

THE SKYLINE



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October 12, 2023

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Chief's Pinning



Photo by MC2 Molly Crawford

Air Traffic Controller Senior Chief Chase Mayer pins anchors on Air Traffic Controller Chief Dominic Herman during a pinning ceremony in the hanger onboard NAS Meridian, Sept. 29.

U.S. flowing military supplies to Israel, as country battles Hamas terrorists

By Jim Garamone

DoD News, Defense Media Activity

The United States is flowing military supplies to Israel as the country battles against Hamas terrorists, President Joe Biden said.

"We stand with Israel," the president said during an announcement at the White House.

The Hamas attack has been exceptionally brutal with hundreds of Israeli civilians killed and thousands wounded in the surprise attack out of Gaza that began Saturday.

"There's still so many families desperately waiting to hear the fate of their loved ones, not knowing if they are alive or dead or hostages," the president said.

Hamas gunmen also kidnapped civilians and now leaders of the group have threatened to execute them. "The brutality of Hamas, its blood-thirstiness, brings to mind the worst rampages of ISIS," Biden said. "This is terrorism."

"We will make sure Israel has what it needs to take care of its citizens, defend itself and respond to this attack," he continued.

Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris spoke with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu today and Biden assured him that the U.S. response to the events will be swift, decisive and overwhelming.

"My team has been in near constant communication with our Israeli partners and partners all across the region and the world from the moment this crisis began," the president said. "We're surging additional military assistance,

including ammunition, and interceptors to replenish Iron Dome. We are going to make sure that Israel does not run out of these critical assets to defend its cities and its citizens."

Biden said that he will ask Congress "to take urgent action to fund the national security requirements of our critical partners. This is not about party or politics; this is about the security of our world, security of the United States of America."

The United States has also enhanced its military force posture in the region to strengthen deterrence. DOD has moved the USS Gerald R. Ford Carrier Strike Group to the eastern Mediterranean and bolstered fighter aircraft presence in the region.

These moves are not to deter Hamas, but any country or group that may think of taking advantage of the instability and confusion to pursue their own ends. "To any country, any organization, anyone thinking of taking advantage of the situation, I have one word: Don't," Biden said. "Our hearts may be broken but our resolve is clear."

National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said there are U.S. citizens among the hostages Hamas has taken. "We are working with the Israeli government and with our regional partners on every aspect of the hostage crisis, including sharing intelligence and deploying experts from across the U.S. government to advise the Israeli government and coordinate with them on hostage recovery efforts," he said during a White House news conference.

● Israel, page 2

Happy 248th Birthday US Navy



Photo by MC2 Molly Crawford

LT Carl Scroggs, NAS Meridian Chaplain, left, and Air Traffic Controller Airman Apprentice Elbert Sawyer cut the traditional Navy Ball birthday cake during a ceremony in the LCPL Roy M. Wheat Galley onboard NAS Meridian, Oct. 12. The Navy's 248th birthday is Oct. 13. Scroggs and Sawyer were the oldest and youngest Sailors present.

Fire Prevention Week



Above: CAPT Luke Davis, NAS Meridian commanding officer, prepares to sign the Fire Prevention Week Proclamation as members of NAS Meridian Fire and Emergency Services look on. Fire Prevention Week is celebrated Oct. 8-14 and this year's theme is "Cooking safety starts with YOU! Pay attention to fire prevention."

Below: Sparky the Fire Dog hugs a child at the School Aged Card Center during a Fire Prevention Week presentation by firefighters onboard NAS Meridian, Oct. 11.

Photos by MC2 Molly Crawford



Sixteen aviators earn 'Wings of Gold' in pinning ceremony

There was a naval aviator designation ceremony Sept. 29 onboard Naval Air Station Meridian.

Sixteen 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."



LT Michael Bako



LT Benjamin Bellec



ENS Pierre Bonnet



LTJG Matthew Coulter



LTJG Nikolai Figueroa



LTJG Kevin Fries



Capt. Samuel Grant



LTJG Hunter Holstad



LTJG Koty Krull



1STLT Luke Markus



LTJG Logan Opp



LT Alex Petroy



LTJG Nathaniel Roe



Capt. Ryan Scott



ENS Matthieu Sicard



1STLT John Stackfleth

Golden Stick



Laura Carmichael, representative of the Mississippi Council of the Navy League, left, presents 1STLT John Stackfleth with the Golden Stick award during a winging ceremony in the Chapel onboard NAS Meridian, Sept. 29. The Golden Stick is awarded to the student with the highest composite score during training.

Photo by Adam Prince

● Israel

"As the President ... said, there is no higher priority than the safety and well-being of American citizens being held hostage overseas."

Sullivan said military supplies are already flowing into Israel with interceptors for the Iron Dome missile defense shield leading the way. "We will be flowing in additional Iron Dome interceptors so that [the Israelis] have the capabilities they need to sustain their Iron Dome defense systems," he said. "We're also looking at other ways that we can help augment their air defense capabilities."

Sullivan said that Iran "is complicit in this attack, in a broad sense," meaning Iran has long funded and trained and supplied the terror group.

Iranian leaders "have provided capabilities, they have provided support, and they have had engagement in contact with Hamas over years and years," he said. "All of that has played a role in contributing to what we have seen now. As to the question of whether Iran knew about this attack in advance, or helped plan or direct this attack? We do not, as of the moment ... have confirmation."



The Skyline ~ Naval Air Station Meridian, Miss.

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Suicide Hotline: 800-273-8255
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Local Happenings

OCTOBER

21: BOO!seum from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Mississippi Children's Museum - Meridian. Superheroes, princesses, and silly monsters alike are invited to the Mississippi Children's BOO!seum for spooky science, festive fall games, creepy-crawly crafts, and glowing dance parties. Call 601-512-0270.

28: Fall Pops! A Symphony of Illusion from 7-9 p.m. at the MSU Riley Center. Prepared to be amazed (and maybe a little bit spooked) as illusionist Michael Grandinetti, star of the hit TV series *Masters of Illusions* and *World's Most Dangerous Magic*, combines his astonishing magic with the powerful and mysterious music of the Meridian Symphony Orchestra. Call 601-696-2200.

NOVEMBER

3-4: Soule' Live Steam Festival from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Soule Steam Feed Works. Visit America's last remaining steam engine factory. The 20th Annual Soule Live Steam Festival gives visitors the opportunity to see how things were made and how hard people worked back in the early 20th century. Call 601-693-9905.

4: Railfest 2023 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Meridian Railroad Museum. Presented by Meridian Rails Historical Society, Railfest 2023, is the nonprofit's largest event of the year. Admission is free but donations are hardily accepted. Call 601-479-2483 / 601-681-8525.

Area Happenings

OCTOBER

13-15: Crescent City Blues & BBQ Festival -- All weekend in Lafayette Square, S Maestri St, New Orleans. For information, visit <https://www.neworleans.com/event/crescent-city-blues-%26-bbq-festival/3205/>

13-14: CelticFest Mississippi from 4 p.m. Friday to 10 p.m. Saturday at 1112 North Shore Parkway Brandon, MS. For information, visit <https://www.theclanbuchanan.com/events/2023/10/13/celticfest-mississippi>

15: Outlaw Music Festival - Feat. Willie Nelson from 5-9 p.m. at the Oak Mountain Amphitheatre, 2041 Oak Mountain Dr, Pelham, AL. For information, visit <https://discovershelby.com/venue/oak-mountain-amphitheatre/>

Future USS Jack Lucas sails away from Ingalls

The Navy's newest guided-missile destroyer, the future USS Jack H. Lucas (DDG 125), sailed away from the Huntington Ingalls Industries' (HII) Ingalls Shipbuilding Division shipyard, Sept 26.

USS Jack H. Lucas (DDG 125) departs Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula, Miss. DDG-125 will be commissioned Oct. 7 at a ceremony in Tampa, Florida, before sailing to homeport in San Diego.

"Sail away of the first Flight III Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer is a historical event for the program," said Capt. Seth Miller, the DDG 51 program manager at the Arleigh Burke-class program office, Program Executive Office, Ships. "The Navy continues to field cutting-edge warfighting capability that will ply the oceans and

deter our adversaries for decades to come."

DDG-125 will be commissioned Oct. 7, 2023 at a ceremony in Tampa, Florida before sailing to its homeport in San Diego.

DDG-125 is named for Pfc. Jacklyn Harold "Jack" Lucas, who served in the U.S. Marines during World War II, earning the Medal of Honor for his heroism at Iwo Jima, when he was just 17 years old. He is the youngest Marine, and the youngest serviceman in World War II, to be awarded the United States' highest military decoration for valor. In 1961, he returned to military service as a captain in the U.S. Army and trained younger troops headed for Vietnam.

-- From Team Ships Public Affairs

[Read more, click here](#)

U.S. Iraq and Kuwait wrap up trilateral exercise

Maritime forces from Iraq, Kuwait and the United States completed a two-day trilateral exercise focusing on counter-piracy and maritime security in the Northern Arabian Gulf, Oct. 3.

The Sentinel-class U.S. Coast Guard fast response cutters USCGC Robert Goldman (WPC 1142) and USCGC Clarence Sutphin Jr. (WPC 1146) teamed with Kuwait Coast Guard fast patrol boat Wadhah (P 316), Kuwait Coast Guard speed boat (400), Kuwait Navy supply ship KNS Al-dorrah, Kuwait Navy patrol boat KNS Failaka, Kuwait Navy coastal patrol boat KNS Bateel 3 and KNS Bateel 4, a Kuwait helicopter, Iraq Navy patrol boat PB-307 and Iraq Navy patrol boat PB-310 to conduct joint patrols focused on visit, board, search, and

seizure (VBSS) procedures, small boat operations, fishermen safety, and communication equipment checks, among many maritime security concerns.

This exercise builds upon previous VBSS engagement training by introducing simulated target vessels, increased VBSS drill repetitions and, as a first, conducting VBSS exercises aboard Kuwaiti ships.

Six years ago, the trilateral exercise concept was driven by the three partner nations' desire to cooperatively address maritime security concerns in the Arabian Gulf. Since that time, the exercises have grown in complexity and are more focused on regional needs.

-- From U.S. Naval Forces Central Command Public Affairs

[Read more, click here](#)

DOD remains focused on deterrence in Indo-Pacific

The U.S. remains fully committed to its strategy of integrated deterrence in the Indo-Pacific while keeping a close eye on China's provocations in the region, a senior Pentagon official said today.

A group of U.S. and foreign military ships transit in open waters.

Ely S. Ratner, assistant secretary of defense for Indo-Pacific security affairs, said conflict with China is not inevitable despite indications that Beijing is increasingly leveraging its military to spread its malign influence abroad.

Previewing the forthcoming 2023 China Military Power Report, Ratner

said DOD assesses that the Chinese Communist Party is increasingly turning to its military as "an instrument of coercion in support of their revisionist aims" with an eye toward restructuring the international order and undermining global peace and stability.

That assessment, he said, is evidenced by China's rapid expansion of its nuclear forces and increasing provocations by its air and naval forces against U.S. allies and partners operating in the region under accordance with international law.

-- By Joseph Clark, DOD News

[Read more, click here](#)

Sale... Or

BOATS/CAMPERS/TRAILERS

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

2018 Mallard M185 Travel Trailer. Sleeps 4 with 1 queen bed/2 bunks. Easy to tow at 3,575 lbs; only selling because military member is moving overseas. Great living quarters with lake view.

Hooked up and ready to live in, including cables, hoses, plus the \$500 towing kit. Asking \$17,000. Call 360-434-3035.

AUTOMOBILES, ETC.

2018 Subaru Outback 2.5 limited, 12k miles; Subaru safety features and warranties included. Asking \$29k. Call 601-480-5100.

2017 Dodge Challenger, grey with racing stripe. \$24k. Call 601-880-3237.

HOMES/APARTMENTS

For Rent: 3 BD/1.5 BA with another room used as a gym. All kitchen appliances included. Large

backyard. Address 145 Skyland Drive, Meridian. About 25 minutes to Navy Base. \$900 per month, with \$900 deposit. Available Aug. 1. No pets. Call 601-490-0849

For Rent: 3BD/2BD home near Causeville Road. Furnished in quiet neighborhood. \$900 per month. 954-895-5485, 601-692-4048 or 606-571-0820.

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 Sale: 3BD/2BA Home with 2,560 sq. ft. Sits on 1 & 1/2 lots on dead end with privacy woods on 3 sides. Asking \$180,000. Contact: lucindawnichols@gmail.com, call 601-527-7829 or 601-917-6145.

For Rent: 2BD/1.5BA Home at 3702 Rollins Dr, Lauderdale in Dalewood. 2136 sq ft on a .29 acres lot. Beautiful newly renovated single family home. Call 973-876-5006.

For Rent: 2BD/1.5BA single family home in Dalewood - fully renovated. Fenced in back yard with boat slip & pier. Pets

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

For Sale By Owner: 3BD/3BA brick home with sunroom, large fenced in yard. Convenient to shopping and base. \$139K. Call 601-513-3395 or 601-227-1870.

MISCELLANEOUS

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.

Service for hire: Dixie Lawn LLC, lawn care in Meridian. Call 850-376-4499. Military owned company.

To submit an item to the "Sale...Or" column, email adam.w.prince.civ@us.navy.mil. Deadline is the Wednesday prior to publication.

Listings in the "Sale...Or" column are free for anyone who works at NAS Meridian. To include your announcement, email adam.w.prince.civ@us.navy.mil

Navy 'tracks' Iranian ships with unmanned systems in Strait of Hormuz

By Diana Stancy Correll
Military Times

Traditionally crewed ships and aircraft teamed up with 12 unmanned platforms to conduct enhanced maritime security operations in the Strait of Hormuz last month.

The exercise involved "tracking" Iranian navy and Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps navy ships and small boats in the region, according to U.S. Naval Forces Central Command.

"The integration of new, multidomain unmanned platforms into routine fleet operations provides more 'eyes on the water,' enhancing maritime domain awareness and increasing deterrence in the region," said Vice Adm. Brad Cooper, commander of U.S. Naval Forces Central Command and U.S. 5th Fleet, in a Navy news release Friday.

The operation came after the Navy sent the amphibious assault ship Bataan and dock landing ship Carter Hall, with more than 3,000 sailors and Marines embarked, to U.S. 5th Fleet in July to bolster security in the region.

That move was in response to recent attempts by Iran to harass and seize merchant vessels. U.S. Central Command claims Iran has attacked or seized approximately 20 vessels since 2021.

These unmanned platforms can assist keeping navigation safe and promoting the free flow of commerce in the

region, Cooper said.

"This enhanced maritime security serves as a deterrent against malign activity and strengthens regional stability, which is good for everybody," he said.

The Navy did not disclose which type of unmanned platforms participated in the exercise, but said they included underwater, surface and aerial vehicles. Seven task forces were involved.

Capt. Joe Baggett, director of maritime operations for U.S. Naval Forces Central Command and U.S. 5th Fleet, noted that the command has operated unmanned systems for years, but said "manned-unmanned teaming" operations will become the norm moving forward.

"Adding our new USVs, and then integrating all of these platforms into fleet operations, is how we expect to fly and sail well into the future," Baggett said in the release.

Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro told Navy Times' sister publication, Defense News, in December 2022 that integrating unmanned platforms into maritime operations would require perfecting the technology so they can operate safely and independently, and ensuring that the Navy develops a concept of operations needed to "match the unmanned technology with the manned technology."

"The third part of that is continue to refine the training and the cultural changes that are necessary so we can

train our workforce to be able to integrate those technologies into our warfighting structure, as well as provide the data, the intel and the warfighting capability necessary to support the joint force," Del Toro said.

The Department of Defense has deployed multiple assets to deter Iranian maritime hostility.

In addition to the Bataan and Carter Hall, the department sent Air Force F-35 and F-16 fighter jets and the destroyer Thomas Hudner to the region in July after Iran tried to seize two oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf of Oman on July 5.

In one instance, an Iranian ship fired upon one of the merchant vessels, Pentagon press secretary Sabrina Singh told reporters in July. The U.S. Navy destroyer McFaul intervened in both cases and the Iranian vessels subsequently departed the scene.

Last month, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps navy shined a laser at a Marine Corps AH-1Z Viper attack helicopter assigned to the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit deployed with the Bataan.

"These are not the actions of a professional maritime force," U.S. Naval Forces Central Command spokesman Cmdr. Rick Chernitzer said in a statement last month. "This unsafe, unprofessional and irresponsible behavior by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps navy risks U.S. and partner nation lives and needs to cease immediately."

Leaders face questions over rent increases, spouse employment and more

By Karen Jowers
Military Times

When the Defense Department announces increases in the Basic Allowance for Housing, sometimes rents immediately increase in the civilian community, a soldier told Army senior leaders, during a town hall Wednesday at the annual meeting of the Association of the U.S. Army.

"In the last year, my rent has gone up and matched every single BAH increase so it's made no difference to my yearly income," said the soldier, based at Fort Carson, Colorado.

"Is there anything we're going to put in place to protect service members so they [don't have to] live paycheck to paycheck anymore?"

That housing allowance is a key financial component for military families, and over the last few years, service members have gotten boosts in pay and BAH to counter the increases in cost of living. "However, as soon as those pay increases are announced, the surrounding commu-

nity increases the cost of living and the rent," said the soldier.

The senior leaders discussed some of their efforts across a myriad of areas to improve the lives of soldiers and families, including some areas where they need to push for change at the national level. Troops and families laid out some of their concerns, like the rent increases, to Secretary of the Army Christine Wormuth, Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Randy George, and Sergeant Major of the Army Michael Weimer.

Information on military pay and BAH rates is public knowledge. The issue of how BAH rates affect the rental market in the local community has been brought up for decades, and has been periodically discussed by lawmakers and service officials, as well as how BAH rates are determined.

"We talk about this all the time," said George, adding that he, too, has seen the lock-step increases happen in communities near installations. He added that the Army doesn't control the landlords who provide housing..."

[Read more, click here](#)

CAMPFIRE SAFETY

30 Inches:

Suggested length of a roasting stick to minimize getting too close to the campfire



15 Feet:

Distance campfires should be from existing structures, trees, greenery, and tents

Put Out

Your campfire fully before leaving the fire pit

Always

Keep a pail of water and a shovel nearby in case the fire gets out of control

Be Sure

The match is out cold by breaking it before discarding

Never leave children near an unattended campfire!



The pending cold: Why are we still falling back into darkness?

Those were cold, dark winter mornings during second semester of my freshman year in college, when my alarm woke me at 5:00 am for morning swim team practices.

I'd miraculously made the team as the only walk-on, and we'd begun two-a-day practices, swimming seven miles worth of yardage a day.

Even though I was only 18 and in the best cardiovascular shape of my life, I dragged my weary bones out of the top bunk when that evil alarm rang every morning as if I was a decrepit octogenarian using a walker and an oxygen tank. Bundled in a winter parka, I'd fumble with the frozen chain lock securing the cheap ten-speed bike my grandfather had provided to the rack outside my dorm, so that I could ride across the dark campus's icy sidewalks to the natatorium.

During those lonely winter sojourns

in 1985, the complete lack of sunlight relegated me to a dark, frozen corner of Hell. Light did not surface during winters in Ohio until I was back on my bike after morning practice, pedaling furiously to make my eight-o'clock class, my wet, chlorinated hair frozen into icicle dreadlocks.

This November 5th, when we set the clocks back an hour, those traumatic winter morning memories will be triggered once again. I've always hated saying good-bye to Daylight Savings Time (DST), the period between March and November when we set clocks back an hour to maximize daylight.

The idea of setting clocks forward during part of the year was first satirized by Benjamin Franklin in a Journal of Paris essay in 1784, in which he claimed to have been accidentally awakened at six in the morning, and was surprised to "discover" that the sun shone at that hour. Franklin proposed setting church bells and cannons off every morning at sunrise to show Parisians his discovery. "An immense sum! that the city of Paris might save every year, by the economy of using sunshine instead of candles."

In the US, DST was adopted in 1918 during World War I to conserve energy resources, but over the years, individual

states (and other countries who'd enacted similar policies) have questioned the continued use of time changes. I'm with Ben. I don't want to "fall back" this November into darkness. I'd rather live in the sun, and plenty of others agree with me.

In recent years, there have been efforts in the US to do away with our twice-yearly clock changes. Some states have enacted legislation to adopt permanent DST, and others have advocated to eliminate DST. Regardless of which side jurisdictions land, there seems to be a growing consensus that changing the time disrupts sleep, inconveniences farmers, and possibly increases incidences of suicide, accidents, criminal activity, stroke and heart attack.

State legislatures have considered approximately 550 bills to make DST permanent, and nineteen states have conditionally enacted such laws. Only two states, Hawaii and Arizona, have never recognized DST, using an old loophole in the Uniform Time Act of 1966 to remain on Standard Time year round, arguing it's healthier and saves air conditioning costs.

If so many states want permanent DST, and polls show that 48% of

Americans want it over 29% who want permanent Standard Time, then why do we still have to set our clocks back on November 5th this year? Because the feds won't allow states to adopt permanent DST until it says so. Senator Marco Rubio's 2022 Sunshine Protection Act aims to federally permit states to adopt permanent DST, but the House of Representatives can't seem to agree on it.

Thankfully, I don't have to rise every winter morning at o-dark-thirty to ride my bike to swim practice anymore. I no longer wake before sunrise to pack three school lunches like I did for fifteen years at multiple duty stations. As an empty nester and "mature" retired military spouse, I can lallygag until the sun peeks over the horizon, unless our dog awakens me before dawn.

So regardless of the laws, the clocks can be damned. I choose to follow the sun, where ever and whenever it faithfully appears, shining its cheerful, uplifting rays of light.

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.

COLUMN



Molinari



4V4 COED VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

Registration:
October 9-November 9

Team Meeting:
November 9th at 1500

Games begin:
November 13th at 1730

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Chili Cook-off: 1300-1530 at Rudders
Haunted House: 1800-2100 at Bldg. 266
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October 20th • 1930 • FIELD BY BUILDING 216
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HOCUS POCUS



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CUPCAKE DECORATING CONTEST

OCTOBER 22 1500 LIBERTY CENTER

BOO

CONTESTANTS WITH THE MOST CREATIVE HALLOWEEN CUPCAKE WILL WIN A PRIZE! ALL MATERIALS WILL BE PROVIDED!



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NAVY REGION SOUTHEAST
2023

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8:00 AM

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