

THE SKYLINE



Volume 60, Number 20

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September 29, 2022

News Bytes

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Salt water creeps toward New Orleans up Mississippi River

~ Click here ~

Key West honors Queen Elizabeth at Southernmost Point marker

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Yankees star Judge hits 61st home run, ties Maris' AL record

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'Gangsta's Paradise' rapper Coolio dies at age 59

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LTJG Zachares wins Golden Stick

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New camper for sale in "For Sale..."



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Hurricane Ian

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NAS Meridian hosts Bells Across America Ceremony

From Staff Reports

Navy installations across the country will participate in the 6th Annual Bells Across America for Fallen Service Members ceremony on Sept. 22 to honor those who died while on active duty.

For centuries, bells have been used by the Navy for timekeeping, safety and communication, to sound alarms, in ceremonies and events, and to signal the presence of important persons.

During these memorial events, the bells rung will not signal anyone's presence; instead, they will toll

in their absence.

The primary focus and mission of the Navy Gold Star Program is to provide an unprecedented level of service and commitment to Gold Star families.

Bells Across America for Fallen Service Members is one way the Navy recognizes the sacrifices of our fallen heroes and their Gold Star families left behind.

The ceremonies are held in association with Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day, which is celebrated each year on the last Sunday in September, to honor, remember and support the parents, spouses and children of our fallen heroes.



Photo by Adam Prince

NAS Meridian hosted its Navy Gold Star Bells Across America ceremony, Sept. 22. Our service members who die on active duty have made the ultimate sacrifice, and the Navy is committed to supporting their families. The Navy Gold Star Program services survivors by providing support, information, and resources for as long as they desire.

East Mississippi Veterans Memorial Park Dedication



Photos by Penny Randall

On Sept. 27, the dedication ceremony for the East Mississippi Veterans Memorial Park and a static display of a F-4 Phantom jet was held at the park on Highway 19 South outside of the Meridian Air National Guard Base and Key Field. NAS Meridian officials attended the ceremony in support of the new park which will honor service members from all branches of the military. LT Matt Purmort delivered the invocation and LCDR Tim Hanschke, an instructor pilot with Training Squadron SEVEN, played Taps for the crowd of several hundred people. The program also included a fly over by a Stinson L-5 Sentinel, the type of aircraft flown by the 153rd Observation Squadron stationed at Key Field during World War II. For more information about the park go to www.emsvf.org.



NAS welcome new Public Works Officer

From Staff Reports

NAS Meridian recently welcomed its new Public Works Officer, LCDR Damien Allen. Allen is a native from Murrieta, California and a 2009 graduate of California Polytechnic Pomona California in a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and a Bachelor of Science in Applied Mathematics. He was commissioned as a Naval Officer on 07 January, 2011 from Officer Candidate School at Naval Station Newport, Rhode Island. After high school



Allen

graduation, he enlisted in the Navy as an Aviation Electronic Technician.

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WOW 5,000 Flight Hours



Photo by Penny Randall

Terry Pankhurst, third from left, is congratulated by Sean Duque, Boeing Field Support Representative; CAPT Robert Lanane II, commodore of Training Air Wing ONE; and Billy Ray, NAS Meridian CAE Site Manager; for his 5,000th flight hour in the T-45 Goshawk, Sept. 23, 2022. Pankhurst flew with VT-21, VT-22, VT-9 and VT-7 during his active duty and reserve career. He is now a civilian flight instructor with CAE onboard NAS Meridian and has nearly 30 years of service.

Two aviators earn ‘Wings of Gold’ in September pinning ceremony

There was a naval aviator designation ceremony Sept. 16 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.”



1STLT Connor Lavi



LTJG Cassandra Zachares

Golden Stick



Photo by Adam Prince

Roger Burke, left, President of the Mississippi Council of the Navy League presents LTJG Cassandra Zachares, with the Golden Stick award during a winging ceremony in the chapel onboard NAS Meridian, Sept. 16. The Golden Stick is presented to the student with the highest composite score during flight training.

MAP



Submitted photo

CAPT Brent Moore, left, commanding officer of NAS Meridian, meritoriously advances AC3 Michael Hobbs to the rank of Petty Officer Second Class during a ceremony at Air Operations onboard NAS Meridian, Sept. 6.

Chalk the Walk



Submitted photo

Sailors from Naval Technical Training Center (NTTC) Meridian participate in “Chalk the Walk” in front of the Fleet and Family Support Center onboard NAS Meridian, Sept. 14. Chalk the Walk was held in conjunction with Suicide Prevention month and is meant to encourage folks to join us in decorating and posting pledges in their work areas, homes, or online stating how with 1 Small act you can Be There for Every Sailor or Marine Every Day.

Funds to aid Jackson’s water system held up as governor rose

By Michael Goldberg
AP News

Years before people in Jackson were recently left without running water for several days, Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves claimed to have helped block money to fund water system repairs in the capital city.

Reeves, a Republican, blames Jackson’s water crisis on mismanagement at the city level. The city’s latest water troubles are far from its first, and they have stemmed from decaying infrastructure beyond one water treatment plant. The EPA said 300 boil water notices have been issued over the past two years in the city.

As Reeves climbed Mississippi’s political ladder, he cited his opposition to financially helping the capital as evidence of his fiscal conservatism. Jackson-area lawmakers say the troubled water system is one example of Jackson’s status as a political punching bag for Republican officials, who control the Legislature and the state Bond Commission.

“We operate under the golden rule here,” said Democratic Sen. John Horhn of Jackson. “And the golden rule is: He who has the gold makes the rules.”

In Jackson, 80% of residents are Black, and 25% live in poverty. Repeated breakdowns made it unsafe

for people to drink from their tap, brush their teeth and wash their dishes without boiling the water first. At a September news conference, Reeves said water service was restored to most of the city only after the state “stepped in” to provide emergency repairs. He also said that he didn’t anticipate a need for the Legislature to approve more debt for Jackson’s water system.

The specter of another weather-induced water stoppage looms large for some Jackson residents. “Winter is coming,” said Brooke Floyd, a local activist. “He’s saying it’s fixed. But it’s not fixed.”

Water service was also cut off in parts of the city due to a winter storm in 2010. By June 2011, Reeves was locked in a Republican primary campaign for lieutenant governor. As the tea party movement thrust government spending to the center of political debate, his opponent lambasted him for signing off on bond debt increases.

With election day just weeks away, Reeves — who was the state treasurer — appeared on a conservative talk radio show to push his track record as a tightfisted “watchdog” over state legislators eager to borrow. The host, Paul Gallo, wanted to know why Reeves had voted to approve most bond projects as a member of the state Bond Commission.

[Read more, click here](#)

● PWO

ATAN Allen was assigned to Helmineron FOURTEEN (HM-14) “The World Famous Vanguard” stationed in Norfolk, Virginia. Completing his four-year obligation, he returned to California to complete his education and years later in May 2011, his first CEC tour was at Yorktown, Virginia serving as Assistant Public Works Officer and as Construction Manager.

Later, LTJG Allen was transferred to Amphibious Construction Battalion TWO (ACB 2), Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek, Virginia in May 2013. During his time at ACB 2, he served as the Assistant Training Officer, Maintenance

Officer, Weapons Officer, Antiterrorism Officer and Defensive Unit Commander.

In the fall of 2015, Lieutenant Allen volunteered as a Construction Manager for Public Works Department Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti Africa where he managed vital construction for AFRICOM’s mission. Returning to Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek, Virginia he joined the ranks of the Naval Special Warfare Group TWO staff as the Staff Engineer for eighteen months until May 2018.

He then served two years as the Public Works Departments Facilities Engineering Acquisition Division Director and one year as

the Production Officer for Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base, New Orleans. After completing his tour at New Orleans, LCDR Allen earned a master’s degree in Construction Management at Louisiana State University.

Allen is a registered Professional Engineer in the state of Virginia, a member of the Defense Acquisition Corps and a qualified Seabee Combat Warfare officer. His personal decorations include Navy Commendations Medal (3 awards) and Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (3 awards) and is proud to have served with a community that has achieved the Navy “E” ribbon.

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
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EEO (NAF): 866-295-0328
EEO (GS): 904-542-2802

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Local Happenings

OCTOBER

1: Fall Fling from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the MAX. We'll have activities all day for all ages, including food trucks, bounce houses, face painting, fall crafts, lawn games, and more. First Saturday events are free with museum admission. First Saturday Admission: \$5 Adults, \$1 Ages 6-17, Free 5 and under; call 601-581-1550.

1: Felder Rushing Talk + Plant Swap from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the MAX. Don't miss Felder Rushing's presentation entitled "Old-fashioned 'Passalong' Plants for Low-maintenance Modern Gardens" followed by a mini plant swap. Free with museum admission; call 601-581-1550 to register.

4: Full Moon on 5th from 6-9 p.m. at Dumont Plaza. This laid back event has great food, live music, and a revolving showcase of local art talent. Come enjoy the arts with friends at this free event in our beautiful downtown -- look for the giant moons! Free to public; no outside beverages; contact markrd55@gmail.com for information.

7: Jay Leno at 7:30 p.m. at the MSU Riley Center. Acclaimed TV show host, comedian, children's book author, corporate speaker, voice-over artist, car enthusiast, and philanthropist Jay Leno has earned the title of hardest-working man in show business. Call 601-696-2200 for ticket information.

15: ACES presents: FEASTival on Fifth from 5-9 p.m. at Dumont Plaza. A cultural celebration of food. Participants will sample the favorite food of twenty countries, and be able to purchase servings of special treats from around the globe. Admission is \$15; contact markrd55@gmail.com for information.

NOVEMBER

4-5: Soule' Live Steam Festival from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Soule Steam Feed Works. The 19th Annual Soule Live Steam Festival in Meridian, Mississippi gives visitors the opportunity to see how things were made and how hard people worked back in the early 20th century. Admission adults-\$10; child/student-free; call 601-693-9905.

5: Singing Brakeman Century Ride from 7 a.m.-5 p.m. at City Hall. Join the Jimmie Rodgers Foundation for the 2nd annual "Singing Brakeman Century Ride" as we ride or race the beautiful countryside from Meridian to Philadelphia. Tickets are \$35 and up; call 601-938-7427.

19: Lauderdale County Community Resource Day from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at City Hall. Join Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services and Care Lodge Domestic Violence Shelter Inc. for an informative, fun fill Community Resource Day on Meridian's City Hall Lawn. There will be food trucks, crafts, face painting, bounce house and the Mississippi Blood Service will be at the event from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. for a blood drive. Free to the public; call 601-934-5466.

USS Ronald Reagan arrives in Busan for first time since 2017

The U.S. Navy's only forward-deployed aircraft carrier and the flagship for Carrier Strike Group 5 (CSG 5), USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76), along with USS Chancellorsville (CG 62) and USS Barry (DDG 52), arrived in Busan, Republic of Korea (ROK) for a regularly scheduled port visit, Sept. 23.

During the port visit, Ronald Reagan is scheduled to host several U.S. and ROK dignitaries aboard the ship at a "Big Top" reception and conduct several key leader engagements ashore. USS Benfold (DDG 65) pulled into Chinhae as part of the strike group's visit.

"The Ronald Reagan Strike Group's visit is of strategic importance to the U.S. and Republic of Korea relationship and is a clear and unambiguous demonstration of U.S. commitment to the Al-

liance," said Rear Adm. Buzz Donnelly, commander, CSG 5. "We're excited to return to Busan. Our presence and commitments to the Republic of Korea and the Indo-Pacific region are not new, and visits like this are part of our routine operations in the region that have helped maintain peace for more than 70 years."

This visit is the ship's first to Busan in nearly five years, and first to the ROK in nearly four years.

"As always, we look forward to every opportunity to work with our partners in the Republic of Korea," said Capt. Fred Goldhammer, Ronald Reagan's commanding officer. "Thank you to the government and people of Busan for hosting us in our return visit, which will undoubtedly further strengthen our ties."

-- From PO3 Louis Staats, USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) Public Affairs

[Read more, click here](#)

U.K. and U.S. conduct SINKEX during Atlantic Thunder 22

Ships and aircraft from the United Kingdom and the United States conducted a long planned multi-domain sinking exercise (SINKEX) called Atlantic Thunder 22 in the North Atlantic, Sept. 7.

Atlantic Thunder 22 participants, assigned to U.S. Naval Forces Europe, U.S. Air Forces Europe, the U.K. Royal Navy and U.K. Royal Air Force sank the decommissioned guided missile frigate ex-USS Boone, during the live-fire SINKEX to develop combined proficiency in tactics, targeting and live-firing against a surface target at sea.

"Sinking exercises not only provide excellent opportunities to gain real world operational experience in long range maritime strikes but also demonstrate the collective power of our combined forces," said Rear Adm. Oliver "Ollie" Lewis, U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa's (NAVEUR-NAVAF) Director of Maritime Operations. "Most importantly, gaining real world proficiency in the tactics, techniques and procedures we have developed and tested alongside our British Allies not only validate our weapons systems."

-- From U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa Public Affairs

[Read more, click here](#)

UNITAS concludes after successful exercise

UNITAS LXIII (63), the world's longest-running multinational maritime exercise concluded with a closing ceremony in Rio De Janeiro, Sept. 22, 2022.

UNITAS, which is Latin for "unity," was conceived in 1959, first executed in 1960 and held every year since. This year marked the 63rd iteration of the world's longest-running annual multinational maritime exercise.

This year's exercise was hosted by the Brazilian navy and included 19 warships/vessels, one submarine, and 21 aircraft that conducted scenario-driven joint and combined operations and training in and off the coast of Rio De Janeiro.

The exercise coincided with Brazil's bicentennial, a historical milestone commemorating 200 years of the country's independence and the birth of their navy.

"It is exciting to see 19 nations from across Central and South America, the Caribbean, Europe, and Africa participating in UNITAS," said Rear Admiral Jim Aiken, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. 4th Fleet. "This exercise is a demonstration of not only our commitment to the region, but also the strong relationships forged between our nations."

-- From PO1 Mitchell Meppelink, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command / U.S. 4th Fleet

[Read more, click here](#)

Sale... Or

BOATS/CAMPERS/TRAILERS

NEW! 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.

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, 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 at: <https://www.facebook.com/marketplace/item/851262408853834/>

For Sale: 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, larged 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.prince@navy.mil

Many trapped in Florida as Ian heads toward South Carolina

By Adriana Gomez-Licon

AP News

Rescue crews waded through flooded streets and used boats Thursday in a scramble to save people trapped after Hurricane Ian destroyed a cross-section of Florida and brought torrential rains that continued to fall.

The destruction began to come into focus a day after Ian made landfall in Florida as one of the strongest hurricanes ever to hit the U.S. The storm flooded homes on both of the state's coasts, cut off the only bridge to a barrier island, destroyed a historic waterfront pier and knocked out electricity to 2.5 million Florida homes and businesses. At least one man was confirmed dead.

"We've never seen storm surge of this magnitude," Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis told a news conference. "The amount of water that's been rising, and will likely continue to rise today even as the storm is passing, is basically a 500-year flooding event."

Though downgraded to a tropical storm by Thursday morning, the National Hurricane Center said storm surge and flooding rains remained a threat as Ian crept across the Florida peninsula and emerged in the Atlantic Ocean. Forecasters predicted a northward turn toward South Carolina, and a hurricane warning was issued for the state's coastline.

Sheriffs in southwest Florida said 911 centers were inundated by thousands of stranded callers, some with life-threatening emergencies. The U.S. Coast Guard began rescue efforts around daybreak on barrier islands near where the Ian struck, DeSantis said. Fire departments fanned

out in flooded areas as well.

In the Orlando area, Orange County firefighters used boats to reach people in a flooded neighborhood. A photo the department posted on Twitter showed one firefighter carrying someone in his arms through knee-deep water. At an area nursing home surrounded by water, patients were carried on stretchers across floodwaters to a waiting bus.

In Fort Myers, a few miles west of the barrier island where Ian came ashore, Valerie Bartley's family spent desperate hours Wednesday holding a dining room table against their patio door, fearing the storm raging outside "was tearing our house apart."

"I was terrified," Bartley said. "What we heard was the shingles and debris from everything in the neighborhood hitting our house."

She said her 4-year-old daughter grabbed her hand and said: "I'm scared too, but it's going to be OK." The girl was right. The storm ripped away patio screens and snapped a palm tree in the yard, Bartley said, but left the roof intact and her family unharmed.

Authorities confirmed at least one Florida death — a 72-year-old man in Deltona who fell into a canal while using a hose to drain his pool in the heavy rain, the Volusia County Sheriff's Office said. Two other storm deaths were reported in Cuba after Ian struck the island nation earlier.

Lee County Sheriff Carmine Marceno said his office was scrambling to respond to thousands of 911 calls, but many roads and bridges in Fort Myers and the surrounding area remain impassable.

"It crushed us," Marceno told ABC's "Good Morning America." "We still can-



AP Photo by Wilfredo Lee

This aerial photo shows damaged homes and debris in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian, Thursday, Sept. 29, in Fort Myers, Fla.

not access many of the people that are in need."

Emergency crews sawed through toppled trees to reach stranded people. Many in the hardest-hit areas were unable to call for help amid widespread electrical and cellular outages.

"Portable towers are on the way for cell service. Chances are your loved ones do not have ability to contact you," said the sheriff's office in Collier County, which includes Naples. "We can tell you as daylight reveals the aftermath, it's going to be a hard day."

A chunk of the Sanibel Causeway fell into the sea, cutting off access to the barrier island where 6,300 people normally live. It was unknown how many had heeded orders to evacuate, but Charlotte County Emergency Management Director

Patrick Fuller expressed cautious optimism that worst-case scenarios might not have been realized.

No deaths or injuries have been confirmed in the county, and flyovers of barrier islands show "the integrity of the homes is far better than we anticipated," Fuller said.

South of Sanibel Island, the historic beachfront pier in Naples got destroyed, with even the pilings underneath torn out, as towering waves crashed over the structure. "Right now, there is no pier," said Penny Taylor, a Collier County commissioner.

In Port Charlotte, a hospital's emergency room flooded and fierce winds ripped away part of the roof, sending water gushing down into the intensive care unit.

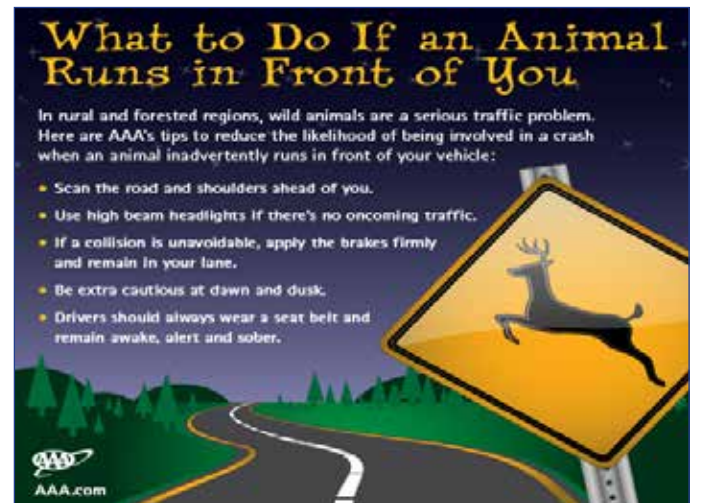
[Read more, click here](#)

NAS Meridian Junior Enlisted Association

Congratulations to the newly elected JEA officers:

President - MA2 Avery English
Vice President - FC2 Justice Walton
Secretary - MA3 Jacob Cleboski

The JEA meets the first and third Thursday of each month in the conference room of Air Operations (Building 1). All Sailors, 2nd class are below, are invited to attend the meetings. Email: MA3 Cleboski at jacob.r.cleboski.mil@us.navy.mil with any questions.



The life lessons we never learn

Two decades of ignoring the warning lights on our used vehicles finally caught up with us this week while driving to New York City on I-95 at night in a torrential downpour. Halfway through our four-hour trip, a long beep emitted from our German-engineered vehicle, and a yellow-lighted icon in the shape of an exclamation point inside a witch's cauldron appeared on the digital dashboard display.

COLUMN



Molinari

To say that my husband, Francis, is not mechanically inclined would be a gross understatement. Despite having served on active duty in the Navy for 28 years, machinery, weaponry, boats, cars, carpentry, plumbing, light fixtures, electronics, smoke detectors, appliances, and television clickers are a complete mystery to him. While Francis has, out

of necessity, learned to drive a car, operate a lawn mower, and plunge a toilet, he avoids most "handy-man" tasks and refers to hardware stores as "haunted houses." He claims that the most useful tool is a handy man's phone number.

"What's that beep?" Francis blurted, jabbing the break. "Oh ... it's just tire pressure or something," he said dismissively after seeing the yellow-lighted icon. To be fair, I wasn't alarmed either, but I was a bit worried. About a month prior, I had mentioned to Francis that my car was warning me, "Service Due," and that my tires might need to be balanced or aligned or whatever because the steering wheel was shimmying.

But after many years of driving used vehicles with dashboards lit up like Christmas trees, we were desensitized to our cars' programmed warning lights. We knew there were certain warnings that were to be taken seriously, such as the little drippy genie bottle (low oil pressure) and the little thermometer in the river (high engine temperature), but we had come to believe that all other lights were a part of a vast car industry conspiracy to manipulate consumers into paying for unnecessary maintenance.

The drumming of the rain showers against the car died down, and we settled back into our road trip. I allowed Instagram Reels to lure me into a vortex of thrift shopping videos, and Francis resumed exceeding the speed limits on I-95.

But half an hour later, I heard a low grumbling noise that sounded vaguely familiar. In my day, I'd been known to pop a tire or two, hitting curbs and running over nails. "Francis, it sounds like the tire is flat," I concluded like a master of the obvious. Thankfully, we were only a mile from a service plaza, so we put on our hazard lights and limped into the tractor trailer parking lot.

We stood outside the car, staring down at the collapsed right rear tire.

"Wow," Francis said.

"We must've run over something," I said, both of us pretending to be surprised that this catastrophic failure had occurred.

While waiting for a mechanic to arrive to put on our spare, we played the part of responsible drivers. Francis booked a nearby hotel room and read the car's manual to find out where the spare was located, while I researched tire service centers that could supply us

with new tires in the morning.

Three hours later, a mechanic with a thick New York accent diagnosed the problem that we had secretly known all along. He didn't say we'd neglected our car's service warnings so long that the tire basically fell apart, but we knew the embarrassing truth. What he did say was, "Ywor ti-yahs ahh bald. This one heeyah's so bad, it split. Yous gotta get all new ti-yahs tah-mahrow."

The next day after paying \$1500 for new tires, we finished the drive to New York City, where I parked the car twenty feet from a sign that warned "No Standing."

"I'll only be a minute or two," I thought. Twenty minutes later, I returned to my car to find a \$115 parking ticket under the wiper.

I now understand that the dashboard light with the exclamation point in a witch's cauldron means I have a flat tire, but if this week's experiences taught me anything, it's that there are some life lessons I'll never learn.

Lisa Smith Molinari's self syndicated columns appear on her blog, www.themeatandpotatoesofflife.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	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		

