

Have you
heard?

WRP 4-25-00

Navy destroyer will anchor off Santa Cruz

By DICK LITTLE
REGISTER-PAJARONIAN
CORRESPONDENT

Navy
Ship
Visit

✓ SANTA CRUZ — If you're anywhere near the coastline of Santa Cruz County Thursday afternoon you'll probably see a 528-foot Navy destroyer anchored about a mile west from the Santa Cruz Harbor. Santa Cruz Port District officials said they received word of the ship's visit on Monday.

Don't expect to get tickets to visit the ship, however. The Navy says the ship is docking in local waters for the sole purpose of giving men and women on board shore leave.

The vessel U.S.S. John Young will be docked off the coast for the weekend while the crew takes leave in Santa Cruz. The vessel is scheduled to leave Monday morning.

The ship contains 272 enlisted men, and 24 officers. Those getting leave will be brought to and from the vessel by Inch Cape Vessels of San Francisco, the same group that handled the visit of the U.S.S. Antietam last year.

The destroyer is powered by a pair of diesel engines and the Navy says the ship will be operating under a "no discharge" policy, meaning no petroleum or effluent of any type will be discharged into the Bay.

Officials said the harbor is hosting a big fishing derby this weekend but it can take care of the sailors coming to shore without any disruption of local activities.

Harbor officials say this will not be the only ship to anchor off Santa Cruz this year. The Navy has sent the harbor notice they would like to send a ship to the community during the Memorial Day holiday in late May.