

NEWS BYTES

~ Click ~
Wildfires tear across several states, driven by high winds

~ Click ~
Long-serving US Senator Orrin Hatch of Utah dies at age 88

~ Click ~
US military OKs prototype mobile nuclear reactor in Idaho

~ Click ~
Deion Sanders highlights HBCU prospects ahead of draft

Off Base



~ MLT ~
"Something Rotten" May 12-15 at the Meridian Little Theatre, [click here](#)



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SAPR Shoe Contest

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AC1 Wheeler named Navy Region Southeast Sailor of the Year



RDML Wesley McCall, Commander, Navy Region Southeast, presents AC1 Andrew Wheeler with a Sailor of the Year certificate during a ceremony at region headquarters in Jacksonville, Fla., April 21. Congratulations to AC1 Andrew Wheeler of NAS Meridian on winning SOY. He now will compete for Commander, Naval Installations Command Sailor of the Year. The winner of that is meritoriously promoted to Chief Petty Officer. Also, congratulations to MA1 Charles Landis of NSA Charleston, AC1 Kody Dannelly of NAS Jacksonville, and ABH1 Adam Montoya of NAS Whiting Field for being nominated as finalists.

See video: <https://www.dvidshub.net/video/840659/cnrse-names-their-sailor-year>

Photo/video by MC1 Jacob Sippel

Controlled Burn onboard NAS Meridian



Submitted photo

Larry Conner, Cliff Mayatt, Jeff Mangrum with the NAS Meridian Environmental Division of the Public Works Department with the assistance from firefighters from NAS Meridian Fire and Emergency Service conduct a controlled burn, April 23. The controlled burn consisted of approximately 154 acres on the north and west sides of Lake Martha. Controlled burning is recognized in NAS Meridian's Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan as one of the primary tools for managing forest and wildlife resources. It also encourages the new growth of native vegetation, increases the biodiversity of plant species, minimizes the spread of pest insects and disease, and recycles nutrients back into the soil.

Welcome Laci



Photo by MC1 Krystina Coffey

Military Working Dog Laci joins the staff of NAS Meridian's Security Department recently. Laci, a Belgian Malinois, is 3 years old. He comes directly from completing training at Lakeland Air Force Base to Meridian which is his first duty station.

Ida is 12th hurricane name retired

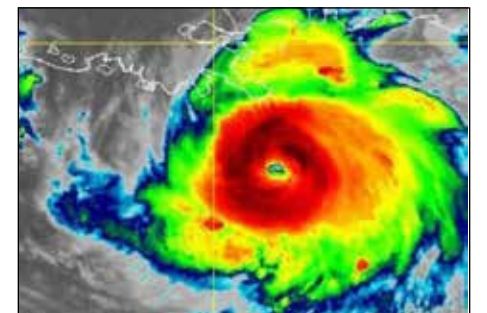
By Seth Borenstein

AP News

There's something about hurricanes starting with the letter I that is particularly nasty. Last year's Ida now joins the list of storms so deadly their names don't get used again.

The World Meteorological Organization said Wednesday that it was retiring the name "Ida" from its list of Atlantic hurricane names that repeats every six years. Ida caused \$75 billion damage in the U.S. and killed 55 people in a swath of destruction from Louisiana to New England.

Ida, a category four storm, caused about \$55 billion in flooding damage and killed six people in Louisiana when it made landfall, but its heavy rains and flooding killed 49 people in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast. It is the fifth costliest storm in U.S. history behind Hurricanes Katrina, Harvey, Maria and Sandy, all also retired, said National Hurricane Center senior hurricane specialist Daniel Brown, who is on the WMO committee that retires names.



NOAA image

Hurricane Ida

"This one produced a swath of impacts over really a fairly large portion of the Eastern U.S.," Brown said Wednesday.

After sloshing through Tennessee, Ida's fury hit the Northeast with record rainfall and tornadoes.

● **Ida, page 2**

Four aviators earn 'Wings of Gold' in April pinning ceremony

There was a naval aviator designation ceremony April 15 onboard Naval Air Station Meridian.

Four 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."



1ST LT Anthony Jurek



1ST LT Zachary Mullins



1ST LT Mark Rosenberger



LTJG Kurt Wenske

NAS Meridian Sailors of the Quarter



AC1 Christopher Schmidt

Sailor of the Quarter
Air Operations



ABE2 Abraham Amoateng

Junior Sailor of the Quarter
Field Support



AC3 Veronica Suarez-Aviles

Blue Jacket of the Quarter
Air Operations

NAS Meridian Civilians of the Quarter



Daniel Boswell

Senior Civilian of the Quarter
Air Operations



Michelle Spangler

Junior Civilian of the Quarter
Security

● **Ida**

Newark, New Jersey, got 8.4 inches (21.7 centimeters) of rain, the most ever in a single day, smashing the old record by 1.5 inches (3.8 inches). New York City got rain falling at more than 3 inches per hour.

It's been a tough five years for the United States with the most powerful hurricanes.

"We had more category 4 and category 5 landfalls in the USA from 2017 to 2021 than from 1963 to 2016," National Hurricane Center Director Ken Graham, chair of the WMO committee, said in a statement.

The WMO has retired 94 hurricane names in the Atlantic because of a storm's deadly history and 12 of them started with the letter I. No other letter is even close.

There have been nine C and F named storms, said University of Miami hurricane researcher Brian McNoldy who tracks retired names.

Brown said it's probably because hurricanes get named in alphabetical order and "by the time we get to the I name we're into the peak hurricane season" and the storms are the type that live longer and are stronger.



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
NMCRS Duty Cell: 601-604-2206
EEO (NAF): 866-295-0328
EEO (GS): 904-542-2802

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Local Happenings

APRIL

30: Red Hills Horse Show at 10 a.m. at the Lauderdale County Agri-Center. Red Hills Horse Show Association returns to Lauderdale County Agri-Center for its 2022 season. Judges events start at 10 a.m.; speed events begin at 2 p.m. Fees vary; contact Sedera at 601-562-5715.

MAY

5: Raise the Roof with Steve Forbert at 6 p.m. at the Temple Theater. Meridian's favorite son Steve Forbert will return to his hometown for this very special concert to support historic Merrehope. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets available online at www.itickets.com/events/463285. Tickets range from \$25-33.

7: 97OKK Jimmie Rodgers Singer/Songwriter Competition from 11 a.m.-noon at City Hall Lawn. Think you got what it takes to make it on stage before a live audience? If you do, we're looking for you! 97OKK presents the Annual Jimmie Rodgers Singer/Songwriter Competition, which will take place during the Bud N' Boilin' Crawfish Cookoff. Visit 97okk.com/jimmie-rodgers/ to register. Call 601-938-7427.

12: Mitchell Distributing Business After Hours from 4:30-6 p.m. at Mitchell Distributing, 100 49th Ave., Meridian. Mitchell Distributing will host an EMBDC Business after Hours to celebrate their 75th Anniversary. Call 601-693-1306.

13-14: Threefoot Festival Friday 5:30-8:30 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. in downtown Meridian. Featuring live music, arts and crafts, fine food and more, the festival has something for everyone. Contact Holley Davis at artsalive@artsmeridian.org. Free to the public.

NAS Corpus Christi named US Navy's top small installation

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi (NASCC) has been announced as the winner of the Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) Installation Excellence Award, taking 1st place in the small base category.

The award recognizes NAS Corpus Christi for superior performance, installation management, program excellence, and community outreach for fiscal year 2021, according to criteria set forth by the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

The award was announced by CNIC Commander, VADM Yancy Lindsey, in a Navy-

wide message. Admiral Lindsey commended the winners by saying "thank you for your outstanding leadership and your world-class support to Fleet, Fighter and Family. I am extremely proud of all you do, day-in and day-out, for our Navy and our Nation."

"I'm so proud of what we have achieved," NASCC commanding officer, Captain Christopher Jason, told NASCC personnel, "We had so many challenges and we handled each one with skill and grace. Thank you for giving this base your all."

-- From Fifi Kieschnick, NAS Corpus Christi

U.S., Iceland Wrap Up Exercise Northern Viking

For the last two weeks, Allied nations have exercised these capabilities and more, coming together to hone their skills and enhance cooperation during the Iceland-hosted, U.S. Sixth Fleet-executed exercise Northern Viking 22.

"Northern Viking 22 has been incredibly successful for us and for the participating Allies," said Cmdr. Marvin Ingólfsson, Deputy Commander of Keflavik Air Base. "We have learned from each other these last two weeks and we have shared tactics and procedures,

improving our ability to operate together in the defense of Iceland and of the lines of communication that run through this area."

The exercise, which began April 2 and concluded April 14, initially focused on protecting the critical infrastructure of Keflavik Air Base. Exercise participants established temporary secondary refueling positions for Allied aircraft while working to neutralize security threats to the base and its personnel.

-- From Lt. Tyler Barker, U.S. Sixth Fleet Public Affairs

Awards Quarters



Photo by MC1 Krystina Coffey

Chief Master-at-Arms Ralph Gracia, left, Air Traffic Controller 2nd Class Alec Beiter, middle, and Operations Specialist 2nd Class Brook Weaver pose with their awards following command quarters in the lobby of the Air Operations building onboard NAS Meridian, April 21.

Mississippi Council of the Navy League
Presents
Wings & Tails 2022
May 3rd
Social Hour 5:30
Dinner 6:30
(Shrimp, potatoes, corn, catfish & chicken wings)
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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: 3BD 2BA home with 1 car garage,

all new appliances and flooring. 13 miles from NAS. Rent \$1200, security deposit will be half of 1st month rent. Move in ready June 1st. Call 757-589-2174.

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 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. Pets allowed. Pet deposit \$300. \$1,300 rent per month. Call 973-876-5006.

For Rent: 2BA/1BA on the water at Dalewood \$600 per month. Call 601-683-6038.

MISCELLANEOUS


For Sale By Owner: 3BD/3BA brick home with sunroom, large fenced in yard. Convenient to shop-

ping and base. \$139K. Call 601-513-3395 or 601-227-1870.


For Sale: Office desk with file cabinets and hutch. Item retails for well over \$1000; selling it for \$300 (or best offer). Please contact LtCol Topping at 858-736-5812.

To submit an item to the "Sale...Or" column, e-mail adam.prince@navy.mil. Deadline is the Thursday 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



Proposed Plan - Site 8, Former Wash Rack Naval Air Station (NAS) Meridian



The Department of the Navy invites you to comment on the Site 8 (Former Wash Rack) Proposed Plan that presents the remedies selected to address contamination at this site located on NAS Meridian. The Proposed Plan for Site 8 is available for review at the following locations:

Meridian-Lauderdale County Public Library
2517 7th Street
Meridian, MS 39301

-or- Online at:
<https://go.usa.gov/xzuxq>

Public comments on the Proposed Plan are being accepted in writing from May 2 through June 1, 2022. Comments may be submitted to the NAS Meridian Public Affairs Office via email or postal mail to:

NAS Meridian Public Affairs Office
255 Rosenbaum Ave., Suite 163
Meridian MS 39309
nasmeridianpao@gmail.com

The Proposed Plan was developed with oversight by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and is based on findings that are documented in reports that are part of the Administrative Record for the Environmental Restoration Program at NAS Meridian, available online at: <https://go.usa.gov/xPbc7>.

SAPR Shoe Contest



Photo by MC1 Krystina Coffey

Fleet and Family Support Center Meridian held a shoe designing contest during April, Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention month, onboard NAS Meridian, April 27. Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Shawnte Bryant, assigned to Navy Medicine Readiness Training Unit Meridian, won first place.

Spear Phishing

■ SPEAR PHISHING:
A targeted scam directed at a specific person or department.

■ WHEN YOU RECEIVE A SUSPICIOUS EMAIL
Do not reply, reply to all, or forward the email to any other NMCI users.
Do not open any attachments in the email.
Do not click any website links provided in the message.

■ CAREFULLY EXAMINE THE EMAIL
Beware of unknown senders or sensational subject lines.
Look at the hyperlinks in the email carefully.
If the message claims it's from your financial institution, call them to verify.

■ RECOGNIZE THE RED FLAGS
Misspelled words and poor grammar
Urgent, sensational subject lines
Promises of free gifts or prizes
Requests to verify your password or account.

■ REPORT SPEAR PHISHING ATTEMPTS
Report the suspicious email to your system administrator or security officer.
NMCI users - report and forward any suspicious email as an attachment to NMCI_SPAM@navy.mil
Permanently delete the email from your inbox and send items folder.







Oh, the people you'll meet when you live overseas

I picked her up at Norfolk Airport, stowing her carpet-bag suitcase and walking stick in the back of our minivan. Mabel was 86, and after traveling all the way from England to Virginia, I figured she'd need a good rest once we got home.

But at our house, she stayed alert while our three kids fought for her attention, showing her their schoolwork, toys, missing teeth, and bedrooms. The only one that had any memory of Mabel was Hayden, who was three when we PCSed from England five years ago. But we'd told all three kids the unique tale of our friend Mabel.

Mabel had been our neighbor. She lived alone, two doors down in the row of old stone houses we'd occupied in Ramsey, England, during our first overseas tour. After an early

COLUMN



Molinari

stint in the Royal Air Force in her youth, Mabel worked as a private nanny and boarding school house mother for decades. In her seventies, Mabel retired to the stone house in Ramsey. She'd never married.

Most days Mabel sat in a floral upholstered chair in her living room, beside a table topped with her essentials: the television clicker, her books, a Cadbury chocolate bar, and a secret pack of cigarettes. She loved John Wayne movies, long cricket matches, and "those American chocolate biscuits with cream in the middle." We bought Oreos for Mabel from the commissary. Double-stuffed were her favorite.

Mabel looked the part of a classic British nanny. She had neat curls of gray hair, light blue eyes, and a sturdy figure. She wore lace-collared blouses, a cardigan sweater with a handkerchief in the pocket, wool skirts, pantyhose, sensible shoes, and wire-rimmed glasses. She used a walking stick, emblazoned with souvenir medals from her travels.

We invited Mabel over periodically, but she was quite content alone. On Christmas, she'd make herself a formal dinner, just for one. Sometimes she'd make enough to take a serving over to Bernard, the retired butler who lived

alone across the alleyway. Otherwise, Mabel stuck to a solitary routine that involved daily walks to the village bakery, butcher or Sainsbury's, and a weekly bus ride to the library for more books.

On Hayden's third birthday, he was delighted when she came to his party. By the end of our tour in England, Mabel felt like family. I could've taken advantage of her background as a nanny, but I never asked her to babysit. She had bonded with our children on her terms.

When we moved back to the states, we exchanged letters with Mabel, never thinking that she might visit us one day. But there she was in our Virginia Beach family room, sipping coffee while our three kids told her about Tae Kwan Do lessons, acorn collections and Jimmy Neutron.

During her visit, Mabel taught manners to Hayden's scout troop. She took a private tour of a Norfolk fire station. She attended Anna's class field trip to Jamestown colony. She played Polly Pockets with Lilly. She ate crab cakes. She poked at our cat with her walking stick.

On her last night, we took Mabel to a Cinco de Mayo party at a friends' house. In their crowded garage decorated with chili pepper

lights, latin music blared. Folding tables were heaped with spicy foods, a rented margarita machine swirled lime slush, and a piñata swung from the ceiling.

"Would you like one?" the hostess, Christine, asked Mabel, seated in a lawn chair amidst the sombreroed crowd. Mabel glanced at me to explain the small plastic cups on Christine's tray.

"They're called Jell-O shots," I shouted through the noise. "They're made with tequila." Christine demonstrated, showing Mabel how to use her tongue to dislodge the Jell-O from the cup. Mabel, looking like Mrs. Doubtfire had been taken hostage by a band of festive Mexicans, selected a cup from Christine's tray and downed it like a pro.

That night, as I watched my 86-year-old friend tap her walking stick to the music, I felt grateful that military life had given our family the unique opportunity to mix cultures, to span ages, to learn new things, and to live life to the fullest.

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		



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