Volume 63, Number 15

Wings Over Meridian Air Show: March 28-29, 2026!!

#### July 24, 2025

### On Base

#### Family Fun Day July 25 ● 1100-1400

July 25 ● 1100-1400 Field across Bldg 255

## Cosmic Bowling Nights

Every Saturday @ 1900 McCain Rec Center

Story Time
Every Wednesday @ 1000
Andrew Triplett Library

### **Kids Bowl Free!**

Entire Month of July (with purchase of adult game)

# STAFF NIGHTS Wednesdays • 1700-2000 Rudders

#### Open Mic Night

Every Friday in August Rudders ● 1900-2100

### Get Connected



SCAN for the Captain's Virtual Suggestion Box



Follow us!



## Rear Admirals Visit Training Air Wing One



RADM Joseph Hornbuckle is greeted by Peter Gadd, a V2X representative, during Joseph Hornbuckle and RDML Anthony Rossi's visit to Training Air Wing One onboard Naval Air Station Meridian, July 10. RADM Hornbuckle is Commander of Fleet Readiness Centers, Naval Air Systems Command. The Fleet Readiness Centers deliver assured and affordable aviation Maintenance Repair and Overhaul products and services to the Navy, Marine Corps and joint forces. RDML Rossi is Director of Navy International Programs Office. The Navy International Program Office supports the goals and objectives of friends and allies to build and maintain their defenses against common adversaries.

# NMRTU Meridian Welcomes New OIC

From Staff Reports

CDR Traci Tullius relieves CDR Edward Brinston as Officer-in-Charge of Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Unit Meridian (NMRTU Meridian) during a Change of Charge ceremony at the Navy Reserve Center, July 13.

CDR Traci L. Tullius earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from South Dakota State University and a Master of Science in Nursing Education from Western Governors University. Prior to her commissioning, she served as a Cryptologic Technician Interpretive Third-Class Petty Officer at Joint Task Force-Full Accounting, Camp

H. M. Smith, Hawaii. Tullius Commander commissioned as a Nurse Corps Officer in May 2008 and reported to Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, where she served as a Staff Nurse on the Mother Baby Unit and later the Intensive Care Unit. Commander Tullius deployed to Expeditionary Medical Facility Kuwait from July 2010 to March 2011, where she provided nursing care in Casualty Receiving, the Multiservice Ward, and the Intensive Care Unit. In August 2012, she transferred to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. During her two tours at Walter Reed, Commander Tullius served as Division Officer in the Post Anesthesia Care Unit and the Inpatient Surgical Ward before ultimately assum-

ing the Internal Medi-



#### **CDR Traci Tullius**

cine Department Head role, directing clinical operations for all Internal Medicine Services.

In February 2020, Com-

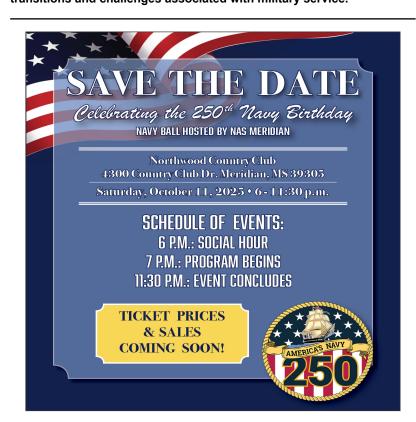
mander Tullius transferred to Fort Belvoir Community Hospital, where she served as Hospital Nursing Supervisor and Senior Nurse Officer for Orthopedics and Podiatry services. She deployed aboard the USNS Comfort (T-AH-20) to New York City in support of Operation Gotham in March 2020, where she served as Charge Nurse in the Intensive Care Unit, providing care to critically ill COVID patients. In November 2022, Commander Tullius transferred to Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Unit Key West, where she served as Senior Nurse Officer and Family Medicine Department Head. Commander Tullius's awards and decorations include the Joint Service Commendation Medal (three awards), Joint Service Achievement Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (two awards), Good Conduct Medal, and other various personal and unit awards.

# Fleet and Family Support Program Celebrates 46th Anniversary



Photo by Penny Randa

Kimberly Garrett, NAS Meridian Fleet and Family Support Center Director is joined by CAPT Luke Davis, NAS Meridian Commanding Officer as they cut the cake to celebrate the 46th Anniversary of the establishment of the Fleet and Family Support Program (FFSP), July 16. FFSP was established to enhance the well-being and readiness of both Sailors and their families, supporting them through various life transitions and challenges associated with military service.



## Eleven Aviators Earn Wings of Gold in July Ceremony

#### From Staff Reports

There was a naval Aviator designation ceremony July 18 onboard Naval Air Station Meridian. Eleven aviators received their "Wings of Gold" during the ceremony.

The naval aviator designation ceremony is prescribed s p e c i f i c a l l y by U.S. 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-earningeach title of "Na-Aviator" and the right to wear the coveted "Wings of Gold." LTJG Garison Tyler Andolina, USN,

He is a 2022 gradu-

ate of the Pennsylva-

nia State University,

where he received a

Bachelor of Science de-

gree in Planetary Sci-

ence and Astronomy.

While in Advanced

Jet Flight Train-

ing, he earned three

Navy "E's" for bomb-

ing accuracy. LTJG

Advanced Jet Flight

completed

Andolina

Training with Training Squadron Seven. LTJG Albert Adolphus Austin III, USN, is a 2020 graduate of Dartmouth College, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Government. During Primary Flight Training, LTJG Austin was named to the Commodore's List with Distinction. While in Advanced Jet Flight Training, he earned two Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy. LTJG Austin completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven.

LTJG Michael Stephen Berger, USN, a 2022 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Operations Research. During Advanced Jet Flight Training, he earned three Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy.



Andolina

LTJG Berger completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven.

ENS Pierre Paul Marie Bolzoni, French Navy, is a native of Saintes, France. During Primary Flight raining, ENS Bolzoni was named to the Commodore's List. While in Advanced Jet Flight Training, he earned four Navy "Es" for bombing accuracy. ENS Bolzoni completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven.

LTJGJonathan James Halter, USN, is a 2022 graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Ap-Mathematplied ics. While in Advanced Jet Flight Training, he earned four Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy. LTJG Halter completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Train-

ing Squadron Seven.

LTJG Bentley William Kalata, USN, is a 2020 graduate of Bellarmine University, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication. During Advanced Jet Flight Training, he earned three Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy. LTJG Kalata completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training

ing Squadron Seven. ENS Benjamin Michel Kennel, French Navy, is a 2022 graduate of the Bordeaux INP Engineering where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Aeronautical Engineering. He was named to the Commodore's list During Primary Flight School. While in Advanced Jet Flight Training, he earned a Navy "E" for bombing accuracy.



Austin III



Kalata

ENS Kennel completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven. LTJG Austin Tyler Pook USN is a 2019

Peek, USN, is a 2019 graduate of West Virginia University, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering. While in Advanced Jet Flight Training, he earned two Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy. LTJG Peek completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven.

Capt. Will Gerard Sernyak, USMC, is a 2021 graduate of Virginia Tech, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. While in Advanced Jet Flight Training, he earned four Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy. Capt. Sernyak completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven.

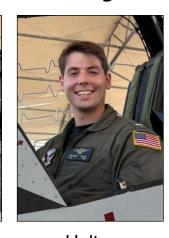
1stLt. Charles Gregory Smith, USMC, is a 2021 graduate of Auburn University, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Supply Chain Management. 1stLtSmith completed Ad-Flight vanced  $\operatorname{Jet}$ Training with Training Squadron Seven. 1stLt. Rhett Oakes Welsh, USMC, is



Berger



Bolzoni



Halter



2021

space

Kennel

the United States Na-

val Academy, where he

received a Bachelor of

Science degree in Aero-

ing. While in Advanced

Jet Flight Training, he earned a Navy "E"

for bombing accuracy.

1stLt. Welsh complet-

ed Advanced Jet Flight

Training with Train-

ing Squadron Seven.

graduate of

Engineer-



Peek



Sernyak



Smith



Welsh

## **Golden Stick Award**



Photo by Evelyn Reese

Mississippi Council of the Navy League President Joe Mercado has the honor of presenting the Golden Stick award to LTJG Michael Berger during a winging ceremony in the chapel onboard NAS Meridian, July 18. The Golden Stick is awarded to the student with the highest composite score during training and sponsored by the Mississippi Council of the Navy League.

### The Skyline ~ Naval Air Station Meridian, Miss.

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## LOCAL HAPPENINGS

#### JULY:

25 - August 1 - Neshoba County Fair - Come see what Mississippi's giant house party is all about! There will be fair rides, horse races, musical performances, rodeos, and pageants! Located at 16800 Hwy 21 South Philadelphia, MS 39350. Click here for tickets, entries, & info.

26, from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. - Harry Potter's Birthday - Join us at the Mississippi Children's Museum- Meridian to celebrate Harry Potter's birthday! On MCM's most magical day, we invite witches and wizards from all over to join us for this enchanting event! Located at the Meridian Children's Museum. Click here for tickets, entries, & info.

#### AUGUST:

2, from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. - Earth's Bounty - Local, fresher, better. Earth's Bounty is about supporting your local farmers and cottage food industries. Each first Saturday of the month, come out to the MAX for free admission, live music, local vendors, and a classroom activity. Located at The MAX in Downtown Meridian. Click here for tickets, entries, & info.

5, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Open Studio: Ceramics at The MAX -Take advantage of The MAX's Yates Construction 3D Studio, state of the art pottery wheels, and other supplies and equipment each Tuesday and Thursday in August, from 10am-1pm. All skill levels and abilities are welcome to participate (Ages 18+). Limited seating in studio. No instruction provided. Located at The MAX in Downtown Meridian. Click here for tickets, entries, & info.

14, 7:30 p.m. - Marshall Tucker Band - Over more than 50 years, The Marshall Tucker Band has created more than its share of songs that put a smile on your face and touch your soul from the first note. In 1972, the band came together in Spartanburg, South Carolina, blending country, blues, and jazz into its one-of-a-kind Southern rock sound. Such evocative tracks as "Can't You See," "Fire on the Mountain," and "Heard It in a Love Song" have woven themselves into the soundtracks of multiple generations. Located at the MSU Riley Center in Downtown Meridian. Located at The MSU Riley Center in Downtown Meridian. Click here for tickets, entries, & info.

## AREA HAPPENINGS

#### JULY:

26, 7:30 p.m. - Alabama Shakes - Concert features performances by Caleb Elliot and Alanna Royale. Located at the Coca-Cola Amphitheater in Birmingham, AL. Click here for tickets, entries, &

26, 7 p.m. - Creed: Summer of '99 Tour - Concert features performances by Daughtry and Mammoth. Located at the Smoothie King Center in New Orleans, LA. Click here for tickets, entries, & <u>info.</u>

31, 7:30 p.m. - Mumford & Sons - Concert features a performance by Margo Price. Located at the Orion Amphitheater in Huntsville, AL. Click here for tickets, entries, & info.

#### AUGUST:

2, 7:30 p.m. - Rod Stewart: One Last Time - Concert features a performance by Cheap Trick. Located at the Coca-Cola Amphitheater in Birmingham, AL. Click here for tickets, entries, & info.

8, 8 p.m. - Jim Belushi Live! - Southern Sky Brands presents Blues Night 2025, featuring Jim Belushi of The Blues Brothers, with guests Sherman Lee Dillon and The Bailey Brothers. Located at Martin's Downtown in Jackson, MS. Click here for tickets, entries, & info.

This information is provided for informational purposes only. The Department of the Navy does not approve, endorse, or authorize these entities or their products/services.

## PWD Meridian Restores Fire Station **Doors Following Tornado Impact**

#### From Staff Reports

Following the F1 tornado that swept through Naval Air Station (NAS) Meridian in December 2024, the Navy Facilities Engineering Systems Command South-(NAVFAC SE) Public Works Department (PWD) has completed replacement of all four of the airfield fire station's bay doors, which had destroyed been the storm.

The new doors received their fiinspection nal and were turned over for beneficial occupancy on July 1, 2025. In the immediate aftermath of the PWDtornado. forces in-house demonstrated in-



**NAS Meridian Fire Station Bay Doors** damaged by tornado that occurred December 2024.

novation under pressure and ensuring missionoperacritical tions continued uninterrupted. Technicians removed the storm

debris from the building to reegress, enable then fabricated a 30-foot by 40-foot temporary door constructed entirely from salvaged materials such as damaged Aircraft Protection Enclosures (APEs) and other storm-blown debris. This temporary structure remained in use from December through June, ensuring fire protection services at NAS Meridian remained fully operational during the entire recovery period and protecting vital infrastructure by retaining heat, deflecting rain, shielding and the bay from additional environmental hazards.

This effort exemplifies the fundamental values of PWD, NAS, and NAVFAC SE with the successful completion of the permanent roll-up door installation in June.



## Beat the Heat

Drink plenty of water • Avoid caffeine Protect yourself from the sun • Use sunscreen Try to keep cool · Wear light clothing Watch for signs of heat stroke

#### HOMES/APARTMENTS

For Sale: 3 BD/3 BA, 2,804sqft home in Collinsville. Upstairs is a large bonus room that can be used as a 4th bedroom or recreational space. 1 acre of land. House is WL school District. Low interest rate assumable VA loan. Asking \$399,000. For additional info please txt or call 601-479-0888.

For Rent: 3 BD/2 BA. West Lauderdale School District. No HUD, Renter is responsible for all utilities, 1 year lease, \$1700 a month. \$1700 deposit. Contact 662-694-1696

For Rent: 2 BD/1 BA, 600 sq. ft. Rent is \$1275/ Month with a \$1275 Security Deposit. Rent includes an 8x11 Storage Unit, In Unit Stackable Washer/Dryer, granite countertops and Stainless Steel appliances. Pets are negotiable. No Smoking. Contact Rhonda at 601-488-1963

For Rent: 3 BD/2 BA, 1100 Sq. Ft. Rent

is \$1425/Month with a \$1425 Security Deposit. Rent includes an 8x11 Storage Unit, In Unit Stackable Washer/Dryer, granite countertops and Stainless Steel appliances. Pets are negotiable. No Smoking. Contact Rhonda at 601-488-1963

For Rent: 2 BD/1 BA unfurnished home in North Hills. Available Call 601-504-May/June. 5415.

For Rent: 3 BR/2 BA home in a quiet family neighborhood comes with all appliances (incl. W/D), and is convenient to NAS Meridian, schools, shopping, activities and major employers in the area. Outside, there's a large fenced yard with patio and an attached 2-car garage with keypad entry. All electric with central AC/ heat. Contact Leslie Turner, 601-527-4670 to view. See Zillow listing for more information and to submit applications. Rent \$1,750 per month.

For Sale: 3 BD/4 BA home with 2965 sq ft of lake view home in beautiful, gated Lake Eddins in Pachuta, 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: 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.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

**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



Photo by Evelyn Reese

Congratulation's to those who received awards at Command Quarters, July 21. Great job and keep up the good work!

## **US Marines Mobilized to Los Angeles are Being Sent Home**

By Haley Britzky CNN

Roughly 700 activeduty US Marines who mobilized month to respond to protests in Los Angeles are being sent home from the mission, the Pentagon said Monday.

"With stability returning to Los Angeles, the Secretary has directed the redeployment of the 700 Marines whose presence sent a clear message: lawlessness will not be tolerated," chief Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell said in a statement Monday, adding that "rapid response, unwavering discipline, and unmistakable presence were instrumental in restoring order."

Parnell announced last week that Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth had released 2,000 California National Guard members with the 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team from duty.

The Marines, with 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, Marine Division, were mobilized in June and assisted in protecting federal buildings and nersonnel. They were intended to provide the task force overseeing the federal protection mission in LA "with adequate numbers of forces to provide continuous coverage of the area in support of the lead federal agen-US Northern Command said at the time.

There are still another roughly 2,000 California Army National Guard soldiers assigned to the mission who were mobilized later in June.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom in a statement Monday called for the remaining National Guard soldiers to be withdrawn from the state.

"The women and men of the California Nation-



Photo by Spencer Platt/Getty Images

Marines are confronted by protesters outside a federal building during an anti-Trump "No Kings Day" demonstration in Los Angeles on June 14.

al Guard deserve more than to continue serving as puppets in Trump and Stephen Miller's performative political theater," Newsom said. "There was never a need for the military to deploy against civilians in Los Angeles. The damage is done, however. We, again, call upon them to do the right thing and end the militarization once and for all."

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass welcomed the decision to withthe Marines. draw

"This is another win for Los Angeles but this is also a win for those serving this country in uniform," Bass said in a statement on Monday. "Just this morning I stood with Veterans, families of active duty officers, and business leaders to show the impact of this unnecessary, unprecedented, unconstitutional assault on our city."

The Marines' deployment to LA was immediately met with criticism as a significant escalation of the use of the military by President Donald Trump. LA Police Department Chief Jim McDonnell said at the time that the arrival of Marines "absent clear coordination" would present "a significant logistical and

operational challenges for those of us charged with safeguarding this city."

The Marines, like the National Guardsmen who were activated under Title 10 status, were prohibited from conducting law enforcement activity, which is outlawed under the Insurrection Act.

Newsom said in a statement in June that the "level of escalation is completely unwarranted, uncalled for, and unprecedented," adding the Trump administration was "mobilizing the best in class branch of the U.S. military against its own citizens."

A senior Pentagon official said during a congressional hearing last month that the mobilization of the Marines and National Guardswas estimated men to cost \$134 million.

"The current estimated cost is \$134 million, which is largely just [temporary duty] cost, travel, housing, food. etc.," Bryn MacDonnell, a special assistant to the Secretary of Defense and official performing the duties of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), told the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense.



## **NAS North Island Expected to host** San Diego's First NASCAR Race

By Ben Higgins ABC 10News San Diego

San Diego is expected to be announced as the newest location for a NASCAR race, with Naval Air Station North Island in Coronado as the venue.

Multiple reports indicate that NASCAR will announce later this week that San Diego will host a race in 2026, replacing the Chicago street race which is going on pause.

ABC10News has confirmed that the race will take place on Father's Day weekend next June on the base at North Island.

The venue will provide spectacular views of San Diego Bay, Point Loma, the Coronado-Bay Bridge, and the San Diego skyline for racing fans.

Frank Marchese, covers motorsports for radio station 97.3 The Fan, says this is significant for the local racing community.

"It's a massive deal for racing fans. To be able to have your premier sport, at least racing sport, in the United States, come to your city.... that is an absolutely massive deal, and something NASCAR has been looking to try to do."

NASCAR was forced to abandon Southern California on an annual basis when the Auto Club Speedway in Fontana closed in 2023. Currently, the only California race on the NASCAR circuit is the annual stop in Sonoma. Marchese believes a new race in San Diego could draw fans from across the region.

"People from over Southern California, middle California, through Arizona, Las Vegas...there's a very good chance people are going to come from far and wide to see this race," Marchese told ABC 10News.

The planned location on North Island could help San Diego avoid traffic problems that have plagued other cities hosting races.

"Not being located dead-center of downtown San Diego like Chicago was might help this race's longevity," Marchese said.

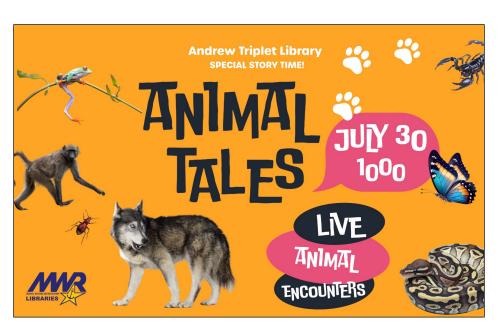


FFSC Hours

Mon-Thurs. 0300=1630

File 0700=1530

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









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