

On Base

Freedom Fest
June 27 • 1700-2100

Spare Time Bowling League
June 9- August 18

Swim Lessons
June-July
Group Lessons: \$75/8 lessons
Private Lessons: \$25/per session
Contact 601-679-2379
for more info.

Staff Nights
Every Wednesday
1700-2000
Rudders

Open Mic Night
Every Friday in August
Rudders • 1900-2100

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SCAN for the Captain's Virtual Suggestion Box



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PW Restores Anchors at Installation Entrance

From Staff Reports

During a recent Base Beautification assessment at Naval Air Station (NAS) Meridian, a remarkable discovery was made by Gary Bone, Civil Engineering Technician with Public Works Department (PWD). Situated at the Installation's entrance were two Danforth anchors -- unique not only for their design but also for their historical significance. These Danforth-style anchors, dating back to 1944, feature wooden stocks -- a design element phased out in the mid-19th century. Further research revealed the anchors were manufactured by Baldt Anchor, Chain & Forge, a key player in maritime manufacturing.

For the PWD team, restoring the anchors became much more than a routine beautification task. It evolved into a dedicated effort to preserve a piece of U.S. Navy history. The team painstakingly restored the anchors to their original condition, fabricating an identical sheet metal stock to replace one that had severely rotted (the original wooden stock has been preserved in storage). They also repainted the anchors with the historically accurate Haze Gray paint used by the U.S. Navy from 1930 to 1950.

Now, standing proudly at NAS Meridian's entrance, the anchors symbolize naval heritage and the PWD's dedication to preserving history for future generations.



Courtesy Photo
Public Works Department Anchor Restoration and Historic Preservation Team include from left: Chris Robinson, Ronnie Hover, Lauren Laboy, Gary Bone and Andy Miles.

NAS Meridian Holds Frocking Ceremony



NAS Meridian holds frocking ceremony to congratulate Sailors who have advanced in rank this cycle, May 28. The Sailors who promoted are AC1 Jordan Elam, MA1 Stephen Todd, AC1 Carla Bocanegra, AC2 William Woody and AC2 Mauro Nunez. Not pictured are AC1 Rachel Southard and ET2 Derek Hicks. Frocking originates from the Age of Sail, when news of promotions would take months to arrive to ships at sea. Newly promoted officers would often depart to their new duty station, creating a vacancy. Captains would then recommend a remaining officer for promotion, giving them their predecessor's frock coat, along with the duties and responsibilities of their rank before the advancement was official.

Photo by Evelyn Reese

Elon Musk Leaves White House, Says DOGE Will Continue

Christal Hayes and Brandon Drenon
BBC News

Elon Musk has said he is leaving the Trump administration after helping lead a tumultuous drive to shrink the size of US government that saw thousands of federal jobs axed. In a post on his social media platform X, the world's richest man thanked Trump for the opportunity to help run the Department of Government Efficiency, known as Doge. The White House began "offboarding" Musk as a special government employee on Wednesday night, the BBC understands. His role was temporary and his exit is not unexpected, but it comes a day after Musk criticised the legislative centerpiece of Trump's agenda. "As my scheduled time as a

Special Government Employee comes to an end, I would like to thank President @realDonaldTrump for the opportunity to reduce wasteful spending," Musk wrote on X. "The @DOGE mission will only strengthen over time as it becomes a way of life throughout the government." The South African-born tech tycoon had been designated as a "special government employee" - allowing him to work a federal job for 130 days each year. Measured from Trump's inauguration on 20 January, he would hit that limit towards the end of May. But his departure comes a day after he said he was "disappointed" with Trump's budget bill, which proposes multi-trillion dollar tax breaks and a boost to defence spending. The SpaceX and Tesla

boss said in an interview with BBC's US partner CBS that the "big, beautiful bill", as Trump calls it, would increase the federal deficit. Musk also said he thought it "undermines the work" of Doge. "I think a bill can be big or it could be beautiful," Musk said. "But I don't know if it could be both." Musk, who had clashed in private with some Trump cabinet-level officials, initially pledged to cut "at least \$2 trillion" from the federal government budget, before halving this target, then reducing it to \$150bn. An estimated 260,000 out of the 2.3 million-strong federal civilian workforce have had their jobs cut or accepted redundancy deals as a result of Doge. In some cases, federal judges blocked the mass firings and ordered terminated

employees to be reinstated. The rapid-fire approach to cutting the federal workforce occasionally led to some workers mistakenly being let go, including staff at the US nuclear programme. Musk announced in late April that he would step back to run his companies again after becoming a lightning rod for criticism of Trump's efforts to shake up Washington. "Doge is just becoming the whipping boy for everything," Musk told the Washington Post in Texas on Tuesday ahead of a Space X launch. "Something bad would happen anywhere, and we would get blamed for it even if we had nothing to do with it." Musk's time in government overlapped with a significant decline in sales at his electric car company.

[READ MORE, CLICK HERE](#)

Seven Aviators Earn Wings of Gold in May Ceremony

From Staff Reports

There was a naval aviator designation ceremony May 23 on-board Naval Air Station Meridian.

Seven 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.”

Capt Connor James Denton, USMC, is a 2017 graduate of Liberty University, where he received a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance. While in Advanced Jet Flight Training, he earned one Navy “E” for bombing accuracy. Capt Denton completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven.

LTJG Tristan Masao Fujimura, USN, is a 2022 graduate of the United States Naval academy, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Political Science. While in Advanced Jet Flight Training, he earned two Navy “E’s” for bombing accuracy. LTJG Fujimu-

ra completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven.

Capt. Wyatt Kellen McCranie, USMC, is a 2020 graduate of Virginia Tech, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Studies, National Security and Foreign Affairs. While in Advanced Jet Flight Training, he earned one Navy “E” for bombing accuracy. Capt. McCranie completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven.

Capt. Alexander William McLaren, USMC, is a 2020 graduate of the University of Colorado, Boulder, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering. While in Advanced Jet Flight Training, he earned one Navy “E” for bombing accuracy. Capt. McLaren completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven.

LTJG Trent Christian Piotrowski, USN, is a 2020 graduate of the University of West Florida, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. While in Advanced Jet Flight Training, he earned three Navy “E’s” for bombing accuracy. LTJG Piotrowski completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven.

LTJG Christian Dorian Sana, USN, is a 2020 graduate of Western Michigan University, where he received two Bachelor of Science de-



Denton



Fujimura



McCranie



McLaren



Piotrowski



Sana



Thrower

grees in Aviation Flight Science and Aviation Management and Operations. He was named to the commodore’s List with Distinction during Primary Flight Training. LTJG Sana completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven.

1stLt Gabriel Cole Thrower, USMC, He is a 2021 graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Information Science. During Primary Flight Training, 1stLt Thrower received a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal in the Naval Introductory Flight Evaluation and was named to the Commodore’s List with Distinction. While in Advanced Jet Flight Training, he earned three Navy “E’s” for bombing accuracy. 1stLt Thrower completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven.

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 Trent Piotrowski during a winging ceremony in the chapel onboard NAS Meridian, May 23. 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.

Reenlistment!



Photo by Penny Randall

Congratulations! Chief Ricardo Lopezrodriguez reenlists in the U.S. Navy for another four years, May 16. Chief Rodriguez serves as the Field Support Leading Chief Petty Officer at Air Operations onboard Naval Air Station Meridian! Thank you LTJG Melissa Palmacuapio for serving as Chief’s reenlistment officer.

COMMAND PATCH SALE

Cash, card or Venmo @meridiannavyball

\$10

Located in the Public Affairs Office Bldg 255 Ste 163

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SAPR Victim Assistance: 601-604-3037
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SARC: 601-481-4274
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Suicide Hotline: 800-273-8255
Military OneSource: 800-342-9647
CEAP (DoN Civilian): 844-366-2327
EAP (NAF Civilian): 800-932-0034
FFSC Meridian: 601-679-2360
Chaplain: 601-604-2015
NMCRS Duty Cell: 601-604-2206
EEO (NAF): 866-295-0328
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LOCAL HAPPENINGS

MAY:
31: Jamal Roberts Welcome Home Celebration, 6-8 p.m. - Come see the Meridian local and winner of American Idol in concert! Tickets are \$25 pre-purchase and \$35 at the gate. **Located at Q.V. Sykes Park in Meridian, MS.** [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

JUNE:
5: Mingle at the Museum, 6-9 p.m. - Adults 21 and up are invited to the museum for a lively, carnival night event featuring live music, festive fair food, games, amazing prizes, incredible photo ops, and more! **Located at the Meridian Children’s Museum.** [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

6: State Games of Mississippi Opening Ceremony, 5-8 p.m. - Food, fun, parade of athletes, lighting of the State Games torch and spectacular fireworks! Festivities kick-off at 5:30 p.m. Opening Ceremony begins at 7:30 p.m.! **Located on the City Hall Lawn in Downtown Meridian.** [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

7: Earth’s Bounty, 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. - Experience Meridian’s vibrant spirit at Earth’s Bounty Fresh Farmers Market. Explore a colorful tapestry of locally grown produce, artisanal goods, and more. Engage with local farmers and artisans, savor the region’s flavors, and immerse yourself in a lively atmosphere that celebrates the beauty and abundance of the Earth. **Located at The MAX in Downtown Meridian.** [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

12: Michael Farris Smith at the MAX, 5-7 p.m. - Meet acclaimed author Michael Farris Smith at The MAX to celebrate the release of his latest book, Lay Your Armor Down-along with a screening of his latest short film, Chasing Rabbits, followed by a Q&A with the author and filmmakers and book signing. **Located at The MAX in Downtown Meridian.** [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

16 - August 1, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. **Mississippi Children’s Museum Summer Camp** - Meridian summer camps are so fun, a great educational enrichment opportunity, and can serve as full-day childcare, if needed! Camp days run Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and are appropriate for children 5-10 years old. **Located at the Meridian Children’s Museum.** [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

AREA HAPPENINGS

JUNE:
5: The Temptations & The Four Tops, 7 p.m. - **Located at the Alabama Theatre in Birmingham, AL.** [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

6: Hank Williams Jr. Concert, 6:30 p.m. - Concert features performances by the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band. **Located at the Brandon Ampitheater in Brandon, MS.** [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

6: Thomas Rhett: Better in Boots Tour, 7:30 p.m. - Concert features performances by Tucker Wetmore & The Castellows. **Located at the Bankplus Amphitheater in Southaven, MS.** [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

10: Andrea Bocelli in Concert with Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, 7:30 p.m. - The concert will feature performances from Bocelli’s beloved repertoire. **Located at the Smoothie King Center in New Orleans, LA.** [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

JULY:
10-14: Beyonce: Cowboy Carter Tour - Beyoncé takes over Mercedes-Benz Stadium on July 10, 11, 13 & 14, performing hits from her Grammy-winning album on the Cowboy Carter Tour. **Located at the Mercedes Benz Stadium in Atlanta, GA.** [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

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Courageous Act by NTTC Meridian Sailor



Courtesy Photo

CAPT Luke Davis, NAS Meridian Commanding Officer, presents an award to YN1 Danny McDonald. YN1 was in the right place at just the right time, when a car overturned in front of him; he immediately took action and assessed the scene for any safety concerns. YN1 broke the window of the overturned vehicle to enter and shut off the car. He extricated the injured driver, having to cut their seat belt and pull them to safety. Once out of the car, YN1 stayed with the driver to make sure they stayed alert and conscious until emergency medical services arrived. McDonald’s exceptional actions, judgment, professionalism, and loyal devotion to duty reflected great credit on himself and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

**Heat**

Pet Safety

**Never leave your pets in a parked car!**



Safety Tips For Your Pets

**Watch the humidity**

**Limit exercise on hot days**

**Provide ample shade and water**

**Don't rely on a fan**

**Watch out for hot pavement**



Sale... Or

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: 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 May/June. Call 601-504-5415.

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 beau-

tiful, 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

TSA Trained to Accept Military IDs in lieu of REAL IDs

Karen Jowers
Military Times

Military-connected travelers should be able to board domestic flights simply by showing their military ID, as Transportation Security Administration officers are trained to accept them in lieu of a REAL ID, a TSA spokesman said. As of May 7, individuals must show a REAL ID, or acceptable alternative, to board domestic commercial flights, visit military installations and access certain federal facilities. REAL ID driver's licenses are identified by a star in the upper right-hand corner. DOD ID cards, including those issued to dependents, are among the forms of identification listed on the TSA website as acceptable alternatives to the REAL ID. Still, some travelers told Military Times their military IDs have been rejected at U.S.



Photo by Rick Bowmer

A military ID is an acceptable alternative to the REAL ID, which is now required for passengers boarding domestic flights in the United States.

airports. The issue has come up with military retirees, particularly those with old-style ID cards featuring an "INDEF", or indefinite expiration date. One Air Force retiree said his retiree ID card wasn't accepted

when he tried it out while flying to Virginia on May 10. The card has an "INDEF" expiration date. "Our officers are trained to accept military IDs at our security checkpoints," TSA spokesman Dave Fitz told Military Times.

"In the unlikely event that an officer would not accept a military ID, the passenger should ask to speak to a supervisor." Although the TSA page detailing the list of acceptable identification doesn't specifically mention retired military IDs, Fitz said, "U.S. Department of Defense IDs, to include IDs for active and retired military, are acceptable forms of ID, even if they do not have an expiration date." Military-connected passengers may also use any of the other acceptable IDs listed, Fitz noted. Among other options listed on the TSA site are U.S. passports, Veteran Health Identification Cards (VHIC), state-issued Enhanced Driver's Licenses (EDL) and Enhanced IDs (EID). Meanwhile, policies for accessing military bases for those who already have military or DOD-issued credentials, such as military retir-

ees, dependents and surviving spouses, have not changed. But those with an old-style ID card should be aware that while they will still be able to access military bases with that ID, it's uncertain for how long. These IDs are blue, pink or tan DD Form 2, DD Form 1173, DD Form 1173-1 or DD Form 2785. The Defense Department is working to replace these IDs with the NextGen ID. Officials advise getting the NextGen ID now to avoid any problems with installation access. For more information about the NextGen ID and how to replace it, visit this [Defense Finance and Accounting Service page](#). DOD hasn't yet announced the deadline for the replacements. DOD previously said the transition to NextGen ID is expected to be completed by January 2026 for the 5 million non-CAC holders, primarily retirees and military family members.

Bravo Zulu Awardees



Photo by Penny Randall

Congratulation's to those who received awards at Command Quarters, May 15. Great job and keep up the good work!

NMCRS Honors Volunteers



Photo by Evelyn Reese

Volunteer workers with Navy Marine Corps Relief Society NAS Meridian Office were honored for their hard work with a lunch at Rudders, May 21. Pictured are Christina Zimniak, Desiree Griffith, MA1 Calvin Green, Staff Sgt Samantha Smego, and Bill Whitmire with the Gulfport NMCRS Office.



Naval Special Warfare Group One Celebrates 50 Years

From Naval Special Warfare Group One

Established on April 1, 1975, NSWG-1 was created in response to a directive from Washington, D.C., instructing the Commander of Naval Surface Forces U.S. Pacific Fleet (now called U.S. Pacific Fleet) to establish a permanent home for the group at Naval Amphibious Base Coronado. "Having spent many years on both the active-duty side and in the private sector, I can say with utmost confidence that there is no other community like NSWG-1," said retired NSWG-1 Command Master Chief Jason Tuschen. "We demand excellence and uphold our values. Our organization's



Courtesy Photo

Retired and active operators, civilians, and combat support representing warfighters from every era of American combat since the Vietnam War, reunited with former and current teammates on May 22, to celebrate a milestone – 50 years of Naval Special Warfare Group (NSWG) 1.

Operators, Sailors, and civilians prioritize self-

less service, which makes NSWG-1 exceptional and contributes to its success – and what will keep the organization relevant for another 50 years." Building on a legacy that began before 1962, Naval Special Warfare Group 1's 50th anniversary celebrates a half-century of continuous adaptation and unwavering commitment following President Kennedy's initial direction to establish the force. "In the last 50 years, SEALs from NSWG-1 have fought in Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Somalia, Yemen, and the Philippines, said retired Admiral and former NSWG-1 Commander William McRaven. "While our weapons, boats, and teams have evolved, one constant remains: our people. The men and

women of Group ONE are as professional, committed, and honorable today as they were in 1975." NSWG-1's legacy builds on a rich history of naval special operations dating back to 1942, when the Amphibious Scouts and Raiders and the Naval Demolition Unit were formed to conduct critical missions during Operation Torch, the Allied invasion of North Africa. These units laid the foundation for the modern SEAL teams. For 30 years following its inception, Naval Special Warfare built a reputation for unmatched strength, lethality, and quiet professionalism, expanding its global presence and capabilities. This legacy of excellence

paved the way for the establishment of NSWG-1 in 1975 and continues to define the command today. NSWG-1 is currently headquartered in San Diego, where a dedicated team of nearly 1,700 Sailors, government civilians, and industry partners who work across 11 program offices. NSW provides maritime Special Operations Force capability to enable Joint Force lethality and survivability in denied and contested areas. This is achieved through focused development in Long-Range Fires, Maritime Kinetic Effects, and Maritime Non-Kinetic Effects, delivered primarily through O-5-led Maritime Special Operations Task Forces.

FFSC Hours:
Mon.-Thurs.:
0800-1630
Fri.:
0700-1530

N9 Nook

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

FFSC Upcoming Events.

JUNE 2-6	TAP CLASS Held at Fleet and Family Support Center, BLDG 405.	JUNE 27	JOB FAIR Multiple vendors set up at Lakeside from 11am-2pm. Bring your resumes!
JUNE 9-13	COMMAND FINANCIAL SPECIALIST TRAINING Held at Fleet and Family Support Center, BLDG 405.	JULY 01	WELCOME ABOARD Held at Fleet and Family Support Center, BLDG 405.
JUNE 11	EFMP POC TRAINING Held at Fleet and Family Support Center, BLDG 405 at 10am.	JULY 10	NAVIGATING USA JOBS Held at Fleet and Family Support Center, BLDG 405.
JUNE 11	IEP ESSENTIALS PARENT TRAINING Held at Fleet and Family Support Center, BLDG 405 at 1pm	JULY 11	RESUME WRITING Held at Fleet and Family Support Center, BLDG 405.
JUNE 11-13	PHOTOSHOOT WITH SUPERDAD Stop by Fleet and Family (BLDG 405) and take a photo with your superhero dad!	JULY 16	FLEET AND FAMILY ANNIVERSARY FFSC celebrates its 46 th Anniversary! Stop by for popcorn and help us celebrate!
JUNE 17-18	BOOTS TO BUSINESS Held at Fleet and Family Support Center, BLDG 405.	AUG 01	OPEN HOUSE & BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT Stop by Fleet and Family for fun and information!
JUNE 26	CAPSTONE Held at Fleet and Family Support Center, BLDG 405. By appointment only.	  Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to stay up to date on all FFSC events!	

NAS MERIDIAN CAREER FAIR

- More than 50 Employers
- Engaged: Connect with top companies across different sectors.
- Resume review
- Take advantage of on-the-spot interviews with potential employers
- Explore resources

OPEN, AND TO ALL ACTIVE DUTY, RESERVISTS, RETIREES/VETERANS, DOD EMPLOYEES, AND MILITARY DEPENDENTS

FRIDAY, JUNE 27
11 A.M. - 2 P.M.

365 Higley Rd.
MERIDIAN, MS 39309

This is an opportunity for recent graduates, experienced professionals, and career changers to stand out. Bring extra resumes, dress professionally, and aim to leave a lasting impression.



For further details, feel free to reach out to us via email at brittney.a.butchee.naf@us.navy.mil

2025 SAC Summer Camp May 26-Aug 1

Register for Summer Camp at
www.militarychildcare.com

School-Age Care Center
Oak Circle Bldg. 994

Front Desk: 601-679-5252
Fax: 601-679-2003

CDC: 601.679.2652



POOL HOURS

(temporary hours)

SUNDAY	1300-1800
MONDAY	1100-1800
TUESDAY	1100-1500 (LAP SWIM ONLY)
WEDNESDAY	1100-1800
THURSDAY	1100-1500 (LAP SWIM ONLY)
FRIDAY	1100-1800
SATURDAY	1100-1800



Follow these programs to see updates!

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