If I'm going to be shooting at somebody, somebody's going to be shooting at me and he might get lucky and hit," he said.

He often told the story about a time when he was a passenger in a C-47 aircraft delivering a load of barbed wire to the front when one of the transport plane's engines went out.

After they dumped the cargo to conserve weight, he made his way to the cockpit. He told the pilot and co-pilot that since they were the only two with parachutes, if they had to jump for it, he was going to grab on to one of them.

Read more, click here

DOD personnel, families can renew passports online

By David Vergun

DoD News, Defense Media Activity

Active-duty, reserve and retired service members, and Defense Department civilians and contractors and their families will soon be able to renew their U.S. passports online, according to the State Department.

The online portal, which becomes available Dec. 23, will enable customers to renew their passports from the convenience of their homes 24/7 without having to go to a post office to mail their application and supporting documents, an official said.

The requirements include:

The most recent passport is or must have been valid for 10 years. It's OK if the passport is expired.

 Children under the age of 16 cannot renew their passports.

The passport was issued over nine years ago (2012), but less than 15 years ago (2006).

No changes were made with respect to name, gender or other personal information, such as date or place of birth.

No travel internationally can be made within three weeks of the date of renewal. < The State Department will offer routine (8-11 weeks) and expedited processing

(5-7 weeks).

Online applications may be for a passport book only; passport cards may not be requested online.

Applications must be for regular (tourist) passports only. Special issuance diplomatic or official passports may

not be renewed online. Applicants must live in the United States.

 Applicants must have the passport in their possession, and it cannot be damaged or mutilated.

✓ An applicant can pay for a passport using a credit/debit card or an automated clearing house payment transferring funds from a bank account.

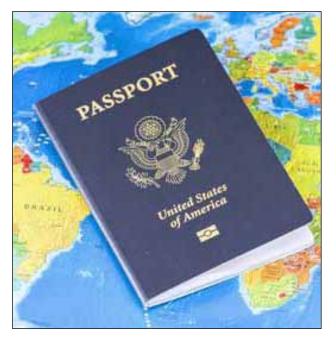
Applicants can upload a digital photo in the .JPEG file format.

✓ Applicants who don't meet all of these requirements may still be eligible to renew by mail or in-person, the official said.

The State Department will send a confirmation email with more instructions after those interested preregister.

Preregistration does not obligate those interested to renew online. Registrants will receive email updates and a customized link based on a registrant's individual email address to access the online portal.

Interested parties will have the flexibility to renew online over a six-month period through June 30, 2022, the official said.



State Department photo

Putting on 'Big Girl Pants' in 2022

consumed that morning hit my bladder with the force of a runaway train

The travel mug's worth of coffee I'd COLUMN

to adapt to life's little challenges. Pants-less, but still wearing socks and shoes, I descended the basement stairs to stash groceries into our second refrigerator. As I was loading potatoes into the crisper, the doorbell rang.

was conditioned to believe that my job was to manage the household, without vacations or medical leave. It was part of the bargain I made when I married a career military man.

Passport

When Francis was active duty, I had to do what it took to manage our family, whether he was home or away. That meant that, if I got sick while he was deployed, and felt the urge to throw up while driving the kids in heavy traffic down I-264, I'd better reach around and grab that empty Big Gulp cup on the floor of the minivan, because I'd need to upchuck while taking the appropriate exit. (Yes, that really happened.) Subconsciously, I believed it would be selfish of me to turn away from the needs of my family for a long period of time to address minor health issues, droopy bladders included. After deciding against climbing into a dusty storage bin containing old Halloween decorations, I cleared my throat and called, "Francis? Honey? Could you come to the top of the basement stairs for just a sec?"

I commanded him to get my pants from the dryer and throw them down to me before John the appraiser was traumatized by the sight of my bare, flaky winter legs topped by Warner briefs.

Disaster may have been averted, but

making me squirm in the commissary check out line. Grabbing items from my cart and tossing them onto the conveyer belt, I huffed rhythmically under my mask as if I was having birthing contractions until the urge passed.



Molinari

It subsided long enough for me to get home, but struck again as I was carrying grocery bags in from the car. Although the bread got squished when I dropped bags in our front hallway, I made it to the bathroom with only minor spillage.

After doing a bit of "accident abatement" in the bathroom sink. I put on a fresh pair of undies and threw my spotrinsed pants into the dryer. "No harm, no foul," I thought, proud of my ability

Oh geez.

Thankfully, I heard my husband, Francis, walk down our creaky staircase from his home office and open the door. "Hey John, c'mon in! You don't mind dogs, do you?" Then I remembered -John was here to appraise our house ... including the basement. My eyes darted around the dank, subterranean space under our 125-year old home for a place to hide..

This was not the only time I'd found myself in a predicament due to my "droopy bladder." Doctors at every military clinic where we had lived had told me that my bladder issues were the result of giving birth to three large babies, including two nine-pounders. Apparently, my bladder wasn't where they used to be, and the doctors recommended surgery. But, who has time for surgery? Who will cook, clean, run errands, drive kids, walk dogs, shovel snow, and buy groceries at the commissary? As a long-time military spouse I

Francis looked down at me with initial shock, then giggled, knowingly. Using hand gestures and exaggerated facial expressions as if playing charades,

the incident prompted me to self-reflect. Military spouses serve their families, which is honorable. They put aside careers, personal goals, and sometimes physical and mental health issues to manage the family while their spouse serves the country. But a time may come when they should make themselves a priority. We are conditioned to feel selfish if we put ourselves first, but we must strike a reasonable balance between our needs and our duty to our military family.

As I turned out the basement light, now fully clothed, a switch flipped in my thinking. In the New Year, I would make myself a priority. I won't be left standing pants-less in the basement again - I will resolve to take care of myself now.

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.



NAS Meridian, MS • Morale, Welfare and Recreation

Facility Phone Numbers

Fitness Center	679-2379
Liberty Center	679-3760
Tickets	679-3773
McCain Rec Center	679-2651
Equipment Rental	679-2609

Library Rudders Pub 8
CDC/CDH
SAC
School Liaison

679-2326 MWR Admin. & Grill 679-2780 MWR Jobs Line 679-2652

679-5252

679-2473

679-2551 ne 679-2467









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