Volume 60, Number 23

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November 10, 2022

# News Butes

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EPA: Water in Mississippi's capital city is safe to drink

~ Click here ~

Hyena baby born at Hattiesburg Zoo, but remains under wraps

~ Cliek hørg ~

Monarch butterflies return to Mexico on annual migration

 Click here
 Colts fire Reich as stagnant offense continues to sputter

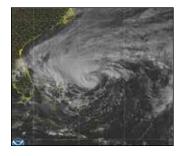
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NAS Sailors & Civilians of the Quarter

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New events in area happenings

# What's Inside



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**Tropical Storm Nicole** 

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# NAS Meridian presents first "Teacher Salute"



Photo by Penny Randal

Anita Wansley, left, principal of Northeast Elementary School, joins CAPT Brent Moore, commanding officer of NAS Meridian, as he presents the first "Teacher Salute" Award to Brittany Eakes, a 4th grade teacher at Northeast Elementary School. Also pictured is Larry Mullins, NAS Meridian School Liaison. Awarded quarterly, the presentation will recognize teachers who are dedicated to teaching; inspiring and growing the hearts and minds of all students – especially those of military children.

**Teacher Name**: Brittany Eakes **Grade:** 4th Math

#### How long have you been teaching?

13 years, 1 at Northeast Middle School and 12 at Northeast Elementary

#### General information about yourself?

I grew up in Lauderdale County and went to all the Northeast schools, graduating from Northeast High School. Most of my best friends growing up were from NAS Meridian. They would be here for a couple of years and move. I would get post cards after they moved but it was hard for me to constantly lose friends.

#### Where did you earn your degree?

Bachelor's Degree from Mississippi State University Master's Degree from William Carey University National Board Certified and 4th Grade Team Leader

#### What made you decide to become a teacher?

I took a childcare class at the vocational school during high school. I knew I wanted to work with kids because of that class.

What do you like most about being a teacher? The relationships with the children.

What's the hardest thing about being a teacher? The stress that comes from state testing.

What would you tell new parents/children is the best

thing about living in Meridian?

Meridian has a small town feel. Everyone knows everyone.

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

The school is child centered. Our motto is growing hearts and minds. In addition to academics, we help students with social development and provide a positive environment and learning experience.

# Thanksgiving Safety

From Weeklysafety.com

Thanksgiving is a wonderful time to gather with friends and family, eat delicious food, watch football (or the parade!), and travel to visit loved ones. While enjoying the holiday, and as things might get hectic, it is important to always keep safety in mind.

Family around table with a lot of food celebrating Thanksgiving.

Top safety hazards during the Thanksgiving holiday include:

# KITCHEN SAFETY

- Keep children away from the stove.
- ✓ Do not leave the house while the turkey is cooking.
- Ensure the kitchen floor is kept clear and doesn't have any trip hazards.
- ✓ Keep matches, lighters, candles and knives out of the reach of children.

Thanksgiving is the #1 day of the year for cooking fires, reports State Farm insurance. The U.S. Fire Department confirms that more than 4,000 fires occur on Thanksgiving Day and preparing deep fried turkeys, using a turkey fryer, is the cause of approximately 5 deaths, 50 injuries, and the destruction of 900 homes and more than \$15 million in property damage every year.

Kitchen safety is even more important than usual during busy holiday times, like Thanksgiving, when more people might be working in the kitchen to prepare a large meal.

• Thanksgiving, page 2



- Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stovetop so you can keep an eye on the food.
- Stay in the home when cooking your turkey and check on it frequently.
- Keep children away from the stove. The stove will be hot and kids should stay 3 feet away.
- Make sure kids stay away from hot food and liquids.
   The steam or splash from vegetables, gravy or coffee could cause serious burns.
- Keep the floor clear so you don't trip over kids, toys, pocketbooks or bags.
- Keep knives out of the reach of children.
- Be sure electric cords from an electric knife, coffee maker, plate warmer or mixer are not dangling off the counter within easy reach of a child.
- Keep matches and utility lighters out of the reach of children — up high in a locked cabinet.
- Never leave children alone in room with a lit candle.
- Make sure your smoke alarms are working. Test them by pushing the test button.



### Have activities that

keep kids out of the kitchen during this busy time. Games, puzzles or books can keep them busy. Kids can get involved in Thanksgiving preparations with recipes that can be done outside the kitchen.

# NAS Meridian Sailors of the Quarter



**MA1 Darius Cummings** 

Sailor of the Quarter Security



**AC2 Veronica Suarez Aviles** 

Junior Sailor of the Quarter Air Operations



**AC3 Riley Pfeiffer** 

Blue Jacket of the Quarter Air Operations

# NAS Meridian Civilians of the Quarter



**Wendy Tullos** 

Senior Civilian of the Quarter Information Technology



**Surnell Hines** 

Junior Civilian of the Quarter Administration

# Corps finds no radioactive contamination at Missouri school

By Jim Salter

Testing by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers found no radioactive contamination at a Missouri school that was shut down last month amid fears that nuclear material from a contaminated creek nearby had made its way into the school, Corps officials said Wednesday.

Teams from the Corps' St. Louis office began testing the interior of Jana Elementary School in Florissant, Missouri, and the soil around it in late October, days after the school board closed the school. The closure followed testing by a private firm that found levels of radioactive isotope lead-210 that were 22 times the expected level on the kindergarten playground, as well as concerning levels of polonium, radium and other materials inside the building.

The Corps said preliminary results found no evidence of radioactive material above what would be naturally occurring.

"From a radiological standpoint, the school is safe," Col. Kevin Golinghorst, St. Louis District commander for the Corps of Engineers, said in a news release. "We owe it to the public and the parents and children of

Jana Elementary School to make informed decisions focused on the safety of the community, and we will continue to take effective actions using accurate data." Corps officials tested inside the school and took samples from 53 locations in the soil on the school grounds. Overall, Golinghorst said, nearly 1,000 samples were taken

The Corps said a public event will be held Nov. 16 to discuss the findings with the community.

A spokeswoman for the Hazelwood School District said officials were in a meeting Wednesday morning but would comment later.

The school, with about 400 students, sits along Coldwater Creek, a 19-mile (31-kilometer) waterway contaminated decades ago with Manhattan Project atomic waste. The Corps used radiation detection instruments to scan surfaces inside the school, and dug holes up to 28 feet (8.5 meters) deep in the soil.

Students are taking virtual classes for the next month, then will be reassigned to other schools. It hasn't been determined when Jana Elementary will reopen. Testing by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers found no radioactive contamination at a Missouri school.

### Thanksgiving

But for casual cooks and experienced chefs alike, the kitchen presents more hazards than imagined. Read more about the most common ways kitchen tasks send people to the ER every day so you can plan your next family gathering to be even safer.

# HOLIDAY FIRE PREVENTION TIPS

- ✓ Keep baking soda on hand to put out kitchen fires.
- Do not leave food cooking or the stove unsupervised.
- ✓ Make sure smoke alarms are working.
- A household fire extinguisher should always be nearby.
- ✓ Do not leave candles burning unattended and do not burn candles near flammable items like curtains or potpourri.
- ✓ Follow all instructions carefully when using a deep fryer and monitor closely!

Incidents of choking and food poisoning increase during the holidays, especially around Thanksgiving, as people are preparing and consuming more food than usual. Food Safety News reports that approximately 51 million turkeys are consumed on Thanksgiving.

### FOOD SAFETY

- ✓ Always wash your hands after handling raw or under-cooked poultry.
- $\, {\bf \checkmark} \,$  Use separate cutting boards for raw meat and produce to prevent cross-contamination.
- ✓ The USDA recommends cooking the turkey at a minimum of 325 degrees. Use a food thermometer and cook the turkey to an internal temperature of 165 to 180 degrees to ensure the turkey is cooked thoroughly and to avoid illness caused by consuming under-cooked poultry.
- $\mbox{\ensuremath{\checkmark}}$  Store leftovers within 2 hours or toss them.

### PET SAFETY

The Veterinary Medical Association warns that turkey and chicken bones should never be given to pets because they can splinter and pets may choke.

Dogs should be kept away from any dish that has onions, leeks, garlic, raisins, grapes or chocolate, as those foods can be hazardous to your dog's health.

# The Skyline ~ Naval Air Station Meridian, Miss.

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# Local Happenings

# NOVEMBER

11: Veterans Day Ceremony from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the Doughboy Monument, downtown Meridian. Guest speaker for the ceremony will be Lt. Col. Kelly A. Miller, USAF, retired, former commander of the 186th Operations Group of the 186th Air Refueling Wing at Key Field. Event is free to the public; call 601-604-0097.

11: Veterans Day Parade at 3 p.m. in downtown Meridian. Bring the family downtown as the Veterans Day Planning Committee puts the wraps on Veterans Day with the annual parade.

19: Cool Night at Soule' Steam from 6-9 p.m. at the Soule Steam Feed Works. Join us for a night under the stars strolling along the hidden cobblestone alleyways of Meridian's historic Soule' Steam Works while enjoying exquisite cocktails and local small bites. Tickets will still be limited due to space restrictions. Reservations will be first come, first serve; and tickets will not be available at the door. Tickets are \$50 singles/\$90 couples; call 601-693-2224.

25: Full Moon on Fifth from 6-9 p.m. on 5th Street from 22nd to 23rd Avenue. 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.

27: Advent wreath making at Merrehope from 1-4 p.m. Make your own advent wreath. All ages are invited to participate. Tickets are \$10 (does not include tour.) Call 601-483-8439.

#### DECEMBER

1-31: Merrehope Trees of Christmas Mondays-Saturdays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sundays 1-4 p.m. at Merrehope. Enjoy the Christmas spirit as you tour these beautiful historical homes and see over 50 exquisitely decorated trees and holiday exhibits. Tickets are \$15 for adults; \$10 for seniors, military and students; call 601-483-8439.

**6: MAXCreates: Ornaments** from 5:30-7 p.m. at the Mississippi Arts + Entertainment Experience. Youth ages 10-15 are invited to these monthly art-based workshops. Join us to develop friendships, explore new art forms, and learn more about Mississippi artists. Free program. Registration required. Call 601-581-1550 ext 23.

9: Emmylou Harris at 7:30 p.m. at the MSU Riley Center. Few artists have achieved such honesty or revealed such maturity in their writing. Harris continues to share the hard-earned wisdom that comes with getting older. And, as always, she continues to resolutely look ahead. Call 601-696-2200.

# From salt and sand: 60 Years of Navy SEALs

SEAL Team 1 welcomed frogmen of the past and present to celebrate 60 years of rich SEAL history in a ceremony at Silver Strand Training Complex on

Retired and active operators, representing warfighters from every era of American combat since the Vietnam War, reunited with former teammates. Enlisted Sailors and officers alike stood united by the trident they had all earned and worn on their chests.

SEAL Team 1 Chaplain Lt. Cmdr. Aman Grant commemorated the nearby beach that had been the forging ground for America's most formidable warriors during his opening invocation.

"For 60 years, these American men, who loved the Constitution of our country, American men who had self-sacrifice twisted in their DNA, American men who lived to the beat of a different drum, American men who were both quiet yet

deadly, loud and proud!" Grant pronounced powerfully. "For 60 years, these men were birthed into SEALs from this Pacific salt and Coronado sand."

Grant's sermon to 60 years of SEAL history received roaring applause from past and present SEALs, who shared memories of perseverance and being pushed to their limits just a few miles down the beach.

The Naval Special Warfare community's history predates the SEAL teams' establishment by twenty years. In August 1942, the Amphibious Scouts and Raiders (Joint) and the Special Mission Naval Demolition Unit were established at Amphibious Training Base Little Creek, Virginia, to perform specific missions during Operation Torch – the allied invasion of North Africa - in November

> -- From PO1 Daniel Gaither. Naval Special Warfare Group ONE

Read more, click here

# USS Chicago returns home from final deployment

The Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine USS Chicago (SSN 721) returned to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam following a seven-month deployment. It was the submarine's final deployment before decommissioning, which is scheduled to begin in 2023 following 37 years of service.

Chicago departed Pearl Harbor March 28, 2022 for a regularly-scheduled deployment, during which the submarine and its crew performed a full spectrum of operations, to include antisubmarine and anti-surface warfare in the Indo-Pacific region.

"I'm extremely proud of not only the Chicago Sailors but the Chicago families and supporters," said Chicago's commanding officer, Cmdr. Andrew Kopacz, from Hartford, Wisconsin. "Being gone from home is a challenge for the crew and we could not have remained focused on the mission without knowing our families were strong back at home. This crew demonstrated the fortitude, resiliency, and enthusiasm that make this country great. We are eager to reunite with our families and enjoy some down time in their company."

-- From U.S. Pacific Fleet

Read more, click here

# Littoral Combat Ship Training Facility Pacific established

Marking a significant milestone event for the waterfront community, the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) Training Facility (LTF) Pacific (PAC) was established during an official ceremony onboard Naval Base San Diego, Nov. 1. Capt. Justin Long, commanding officer for Surface Combat Systems Training Command (SCSTC) San Diego, turned over duties to Capt. Dustin Lonero as the first commanding officer for LTF

Lonero is well-known in the LCS community. He previously served as commanding officer for USS Gabrielle Giffords (LCS 10) Blue Crew during the ship's maiden deployment to western pacific, commanding officer for USS Coronado (LCS 4) and most recently, USS Montgomery (LCS 8).

"It is an honor to stand here today as your first commanding officer," said Lonero. "I know this command is in great shape because of Capt. Long's outstanding leadership and I look forward to leading an incredible team of subject matter experts in training future LCS warfighters."

> -- From Kimberly M. Lansdale. Surface Combat Systems Training Command

> > Read more, click here

## **BOATS/CAMPERS/TRAILERS**

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 \$16,800 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 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.

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

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 vard. Convenient to shopping and base. \$139K. Call 601-513-3395 or 601-227-1870

### MISCELL ANEOUS

Service for hire: Dixie Lawn LLC, lawn care in Meridian. Call 850-376-4499. Military owned com-

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.prince@navy.mil

# Tropical Storm Nicole bears down on the Bahamas, Florida

By Freida Frisaro and Danica Coto AP News

Crews evacuated dozens of people from vulnerable locations in the northwestern Bahamas as Tropical Storm Nicole approached Wednesday and residents of Florida braced for the storm, which could strengthen to a rare November hurricane.

"We are forecasting it to become a hurricane as it nears the northwestern Bahamas, and remain a hurricane as it approaches the east coast of Florida," Daniel Brown, a senior hurricane specialist at the Miami-based National Hurricane Center, said Wednesday.

Nicole is the first storm to hit the Bahamas since Hurricane Dorian, a devastating Category 5 storm that struck the archipelago in 2019, before hitting stormweary Florida on Wednesday night and moving into Georgia on Thursday.

In the Bahamas, officials said early Wednesday that only a few people were in the more than two dozen shelters that opened. Flooding and power outages were reported in Abaco ahead of the storm's ar-



This GOES-East GoeColor satellite image taken at 2:36 p.m. EST and provided by NOAA shows Tropical Storm Nicole approaching toward the northwestern Bahamas and Florida's Atlantic coastline on Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2022.

"We are asking people to please take it (seriously)," said Andrea Newbold with the Disaster Management Unit for Social Services. "Don't wait until the last minute."

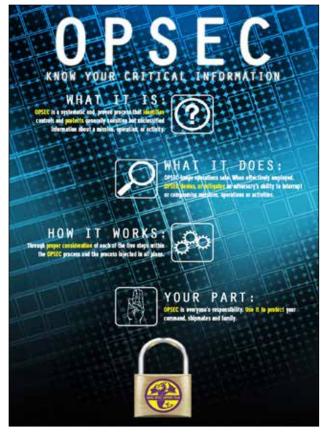
Residents in at least three Florida counties - Flagler, Palm Beach and Volusia — were ordered to evacuate from barrier islands, low-lying areas and mobile homes. The evacuation orders went into effect Wednesday morning. Officials at Orlando International Airport, the seventh busiest in the U.S., said commercial operations would stop Wednesday afternoon until it was safe to resume flights. And Palm Beach International Airport planned to close.

Bahamas Prime Minister Philip Brave Davis, who is at the COP27 U.N. Climate Summit, said he has mobilized all government resources as the storm nears.

"There have always been storms, but as the planet warms from carbon emissions, storms are growing in intensity and frequency," he said. "For those in Grand Bahama and Abaco, I know it is especially difficult for you to face another storm," Davis said, referring to the hardest hit islands by Dorian.

Read more, click here





# The beautiful need for sisterhood

"Hello, honey! It's 'Call Your Daughter

Day!" my mother **COLUMN** said when I answered my phone last Wednesday. Mom and I talk often, but we'd never established a "call your daughter day." However, I knew instinctually why she'd said this to me on this particular day.

It was Wednesday, and for many years, it was "Call Your Sister Day" to

Molinari

Mom — the day she and her sister, Charlene, talked on the phone.

Two weeks ago, my Aunt Char passed

This Wednesday phone call indicated that my role in Mom's life was expanding beyond daughter. I could never replace my Aunt Char — a tall woman with a big personality and bold sense of humor, ice-blue eyes and high cheek bones like my mom, an excellent cook, a terrific baker, a talented sewer and crafter, a caretaker and giver.

I, on the other hand, am short with brown eyes and a round face. I'm a decent but lazy cook and a lousy baker. I'm crafty and creative, but less so than Aunt Char. Although my sense of humor is well-developed from years of using it as a crutch, ploy for attention, and icebreaker, I've always admired my Aunt's bold, unapologetic, comedic style.

Growing up, we didn't see Aunt Char, Uncle Allen, and my cousins, Shari and Margaret, as much as we would have liked because they lived in Kentucky, but my Aunt's unique personality made its indelible mark on people's lives nonethe-

I'll never forget Aunt Char making home-made ice cream on her back porch on hot, summer days. Sewing our Halloween costumes from scratch. Yelling at us for riding Pop's gate like it was a swing. Crocheting nose-warmers for us to wear while sledding in Pennsylvania. Playing piano with my mom. Blaring with her Kentucky twang, "If you're gonna stir up sh#t, don't use me as a spoon!" and other classic one-liners. Making everyone in the Ohio river cabin laugh late into the night. Tying ivory bows to decorate the church for my wedding.

I'm honored that my mother called me last Wednesday. Although we're not sisters, my Mom's call means that we have a sisterhood.

As a kid, I'd sometimes go home from school with my best friend, Patti, who had two sisters. I'd watch with fascination and horror, as Patti and her older sister, Barb, erupted in vicious sibling fights, scratching, biting, beating each other with hangers, and hurling brutal insults. Conversely, Patti and Barb protectively coddled their younger sister, Dina, while ironically resenting their parents' insistence on treating her as "the baby."

At the time, I didn't understand that the complexity of loving sister relationships often includes physical altercations and ruthless name-calling, and thought I was lucky I didn't have one

But as I grew, I found myself seeking out connections with women to fill that void in my life. There's Patti, still my BFF. Barb and Dina, who've become like sisters to me, too. College roommates Heidi and Chris; coworkers Julianne, Cindi and Krista; gym pals Tina and Amy; beach buddy Grace; bunco girls Suz, Lori, and Christine; writer friends Suzette, Nancy and Carolyn; sister-in-law Cara; neighbor Rebecca; military spouse friends Karen, Navarre, Jean, Erin, Suz, Natalie, Muffin, Tara, Eileen; and so many more.

And although my blood has specifically dictated my particular roles in my daughters' and mom's lives, they're part of my sisterhood, too.

Sisterhood is not limited by genealogy, but rather, it's a special relationship safe-place, where women can confide and confess, boast and brag, pontificate and ponder, advise and admonish, guide and give, ask and receive, comfort and compliment, fail and flounder, vent and lament, laugh and cry — with unconditional support and without risk of abandonment.

It matters less that you don't call. write or see each other for weeks, months or even years on end. It matters more that, when you do, you pick up where you left off last time. The recipe for sisterhood has three simple ingredients: life-long loyalty, no competition, and mutual respect.

Oh, and try not to beat each other with hangers.

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

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Library 679-2326 Rudders Pub & Grill 679-2780 CDC/CDH 679-2652 SAC 679-5252 679-2473 **School Liaison** 

MWR Admin. 679-2551 **MWR Jobs Line** 679-2467















