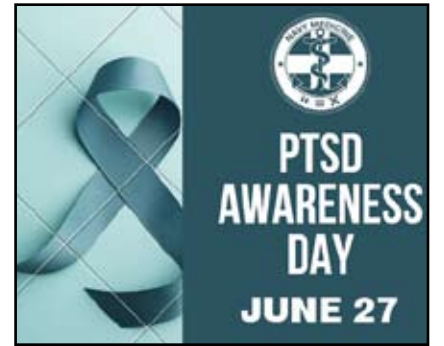


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SIXTY-FIFTH YEAR NO. 6
JUNE 16-30, 2025



A GRAND HOMECOMING Operations Specialist Seaman Samuel Garces, assigned to USS Comstock dock landing ship, and a native of Bronx, N.Y., greets his baby for the first time after the ship returns to its homeport at Naval Base San Diego following a three-month deployment, June 5, 2025. U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Eliora Sims

NAVY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REBUILT 6 YEARS AFTER EARTHQUAKES

by Army Maj. Wes Shinego,
DOD News

The Sierra Sands Unified School District cut the ribbon June 3 on a new 77,000-square-foot Richmond Elementary School at Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, restoring

an essential academic anchor after the 2019 Ridgecrest earthquakes.

A \$78 million grant from the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation's Public Schools on Military Instal-

lations program, along with a \$19 million state and local match, funded the replacement of the original 55,000-square-foot building, which opened in 1953.

The new campus features modern classrooms, collaborative learning pods and dedicated labs for science, technology, engineering, arts and math. The facility accommodates more than 500 students — most of whom are military dependents.

"Today, we recognize the district for completing a project that keeps faith with our service members, improves educational quality for defense-connected students and helps the Navy recruit and retain critical skills," said Patrick O'Brien, director of OLDCC.

The magnitude 6.4 and 7.1 earthquakes that struck July 4, 2019, damaged scores of

structures across the high-desert installation, including Richmond Elementary, which suffered cracked walls, buckled floors and ceiling failures.

Students and teachers completed the school year in temporary classrooms at a nearby campus while the district, the Navy and state officials planned a permanent solution.

"It didn't matter what building we were in — Richmond's spirit never wavered," Sierra Sands Unified School District Superintendent April Moore told the audience of parents, sailors and city leaders. "This campus is more than bricks and mortar; it's a promise that education endures."

That spirit was recognized when the school, even while displaced, earned California's Purple Star School of Distinction

see **School**, page 8



Ceremony to officially open the new Richmond Elementary School at NAWS China Lake June 3, 2025. The opening marks a fresh start after the 2019 Ridgecrest earthquakes damaged the original school building that opened in 1953. Courtesy photo

USNORTHCOM statement on additional military personnel in the Los Angeles area

from U.S. Northern
Command Public Affairs

PETERSON SPACE FORCE BASE, Colo. — U.S. Northern Command has activated the Marine infantry battalion that was placed in an alert status over the weekend. Approximately 700 Marines with 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division will seamlessly integrate with the Title 10 forces under Task Force 51 who are protecting federal personnel and federal property in the greater Los Angeles area.

As of June 9, there are approximately 1,700 Soldiers from the 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, a California National Guard unit in a Title 10 status, in the greater Los Angeles Area.

The activation of the Ma-

rines is intended to provide Task Force 51 with adequate numbers of forces to provide continuous coverage of the area in support of the lead federal agency.

Task Force 51 is U.S. Army North's Contingency Command Post, which provides a rapidly deployable capability to partner with civil authorities and DoD entities in response to a Homeland Defense and Homeland Security Operations. It is commanded by Maj. Gen. Scott M. Sherman.

Task Force 51 is comprised of approximately 2,100 National Guard soldiers in a Title 10 status and 700 active-duty Marines. Task Force 51 forces have been trained in de-escalation, crowd control, and standing rules for the use of force.

Expeditionary transport USNS Point Loma ready for delivery to the Navy

MOBILE, Ala. — Austal USA and the Navy's Expeditionary Fast Transport program team completed acceptance trials on future USNS Point Loma (EPF 15). Completion of acceptance trials means the ship is now ready for delivery to the Navy. "I am excited for the hard-working Austal USA shipbuilding team who are responsible for the successful achievement of these trials," said Austal USA Vice President of Surface Ship Programs Dave Growden. "With the help of our EPF program suppliers, Navy partners, and the Port of Mobile representatives involved in these trials, Point Loma is headed toward her final milestone, delivery." These trials demonstrated to the Navy the successful operation of the ship's major systems and equipment while underway.

Navy ships to arrive in Portland for Rose Festival Fleet Week

PORTLAND, Oregon — Sailors assigned to two Navy ships, destroyers USS *Mustin* and USS *Jack H. Lucas*, are scheduled to arrive in Portland to participate in annual Rose Festival Fleet Week activities, June 3-8. The ships cruised along the Willamette River and moored between the Steel and Burnside Bridges. The two destroyers, along with vessels from the Coast Guard, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Royal Canadian Navy, are offering public tours while the ships' crews participate in annual festivities across the city to include the Grand Floral Parade, Royal Rosarian Honorary Knighting Ceremony, and community service activities. Visit Portland Rose Festival's website for more information about the visiting U.S. Coast Guard and Royal Canadian Navy vessels. The Portland visit will offer the public an opportunity to tour Navy warships and meet with Sailors as they showcase their ships' capabilities.

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NEW BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TRAINING PROGRAM HELPS KEEP WARFIGHTERS ON THE BATTLEFIELD

by Army Maj. Wes Shinego
DOD News

Last month, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth paused in front of a ballroom of service members and industry leaders at Special Operations Forces Week in Tampa, Fla., and reminded them people matter more than equipment.

That stance underpins the Defense Department's sweeping readiness push, and nowhere is that more apparent than in a new program teaching combat medics to handle battlefield behavioral health crises.

Dr. Katie Nugent, a behavioral health epidemiologist at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Silver Spring, Maryland, has spent the last decade converting data into practical tools that keep warfighters in the fight.

In 2018, her team at the institute met with 23 soldiers — many of them special forces medics — to ask what concerned them most when help was hours or days away. They described sleepless teammates, quiet panic attacks and simmering conflicts as some of their top worries, admitting they sometimes stayed silent out of fear of making

matters worse. The findings, later published in the Military Medicine journal, concluded that future multidomain conflicts would demand a new approach to delivering behavioral health care.

Those interviews became the seed for the Behavioral Health Guidelines for mEdic Assessment and Response training program, known as BH-GEAR. Nugent described the course as “a combat lifesaver for the mind.”

In a single day of hands-on instruction, medics learn to diagnose mental distress similarly to how they learn to triage gunshot wounds. Role-playing scenarios show them how to start a structured conversation to assess a service member's mood, sleep and safety in under five minutes.

They practice asking blunt questions about suicidal or violent thoughts, then rehearse rapid, evidence-based techniques — paced breathing, grounding exercises and intervention skills — to calm a service member who can't afford to break down under fire. By day's end, they can chart a decision tree that tells them when to return a teammate

to duty, call a provider or begin preparing a medical evacuation. A shorter refresher training is also offered to keep skills sharp, and a longer train-the-trainer course lets units build their own teams.

“Knowledge and confidence stay higher for at least a year, and graduates report using these skills on deployment,” Nugent said.

Demand for the training now lands in Nugent's inbox several times a week. The institute's instructors recently piloted the curriculum with Army combat medic specialist trainees at the Army Medical Center of Excellence in San Antonio. They are also adapting the course for Navy hospital corpsmen and Air Force independent duty medical technicians.

In the future, Nugent envisions a tiered model of the course, in which all entry-level medics receive basic behavioral health care training and then return for more complex refresher courses as their expertise grows.

“There simply aren't enough licensed providers to cover every patrol base, especially

when communications and air evacuation are contested,” she said. “BH-GEAR creates an on-site asset who can prevent small problems from becoming mission-ending events.”

The program alleviates concerns Nugent raised in her 2022 needs-assessment study, noting that medics received only eight hours of behavioral health instruction during a six-week tactical combat casualty care course — even though psychiatric conditions were among the leading reasons for aeromedical evacuation from Iraq and Afghanistan.

\$5.6 million multipurpose range complex modernization complete

FORT HUNTER LIGGETT, Calif. -The Fort Hunter Liggett multipurpose range complex modernization project is complete after two years of extensive upgrades and new constructions to provide cutting edge facilities for warrior readiness. The \$5.6 million comprehensive project includes range upgrades, a secure staging area for vehicles and a new bivouac site.

“The modernization of the MPRC significantly enhances our portfolio of high-caliber and modernized training facilities to customers,” said Garrison Commander Col. Stephen Trot-

Participants in that study said more realistic skills training for non-specialists was their top request for future deployments; BH-GEAR is built to meet that need.

Nugent's credibility comes from both the laboratory and hospital ward. She began her career on a civilian psychiatric unit, earned a master's degree in clinical psychology, added a doctorate in public health and completed a post-doctoral fellowship in psychosis research before joining the institute in 2015. Her work has influenced

ter. “The fully automated targetry system provides realistic, challenging and customizable scenarios to meet customer's training goals.”

The opening of the MPRC is just in time for the Army Reserve's premiere training exercise – Operation Mojave Falcon - with thousands of Soldiers from across the nation descending at Fort Hunter Liggett to train collectively. OMF is designed to enhance the Army Reserve's ability to support large-scale combat operations and demonstrate its agility and commitment to national defense,

Army policy on resilience, suicide prevention and now medic training.

“The science is solid, the demand signal is strong and the stakes are high,” she said.

For a department tasked with fielding a force that can fight tonight under any condition, BH-GEAR puts that readiness mantra into practice because, as Hegseth noted, humans remain more important than hardware. Nugent believes this program will help ensure that the humans are ready to stay in the fight.

and FHL is the perfect place for it with more than 165,000 acres.

“We're excited to be the first to use the upgraded facility and look forward to working with the garrison to develop realistic and challenging convoy target training at the MPRC,” said Brig. Gen. William Wilkerson, the deputy commanding general of the 79th Theater Sustainment Command.

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/500063/56-million-multi-purpose-range-complex-mprc-modernization-complete>

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Army

- Army ends most barracks maintenance at Fort Cavazos amid federal cuts
- Data and integration will be 'core' of Army's Next-Gen C2
- Army museum reveals rare artifacts in new Revolutionary War exhibit for the 250th anniversary

Navy

- Yorktown Naval Weapons Station, Dominion exploring energy projects, including nuclear reactor
- Navy Sailor missing from Norfolk barracks
- Navy man charged with firing gun in downtowns of 2 Connecticut cities
- Destroyer USS Cole headed to southern border, replacing USS Gravelly
- Destroyer's daring move on D-Day recalled as lesson in battlefield initiative
- Carrier USS George Washington back in Japan ahead of summer patrol

Air Force

- Summer drills will sharpen U.S. military mobility across the Indo-Pacific, general says
- Space Force astronaut wants to see more troops in orbit
- Pair of Airmen hospitalized for injuries sustained while driving on Ramstein Air Base
- Air Force ready to deploy more nukes once arms control treaty ends
- Air Force sets up new Experimental Operations Unit for Collaborative Combat Aircraft

Coast Guard

- Lawmakers decry DHS secretary's push to slash Coast Guard infrastructure budget by 90%
- Coast Guard responds to plane in the water off the coast of Point Loma

National Guard

- Live updates: Protesters against immigration raids clash with law enforcement in L.A.; National Guard deployed

Your Military

- Major military conference adds health-themed summit to its annual show
- Voluntary in name only: Deadline comes for transgender troops to leave before being kicked out

Veterans

- Veterans commemorated with urn or plaque would get VA burial option under new bill
- VA's disability calculator produced wrong results, costing some vets thousands of dollars
- Two-thirds of troops who left the military in 2023 were at risk for mental health conditions, survey found

Military Culture & History

- D-Day Soldier awarded Distinguished Service Cross after 81 years
- From Purple Heart Lane to Hell's Corner: 101st Airborne Soldiers ride WWII convoy through Normandy
- Hegseth wants to rename 8 naval ships.

BALTOPS 25 begins in the Baltic Sea region

from U.S. Sixth Fleet and Naval Striking and Support Forces NATO Public Affairs

ROSTOCK, Germany – Sixteen NATO allies, more than 40 ships, 25 aircraft and approximately 9,000 personnel began the 54th iteration of Baltic Operations, or BALTOPS 25, with the start of the pre-sail conference, June 3, in the Baltic Sea region.

Sixteen NATO allies, more than 40 ships, 25 aircraft and approximately 9,000 personnel began the 54th iteration of Baltic Operations, or BALTOPS 25, June 5 in the Baltic Sea region.

The exercise, which starts June 5, is the premier annual maritime-focused military exercise in the Baltic region. BALTOPS provides NATO allies a unique opportunity to train together, strengthen interoperability and demonstrate collective readiness to defend the Alliance and preserve freedom of navigation in the region.

"This year's BALTOPS is more than just an exercise. It's a visible demonstration of our Alliance's resolve, adapt-

ability and maritime strength," said Vice Adm. J.T. Anderson, commander of U.S. Sixth Fleet and Naval Striking and Support Forces NATO.

"As we mark NATO's 75th anniversary, BALTOPS 25 showcases our ability to operate together as one unified force across the spectrum of maritime operations."

Participating nations include Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Sweden, Türkiye, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

BALTOPS includes training in a wide range of capabilities, including amphibious operations, gunnery, air defense, anti-submarine warfare, mine countermeasures, explosive ordnance disposal, and medical response. It will also incorporate unmanned surface and underwater vehicles into various scenarios.

It is led by U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa/U.S. Sixth Fleet and command-and-controlled by Naval Striking and Support

Forces NATO, headquartered in Oeiras, Portugal. The STRIKFORNATO headquarters will host liaison officers and plan-

Boosting readiness: AETC's plan to train 1,500 pilots annually

from Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas -To maintain air superiority, project global power and ensure national security, the Air Force requires a consistent supply of trained aviators—specifically, 1,500 pilots per year. Achieving this goal has been a persistent struggle prompting Air Education and Training Command officials to develop a comprehensive solution that includes optimizing existing resources. This effort led to a transformative overhaul of Undergraduate Pilot Training, or UPT, which has evolved into the Future of Undergraduate Pilot Training initiative.

FUPT boldly transforms pilot training by integrating commercial flight programs through Educational Service Agreements, optimizing the T-6A Texan II and T-38C Talon curriculum and utilizing XR technologies and modern training platforms, par-

ticularly the T-7A Red Hawk.

AETC partners with select aviation programs in Texas, Arizona, Florida and Georgia leverage commercial instruction, instilling foundational aviation skills

Brig. Gen. Matthew Leard, AETC's director of Plans, Programs and Requirements, stated, "The foundation we're building with commercial aviation programs is paying dividends. Beyond learning the basics of flying, students immerse themselves in aircraft with modern cockpits preparing them for their future assigned aircraft; and they fly in more complex airspace at these locations, setting them up to be even more successful in operational squadrons."

The first group to complete the IPT model graduated in September 2024 and transitioned to a modified T-6A UPT phase at Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

"Thus far, IPT shows success with 29 students graduating and earning their wings," Leard added. "The program is still in its early phases with robust data collection ongoing, and the team will continue to iterate to ensure FUPT produces the highest quality military pilots."

The 19th Air Force employs a data-driven competency mapping process to optimize the updated UPT curriculum focusing on quality graduates. Identifying essential skills at each training stage reduced T-6A training days by 31 percent and accelerated student progress while maintaining desired quality.

Read more at <https://www.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/4208427/>.



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DOD plans to reduce discretionary PCS budget by half over next 5 years

by C. Todd Lopez, DOD News

In a memorandum published Wednesday, the Defense Department directed the military departments to look at how their services could reduce their discretionary permanent change of station move budgets as a way to increase geographic stability to families, increase department efficiency and reduce costs for the department.

Earlier this month, a survey of military spouses cited PCS moves as one of the biggest reasons for dissatisfaction with military life.

"We understand how disruptive PCS moves can be," said Tim Dill, who is performing the duties of the deputy undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness. "There are many aspects to that challenge and that disruption. One of the biggest ones is military spouses' employment — when they often have the need to find a new job at their gaining location and sometimes, they end up underemployed at that location."

Following a PCS move, Dill said, families also need to find new homes, new schools for their children and rebuild a life.



Photo courtesy of U.S. Army Recruiting Command

"They're displaced from the community of support that they've developed over the years in their previous duty station," he said. "All of those concerns can be effectively addressed by examining when the department does not need to move a service member and their family to accomplish the mission."

The department gave the military departments about four months to conduct a review of how they might go about reducing their PCS budgets, and how they also would modify career pathways for service members for whom some PCS moves are part of career development.

"The memo directs the military departments to spend 120 days reviewing their PCS budgets and to consider how they would pursue future reductions to those budgets and develop holistic and comprehensive implementation plans for those proposed changes," Dill said.

The memorandum asks military departments to propose a plan for reducing their discretionary pcs budgets by as much as 50 percent by fiscal year 2030, based on their fiscal year 2026 budget, Dill said. This means service members could be asked to move far less often.

"There [are] certain functions

where in order to continue on your career track, you must go obtain certain accreditation or additional training ... something that corresponds with your increase in rank," Dill said, offering scenarios that might qualify as a mandatory PCS like a career change that would require a move to a different duty station.

In other cases, he said, there are critical missions that must be fully manned, and moving a service member to fill a role there would also be mandatory.

But other moves might not need to happen, Dill said.

"We estimate that about 80 percent of [military department] PCS moves are in a discretionary category, and 20 percent are mandatory," he said. "What we're directing the [military] departments to do is purely to examine potential reductions in things that would be defined as discretionary. So, if they see as mandatory for mission need, we're not even asking them to come back with a plan to reduce it. We want them to continue that course of action and do the mandatory moves."

A big part of the direction from the secretary, Dill said, is that while reducing PCS moves

and associated costs, the military departments must maintain mission readiness.

"[We] have issued direction to the departments to come back with plans for how they think they could best achieve those reductions while ensuring that they continue to prioritize the mission and the development of service members," Dill said.

Considerations there, Dill said, include how moves, if they happen, can be done more efficiently and also how to provide service members with career-broadening and leadership opportunities that do not require PCS.

Right now, the department has directed the military departments to develop plans for their services to reduce their PCS budgets by half. But Dill said there will be ongoing discus-

sions about what kind of cuts are appropriate for each military department.

"On top of being efficient from a fiscal perspective, the other goal of this policy, as a people-driven policy, is to ensure that this works well for service members and their families," he said. "So that is one of our primary goals in the policy, to ensure it works well."

Dill said the DOD understands there needs to be discussions on how proposed cuts could negatively impact service members, their families and mission readiness. And when those concerns are expressed, DoD will listen and adjust.

"We haven't directed that any specific course of action must be implemented," Dill said. "We look forward to having that conversation and figuring out how we can do this best."

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Local Military

USS *Comstock* returns to homeport following operations in 7th Fleet

from Commander, U.S. 3rd Fleet

SAN DIEGO – Dock landing ship USS *Comstock* (LSD 45) returned to Naval Base San Diego June 5 following a three-month mission to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations.

While in U.S. 7th Fleet, *Comstock* participated in exercises Tiger Triumph in India and Balikatan 25 in the Philippines, demonstrating U.S. commitment

to Allies and partners and a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

“Our ship’s successful completion of Tiger Triumph and Balikatan 2025 is a testament to the dedication, resilience, and skill of our crew,” said Cmdr. Byron Stocks, the commanding officer of *Comstock*. “Together, we strengthened partnerships, honed our readiness, and proudly represented our nation on the world stage.”



Families of Sailors aboard *Comstock* anticipate the ship’s arrival at Naval Base San Diego. U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Eliora Sims

Additionally, 115 Marines and Sailors from Alpha Company, 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division embarked *Comstock* during the deployment.

During Tiger Triumph, *Comstock*, with embarked Marines, worked alongside Indian counterparts for two weeks, enhancing interoperability and combined capacity to respond to crises. Featuring approximately 3,000 personnel, two warships, and seven aircraft, Tiger Triumph gave participating forces the opportunity to refine humanitarian assistance and disaster response operations, conduct amphibious beach landings and build relationships and camaraderie through cultural exchanges.

“The tireless work ethic of the U.S. and Indian Armed Forces at all levels directly contributed to the successful execution of the amphibious landing,” said Marine Capt. Erik Ayala, commander of troops for Alpha Company, 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division. “This success highlights the cohesion we currently have with our Indian partners and will enable us to build on the complexity in the future.”

Following Tiger Triumph, *Comstock* participated in exercise Balikatan 25 April 25 to 29, the 40th iteration of the largest annual bilateral exercise conducted between the Philippines and U.S. In addition to humanitarian projects and logistics

Coast Guard, partner agencies, respond to plane crash near Point Loma

SAN DIEGO - According to local news sources, all six people who were on board a Cessna 414 aircraft that went down off the coast of Point Loma June 8 have been presumed dead, according to the FAA.

The Coast Guard along with federal, state and local agencies, first responded to the scene and searched the area for survivors and the persons downed aircraft. The plane fell into the Pacific Ocean about three miles west of Point Loma.

Watchstanders at the Joint Harbor Operations Center in San Diego received the initial report at 12:45 p.m., Sunday, detailing a twin-engine Cessna 414 with six persons on board had crashed approximately three miles west of Point Loma.

The depth of water below the debris field is reported to be approximately 200 feet.

Rescue crews involved in the search:

Coast Guard Air Station Ventura MH-60 Jayhawk air crew
Coast Guard Air Station Sacramento C-27 Spartan air crew
Coast Guard Cutter Sea Otter crew
Coast Guard Station San Diego 45-foot RB-M crew
Coast Guard Maritime Safety & Security Team 29-foot RB-S crew
Customs & Border Protection Air & Marine Operations crews
San Diego Harbor Police boat crews
San Diego lifeguards

According to the flight tracker, FlightAware, the Cessna appeared to have been bound for Phoenix, Ariz., departing from San Diego International Airport just 15 minutes before it went down in the Pacific Ocean.

Refer to <https://www.news.uscg.mil/>.

operations, the exercise featured a Full Battle Test, incorporating real-world forces and events in an exercise scenario. The Full Battle Test combined all domains – air, land, sea, space and cyber – and gave the U.S. and Philippines forces the opportunity to practice and test tactical actions and techniques.

Comstock participated in a multilateral maritime exercise alongside the Philippine Navy and the Japan Maritime Defense Force. This group sail tested maritime maneuvers and validated interoperability of doctrine, tactics, techniques, and procedures at sea.

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USS Sampson deploys to Southern Border

by C. Todd Lopez, DOD News

USS Sampson, one of the Navy's 74 Arleigh Burke-class destroyers, joined the effort to secure the southern border June 3.

"On Tuesday, USS Sampson deployed to the U.S. Northern Command area of responsibility to support the [Defense Department's] national security objectives along the U.S. southern border," said Pentagon Press Secretary Kingsley Wilson during the Weekly Sitrep video. "Border security is national security. We are not going to stop until we have 100 percent operational control of our border."

The destroyer departed Naval Base San Diego, June 3, and is conducting operations in direct support of Northcom's mission to protect the homeland by enhancing maritime domain awareness and deterring illicit activities with U.S. interagency and law enforcement coordination.



(left) In this June 3, 2024, file photo, USS Sampson prepares to receive a replenishment at sea. Sampson departed Naval Base San Diego, June 3, 2025, to support operations in the U.S. Northern Command area of responsibility. U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class David Fines

(inset) Seaman Aiyana Daniels stands lookout watch on the bridge wing of Sampson in the Pacific Ocean, Jan. 26, 2025. U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Timothy Meyer

DLA fuels maritime superiority with \$5 billion contract

by Cindy Pray, DLA PAO

The Defense Logistics Agency Maritime Mechanicsburg, located in Pennsylvania, recently awarded a \$5 billion contract to six small businesses, expediting support for Virginia-class submarines and active surface ships, in a move that will significantly enhance the

nation's maritime advantage. The Maritime Acquisition Advancement Contract is designed to accelerate DLA's procurement of integrated weapons systems equipment and services. The awardees will play a vital role in providing essential resources for the Navy's latest class of advanced

capability nuclear-powered fast-attack submarines. With five one-year options, each valued at \$1 billion, the MAAC could potentially reach a total of \$10 billion. At an April 8, hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee, Navy leaders emphasized

that strengthening supply chain capacity is crucial to achieving the goal of building two Virginia-class submarines per year. The submarines will replace the aging Los Angeles-class fleet.

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School

continued from page 1

award for exemplary support to military families.

Spanning 1.1 million acres of Mojave Desert, NAWS China Lake is the Navy's premier research, development, testing and evaluation hub for airborne weapons. Its engineers have contributed to nearly every Navy and Marine Corps air-launched munition developed over the past 50 years.

"This completed project directly supports the station's mission readiness," O'Brien said. "Families know their children can learn in a safe, state-of-the-art environment."

Mayor Travis Endicott called the new school "a testament to growth, resilience and optimism," adding that opening — not closing — schools signals a community on the rise.

District educators collaborated with NAWS China Lake science, technology, engineering and mathematics mentors to design flexible learning spaces adaptable for activities ranging from robotics competitions to art installations. Movable walls, writable surfaces and modular furniture enable quick reconfiguration, while

energy-efficient glazing and solar-ready roofs reduce long-term costs.

During the ceremony, Moore presented Principal Heather Miller with an American flag that had flown over the U.S. Capitol, symbolizing the bond between the school and the military community it serves. Sailors raised the flag outside the main entrance before dignitaries cut a purple ribbon — a nod to the Richmond wildcat mascot and the school's signature "Purple Rock," relocated from the original site with Navy assistance.

"Military families make sacrifices every day," Moore said. "Our responsibility is to give their children a place where they feel supported, inspired and empowered to thrive."

The project exemplifies whole-of-government collaboration. OLDCC's 80% grant was awarded in November 2022, with the remainder funded by California's Office of Public School Construction and local taxpayers. State Sen. Shannon Grove and Assemblyman Stan Ellis praised parents who "turned countless late-night board meetings into bricks, wiring and Wi-Fi for our kids."

Battle of Midway anniversary highlights enduring power of Naval aviation

by Ensign Alexis VanBuren

Commander, Naval Air Forces
CORONADO. - As the U.S. Navy marks the 83rd anniversary of the Battle of Midway, Naval Aviation leaders honor the courage, innovation, and decisive action that turned the tide of World War II in the Pacific and reaffirm the enduring importance of U.S. Navy aircraft carriers.

This year's commemoration is especially meaningful as it coincides with the 250th anniversary of America's Navy a legacy built on valor, sacrifice, and an unwavering commitment to securing the seas.

Vice Adm. Daniel Cheever, Commander, Naval Air Forces, called the victory at Midway "a defining moment in naval history and the definitive carrier battle."

The Battle of Midway, fought from June 3 to June 7, 1942, is widely regarded as a pivotal turning point in the Pacific Theater. Outnumbered and outgunned, U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps forces relied on intelligence breakthroughs, bold tactics, and carrier-based aviation to sink four Japanese aircraft carriers and halt Japan's expansion in the Pacific.

One remarkable example was USS Yorktown, which had been heavily damaged at the Battle of the Coral Sea. Though initial repair estimates were long, the ship was restored in just days to participate at Midway. Despite eventually being lost during the battle, Yorktown inflicted significant damage on the enemy fleet.

The courage of the avia-

tors was profound. Torpedo Squadron Eight, for instance, launched high-risk attacks that resulted in severe losses, with only one survivor, Ensign George Gay, who witnessed the remainder of the battle from his raft. The sacrifices of Marine Corps aviators, who lost 17 of 26 aircraft, were instrumental



in protecting Midway and clearing the way for dauntless dive bombers to strike decisive blows, sinking three carriers and a heavy cruiser, and damaging many others.

"At Midway, it was our carrier's intelligence, the Sailors, marines and aviators who operated them that made the difference," said Cheever. "The next aircraft carrier and strike group battle will be an all domain, long range battle, but the principles of superior intelligence, calculated risk taking and responsiveness will remain the same, and we will win."

From the sacrifice of Sailors past to the skill and innovation of today's naval aviators, Naval Aviation continues to adapt, deliver, and dominate preserving a 250-year legacy of excellence and ensuring America's Navy remains a global force for peace through strength.

LOCAL MILITARY



ABOARD USS HARPERS FERRY A Marine Corps AH-1Z Viper, attached to Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 369, Marine Aircraft Group 39, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, refuels on the flight deck of amphibious dock landing ship *Harpers Ferry* during Quarterly Underway Amphibious Readiness Training 25.3 while underway in the Pacific Ocean, June 3, 2025. QUART is a joint training exercise designed to develop and sustain essential amphibious readiness skills for effective operations in maritime environments while reinforcing the Navy-Marine Corps partnership. U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Luis Agostini



ABOARD USS GRIDLEY USS *Gridley* fires its Mark 45 5-inch gun during an exercise in the South China Sea, May 31, 2025. *Gridley* is deployed to the 7th Fleet area of operations, demonstrating U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Timothy Meyer



COORDINATING EFFORTS Marines with 1st Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, I Marine Expeditionary Force Information Group, and members of the United Arab Emirates Presidential Guard coordinate close air support during UAE Unit Enhancement Training at Camp Pendleton May 7, 2025. U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Ricardo Ramirez

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AutoMatters & More: San Diego County Fair 2025 — SUMMER PET-TACULAR

The San Diego County Fair was established in 1880, and has grown into San Diego County’s largest and longest-running annual event. Beginning with the Opening Ceremony at 10:45 AM on Wednesday, June 11, this year’s fair runs through July 6 (closed Mondays and Tuesdays).

The theme for this year’s Fair is the “Summer Pet-tacular.” “This year’s theme exhibit, called ‘Pets Rock: Live on Tour, presented by Kahoots,’ takes guests through the world from a pet’s perspective. Seven Rock Band members — Charlie, Kitty Wampuss, Bee & Zeke, the parakeets, Finnley, Skittles, and Brutus — will lead fairgoers on an adventure through their animal eyes, where they might play with a giant ball of yarn, “swim” through an aquarium castle, or sit in a bird’s nest. Along the journey, fairgoers will discover strange and fascinating true facts and stories from the animal kingdom. The exhibit will also feature educational programming, adoptable animals and speakers from SDHS. In addition, Kahoots pet store will feature a mini store and have staff on-site to talk about pet food, toys, and care products.” Please be aware that while this is a pet-themed celebration, pets are not allowed on the fairgrounds.

New this year is the “Farm 2 U Exhibit, telling the story of food and flowers, from farm to table. The exhibit will also feature wine and beer experiences. San Diego Food Bank will be a key part of helping to tell San Diego’s food story.”

Summer nights at The Sound, the Fair’s spectacular indoor entertainment venue, offers a variety of shows and experiences. “This includes a screening of the Rocky Horror Picture Show with original cast member Barry Bostwick; an evening with the Dog Whisperer, Cesar Millan; two nights of the Pink

Floyd Laser Spectacular and the ‘Taylor Shines’ Laser Spectacular; a hypnosis-improv comedy show featuring famed hypnotist Asad Mecci and ‘Whose Line is it Anyway’ star Colin Mochrie; EDM duo Big Gigantic; and comedian Tumua Tuinei. Tickets include same-day Fair admission.”

“All 20 nights of the grandstand are booked with premium entertainment, including acclaimed rock, reg-

AutoMatters™ & More by Jan Wagner



gae, R&B, country, hip hop, EDM, and comedy performances. Tickets include same-day Fair admission.”

This year, by popular demand, the Fair Season Pass is back. Two options are offered: “a go-any-and-every-day-you-want season pass for \$65, and a packed-with-perks version called the Fair Fanatic for \$160.”

Also new this year is the San Diego Marketplace — a “curated consignment shop in Wyland Hall for goods and crafts produced by local artisans and crafters. You can shop around at your leisure and check out at one register.”

This year you can enjoy the best of the Fair food at a discount, “featuring two value deals: Foodie Fridays and \$15 value meals. The \$15 value meals, which include a side, an entree, and a drink, are available every day of the Fair. Foodie Fridays, you can try all 18 of the newest Fair-

Tastic Foods Competition finalist items for 50% off from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. every Friday in June.”

Included with admission to the Fair are acts on the Chevrolet Pad-dock Stage; “museum-quality exhibits; a wonderful Garden Show; great shopping options; dazzling entertainment; and all the classic favorites that people have come to love and expect from their day at the San Diego County Fair. And yes, the pig races will be back, too.”

This year, San Diego Humane Society (SDHS) has taken on a major role as the Fair’s theme partner for the 2025 “Summer Pet-tacular.” “Dr. Gary Weitzman, President & CEO of SDHS, said the Fair provides ‘a unique opportunity to connect with the community in a fun and meaningful way, while also raising awareness about animal welfare and the lifesaving work’ that SDHS does each day. As Dr. Weitzman also mentioned, if even a fraction of Fairgoers decide to adopt animals this summer, SDHS could clear its shelters.”

“And as (Board) President Schenk added, ‘this theme partnership will create a real impact on our community this year. It will mean more pets will be adopted into loving homes. It will mean more joy in families’ lives. It will provide our community with education about properly caring for pets. And it’s definitely going to be a lot of fun.’” For more information, visit sdfair.com.

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 © 2025 by Jan Wagner – AutoMatters & More #866

The Meat & Potatoes of Life



by
Lisa
Smith
Molinari

“I have a challenge for you,” I offered my husband, Francis, this week while planning our annual family vacation to North Carolina. Then I threw down an unprecedented gauntlet: “Let’s limit our packing to one carry-on bag each.”

Silence.

Then, Francis stuttered defensively, “Well, sure, but I, you, I don’t—”

“Now honey, remember you’re a bit of a clothes horse,” I said as delicately as possible. “So, for example, just pack two quarter zips instead of six—”

“You worry about packing YOUR bag, and I’ll worry about MINE,” he sternly interrupted.

Although we are empty nesters, our young adult children will be flying from their respective areas to meet us at the rental house in North Carolina, in addition to my mother and our daughter’s very tall boyfriend. The complicated logistics asks a lot of our mid-sized SUV, which will need to carry five people and their luggage to the airport on the final day.

Years ago, when Francis was active duty Navy, he packed efficiently for TDYs, deployments and other trips. But when he retired after 28 years in the service to take a corporate job, his eyes opened to a whole new wardrobe.

Leader of the pack

Gone were the days of wearing the same uniforms every day. Suddenly, the empty spaces on his side of the closet had potential. His eyes sparkled when clothing catalogues arrived in the mail. He disappeared on Saturday afternoons, sneaking home with shopping bags containing new suits, fancy brand-embazoned shirts, and leisure wear.

With his uniforms tucked away in a wardrobe in our attic, my military retired husband developed a particular penchant for comfortable shoes, specifically Sketchers. When a Sketchers store opened at a nearby strip mall, Francis visited regularly, coming home with two boxes at a time. “They were having a BOGO sale,” he’d say if I gave him an accusing look.

Francis also took a liking to quarter-zip pullovers made of various materials (wool for winter, cotton for summer, quick-dry synthetic blends for warmer weather) and embroidered with foo-foo brand insignia (ribbon-tied pigs, sailboats, skipjack fish, polo horses, whales, etc.)

Packages began arriving in the mail regularly. If I happened to find them before Francis intercepted, he’d say sheepishly, “They were having a sale.” Before I knew it, Francis had not only filled his side of our closet, he’d taken over the closet in our son’s old room, too. I often see him gazing lovingly at his new wardrobe and at his own reflection when donning his curated outfits, proud of his new sense of style.

The trips we’ve taken in recent years are very different from those we took during Francis’ Navy years. Like many traditional married couples, I used the larger suit-

case for my clothing, shoes, jewelry and toiletries, and he happily took the smaller one for his simple yet manly belongings.

But nowadays, Francis needs the big suitcase. Alternatively, he packs his overflow items in my bag. Once, checking in for a flight to Florida, my bag came in overweight on the airline’s scale. While we opened it to remove a few items, Francis put on a big show for the male counter agent, rolling his eyes and tsk-ing as if to say, “Women always overpack, right?!”

Little did the agent know, my bag contained Francis’ dress shoes, a full suit and shirt on a wooden hanger, a belt, two bathing suits, flip flops, a package of flushable wipes, and his C-Pap machine.

Although the cost of Francis’ new clothing acquisitions sometimes worries me (I’ve always been a thrift and clearance shopper) I can’t protest too much, because I have my own overpacking tendencies.

In fact, even if Francis and I manage to successfully pack our clothing into two carry on bags, I’ll still need trunk room for items I deem absolutely essential for our family vacation — coolers, coozies, Bananagrams, Scrabble, Monopoly, Boggle, poker chips, cards, crafting supplies, jigsaw puzzles, beach towels, sunscreen, paddle ball, bocce ball, snorkel sets, flippers, beach chairs, and a vast array of snacks, drinks, and a bunch of miscellaneous stuff I haven’t even thought of yet.

I don’t consider this to be overpacking, as long as we leave our worries behind.

Veterans News



HERO’S WELCOME A Soldier greets a veteran as a group of World War II veterans arrive on a tarmac in Normandy, France, June 1, 2025, for the 81st anniversary of the D-Day invasion, which was June 6. Members of the 1st Army, the organization that led all American forces on D-Day, welcomed the veterans. U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Aimee Nordin



MILCONVA releases \$149.7 billion appropriation bill

FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION - Department of Veterans Affairs released the \$149.7 billion discretionary budget in the FY 2026 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, a 1.8 percent increase from FY 2025’s \$147.1 billion.

Key allocations include \$74.2 billion for medical services, \$33.8 billion for community care (up 11.2 percent from \$30.4 billion), \$10.7 billion for medical facilities, \$6.6 billion for information technology (including \$900 million for Electronic Health Record Modernization), and \$3.2 billion for benefits administration. Construction receives \$2.4 billion, with \$1.6 billion for major projects and \$800 million for minor upgrades, while \$480 million supports national cemeteries and \$470 million funds administration. There’s a \$135.8 billion in advance appropriations for FY 2027, ensuring stable benefits.

The funding increase offers significant benefits, particularly the \$3.4 billion boost to community care, which enhances access to private providers, reducing wait times and aiding rural veterans. The \$74.2 billion for medical services supports critical mental health and telehealth programs, vital given the approximately 17 daily veteran suicides. The \$135.8 billion advance appropriation (up 4.4 percent from FY 2026’s \$130.1 billion) secures disability and education benefits, protecting veterans from budget disruptions.

Real-term deficits and policy restrictions raise

concerns with veterans groups. Adjusted for 2.5 percent inflation, medical services face a \$0.7 billion shortfall, benefits administration a \$0.2 billion deficit, and construction a \$0.2 billion gap compared to FY 2025, potentially straining healthcare and claims processing. A prohibition on reporting veterans to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System without judicial review protects Second Amendment rights but may complicate suicide prevention.

The FRA, mindful of proposed 83,000 job cuts, notes the \$345 million bonus cap could impact staffing, risking service delays.

Community care’s increase benefits rural veterans and those needing specialty care, but deficits in medical services and benefits administration may lead to longer wait times. The Veterans Affairs Servicing Purchase program’s closure, unaddressed in the bill, threatens housing stability for about 20,000 veterans.

Modernized facilities and EHRM funding promise better care coordination, but past implementation issues highlight the need for oversight. The FRA will advocate for robust staffing and alternative housing solutions, ensuring veterans receive timely, high-quality services aligned with funding increases.

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8	1	2	7	8	9	6	2	9
6	7	9	2	8	2	9	8	1

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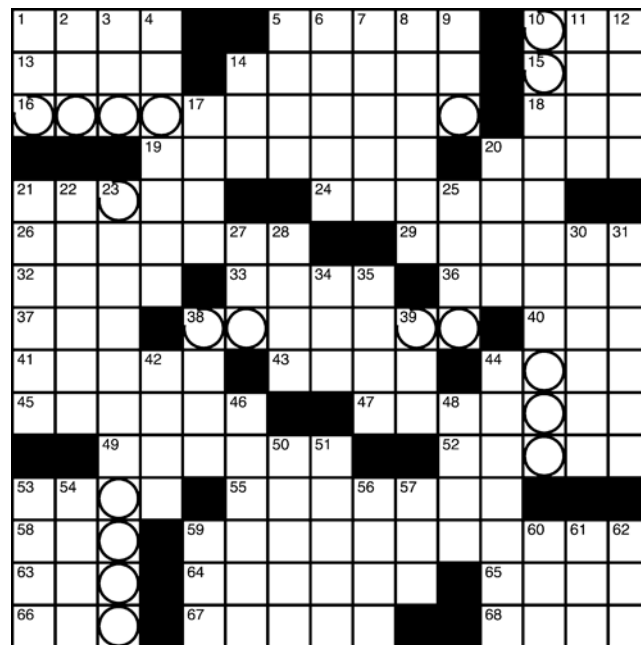
Across

1 Gives up the single life
5 Christina of "Sleepy Hollow"
10 Physique, briefly
13 Holiday pal
14 Headgear for shading one's face
15 Luau strings
16 Huff and puff
18 Narrow inlet
19 Gland near the larynx
20 Snow glider
21 Bollywood's country
24 "Jeopardy!" material
26 Seed in some sauerkraut
29 Brass band sound
32 List-ending abbr.
33 Ellipsis trio
36 Cotton thread
37 Programming glitch
38 Lawn area where rainwater collects
40 Jurisprudence org.
41 "Mad TV" alum Lange
43 Installed, as carpet
44 Taiwanese laptop giant
45 Lou portrayed in "The Pride of the Yankees"
47 Do-it-yourself diagnostic tool
49 Rolled in the aisles
52 Spur-of-the-moment
53 Animator's output

55 Egyptian or Ethiopian
58 Letters in an academic address
59 Divvy up poker hand winnings, and a hint to this puzzle's circled letters
63 Fix, as a fight
64 Norelco product
65 New Balance rival
66 Slangy word of indifference
67 Fall bloomer
68 Cubicle fixture

Down

1 Organic flytrap
2 Piece of corn
3 Dr. with Grammys
4 Like some relations
5 One with regrets
6 ___ water: facing trouble
7 Waiting room seat
8 Aerobic regimen, casually
9 "___ be an honor"
10 Bags for potatoes, say
11 "The Grapes of Wrath" figure
12 Like a useless battery
14 Not prone to mingling
17 Defrost
20 ___ Valley: Reagan Library site
21 Sprain soother
22 The great outdoors
23 Subject to, as the proverbial mud
25 Chevy needing recharging
27 Commotion
28 Cry of distress
30 Even if
31 Robust
34 PreCheck org.
35 Hot rod?
38 "Star Wars" twin sister
39 Thomas Gray's "The Bard," e.g.
42 Resolve, with "out"
44 Finally finished
46 Sales reports diagrams
48 Ousted Iranian ruler
50 D-sharp equivalent
51 Take the wheel
53 Political stretch
54 Yellow comics dog
56 Road in old Rome
57 NFL snapper
59 Org. funded by FICA
60 Traditional March 14 dessert
61 Thumbs-ups
62 Shatner's "___ War"



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MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Camp J.H. Pendleton O'side Det 21
760-271-7369
Meeting monthly, 3rd Thursday @ 6pm
Veterans Association of North County
1617 Mission Ave. Oceanside 92058

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Visit our military museums

The Veterans Museum at Balboa Park. The Veterans Museum and Memorial Center is a museum located in historic Balboa Park of San Diego, California. Founded in 1989, it is dedicated to create, maintain, and operate an institution to honor and perpetuate the memories of all men and women who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States of America. <http://www.veteranmuseum.org/>

Active duty military, Museum Member, Children under 12: Free

Veterans/Seniors: \$4 • Adults: \$5 • Student ID: \$2

2115 Park Blvd, San Diego (Balboa Park) • (619) 239-2300

Hours: Call for current hours (619) 239-2300

MCRD Command Museum & Historical Society. Museum focusing on Marine Corps history from the 19th century to today is also a research library. <https://www.mcrdmuseum.org/>

Free admission • The Pass and ID Center may issue day passes to visitors who wish to visit the museum and do not possess military ID-call (619) 524-4200 for information on base access.

1600 Hochmuth Ave, San Diego, 92140 • (619) 524-4426.

Hours: Mon 8am-3pm, Tue-Fri 8-4; Family day 8-5:45; Sat 10:30-5, • Closed Sunday

USS Midway Museum. The USS Midway Museum is a maritime museum located in downtown San Diego at Navy Pier. The museum consists of the aircraft carrier Midway. The ship houses an extensive collection of aircraft, many of which were built in So Cal.

FREE for children 3 & under and Active Duty military including reservists (w/valid ID). Adult \$39 (ages 13+). Youth \$26 (ages 4-12). Veterans (w/ID) \$26*Must show ID at entrance. Open daily 10-5, last admission 4pm. <https://www.midway.org/>

The Ranch House Complex at Camp Pendleton. Listed as the Santa Margarita Ranch House Nat'l Historic Site and as a California State Historical Landmark. Docent-led tours are available by appointment; masks required. Please email your request to: MCBCAMPEN_history@usmc.mil or phone (760)725-5758 The Camp Pendleton Historical Society is a 501(c)3 organization in support of the base's History and Museum's programs. Go to: www.camppendletonhistoricalsociety.org/ for information. Hours: Open daily 10am-5pm • Last admission at 4pm

Marine Corps Mechanized Museum Camp Pendleton. Managed under the auspices of Camp Pendleton's Museum Division Office, the collection of over 50 vehicles ranges from World War I to the first Gulf War. It includes Patton tanks, armored wheeled and tracked vehicles, trucks, jeeps and amphibious vehicles. When coming aboard Camp Pendleton, please ensure that you have a valid photo ID for every vehicle occupant along with current registration and proof of insurance. <https://www.themech.org/>

24194 Vandegrift Blvd, Oceanside, CA 92058. (760) 725-5758

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87°

Asphalt Temp
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135°
143°



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Paws will get burned.
TIP: If it's too hot for your bare feet it is too hot for theirs!

MOVIES AT THE BASES

MOVIE SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE SO
PLEASE CHECK THE WEB SITE DAY-OF TO MAKE SURE
THE TITLE AND TIME ARE STILL CORRECT...

<https://sandiego.navylifefsw.com/> select movies at dropdown menu on left

<https://miramar.usmc-mccs.org/dining-entertainment/movies>

<https://pendleton.usmc-mccs.org/dining-entertainment/theater>

NBSD and Lowry Theater Policy

- Outside food and beverage are NOT permitted: Sales from the snack bar support the movie program.
- These Theaters are cashless facilities. Debit and credit cards accepted only.

- Premium Offerings
- Audiovisual assistive equipment available to customers at the front counter.
- Handicap seats and child booster seats are available.

Movie Rating System

- G – General audiences ALL ages admitted.



PG – Parental guidance suggested some material may not be suitable for children.

PG-13 – Parents strongly cautioned some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

R – Restricted under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

NC-17 – No one 17 or under admitted.

ROY'S SUDOKU

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

Things to do & Fourth of July Celebrations

OUT & ABOUT

Balboa Park Twilight Concerts, June 17-August 28. For more than 39 years, Twilight's live music under the stars at Spreckles Organ Pavilion has been delighting visitors. Performances every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. <https://balboapark.org/twilight-concerts/>
Encinitas Cruise Night, June 19, 5:30-&:30pm. Downtown Encinitas, south Coast Hwy 101. www.encinitas101.com

SD International Boat Show, June 19-22. Celebration of all things nautical. www.sdiibs.com

Annual Switchfoot BRO-AM, June 21, 7am-5pm at Moonlight Beach, Encinitas. Dedicated to giving back to the community for over a decade. Join 15,000+ beach lovers for a free, all ages, family friendly, community giving event. Enjoy a whole day of surf contests, live concerts on the beach with Grammy award-winning rock band Switchfoot, delicious food and drinks, vendor booths, green initiatives, and more. www.broam.org

Oceanside Juneteenth Celebration, June 21, 10am-5pm, Pier View Way & Freeman Street. Please join us in celebrating the 157th year of liberation and emancipation. Highlights of this year's event promote the importance of education, contributions, and achievement. Featuring performances, kids' zone, educational and community info outreach, free health screenings, vaccine station, local artists and musicians, and food/beverage vendors. www.oceansidechamber.com

Smooth Jazz Festival, June 21-22. Soothing sounds of smooth jazz, delicious food and amazing atmosphere creates unparalleled experience at Rady Shell. www.sandiegosmoothjazzfestival.com

Scoop Ice Cream Festival, June 22. Featuring ice cream and gelato vendors. Benefits non-profits supporting under-served San Diego communities. www.scoopsandiego.org

OB Street Fair and Chili Cook-Off, June 28. Oceanfront chili cook-off, live stages with continuous live music and entertainment, a community mural project, artists alley, carnival rides and games, food and vendor gooths, beach-side beer garden and more! www.oceanbeachsandiego.com

Annual Over The Line Tournament, July 12-13 & 19-20 The Old Mission Beach Athletic Club (OMBAC) is calling all players, beachgoers, and sports enthusiasts to the biggest summer event in San Diego! The Annual World Championship Over-the-Line (OTL) Tournament will take place on Fiesta Island on Mission Bay. Over 1,000 teams will hit the sand at sunrise on Saturday morning, July 12, with their bats, balls and most creative team names to kick-off 69 years of San Diego tradition.<https://www.ombac.org/over-the-line/>

Oceanside Independence Day Parade, June 28, 10-noon. Moves north on Coast Highway from Wisconsin Ave to Civic Center Dr (just past City Hall). Floats, bands, walking groups, cool cars, and more. Theme this year is "Celebrating our Heritage"



SD County Fair Summer 'Pet-Tacular' coming June 11-July 6

Established in 1880, the San Diego County Fair now welcomes nearly one million guests each summer, making it the county's largest and longest-running annual event. The 2025 Fair will open June 11 through July 6, closed Mondays and Tuesdays, for a 20-day season. This year's theme celebrates pets and pet ownership—"Summer Pet-tacular!" The fair is cashless so bring a credit or debit card. There are cash to credit card machines available for a fee. Save money on admission by purchasing tickets in advance online. For more information, visit sdfair.com

This year's Fair will once again feature festivals each weekend that bring rich cultural, musical and social information and entertainment to fairgoers through dance, music, and more. Here is the full schedule of festivals:

- June 14: Asian Pacific Islander (Paddock)
- June 21: Native American Heritage Day (Arena)
- June 21: Out at the Fair (Paddock)
- June 28: Gospel Music Day at the Fair (Paddock)
- July 5: K-Pop Festival (Paddock)
- July 5: Bluegrass Music Day at the Fair (Avenue)

Concerts at the Fair

Jun 13 : Maxwell
Jun 13 : Jesse Royal
Jun 14 : Zedd
Jun 14 : 9 to the 9th
Jun 14 : 24K Magic
Jun 15 : Los Tigres Del Norte
Jun 15 : Sure Fire Soul Ensemble
Jun 18 : Jordan Davis
Jun 18 : That Arena Rock Show
Jun 19 : Xscape
Jun 19 : No Duh
Jun 20 : 2 Chainz and Lil John
Jun 20 : Jake Shimabukuro
Jun 21 : Sammy Johnson
Jun 21 : Matthew Phillips
Jun 22 : Banda MS
Jun 22 : The Evolution Of Pop
Jun 25 : Chelsea Cutler and Quinn XCII
Jun 25 : The Long Run

Jun 26 : Yeah Yeah Yeahs
Jun 26 : Jared Rogerson
Jun 27 : Jon Pardi
Jun 27 : The Expendables
Jun 28 : Jessie Murph
Jun 28 : Forever Ray
Jun 29 : Banda El Recodo
Jun 29 : Dead Man's Party
Jul 2 : Third Eye Blind
Jul 2 : Michael Minelli
Jul 3 : The Como La Flor Band
Jul 5 : Ziggy Marley
Jul 5 : Long Beach Dub Allstars
Jul 6 : Los Tucanes De Tijuana
Jul 6 : Devotional



INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

FOR AUTHORIZED BASE PATRONS AND GUESTS

Naval Base Point Loma presents Freedom Fest 2025, Friday July 4th, Harbor Drive Annex, 3-9pm. Open to authorized base patrons and their guests. Bayfront fun and fireworks. Celebrate the spirit of freedom and pay tribute to those who have served our nation. Family Fun Zone • Kids' Activities • Reserved Seating • VIP Experience • Food and Beverages For Purchase • Bags Tournament • Doubles Pickleball Tournament • Fireworks. Access is limited to pedestrians only unless you purchase the VIP Experience with parking. Parking will be available at NTC Branch Clinic and public parking lots in the area. Shade structures must be weighted. Pets, glass containers, bicycles, scooters, and fireworks (including sparklers) are not permitted. **Looking to Tailgate? Call 619-524-6498 to register.** Bring your own BBQ grill and enjoy the day with your family and friends in the comfort of your own designated area. Arrival time: 11am. Must be checked in and parked by 2pm. Departure time: 9:30pm. Three different sizes available: Standard: \$80 | Premium: \$100 | Elite: \$125. Spaces are limited and registration is first come, first served.

Camp Pendleton Annual Fourth of July Beach Bash, Friday, July 4, 6am-10pm. MCCC hosts family fun at the beach including food trucks, carnival games vendors and more. Del Mar Beach on base.

EVENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Dates & times subject to change. Please check venue websites/verify!

Saturday, June 28

Oceanside Independence Day Parade on Coast Highway 101 between Wisconsin Street and Civic Center Drive, begins 10am, Oceanside www.mainstreetoceanside.com

Perris Auto Speedway, June 28, Night of Destruction w/fireworks \$12-\$33

Thursday, July 3

Oceanside Independence Day Fireworks Show 9pm. SoCal Soccer Complex at El Corazon. Gates open at 4pm with family-friendly activities, food trucks, and live entertainment. www.oceansiderec.com

Mira Mesa Independence Day Celebration. Community picnic at Hourglass Park from 4-9:30pm Food trucks. Fireworks set off from Wangenheim Middle School 9pm. www.miramesatowncouncil.org/fourth-of-july/

4th of July Fireworks Celebration at SeaWorld, San Diego. 9pm
Fireworks Spectacular at Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base. Gates open at 4pm. Fireworks at 9pm. Food court, vendors, music, beer garden. Adults must have state/federal issued ID to enter (drivers must show valid drivers license at gate. Vehicles may be subject to random inspections. Minors must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. No pets. No outside alcohol. No pedestrians, walkers or bicycles at the gate. Enter through Lexington or Orangewood Gates.

Friday, July 4

Big Bay Boom on San Diego Bay at 9pm. About 18 minutes of some of the most technically advanced fireworks. 4 barge locations of pyrotechnics choreographed to music broadcast on 101.5 KGB radio. Largest annual event in the western U.S. with over 500,000 people viewing the show from Point Loma to Shelter Island to Harbor Island to Liberty Station to Little Italy to the North Embarcadero to Seaport Village and the South Embarcadero to Coronado Ferry Landing. www.bigbayboom.com
Chula Vista 4th Fest fireworks celebration at Chula Vista Elite Athlete Training Center. Bring your own blankets, chairs. Food available for purchase. Gates open 7pm-Fireworks 9pm. No alcohol, smoking, drones, animals, tents, umbrellas, or skateboards allowed.

Fourth of July Fireworks at San Diego County Fair in Del Mar, 9pm. www.sdfair.com

Coronado Fourth of July, 75th Annual Independence Day Parade on Orange Avenue at 10am bring your chairs!; patriotic concert at Spreckels Park, 4pm; and fireworks at Coronado Golf Course, 9pm. Coronado Island www.coronadofourthofjuly.com

Fourth of July Fireworks at Park Hyatt Aviara Resort, Carlsbad, 9pm, view from golf course. \$ www.parkhyattaviara.com

Red, White, and Boom at Legoland California Resort in Carlsbad. Fireworks 8:30pm \$ www.legoland.com

Coronado Fourth of July – 75th Annual Independence Day Parade on Orange Avenue at 10am; patriotic concert at Spreckels Park, 4pm; and



2024 photo by Jason Ragucci or Brian Bird Fort Liberty Garrison Public Affairs Office

fireworks at Coronado Golf Course, 9pm. Coronado Island www.coronadofourthofjuly.com

Del Mar Community Fourth of July Parade along Coast Boulevard near Powerhouse Park. www.delmarfoundation.org

Escondido's 59th Annual Independence Day Festival at Grape Day Park, 4-10pm . Live music, food trucks, vendors, games. Fireworks 9:05pm

Imperial Beach Independence Day Fireworks at Pier Plaza, 9pm.

National City Fourth of July Carnival at Kimball Park, July 1-6. Games, rides, food/drink for sale, music, contests. Jul 2&3: 5-11pm; July 4-6, 1-11pm This event has **Fireworks on JULY 5**, 9pm. South Bay's only inland fireworks display.

Old Town 4th of July, 11am-3pm, Old Town State Historic Park. No fireworks.

Old Fashioned Fourth of July at Old Poway Park, 10am-4pm. www.poway.org

Poway Fourth of July Ceremony at Veterans Park, 11am. Join VFW Post 7907 and the Poway Veterans Park Committee for a ceremony to honor those who are and have selflessly served our country. www.poway.org
Poway High School Fourth of July Celebration & Fireworks, games, activities, and a DJ. Arrive early for HS parking which is free for residents & active duty military w/ID, \$10 for non-residents. 6pm. Fireworks at 9pm. www.poway.org Fireworks will also be set off over Poway Sportsplex (12349 McIvers Court). It will not be open to view the fireworks.

Rancho Bernardo The Spirit of the Fourth Independence Day Celebration. Starts 9am at RB High School. 56th Annual Fair, parade, concert, fireworks www.spiritofthefourth.org

San Diego: Fireworks Viewing aboard USS Midway 910 N Harbor Dr, San Diego. \$ (Free viewing is available around the bay.)

4th of July Fireworks Celebration at SeaWorld, San Diego. 9pm

Santee Salutes Fourth of July Celebration at 550 Park Center Drive, Santee, 2-10pm. Food trucks, vendors, music, etc. Fireworks at 9pm. www.cityofsanteeca.gov

Scripps Ranch Old Pros Fourth of July Run and Ride at Miramar Lake. www.srop.org

Red, White, and Boom Celebration at Bradley Park, 6pm. San Marcos Fireworks at 9pm. www.san-marcos.net

Vista Independence Day Celebration, Brengle Terrace Park opens at 7 am, or Moonlight Amphitheatre, 5-10pm, Fireworks 9pm.

SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY

San Clemente Independence Day Fireworks Show 12pm-12am 622 Avenida Del Mar, San Clemente

Celebration and Carnival, live music all day at San Juan Capistrano Sports Park, Capistrano

Fireworks at Doheny State Beach at 25300 Dana Point Harbor Drive, Dana Point

Fireworks Show at Ronald Reagan Sports Park, Temecula

Fireworks Spectacular at Pechanga Casino, Temecula

Fireworks at Disneyland in Anaheim (nightly) \$

Knott's Berry Farm 4th of July Celebration \$ 9:30, Buena Park



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