

On Base

Wreaths & Wine

March 13 at 5:30 p.m.
Community Recreation

Costs \$25
Pay at Community Rec.

Axe Throwing Competition

March 22 at 11 a.m.

Register:
Feb. 17 -March 20

Community Rec.
Pavilion

Cosmic Bowling

Every Saturday
at 6 p.m.
McCain Rec Center

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SCAN for NAS Meridian App



SCAN for the Captain's Virtual Suggestion Box



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CNATRA Announces Covered Aircraft Refueling Sites

Courtesy Story
Chief of Naval Air Training

The Chief of Naval Air Training (CNATRA) is excited to announce the official completion of the first aircraft protective enclosures (APEs) over refueling sites known as ‘hot pits’ at two training wings in the Naval Air Training Command (NATRACOM).

The first installations of APEs over hot pits took place at Training Wing ONE (TW-1) at Naval Air Station (NAS) Meridian and Training Wing TWO (TW-2) at NAS Kingsville. TW-2 held a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, February 28 to highlight the advances.

A hot pit refueling is when an aircraft is refueled immediately after landing, while the aircraft keeps one engine running. This form of refueling reduces response time and keeps aircraft mission ready. This technology enhances the operational efficiency and safety of our fleet while providing a modernized infrastructure for training operations.



Photo by MC2 Molly Tice

T-45 Goshawk assigned to Training Wing ONE refuels in the covered hot pit at NAS Meridian.

“We are absolutely thrilled to bring these new capabilities to these wings and to the rest of the Naval Air Training Command,” said Rear Admiral Brophy, Chief of Naval Air Training. “APEs over refueling pits are a game-changer in the way we conduct op-

erations. Temperatures in the summer for unprotected aircraft can become excessive and the APEs will enhance overall safety while we train the future of naval aviation.”

The new aircraft protection enclosures over the refueling pits ensure the longevity and

safety of military aircraft and its aviators by offering protection from environmental elements during critical training phases.

These advancements are a clear demonstration of CNATRA’s continued commitment to excellence in aviation training, readiness and safety. The improvements will directly benefit the fleet’s performance and prepare the next generation of naval aviators for success. With the successful completion of the project at two training wings, the project continues with the intent to cover all hot pits at every training wing under CNATRA.

The mission of Naval Air Training Command is to train, mentor, and deliver the highest quality Naval Aviators that win in competition, crisis, and conflict. Headquartered on board NAS Corpus Christi, Texas, CNATRA leads the NATRACOM composed of five training air wings located on Naval Air Stations in Florida, Mississippi and Texas. The wings are home to 17 training squadrons.

AC2 Whitney Powell Military Citizen of the Year Luncheon

From Staff Reports

Naval Air Station Meridian in partnership with the Mississippi Council of the Navy League hosted the 2025 AC2 Whitney Powell Military Citizen of the Year Luncheon at Weidmann’s Restaurant in downtown Meridian, Feb. 25.

The annual award honors enlisted military members who dedicate much of their personal time to community service in the local community while they are stationed at NAS Meridian. In 2025, military members contributed 4,091 hours to community service in the local area. In 2013, the award was named in honor of Air Traffic Controller 2nd Class Whitney Powell, one of the Navy’s brightest young Sailors who was well-known and extremely active in the community. Powell died in a car accident on Highway 39 North on Feb. 7, 2013. This year’s nominees were EM1 Teresa Ruiz and MC2 Molly Tice.

EM1 Teresa D. Ruiz was the nominee for Naval Techni-

cal Training Center Meridian. She is a Navy Military Training Course Supervisor and Instructor executing all facets of student management, barracks management, and Navy Military Training requirements. Petty Officer Ruiz dedicated her community service in support of the Love and Peas Community Garden, Meridian Restorations Foundation at Merrehope, Northeast Lauderdale High School Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, Hwy 39 Clean Up, Fleet Reserve Thanksgiving Holiday Meal, Care Lodge-In Kind Donations and Multi-County Community Service Agency and several City of Meridian events.

MC2 Molly Tice was the nominee for Naval Air Station Meridian where she serves in the Public Affairs Office. She is responsible for the production and dissemination of graphics, images, videos, multimedia and written content that supports the installation and its service members.

EM1 Ruiz was this year’s



Photo by Evelyn Reese

NAS Meridian hosted the 2025 AC2 Whitney Powell Military Citizen of the Year Luncheon, Feb. 25. EM1 Teresa Ruiz from Naval Technical Training Center Meridian was the winner with MC2 Molly Tice as the other nominee. The annual award honors enlisted military members who dedicate much of their personal time to community service in the local community while they are stationed at NAS Meridian.

awardee for the AC2 Whitney Powell Military Citizen of the Year. Congratulations

and thank you for your hard work and dedication EM1 Ruiz!

Captain’s Virtual Suggestion Box: Q & A
Will return in the March 20 edition of the Skyline

Military Appreciation Day at Meridian Community College



Courtesy Photo

Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Anthony Barretta, accompanied by his Military Working Dog Fizi, threw out the first pitch at Meridian Community College's Military Appreciation Day, March 1. MCC baseball hosted a special ceremony before the game against #5 Northwest Florida State. The NAS Meridian Color Guard presented the colors and Miss Queen City's Teen, Ana Holley, performed the National Anthem.

MATSS-1 Motivational Challenge Day



Photo by MC2 Molly Tice

Marine Aviation Training Support Squadron ONE recently held a Field Day for their students at the Fitness Center onboard NAS Meridian, Feb. 28. Nearly 150 student Marines were divided into teams and participated in various competitions to include track and field events, and events to test their agility and strength. The event ended with the popular staff vs students tug-of-war followed by a lunch meal cooked by the staff. "OORAH Marines!"

Register for AtHOC



Click or scan the QR Code to learn how to register.

Roman Catholic Service at the NAS Meridian Chapel

Mar. 8 & 22

0930: Confession

1000: Mass

Roman Catholic Services are held the second and fourth Saturday of each month.



Trump to Launch New White House Office Focused on Shipbuilding

Leo Shane III
Military Times

As part of his sweeping national address on Tuesday night, President Donald Trump promised to establish a new office of shipbuilding within the White House to revitalize the industry and bolster American naval strength. The vow — which came during the national security section of Trump's nearly two-hour speech — was included among broader plans to "boost our defense industrial base" for America. "We are also going to resurrect the American shipbuilding industry, including commercial shipbuilding and military shipbuilding," Trump said, eliciting applause from Republican lawmakers in the House chamber for the address. "We used to make so many ships. We don't make them anymore very much, but we're going to make them very fast, very soon. It will have a huge impact to further enhance our national security." Trump also promised "special tax incentives to bring this industry home" but did not offer



Photo by Julia Demaree Nikhinson

President Donald Trump announced the creation of a new office of shipbuilding within the White House during his address Tuesday to a joint session of Congress.

any more specifics. The White House did not immediately provide any other details of what the

new office will oversee or who will lead the effort. Last month, during the confirmation hearing for John Phelan, Trump's pick to serve as Navy Secretary, Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Roger Wicker, R-Miss., lamented that "just about every major U.S. shipbuilding program is behind schedule, over budget or irreparably off track." He called for a complete overhaul of Navy shipbuilding goals and processes. "We must stabilize shipbuilding programs, adopt commercial best practices and incentivize the shipyards to address workforce and productivity issues in a collaborative rather than combative manner," Wicker said. "And we can quickly inject innovation into naval procurement, particularly on unmanned ships." Phelan voiced support for that approach, but he did not mention any specifics related to the new White House office. Earlier this year, officials from the Congressional Budget Office said the Navy would need to spend more than \$40 billion annually for 30 years for the U.S. Navy to fulfill its proposed plans to expand its battle force fleet.

[READ MORE, CLICK HERE](#)

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
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LOCAL HAPPENINGS

MARCH:

10-14: MS Children’s Museum Spring Break Camps, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. - Each day during our Spring Break Camp, children will explore the elements of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics)! **Located at the Meridian Children’s Museum in Downtown Meridian.** [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

13: Spring Shindig, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. - Hop into spring with us at the library’s 4th Annual Spring Shindig! Meet the Easter Bunny for photos and enjoy multiple Story times (10:30 AM, 11:30 AM, 1:30 PM, and 2:30 PM) throughout the day. Embark on an indoor scavenger hunt, get creative with spring crafts, and enjoy the adorable Angie Hales Ponytails petting zoo and pony rides. **Located at the Meridian-Lauderdale County Public Library.** [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

20: A Taste of Blues at the MAX, 5:30 - 8 p.m. - Join us for a culinary evening featuring Chef Enrika Williams in our Citizens National Bank Courtyard. This dinner is inspired by photographs of Thank You Please Come Again, with a live blues performance by Mark “Muleman” Massey creating a unique dining experience. Tickets are \$25 for MAX Members | \$35 for Non-Members. **Located at the MAX in Downtown Meridian.** [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

21: Mingle with the Maestro, 7 p.m. - Indulge in an evening of culinary delights hosted at the exquisite residence of Dr. Ken Staggs. Immerse yourself in the enchanting classical ambiance as you savor a selection of fine wines and cheeses, perfectly complementing the rich tapestry of classical music that awaits. **Located in Marion, MS.** [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

30: Newsboys Concert, 6 p.m. – Newsboys live in concert featuring special performance by Amanda Nolan. **Located at the MSU Riley Center in Downtown Meridian.** [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

AREA HAPPENINGS

MARCH:

16: Blake Shelton: Friends and Heroes 2025 Tour, 7 p.m. - Includes special appearances by Craig Morgan, Deana Carter & Trace Adkins plus very special guest Emily Ann Roberts! **Located in Atlanta, GA.** [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

16: Trisha Paytas: The Eras of Trish Tour, 7:30 p.m. - Get ready for an evening of laughter, fun, music and the personality that only Trisha can bring! **Located in Atlanta, GA.** [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

25-30: Les Misérables - Set against the backdrop of 19th century France, Les Misérables tells an enthralling story of broken dreams and unrequited love, passion, sacrifice and redemption – a timeless testament to the survival of the human spirit. This epic and uplifting story has become one of the most celebrated musicals in theatrical history. **Located in Birmingham, AL.** [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

30: Kevin Hart Comedy Show, 6 p.m. & 9 p.m. - **Located in New Orleans, LA.** [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

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TROUBLE AT THE TROPICABANA
A MURDER MYSTERY COMEDY
With Lucy & Ethel

MARCH 20-22, 2025
MERIDIAN LITTLE THEATRE

\$60 PER PERSON
FOR A THREE-COURSE MEAL
AND A MURDER MYSTERY COMEDY SHOW
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
6:00 PM DOORS OPEN
6:30 PM SHOW BEGINS

MENU
SALAD, DINNER, & DESSERT
TEA INCLUDED & CASH BAR

CALL THE BOX OFFICE
AT 601-482-6371
FOR RESERVATIONS

Sale... Or

HOMES/APARTMENTS

For Rent: Water front home in Dalewood. Spacious two-story home facing the Lake; great for fishing and relaxing. Remodeled kitchen and new appliances. Rent is \$2,000; please call 813-406-9687.

For Sale: 2BD/1 BA home located in Poplar Springs. 1154 square footage heated and cooled with additional 800 sq ft of basement. Screened in porch, new dishwasher, and new flooring in the kitchen. Looking to get 90k and for someone to take over our VA loan (2.5% interest rate). Please contact Riley Pfeiffer at (919) 909-6651

For Rent: 1BD/1 BA furnished apartment. Has day room, kitchenette, washer and dryer, smart tv’s, central heat and air conditioning. Very clean and private, good location. \$1200/ month includes utilities and wifi. No Pets. Text or call 601-527-4098.

For Sale: 3 BD/2 BA home. 1,496 square foot heated and cooled. 200 square foot utility room/pantry. Poplar

Springs Elementary school district. Huge fenced back yard and storage building. New roof Dec 2012. New AC April 2017 and remains under warranty until 2027. Around the corner from Northcrest church (North Hills). Asking \$150,000 but there are a few little cosmetic things that could be done so will take \$125,000 as is. Contact Jared or Felicia Monsour at (601) 938-4810 or (601) 934-0931

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: 3BD/ 2BA house offers beautiful lake views, perfect for fishing and relaxing by

the water. This house has recently been remodeled. Monthly Rent: \$1,500. Deposit: \$1,000. Additional Fees: Dalewood Renter Privileges Fees. Please contact Carlos at 601-604-9986.

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

For Rent: 3 BD/2 BA, only 5 mins from main gate of NAS Meridian. Nice size private yard / garbage and water provided. Pets permitted with deposit. \$1,150 a month. Contact 601-480-1324.

For Rent: 3 BD/1.5 BA home 15 minutes from NAS at 4814 36th Ave. New refrigerator and 2-year old AC & furnace. Call Terrance at 469-318-9769.

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

SS United States Departs on Voyage to Become the World’s Largest Artificial Reef

By Bruce Shipkowski
Associated Press

The historic, aging ocean liner that a Florida county plans to turn into the world’s largest artificial reef departed from south Philadelphia’s Delaware River waterfront on Wednesday, marking the opening segment of its final voyage. The SS United States, a 1,000-foot vessel that shattered the transatlantic speed record on its maiden voyage in 1952, is being towed to Mobile, Alabama, for planned prep work before officials eventually sink it off Florida’s Gulf Coast. The move comes about four months after the conservancy that oversees the ship and its landlord resolved a years-old rent dispute. Officials initially planned to move the vessel last November, but that was delayed due to concerns



The SS United States is towed down the Delaware River between Pennsylvania and New Jersey, from Philadelphia, Wednesday, Feb. 19.

from the U.S. Coast Guard that the ship wasn’t stable enough to make the trip. Officials in Okaloosa County on Florida’s coastal Panhandle hope it will become a barnacle-encrusted standout among the county’s more than 500 artificial reefs and a signature diving attraction that could generate millions of dol-

lars annually in local tourism spending for scuba shops, charter fishing boats and hotels. Officials have said the deal to buy the ship could eventually cost more than \$10 million. The lengthy process of cleaning, transporting and sinking the vessel is expected to take at least one-and-a-half years.

Photo by Matt Rourke

Sailors Assist with Centroid Cleanup onboard NAS Meridian

From Staff Reports

Twenty-one Sailors from NAS Meridian joined forces with the Public Works Department to assist in the cleanup of residual tornado debris at the Centroid area, March 3. This cleanup effort was a critical part of ensuring the safety and operational integrity of the installation, particularly by addressing Foreign Object Debris (FOD) hazards on the airfield runway. The presence of FOD, which can include any debris or objects that may be harmful to aircraft, presents significant risks to aviation safety. The Sailors and Public Works personnel worked together to clear debris, reducing the likelihood of FOD-related incidents and contributing directly to the airfield’s operational safety.



Courtesy Photo

NAS Meridian Sailors assist in cleaning up residual tornado debris at the Centroid Area, March 3. The cleanup is critical to prevent Foreign Object Debris hazards on the airfield runways.

Their efforts spanned 28 acres and resulted in the collection of over 200 bags of debris. This thorough cleanup not only enhances airfield safety but also supports the overall mission readiness at NAS Meridian, ensuring the installation remains safe and oper-

tional for all activities. The teamwork between the Sailors and the Public Works Department exemplifies the commitment to maintaining a secure and efficient environment, reinforcing the importance of collaboration in tackling critical tasks.

Blue Angels Certified as Airshow Ready for 2025 Season

Courtesy Story
Chief of Naval Air Training

The United States Navy Blue Angels have successfully completed their annual certification in El Centro, California, for the 2025 air show season. After rigorous training and evaluations, Rear Admiral Rich Brophy, Chief of Naval Air Training, officially certified the team “airshow ready”. Since 1946, the Blue Angels have showcased the teamwork and professionalism of the United States Navy and Marine Corps through flight demonstrations and community outreach. “As we head into the 2025 airshow season, this team has once again met the Navy’s high standards for safety, precision, and professionalism,” said Rear Adm. Brophy. “After the success of 2024, these men and women have proven they are more than ready to perform as the Navy’s premier flight demonstration team. They continue to inspire and connect with the next generation of Americans. It’s my pleasure to certify them for the 2025 season.” Every year, Chief of Naval Air Training (CNATRA)

travels to El Centro to ensure the readiness of the Blue Angels for the upcoming airshow season. This is a crucial milestone for the Blue Angels, ensuring that the team’s pilots, aircraft, and support personnel are fully prepared to execute their performances to the highest standard. The Blue Angels commanding officer, Commander Adam Bryan, hosts CNATRA to observe the final days of the team’s winter training. “It’s always a privilege to welcome Rear Adm. Brophy and highlight the dedication and training that go into preparing our squadron for the upcoming air show season,” said Cmdr. Adam Bryan, commanding officer and flight leader of the Blue Angels. “This certification marks a key milestone, allowing our team to perform for the American public and showcase the exceptional teamwork and professionalism that distinguish the United States Navy and Marine Corps.” This year marks Cmdr. Bryan’s first season as the commanding officer of the Blue Angels. He assumed command in November 2024 and is ready to showcase the team’s exceptional skills and precision during their first performance on March 15.



Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Terrin Hartman

After rigorous training and evaluations, Rear Admiral Rich Brophy, Chief of Naval Air Training, officially certified the team “airshow ready”.

[READ MORE, CLICK HERE](#)

Bravo Zulu Awardees!



Photo by Evelyn Reese

Congratulation’s to those who received awards at Command Quarters, Feb. 24. Great job and keep up the good work!

Reenlistment!



Photo by Evelyn Reese

AC2 Xavier Estrella reenlists in the U.S. Navy onboard NAS Meridian, March 3. AC2 Estrella reenlisted for another six years and will soon be stationed in Key West.

N9 Nook

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

FFSC SCHEDULE

COMMAND FINANCIAL SPECIALIST TRAINING

MAR 10-14

Located at The Fleet and Family Support Center, BLDG 405

➤

MORE INFO:

CALL: 601-679-2360

Sonny Montgomery Fitness Center

Silly Socks 5K

March 13
1730



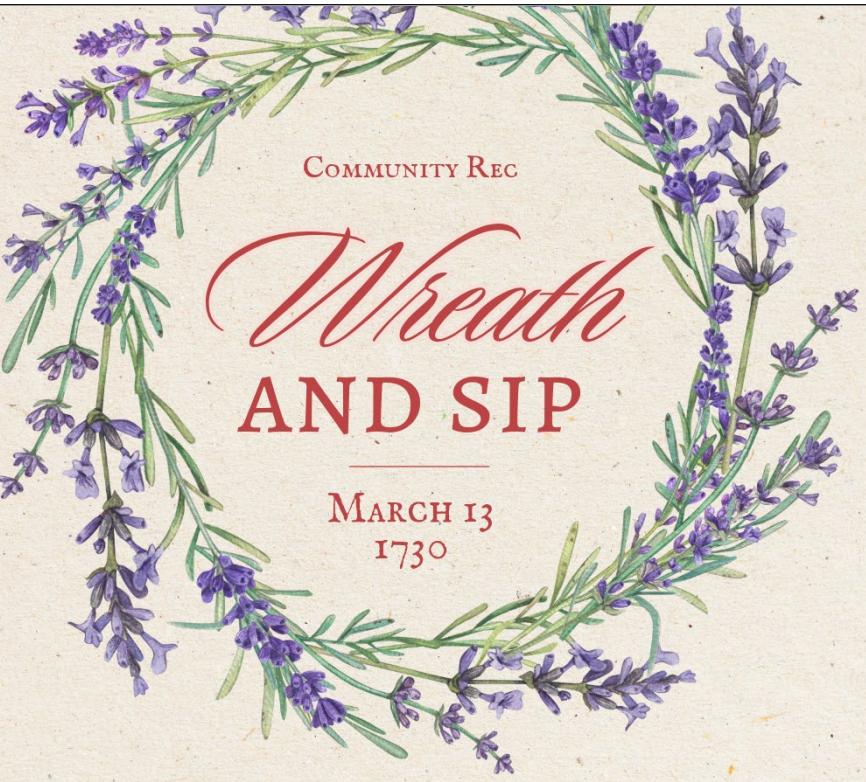
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MARCH 13
1730



\$25- REGISTER AND PAY AT COMMUNITY REC

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AT 1200 & 1630



Sonny Montgomery Fitness Center

MWR FITNESS

REGISTER FOR 24/7
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SOAR offers a judgement free, safe space for survivors of domestic violence or sexual assault to heal, connect and grow. This group offers the opportunity for survivors to share experiences, find strength in community, and reclaim their power.

Every Thursday from
4:00pm-5:30pm
Held at the Fleet and Family Center

LET'S SOAR TOGETHER!

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SIGN UP,
CONTACT ANNE NYTES, FFSC COUNSELOR

PHONE: 601-679-2360
EMAIL: ANNE.A.NYTES.NAF@US.NAVY.MIL

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American Red Cross Lifeguard Class

\$50 Active Duty and Dependents
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April 28 - May 1
Must be 15+ to enroll in the course and 16+ to work for MWR Aquatics

- SWIM TESTS: April 21-25 by appointment only
- IN PERSON SESSIONS: April 28 - May 1 3:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

DETAILS:

- Register March 31-April 11
- Blended learning class
- Online requirements must be completed before April 28
- All in person sessions must be attended
- Temporary base access card must be obtained
- Bring swimsuits and food and drinks

Contact Kristen Tibbetts to register, reserve swim time, & obtain base access.
Kristen.p.tibbetts.naf@us.navy.mil

MWR AQUATICS