

THE SKYLINE



Volume 61, Number 5

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March 2, 2023

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Mississippi House could vote on longer Medicaid for moms

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Jimmy Carter: Family affair to the White House and beyond

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NCOs key to Ukrainian military successes against Russia

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Naval Reserve Center holds Change of Charge ceremony

From Staff Reports

A change of charge ceremony was held at Naval Reserve Center Meridian, Feb. 21. LCDR Matthew Peden relieved CDR Christopher Dowdell during the ceremony.

A native of Mahomet, Illinois, Peden graduated from the University of Illinois in 2008, earning a Bachelor of Science in Aviation Human Factors. Peden was commissioned through Officer Candidate School and reported to NAS Pensacola, Fla., for flight training in Sept. 2008. He earned his 'Wings of Gold' in February 2011. In April 2011, Peden reported to Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 122 "Flying Eagles" for initial fleet training as an F/A-18E/F fleet replacement pilot.

Peden began his operational flying in May 2012 with the "Tophatters" of VFA-14. During this tour, he made one deployment aboard the USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74), participating in Operation Enduring Freedom. During this tour, Peden served as coffee mess officer, morale welfare and recreation officer, AV/ARM division officer.

Peden reported to the "Eagles" of Training Squadron Seven (VT-7) in April 2015 at NAS Meridian, to be an Ad-



Peden

vanced Strike Instructor Pilot in the T-45C "Goshawk." While at VT-7, he served as assistant student control officer, student control officer, instructor under training standardization officer, carrier qualification detachment assistant officer in charge and earned Instructor Pilot of the Year.

In 2018, Peden re-designated to Training and Administration of Reserves (TAR) Officer and reported to the "Tigers" of VT-9 for his department head tour. While with VT-9, he served as reserve department head, standardization department head, assistant operations officer, and the operations officer.

In November 2021, Peden reported to the US Naval War College, and graduated with a master's in defense and strategic studies in 2022.

NAS Sailor transfers to Space Force

From Staff Reports

Electronics Technician Second Class Madison Cronin, currently a Sailor stationed at Naval Air Station Meridian, has been selected for an inter-service transfer to the United States Space Force.

Cronin has served 8 years in the U.S. Navy, and is a native of Danville, Calif.

"I congratulate Electronics Technician Second Class Madison Cronin on her selection for inter-service transfer to the United States Space Force," said Capt. Brent Moore, commanding officer of NAS Meridian. "Her unique background, technical expertise, and leadership capabilities -- that she has developed in the Navy -- will contribute to the success of



Cronin

the Space Force in the years to come."

Cronin will work in Space Systems Operations, a program that focuses on the design, development and operation of missiles, satellites and other space-based systems for military purposes.

SECDEF: World is resolute in support of Ukraine

By David Vergun

DoD News, Defense Media Activity

One year ago, Russia launched an unprovoked invasion of its peaceful and democratic neighbor, Ukraine—a cruel war of choice that has killed thousands of innocent Ukrainians, forced millions more from their homes, left countless wounded or traumatized, and inflicted tragedy and terror on a sovereign U.N.

member state, said Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III in a statement.

"Today's solemn anniversary is an opportunity for all who believe in freedom, rules and sovereignty to recommit ourselves to supporting Ukraine's brave defenders for the long haul—and to recall that the stakes of Russia's war stretch far beyond Ukraine," he stated.

[Read more, click here](#)

"Teacher Salute"

Teacher Name: Rebecca Trussell
Grade: 8th, Mississippi Studies and World Geography

How long have you been teaching?

I've been teaching for 20 years -- the past 13 years at Northeast Middle School.

General information about yourself?

I grew up in Lauderdale County and graduated from West Lauderdale High School. I worked part time for The Meridian Star and Clarion Ledger before becoming a teacher. In addition to teaching 8th grade students, I drive a bus route; coach girl's track; and teach Adult Education Program classes at Meridian Community College twice a week.

What made you decide to become a teacher?

I've always been interested in history. I had two really good history teachers in high school that made history fun and interesting; those teachers were a positive influence on me.

What do you like most about being a teacher?

I like that every day is different. Each child's personality is so different and I like finding ways to get each student interested in history. I also enjoy when former students thank me for being a challenging teacher and preparing them for high school.

What's the hardest thing about being a teacher?

One of the hardest things is motivating some of the students that do not like history.

What would you tell new parents/children is the best thing about living in Meridian?

You can complete your entire education in Meridian. After high school you can go to MCC or MSU-Meridian. There are more things to see and do in the area than people realize. There is the Children's



Photo by Adam Prince

CAPT Brent Moore, left, presents the Teacher Salute award to Rebecca Trussell, an 8th grade Mississippi Studies and World Geography teacher at Northeast Middle School. Also pictured are Deborah Porter, Northeast principal, and Larry Mullins, NAS Meridian School Liaison. Awarded quarterly, the presentation recognizes teachers who are dedicated to teaching; inspiring and growing the hearts and minds of all students -- especially those of military children.

Museum, Riley Center, 5k runs, history walks and more -- if you look around.

What would you tell new parents/children is the best thing about Northeast Elementary?

There is diversity with children and teachers from many backgrounds and experiences but everyone fits in here. It is a melting pot like the country, but on a smaller scale.

Two aviators earn 'Wings of Gold' in February pinning ceremony

There was a naval aviator designation ceremony Feb. 24 onboard Naval Air Station Meridian.

Two 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."



LT Eitenne Voisin



1st Lt. Josh Volpert

MWD Demonstration



Photo by MC2 Molly Crawford

Master at Arms 3rd Class Ariel Urban gives a presentation on military working dogs to a group of high school juniors in downtown Meridian, March 1. The students are part of Leadership Lauderdale Youth, a program for 11th grade students from various schools in Lauderdale County. The program is sponsored by the East Mississippi Business Development Corporation.

Awards Quarters



Photo by Penny Randall

NAS Meridian Command Awards Quarters were held Feb. 16 at Air Operations. Those who received awards include: CDR Jon Settlemoir, LT Matthew Purmort, ABE2 Duerdoth, AC2 Diaz, MA2 Ortlieb, ET3 Parr, MA3 Martinez, MA1 Cummings, RP2 Halloran, AC3 Hatch, Sydney Clayton and Marilyn Kirksey.

Combs Reenlistment



Photo by Adam Prince

CAPT Brent Moore, NAS Meridian commanding officer, presents a reenlistment certificate to BM2 Terry Combs during a ceremony in the lobby of the Administration building onboard NAS Meridian, Feb. 24.

Multicultural Luncheon



Photo by MC2 Molly Crawford

Sailors from the Multicultural Committee serve staff and students during the Black History Month celebration in the Lance Cpl. Roy M. Wheat Galley onboard NAS Meridian, Feb. 24. Black History Month is an annual observation celebrating the achievements and history of African Americans.



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
Military OneSource: 800-342-9647
CEAP (DoN Civilian): 844-366-2327
EAP (NAF Civilian): 800-932-0034
FFSC Meridian: 601-679-2360
Chaplain: 601-604-2015
NMCRS Duty Cell: 601-604-2206
EEO (NAF): 866-295-0328
EEO (GS): 904-542-2802

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Local Happenings

MARCH

3: Full Moon on Fifth from 6-9 p.m. at the Union Train Station on Front Street. Join the Arts and Community Events Society for a magical night in Downtown Meridian. String lights and two giant illuminated moons set the mood for a unique block party that you don't want to miss. Alcoholic beverages are available, no outside beverages allowed. Free to the public. Visit <http://www.acesmeridian.org> for information.

4: First Saturday: Spring Fling from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Mississippi Arts + Entertainment Experience. Celebrate the spring season with us at The MAX. We will have activities for all ages, including: food trucks, bounce houses, face painting, spring crafts, lawn games and more. Tickets are \$5 for adults; \$1 for kids ages 6-17; and free for kids 5 and under; call 601-581-1550, ext 35.

9: Tanya Tucker at 7:30 p.m. at the MSU Riley Center. Edgy. Classic. Country -- that's Tanya Tucker. She had her first hit, "Delta Dawn," in 1972 at age 13. In 2020, she won her first two Grammy Awards for Best Country Album and Best Country Song. Call 601-696-2200 for ticket information.

23-24: Just You Wait! - MLT's 90th Anniversary Musical Supper Club from 6:30-9 p.m. at the Meridian Little Theatre. We are celebrating 90 years of storytelling at Meridian Little Theatre in partnership with Meridian Symphony Chorus to host a musical revue supper club. See highlights from your favorite productions over the last 90 years from "My Fair Lady" to "Newsies" while you enjoy a three-course dinner. Ticketing information to be announced. Call 601-482-6371.

APRIL

1: Sipp & Savor from 5-9 p.m. at the Mississippi Arts + Entertainment Experience (MAX). Sipp & Savor Food & Drink Experience is the major annual fundraiser for The MAX in downtown Meridian, and features dozens of award-winning chefs, master brewers and craft distillers. Call 601-581-1550.

1-2: Maker Faire Meridian from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Soule Steam Feed Works. Mississippi Industrial Heritage Museum will join Maker Faires from around the world for the greatest show and tell on Earth. Event is free; call 601-693-9905.

13: Tig Notaro at 7:30 p.m. at the MSU Riley Center. Comedian, writer, public radio contributor, podcaster, frequent talk show guest, and actress Tig Notaro returns to her native state. Born in Jackson and raised in Pass Christian, Notaro wrote, produced, and starred in One Mississippi, a semiautobiographical comedy series on Amazon. Call 601-483-9810 for ticket information.

DOD delivers field hospital to Türkiye

At the request of the government of Türkiye, United States Marines, Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen worked around the clock to deliver an emergency field hospital from the continental United States to Incirlik Air Base in Türkiye, Feb. 22, 2023, as part of the United States' continuous commitment to assist survivors of the catastrophic earthquake.

U.S. Naval Forces Europe, in coordination with U.S. Transportation Command (TRANSCOM), U.S. Northern Command (NORTHCOM), and U.S. Air Force (USAF) Air Combat Command (ACC) facilitated the delivery of the Department of Defense provided field hospital, with assistance from staffs in Kelly Field in San Antonio, Texas, and Langley Air Force Base, Va.

"We are responding to the request for

support from the Turkish government to provide a critical medical capability while the Turkish government rebuilds," said Brig. Gen Andrew Priddy, commanding general, TF 61/2. "I am proud of the professionalism with which the team has responded to assist our Turkish Allies and friends who are suffering from the earthquake's devastation."

U.S. service members, assigned to U.S. Sixth Fleet's Task Force 61/2, are working at the request of the Turkish Ministry of Health through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to ensure the hospital is established and operational in the province of Hatay, one of Türkiye's most severely impacted areas.

-- From Capt. MacKenzie Margroum

[Read more, click here](#)

Military Sealift Command completes cargo operations in Antarctic

MSC chartered ship MV Ocean Gladiator. The mission was in support of Operation Deep Freeze, the Joint Task Force Support for Antarctica mission to the NSF-managed U.S. Antarctic Program.

Ocean Gladiator delivered 358 pieces of cargo, which included containers filled with mechanical parts, vehicles, construction materials, office supplies and electronics equipment and vehicles. The supplies are part of two deliveries that will provide nearly 80 percent of the items needed for survival over the severe arctic winter over period when the station is cutoff from the rest of the world.

Ocean Gladiator along with the MSC chartered ship MV Ocean Giant, conducted cargo offloads at the Marine Causeway System (MCS) that was put in place to replace the traditional ice pier that has been used in years past. The MCS was delivered by Ocean Giant who arrive in Antarctica ahead of Ocean Gladiator. Upon completion of their cargo delivery, Ocean Gladiator retrieved the dismantled sections of the MCS, and loaded it onto the ship, along with 115 pieces of retrograde cargo, that will be returned to Port Hueneme, Calif., where their mission began in early January.

-- From Sarah Cannon

[Read more, click here](#)

U.S. Navy, 50 partners start International Maritime Exercise 2023

U.S. Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT) commenced the Middle East region's largest maritime exercise, Feb. 26.

Known as International Maritime Exercise (IMX) 2023, the multinational event is combined with Cutlass Express, which is led by Naval Forces Europe-Africa. Both will involve more than 50 partner-nations and international organizations operating in the Arabian Gulf, Arabian Sea, Gulf of Oman, Red Sea, Indian Ocean and East African coastal regions.

Additionally, the combined exercise

will include 7,000 personnel, 35 ships and more than 30 unmanned and artificial intelligence systems.

Participants will focus on five main areas: combined command and control, maritime security, mine countermeasures, unmanned systems and artificial intelligence integration, and global health.

IMX and Cutlass Express are scheduled to end March 16 and 17, respectively. This is the eighth iteration of IMX since the exercise was established in 2012.

-- From U.S. Naval Forces Central Command

[Read more, click here](#)

Sale... Or

BOATS/CAMPERS/TRAILERS

New Price 21 foot - 2021 Jayco Travel Camper. Like new; beige & walnut interior and mattress kept in original plastic. Selling to upgrade to larger size - Price is \$15,000 some accessories included. To view or request pics please contact: Gary 601-575-5062.

2018 Mallard M185 Travel Trailer. Sleeps 4 with 1 queen bed/2 bunks. Easy to tow at 3,575 lbs; only selling because mili-

tary 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.

2012 VW Jetta Turbo diesel, Auto trans, 118-K Miles. Asking \$5,500; call 601-479-1456.

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

For Sale: 3BD/2BA Home with 2,560 sq. ft. Sits on 1 & 1/2 lots on dead end with privacy woods on 3 sides. Asking \$180,000. Contact: lucindawnichols@gmail.com, call 601-527-7829 or 601-917-6145.

For Rent: 2 BD/1 1/2 BA 1100 square foot home in Dalewood with main lake access. Asking \$1300 a

month. Email: rosscandeloproperties@gmail.com for information..

For Rent: Lake Cabin near NAS Meridian. 1 BD/1 BA; \$700 month. Unfurnished.

For Rent: 3BD, 2BA home with washer/dryer, wifi, lawn service and water included. \$1500/month. Call 601-917-8594.

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. 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 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

Service for hire: Dixie 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 Wednesday prior to publication.

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

NCOs key to Ukrainian military successes against Russia

By Jim Garamone

DoD News, Defense Media Activity

Since 2014, the United States has sent Ukraine more than \$32.4 billion in security assistance, and while the transfer of equipment is important in Ukraine's defense, the training aspect of this aid may have longer term implications.

These military capabilities — including Javelins, tanks, air defense systems and more — have been crucial, but Ukraine's investment in developing a noncommissioned officer corps may be the key to victory against the Russian invader.

The Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman Ramón "CZ" Colón-López said that looking at a year of conflict in Ukraine since Russia invaded, he has been convinced of "the decisive advantage that the human brings" to combat.

The SEAC — who spent most of his career in special operations — noted that the No. 1 rule in his military community "is that humans are more important than hardware."

Colón-López spoke before traveling to Europe to meet with his counterparts among the NATO frontline states. "That is true, not only for special operations, but for conventional forces, because you can have the best technology in the world, but if you don't have the will and the pride to fight for your nation, you're going to be on the losing end of the equation," he said. "We have seen this play over and over again."

One lesson of the conflict in Ukraine is that government and military leaders must prioritize the training, development and education of service members, he said. "At the end of the day, the rivets and steel is not as important as the flesh and bone if the flesh and bone is not willing to go all-in in the execution of the wartime mission," he said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin expected an easy and quick war on Ukraine, U.S. officials have said. Ukraine and Russia had many of the same capabilities, including T-72 tanks, BMP infantry fighting vehicles, air defenses and more. Still, Russia — with more money — had the advantage there, as well.

"It's like when you have two football teams. Everybody's got the same equipment; they got the pads to helmets; they got a coach; they got the headsets and everything else," Colón-López said. "But it all boils down to the execution and the strategy that actually decides who is the victor in that game. It's no different in the military. And that is exactly what the Ukrainians have done."

The U.S. military relationship with Ukraine began

"It is the human dynamic that is actually tipping the scales on victory versus failure out on that battlefield," he said. "It is definitely a decisive advantage that the Ukrainians have that the Russians do not."

— Ramón "CZ" Colón-López,
Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman

in 1993 soon after the Soviet Union broke apart and the nation declared its independence. Ukraine joined the State Partnership Program and partnered with the California National Guard — with whom they are still partnered.

Ukraine — and the rest of the nations that were in the Soviet orbit — used Soviet tactics and doctrine. When those nations participated in training sessions with U.S. and other NATO forces — most notably in an exercise at Fort Polk, Louisiana, in 1995 — they invariably got waxed. Many of the nations aspired to join NATO, and they took to learning the NATO playbook.

"We decided to go ahead and start partnering with a lot of those regional partners to be able to help them break away from the Soviet model," the SEAC said. "In the meantime, we had sporadic engagements."

The Ukrainian military was still very "officer-centric" and not responsive or agile. If the officer went down, the unit had no idea what to do. "The NCOs ... were not empowered, they were not entrusted, and they were not properly trained or educated to be autonomous on the battlefield," he said.

All this changed after Russia invaded Ukraine in 2014, illegally annexed Crimea, and fomented uprisings in the eastern provinces of the nation. "The government of Ukraine decided to go all in on an NCO development model," Colón-López said.

[Read more, click here](#)

→ DOWNTOWN MERIDIAN ←

ALE TRAIL



ST PADDY'S CELEBRATION

BEER - MUSIC - FOOD

FRIDAY MARCH 17
5PM - 10PM

V Lounge Threefoot Brewing Spacey's The Boxcar Mia's
Aie's Weidmann's Thisland601 Brickhaus Harvest Grill

Pick up Ale Trail Cards at Harvest Grill from 5pm - 6pm
Go to 5 out of 10 Restaurants - Turn in Card at Threefoot Brewing before 9:30pm - Doorprizes at 9:45pm

Myth #1

Drivers can multitask.



THE GREAT MULTITASKING LIE



AirBnB: An unwitting player in military housing crisis

"The eggs'd better be hot," I grumbled to myself as I reluctantly walked out into the cold rain to attend a Rotary breakfast meeting this morning. I'd joined the group last year, thinking it would

COLUMN

be a good idea to volunteer for a local service organization to better connect with our local community. But on meeting days, when my alarm blasts o-dark-thirty, I always regret my decision.

A few minutes later, I was in the breakfast line with my fellow club members, my sense of regret having passed as it always does. After the Pledge of Allegiance and a rousing rendition of "Singing in the Rain" (it's Rotary tradition to sing from the songbook before each meeting), our speaker was introduced.

I was more concerned with the two slices of perfectly-cooked bacon on my plate than listening to what our new Rhode Island congressional representative had to say, so I adopted a fake

listening face — all mothers master this — and continued munching.

"... school enrollment is down, primarily because we're losing our military families ..." Representative Whatshis-name said.

"Did he say 'military families'?" I thought after swallowing a forkful of scrambled eggs. As a military spouse, I'd developed an understandable habit of not showing any interest in local politics at each duty station. Why bother when you have to move anyway? However, my Navy husband's been retired for five years now, so I no longer have a valid excuse.

"Mr. Finkelman," I asked, hoping I'd gotten his name right, "can you please elaborate on what you said about military families?" He explained that the increase in AirBnB properties has resulted in less military families renting locally, less military children in our local schools, and less money being given by the state to our school system.

Apparently, AirBnB and other short-term rental (STR) platforms are causing all kinds of fuss across the US. For the last few years, property owners have been converting more and more long term rentals to lucrative STRs, inviting criticism that they are significantly contributing to the already historic

long-term housing shortage. In New York City, for example, there are more AirBnB listings than apartments to rent, and it's costing renters millions in raised housing costs.

As the industry leader, AirBnB has also been blamed for ruining the tranquility of peaceful neighborhoods by catering to unsupervised party animals who pay STR cash and dash, leaving empty solo cups in their wakes. In response, municipalities are passing strict regulations on STRs, which angers property owners who rely on AirBnB income.

What's it all mean to military families, whose BAH still lags behind skyrocketing rental costs despite the DoD passing an 12.1 percent increase in 2023? Without getting into a complicated analysis of supply and demand which I haven't done since 11th grade Economics class, there are clear negative impacts to military families.

Firstly, military families still struggle to find affordable housing on the economy due to the the rental market shortage and the highest interest rates in years. Military housing is also in short supply, resulting in long waiting lists for those willing to put up with often sub-standard quarters in less than desirable school districts. Facing significant out of pocket costs, military families have been forced

to consider alternative housing, to include hotels, mobile homes, camping, and STRs.

Secondly and ironically, the trend toward municipalities restricting STRs puts military families in a tighter bind by further limiting their rental housing options.

Lastly and also ironically, military families who bought properties at higher interest rates believing that they could rent them through AirBnB to recoup mortgage costs when they PCS may now be restricted by their municipalities to long-term rentals only. These military property owners may need to hike their rental rates up to cover costs, contributing more to the affordable housing crisis for their fellow military comrades.

Another twist in an already tangled knot that looks suspiciously familiar to the loopy AirBnB logo is recent research indicating that STRs positively impact communities' long-term economic growth. But this begs the age-old "which-came-first-the-chicken-or-the-egg" question, which I'm not willing to answer because I'm too busy eating my bacon and eggs.

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.



Molinari



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		

WOMEN'S ULTIMATE FRISBEE

REGISTRATION: MARCH 1 - MARCH 9
TOURNAMENT DATES: MARCH 14 & MARCH 16

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(601) 679-3384 for more info.

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MWR
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March 18 • 0800 • Fitness Center

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March 14th • 1000-2100 • McCain Lanes

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