



## On Base

### WREATHS & WINE

September 12 • 1730  
Community Rec. Complex

Cost is \$25. Register & pay at Community Recreation between Sept 1 - 10. Spots are limited! Call 601-679-2526 for details

**Staff Nights**  
**Every Thursday Night Rudders • 1700-2100**

**Sip and Spin**  
September 17 • 1700  
Pottery Studio (behind the Library)  
Costs \$25 per person. Register & pay from Aug. 22 - Sept. 12 at Community Recreation.

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

## Get Connected



SCAN for NAS Meridian App



SCAN for the Captain's Virtual Suggestion Box



Follow us!

# Northeast Cadet Cruises on Navy's Newest Warship

By Glenda Sanders  
The Meridian Star

Cadet Lt. Cmdr. Zachary Boyd, of Northeast Lauderdale High School NJROTC, was one of 23 cadets from NJROTC Area 16 recently selected to participate in Tiger Cruise aboard the Navy's newest amphibious dock transport ship, the USS Richard M. McCool Jr.

The McCool, the Navy's newest and most technologically advanced warship, was built by Ingalls Shipyard in Pascagoula. The ship is scheduled to be commissioned this Saturday at Naval Air Station Pensacola in Florida.

"Tiger Cruise is a Navy program that allows non-military members to experience daily operations aboard the ship while it's at sea," said retired Cmdr. Chad West, Northeast's Navy JROTC senior naval science instructor. "This was a truly rare opportunity for NJROTC cadets as it allowed them to see firsthand the things they have learned in the classroom."

Northeast High School is one of 27 schools within the NJROTC Area 16 district, which covers portions of four states and extends from eastern Texas to the panhandle of Florida. Altogether, 20 of the area's 27 schools were represented on the cruise, including Billie Pike, of Neshoba Central High School's NJROTC program.

West said Boyd traveled to Florida Wed., Aug. 28, where he joined the NJROTC Area 16 manager and the other 22 cadets selected for the event. They boarded the ship in Panama City, Florida, on Thursday morning for an



Photo by Regan Kieff

Northeast Lauderdale High School NJROTC Cadet Zachary Boyd poses for a photo with Command Master Chief Jerry Gonzales of the USS Richard M. McCool Jr.

overnight cruise at sea before pulling into port at Naval Air Station Pensacola on Friday, he said.

• Cadet, page 4

# VT-9 Receives Safety Award



Photo by Ensign Alan Wang

CDR Austin Ordway, left, commanding officer of Training Squadron 7, accepts the CNO Aviation Safety Award for Training Squadron 9 on behalf of CDR Justin Estrada, from RADM Rich Brophy, Chief of Naval Air Training. The fiscal year 2023 CNO Aviation Safety Awards also went to: Training Squadron (VT) 2, Training Squadron (VT) 9, Training Squadron (VT) 28, Training Squadron (VT) 35, Training Squadron (VT) 22 and Helicopter Training Squadron (HT) 8. These award winners are recognized for their exceptional professionalism, commitment to excellence, solid leadership and teamwork and their high-velocity outcomes and in-depth risk management culture which resulted in safe and effective operations throughout the year.

## Captain's Virtual Suggestion Box: Q & A

Thank you for your questions and feedback using the CO's suggestion box. We are working to respond to all issues. Any specific comments not addressed this week are still in the works and we hope to provide feedback soon.

**UPDATE: Gate Access to NAS Meridian**  
We have received several similar questions about the ability to open the family housing gate in addition to expanded hours on the commercial gate.

A. Unfortunately, due to current mission requirements and staffing mandates, we are unable to open this gate. We will reassess as our staffing increases and aim to resume operations as soon as possible. In the meantime, the NAS Meridian Main Gate remains

open 24/7 for all personnel.

**Q. Good morning Triad, thank you for sharing your feedback and response for all the suggestions at our last Command Quarters. Is it possible to add the Galley Menu (lunch) as an enclosure to the plan of the week? This would help Sailors plan their weekly diet. Nothing worse than showing up to the Galley for a healthy meal and "cold cuts" or hamburger steak is the only option. Again thank you for taking these suggestions seriously. Have a safe and great weekend.**

A. Thank you for bringing up this recommendation. The Weekly Galley Menu will now be included as an attachment with the Plan of the Week, and we are exploring additional options to provide online through our PAO.

**\*\*Statements concerning individual employees will be directed to the appropriate Chain of Command.**

• Suggestions, page 4





# 15 Aviators Earn 'Wings of Gold' in August Pinning Ceremony

## From Staff Reports

There was a naval aviator designation ceremony August 30 onboard Naval Air Station Meridian.

Fifteen 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."

LTJG Jared Grayson Adams, USN, is a 2020 graduate of Clemson University, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. During Advanced Jet Flight Training LTJG Adams earned three Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy. He carrier qualified in the T-45C on board the USS HARRY S. TRUMAN (CVN 75) on June 20, 2024. LTJG Adams completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine.

LTJG Seth Gregory Anderson, USN, is a 2018 graduate of the Brigham Young University, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Chinese. LTJG Anderson completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven.

LTJG Abigail Sophia Avera, USN, is a 2021 graduate of Virginia Tech, where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial and Systems Engineering. During Advanced Jet Flight Training LTJG Avera earned three Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy. LTJG Avera completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine.

1STLT Kyle Patrick Beattie, USMC, is a 2013 graduate of the University Of Maine, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management. 1stLt Beattie completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven.

SPMC, is a 2020 graduate of the Spanish Naval Academy, where he received a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering degree. During Advanced Jet Flight Training Captain Cardenas Anton earned three Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy. He carrier qualified in the T-45C on board the USS HARRY S. TRUMAN (CVN 75) on June 20, 2024. Captain Cardenas Anton completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine.

LTJG Christopher Gray Creed Jr., USN, is a 2021 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Ocean Engineering. During Advanced Jet Flight Training LTJG Creed earned two Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy. LTJG Creed completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine.

LT Jeronimo Dominguez Fernandez-Nunez, SPMC, is a 2020 graduate of the Spanish Naval Academy, where he received a Bachelor of Mechanical

Engineering degree. During Advanced Jet Flight Training LT Dominguez Fernandez-Nunez earned five Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy. He carrier qualified in the T-45C on board the USS HARRY S. TRUMAN (CVN 75) on June 20, 2024. LT Dominguez Fernandez-Nunez completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine.

1STLT Edmund Harrsion Geschickter, USMC, is a 2019 graduate of the Roger Williams University, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics. 1stLt Geschickter completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven.

LTJG Christopher Allen Gibson, USN, is a 2021 graduate of Florida State University, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering. LTJG Gibson completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven.

LTJG Evan Joseph Morris, USN, is a 2021 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in English. LTJG Morris completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven.

LTJG Spenser Owen Neel, USN, is a 2019 graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics. While in the Naval Introduction Flight Evaluation program LTJG Neel was awarded the Academic Achievement Award. During Primary Flight Training he was named to the Commodore's List. While in Advanced Jet Flight Training, he earned two Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy. LTJG Neel completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine.

LTJG Samuel John Paparo, USN, is a 2021 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in English. In 2021, LTJG Paparo graduated from Georgetown University, where he received a Master of Arts in National Security Policy. LTJG Paparo completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven.

LTJG Alexander Karol Richmond, USN, is a 2021 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. In 2022, LTJG Richmond graduated from Naval Postgraduate School, where he received a Master of Science in Aerospace Engineering. LTJG Richmond completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven.

LTJG Andrew Benjamin Walsh, USN, is a 2021 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics. During Primary Flight Training, LTJG Walsh was named to the Commodore's List. LTJG Walsh completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven.

LTJG Brandon Jaesang Yu, USN, is a 2021 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Robotics and Control Engineering. LTJG Yu completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven.



LTJG Jared Adams



LTJG Seth Anderson



LTJG Abigail Avera



1STLT Kyle Beattie



CAPT Gonzalo Anton



LTJG Christopher Creed Jr.



LT Jeronimo Dominguez



1STLT Edmund Geschickter



LTJG Christopher Gibson



LTJG Evan Morris



LTJG Spenser Neel



LTJG Samuel Paparo



LTJG Alexander Richmond



LTJG Andrew Walsh



LTJG Brandon Yu

## The Skyline ~ Naval Air Station Meridian, Miss.

### Command Staff

Commanding Officer ~  
**CAPT Luke H. Davis**  
Executive Officer ~  
**CDR Mike Missler**  
Command Master Chief ~  
**CMDCM Randy Griffeth**

### Editorial Staff

Public Affairs Officer ~  
**Penny Randall**  
Public Affairs Specialist~  
**Evelyn Adams**  
Photographer~  
**MC2 Molly Tice**

### 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

This DoD newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of The Skyline are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or NAS Meridian, Mississippi. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the NAS Meridian Public Affairs Office. The Skyline solicits news contributions from military and civilian sources. It reserves the right to edit material selected for dissemination. The deadline for material is 4:30 p.m. the Thursday before publication. Send submissions to: The Skyline, 255 Rosenbaum Ave., Suite 163, Public Affairs Office, Naval Air Station, Meridian, MS 39309-5003 or e-mail: penny.l.randall2.civ@us.navy.mil or evelyn.m.adams@navy.mil. For more information, call (601) 679-2318 or (601) 679-2809. The appearance of any advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or NAS Meridian of products or services advertised. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.



# LOCAL HAPPENINGS

## SEPTEMBER

**10: Rising Hope Documentary Screening - 6 p.m.** Join us for a screening of the new documentary, Rising Hope at the MAX. This inspiring documentary explores a vibrant tapestry of voices and personal narratives found within the Delta- where hope survives, despite generational poverty. Cash bar and small bites available. [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

**11: 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb - 5 p.m.** This is the 6th Annual 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb. Participants will climb 110 floors (equivalent to the World Trade Towers). Proceeds from the stair climb stay local and benefit our local first responders in many different ways! [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

**14: Habitat for Humanity 5K - 8 a.m.** Entry Fee \$25 for 5k/ \$15 for fun walk/ \$10 for 1 Mile Kids Run. There will be no refund of Registration Fees. Register by August 26, 2024 to get a commemorative t-shirt for the event. All proceeds benefit the Lauderdale County Chapter of Habitat for Humanity. Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit organization that helps families in Lauderdale County build and improve places to call home. We believe affordable housing plays a critical role in strong and stable communities. **Located in Meridian, MS at the Bonita Lakes Park.** [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

**14: Blue Like Jazz - 7 p.m.** Classical elegance meets the spirited rhythms of jazz. Located at the Mississippi Arts + Entertainment Experience (MAX). [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

**19-20: Whynot Motorsports Park: 2nd Annual Street Stock World Championship.** [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

**28: Lean on Me Jubilee 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.** A family-friendly festival with food and craft vendors, small business booths, and entertainment in downtown Meridian. The children's area will feature a petting zoo, bounce house & slide, and face painting. Music by Grayson Culpepper, Callaway Keller, Kayleigh Clark, Emily White, and Jax Moore Band. [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

# AREA HAPPENINGS

## SEPTEMBER:

**14: Jelly Roll - 7 P.M.** - Concert features special guests Warren Zeiders and Alexandra Kay. **Located in New Orleans, LA at the Smoothie King Center.** [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

**22: Thunder Over Columbus Air Show.** **Located in Columbus, MS.** [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

**28-29: South Star Music Festival** - See performances from Gwen Stefani, Blink- 182, Sublime, Goo Goo Dolls, Ludacris, and TLC. **Located in Huntsville, AL.** [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

**"This information is provided for informational purposes only. The Department of the Navy does not approve, endorse, or authorize these entities or their products/ services."**



# Golden Stick Award



Photo by MC2 Molly Tice

Mississippi Council of the Navy League President, Laura Carmichael, has the honor of presenting the Golden Stick award to Lieutenant Junior Grade Andrew Walsh during a winging ceremony in the Chapel onboard NAS Meridian, August 30. 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.



# Sale... Or

### BOATS/CAMPERS/TRAILERS

**21 foot - 2021 Jayco Travel Camper.** Like new; beige & walnut interior. Selling to upgrade to larger size - Price is \$15,000 some accessories included. To view or request pics please contact: Gary 601-575-5062.

### HOMES/APARTMENTS

**NEW! For Rent:** Studio Appartment located on North Hills Street. \$825 a month. Call 601-504-5415.

**For Rent:** 2 BD/1 BA home located in Dalewood community on the water. \$900 a month. Call 601-683-6038.

**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:** Water front home in Dalewood. Spacious two-story home facing the Lake; great for fishing and relaxing. Remodeled kitchen and new appliances. Rent is \$1,800; please call 813-406-9687.

**For Rent:** Fully furnished home in Dalewood. \$1,500 a month; \$50 application fee; \$900 Dalewood membership fee. Trailer, washer and dryer included. Call Jim 601-480-4865.

**For Rent:** 4 BD/2.5 BA home 3632 sq ft, just over 6 acres with workshop attached to 2-car carport. Owners will consider a lease of 12-36 months, and rent is negotiable the longer the term. Call (601) 517-1707.

**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.

**For Sale:** Double wall Frigidaire oven \$500; Bosch

### MISCELLANEOUS

dishwasher \$500. Both three years old. Call 601-616-4242.

**Nanny or caregiver services.** Call Alice at 601-934-1866 or 601-679-8112. Has installation access; can take children to school and pick up and available days, nights and weekends.

**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](mailto:nasmeridianpao@gmail.com)



# Captain's Virtual Suggestion Box: Questions & Answers



● Suggestions

**Q. I just wanted to point out that there is a dead tree next to the main supply warehouse fenced in outside storage building that has the potential to take out the fence around the storage building as well as most of the covered storage building. This tree is between the NTTC student walkway going to the gym and the fenced in supply storage building.**

A. Thank you for bringing this to our attention. We have informed the supply storage team and issued a work order to remove the tree in question, as well as another nearby. We expect this work to be complete by 9 September.

**Q. The ants are really bad around base. The playgrounds and picnic tables aren't being taken care of and many kids are getting eaten up.**

A. Thank you for bringing this to our attention. The Balfour Beatty

team has gotten to work on this. The playgrounds in the Pine Crest neighborhoods were treated on 9/3/24. The playground in the Juniper Ridge neighborhood (behind Oak Circle) is scheduled to be sprayed next Tuesday, September 10, 2024, following the pressure washing of the tables by the roads and grounds staff. Additionally, the pest control technician will be conducting monthly spray treatments for all playgrounds.

**Q. Please repair the golf cart bridges so that we can run distances on the old golf cart paths.**

A. These bridges are scheduled for full renovation as part of a Naval Mobile Construction Battalion project tentatively scheduled for February 2025. Given safety and reliability concerns, the old bridges are beyond temporary repairs at this point.

**Q. The CDC in-service training days are significantly impactful to the service members working on base. No other site in the US Navy is allowed to close on a non-federal holiday for training of their own personnel. This leaves many people with no options but to take leave or pay exorbitantly for other care (which lacks in the**

**meridian area). Please consider reduced hours or weekend/holiday training for the CDC personnel.**

A. Thank you for the feedback and we understand the concerns in needing to make alternative childcare arrangements during these times. In 2022, Department of the Navy mandated all CYP's to close three times per calendar year to conduct In-Service training. This mandate further requires In-Service training be scheduled during regular operating hours. These training days have proven to be a valuable tool for our CYPs by providing standardized training and the highest quality service. Like other school systems, these professional training days are intended to enhance the quality of care for children in our program by providing staff with dedicated time to meet mandatory training requirements. At least a 90-day notice will be provided and parent fees are reflective of these planned program closures.

**Q. Hello, I would like to know why there is no recycle (cardboard, plastic, aluminum) pick up or large recycle bins available on base or in housing? If it's not used by many, would a company be available to do a large (bulk) recycle bin in**

**housing? I feel terrible that my Amazon boxes, soda bottles, and cans are being tossed in with the landfill.**

A. This remains a high priority for us. Recycling centers for cardboard or paper are scarce in Mississippi, with none available in our service area. This makes recycling very costly. We are actively exploring partnerships with other agencies to reduce costs and begin recycling our cardboard, paper, and metal waste streams more effectively.

**Q. The library needs a computerized card catalog system for patrons to search and find books, games, and videos. Also consider publicizing the e-library options.**

A. Thank you for the feedback. The library has an online database that can be searched via the following link: <https://milrec.bibliovation.com/app/search>

Any specific questions on searching can be handled by phoning the library at 601-679-2326 during regular business hours. New users who wish to check out materials will first need to bring their ID/CAC to the library to be registered into the system.

The library hours are:  
M,T,W,F: 1000-1800  
TH: 1000-2000  
SAT: 1000-1600

● Cadet

"We are extremely proud that he had the opportunity to represent Northeast at this event," West said. "He plans to attend college and earn a commission as a naval officer after graduation."

Boyd, who serves as Northeast's cadet commanding officer, told Navy officials, "My favorite part of the cruise was meeting all of the outstanding officers and the amazing views."

The highlight of the trip was the presentation of the Navy JROTC Sea-Cruise award to each cadet by the ship's commanding officer and command master chief. Some of the cadets also received the Ship's Chal-

lenge Coin or the Captain's Challenge Coin.

Named after U.S. Navy officer and Medal of Honor recipient Richard M. McCool Jr., the \$1.4 billion ship is the Navy's 13th San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock ship. The 684-foot-long, 105-foot-wide ship is equipped with an advanced radar system, flight deck and well deck able to be flooded with water for boats to dock within the lower level of the ship. It will be used to transport and land Marines and their equipment and supplies ashore and will be capable of treating most medical needs in an onboard elaborate medical center.



Photo by Regan Kieff

NJROTC cadets representing 20 high schools from Area 16 listen to speakers, Commanding Officer Capt. Jeff Baker, left, and Command Master Chief Jerry Gonzales, right, while participating in a Tiger Cruise last week aboard the the Navy's newest amphibious dock transport ship, the USS Richard M. McCool Jr.

## Roman Catholic Service

at the NAS Meridian Chapel

**Sept. 14 & Sept. 28**  
**0930: Confession**  
**1000: Mass**




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

## National Suicide Prevention Month

# 988

### SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE



988 offers 24/7 judgment-free support for mental health, substance use, and more. Text, call, or chat 988.



# N9 Nook

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

## EVENTS SCHEDULE **SEPTEMBER 2024**

**SEPT 3RD**

### WELCOME ABOARD

Fleet and Family Support Center, BLDG 405

### COMMAND FINANCIAL SPECIALIST TRAINING

Fleet and Family Support Center, BLDG 405

**SEPT 16-20**

**SEPT 12TH**

### CAPSTONE

Fleet and Family Support Center, BLDG 405

### TAP CLASS

Fleet and Family Support Center, BLDG 405

**SEPT 30 - OCT 4**



**MORE INFO:**

**CALL: 601-679-2360**



**Oktoberfest**  
 .....  
 21 SEPT | 1600 - 1800  
 .....  
 FOOD - LIVE BAND - GAMES




*Are you interested  
 in hosting a service  
 member for a  
 holiday dinner?*

IF SO, PLEASE CONTACT THE FLEET AND FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER AT 601-679-2360 OR EMAIL KASIE MCINNIS AT KASIE.D.MCINNIS.NAF@US.NAVY.MIL

INSTRUCTOR: VALARIE OVERTON

### Wreath Making CLASS



\$25 per person  
Limit of 8 patrons

#### REGISTER & PAY

Sept 1 - 10 at  
Community Recreation

For details, call 601-679-2528

**SEPT 12  
AT 1730**




A SERVICE PROVIDED BY CYP:

## HOURLY CARE

3 WAYS TO MAKE OR CANCEL RESERVATIONS:

- Scan the QR Code
- Call 601-679-2652
- In person, at the Child Development Center