



Guidon

Thursday, December 21, 2023

Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri



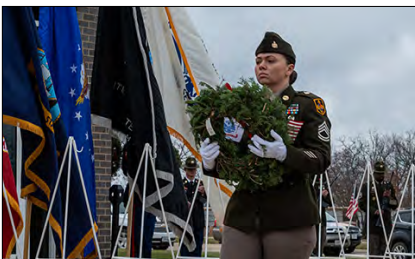
See you next year!

Fort Leonard Wood trainees begin Holiday Block Leave

Holiday Block Leave begins this week for thousands of Soldiers in training here, who are given leave during the two-week period around Christmas and New Year's to relax and spend time with friends and family. Amy Thompson (right) drove here from Georgia to pick-up her daughter, Pvt. Rhymedie Mayes, on Monday outside Nutter Field House – Mayes is in the process of completing Military Police One Station Unit Training. More photos of Fort Leonard Wood's 2023 HBL operations are available to view and download on the [Fort Leonard Wood Flickr page](#).



Photo by Dawn Arden, Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs Office



Fort Leonard Wood community honors veterans during Wreaths Across America service

Fort Leonard Wood community members took time on Saturday to remember, honor and teach during a Wreaths Across America ceremony at the Missouri State Veterans Cemetery - Fort Leonard Wood.



Blood donors crucial during Holiday Block Leave

Fort Leonard Wood Blood Donor Center staff said collecting blood in December is much harder than the rest of the year because most of the center's donor pool is away for the holidays.

Happy Holidays! Look for the next eGuidon in your inbox on Thursday, January 11, 2024!



Fire experts here offer holiday safety tips

Winter holidays are exciting times to gather with family and friends, enjoy traditional decorations and eat special foods. Unfortunately, these holiday festivities can also present unique fire hazards. More residential fires happen during the colder months of the year, and are primarily caused by cooking, heating and electrical malfunctions.

NEWS BRIEFS

AAFES, MWR holiday operating hours

Fort Leonard Wood's Army and Air Force Exchange Service facilities will operate under holiday hours through the New Year. **Main Exchange** hours will be 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. today through Saturday; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday; closed Monday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Dec. 31; and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. New Year's Day. Regular shopping hours resume Jan. 2. The **North Express** is open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily through Jan. 2, but closed Monday. The **South Express** is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily through Jan. 2, but closed Monday and New Year's Day. The **Class Six** is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily through Jan. 2, but closed Monday and New Year's Day. **Starbucks** is open 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily through Jan. 2, but closed Monday and New Year's Day. **Qdoba** is open 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily through Jan. 2, but closed Monday and New Year's Day. **Burger King** and **Popeyes** are open 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily through Jan. 2, but closed Monday and New Year's Day. **Slim Chickens** is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily through

Jan. 2, but closed Monday and New Year's Day. Click [here](#) for a list of **Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities** holiday hours.

HBL worship schedule

Fort Leonard Wood's Religious Support Office has announced the Holiday Block Leave worship schedule changes. They include: **Protestant:** Candlelight Christmas Eve service starts at 7 p.m. Sunday at Soldier Memorial Chapel, and Combined Protestant service starts at 10:30 a.m. Sunday and Dec. 31 at the Main Post Chapel. **Catholic:** Christmas Eve (Regular Mass) starts at 9 a.m. Sunday at SMC. Christmas Carols and Mass starts at 4 p.m. Sunday at SMC. Christmas Day Mass starts at 10 a.m. Monday at SMC. New Year's Eve (Regular Mass) starts at 9 a.m. Dec. 31 at SMC. Mary Mother of God Mass starts at 10 a.m. New Year's Day at SMC. **The following service cancellations** will occur Sunday and Dec. 31 during HBL: All 1st Engineer Brigade, 14th Military Police Brigade and 3rd Chemical Brigade initial

entry training service and CRU Bible Study; IET Catholic Mass in the MPC; Traditional Protestant Service; Gospel Service; Crossroads Service; Collective Protestant Service in Grant Hall; IET Islamic Service in the North Iowa Chapel; and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints service in the South Iowa Chapel. **Additional HBL-related cancellations** include: Buddhist service today and Dec. 28 in the NIC; and Jewish service Friday and Dec. 29 in the SIC. Call 573.596.2127 for details. For chaplain assistance after duty hours, call 573.563.6126 or 6127.

Museum closure

The John B. Mahaffey Museum Complex will be closed Monday through Dec. 29, and will reopen Jan. 2.

Garrison employee town hall

U.S. Army Garrison Fort Leonard Wood senior leaders will host the first garrison employee town hall of the New Year at 2:30 p.m. Jan. 10 at Nutter Field House.

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

ARMY FAMILY COVENANT: KEEPING THE PROMISE

Happy Holidays from all of us at

U.S. ARMY MWR
SOLDIERS · FAMILIES · RETIREES · CIVILIANS



Photos by Melissa Buckley, Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs Office

Holiday wreaths rest upon service member graves Saturday at the Missouri State Veterans Cemetery - Fort Leonard Wood during a Wreaths Across America ceremony. More photos from the event are available to view and download on the [Fort Leonard Wood Flickr page](#).

FORT LEONARD WOOD COMMUNITY PARTICIPATES IN WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

SATURDAY AT MISSOURI STATE VETERANS CEMETERY - FORT LEONARD WOOD



Clockwise from above: Brig. Gen. Sarah Albrycht, U.S. Army Military Police School commandant, provides remarks at the ceremony, noting the day provides a chance to “teach the next generation the true value of freedom.”

Sgt. Eric Trevino, with the 399th Army Band, performs “Taps” at the ceremony.

Service members, their families and several youth groups — including a local Girl Scouts troop — decorate service member graves with wreaths during the ceremony.



SOLDIER SPOTLIGHT

FORT LEONARD WOOD



U.S. ARMY

Sgt. 1st Class Fidben Lepe, is a Military Police Senior Leader Course senior small group leader at the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence NCO Academy.

What is your hometown?

Los Angeles, California

What do you do at the MSCoE NCO Academy?

As a senior small group leader, I carry a range of responsibilities vital for both leadership development and the operational effectiveness of our force. My focus areas include operational planning, personnel management, communication and maintaining accurate records and reports on training, operations and personnel matters.

What do you like most about being in the Army?

What I appreciate most about being in the Army is the profound sense of purpose and service it provides. The shared desire among my peers to support each other fosters a strong sense of camaraderie and belonging. The Army's focus on personal and professional development through specialized training and leadership opportunities has been essential. I completed my Bachelor of Arts in government with an emphasis in legal studies from Grand Canyon University, which, along with my roles in the Army, has significantly contributed to my personal and professional growth. Additionally, the unique blend of discipline, adventure and opportunities for travel and cultural exploration that the Army offers has been extremely fulfilling. My experiences in Okinawa, Japan, Kaiserslautern,



**Sgt. 1st Class Fidben Lepe,
Military Police Senior Leader Course senior small group leader,
Maneuver Support Center of Excellence NCO Academy**

Germany, and Israel have been deeply enriching and unforgettable.

What is the most fulfilling part of your job?

The greatest fulfillment in my role as an instructor at the MSCoE NCO Academy, is sharing my knowledge and experiences, which has been rewarding. My dedication to mentoring within the Military Police branch has also enabled me to play a key role in continuously updating our curriculum, thereby contributing to the future readiness of the Military Police Corps.

How do you serve the community?

We supplement the Waynesville school district with extra food for

students. I started helping with this program on my own, then brought it with me to the NCO academy. The Army is all about serving.

Click [here](#) to learn more about opportunities as a member of the U.S. Army Military Police Corps.



U.S. ARMY

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

Happy National Crossword Puzzle Day!

Here are the answers to last week's crossword puzzle.

