

Guidon

Thursday, February 1, 2024

Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri



MSCoE CG and CSM Send: Recognizing Black History Month

In 1976, President Gerald Ford recognized February as Black History Month. And every year since then, we take the opportunity to honor Black Americans and their impact to and enrichment of our society and our history.



Fort Leonard Wood celebrates opening of Spouse Resource Center

Fort Leonard Wood senior leaders, along with Army transition and continuing education experts, came together with service members and military spouses Jan. 30 in Bldg. 470 to celebrate the opening of the Spouse Resource Center.



Engineer School's Best Sapper Competition registration closing soon

Registration for the U.S. Army Engineer School's 17th Lt. Gen. Robert B. Flowers Best Sapper Competition closes on Feb. 16.



Notes from the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate: Free income tax preparation resources

Although Fort Leonard Wood's Tax Center is only able to serve Gold Star families and retirees this year due to limited capacity, there is still a wide range of free tax preparation resources available.

Read these stories and more at <https://www.army.mil/paowood>.

NEWS BRIEFS

Pre-retirement briefing

A pre-retirement briefing is scheduled from 8 a.m. to noon Feb. 13 in Lincoln Hall Auditorium. The briefing includes information on rights, benefits and privileges for retired service members and their dependents, and all Soldiers are required to attend a pre-retirement briefing at least 12 months before their retirement date or at the start of the medical retirement process. Spouses are encouraged to attend. Call 573.596.6637 for details.

On-post housing inspections

Beginning in mid-February, contractors will be performing a required inspection of all Fort Leonard Wood on-post family housing, to include a visual survey of the exterior, along with the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system, plumbing and electrical systems. The inspectors – who will wear a mask and shoe covers, if requested – will need access to the interior of each home for approximately

one hour per house, and at least one resident 18 years or older must be present during the inspection. An online self-scheduling option is available by clicking [here](#) or by scanning the QR code on the door hangars that will be placed on each home. Call the Fort Leonard Wood Housing Division at 573.596.0984 for details.

National Prayer Breakfast

Fort Leonard Wood leaders will host the National Prayer Breakfast event from 7 to 8:30 a.m. Feb. 13 in Nutter Field House. The guest speaker is Chaplain (Brig. Gen.) William Green, deputy chief of Army Chaplains. Free tickets are available through unit ministry teams and donations will be accepted at the event. Call the Religious Support Office at 573.596.2127, or email beth.j.shamhart.civ@army.mil for details.

Faith Skills classes

The Fort Leonard Wood Religious Support Office will begin offering its

spring Faith Skills religious education classes on Wednesday evenings at the Main Post Chapel starting Feb. 21. The classes, which occur through May 1, include a dinner at 5:30 p.m., and the classes run until 7:30 p.m. Call 573.596.0089, or email martha.a.strong.civ@army.mil for details. A Faith Skills Facebook group is also available [here](#).

Scholarship opportunity

Applications are now being accepted for the Balfour Beatty Communities Foundation scholarship program for the 2024-2025 academic year. All current Balfour Beatty Communities housing residents – including spouses and children – set to be attending an accredited college or university in the fall of 2024 – or who are enrolled in a program of study designed to transfer directly into a four-year program – are eligible to apply. Applications are being accepted now through March 21. Click [here](#) for details.

 **MWR Events & Specials. Just For You.** ONLINE AT LEONARDWOOD.ARMYMWR.COM

ARMY FAMILY COVENANT: KEEPING THE PROMISE



FEB 9

PERSHING COMMUNITY CENTER

DUELING PIANOS

Don't miss this upbeat, dynamic show featuring country, rock & roll, and top pop hits from the 50s to today, with your requests taken throughout the show!

Purchase tickets in advance from Leisure Travel Services and online! Open to ages 18 & up.



PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

FEB 17 **9AM**

DAVIDSON FITNESS CENTER

\$30 PER 2-PERSON TEAM. REGISTER FROM FEB 1-15 IN PERSON AT DAVIDSON FITNESS CENTER OR BY CALLING 573-596-4359



LIVE PRO-WRESTLING

FEB 24, 6PM

TREVOR MURDOCH IN ACTION

SALUTE TO THE SERVICE

DAVIDSON FITNESS CENTER

DOORS: 5PM, BELL: 6PM

TICKETS ONLINE

FORT LEONARD WOOD
SERVICE MEMBER

SPOTLIGHT

AIR FORCE TECH. SGT. ERIK CHAPMAN
GROUND TRANSPORTATION INSTRUCTOR
368th TRAINING SQUADRON



Air Force Tech. Sgt. Erik Chapman began his ground transportation career 12 years ago at Fort Leonard Wood, when he attended the same 30-day course he now instructs — the Ground Transportation Apprentice Course. The Fort Leonard Wood-based 368th Training Squadron that oversees Air Force ground transportation training is attached to the 82nd Training Group at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas.



Where are you from?
Huntsville, Arkansas



Tell me about your job and the Ground Transportation Apprentice Course.

I am the lead for Block Three of instruction — forklift training operations. Block One is fundamentals, such as organizational structure, Air Force history and customer service



etiquette. Block Two consists of safety classes, tire-changing instruction, distinguished visitor operations and 15-passenger van operations. Block Four, the final block, is bus-driving operations. Nearly 300 Airmen go through this course each year. When they get here, they are considered helpers. They leave here as apprentices.

Why did you decide to join the military?

I was working in construction. The money wasn't great, and I wanted to do something different — something a little bit more meaningful.

How do you feel about being an Airman on an Army installation?

Fort Leonard Wood has an awesome professional atmosphere. There are so many schools on post. We are all working toward the same goal — to produce

the best product — the best Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines we can. Fort Leonard Wood is important to our career field, and the Army, the Marines and the Navy Seabees also have their ground transportation and motor transportation schools here. Even though we are different branches, when it comes down to it, we are one team. Training near our sister services gives us a unique ability to learn from each other and apply it to our own training.

Why do you continue to serve?

When I made staff sergeant, I went from caring about myself to carrying about my team. It is also around the same time I got married and started my family. My priorities shifted. I want to continue to give back to others as long as I can. I intend to make a career out of the Air Force.

[Click here to nominate a Fort Leonard Wood service member for recognition.](#)