



# FORGING THE

# WARRIOR SPIRIT

## THE JRTC & FORT POLK GUARDIAN

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Home of Heroes @ Fort Polk, LA

Jan. 31, 2020



ANGIE THORNE / GUARDIAN

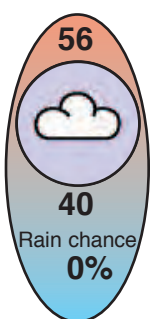


### Building resiliency

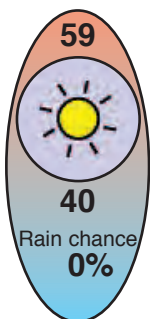
**Above:** Col. (retired) Gregory Gadson speaks about resiliency to Soldiers at the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk's Bayou Theater Jan. 29. For more see story on page 5.

**Left:** Brig. Gen. Patrick D. Frank, commander, JRTC and Fort Polk (right), and members of the JRTC and Fort Polk team join Col. (retired) Gregory Gadson in unveiling of the latest "Forging the Warrior Spirit Anvil" in front of the Warrior Center Jan. 29.

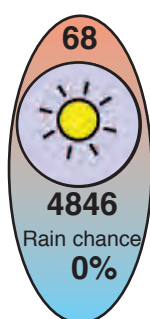
### Weekend weather



Friday



Saturday



Sunday

### Inside the Guardian

Polk people .....	2	Honoring right arms ....	7
MDMP training .....	3	Superbowl time .....	8
Newest Ranger .....	6	Tax tips .....	10



# Viewpoint

## In our view

Guardian staff asked Fort Polk community members, "What are your Super Bowl traditions and who do you think will win the big game?" Here are their responses:

**Tyre Smith:** "Normally we cook some food, eat some wings and have family and friends come over, relax and enjoy the game."

**Prediction:**



**Staff Sgt. Thomas Bolton:** "My traditions include not watching if New Orleans is in it. Every time I watch them, they lose. I don't know if I'm going to watch or not this year."

**Prediction:**



**Pvt. Brice Jones:** "We usually drink (responsibly) and have a lot of food. We get all our friends together and just hang out."

**Prediction:**



**Capt. Aron Sweder:** "My tradition is watching the Patriots win the Super Bowl. The Patriots aren't in it so I'm not going to pick a winner and I won't be watching. Go Patriots!"

**Prediction:**



**Staff Sgt. Cameron Reeves:** "Our SuperBowl tradition involves a lot of food and fun with family and friends. I just got a new 65" TV so I'm looking forward to that."

**Prediction:**



**Spc. Timothy Goolsby:** "I usually head out to my friend's house and watch the game with them. I haven't been keeping up with football this year, but ..."

**Prediction:**



## Guardian

### Editorial Staff

**Brig. Gen. Patrick D. Frank**  
Joint Readiness Training Center  
and Fort Polk commanding general

**Col. Ryan K. Roseberry**  
Garrison commander

**Kim Reischling**  
Public affairs officer

**Chuck Cannon**  
Command information officer

**Angie Thorne**

**T.C. Bradford**

**Keith Houin**  
Staff writers

**Editorial Offices**  
Building 4919, Magnolia Street  
Fort Polk, LA 71459-5060  
Voice (337) 531-4033  
Fax (337) 531-1401

Email: [Kimberly.K.Reischling.civ@mail.mil](mailto:Kimberly.K.Reischling.civ@mail.mil)

Trading post ads:

[tradingpostads@yahoo.com](mailto:tradingpostads@yahoo.com)

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For advertising contact  
Theresa Larue  
(337) 404-7242

Email: [sales@thefortpolkguardian.com](mailto:sales@thefortpolkguardian.com)

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## Briefs

### Abandoned vehicles

The Directorate of Emergency Services Traffic Section will release the following vehicles to a towing company for disposal Saturday (if they remain unclaimed. Vehicles are listed with the last four numbers of their VIN number. If one of these vehicles belongs to you please contact the Fort Polk Police Traffic Section 531-1806/2677.

2008 Kia SPORTAGE	7546
2011 Chevy 1500	4608
2001 Kia RIO	5378
1999 Chevy 1500	5469
2002 Saturn VUE	7797
2009 VW JETTA	0049
2006 Kia OPTIMA	9904
2012 Nissan VERSA	8379
2006 GMC 1500	3847
2008 BMW X5	4757
2003 Toyota COROLLA	0139
2006 Mazda 3	9500
2010 Kawasaki KLR650	9760
1990 Honda CIVIC	1536
1996 Chevy IMPALA	0432
2001 Ford MUSTANG	1007
1999 Honda ACCORD	3691
1990 Honda Civic	1536
2016 Nissan Altima	5322
2008 Pontiac G8	5694
2005 Lincoln LS	0097
2004 Pontiac Grand Prix	1317
2000 Chevy Malibu	5243
2002 Toyota Corolla	6686
2013 Chevy Camaro	1112
1990 Sdow Trailer	3351
2008 Jeep Commander	0690
2005 Chevy Malibu	5875
2000 Chevy S10	6812
2009 BMW 328i	5454

### FPSC grants

The Fort Polk Spouses Club announces the launch of the 2019-2020 Community Grants application period through March 2. The FPSC seeks to promote community interests, support worthy causes and improve the quality of life for Fort Polk and its surrounding communities. Its goal is to support as many needs as possible based on the success of FPSC fundraisers and number of applications received.

You can find the community grants application on their website, [www.fortpolk-spousesclub.wildapricot.org](http://www.fortpolk-spousesclub.wildapricot.org). Please have completed applications postmarked no later than March 2. Mail completed application packets to the address on the form or submitted by email to [FPSCCommunityGrants@gmail.com](mailto:FPSCCommunityGrants@gmail.com). Disbursements will be made in May. For more information contact the Community Grants Chair at [fpsccommunitygrants@gmail.com](mailto:fpsccommunitygrants@gmail.com). Subject: ATTN: Community Grants Eligibility or Application Process.



JEAN CLAVETTE GRAVES / GUARDIAN

From left to right: 2nd Lt. Sebastian Munoz and 2nd Lt. Robert Pizzano, 46th Engineer Battalion S-3 staff officers, use the military decision making process to prepare a decision brief during their command post exercise at the Berry Mission Training Center Jan. 28.

## MTC trains staff to optimize performance

By JEAN CLAVETTE GRAVES

Public affairs specialist

FORT POLK, La. — The U.S. Army has fought and won battles on multiple fronts around the globe for nearly 245 years. It's difficult to imagine the time and effort it takes to plan and execute each mission.

Leaders must weigh options, intelligence and risks when determining the best course of action to achieve their objectives. Most Soldiers are trained to follow orders, focus on individual tasks and carry out the directives of their immediate supervisors. Most take for granted the processes by which those orders and directives are developed.

Army leaders employ three processes for operational planning: The Army design methodology, the military decision making process (MDMP) and troop leading procedures. MDMP is an interactive planning methodology that integrates the activities of the commander, staff, subordinate headquarters and other partners to understand the situation and mission, develop and compare options, decide on a course of action that best accomplishes the mission and produce an operational plan or order for execution.

Learning and understanding MDMP is a seven-step process that guides an organizational staff from receipt of a mission to the publication of and dissemination of orders.

Fort Polk's Berry Mission Training Center (commonly referred to as the MTC) is equipped

to educate and train staff officers and noncommissioned officers across the installation on the Strategic Mission Command Workstation and the Joint Battle Command Platform (JBCP).

Both programs provide dynamic, real time communication in a field environment. These systems share a common interface with command posts, improve collaboration and will increase lethality. Each program requires 40 hours of classroom and hands on instruction.

Once a staff understands how to use the tools, they can take MDMP to learn how to support commanders with effective estimates and decision point preparation resulting in coordinated orders, annexes and support templates.

"The training offered at the MTC is a great first step for new battalion level staffs or higher to go over the deliberate decision making process together," said Paul Horlacher, systems trainer and site manager.

Horlacher, a retired lieutenant colonel and graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College said the training offered at the MTC is an excellent way for units to prepare for large scale exercises.

Each MDMP training event is unique to the unit requesting the training. Some units may need more time on theory, some are ready to write orders. A five day MDMP training is optimal to ensure each organization understands the common operation picture, can delineate and

Please see **Training**, page 6

## Lt. Gen. Douglas Gabram assumes command of IMCOM

By **BRITTANY NELSON**  
IMCOM

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — Lt. Gen. Douglas Gabram assumed command of U.S. Army Installation Management Command Jan. 22 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

Gen. Gus Perna, commanding general of Army Materiel Command, promoted Gabram in a private ceremony prior to the assumption of command.

Gabram assumed command from Maj. Gen. Timothy McGuire who has served as acting commanding general since August 2019.

Perna thanked McGuire for his work as interim commander. McGuire will now return to his role as Deputy Commanding General of IMCOM.

"Major General McGuire, your leadership belongs in a book as an example for all of us," said Perna.

"Over the past five months you have demonstrated personal, moral and physical courage. You are a remarkable leader and it is my honor to serve with you every day."

Perna went on to describe his confidence in Gabram as IMCOM's next commanding general.

"Lieutenant General Gabram is a great Army leader, and IMCOM is a great Army team," said Perna.

"I feel confident that general Gabram will take IMCOM's work to the next level. My one-word piece of advice to him during the passing of the colors was 'press.'"

Perna pointed out the Chief of Staff of the Army's number one priority is people.

"The chief believes that if we take care of Soldiers, Families and civilians, our Army will remain strong for the long term. IMCOM is the quarterback of that solution."

Perna continued, "In his new role, Gabram will lead the organization responsible for the safety, care and morale of more than 1 million Soldiers and their Families. This is one of the Army's most sacred responsibilities."

Speaking directly to the IMCOM workforce, Perna said, "You are the unsung heroes of our Army. Because of you, our Families feel protected and safe as their loved ones deploy to war."



*Lt. Gen. Douglas Gabram (left) assumes command of the Installation Management Command Jan. 22 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.*

Thank you for your professionalism and selfless service."

During Gabram's opportunity to speak, he mentioned the importance of success at home and down range.

"I have been privileged to lead Soldiers in combat many times," he said. "I know that if we fail to get it right at our installations, we could get it wrong in combat, and this will not happen."

He also mentioned he is prepared to take command and support all the command does to help the Army.

"I look forward to taking on our mission of serving and supporting Soldiers, civilians and Families and strengthening the readiness of our Army," said Gabram.

Before assuming command, Gabram was the

director for Test at the Missile Defense Agency at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama. He was responsible for planning, programming, budgeting, staffing and managing a comprehensive Ballistic Missile Defense System test program to field an integrated and effective capability to the warfighter.

Before that he served as the commanding general for U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command (AMCOM).

As part of the Army Installation Management Reform Initiative, in January 2019 the Secretary of the Army made the decision to realign IMCOM to Army Materiel Command as a Major Subordinate Command with an effective date of March 1, 2019. This move improves how the Army integrates and delivers base support, services and facilities to enhance readiness and the well-being of Soldiers, Families and civilians.

## Army brief

### ATAP success

WASHINGTON — The first assignment cycle for the Army Talent Alignment Process saw nearly all eligible officers and units participate, while orders are now beginning to be released one week ahead of schedule, the Army's human resources chief said.

The assignment cycle, which was for positions this summer, had a surge of participation after the previous cycle garnered less than 60%.

The figures showed that 95% of the more than 14,000 active-duty officers put preferences down for their next position, while 98% of units placed preferences for their vacancies.

"This increased two-way participation resulted in more than 55% of officers receiving their first-choice assignment and more than 80% of the officers receiving an assignment from their top 10% of preferred jobs," said Maj. Gen. Joe Calloway, commander of the U.S. Army Human Resources Command.

Of those numbers, 47% of assignments had one-to-one matches.

About 67% of officers and 66% of units also received one of their top three choices, according to Army G-1 officials.

ATAP — a decentralized, regulated, market-style hiring system — aligns officers and units using the Assignment Interactive Module which allows officers to build professional resumes highlighting their unique knowledge, skills, behaviors and preferences.



# Gadson: Living testimony of Army resiliency

By **ANGIE THORNE**

Guardian staff writer

FORT POLK, La. — When asked to define the word resiliency, most would say it's the ability to recover from illness, change or misfortune. That's correct, but resiliency — when applied to individuals and the unique circumstances they find themselves in — brings to light the reality of the effort bouncing back can take. Those simple words can't truly encompass the strength and flexibility it takes to travel the road of resiliency, especially for a Soldier.

The Army is striving to improve the levels of resilience and readiness within its force by strengthening the mental, physical, emotional and behavioral ability to face and cope with adversity, adapt to change, recover, learn and grow from setbacks, according to Army Warrior Care and Transition.

Col. (retired) Gregory D. Gadson is the perfect example of a Soldier that has successfully traveled the path of resiliency. A member of the Army for more than 25 years, Gadson faced one of his greatest challenges in May 2007 when an improvised explosive device in Iraq took both legs above the knees and left him with a loss of normal use in his right arm and hand. Despite his injuries, Gadson remained on active duty and became a source of inspiration for many.

According to his bio, after retiring, Gadson went on to become an actor (he was in the movie *BattleShip*), artist and motivational speaker whose story encompasses resiliency, perseverance, determination, personal courage, duty, selfless service, honor and integrity.

Gadson shared his message of resilience with Fort Polk Soldiers and command Jan. 29 at the Bayou Theater. He began by telling the Soldiers about himself and his own life as a Soldier while leading up to the story of his injury, his survival and how he overcame the urge to quit and instead move on with his life.

"To put my injuries in perspective, in the first six hours after I was wounded I went through 129 units of blood, and suffered cardiac arrest six times and they really didn't think I was going to live," he said.

Gadson said he arrived at Walter Reed Army Medical Center on May 11, 2007 intubated, on a feeding tube and in an induced coma.

"I had surgery every other day to repair my blood vessels and clean out my wounds. A week after coming back the blood vessels in my left leg could no longer sustain blood flow and I started to bleed to death. They put a tourniquet on, took me to surgery and amputated my leg

above the knee to save my life. The next day the very same thing happened to my right leg.

"But my doctors were one step ahead. They pulled a vein from my left bicep and put it in my right leg and they were able to save my right leg," he said.

By this time Gadson was able to communicate with doctors. He decided to have his right leg amputated above the knee to have a better quality of life.

When he got out of surgery his doctors had discovered that his right arm and elbow were broken. He had been in the hospital for two weeks at that point. That, too, would require surgery, more pain and plates.

"I couldn't pick up my right arm or lift my wrist. A month before I had been a strapping 210-pound lieutenant colonel. Now I was down to 148 pounds and one functioning limb. I didn't believe I had a future. I couldn't imagine one," he said. "Losing function in my arm was the straw that broke the camel's back for me physically, emotionally and spiritually. I couldn't take anymore. I didn't want to participate in life. I wanted to quit. So, I curled up and cried for two days," said Gadson.

But in spite of all that happened to him, Gadson said that quitting wasn't part of his character.

"Since I couldn't quit, I decided I was going to live my life and be the best I can be every day. I wasn't going to worry about yesterday. I was going to be present and let the chips fall where they may," he said.

He began to improve, got some capability back in his right arm and hand and learned to use prosthetics. He said he started to realize that he was still a Soldier and still wanted to be a Soldier.

"I realized I was defined by what I have and who I am and not by what I don't have," he said.

Gadson said it's OK to acknowledge when things are bad. "It's not supposed to be easy. We aren't meant to be hard, brittle and unbendable. We need to have flexibility when bad things happen and learn to bend and endure," he said.

He said resiliency is really about embracing tough times and recognizing that you can overcome.

"You can get through it and learn and grow through these challenges, conflicts and difficulties," he said.

Gadson summed up that for him, resiliency is about being present, doing your best and being at peace.

"If you do those things, you will make the most of your life," he said.

Gadson said he thought of resiliency as part of a person's character.

"Resiliency is part of who you are



*Col. (retired) Gregory D. Gadson receives a standing ovation after sharing his resiliency story with Fort Polk Soldiers Jan. 29 at Fort Polk's Bayou Theater.*



*Col. (retired) Gregory D. Gadson takes selfies and talks to Soldiers one-on-one Jan. 29 at Fort Polk's Bayou Theater.*

as well as a skill you learn. The resiliency training Soldiers undertake is important. In fact, I think it needs to be part of everything we do as we train these Soldiers because being resilient is part of life," he said.

After he healed, Gadson said he used the resiliency that was part of his character to continue his career in the Army until announcing his retirement in 2014 to take on any and all opportunities that came his way.

1st Lt. Gabriel Velazquez, C Company, 5th Battalion, 25th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, attended the event and said Gadson's story inspired him.

"I plan to strive to be the best I can be no matter what the situation, not only for myself, but also for the Soldiers I lead," he said.

Sgt. Charles L. Morrison, 317th Engineer Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, said Gadson's words made him realize that you have to see

things through.

"Just because you find yourself in a bad situation right now doesn't mean that it will last. You can get through it," he said.

Morrison said he liked that Gadson said not to dwell on the past.

"He was all about telling us to live in the moment and be present. I think he's right that it can help you overcome adversity by keeping you engaged in your own life," he said.

Sgt. 1st Class Jerry L. McMillian, Fort Polk's R2 Performance Center Installation manager, said an event like this is imperative to focus on the importance of resiliency to help Soldiers better understand what that means in a context outside of a classroom.

McMillian said he thinks after hearing what Gadson had to say that Soldiers will be better able to grasp the concept of resiliency.

"Gadson's whole story is about resiliency. He is a living testimony of how resiliency works. It's powerful," said McMillian.



# Poole newest Patriot to earn coveted Ranger Tab

By Pfc. GREGORY MUENCHOW  
3rd BCT PAO

FORT POLK, La. — When Spc. Zachariah Poole, an infantryman in Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, arrived at Fort Polk, Ranger School kept coming up.

"At the orientation to Fort Polk both Brigadier General (Patrick D.) Frank, and Command Sergeant Major (David) Bass talked about getting Soldiers to Ranger School, and later during our battalion in brief, Command Sergeant Major Donald Harris came up to me and asked when I was going to Ranger School," Poole said. "I told him I was going as soon as I got the chance."

Frank is the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk commanding general, and Bass is the JRTC and Fort Polk command sergeant major.

Poole, who changed his military occupation specialty to infantryman because he wanted to get a shot at Ranger School, couldn't have been happier, he said.

The next day Poole approached his company leadership about attending Ranger School. Nearly eight months later he has become the first specialist in several years in his battalion to earn the coveted Ranger Tab.

"As soon as he came to us, it was clear he was motivated and had a positive attitude," said Capt. Thomas Moore, commander, Charlie Company. "He also exceeded the standard on the Ranger physical assessment and was excited about getting to Ranger School."

Poole's progression through Ranger School included holding the positions of Bravo team leader, se-

curity squad leader, weapons squad leader and platoon sergeant. His motivation and positive attitude proved to be critical to his success.

While Poole and his squad were patrolling the mountains near Dahlonega, Georgia, during their second phase of training, the rain started to fall as the temperature began to drop, he said.

"We marched all through the night just to stay warm because the temperature dropped to around 10 degrees, and when I opened my MRE the next morning it was frozen solid," said Poole. "What gets you through stuff like that is looking to your left and right. You're sad about the ice-chip breakfast but when you see the other guys there going through it too you just laugh it off and keep going."

The benefit of pushing through those difficult situations and the experience you gain from the training is a tremendous benefit for a Soldier, said Poole.

"Going to this school you learn how to take control of a chaotic situation and that you're capable of so much more than you think," said Poole. "You get to do the type of training that you set out to do when you joined the military and feel like you accomplished something."

After recycling during the third phase of training, Poole reflected on the mentorship given by his instructors and passed on his next attempt, he said. He earned his Ranger Tab on Jan. 24.

"Having a specialist in the company with a Ranger Tab is phenomenal," said Moore. "He's demonstrated his tactical competence and leadership skills so he can now mentor younger Soldiers as a team leader, and hopefully his success will motivate and inspire his peers."

Poole is currently attending air-



CAPT. THOMAS MOORE / 3RD BCT, 10TH MTN DIV

*Spc. Zachariah Poole (left), C Company, 2nd Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, has his Ranger Tab attached by his platoon leader, 1st Lt. Dylan Leeming, during Ranger graduation at Fort Benning, Ga. Jan. 20.*

borne school, but when he returns to his unit he plans to be that mentor.

"It's surreal to have graduated, and now there's a weight on my shoulders to live up to the tab," said

Poole "I'm going to continue to strive to become the best leader I can be by learning everything I need to know and bring back the mentality of always doing the hard right over an easy wrong."

## Training

Continued from page 3

create operational orders based on higher headquarters maneuvers, tests battle drills and standard operating procedures and responds with fragmentary orders as missions and directives change, said Horlacher.

"By understanding and working the process regularly and consistently, a staff will be able to perform and execute the process in a real world situation," he said.

The 46th Engineer Battalion staff is the first unit on Fort Polk to take all of the systems training and MDMP training.

"As an organization we want to be on the same page, if everyone is working from a common frame of reference we will all be better. The training from the MTC is accomplishing this," said Lt. Col. Ian Davis, commander of the

46th Engineer Battalion. "The staff at the MTC was helpful in guiding us to the right classes and were able to accommodate our busy schedule."

The 46th Engineers are currently conducting a command post exercise with their brigade headquarters at Fort Bragg and are able to implement MDMP and utilize the SMCW (formerly command post of the future or CPoF) and JBCP systems.

"We want all those serving on staff to receive the latest training before they are expected to perform their critical task of providing the knowledge the commander needs to make decisions," said Davis.

The training received and the exercise currently being conducted will allow the battalion

to perform optimally during the upcoming warfighter exercise at Fort Bragg this spring.

The staff at the MTC encourages every unit to take advantage of the training opportunities offered.

"The completion of all training has made the 46th Engineer Battalion battle ready. Our instructors have taken a good staff and made them great," said Gregory Graham, knowledge manager and scheduler for the MTC.

The training available uses MDMP to build a fundamental foundation for exceptional decision making.

Units are encouraged to visit the MTC or contact Graham at 531-8867, [gregory.b.graham2.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:gregory.b.graham2.ctr@mail.mil) to learn more about scheduling training for their staff.



# Community

## Briefs

### School lunch menu

The following school lunch menu is for Vernon Parish schools for Monday through Feb. 7. Meals are served with salad bar and choice of milk:

**Monday:** Chicken shoestrings, creamy mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, mixed fruit, whole wheat roll.

**Tuesday:** Taco salad with whole grain chips, Mexicana corn, taco salad cup, fruit, spice cake.

**Wednesday:** Carnival corn dog, Bush's baked beans, oven baked fries, mixed fruit.

**Thursday:** Chicken and sausage gumbo, steamed rice, potato salad, green beans, peach crunch, ice cream, crackers.

**Feb. 7:** Taco soup, corn chips, carrots/cucumber/broccoli cup, apple wedges, chocolate pudding.

### Exchange offers

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service at Fort Polk is providing Soldiers and the military community with the tools needed to stay ready and resilient in the new year. Military shoppers can find the latest athletic apparel and shoes, fitness trackers and workout equipment — everything they need to live a BE FIT lifestyle — at the Fort Polk Exchange and at **Shop-MyExchange.com**.

As part of its efforts to help Soldiers and their Family members BE FIT, Fort Polk Exchange restaurants offers better-for-you meals and snacks that support readiness and resiliency. Online nutritional guides for Fort Polk Exchange restaurants are available at [www.shopmyexchange.com/be-fit/nutrition](http://www.shopmyexchange.com/be-fit/nutrition).

Since Jan. 1, disabled Veterans, Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war and certain caregivers were granted in-store shopping access with the Exchange. Honorably discharged Veterans can shop online through their earned online shopping benefit. For more information, visit [ShopMyExchange.com/vets](http://ShopMyExchange.com/vets).

### Coronavirus update

The Centers for Disease Control advises the coronavirus is not currently spreading in the U.S. It recommends the following steps to help prevent the spread of this and other respiratory illnesses:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Wash hands often with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

For more information on the coronavirus visit the CDC website at [www.cdc.gov/nCoV](http://www.cdc.gov/nCoV).



CHUCK CANNON / GUARDIAN



### Building resiliency, forging Warriors

*Each day, Soldiers such as these members of Fox Company, 5th Battalion, 25th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, raise and lower the flag in front of Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk Headquarter bldg 350. The daily ceremonies reinforce resiliency, esprit de corps, team building and forging the Warrior Spirit, the hallmark of JRTC and Fort Polk.*

## Event recognizes 'right arms,' Mardi Gras

By **BELLA ARCAND**

Guardian volunteer

FORT POLK, La. — Break out your beads and indulge in king cakes, fresh from New Orleans, and mark your calendar for Feb. 7 at 4:30 p.m.

The Fort Polk Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation hosts Right Arm Night at the Warrior Center. Soldiers, Family members, and Department of Defense civilians of all ranks and positions join to celebrate the Louisiana version of carnival, called Mardi Gras.

Mardi Gras translates into Fat Tuesday, also known as Shrove Tuesday. It originated in France and is part of the carnival celebration, while New Orleans is the most popular destination to join the Mardi Gras festivities.

Right Arm Night is an Army tradition, promoting camaraderie and esprit de corps, as leaders treat their right arm: Their Soldiers who stood behind the mission and executed orders in battle.

"It is events like this, that bring our community and Soldiers together as one team," said Command Sergeant Major Christopher M. Ausbun,

Fort Polk garrison command sergeant major.

"These events positively affect the quality of life here at Fort Polk."

The Mardi Gras themed Right Arm Night celebrates a fun night of carnival with free food, fabulous prizes and — more importantly — connecting to one another and the community. The Forge Bar and Grill will contribute Cajun inspired appetizers, including Louisiana's famous meat pies, jambalaya and crawfish dishes. The event is open to patrons age 18 and older.

Fat Tuesday refers to a last big feast the day before Ash Wednesday, which heralds the 40-day Christian fast, called Lent.

Carnival is celebrated in most countries around the world, with different customs and traditions. Many traditions, which are part of Mardi Gras today, date back to the Roman Empire.

In honor of the harvest season, a cake was baked hiding beans inside. The person finding the bean earned the title "King of the Day."

Louisiana has adopted the famous tradition and Mardi Gras would not be Mardi Gras without its king cake.



# Culmination of football season takes place Sunday

By JEAN CLAVETTE GRAVES  
Public affairs specialist

**Editor's note:** as a die-hard Green Bay Packers fan, born and bred in the frozen tundra of Wisconsin, I have tried to present a fair and just assessment of the upcoming game. My team got out played, and lost to the San Francisco 49ers in the National Football Conference championship, but I will bleed green and gold until I'm dead and cold! Go Pack Go!

FORT POLK, La. — While baseball holds the title of "America's Pastime", some would argue that football is really America's first choice. The Super Bowl is the second-largest U.S. food consumption day, after Thanksgiving, and seven of the most-watched broad-casts in U.S. television history are Super Bowls.

Professional football is a \$15 billion industry, every regular season game has an average of 15.8 million viewers and with the legalization of sports gambling spreading across the country, the National Football League will soon surpass the combined annual revenue increase of Major League Baseball, the National Basketball Association and the National Hockey League combined.

The Super Bowl began as part of a merger agreement between the American Football League and NFL as the AFL-NFL World Championship Game. After the two leagues merged in 1970, they were re-designated into the NFC and the American Football Conference with the Super Bowl played as the annual championship for the NFL. While not everyone is a football fan, those who are will quickly announce their favorite team, have numerous wardrobe items emblazoned with that team's emblem and will watch, discuss and taunt colleagues and friends when their team is winning and blame the referees or coach from the couch when they lose. This year marks the 50th Super Bowl in modern-era NFL history and will name the champion of the 2019th and 100th professional football season. The 2019 Super Bowl between the New England Patriots and the Los Angeles Rams drew the lowest viewing audience in more than a decade with only 98.2 million viewers. This was probably due to the combined national boredom of seeing the Patriots playing in the Super Bowl, resistance to political protests by players during the National Anthem and the loud and rowdy disenchantment of New Orleans Saints fans who felt they were robbed during the 2018 NFC Championship game.

This year the Kansas City Chiefs will face off with the San Francisco 49ers for 2020 Super Bowl held Feb. 2 at 5:30 p.m. at the Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, Fla. The game will be broadcast on your local FOX affiliate. If you have \$5,000 you can get your tickets to the game and the all-inclusive pregame party in Miami, or there are several free options available at Fort Polk for you to enjoy the game with

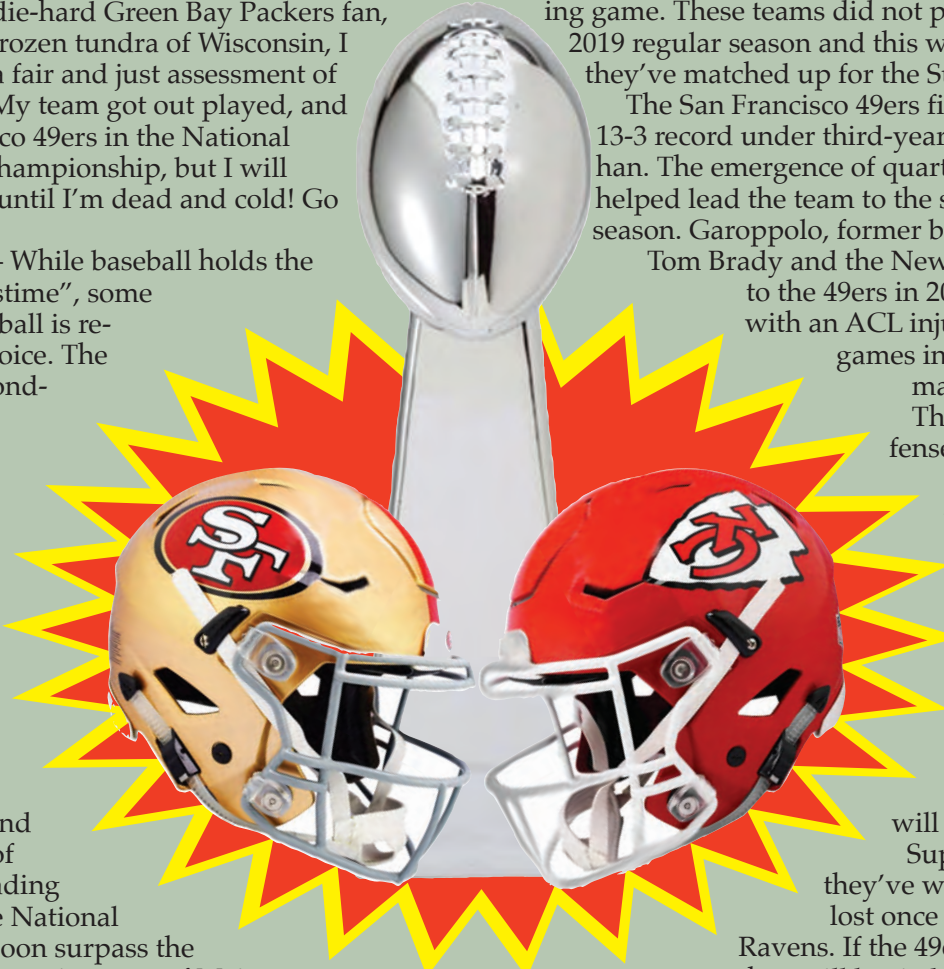
your family and friends without breaking the bank (see box on page 9). The Chiefs are favored over the 49ers by one point, according to CBS Sports, so this is sure to be an exciting game. These teams did not play each other during the 2019 regular season and this will be the first time they've matched up for the Super Bowl.

The San Francisco 49ers finished the season with a 13-3 record under third-year head coach Kyle Shanahan. The emergence of quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo helped lead the team to the successful and winning season. Garoppolo, former backup quarterback to Tom Brady and the New England Patriots, came to the 49ers in 2017. Sidelined in 2018 with an ACL injury he started all 16 games in 2019 and took full command of the team's offense. The 49ers offense and defense both ranked second overall in the NFL with 479 points scored, 6,079 yards, 69% in pass completions, fewest yards allowed, and an unbreakable defensive line featuring DeForest Buckner, Arik Armstead, Dee Ford (formerly of the Chiefs) and Nick Bosa. This will be the 49ers seventh Super Bowl appearance, they've won five Super Bowls and lost once in 2013 to the Baltimore Ravens. If the 49ers win 2020 Super Bowl they will be tied with the New England Patriots and Pittsburgh Steelers with the most Super Bowl championships in the league. A win will also break their tie with the Dallas Cowboys for most NFC Super Bowl titles.

The Kansas City Chiefs had a season record of 12-4 under head coach Andy Reid. During the seven years Reid has been with the Chiefs, the team has made six play off appearances and won the AFC West title the past four years. Quarterback Patrick Mahomes was a first round draft pick in 2017 and was the NFL MVP in 2018. The Chiefs offense ranked fifth in the NFL with 451 points scored and 6,067 yards gained. Their defense ranked seventh in the league but was bolstered late in the season when they signed veteran linebacker Terrell Suggs from the Arizona Cardinals. This will be the Chiefs third Super Bowl appearance, and their first since the AFL-NFL Merger. They played in Super Bowl I where they lost to the Green Bay Packers and they played again and won in Super Bowl IV in 1970 over the Minnesota Vikings.

Whether you are a 49ers fan, a Chiefs fan or like many folks who enjoy the Super Bowl for the commercials, the food and music there is something for everyone at the Super Bowl. This year Demi Lovato will sing the National Anthem and Latina sensations Jennifer Lopez and Shakira will be co-headlining the half time show. There will be four commercial breaks per quarter and all commercial slots have been sold for more than \$5 million per 30 seconds of advertising space.

So look up some new dip recipes on Pinterest, brush up on your football trivia, invite over some friends or head over to one of the local establishments throwing a party this year, Super Bowl 2020 is the place to be and the game to watch Sunday.



## Check out story of half time

By JEAN CLAVETTE GRAVES  
Public affairs specialist

Fort Polk, La. — Most people remember the Janet Jackson wardrobe malfunction aka "nipplegate" of 2004 where co-performer Justin Timberlake tore off a piece of Jackson's costume to reveal her breast on national television. The Super Bowl halftime shows are not the reason most people watch the game and are rarely as memorable. This year, superstars Jennifer Lopez and Shakira will share the stage at Super Bowl LIV in Miami.

Prior to 1990, the halftime show was based around a theme and featured a university marching band. Grambling State University, a historically black public university in Louisiana, has appeared in six Super Bowl halftime shows, more than any other band.

In 1991, the halftime shows began to feature pop artists. The first pop act to perform during the Super Bowl were the New Kids on the Block with a theme of Small World: a Tribute to 25 Years of the Super Bowl. The set list included the Disney classic; It's a Small World, We Are the World, Step by Step and This One's for the Children. The broadcast of this performance was delayed until after the game due to ABC News Coverage of Operation

Desert Storm.

Super Bowl XXXVI in 2002 was the last year the halftime show had a theme. That year the theme was a tribute to those killed in the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. U2 performed Beautiful Day, MLK and Where the Streets Have No Name at the Superdome in New Orleans. During the performance a banner hung behind the band listing names of all who were killed during the attacks.

The National Football League does not pay the halftime performers an appearance fee but covers all the expenses of the performers and their entourage, managers, security, crew and families.

The only exception was in 1993 when the NFL and Frito Lay donated commercial time to Michael Jackson's Heal the World Foundation. Most pop performers get a boost in album sales in the days and weeks following the performance.

The Wall Street Journal reported that league officials asked representatives of potential acts for Super Bowl XLIX if they'd be willing to provide financial compensation to the NFL in exchange for their appearance either up front or as a portion of the revenue generated after the Super Bowl appearance.

The NFL denies this.

## See history made at Super Bowl

By JEAN CLAVETTE GRAVES  
Public affairs specialist

Fort Polk, La. — History will be made this year at the Super Bowl. Katie Sowers, will be the first female and openly gay person to coach a Super Bowl team. Sowers, San Francisco 49ers assistant offensive coach, began her football career in the Women's Football Alliance and coaching for the Atlanta Falcons training camp in 2016.

A native of Hesston, Kan., Sowers began her football career with the WFA where she played for the West Michigan Mayhem and the Kansas City Titans. While a member of the Titans she was a member of the United States women's national football team that won the 2013 International Federation of American Football world championship.

In 2017 when Sowers first joined the 49ers she came out openly about her sexuality — the first LGBTQ coach in the NFL — and now she is making history breaking barriers and stereotypes at the highest level in professional sports.

On Jan. 14 Sowers tweeted, "If your daughter has a dream of being a football coach in the NFL ... or a ballerina ... or a professional soccer

**Sowers**

player ... or a teacher ... or a nurse ... or a doctor ... or an astronaut or even President ... just let her know this ... She. Can. Do It. And she will change the world."

Sowers a lifelong football enthusiast, player and fan, has not only made an impact on the NFL and the sport, she has become an inspiration to countless people around the world. Her courage and determination to pursue a male dominated sport has opened doors to everyone to pursue their dreams and ambitions.

## Discover fun, football trivia

WWW.TOPENDSPORTS.COM

The following trivia and more is found at [www.topendsports.com/events/superbowl/trivia.htm](http://www.topendsports.com/events/superbowl/trivia.htm).

- The first Super Bowl game was played on January 15, 1967, as a playoff between the American Football League and

National Football League champions.

The game was called the "World Championship of Professional Football"

- No network footage exists of Super Bowl I. Apparently it was taped over for a soap opera.
- Super Bowl day is the second-largest U.S. food consumption day, following Thanksgiving.



## Have Super Bowl fun at Fort Polk

The Forge Bar & Grill	Anvil Bar	BOSS Super Bowl Party
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Family viewing at 4 p.m. Sunday</li><li>• Free taco bar</li><li>• Door prizes</li><li>• Pub VIP section goes to winner of the Facebook VIP giveaway.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Free pizza, wings and nachos</li><li>• Door prizes including a 65 inch Television</li><li>• Begins at 4 p.m. Sunday</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Free food</li><li>• Door prizes</li><li>• VIP section</li><li>• Begins at 5 p.m. Sunday at the Home of Heroes Recreation Center</li></ul>



# Center provides free tax services to Soldiers, retirees, Family members

## INSTALLATION TAX OFFICE

FORT POLK, La. — The 2019 tax season has arrived, and the Fort Polk Installation Tax Center is once again providing assistance free to Soldiers, retirees and their Family members. The Tax Center is located at 2165 Ninth St. (inside Home of Heroes Fitness Center/Pizza Hut building).

Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m.-noon Saturday. Appointments for preparing a tax return may be made by calling 531-1040. Appointments will have priority. Walk-ins for preparation of an electronic tax return will also be available on a limited basis.

To prepare your tax return and to provide a faster, smoother process, please use the following as your checklist:

- Both spouses must be present to file joint returns unless the absent spouse has prepared a power of attorney that allows the other spouse to file and sign a tax return for him or her. Bring the valid power of attorney. For the IRS, it is IRS Form 2848.
- Social Security cards are re-

quired for the Soldier and spouse and all Family members being claimed on the tax return.

- Dates of birth of Soldier, spouse and all Family members being claimed.

- Original W-2s and if you have any interest income from banks or stocks, bring Form 1099.

- If you received any unemployment compensation, retirement pay or mortgage interest paid, bring Form 1098.

- If you claim any education expenses, provide your student registration for itemized expenses paid and any loans/grants that were to be applied.

- If you are claiming an exemption for a person who is in someone else's legal custody, you will need either IRS Form 8332 signed by the custodial person or have a court order or divorce paperwork saying you may claim the exemption for that person.

- To take the child-care deduction, you will need the provider's name, Social Security number or Taxpayer Identification Number and address, and the total amount paid to your provider. Most child-care providers give you an itemized

statement with this information.

- If you want to have your refund directly deposited into your checking or savings account, bring a check or other confirmation of your routing number and bank account number.

**Tax tip from 1st Lt. Michael W. Moore Jr., Installation tax office**

As a Soldier you get a ton of non-taxable benefits. This can make calculating your taxable income very difficult, especially if you deploy.

If you are a member of the armed forces serving in a designated combat zone, then you can exclude certain pay from your income.

The month for which you receive this pay must be a month in which you either served in a combat zone or were hospitalized as a result of wounds, disease or injury obtained while serving in the combat zone.

You need only serve for one or more days in a month to qualify for exclusion for the entire month. A few examples of pay types eligible for exclusion include:

- Active duty pay earned in any month you served in a combat zone
- Imminent danger/hostile fire pay

- A reenlistment bonus if this extension occurs in a month you served in a combat zone

- Pay for accrued leave earned in any month you served in a combat zone

- Portion of any student loan repayment made for the year while serving in a combat zone

If you are unsure whether you served in a designated combat zone, please visit [www.dfas.mil/militarymembers/payentitlements/PayTables/CZ1.html](http://www.dfas.mil/militarymembers/payentitlements/PayTables/CZ1.html).

## Visit legal office before buying, selling vehicle

By **BERNADINE LENAHAN**

OSJA, JRTC and Fort Polk

FORT POLK, La. — If you are considering buying or selling a car to another person without going to a dealership, the best thing you can do before signing any document, is make arrangements to visit the Fort Polk Legal Assistance office with the other party and the title to the vehicle.

The office will assist you in drafting any necessary documents, and will notarize any documents for you. Please do not sign anything outside the presence of the notary.

To buy or sell a car and register it in Louisiana, you will need the certificate of title to the vehicle. If there is a lien on the vehicle, a release of the lien must be indicated on the title or you must have a letter from the bank releasing the lien. You will need a bill of sale setting out the names of the parties to the sale, the sales price and a full description of the vehicle.

The bill of sale must be signed by all the parties and the signatures must be notarized. If the vehicle is less than 10 years old and the back of the title does not contain an odometer disclosure statement, you will need a supplemental odometer statement.

If you are purchasing an "out of state" vehicle and registering it in Louisiana, you will have to pay double fees in the form of the origi-

nal fees when the seller purchased the car and the fees when you purchased the car. To be exempt from these double fees, the registered owner listed on the out-of-state title would provide a notarized affidavit stating he is not a resident of Louisiana and listing his true state of legal residency. Members of the military whose home of record is not Louisiana will need a similar affidavit. This applies to fees only.

If you are military, you can be exempt from payment of use tax when registering your car in Louisiana if you show you paid sales tax on the vehicle in another state. If you are not military, you can get

some credit if you show you paid sales tax in the other state. You will need to show the bill of sale or certificate of origin from

when you purchased the vehicle to receive the credit. If you did not pay sales tax in another state, you will have to pay Louisiana sales tax on the vehicle, regardless of your military status and even if you purchased the car overseas.

Remember, if you sell your vehicle, you should return the license plate to the office of motor vehicles before canceling your liability insurance. If you fail to do so, your insurance company will inform the license bureau and you may be assessed penalties.

If you have any questions, please come into the Legal Assistance Office for assistance or information.



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# Lagniappe

## Miscellaneous

### • Livestock show and rodeo

The Southwest District Livestock Show and Rodeo is today through Sunday at the Burton Complex in Lake Charles. Called "The Greatest Show on Dirt," the Southwest District Livestock Show and Rodeo returns to the Burton Complex with rodeo performances, livestock shows, a Queen's Pageant, a stick-horse rodeo, appearances by Miss Rodeo Louisiana and more. The "mane" attraction is the professional rodeo performances that kick into gear each night featuring bucking broncos, thundering hooves and cheering fans. Visit [www.lakecharlesrodeo.com](http://www.lakecharlesrodeo.com) for more information.

### • Living history

Relive early American history during a War of 1812 Living History Encampment at Audubon State Historic Site from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Feb. 8. Soldiers and civilians dressed in period clothing bring the era of 1812 to life. Demonstrations of daily life include etiquette,

duels and dancing. Military demonstrations include firing both musket and cannon.

Audubon State Historic Site is the setting for the 200-year-old Oakley house, temporary home and inspiration to John James Audubon in the late 1800s. Admission to Oakley House tours and grounds is \$10 per adult ages 18-62, \$8 per seniors ages 62 and older and \$6 per student ages 4-17. Children 3 and under get in free. Audubon State Historic Site is 30 minutes north of Baton Rouge, near St. Francisville on La. Hwy 965 in West Feliciana Parish. For more information call (888) 677-2838.

### • Vintage Market Days

Vintage Market Days is held Feb. 7-9 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Beauregard Parish Fairgrounds. Vendors will be on hand from all over the country with antiques, boutique clothing, food trucks and live entertainment.

### • Garden forum

The fourth annual Beauregard Parish Master Gardener Spring

Garden Forum takes place Feb. 21 from 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the War Memorial Civic Center, 250 West Seventh St., DeRidder. Admission is free. Peruse plants and garden items for sale, sign up for door prizes and attend seminars throughout the day with topics ranging from home composting, vegetable gardening, planning your landscaping and more. For more information call (337) 463-7006.

## Clubs/groups

### • Lose weight

Join Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) every Thursday at the Ver-

non Parish Library meeting room. Weigh in is 5-5:50 p.m. For more information call (337) 208-0896.

### • Bass Masters

Join the Fort Polk Community Bass Masters. The club meets monthly on the Tuesday before each tournament.

Meetings are held at 6 p.m. at the New Llano American Legion, Post 387, 500 Vernon St. The next meeting takes place Feb. 25.

The February tournament takes place at Toledo Bend Lake Feb. 29. The entry fee is \$40. For more information or to download a membership form visit [www.fortpolk-communitybassmasters.com](http://www.fortpolk-communitybassmasters.com).



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*Published for the community of Fort Polk, La.*

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Deadline For All Classified  
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**NOTICE:** All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination. The Guardian will not knowingly accept any advertisement for real estate, which is in violation of the law. All dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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Guardian Tradin' Post Ad

\* Advertising is FREE for soldiers, family members and DA civilians.  
\* Businesses will not receive free advertising. All business ads must be prepaid. We accept Visa and Mastercard.  
(This includes child care, quarters-cleaning, or the sale and/or breeding of multiple pedigreed/registered animals)  
\* Only single soldiers living in barracks may list numbers with 531 prefixes.

Turn in ads to the Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 4919, Magnolia Dr.  
Or fax to 318-352-3667 or email to tradingpostads@yahoo.com

Deadline for FREE ads is NOON Tuesday.

Category: ☐ Household Appliances ☐ Furniture ☐ Sporting goods ☐ TV/Radio/Stereo  
☐ Motor Vehicles ☐ Computers ☐ Pets ☐ Garage Sales ☐ Real Estate ☐ Misc.

Advertisement: In 25 words or less (one word per block) give description, price, telephone number and other pertinent information. For garage sales, list time, date and location.


I am a: ☐ Soldier ☐ Retiree ☐ DA Civilian ☐ Military family member

In signing this form, I certify that the items I am advertising will be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



# Fort Polk Guardian

www.thefortpolkguardian.com

## Tradin' Post Ads

Published for the community of Fort Polk, La.

Deadline For All Classified Ads Is Noon Tuesday

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