

## On Base

### Spring Fling:

March 23 at 11 a.m. at the Community Recreation Complex (next to Rudders). Easter egg hunt, hot air balloon rides and much more  
-- See page 5 for more info

### Women's History Month Program:

March 28 at 10:30 a.m. at Navy Reserve Center Meridian. Special Guest Air Force Loadmaster Baylee Beightol.  
-- See page 2 for more info

### Easter Services:

At the NAS Meridian Chapel, 211 Fuller Road. Call 601-679-3635 for information.

### Good Friday Service:

March 29 at 10:30 a.m.

### Easter Service:

March 31 at 9 a.m.

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SCAN for City of Meridian App



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## US Navy Blue Angels coming to our area ... Twice!

From Staff Reports

The US Navy Blue Angels will be in our area twice over the next few weeks.

First, on March 23-24, at the 2024 New Orleans Air Show; then, April 6-7, in Montgomery, Ala. as part of Montgomery Navy Week 2024.

Several members of this year's Blue Angels earned their "Wings of Gold" right here at Training Air Wing One onboard Naval Air Station Meridian; they include: CDR Alexander Armatas, LT James Perkins, LCDR Griffin Stangel and CDR Thomas Zimmerman.

### NEW ORLEANS

The 2024 New Orleans Air Show will begin at 10 a.m. and will end at approximately 4 p.m. Gates will open at 8 a.m. Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans located in Belle Chasse, Louisiana.

Experience some of America's top aviators, both military and civilian, static displays of planes and other military equipment, a "Kids Zone" and more. Parking and admission are free. A photo ID is required for entry for persons ages 18 or older.

Prohibited items at the air show: Drones, backpacks, bags (except small purses and diaper bags), coolers, non-service pets, weapons of any kind, illegal drugs to include, but not limited to marijuana and CBD products. NAS JRB New Orleans is a Federal Installation not subject to State Law.

● Blue Angels, page 2



US Navy photo

US Navy Blue Angels

New Orleans Air Show  
For more, click here

Montgomery Navy Week  
For more, click here

## Navy sending Sailors and ships to help build Gaza aid pier

By Diana Stancy  
Military Times

Navy cargo ships Roy P. Benavidez, 2nd Lt. John P. Bobo, and 1st Lt. Baldomero Lopez are poised to head to the eastern Mediterranean Sea with more than 250 sailors to help build a humanitarian aid pier off the Gaza Strip, Navy officials confirmed Wednesday.

Sailors will join at least five Army vessels taking part in the plan that the Pentagon says will use the Joint Logistics Over-The-Shore, or JLOTS, capability to construct a floating dock-like staging point, as well as a pier extending to land, for the delivery of humanitarian aid to Palestinians, according to Navy officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Roughly 260 sailors from Naval Beach Group 1 will set up a 72-foot-wide by 270-foot-long floating dock three miles off Gaza.

They will also operate the causeway ferries connected to the pier, and will offload cargo into trucks that will deliver aid to Gaza, Navy officials said.

The Benavidez will carry Army equipment to the region, while the Bobo and the Lopez will transport Navy assets.

A logistics pad will exist on the beach, but Navy officials reiterated that no U.S. personnel will operate on the ground in Gaza, and that the Bobo and the Lopez will remain on station with sailors for the duration of the mission.

● Pier, page 2



US Army photo

The Navy is sending hundreds of Sailors and multiple ships to help construct a humanitarian aid pier off the Gaza Strip. Soldiers are shown here building such a causeway off the coast of Australia in 2023.

## Costs, wait times up for military families after pharmacy cyberattack

By Karen Jowers  
Military Times

Military pharmacies are affected by the Change Healthcare outage prompted by a cyberattack, but they're still able to fill prescriptions.

Some military families may have been forced to pay the full cost of their prescriptions up front — a financial burden that can total thousands of dollars — at some of Tricare's in-network retail pharmacies in the wake of a cyberattack on Change Healthcare, the nation's largest commercial prescription processor.

Meanwhile, military pharmacies are still struggling to return to normal operations



nearly a month after the Feb. 21 hack began disrupting regular operations at thousands of pharmacies around the world. Change Healthcare disconnected its systems from other parts of the medical ecosystem in an attempt to limit the attack's

impact.

Most retail pharmacies have restarted filling and refilling patients' prescriptions after much of Change Healthcare's network regained function March 8, according to officials from Optum, the UnitedHealth Group subsidiary that oversees Change Healthcare. That includes successfully verifying that a customer's insurance will help cover the cost of each medication.

Not so for military pharmacies.

"Change Healthcare is still working with Defense Health Agency officials to reestablish the connection with military pharmacies," a company spokesperson told Military Times on Wednesday.

Defense Health Agency spokesman Peter Graves confirmed that on-base pharmacies have not returned to normal and are still manually processing prescriptions.

For now, that means customers will continue to see longer wait times at military pharmacies.

"Military pharmacies will give priority to urgent prescriptions, followed by routine prescriptions," Graves said in an email to Military Times. "Each military hospital and clinic will continue to offer pharmacy operations based on their local manning and resources. Please be patient while pharmacies take longer than usual to safely fill prescription needs."

Read more, click here

# Five aviators earn 'Wings of Gold' in March pinning ceremony

There was a naval aviator designation ceremony March 8 onboard Naval Air Station Meridian.

Five aviators received their "Wings of Gold" during the ceremony. The naval aviator designation ceremony is not prescribed specifically by U.S. Navy regulations, but has emerged as an honored product of the rich heritage of naval tradition. It marks the culmination of nearly two years of specialized training, which has prepared these officers for the rigorous demands of aerial combat and carrier operations -- earning each the title of "Naval Aviator" and the right to wear the coveted "Wings of Gold."



LTJG Zachary Belacic



LT Ryle Cannon



Capt. Taylor Kreis



ENS Lucas Manikoski



ENS Francois Riviere

## ● Blue Angels MONTGOMERY

Montgomery Navy Week will bring between 50 and 75 Sailors from across the nation to volunteer throughout the community and discuss why the Navy matters to Montgomery. This will be the first Navy Week hosted by Montgomery and the surrounding communities from April 1-7.

The U.S. Navy's Blue Angels Flight Demonstration Team will perform at the Beyond the Horizon Air and Space Show at Maxwell Air Force Base on April 6-7.

### Montgomery Navy Week will feature in-person demonstrations, performances, and engagements throughout the week that will include:

- Senior Navy Leaders – Flag officer and senior civilian Navy leaders with ties to Montgomery and the surrounding area.
- Namesake Sailors – Sailors serving on USS Alabama (SSBN-731), an Ohio-class nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine and USS Montgomery (LCS-8), an Independence-class littoral combat ship.
- Navy Southeast Band - Performances and masterclasses with musicians.
- Naval History and Heritage Command – Educational presentations and lesson plans about the deep ties between Alabama and the Navy.
- USS Constitution – Demonstrations about the oldest commissioned ship in the Navy.
- Navy Expeditionary Combat Command – Educational STEM presentations and fitness demonstrations by technicians, medics, and divers.
- U.S. Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command – Educational presentation on the importance of atmospheric and oceanographic science and the overall value of STEM education to the Navy.

Navy Weeks are the service's signature outreach program, designed to allow the citizens of Montgomery to learn about the Navy, its people, and its importance to national security and prosperity.

"We are thrilled to bring the Navy to Montgomery," said NAVCO's director, CDR Anthony Falvo. "Though our Navy is deployed around-the-world and around-the-clock, the Navy Week program allows us to showcase our Navy in places that don't enjoy an everyday naval presence. Most importantly it affords us the opportunity to highlight our most important asset – the highly skilled men and women of the United States Navy who ensure our warfighting advantage to preserve our American way of life."

Since 2005, the Navy Week program has served as the Navy's flagship outreach effort to regions without a significant Navy presence, with over 300 Navy Weeks held in more than 95 different U.S. markets. Each year, the program reaches more than 150 million people -- about half the U.S. population.

*"Lean on Us" Association*



## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

*Program*

**With Special Guest**

*Baylee Beightol*

*Miss New South*

*Competing in Miss Mississippi June 2024*

*Active Duty Air Force*

*Loadmaster with the*

*815th Airlift Squadron,*

*Keesler Air Force Base*



*Navy Reserve Center Meridian ~ 28 March ~ 1030*

## Golden Stick



**Roger Burke, representative of the Mississippi Council of the Navy League, left, presents ENS Lucas Manikoski with the Golden Stick award during a winging ceremony in the Chapel onboard NAS Meridian, March 8. The Golden Stick is awarded to the student with the highest composite score during training.**

Photo by Adam Prince

## ● Pier

Of the 260 sailors partaking in the mission, the majority are boatswain's mates who will build the discharge facility, Navy officials said.

Some Seabees will also participate in the mission as equipment operators, and a handful of corpsmen and quartermasters will also be on station.

Navy officials said the ships have not yet departed for the mission, and they did not provide a timeline for when they expect their role in the mission to conclude.

Navy officials also noted that the JLOTS mission is Army-led, and the Navy is there to help erect the pier under Army command. The Army's 7th Transportation Brigade from Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia is spearheading the initiative.

Army logistical support vessels Monterrey, Amoros, Wilson Wharf, James A. Loux, and Gen. Frank A. Besson, Jr. departed earlier this month to support building the pier.

"Our capabilities mesh well, and we have already coordinated at the tactical level how we will implement the movement of cargo," a Navy official said. "This is a routine mission for us, and we're just falling in together in step to conduct this mission."

The Army and the Navy will utilize the same structure they did during exercises like Exercise Talisman Sabre last year – a joint exercise between the U.S. and Australia where the 7th Transportation Brigade and Naval Beach Group 1 teamed up to establish a discharge facility and causeway.

According to Air Force Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder, the pier is part of a larger, international effort to provide aid to Gaza and that the pier will be operational in less than two months.

"We expect the pier to be fully operational in approximately 60 days, which will be able to facilitate the delivery of up to 2 million meals daily," Ryder told reporters earlier this month.

It remains unclear how the U.S. military will protect American service members, the offshore staging area and the causeway itself from attacks by the Palestinian militant group Hamas, though Ryder said earlier this month that Israel is part of the planning process and could provide security through its own forces.

"If Hamas truly does care about the Palestinian people, then again, one would hope that this international mission to deliver aid to people who need it would be able to happen and unhindered," Ryder said.

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

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# Local Happenings

## MARCH

**21-23: "Murder On the Menu"** at Meridian Little Theatre. Three course meal and hilarious interactive play. Tickets are \$60 or \$55 with military discount and can be purchased online at <http://www.meridianlittletheatre.com> or by calling the theatre at 601-482-6371.

**30: Bunnies & Butterflies** from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Mississippi Children's Museum – Meridian. Hop into our fantastical backyard to interact with real bunnies, learn about the life cycle of butterflies, and discover how to plant a garden of your own. Visit <https://mschildrensmuseum.org/event/bunnies-butterflies-4/>

## APRIL

**6: Maker Faire Meridian** from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Soule Steam Feed Works. Maker Faire Meridian is a family-friendly event that gives everyone an opportunity for conversations with Makers — crafters, educators, tinkerers, hobbyists, engineers, science clubs, authors, artists, students, inventors, photographers, tech enthusiasts, and entrepreneurs. Call 601-693-9905 or visit <https://www.makerfairemeridian.com>.

**12: Full Moon on 5th** from 6-9 p.m. at 5th Street between 22nd and 23rd Avenues. Join the Arts and Community Events Society for a magical night in Downtown Meridian! String lights and two giant illuminated moons set the mood for a unique block party that you don't want to miss. Call 601-480-6100 or visit <https://www.acesmeridian.org/>.

**20: Kids Fishing Rodeo** from 8-10:30 a.m. at QV Sykes Park. Kids ages 5-17 participate in trying to catch as many catfish as possible with some being tagged for prizes. Call 601-485-1802 or visit [jamescarson@meridianms.org](mailto:jamescarson@meridianms.org).

# Area Happenings

## MARCH

**20: ZZ Top** at 6:30 p.m. at the Brandon Amphitheater, 8190 Rock Way (Off, Boyce Thompson Dr, Brandon, MS. Visit <https://www.brandonamphitheater.com/events/>

**21-24: Louisiana Crawfish Festival 2024** in New Orleans. Shrimp boats and oyster luggers fishing at bayous are part of Louisiana's heritage. For information, visit <https://rove.me/to/new-orleans/louisiana-crawfish-festival>

## Senators eye pay boost for junior troops, more funds for housing fixes

A key Senate leader is pushing to pass targeted pay raises for junior enlisted troops this year but warned that budget caps on military appropriations for next fiscal year may complicate the plans.

Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Jack Reed, D-R.I., said he also hopes to find ways to fund wide-ranging barracks improvement projects and other quality of life changes in coming months.

"I hope we can do it, because it provides real incentives and it will help respond to the issue of retention and recruitment that we have seen," Reed said. "It reflects the respect and regard we have for our forces. We can praise them, as we do, but it helps to pay them well

too."

The comments from Reed during a meeting with reporters on Monday echo goals already outlined by House leadership to find ways to improve quality of life for younger service members and their families. But whether the two chambers can adopt such a plan will depend on spending debates in coming months.

Last week, the White House unveiled plans for a 4.5% pay raise for all troops next January as part of its fiscal 2025 Defense Department budget request. That target would be slightly below the 5.2% raise service members saw this past January but would still mark the third consecutive year of raises above 4% for military personnel.

— By Leo Shane III

[Read more, click here](#)

## CNO travels to Arctic for Operation Ice Camp

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Lisa Franchetti traveled to the Arctic Ocean to attend Operation Ice Camp (ICE CAMP) 2024 and to visit with crewmembers of a U.S. Navy fast attack submarine, March 17.

Previously known as Ice Exercise (ICEX), the operation's new title better reflects the Department of the Navy's Arctic strategy and its priority to maintain enhanced regional presence.

"Our ability to operate on, under and above Arctic waters ensures this region remains one of low tensions, and prevents competitors from disrupting emerging sea lines of communication

and commerce," said Franchetti. "The Navy will continue to modernize our facilities and platforms, and train personnel to meet the demands of an increasingly accessible Arctic operating environment."

ICE CAMP is a three-week operation, hosted by Commander, U.S. Submarine Forces, in collaboration with the Arctic Submarine Laboratory (ASL), and is designed to research, test, and evaluate operational capabilities in the Arctic region. While visiting, the CNO had the opportunity to speak with Sailors operating in the austere Arctic conditions.

— From US Navy

[Read more, click here](#)

## America ARG completes Exercise Iron Fist

Sailors assigned to the America Amphibious Ready Group (ARG), and Marines assigned to the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, celebrated the completion of the 18th iteration of Exercise Iron Fist, alongside members of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) and Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF), in a ceremony held on the flight deck of the JMSDF Ōsumi-class tank landing ship JS Kunisaki (LST-4003), March 17.

Exercise Iron Fist is an annual bilateral exercise designed to increase interoperability and strengthen the relationships between the U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Navy, the JGSDF, and the

JMSDF.

"Exercises like this present a great opportunity for growth and integration," said Capt. Kelly Fletcher, Commodore of Amphibious Squadron (PHIBRON) 11. "Iron Fist was a success because over the course of the exercise, we have shared best practices, learned from one another, and sharpened our collective swords to improve our ability to conduct combined amphibious operations."

Over the course of the exercise, the America ARG coordinated and executed operations with both the JGSDF and JMSDF to include formation sailing with JMSDF ships ...

— From Lt. Beau Nickerson

[Read more, click here](#)

# Sale... Or

### BOATS/CAMPERS/TRAILERS

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

**2018 Mallard M185 Travel Trailer.** Sleeps 4 with 1 queen bed/2 bunks. Easy to tow at 3,575 lbs; only selling because military member is moving overseas. Great living quarters with lake view. Hooked up and ready to live in, including cables, hoses, plus the \$500 tow-

ing kit. Asking \$17,000. Call 360-434-3035.

### AUTOMOBILES, ETC.

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

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

### HOMES/APARTMENTS

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

Call (601) 517-1707 or (601) 517-1707.

**New! For Rent: 3BD /2BA home near North Hills. Spacious yard, concrete patio for gatherings, home gym and covered car garage. Rent \$1,100 per month. Call Jeremy at 601-410-8555.**

**For Rent: 3 BD/1.5 BA** home 15 minutes from NAS at 4814 36th Ave. New refrigerator and 2-year old AC & furnace. Call Terrance at 469-318-9769.

**For Rent: 3 BD/1.5 BA** with another room used as a gym. All kitchen appliances included. Large backyard. Address 145 Skyland Drive, Meridian.

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

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

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

**For Sale: 3BD/2BA** Home with 2,560 sq. ft.

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

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

### MISCELLANEOUS

**For Sale:** Husqvarna RZ 4623 Zero Turn Mower. 46 inch cut. \$1250. Call 601-616-4242.

**Nanny or caregiver services.** Call Alice at

601-934-1866 or 601-679-8112. Has installation access; can take children to school and pick up and available days, nights and weekends.

**Event Space for Rent:** Deer Creek Banquet Hall. 6000 sq. ft. indoor with 1600 sq. ft. outdoor spaces for rent for gatherings and events. Call Reginald at 251-455-1559.

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

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

# What troops and families need to know about filing taxes in 2024

By **Karen Jowers**  
Military Times

It's that time of year again — tax season. And April 15 is just around the corner.

Military Times spoke with Susan Mitchell, the Defense Department's tax counsel and executive director of the Armed Forces Tax Council, about tips and areas of particular interest to troops and families.

Fortunately, if you're in the military, there's no need to pay a tax preparer or for military-specific tax help. Free tax software is offered through Military OneSource's MILTAX resources, which are attuned to unique military benefits and needs. You can file federal and up to three state tax returns through this software.

In addition, service members and family members have access to military tax consultants with special training in military-specific situations through Military OneSource.

"I always like to advise service members the fastest and most reliable way to file their taxes is electronically, and to choose direct deposit if they're expecting a refund," Mitchell said.

There are 14 installations in the United States running Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) tax centers where you can go to get tax-preparation help in person, according

to the Military OneSource locator. These locations — with Internal Revenue Service-certified volunteers who are also trained in military-specific tax regulations — are open to service members of all branches and, in some cases, to retirees. It's best to call ahead; some require appointments. A limited number of these centers operate overseas, including three in Japan and one in England.

## The Basics:

All Defense Department tax statements, including W-2 statements, are available through the military's myPay site, <https://mypay.dfas.mil/>.

There are longstanding tax filing extensions available for certain service members. While the federal tax filing deadline is April 15 this year, troops stationed outside the United States and Puerto Rico can qualify for an automatic two-month extension until June 15, both for filing and for paying taxes that are due. That extension is designed to help troops who may have trouble getting all the documents they need.

Those overseas who are unable to file by June 15 can request an additional extension to Oct. 15. But remember that any taxes due must be paid by April 15 (or by the June 15 deadline if overseas). If not, you could be subject to both interest charges and a failure-to-pay penalty, Mitch-

ell said.

Tax filing deadlines for service members deployed to combat zones are extended for the period of their service in the combat zone, plus 180 days after their last day in the combat zone.

This year, service members in designated disaster areas should check to see whether filing extensions apply to them, Mitchell said. For example, deadlines are extended for taxpayers affected by severe storms and flooding in San Diego; wildfires in the Spokane, Washington area; and those affected by storms in parts of Michigan, West Virginia, Maine, Rhode Island and Connecticut. Check the IRS page on disaster relief situations for more information.

**Tax brackets:** There are still seven tax rates for 2023, but the income levels have shifted slightly to account for inflation, Mitchell said. There was roughly a 7% increase in the amount of taxable income in each tier, she said, "so hopefully service members won't find themselves paying more taxes than they have previously, with some of these changes due to inflation."

For example, single service members with taxable income ranging from \$44,726 to \$95,375 would be in the 22% tax bracket. Married couples filing jointly with taxable income from \$89,451 to \$190,750 would be in the 22% tax bracket. For more information visit the IRS tax rates page.

[Read more, click here](#)

## Navy Arctic Service Medal announced

By **Diana Stancy**  
Military Times

The Navy is rolling out a Navy Arctic Service Medal this year, serving as an extension of the existing Navy Arctic Service Ribbon.

The creation of the medal comes as the Navy has ramped up operations and exercises in the Arctic in recent years, and as Navy leaders have called for a strong military presence in the region as global warming opens more waters to navigation in the frigid territory.

Those eligible for the medal are enlisted sailors and officers in the Navy and Marine Corps who were assigned to a unit that conducted an ice-covered strait transit, such as the Bering Strait or Barrow Strait, or a unit that conducted a transit of the North Pole, the Navy said in a statement Monday.

Those assigned to a submarine that "conducted a vertical surfacing through ice, including through an arctic polynya, or ice picked against the ice canopy," or a submarine that "conducted at least seven days of classified military operations

while under the marginal ice zone or pack ice," are also eligible, the Navy said.

Likewise, those whose commanding officers determine they were assigned to an ice camp or an operations center set up on an ice floe are also eligible for the medal.

Civilians serving in these units also qualify to receive the medal.

The Navy said to expect distribution no sooner than later this year. The chief of naval operations and the commandant of the Marine Corps will proceed with setting up an administrative process to retroactively grant the Navy Arctic Service Medal.

The Navy first created the Navy Arctic Service Ribbon in 1987 for those who completed 28 days of service in the Arctic Circle after January 1, 1982.

The service released its "Blue Arctic" strategy for the region in 2021, urging the sea service to "operate more assertively" there.

It also cautioned that Russia is reopening old bases in the Arctic and "reinvigorating" regional exercises, which it expects to continue, and warns that China will also bolster its naval activity ...

[Read more, click here](#)

## Momsplaining vs. mansplaining; There's quite a difference

It was one of those rare moments when both of our daughters were home. Anna, 26, was visiting from New York City, and Lilly, 23, was between shifts at the hospital where she worked. While they buzzed around our kitchen making themselves breakfast, I sat at the island, happily tapping at my laptop, pretending our nest had never been empty.

"Dangit, the bananas are spotty already," Lilly grumbled. "Didn't we just buy these?"

"You know, you can put bananas in the refrigerator once they are ripe. The skins might turn brown, but the fruit inside will stop ripening and be preserved a lot longer," I said, looking over my glasses.

"I never knew that," Lilly said, her eyes drifting off as if her mind had suddenly been blown, "wow ... "After a few moments of staring into space, seem-

ingly contemplating her existence in the universe, Lilly snapped back into the moment and continued, "Momsplains are actually helpful. When Dad mansplains, he just gives us information we already know."

"Facts," Anna piped up from her seat at our kitchen island, taking another bite of her avocado and scrambled eggs.

"Mom, you tell us useful stuff like, 'You've gotta separate your darks from your lights, so your laundry colors won't run.' But I could be walking down a street with Dad, and if a woman walked by that was eight months pregnant, he'd look at me and say, 'Hey Lil, that lady's gonna have a baby,'" Lilly said.

"It's so annoying," Anna added.

"Why do dads do it?" Lilly posed the question rhetorically, rolling her eyes then taking a long drag on her smoothie straw.

"Drives me crazy," I said, "especially when we're watching TV. He says stuff like, 'See Hon, that guy's an undercover detective,' and I'm like, 'Really? Do you think I'm a complete idiot?'"

"Yes!" Lilly pointed a finger at me in agreement. "And when he comes home from the grocery, he takes food out of the bag, and tells me what it is, like, 'See Lil, this is a cucumber,'" she said while

comically imitating her father.

We all laughed, but a serious question remained. Why does my husband explain such obvious things to the women in our family? Does he simply like hearing himself elucidate? Or, is the reason more offensive? Does he think that women are less intelligent than men?

The first known use of the term "mansplain" was in 2008 comments on a blog post, although the practice has arguably been around for centuries. In 2018, the term was added to the Oxford English Dictionary, and defined as "Of a man: to explain (something) needlessly, overbearingly, or condescendingly, esp. (typically when addressing a woman) in a manner thought to reveal a patronizing or chauvinistic attitude." In a 2022 study on mansplaining, one scientist proposed a broader definition: "[P]roviding an unsolicited or unwelcome, condescending or persistent, explanation to someone, either questioning their knowledge or assuming they did not know, regardless of the veracity of the explanation. The mansplainer is most typically a man and the recipient is most typically not a man."

Today mansplaining is recognized as a common phenomena, yet there is still disagreement over why men do it.

Some think men have no gender bias or condescending intent, but rather, they hold themselves out as a confident authority, as evidenced by the fact that men in academics cite their own work 70 percent more than women in academics do. Others posit that mansplaining is essentially a microaggression in the context of gender equality. They argue that mansplaining can have serious consequences, especially in the workplace, such as undermined confidence, job dissatisfaction, "gendered incivility" and low productivity.

That morning at breakfast, my daughters never figured out why their dad mansplains. I'd like to believe that my husband knows that his wife and daughters are very intelligent, observant and practical. Yet, at the same time, he thrives on the notion that he's the commander of our family, the one who must bestow his wide breadth of knowledge and experience on his underlings.

Who knows? Maybe we should ask him. Then, he'll really have some 'splaining to do.

Lisa Smith Molinari's self syndicated columns appear on her blog, [www.themeatandpotatoesofflife.com](http://www.themeatandpotatoesofflife.com) and she recently co-authored *Stories Around the Table: Laughter, Wisdom, and Strength in Military Life* Follow [Lisa@MolinariWrites](mailto:Lisa@MolinariWrites.com).

### COLUMN



Molinari



# GUTTER BALL LEAGUE

**REGISTRATION:**  
MARCH 1-27

**LEAGUE BEGINS:**  
APRIL 3-MAY 29  
WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT 1800

*To SIGN UP:*  
SCAN THE QR CODE OR  
CALL (601) 679-2651





**DRIVING RANGE**  
CALL (601) 679-2526



## SPRING Fling

March 23 • 11:00 a.m.  
Community Recreation Complex

There will be an Easter Egg Hunt, Tethered Hot Air Balloon Rides, Hamburgers, Hot dogs, Popcorn, Balloon Animals, Face Painting, and so much more! Everything is free! Just show up and have a blast!

- \*pets are not allowed to attend events
- \*weather may prevent hot air balloon rides
- \*items are available while supplies last

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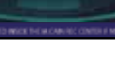



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Drive-In Movie  
March 29th • 1900 • FIELD BY BUILDING 216


**Disney Christopher Robin**

**LIBERTY TRIP TO THE HATTIESBURG ZOO**

MARCH 30TH • 1000

SIGN UP BEGINS MARCH 16 AT LIBERTY'S FRONT DESK. THE VAN WILL DEPART FROM THE LIBERTY CENTER AT 1000. ADMISSION IS \$10. STOPS INCLUDE THE TURTLE CREEK MALL. SPACE IS LIMITED!!




VRMERIDIAN.COM

**TRAINS STORY TIME**

April 3rd • 1000 • Library

COME LEARN ABOUT TRAINS FROM AN OFFICER AT THE RAILROAD MUSEUM!



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**Color Run 5K**

April 4 • 1700 • Liberty Center

5.5K RUNNERS ONLY!  
BE SURE TO BRING WATER AS YOU ARE COVERED IN SECTIONS OF COLOR AS YOU RUN!  
THE TOP FINISHERS WILL RECEIVE A PRIZE!

Scan or call  
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