

DISPATCH



San Diego Navy/Marine Corps Dispatch

www.armedforcesdispatch.com

619.280.2985

SIXTY-THIRD YEAR NO. 47

Serving active duty and retired military personnel, veterans and civil service employees

MAY 1-15, 2024

Military Appreciation Month

Military Spouse Appreciation Day: Friday, May 10, 2024
 Armed Forces Day: Saturday, May 18, 2024
 Memorial Day, Monday, May 27, 2024

Thank you to all our troops and veterans!

Naval Special Warfare remembers two fallen SEALs

by Petty Officer 2nd Class Alex Perlman

SAN DIEGO - Special Warfare Operator 1st Class Christopher J. Chambers and Special Warfare Operator 2nd Class Nathan Gage Ingram were honored during a memorial service at the Silver Strand Training Complex April 18.

Chambers and Ingram were both reported missing at sea while they were conducting a night-time seizure of a vessel that was illegally transporting advanced lethal aid from Iran to resupply Houthi forces in Yemen in early January 2024.

“Chris and Gage epitomize Naval Special Warfare’s core values: integrity, courage, and selflessness,” said Capt. Blake L. Chaney, Commander, Naval Special Warfare Group 1. “Our solemn duty is to pay tribute to their unwavering sacrifice, service, and dedication to duty.”

SEE PHOTO, PAGE 8

Throughout the ceremony, close friends and family recalled special moments that celebrated and honored the lives and legacy of both Chambers and Ingram.

“Chris will always be remembered as a true hero, not for his actions, but for the way he embraced life,” said one of the speakers during the ceremony. “He was revered by both his superiors and his subordinates alike.”

Chambers enlisted in the Navy on May 17, 2012, and graduated from Recruit Training Command Great Lakes, Ill., in July 2012. He served with West Coast-based SEAL units since graduating from SEAL qualification training in Coronado in 2014. His awards and decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal with Combat “C,” three Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medals, to name a few.

Ingram enlisted in the Navy on Sept. 25, 2019, and also graduated from RTC Great Lakes in November 2019. Ingram served with West Coast-based SEAL units since graduating from SEAL qualification training in Coronado. His awards and decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal and various personal and unit awards.

Makin Island wins 2023 Battle ‘E’ award

The crew of amphibious assault ship USS *Makin Island* was awarded the 2023 Battle Efficiency (“E”) on April 12. *Makin Island* sustained superior performance in an operational environment, and sustained continuous readiness through the Optimized Fleet Response Plan in 2023. “We have a great diversity of hard-working folks on board this ship,” said *Makin Island*’s Command Master Chief Jorrel Reich. “Every single team here on board were huge contributors to our achievements of Battle E”. The “E” is awarded every year to units that demonstrate maximum condition readiness over a year-long evaluation and their capability to perform wartime tasks.



SALUTING YOU! Since its designation by Congress in 1999, National Military Appreciation Month is the nation’s opportunity to honor the service and sacrifice of servicemembers and their families. Though Memorial Day (last Monday in May) is the only federally recognized holiday in May, there are a handful of other specific military holidays spread throughout the month including Loyalty Day (May 1), Public Service Recognition Week (begins first Sunday in May), VE Day (May 8), Military Spouse Appreciation Day (Friday before Mother’s Day) and Armed Forces Day (third Saturday of May). U.S. Navy graphic by MC2 Ethan Jaymes Morrow

TAKING AIM FOR FUMBLER FIREARM PHOTO

by Alex Wilson, Stars and Stripes

The Marine Corps schooled the Navy over social media earlier this month after the sea service uploaded a photo of an officer firing an improperly configured rifle.

The Navy posted to its official Instagram account a now-deleted photo of Cmdr. Cameron Yaste,

skipper of destroyer *John S. McCain*, holding a rifle and looking through a scope that was clearly mounted backward. The weapon’s foregrip was also mounted strangely, positioned closer to the gun’s center than its barrel.

“From engaging in practice gun shoots, conducting main-

tenance, testing fuel purity and participating in sea and anchor details, the #USNavy is always ready to serve and protect,” the post said.

Social media users quickly jumped at the chance to poke fun at the error.

“Dear U.S. Navy. The scope is on backwards,” wrote X user @travisakers. “This is why we have Marines on ships.”

The Marine Corps appeared to take its own dig at the Navy, sharing a photo on its social media accounts of a Marine firing a weapon aboard amphibious assault ship *Boxer*. The caption read: “Clear Sight Picture.”

On his official X account, Rep. Mike Collins, R-Ga., posted a picture of a pistol with its barrel and grip on backward. The caption read: “Navy’s newly issued

sidearm.”

Others noted that even action movies rarely make such errors. “Even Hollywood gets this right,” wrote X user @matthewdmarsden. “We are doomed.”

Though the Navy ultimately deleted the post, X users continue to share screenshots.

“Thank you for pointing out our rifle scope error in the previous post,” the Navy later wrote on various social media accounts. “Picture has been removed until EMI [extra military instruction] is completed.” The Navy defines EMI as “instruction in a phase of military duty in which an individual is deficient, and is intended for and directed towards the correction of that deficiency.” *John S. McCain* was operating in the U.S. 7th Fleet’s operations area when the photo was taken.



The Navy removed a post on its official Instagram account earlier this month, showing a warship commander firing a rifle with a backward scope. Official U.S. Navy photo

PRSRRT STD
 ECRWSS
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 EDMM RETAIL

Local Postal Customer

Read the Dispatch on line!

Pick us up in print on the newsstands on the 1st and 16th of each month. In between find fresh on-line editions at

www.afdispatch.com

Your **FREE** weekly paper

Take one!

Lack of free San Diego dry docks complicates USS *Boxer* repair

by Sam LaGrone
U.S. Naval Institute

The two dry docks large enough to accommodate a big deck amphibious warship in San Diego are currently occupied, complicating the repairs of USS *Boxer* (LHD-4), USNI News has learned.

Boxer came back into port last week with one of its rudders damaged after leaving earlier this month on deployment. As of April 19, the Navy was assessing how to repair the rudder to allow the 45,000-ton capital ship to return to sea, a service official told USNI News. The service would prefer to fix the rudder underwater with the understanding that the replacement repair could take up to two to three weeks, USNI News previously reported.

Complications could arise if the big deck needs to go into dry dock. The dry dock large enough to accommodate *Boxer* at BAE Systems' San Diego repair yard is occupied by an availability for Littoral Combat Ship USS *Oakland* (LCS-24). The nearby General Dynamics NASSCO dry dock is occupied by guided-missile destroyer USS *Chung Hoon* (DDG-93), which is undergoing an availability to install the AN/SLQ-32(V)7 Surface Electronic Warfare Improvement Program Block 3. Moving either of the warships would extend both availabilities, USNI News understands.

The Navy is considering using a dry dock in Portland, Ore., at a shipyard owned by Vigor Industrial, but the service would have to remove 10 feet of the

Boxer's mast so the big deck could travel under a bridge on the Willamette River to reach the yard, two sources familiar with Navy deliberations told USNI News.

As of now, *Boxer* is at the pier at Naval Base San Diego.

Boxer returned to San Diego on April 11 after leaving on a delayed Amphibious Ready Group deployment with the embarked 15th Marine Expeditionary Group.

Boxer is the flagship of the three-ship *Boxer* ARG, which also includes USS *Somerset* (LPD-25) and USS *Harpers Ferry* (LSD-49). The deployment is the first for the Marine's new Amphibious Combat Vehicles.

The deployment of the *Boxer*

ARG and the 15th MEU has been split due to the big deck's maintenance woes. *Somerset* left San Diego in January on its own with elements of the 15th MEU aboard. *Harpers Ferry* departed San Diego on March 19.

Having *Boxer* sidelined has forced the Navy and Marine Corps to retool several planned engagements in the Western Pacific, including Cobra Gold off Thailand earlier this year and the bilateral Balikatan exercise with the Philippines. *Boxer* was supposed to be a key asset in the drills with Manila that are billed as the largest in 30 years. This year's exercises follow increasingly aggressive moves from China against Armed Forces of the Philippines' resupply mission to the AFP's base on Second Thomas Shoal, USNI News previously reported.

PHOTO GALLERY



DECOR Air Force Col. Jeffrey Krulick and Harmony Duncan, a military child, tie a ribbon around a tree during a Family Fun Fest event in support of Autism Awareness Month, Child Abuse Prevention Month and the Month of the Military Child at Travis Air Force Base April 10, 2024. U.S. Air Force photo by Chustine Minoda



SEA BRIEFING A landing safety officer briefs the helicopter aircraft commander before flight operations aboard guided-missile destroyer USS *Roosevelt* (DDG 80), April 13, 2024. U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Alfredo Marron

Veterans Helping Veterans

DO YOU HAVE Medicare but your needs have changed?

ARE YOU TURNING 65?

Are you TRICARE or a Veteran using VA Benefits?

ARE YOU A SENIOR?

Do you have Medicare Part A & B?

YES! Then you are **ELIGIBLE** up to Additional **\$125/mo.** added to your **S.S.**

DENTAL PLAN \$13/MO. • \$3000 BENEFIT

Vince Parra • 619-763-2425

SERVING ALL OF CA. • CA LIC: 0M89123

Medi-Cal: Do you qualify? **\$174/mo.** added to your **S.S.**



**vacations
made easy**

A Beach Cottage Is The
Perfect Way To Reset

1-855-YOUR MWR



Law Offices of

David A. Kaufman

Represents clients that have suffered personal injury



The firm zealously pursues full justice and fair compensation on behalf of clients that have been victimized by another's negligence. Injury cases are taken on a contingency fee basis and costs advanced by the firm so that if there is no recovery then the client pays nothing.

Customer service is highly valued and the firm does everything possible to make sure that the client understands the process of pursuing the claim and initiating litigation, if necessary, has access to necessary medical care, and that everything is done to pursue the client's claim to settlement and/or trial and verdict.

Please call or email for a free consultation regarding any personal injury matter.

www.lawofficesofdavidkaufman.com • 619-865-8648

GRAND CANYON
Railway & Hotel
EST. 1901

RAISE YOUR GLASS THIS MEMORIAL DAY!



This Memorial Day, come experience Grand Canyon Railway! This historic train ride departs daily from Williams, Arizona to the awe-inspiring Grand Canyon. This ride includes western musicians, a wide selection of service classes, and even an old-fashioned shootout!

VISIT YOUR LOCAL ITT OFFICE, OR USE PROMO CODE 'STRONG'

AUSTIN, BROWN UNDERSCORE IMPORTANCE OF PASSING DOD'S PROPOSED FY25 BUDGET



Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III testifies at a House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense hearing. DoD photo by Chad J. McNeeley

by Matthew Olay
DOD News

Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Air Force Gen. CQ Brown, Jr., testified to the importance of passing the Defense Department's fiscal year 2025 budget request during a House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense hearing April 17.

The \$849.8 billion request aligns with DOD's top three priorities of defending the nation, taking care of Defense Department personnel and their families and succeeding through teamwork, according to Austin.

"We made tough but responsible decisions that prioritize near-term readiness, modernization of the joint force and support for our troops and their families," Austin said of the proposed budget, which he noted meets the mandatory cap of the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023.

"The president's request will invest in cutting edge capabilities across all domains," Austin told the subcommittee. He then listed the following proposed investments in the nation's defense:

- \$167.5 billion in procurement;
- \$143.2 billion for research and development;
- \$61.2 billion to reinforce the military's air dominance;
- \$49.2 billion to modernize and recapitalize the country's nuclear triad;
- \$33.7 billion to bolster the space architecture;
- *\$14.5 billion for the development and fielding of advanced cybersecurity tools; and;
- \$13 billion for Army and Marine Corps combat capabilities.

In addition to the budget proposal for the coming fiscal year,

Brown and Austin also spoke in favor of approving a nearly \$60 billion supplemental budget request for fiscal year 2024.

That request, which the Senate approved in February but has yet to be passed by the House, would provide aid to our partners in Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan — as well as investing in America's industrial base, according to Austin.

"We don't provide funds to Ukraine. We provide materiel in terms of weapons, vehicles [and] munitions," said Austin. "All of those things are replaced by us ... And the replacements are designed and built in our industry, so that means good American jobs for the people of America."

Austin added that the supplemental request would invest a flow of \$50 billion across 30 states in the U.S.

Failure to pass the supplemental request would have an adverse effect on the joint force, according to Michael McCord, undersecretary of defense (comptroller) and chief financial

officer for DOD, who also testified at the hearing.

McCord said that DOD would have to work with the Appropriations Committee and other committees to try and reprogram funds; hopefully not from direct readiness, but from programs like facilities maintenance and equipment maintenance. "So, there is an impact on our forces and our readiness as well if we can't get the supplemental passed."

Brown said passing the supplemental budget request would show leadership on behalf of the U.S.

"I've been in this job six months and I've had about 150 engagements with my counterparts from around the world, and they often talk about U.S. leadership," said Brown. "I can tell you it's watched, it's desired [and it's] sending a message of where our commitments are."

<https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/3745454/austin-brown-under-score-importance-of-passing-dods-proposed-fy25-budget/>



Army

- Fort Carson fire burning on 1,450 acres near training areas is 60% contained
- Fort Liberty Soldier charged with stealing thousands in romance scams
- Army's first M10 Booker, 'Another Episode,' christened by families of Soldiers

Navy

- Navy gives itself 'C+' on ability to repair warships
- January 6 convict asks for light sentence in order to remain in Navy
- Navy jet trainer fleet operations remain paused after engine mishap

Marine Corps

- Demand supports creation, expansion of food pantries on Marine bases in Japan

Air Force

- Air Force uncovers ancient campsite on New Mexico base: 'Marks a pivotal moment'

Armed Forces Dispatch

published by Western States Weeklies, Inc.

2604 B-280 El Camino Real, Carlsbad, CA 92008

619-280-2985 • E-mail: editor@navydispatch.com

Editor.....Scott Sutherland

The Dispatch is published online weekly on Thursdays, and in print on the 1st & 16th of each month by Western States Weeklies, Inc., as a commercial, free-enterprise newspaper. The editorial objective of the Dispatch is to promote support for a strong military presence. Contents of the Armed Forces Dispatch are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, the U.S. Navy or U.S. Marine Corps. The opinions and views of writers whose materials appear herein are those of the writers and not the publishers. Appearance of advertising does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or any other DOD component, this newspaper, or Western States Weeklies, Inc. Subscription cost is \$75/year.



MAY 1-MAY 31

Celebrating Those Who Go Above and Beyond

Learn more at navyfederal.org/celebrate

NAVY FEDERAL
Credit Union

ARMY
MARINE CORPS
NAVY
AIR FORCE
SPACE FORCE
COAST GUARD
VETERANS

Our Members Are the Mission



Insured by NCUA.

Image used for representational purposes only; does not imply government endorsement.

© 2024 Navy Federal NFCU 14396 (3-24)

SPILL PREVENTION



U.S. Navy Sailors practice deploying an oil boom during an oil spill prevention and response training exercise in Souda Bay, Greece, April 19, 2024. U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Delaney S. Jensen

STORIES THAT MIGHT INTEREST YOU

An investigation into the former commanding officer of Japan-based destroyer Howard who was relieved from command in February substantiated allegations that the skipper made several "racially harassing comments" portraying "derogatory stereotypes of African Americans," according to records obtained by Navy Times. ... <https://www.navytimes.com/news/your-navy/>

A failed rocket strike was launched at a base housing U.S.-led coalition forces at Rumalyn, Syria, marking the first time since Feb. 4 that Iranian-backed militias have attacked a U.S. facility in Iraq or Syria, a U.S. defense official said. No personnel were injured in the attack. ... <https://apnews.com/>

Veterans advocates are warning that arguments presented to the Supreme Court on Monday regarding laws criminalizing homelessness could have a troubling impact on efforts to help former troops struggling to find stable housing. ... <https://www.militarytimes.com/veterans/>

The Navy revealed that one of the ships it deployed to support the mission of building a pier to deliver aid to starving residents in Gaza was forced to turn back last week after it suffered a fire in its engine room. ... <https://www.military.com/daily-news>

North Korea's recent launches were practice for nuclear counterattack, state media says

by David Choi, Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea (April 23, 2024) - North Korea's launch of several short-range ballistic missiles April 22 was an exercise in counterattacking the United States and South Korea with nuclear warheads, according to the North's state media.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un presided over the drill that involved at least four mobile transporter-erector launchers, said a report and photos released today by the Korean Central News Agency.

The missiles flew approximately 190 miles before falling into the Sea of Japan, or East Sea, according to South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff.

U.S. Indo-Pacific Command said the launches posed no immediate threat to U.S. personnel, territory or its allies, according to a statement Monday.

The North has yet to prove its missiles could be tipped with a nuclear warhead, South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff spokesman Lee Seong-joon said April 23. Monday's exercise may have served as cover for a delayed spy satellite launch, he added.

"If North Korea attempts to use nuclear weapons, it will be faced with an immediate ... response from the South Korea-U.S. alliance," Lee said during a news conference in Seoul.

KCNA's report described the projectiles as 600 mm rockets that flew from an undisclosed site before hitting a simulated maritime target roughly 220 miles away, or within range of Seoul from Pyongyang.

North Korea frequently describes its missiles as rockets. KCNA previously reported 600 mm rockets were fired from multiple launchers during a drill March 18; South Korea and Japan called the weapons short-range ballistic missiles.

North Korea has been prohibited by the U.N. Security Council from firing ballistic missiles since 2006.

Monday's launches were part of North Korea's nuclear counterattack system and served as a "clear warning" against the U.S. and South Korea's warmongering, KCNA said.

The report referred to the U.S. and South Korea's largest annual air drill ending April 19 and criticized the allies' description of it being defensive in nature.

The two-week Korea Flying Training exercise includes 25 types of aircraft from both countries, according to 7th Air Force. On Friday, around 200 U.S. and South Korean special operations soldiers jumped out of U.S. C-17 Globemaster IIIs and U.S. and South Korean C-130 Hercules as part of the exercise.

https://www.stripes.com/theaters/asia_pacific/2024-04-22/north-korea-missiles-nuclear-warheads-13629111.html

PROJECT DOG FOSTER

Help solve a crisis in San Diego.



<https://www.projectdogfoster.org/>

"We need fosters because the dogs need you!"

San Diego is experiencing an unprecedented crisis: Local shelters and rescue groups are caring for more dogs than ever in their history. That's why members of the San Diego Animal Welfare Coalition including San Diego Humane Society, Frosted Faces Foundation, Rancho Coastal Humane Society, PAWS of Coronado, City of Chula Vista Animal Services and San Diego County Department of Animal Services are coming together to ask for help. They are overstretched and overcapacity and it's creating incredible pressure on all.

This is where you can be a huge help. By fostering a dog and bringing them into your home for a short time, you give them a needed break from the shelter, create space for other animals, and help shelters preserve extremely strained resources.

Whether you're a first-time foster or you've done it many times, fostering can be great for all: the dog, you, and the shelter or rescue group.

DUI and Criminal Defense

Free Case Evaluations and 24/7 Availability

You deserve justice, fairness & a dedicated attorney

- DUI's
- Drug Offenses
- Domestic Violence
- Assault/ADW
- Fraud/White Collar Crimes
- Restraining orders



20 YEARS OF REPRESENTING MILITARY MEMBERS

I'M FROM A MILITARY FAMILY!

WE OFFER A MILITARY DISCOUNT

Providing an honest evaluation of your situation

619.200.2808 • MichaelKernLaw.com



El Indio
Mexican Restaurant and Catering

Family Owned & Operated Since 1940

Best Mexican Food in San Diego

Free Parking! 10% Military Discount



3695 India Street • www.elindiosandiego.com • 619-299-0333
Open Daily 9am - 8pm

VA Disability Claim Denied?

Know Your Rights and

Don't Take "No" for an Answer!

Don't Risk a Permanent Denial and Lose Back Pay

Call the Professional Advocates Today!

Claims Agents Have over 80% Success Rate on Appeals

No Fees Unless You Win - Free Consultation!

800-921-0310

www.VetDisabilityAid.com

Places of Worship

Bayview Church

Attract... Assimilate... Activate
6134 Pastor Timothy J. Winters St., San Diego 92114 • (619) 262-8384
Sunday 8am & 10am Worship Services
Studies In Christian Living (formerly Sunday School) Tues & Thurs online only 6pm (contact Church for sign up). In person Saturday 9am & 10am
www.bayviewbc.org info@bayviewbc.org

Bethany Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
2051 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., Ocean Beach 92107
(Parking lot off the Alley - North of the building)
Worship 11am Sundays
Bible Class, Wednesdays 10am
(619)222-7291 Office@BethanyLutheranOB.org

Canyon View Church of Christ

"Love God, Love People, Serve the World"
Sunday Bible Classes for all ages 9am
Sunday Worship 10am
4292 Balboa Ave., San Diego, CA 92117 Email: cvooffice@canyonview.org
(Near corner of Balboa Ave. & Clairemont Dr.)
www.canyonview.org (858) 273-5140

Christ Community Church

Helping people love God and each other!
Sunday services at 8:30am, 10am & 11:30am
Children's Ministries for all kids!
Small groups for teens & adults of all ages!
9535 Kearny Villa Rd., Mira Mesa 92126; Located just off Miramar Rd. & I-15
www.gotoChrist.com or (858) 549-2479

First Baptist Church of Coronado

"Reach Up, Reach Out, Reach Our World"
Jim W. Baize, Pastor www.fbcoronado.com
Sunday Adult Bible Study 8:45am, Sunday Worship Service 10am
Meeting in person and online on YouTube or Facebook
FB: First Baptist Church of Coronado email: secretary@fbcoronado.com
445 C Ave., Coronado, CA 92118 (619) 435-6588

Immanuel Lutheran Oceanside, LCMS

Connecting people to what Jesus has done, is doing, and will do.
9:30am Worship service
11am Bible class, youth, children's ministry
1900 S. Nevada St, Oceanside, 92054
ilcoceanside.com - (760) 433 2770

Mesa View Baptist Church

Dr. Darrow Perkins, Jr., Th.D. Pastor/Servant CW03, USMC (Ret.)
Seeking Sinners: Saving Souls, Strengthening Saints
Sunday School at 8:45am • Morning Worship at 10am
Wednesday Night Bible Study 7pm
13230 Pomerado Rd., Poway • 858-485-6110 • www.mesaview.org

Resurrection Lutheran Church & Preschool of Coronado

Sunday Worship: 10:15am • Adult Bible Study: Sunday at 9am
The Rev. Dr. Timothy Eichler
1111 5th Street, Coronado, CA 92118
www.RL.church
Church (619) 435-1000 • Preschool (619) 435-0286

St. Luke's Lutheran Church

5150 Wilson Ave., La Mesa, CA 91942
Phone: (619) 463-6633
website: www.st-lukes-la-mesa.org
Worship: 9am
Pastor: Mark Menacher, PhD.
We thank you for your service!

Place your ad in our 'Places of Worship' directory...as low as \$15 per week!

Air Force senior leaders continue modernization drumbeat, need for Congress to approve budgets on time

Department of the Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall and the top-ranking military leaders from the Air Force and Space Force told a House committee April 17 that adequately defending the nation against modern-day adversaries demands the services modernize quickly and that Congress deliver funding in a timely and predictable manner.

The dominant messages from Kendall, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David W. Allvin and Chief of Space Operations Gen. Chance Saltzman were nearly word-for-word identical to the views they expressed the day before to members of the Senate Armed Services Committee and a week earlier to a Senate Appropriations subcommittee.

“As you are aware, the six-month delay has had a real impact. That time cannot be recovered, but at least we can now move forward with our urgent modernization priorities,” Kendall told the House Armed Services Committee, referring to the current year’s budget being finalized last month instead of Oct. 1, 2023, when the fiscal year began.

“Time is my greatest concern – we are in a race for military

technological superiority with a capable pacing challenge,” Kendall told lawmakers. “Our cushion is gone – we are out of time. As we have briefed the Committee at a classified level, the pacing threat moves steadily forward. Continued failure to provide on-time authorities and appropriations will leave the Air Force and Space Force inadequately prepared.”

But departing from his prepared remarks, Kendall also used Iran’s recent barrage of more than 300 ballistic missiles, drones and cruise missiles against Israel to vividly illustrate the stakes the United States, the Air Force and Space Force face today in competition with China.

“What Iran encountered was a highly contested environment. And what we face with China is a highly contested environment,” Kendall told the committee of the April 13 attack in which nearly every one of the weapons launched against Israel was intercepted by a coalition that included the United States.

“What I’m dedicated to – and what we’re all dedicated to here – is ensuring that the U.S. never has a result like Iran had in its attempt to attack Israel,” Kendall said. “That’s what’s driving a lot

of what we’re doing and why it’s so important to move on from legacy systems that weren’t designed for that type of environment to ones that are designed for it and are capable of coping with that.”

With that aside, the focus and priorities highlighted by Kendall, Allvin and Saltzman echoed the ones that have been voiced before. That the services must modernize to account for and meet China’s actions and its growing military and position the services to meet the challenge. The three leaders provided insight and analysis on the Department’s recently released \$217.5 billion budget request for the 2025 fiscal year which begins October 1. They spoke about the trade-offs that were made and how the spending fits into the nation’s larger national security strategy and why having a new budget in place on time is critical.

“The simultaneous demands of strategic competition with an aggressive and increasingly



Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Allvin testifies before the House Armed Services Committee for the Department of the Air Force fiscal year 2025 budget request, Washington, D.C., April 17, 2024. U.S. Air Force photo by Eric Dietrich

capable (China) and persistent, acute threats from around the

globe require the Air Force to maximize the readiness of today’s forces, while adapting our structures and processes to offer the best opportunity to prevail in an environment of enduring great power competition,” Allvin said, adding, “Time is not on our side.”

In describing the plans and needs for space, Saltzman was as clear and emphatic as he was in early congressional appearances. He also highlighted a new strategy the Space Force recently unveiled to better use commercial space firms to help the service achieve missions and develop new, more sophisticated equipment faster. Lawmakers offered general praise for the effort.

“Against a near-peer adversary, space superiority is the

linchpin. Without it, we cannot deter conflict. Without it, we cannot provide vital effects. Without it, we cannot protect the joint force. Until we have built the infrastructure to achieve space superiority, the Space Force is a work in progress,” he said.

For space, Saltzman said, “Our budget request is designed to build, train and equip the forces we need to perform each activity, preserving freedom of action in space while deterring and denying adversarial objectives.”

<https://www.afmc.af.mil/NEWS/Article-Display/Article/3745796/kendall-allvin-saltzman-continue-modernization-drumbeat-need-for-congress-to-ap/>



JWB FAMILY LAW
www.JWBFamilyLaw.com

We offer a 15% discount for military service members + their spouses.

- DIVORCE
- CHILD CUSTODY AND VISITATION
- CHILD AND SPOUSAL SUPPORT
- ASSET AND PROPERTY DIVISION

FIND OUT MORE
619.234.6123

SAN DIEGO
1620 Fifth Avenue, Suite 600, San Diego, CA 92101



**APP FEE
WAIVED.**

**APPLY BY
MAY 31.**

FIND YOUR NEXT SUCCESS

Get started on a degree or certificate that can help you succeed again. Apply by May 31 & pay no application fee.

- 125+ degrees & certificates from an accredited state university
- Online & hybrid courses
- No-cost digital materials in place of most textbooks



APPLY NOW & SAVE
UMGC.EDU | 619-550-1537



**UNIVERSITY
OF MARYLAND
GLOBAL CAMPUS**
AT YOUR SERVICE SINCE 1947

3rd Fleet command's 'hard chargers' named Sailors of the Year selectees

by Petty Officer 2nd Class
Lily Gebauer
Commander, 3rd Fleet

Commander, 3rd Fleet Vice Adm. Michael Boyle announced the 2023 3rd Fleet Sea and Shore Sailors of the Year (SOY) during a ceremony held April 18.

Operations Specialist 1st Class DeEll Henderson, was selected as the Shore Sailor of the Year, and Personnel Specialist 1st Class Richel Mila was selected as the Sea Sailor of the Year.

The ceremony capped off a week of meticulous interviews

and schedule of events that focused on heritage, team-building, professionalism and deck-plate leadership.

"The values we teach Sailors are honor, courage, and commitment," said Boyle. "I know that these Sailors remember these values and live by them. Having Sailors like this in the fleet really makes a difference, as they make us remember what these values are all about. They are the best the Navy, and this community, has to offer."

During the annual 3rd Fleet SOY week, nominees had the opportunity to tour and experi-

ence different local attractions such as the San Diego Zoo, a military and auto museum, centers of military technological innovation and the U.S. Navy Marine Mammal Program training facility.

"I had a great time getting to know these Sailors this past week," said 3rd Fleet Command Master Chief Trenton Schmidt. "It's highly likely that these Sailors will be wearing khakis very soon, and I am confident that the Chiefs Mess will be left in good hands."

During the ceremony, both the Sea and Shore SOYs attributed their success to the support of their leadership, mentors and junior Sailors.

"I am grateful and even humbled to be selected," said Mila. "I did not expect this. This is a testament, not just to what I did, but also to what my incredible chain of command and colleagues did. This award is just as much for everyone I work with as it is for me."

Both the Sea and Shore SOY winners will move on to compete for U.S. Pacific Fleet SOY at Joint Base Pearl Harbor, Hawaii later this year.



The Sailor of the Year program recognizes Sailors who show the ability to lead as a chief petty officer, and who epitomize the Navy core values and the CPO mission, vision, and guiding principles. U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Sarah C. Eaton

The additional sea and shore finalists included Interior Communications Electrician 1st Class Luis Chaco, of Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 15, Information Systems Technician 1st Class Shane Keller, of Commander, CSG 1, and Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Arleen Kneller, of CSG 9. Boyle presented Navy and Marine Corps Commendation medals during the ceremony to each of the sea and shore runners up.

The U.S. Navy Sailor of the Year program was established in

1972 by Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. Elmo Zumwalt, to recognize the best performing enlisted Sailors.

As an integral part of U.S. Pacific Fleet, U.S. 3rd Fleet operates naval forces in the Indo-Pacific in addition to providing



realistic and relevant training necessary to flawlessly execute our Navy's timeless roles of sea control and power projection. U.S. 3rd Fleet works in close coordination with other numbered Fleets to provide commanders with capable, ready forces to deploy forward and win in day-to-day competition, in crisis, and in conflict.

Flag officer announcement: Boyle

Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III announced April 19 that the president has nominated Vice Adm. Michael E. Boyle for reappointment to vice admiral, with assignment as deputy chief of naval operations for Operations, Plans, and Strategy, N3/N5, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Pentagon, Washington, D.C. Boyle is currently serving as commander, Third Fleet.

Meanwhile, Rear Adm. Dion D. English has been nominated for appointment to vice admiral, with assignment as director for Logistics, J-4, Joint Staff, Pentagon, Washington, D.C. English is currently serving as director, Supply, Ordnance and Logistics Operations Division, N4L, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Pentagon,

Month of the Military Child
CELEBRATE THE CHILDREN THAT ALSO SERVE
Discover how our programs support the unique challenges children face due to their parents' service, including deployment support, clinical counseling, and recreational activities.
navylifesw.com

MILITARY JUSTICE LAWYER

PATTISON LAW FIRM, P.C
Daphne Pattison Silverman's mission is to light the path to truth. Focused on defending military members who are accused of crimes within the military judicial system, she has developed exceptional insight into how to uncover and convey the truth. Silverman believes deeply in every case she undertakes. A former Navy JAG and a disabled veteran, she is fully committed to defending the rights of those who serve our country. For each case, Silverman conducts thorough investigations and armed with the truth, fearlessly presents her findings to military commands and juries. She stands up to the most powerful forces in the world - ready and able to seize justice for her clients. Physical office in North County San Diego, California; virtual address in Austin, Texas

Daphne Pattison Silverman
Selected to Super Lawyers

760-500-0455
daphnesilverman.com

"Congratulations to my fellow dragon swimmers at NAS North Island Aquatics!"

WEST COAST GEM & MINERAL SHOW

May 3-5, 2024

Friday-Saturday, 10 am - 6 pm, Sunday 10 am - 5 pm
(wholesale closes at 4 pm Sunday)

80 select wholesale & retail Dealers

Aquamarine from Pakistan

FREE ADMISSION & PARKING

Open to the Public

Holiday Inn - Orange County Airport
2726 South Grand Avenue, Santa Ana, CA 92705

Minerals * Gems * Lapidary * Beads * Jewelry
* Fossils * Decorative Pieces & Much more!

www.MINERALSHOWSLLD.com mineralshowsllld@gmail.com

Meritoriously promoted twice

by 2nd Lt. Madison Walls
3rd Marine Aircraft Wing

CAMP PENDLETON - Marine Corps Cpl. Celia G. Flomo, a supply clerk with Marine Aircraft Group 39, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, attended basic training in 2022 and has served in the Marine Corps for just 18 months. On March 25, 2024, Flomo was meritoriously promoted to the rank of corporal, her second meritorious promotion.

She has exemplified the "whole Marine Concept" since she enlisted in the Marine Corps in 2022, demonstrating superior technical skills, leadership, character, and fitness. Flomo was the honor graduate of both her Marine Corps Recruit Training and military occupational school graduation cohort.

Flomo's family migrated to the U.S. from Liberia in 2016, and settled in Lowell, Massachusetts, to pursue a better future. Flomo chose to enlist in the Marine Corps for many reasons, but the real appeal for her was that only 9 percent of its members are women.

"Being one of the few women in the Marines fills me with immense pride and motivates me to demonstrate discipline and leadership every day," Flomo said.

Flomo was meritoriously promoted to the rank of lance corporal in February 2023, while in training. She has continued to excel in the fleet as a supply clerk for MAG-39 where she is conducts supply related documentation, records equipment custody and maintains accountability for military equipment worth millions of dollars.

Supply Marines play a crucial role in supporting the Marine Air-Ground Task Force by providing necessary equipment and weapons for training and deployment.

"The Marine Corps is not a place for those who are weak; one must possess strength and understand that the organization is greater than the individual," Flomo said.

"As a Marine, you represent the Marine Corps, and if you're dedicated, hardworking and ambitious, you can make it through the rigorous training process of boot camp, Marine Combat Training, and occupational school, and later excel in the fleet."

In addition to holding a demanding job, Flomo has taken college courses and working towards her bachelor's degree, which she plans to use to be-



From left, Marine Corps Col. Jeremie Hester, commanding officer of Marine Aircraft Group 39, Cpl. Celia G. Flomo, a supply clerk with MAG-39, and Sgt. Maj. Idris Turay, sergeant major of MAG-39, pose for a photo after a meritorious promotion ceremony for Flomo. Courtesy photo

come a commissioned officer in the Marine Corps.

"Being a Marine has taught me to be a better person," Flomo said. "I am grateful for the opportunity to serve my country and be part of a family that values honor, courage and commitment."

SeaWorld honors Military Appreciation Month with free admission through Waves of Honor Program

SAN DIEGO - SeaWorld parks will honor Military Appreciation Month with free one-day admission for U.S. military veterans and up to three guests. Veterans can register for this offer through May 12 and have until July 7 to visit the parks with their free tickets.

Active-duty military and their guests continue to enjoy one-day complimentary admission all year long. The offers are part of the Waves of Honor program, saluting active-duty military

visit to one of our parks," said Marc Swanson, CEO of United Parks & Resorts. "We're grateful to our military for their commitment and dedication to serving our country.

12 at www.WavesofHonor.com. After registering, all tickets must be redeemed by July 7*. Service members and their direct dependents must have a valid active military ID to participate. Any U.S. active-duty military activated or drilling reservist or National Guardsman can also take advantage of one complimentary admission for themselves and up to three dependents per year to SeaWorld.

Eligible U.S. military veterans and retirees can register for complimentary single-day ticket(s) for themselves and up to three dependents before May



members, veterans and their families by offering special pricing and promotions throughout the year.

For more than 20 years, the company has been proud to provide complimentary park access to members of the United States military, and as a result, more than 10 million guests – active-duty military members, veterans and their families – have enjoyed free admission through the Waves of Honor program. Whether it's educational animal experiences or thrilling attractions, military families are invited to the parks for a day of family fun.

"We are proud to honor active-duty military, veterans and their families with a complimentary

EVERY 4TH THURSDAY OF THE MONTH
1500-1700
BOB HOPE THEATRE
PARKING LOT



FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

teamstepusa.org/wow

ACTIVE DUTY ONLY

MARINE & Family
Family Advocacy Program
(858) 307-6585

MCCS
MIRAMAR

STREAMLIGHT

STREAMLIGHT

TLR-7® X

MULTI-FUEL: SL-B9 RECHARGEABLE
OR CR123A | HIGH AND LOW SWITCH
OPTIONS | 500 LUMENS



STREAMLIGHT.COM/TLR-7X

STREAMLIGHT

©2024 STREAMLIGHT, INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

JAPAN-BASED SAILOR CONVICTED OF ATTEMPTED ESPIONAGE AT COURT-MARTIAL IN SAN DIEGO

by Alex Wilson
Stars and Stripes

A Sailor accused of giving classified information to an unidentified foreign government was convicted April 19 during a general court-martial at Naval Station San Diego.

Chief Petty Officer Bryce Pedicini, a fire controlman who had been assigned to Japan-based guided-missile destroyer USS *Higgins*, was found guilty of attempted espionage, failure to obey a lawful order and attempted violation of a lawful general order, according to a statement from the Naval Criminal Investigative Service.

“This guilty verdict holds Mr. Pedicini to account for his betrayal of his country and fellow service members,” NCIS director Omar Lopez said in the statement. “Adversaries of the United States are unrelenting in their attempts to degrade our military superiority.”

Pedicini pleaded guilty to a charge related to taking a personal phone into a secure room, but contested the espionage charges, San Diego’s ABC 10 News reported April 16. Pedicini’s sentencing hearing by a military judge is scheduled for May 7, the statement said.

Court records show that an

unidentified person posing as a Japanese defense researcher first contacted Pedicini through Facebook Messenger on Oct. 24, 2022, offering money in exchange for details about U.S.



Tugboats guide destroyer USS *Higgins* to a berth at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, Oct. 13, 2023. U. S. Navy photo by Taylor Ardito

military “capabilities and strategies in the region.”

As a fire controlman, Pedicini worked with “everything from radars, fire control systems and computer systems to the Navy’s most advanced missile system, Aegis,” which is used aboard guided-missile destroyers and cruisers, according to the Navy’s description of the job.

Posing as a defense researcher is a tactic “increasingly used by foreign adversaries to obtain classified and unclassified national defense information,” the NCIS statement said. Court records and the NCIS statement

refer to the adversary only as a “citizen and employee of a foreign government.”

ABC 10 News identified the individual as a woman in an April 11 report, citing Prosecutor Leah O’Brien’s statements in court. She convinced Pedicini to send classified information on a ballistic missile system and documents that outlined Chinese and Russian threats, O’Brien said at the court-martial.

The Sailor first received \$50 for filling out a survey and then \$1,000 for the initial documents, according to ABC 10 News. The woman told Pedicini she would send him more money “based on the value and sensitivity of the information” and specifically asked for classified information, according to court records provided by the Office of the JAG.

Pedicini ultimately handed over at least seven documents, identified as “white papers” in court records between Novem-

PHOTO GALLERY

SAN DIEGO (April 18, 2024) A Naval Special Warfare Operator stamps a trident onto a wooden plaque during a memorial service for Special Warfare Operator 1st Class Christopher Chambers and Special Warfare Operator 2nd Class Nathan Gage Ingram at Silver Strand Training Complex. U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Chelsea D. Meiller



SAN DIEGO (April 19, 2024) Capt. Marc Crawford, the outgoing commander, Littoral Combat Ship Squadron One, is piped ashore for the final time following 27 years of service, during a combined change of command and retirement ceremony. U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Vance Hand

ber 2022 and February 2023 via Facebook messenger and other electronic means, including the encrypted instant-messaging service Telegram.

In May, Pedicini sent photographs of material accessed through a computer screen connected to a DoD network used to

transmit classified information. NCIS detained Pedicini on May 19 and interrogated him, according to the records. He said he wrote opinion articles for the woman sourced from Wikipedia and Google. Pedicini’s defense attorneys during the court-martial said he copied and pasted information from Google, but prosecutors

said he used a burner phone and Telegram to hide his actions, ABC 10 News reported.

“Although the overwhelming majority of Navy service members are honorable and faithful public servants, NCIS stands ready to expose those who aren’t,” Lopez said in the statement.

the **FRANKIE BEVERLY & MAZE**
“I WANNA THANK YOU”
FAREWELL
LIVE ONE LAST TIME
tour
A Mother's Day Celebration

MAY 12 2024
FEATURING **ANTHONY HAMILTON & AFTER 7**
KN FORUM
3900 WEST MANCHESTER BLVD. LOS ANGELES, CA 90305
ticketmaster
bptickets.com
FOR TICKETS CALL MARCUS (619) 851-8401 • ALL WHITE AFFAIR

VETERAN
COMPENSATION SERVICES

VETERANS WITH LESS THAN 100% VA RATING
WE CAN HELP YOU!

- ✓ Risk-Free Consultation
- ✓ Experts in VA Documentation
- ✓ Veteran Friendly Doctors
- ✓ Over 95% Success Rate
- ✓ Thousands of Veterans Served
- ✓ Experienced A+ Rated with BBB

www.VeteranComp.com

DEJÀ VU
LOVE BOUTIQUE

It's Festival
Season
Are You Ready?
Come in and shop all our new festival wear.
We have
Everything
you need to be a hit!

2130 Industrial Ct., Vista, CA 92081
866-711-0425
Shop online at www.dejavuloveboutique.com
Hours: 10am-10pm 7 Days a Week

Military Discount 20% Off
With valid military ID. Some restrictions may apply. Not valid on any sale items. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Exp. 6/7/24



On an overcast Saturday morning in March, the Electric Vehicle Association of San Diego and the San Diego Tesla Club held a “Meet-n-Greet” to share with the public an up-close look at Tesla’s radically styled new Cybertruck ‘in the wild,’ and to provide opportunities to speak with several Cybertruck owners. Two of those owners were the national vice president and president of the Electric Vehicle Association.

The event was held in a rear parking lot near a long row of Tesla Superchargers at the Carlsbad Premium Outlets — an outlet shopping center in north San Diego County. Rain was predicted but fortunately it held off long enough for the Cybertruck owners and curious onlookers to meet.

Tesla has been teasing us for years about their promised Cybertruck so, when Tesla finally started delivering it, people — myself included — were especially interested to see it in-person. I’ve seen a few on the roads and it definitely makes its presence known in a way that few other vehicles do.

Here are some key official numbers, according to Tesla’s website. The appropriately-named “CYBERBEAST” version has an estimated range of 320 miles, or 440 miles with range extender (340 miles or 470 miles for the “All-Wheel Drive” version). Charging at 250KW maximum provides as much as 128 miles of range in 15 minutes (136 miles AWD). Range of the forthcoming Rear-Wheel-Drive version (due in

Tesla’s CYBERTRUCK ‘in the wild’

2025) is significantly less, dropping to an estimated 250 miles.

Overall length of the Cyberbeast (the other versions are similar) is 223.9 inches. Overall width is 86.6 inches with the mirrors folded, and 95 inches with the mirrors extended. Overall height is 70.5 inches.

Acceleration is impressive, especially considering that it is such a large, heavy vehicle (Cyberbeast: 6,843 lbs.; All-Wheel-Drive version: 6,603 lbs.), with a zero to 60 mph time measuring only 2.6 seconds (“Cyberbeast: with rollout subtracted”). Top speed is 130 mph. Top speed of the All-Wheel-Drive version drops to 112 mph with a zero to sixty time of 4.1 seconds.

Towing capacity is 11,000 lbs for the Cyberbeast and All-Wheel-Drive versions, and 7,500 lbs for the Rear-Wheel-Drive version.

The basic vehicle warranty covers Cybertruck for four years or 50,000 miles, whichever comes first. The battery and drive unit are covered for eight years or 150,000 miles, again whichever comes first.

Ground clearance between the massive 20-inch wheels is 16-inches in “extract mode.” Ride height is adjustable.

The cargo capacity of 120.9 cu. ft. is ample, and the truck’s bed is covered by a neat motorized cover (apparently it is strong enough to stand on, but I did not witness that).

Inside the rather stark, angular interior is seating for five adults. There is an 18.5-inch center touchscreen plus a 9.4-inch rear touchscreen.

Of course the numbers only tell part of the story. As radical as Cybertruck appears in pictures, its appearance is jaw-dropping when seen in person. On the road, this vehicle looks a rolling platform for massive slabs of thick

stainless steel, with straight lines and nearly sharp edges. While some trucks claim to be tough, Cybertruck truly is tough, in no uncertain terms.

The steering controls all four wheels, significantly improving maneuverability and making Cybertruck much easier to park than it otherwise would be.

The owners that I spoke with had nothing but praise and admiration for their Cybertruck. One demonstrated its very cool, front-end light show for me.

A particularly intriguing accessory is “basecamp” — a wedge-shaped “instant tent” for two adults that fits over and behind the bed of Cybertruck, “and pumps up in minutes.”

Despite its taking so long to come to market, Cybertruck still has some teething problems. Recently it was revealed that a delivery hold was placed on Cybertruck. An owner explained why, in all likelihood. The two pedals are each covered with a bright trim piece. This owner’s accelerator pedal’s trim piece detached and got wedged between the pedal and the floorboard, and held the accelerator wide open. Fortunately, he was able to get his Cybertruck stopped and did not have an accident.

For more information, visit the Electric Vehicle Association of San Diego at <https://www.sandiegoev.org>, and <https://www.tesla.com/cybertruck> on Tesla’s website.

To explore a wide variety of content dating back to 2002, with the most photos and the latest text, visit “AutoMatters & More” at <https://automatters.net>. Search by title or topic in the Search Bar in the middle of the Home Page, or click on the blue ‘years’ boxes and browse.

Copyright © 2024 by Jan Wagner — AutoMatters & More #836

Reading, writing and political ranting

It was a dark and stormy night.... Well, actually it was partly cloudy with a light breeze, but that’s neither here nor there. I was setting out plates, wine glasses, and sandwiches to host my writers’ group, when the doorbell rang. It was Cathryn, a smidge early, as always.

While I wrangled my yellow lab, who was obnoxiously mauling Cathryn’s black jeans by the front door, she reported, “David had a last minute task at work, so he won’t be here until six-thirty. Nice doggy!”

“Gilligan! Down! Nora’s stuck in bridge traffic, so she’ll be late, too,” I replied.

While the appetizer heated in the oven, we chatted in the kitchen. “David’s piece? Oh my stars,” Cathryn exclaimed in her Minnesota accent. David had written a fictional satire depicting America’s hypothetical future if a certain presidential candidate won the election. [No, I won’t say which candidate.]

“Politics is so triggering, I’m afraid we’ll argue,” she said, her eyes fearful. Arguably, the four members of our group spanned the American political spectrum, from its moderate middle to each of its wackadoodle extremes. Technically, Nora and David were on one side of the political isle, and Cathryn and I were on the other, but I didn’t think David’s fictional satire could bring my good friends to fisticuffs.

“I’ll give an honest critique, but I’ll keep my political opinions to myself,” I told wide-eyed Cathryn.

Soon enough, David and Nora arrived and we sat at the table. After swapping chitchat, swigging wine, and stuffing our faces with eggplant focac-

cia sandwiches, David read his piece.

When he was finished, “glass box critiquing” commenced, a process whereby critics give reviews while the writer is silent. Only when the last critique is finished can the writer respond.

Nora went first, followed by me, then Cathryn. Each of us gave favorable reviews, noting David’s creativity and

The Meat & Potatoes of Life



by
Lisa
Smith
Molinari

wit. We thought we’d deftly avoided a political debate by sticking to the task at hand. But as soon as the glass box opened, David was ready to talk.

For more than twenty minutes, he ranted. Not about the writing, but about the candidate, that “*BLEEP*ing *BLEEP*hole, and his *BLEEP*ing party and all the *BLEEP*ing idiots who *BLEEP*ing voted for him.”

David wasn’t interested in debate, concurrence, or commiseration. He simply wanted to verbally spew forth accumulated political angst, as if he was pumping out his Winnebago’s sewage reservoir after a month-long road trip with his in-laws. I had no desire to engage him in political discussion anyway. As a military spouse, I was accustomed to keeping my politics private. Halfway through David’s rant, my mind disassociated from my body. While my eyes

looked fixated on David’s words, I was contemplating my next Netflix binge.

When it was finally over, David glanced at Nora, who was supposed to read her piece next, and said, “Sorry,” with a chuckle.

That was all it took. Nora unleashed the wrath of a woman, not scorned, but made to sit through a man’s self-indulgent monologue. “You’re not sorry!” Nora started, her face ablaze with red blotches of anger.

“Oh, no,” I uttered, before the group rapport imploded, and moments happened in flashes.

“I’m *BLEEP*ing pissed!” I heard Nora yell.

“Okay, let’s do this!” David shouted, fixing his elbows on the table and leaning in.

“I’m leaving!” Nora growled. Hands shaking, she whipped copies of her unread piece around the table.

“Nora, don’t leave!” I plead, futilely.

“Do you want us to critique your piece?” Cathryn asked.

“I don’t really give a *BLEEP*!” Nora blurted, before slamming the door. David, Cathryn and I sat in stunned silence.

The next day, David emailed an eloquent, warm apology to our group, diffusing the tension created by the clash. He wrote that he’d just wanted to vent to his friends, but he’d picked the wrong place and time, humbly acknowledging, “We’re all flawed in funny ways, and I am particularly so.”

Our political views weren’t changed by the incident, but it did teach us all something about human interaction, each other, and ourselves. Politics is personal. Some profess their opinions out loud, while others prefer to reserve political expression for the voting booth.

SoCalTruck.com
ACCESSORIES & EQUIPMENT
10460 Mission Gorge Rd.
Santee, CA 92071
619-749-0742
Work Smarter, Play Harder!

- Truck Bed Covers • Camper Shells
- Side Steps • Truck Racks
- Tool Boxes • Fuel Tanks
- Carpet Kits • Tow Hitches

MILITARY DISCOUNT
Get \$25 off \$300 or more with this ad



Spray on Bedliners

MAIN AUTO REPAIR

“ALL WORK GUARANTEED”

FREE ESTIMATES - Serving Military for Over 23 years

<p>BRAKE SERVICE SPECIAL from \$140 Per Axle, Parts & Labor included. Most Cars Standard Brake Packages Don't Wait Until You Have a Problem!</p>	<p>A/C Service \$95</p>	<p>Body Work and Paint</p>	<p>CLUTCH \$319 Most Cars. Parts & Labor included. Includes: Pressure plate and disc. Adjustment, New throw out bearing. Pilot bearing. Inspect flywheel</p>
<p>TIMING BELT SPECIAL from \$199 Most Cars. Parts & Labor included</p>	<p>CV JOINT AXLE from \$220 Most Cars. Parts & Labor included</p>	<p>FUEL INJECTION SERVICE from \$89 Most Cars. Parts & Labor included</p>	

3714 Main Street, San Diego • 619-238-4385

FREE EVENT **GASLAMP CINCO DE MAYO**



HISTORIC HEART OF SAN DIEGO



SAT, MAY 4, 2024 • 12PM TO 8PM

LIVE LATIN ENTERTAINMENT
LUCHA LIBRE MATCHES PLUS MEET & GREETINGS
ARTISAN MERCADO • MEZCAL TASTING GARDEN
RESTAURANT & BAR SPECIALS • LOWRIDER SHOW








CLASSIFIED ADS

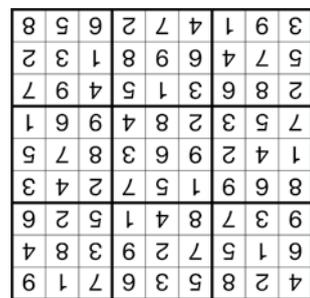
MOVIES AT THE BASES

SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE. CHECK FOR UPDATES ON LINE AT:
<https://sandiego.navylifefsw.com/> select movies from dropdown menu on left
<https://miramar.usmc-mccs.org/dining-entertainment/movies>
<https://pendleton.usmc-mccs.org/dining-entertainment/theater>

Lowry Theater - NASNI, ★
 619-545-8479 Bldg. 650
Friday, April 26
 6pm GodzillaxKong: New Empire pg13
Saturday, April 27
 1pm GodzillaxKong: New Empire pg13
 3:30pm The American Society of Mag-
 ical Negroes pg13
 6pm GodzillaxKong: New Empire pg13
Sunday, April 28
 1pm Kung Fu Panda 4 pg Last showing
 3pm The American Society of Magical
 Negroes pg13
Thursday, May 2
 6pm GodzillaxKong: New Empire pg13

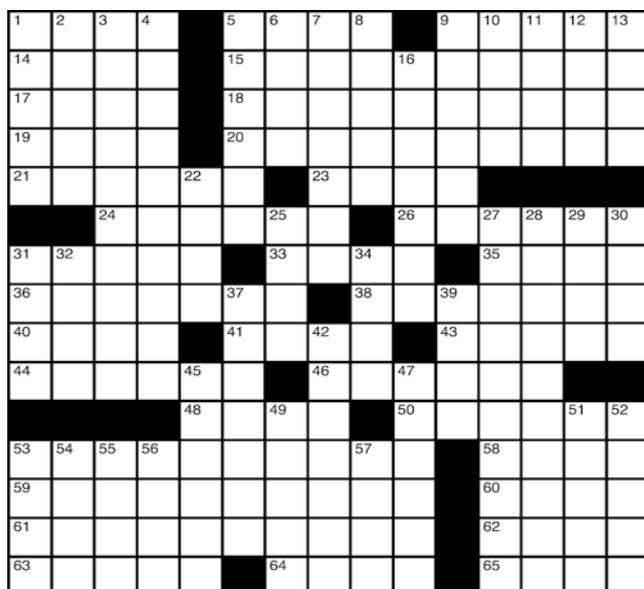
Naval Base Theater - NBSD, ★
 619-556-5568, Bldg. 71
 3465 Senn Rd.
Thursday, May 2
 5:50pm Late Night with the Devil r
 8pm Godzilla x Kong: New Empire pg13
Friday, May 3
 6pm Monkey Man r
Saturday, May 4
 3:20pm GodzillaxKong: New Empire pg13
 6pm The First Omen r
Sunday, May 5
 1pm Godzilla x Kong: New Empire pg13
 3:30pm Late Night with the Devil r
Thursday, May 9
 6pm Monkey Man r

Pendleton Theater ★
and Training Center ★
 Bldg 1330 Mainside (Across
 from Mainside Center)
Saturday, April 27
 2pm BRAT - See this play for FREE
 6pm BRAT - See this play for FREE
Saturday, May 4
 1:30pm Arthur the King (PG13)
 4:30pm Immaculate (R)



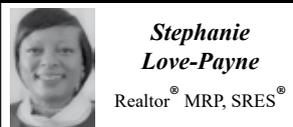
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- Across**
- Arrest
 - Dwarf planet named for goddess
 - Places to relax
 - Prefix meaning "personal"
 - Caribbean isle seriously damaged by a 1995 volcanic eruption
 - Threshold adjoiner
 - Law enforcement tool that may be triggered by a siren
 - Natural healer
 - First-class freebie on long-haul flights
 - 1959 winner of
 - Oscars
 - Alfred of coffee fame
 - Mollycoddle
 - Jocular headlock accompaniment
 - Yani ____, youngest golfer to win five majors
 - Trendy
 - Head makeup
 - Loose
 - Some holy city dwellers
 - They go with guys
 - Ithaca opening
 - Pirogue, e.g.
 - Campaign buy
 - Reply card, say
 - Viral internet item
 - NFL highlight reel clip
 - Barista's concoction
 - Get in the game
 - Reference for budding meteorologists
 - Acid
 - Sara Pennypacker kid-lit heroine
 - Capone capturers
 - Evening stroll
 - Stone massage sites
 - Class with poses
- Down**
- Muslim veil
 - Allan-__: Robin Hood cohort
 - Citrus liqueur
 - "Truth is ..."
 - Imprisons
 - Leeway
 - Thorough
 - Composer Jule
 - Reach ahead of
 - Private employer
 - Wisconsin-based bike brand
 - Spydom name
 - Actuarial datum, e.g.
 - Rocket __
 - Bob Jones Award org.
 - Parrot
 - Prime spot for stargazing?
 - Cuban city with a U.S. Navy base
 - SSN, e.g.
 - To be, in Latin
 - Harbor sights
 - Flip out
 - Mononymous supermodel
 - Jazz group guy
 - In the loop
 - Accessory with a suit
 - Artist Modigliani
 - Equilibria
 - Big name in apple products
 - "The Girl Who Played With Fire" author Larsson
 - Medicinal shrub
 - Cosmonaut's insignia, once
 - Spaghetti __ puttanesca
 - Krystle and Alexis on the 1980s "Dynasty," e.g.
 - Stew
 - Mau'i's twisty Road to __



REAL ESTATE

Military Relocation Professional



Stephanie Love-Payne
 Realtor® MRP, SRES®

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY | California Properties
 HomeServices
First-Time Buyer Consultation
 2060 Otay Lakes Rd. #150
 Chula Vista, Ca 91913
858-583-8470
 stephanielovepayne@bhhsca.com
 DRE #02134782
 A member of the franchise system of BHHAffiliates, LLC

RENTALS APARTMENTS

AVAILABLE NOW!!!

1, 2 or 3 BR's
 Apartments, Townhouses
 & Houses

MOVE-IN SPECIAL! LEADINGHAM REALTY

1062 Palm Ave., Imperial Beach
 619-424-8600

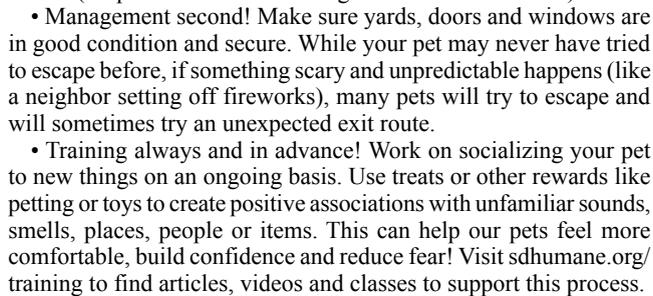
RENTALS HOUSES

CHULA VISTA - FREE UTILITIES 2BR/1BA
 All new jewel in heart of Chula Vista. Spacious 2BR/1BA, quiet, private, stand-alone home \$3600/mo. \$500 discount if rented by 4/30 (for 1st month). Free internet, cable, landscape maint & pest control. Singles or start up family. Built Mar '24, (permitted by Chula Vista Building Dept). 9-foot ceilings, separate heat & A/C zones for each room. Everything is brand new - appliances, + large capacity w/d, r/o water filter. Engineered insulated floors, double-paned windows w/coverings. Storage shed, new large covered patio/gazebo/BBQ area. Security gated entry, off-st parking. Close to Palomar Rapid Transit Station/Park & Ride/Trolley/Downtown SD, schools, shopping, and I-805 Palomar exit. ALL IS NEW!...BEST OF ALL (FREE) NO UTILITIES TO PAY. Available immediately for lease. altavistamgmt@earthlink.net

San Diego Humane Society reminds us about summer safety for our pets

As we gear up for summer, it's important to keep in mind how the sounds, sights and shifts of the season impact our pets! During the warmer months, we may leave our pets with sitters or take them to new places. Our neighborhoods often have more people and pets enjoying the outdoors, loud fireworks being set off and delicious smells and chatter coming from next door. These changes may lead to pets experiencing more stress or excitement than usual, which can lead to animals becoming lost. The tips below can help you and your animals have a safe and enjoyable summer.

- Safety first! Microchips are the most effective way to reunite lost pets with their families, so make sure your pet has been microchipped and that the phone number on file is up to date. If your pet needs a microchip, contact your veterinarian or visit one of our microchip clinics (<https://www.sdhumane.org/services/vaccinations>)!
- Management second! Make sure yards, doors and windows are in good condition and secure. While your pet may never have tried to escape before, if something scary and unpredictable happens (like a neighbor setting off fireworks), many pets will try to escape and will sometimes try an unexpected exit route.
- Training always and in advance! Work on socializing your pet to new things on an ongoing basis. Use treats or other rewards like petting or toys to create positive associations with unfamiliar sounds, smells, places, people or items. This can help our pets feel more comfortable, build confidence and reduce fear! Visit sdhumane.org/ training to find articles, videos and classes to support this process.



VEHICLE TEMPERATURE		
Outside Temp (F)	10mins	30mins
70°	89°	104°
75°	94°	109°
80°	99°	114°
85°	104°	119°

HELP WANTED

USS Midway Museum is recruiting volunteers for docents, air craft restoration, ship restoration and safety <https://www.midway.org/give-join/volunteers/volunteer-opportunities/>

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society volunteer opportunities. Receive training, mentorship, make a difference in the lives of our active duty service personnel & family members. 619-767-6800 or visit <https://www.nmcrcs.org/get-involved/volunteer>

HORSE BOARDING

HORSE BOARDING CARLSBAD
\$400/month
 Western casual, family-oriented ranch.
 We have roomy 12x48 or 12x24 corrals and provide a veterinarian recommended diet twice daily.
760.840.0187

MEDICAL SUPPLIES



www.abigailsmedicalsups.com

Your source for home medical equipment

Wheelchairs, Knee Walkers, Lift Chairs, Compression Socks/Sleeves, Custom Compression Socks, Walking Aids, PPE, Prosthetics, Hospital Beds, Mastectomy, Bath Safety Items, Lymphedema Pumps.

Oceanside San Diego
 3837 Plaza Dr, Ste 801 2020 Cam del Rio North #105
(760) 940-1132 (619) 220-7090

ARMED FORCES DISPATCH CLASSIFIEDS

To place your ad, please call the Classified Advertising Department at (619) 280-2985.

ATTORNEYS

DUI & Criminal Defense

Free Case Evals • 24/7 Availability
 • DUI's • Drug Offenses
 • Domestic Violence • Assault/ADW
 • Restraining orders
www.MichaelKernLaw.com
619.200.2808

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

XTRA INCOME - Solar home flipping venture. Seek motivated partner to join solar home project. Have passion for RE & sustainability 858-344-9900.

CELL PHONES

WIRELESS PROS - offers cell phone plans, repairs, accessories. Unlocked phones, prepaid refill center 619-426-0077. National City & Chula Vista locations.

CHIROPRACTIC

NuSpine CHIROPRACTIC
EXCLUSIVE MILITARY PRICING
4 Visit Membership for \$69/month
 (\$20/month savings or regularly \$89)
 2530 Vista Way, Ste P
 Oceanside • (760) 600-5553

Cornhole Tournament slated for Saturday, May 11 in Oceanside

Sign up for a day of friendly competition on Saturday, May 11 from 8am-4pm, at Camp J.H. Pendleton Oceanside Detachment 21 Marine Corps League Cornhole Tournament! Grab your bags, and bring your boards, and get ready to toss like a pro. This in-person event will take place at the Veteran Association of North County, 1617 Mission Ave., Oceanside.

Bring your A-game and show off your cornhole skills. Whether you're a seasoned pro or a beginner, everyone is welcome to participate. Get ready for a day filled with fun, camaraderie, and some serious cornhole action. Don't miss out!

Scan the QR code to Find out more about the tournament and/or sign up at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/detachment-21-marine-corps-league-cornhole-tournament-tickets-805465026577?aff=ebdshpsearchautocomplete>



ROY'S SUDOKU

4	2			6		1		
6		5						
			8	1				
	6	9			2	4	3	
			9	3				
7	5	3			9	6		
			3	5				
					1		2	
	9	4				5	8	



The Pediatrics department at Naval Medical Center San Diego wear purple to celebrate Month of the Military Child at hospital, April 18, 2024. NMCS D continuously seeks professional civilian talent, not just limited to health care providers and administrative support. For anyone seeking a federal job, visit USAJobs at usajobs.gov - the Federal Government's official employment site. The mission of NMCS D is to prepare service members to deploy in support of operational forces, deliver high quality health care services, and shape the future of military medicine through education, training, and research. NMCS D employs more than 5,000 active-duty military personnel, civilians and contractors in southern California to provide patients with world-class care. Anchored in Excellence, Committed to Health! U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Celia Martin



Competing against 13 other sailors representing their respective commands throughout the Naval Medical Forces Pacific region, the 31-year-old U.S. Navy Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Peter Munoz was named as the 2023 Senior Sailor of the Year for Naval Medical Forces Pacific on April 4, 2024. Munoz is the senior enlisted leader of the surgery directorate at Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Center Twentynine Palms, where he directly supports more than 50 staff members, including officers, enlisted, and civilian personnel. Munoz also serves as the president of the First Class Petty Officers Association, demonstrating his leadership and dedication to fostering a supportive community within the command. U.S. Navy photo by Arsenio R. Cortez Jr.

Below: Melissa Nosik, Chief Executive Officer of Competency & Credentialing Institute (CCI) poses with staff members of Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton on April 2, 2024. Nosik traveled to Camp Pendleton to present the Main Operating Room Perioperative Nursing staff with the 2024 CCI TrueNorth Award. The TrueNorth Award was established in 2013 and is presented to one medical facility per year. "Your dedication to excellence and your outstanding achievements, particularly your impressive 100% certification rate and impactful community involvement, truly set a standard of excellence in our industry," said Nosik during the award presentation. Photo by Curtis Hill



ASMAR'S AUTO CARE

"Where Trust is a Tradition"

Free smog retest when repairs are done at our shop.
We can take care of ALL your auto needs.

FREE TOWING with repairs up to 15 miles for all ACTIVE and RETIRED military personnel (with valid ID)

6 Months 0% Financing Available

10% off Parts and Labor (Max Discount \$100) for all ACTIVE and RETIRED military personnel (with valid ID)

Do you need your Engine Steam Cleaned?
Looking for an oil leak?

We offer Professional Engine Steaming Cleaning and Full Undercarriage Steam Cleaning while protecting our environment.

619-589-1188
www.asmarsautocare.com



Celebrate your bond.

Mother and Keiki Gecko Pendant with Tsavorites and Abalone Inlay in 14K Yellow, White or Rose Gold \$799

Chain included
Matching Earrings available

NA HOKU®

Hawaii's Finest Jewelers Since 1924

Fashion Valley, Lower Level, near Nordstrom, 619-294-7811
NaHoku.com

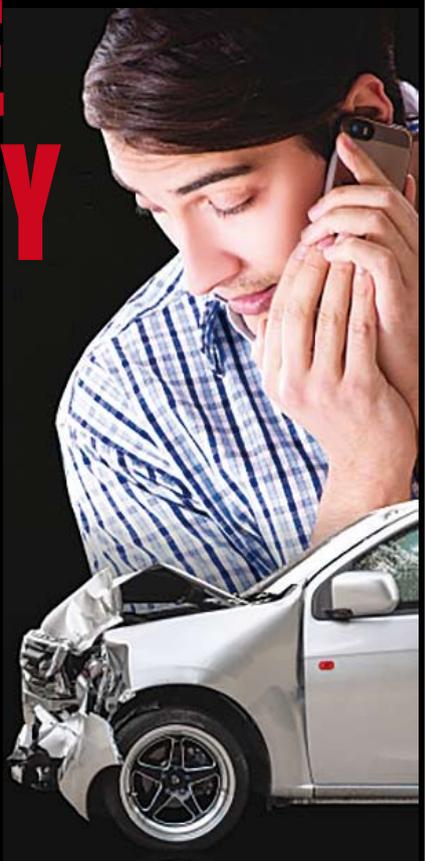
AUTO INSURANCE FRAUD IS A FELONY

INCLUDING BUYING INSURANCE TO COVER AN ACCIDENT AFTER IT HAPPENS DON'T CRASH, BUY, AND LIE!



San Diego County District Attorney

More at: SanDiegoDA.com



WE'RE YOUR CHEVY TRUCK & CORVETTE HEADQUARTERS!



HUGE NEW & PRE-OWNED INVENTORY



2024 CHEVY SILVERADO LT/RST
\$11,000 OFF MSRP
FOR SELECT CUSTOMERS.



2024 CHEVY SILVERADO 1500 WT
AS LOW AS \$36,999
3 AT THIS PRICE. FOR SELECT CUSTOMERS. WITH QUALIFYING TRADE IN.



2024 CHEVY CORVETTE STINGRAY 2LT
AS LOW AS \$98,575
STOCK #240768. MSRP \$103,220. FOR SELECT CUSTOMERS.

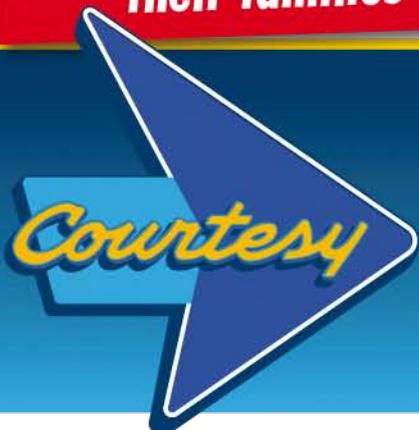
TAKE AN EXTRA
\$1,000 OFF
 ANY ADVERTISED VEHICLE
 WITH THIS AD!

10% OFF
 ANY GM SERVICE
 WITH THIS AD!

UP TO \$500.

Serving our Military Personnel and their families for over 52 years!

Ask for Rockie Bodden or Solon Woodard to get our fantastic GM Military Discount!



Together let's drive™



**750 CAMINO DEL RIO NORTH
 SAN DIEGO, CA**

Centrally located near all the San Diego area military bases!

(619) 373-1641 • www.CourtesySanDiego.com

THE VEHICLES MAY NOT BE PRECISELY DEPICTED AS SHOWN. ALL ADVERTISED PRICES EXCLUDE GOVERNMENT FEES AND TAXES, ANY FINANCE CHARGES, ANY DEALER DOCUMENT PROCESSING CHARGE, ANY ELECTRONIC FILING CHARGE, AND ANY EMISSION TESTING CHARGE. SEE COURTESY CHEVROLET FOR COMPLETE DETAILS. OFFERS END 5/15/24.