

WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 26, 2025

LAMP

SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF FORT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS, FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS

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Chapel Community readies for Advent season with *Greening of the Chapels*

by Prudence Siebert/Editor

The Chapel Community gathered for the annual Greening of the Chapels Nov. 22 to decorate their places of worship, setting out manger scenes, adorning Christmas trees with ornaments, and hanging lights and greenery at Memorial, Pioneer and Frontier chapels.

Family tradition

The Harbridge family, members of the Crossroads congregation who attend the contemporary Protestant service at Frontier Chapel, have been helping green the chapel since they arrived at Fort Leavenworth in 2017.

"It is a tradition for the family," retired Lt. Col. Jim Harbridge said about sharing the annual mission with his wife, Christina, and their children, 17-year-old Emily and 12-year-old James. "It needs to be done, and we're able... For parents, this is the start of Christmas season for us."

"I think we do it because it just started as a thing to make the church pretty for Christmas," Emily added, "and then we just started doing it every year and it became a tradition."

Even though Advent, the four-week period leading up to Christmas, doesn't start until after Thanksgiving, and the Christmas lights in the chapels won't be turned on until then, the greening of the chapels is done the weekend

before Thanksgiving to accommodate when volunteers are available to help.

"Every year, we do it so that on the first day of Advent, we can start the Advent readings and lighting of the candles and everything is decorated," Harbridge said, noting that every year the volunteer turnout varies. "Last year we had a family for every tree and we were in and out, and some years it's not (as quick), but if we waited later, we would miss the atmosphere in the chapel, but we would also miss the chance for volunteers."

Reason for the season

Twelve-year-old Liam Quinlan and 11-year-old Sadie Thomas were among those volunteers helping hang garlands and lights at Frontier Chapel.

"Greening of the chapel is when families who come to this chapel, we decorate it for Christmastime. Over the past few years, I've helped decorate Christmas trees and put up ornaments. My family's come for the past two years, this is our third, so we've just helped putting up the wreaths and Christmas trees," Liam said, then pointing out why the decorating is done. "It's basically showing that the Lord is coming and Christmastime isn't just about Santa or presents, it's about the Lord and when he was born and how he is our Messiah."

SEE GREENING OF THE CHAPELS | A4

LEFT: Emily Harbridge and her father, retired Lt. Col. Jim Harbridge, hang ornaments on a Christmas tree during the Greening of the Chapels Nov. 22 at Frontier Chapel. Volunteers helped decorate Frontier, Pioneer and Memorial chapels for the upcoming Advent season. The Harbridge family, part of the contemporary Protestant congregation, has made the annual preparation a family tradition.

Photo by Prudence Siebert/Fort Leavenworth Lamp

Information Advantage Scholars selectees announced

by Army University Public Affairs

Earlier this week, Army University announced the Command and General Staff Officer Course Class of 2026 Information Advantage Scholars selectees.

The Information Advantage Scholars selected for Assignment Year 2026 are: Maj. Aaron Beyer, Staff Group 13D; Maj. Alainia Brooks, Staff Group 9B; Maj. Clayton Champagne, Staff Group 6D; Capt. Christopher Duncan, Staff Group 4C; Capt.

Scott Geiger, Staff Group 1B; Maj. Steven Keck, Staff Group 1B; Capt. David Lilly, Staff Group 17B; Maj. Rochelle Markowitz, Staff Group 11C; Maj. George McArthur, Staff Group 12B; Capt. Tyree Meadows, Staff Group 14D; Maj. Christopher Pabon, Staff Group 1C; and Maj. Conner Porter, Staff Group 11B.

The Information Advantage Scholars program selects a cohort of officers to deepen their expertise in blending technol-

ogy, critical thinking and operational execution to achieve decisive combat advantage. The program develops operational leaders who are masters at exploiting the information dimension for warfighting success.

Scholars will engage in intensive, graduate-level seminars and advanced research to examine how the convergence of technology and information directly impacts military operations. They will read, debate

and write about the most complex challenges in modern conflict, directly engaging with leading subject matter experts and senior practitioners to refine critical judgment on high-stakes, real-world operational problems.

A core requirement for participation is the completion of a rigorously researched master of military art and science thesis focused on the practical application of information advantage in combat.

AT A GLANCE

■ The THANKSGIVING MEAL will be served from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Nov. 27 at the Fort Leavenworth Dining Facility. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/p/Fort-Leavenworth-Installation-Warrior-Restaurant-100064544268396/> for prices and menu.

■ The ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING EVENT begins at 4 p.m. Dec. 5 at Zais Park. The event features a school choir, refreshments, Santa and the lighting of the park.

■ The SKIES Curtain Call free PERFORMANCES OF FROZEN JR. are at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Dec. 6 at the Post Theater. Call 913-684-3207 for more information.

■ Trees for Troops is offering FREE CHRISTMAS TREES for military families, first come, first served, while supplies last, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 8 at Merritt Lake. Limit one tree per family. DoD ID card required. No transportation nor materials to secure trees to cars will be provided.

■ The Fort Leavenworth DINING FACILITY HAS REOPENED, serving breakfast, lunch and dinner with dine-in, drive-thru and grab-and-go options. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/p/Fort-Leavenworth-Installation-Warrior-Restaurant-100064544268396/> for more information.

■ FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY is being offered Sunday afternoons from 1-3 p.m. now through

Feb. 22. E-mail zjmundell@gmail.com to sign up or for more information.

■ The FIREARMS DEER HUNTING SEASON is underway on post in hunting areas D, G, the floodplain and western boundary. Wear hunter orange in hunting areas. Deer firearms dates for Fort Leavenworth are Nov. 27-30; Dec. 6, 7, 13 and 14; and Jan. 1-18.

■ SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS are available at the Army Education Center for the John W. Poillon Scholarship, which is open to high school seniors who are dependents of U.S. service members currently or within the past two years assigned to Fort Leavenworth or dependents of civilians employed at Fort Leavenworth. Application deadline is March 10, 2026.

Post leaders share holiday wishes, safety message

by Combined Arms Command and Fort Leavenworth Commanding General Lt. Gen. James P. Isenhower III and CAC and Fort Leavenworth Command Sgt. Maj. Shawn F. Carns

As the crisp air and shorter days remind us that fall and winter are upon us, we want to take a moment to extend our warmest wishes to each of you this holiday season.

This time of year is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the incredible dedication and hard work each of you demonstrate every day. Your efforts are vital to the success of our Army, our nation, the soldiers, Army civilian professionals and family members we serve.

FRONTIER 6, 7 SENDS

Thank you for your unwavering commitment throughout the year.

The holiday season is a time for joy, connection and renewal. We encourage you to embrace this special time by spending it with family and friends, relaxing and recharging. Whether you're celebrating traditions or simply enjoying the company of loved ones, we hope this season brings you happiness and peace.

As you plan your holiday activities, keep safety at the forefront. The colder weather, shorter days and increased holiday traffic presents risks. Please take the necessary precautions to protect yourself and your loved ones. Every soldier, civilian and family member is essential to our mission, and we cannot afford to lose anyone.

Whether traveling, celebrating or simply enjoying the season, make risk-informed decisions and remain vigilant.

Leaders, we ask that you stay positively engaged with your teams during this time. Discuss holiday plans with your team members and help them identify and mitigate risks to ensure everyone returns safely, recharged and ready to continue our mission. Deliberately check in on every soldier daily to see if they need help. When you are contacted, just pick up, and if you need help, just ask, and let us help you. Together, we can ensure this holiday season is both joyful and safe for all.

On behalf of Fort Leavenworth and the entire CAC team, thank you for your dedication and commitment. We wish you and your families a joyous, peaceful and safe holiday season. Enjoy this time with loved ones, and let's continue to look out for one another as we move into the new year.

Reduce risk of Thanksgiving cooking fires

by National Fire Protection Association Press Release

An estimated 1,446 home cooking fires were reported to U.S. fire departments on Thanksgiving Day in 2023, reflecting a 388 percent increase over the daily average, according to the National Fire Protection Association. Christmas Day and Christmas Eve ranked as the second- and third-leading days of the year for home cooking fires.

"Thanksgiving is a hectic holiday with multiple dishes cooking and baking at the same time, and along with guests, entertaining and other distractions, it can be easy to lose sight of what's on the stove or in the oven," said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA. "With all these factors at play, it's no surprise that we consistently see a dramatic spike in home cooking fires on Thanksgiving."

On annual average between 2019 and 2023, cooking accounted for the majority of U.S. home fires on Thanksgiving Day (80 percent) and 40 percent of the civilian injuries; no civilian deaths were reported. Overall, cooking is the leading cause of U.S. home fires and injuries and the second-leading cause of home fire deaths. Unattended cooking is the leading contributing factor in home cooking fires and fire deaths.

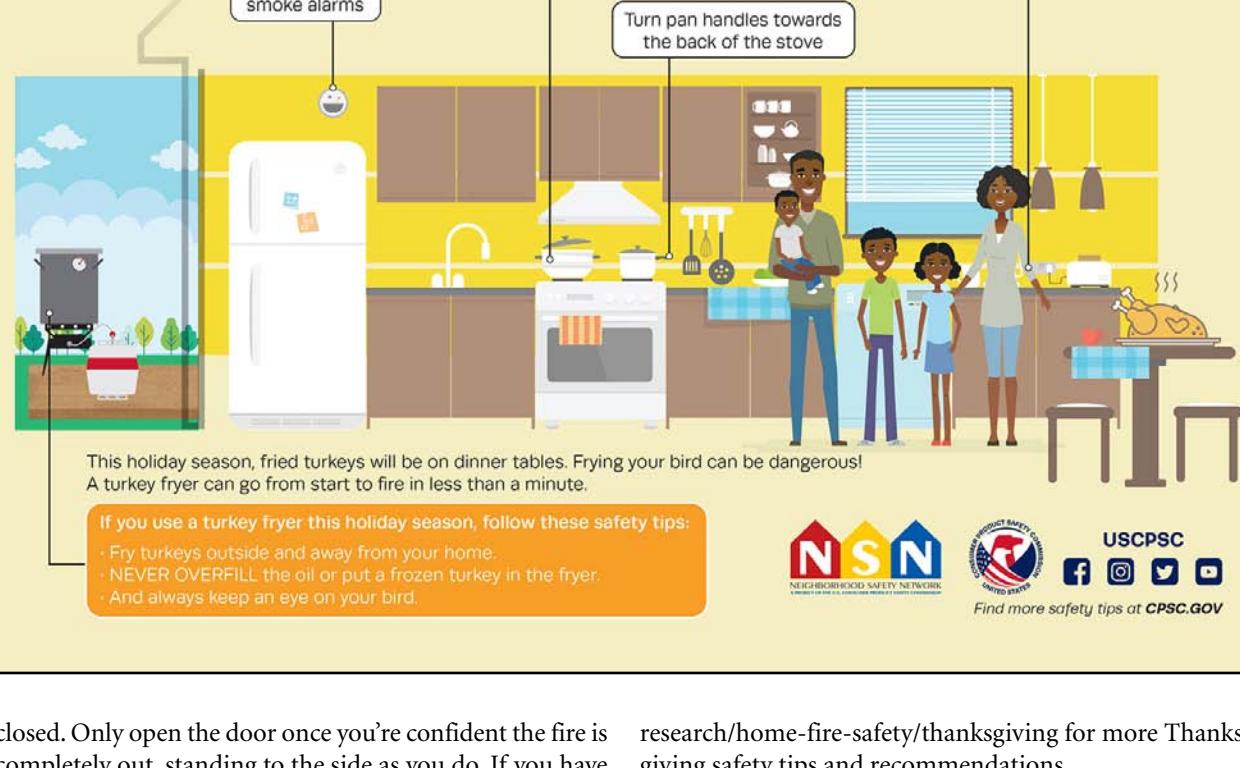
"Keeping a close eye on what's cooking and minimizing the likelihood of getting distracted can greatly reduce the risk of cooking fires," Carli said. "As simple as these preventative measures may sound, they truly can help ensure that everyone enjoys a festive, fire-free holiday."

Safety tips

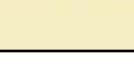
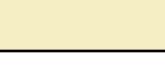
- Never leave the kitchen while cooking on the stove-top. Some types of cooking, especially those that involve frying or sautéing with oil, need continuous attention.
- When cooking a turkey, remain at home and check it regularly.
- Make use of timers to keep track of cooking times, particularly for foods that require longer cook times.
- Keep things that can catch fire like oven mitts, wooden utensils, food wrappers and towels at least three feet away from the cooking area.
- Avoid long sleeves and hanging fabrics that can come in contact with a heat source.
- Always cook with a lid beside your pan. If a small grease fire starts, smother the flames by sliding the lid over the pan, then turn off the burner. Do not remove the cover because the fire could start again.
- For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door

Gobble Up Safety!

Each year, there are about 1,800 cooking fires on Thanksgiving Day. Before you fire things up in the kitchen, follow these safety tips:



Let your Thanksgiving Day be full of thanks...not fires!



Find more safety tips at CPSC.GOV

closed. Only open the door once you're confident the fire is completely out, standing to the side as you do. If you have any doubts or concerns, contact the fire department for assistance.

Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried. Hot foods and liquids should be placed away from table and counter edges.

In addition, NFPA strongly discourages the use of turkey fryers that use cooking oil, which can cause devastating burns. For a safe alternative, NFPA recommends purchasing a fried turkey from a grocery store or restaurant or buying a fryer that does not use oil.

Visit [research/home-fire-safety/thanksgiving for more Thanksgiving safety tips and recommendations.](http://www.nfpa.org/education-and-</p>
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About the National Fire Protection Association

Founded in 1896, NFPA is a global self-funded non-profit organization devoted to eliminating death, injury, property and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards. The association delivers information and knowledge through more than 300 consensus codes and standards, research, training, education, outreach and advocacy; and by partnering with others who share an interest in furthering the NFPA mission. For more information, visit nfp.org. All NFPA codes and standards can be viewed online for free at nfp.org/freeaccess.

AUSA thanks those who helped with donation distribution

by Judy Bauer/Henry Leavenworth Chapter AUSA

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Military families at Fort Leavenworth and the surrounding area are receiving food and personal hygiene essentials due to the generosity of the Feed the Children Foundation and the Overland Park Chapter of the Rotary, specifically Mike Meyer of the chapter.

Mike contacted the Henry Leavenworth Chapter of AUSA to determine if our area military

families could use the donation from Feed the Children. A chapter community partner, John Campbell, owner of Studdard Moving Group, and his team offloaded 27,000 pounds of food and personal hygiene items into his warehouse. A plan was developed by the Studdard Moving

could not have been better since recent events have resulted in strained finances for our soldiers. This food will make things much easier for many families.

A huge shout out to Feed the Children Foundation, Overland Park Rotary, Studdard Moving

Group to transport the food to Fort Leavenworth for the military families to pick up.

The timing

Group and the leadership of the Army Corrections Brigade, as well as leaders from across the installation. What an uplifting experience as groups across the country reach out to assist our military families.

Feed the Children, established in 1979 and headquartered in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, has been dedicated to helping children and families. With the support of donors and corporate partners, the organization delivers food and household essentials, of

fers nutrition training and clean water programs, provides school supplies and assists in times of need.

This support has been extended to our military families who are experiencing food and financial insecurities. Feed the Children Foundation believes in helping families and communities with their immediate needs while also providing the tools needed to achieve a bright future.

FORT LEAVENWORTH LAMP

PUBLISHED FOR THE COMMUNITY OF FORT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

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Munson Army Health Center builds defenses against seasonal flu

Walk-in flu shots offered 8-11:30 a.m. Wednesdays, Thursdays

by Christina Yager/Munson Army Health Center Public Affairs Officer

Munson Army Health Center continues to prepare its community for the upcoming flu season.

MAHC staff kicked off the annual seasonal influenza vaccination campaign Oct. 1 to help protect the Fort Leavenworth community by reducing the spread of seasonal flu and strengthening overall medical readiness.

"Not only can the flu be a serious disease, particularly among young children, older adults, and people with certain chronic health conditions, but it can also negatively impact readiness through reduced personnel, lost days and degraded mission effectiveness," said Col. Jolanda L.J. Walker, MAHC director. "Vaccination is a safer choice than risking illness — protecting individual health, unit preparedness and ultimately, national security."

According to MAHC public health officials, keeping flu from formations on post is an important Force Health Protection mission. The U.S. Disciplinary Barracks population, for example, is one of important focus.

"Correctional facilities tend to have enclosed spaces where people are in close contact. Once influenza enters, it can spread rapidly," said 1st Lt. Kennedy Reeves, chief of MAHC's Department of Public Health and officer in charge of this year's seasonal influenza vaccine campaign. "If a flu outbreak sidelines large numbers of corrections staff and support personnel, it can impact operations. That's what we're trying to prevent."

Reeves said that providing influenza vaccine to staff and inmates helps reduce the likelihood of rapid transmission, limits severe illness, and minimizes the strain on medical resources.

The team also launched an outreach effort to vaccinate students, faculty and staff at the Command and General Staff College. Training environments like CGSC are like college-campus conditions, where influenza spreads easily through shared classrooms, group work in close quarters and high levels of daily interaction.



Photo by Christina Yager/Munson Army Health Center Public Affairs

Pfc. Antonio Lopez, Munson Army Health Center combat medic specialist, administers a seasonal influenza vaccine to a service member during a community flu-shot event Nov. 19 at Frontier Chapel. According to MAHC public health officials, keeping flu from formations on post, including the Command and General Staff College and U.S. Disciplinary Barracks, is an important Force Health Protection mission.

Walker said that these settings consistently see faster transmission of seasonal flu, and illness can quickly disrupt academic schedules.

"For CGSC students in the Army's training pipeline, even a short bout of influenza can set them back in their studies, impact group projects or cause missed instruction days. Ensuring this population is vaccinated helps maintain instructional continuity and supports the readiness of future Army leaders," Walker said.

In addition to these and other unit-based events, MAHC completed four scheduled community influenza vaccine walk-in events on post for service mem-

bers, retirees and family members.

"These efforts reflect Munson's mission to safeguard the health and resilience of the force," Walker said.

Walker encourages all eligible beneficiaries to receive their flu shot to help protect themselves and those around them.

Beginning Nov. 26 (today), TRICARE beneficiaries aged 6 months and older who still need a flu shot can stop by the MAHC Department of Primary Care from 8-11:30 a.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays to receive their vaccine. Department of Defense identification cards are required for patients ages 10 years and older.

Additional measures individuals can take to reduce the risk of illness include getting plenty of rest, eating a healthy diet, being physically active, managing stress and drinking plenty of fluids.

Cleaning frequently touched surfaces, avoiding people who are sick, covering coughs and handwashing help stop the spread of germs and prevent respiratory illnesses like flu from spreading.

"By taking proactive steps like vaccination and practicing good hygiene, we can all contribute to a healthier Fort Leavenworth community and a more resilient force," Walker said.

Flores named MAHC civilian employee of quarter

by Christina Yager/Munson Army Health Center Public Affairs Officer

Munson Army Health Center named Julia Flores as its Defense Health Agency Civilian Employee of the Quarter for the third quarter of 2025.

Flores is a clinical laboratory scientist at MAHC who is responsible for quality control, maintenance and reporting, ensuring healthcare providers get reliable lab results to accurately diagnose and treat their patients.

"Ms. Flores' dedication to quality control, maintenance and reporting helps Munson deliver the best possible care," said Capt. TeTeama Bennett, chief of Laboratory Services at MAHC.

These awards recognize the contributions that federal healthcare employees provide to patient care, medical readiness, mission support and the embodiment of the DHA core values.

"I am very grateful to have been selected as civilian of the quarter and honored for the recognition," Flores said. "I have been very fortunate when it comes to the leadership and co-workers that I have worked with, both past and present."

Flores joined the MAHC team in 2017 while serving as a clinical laboratory specialist in the Army, and later returned to MAHC in

2021 after transitioning from the Army and joining the federal civilian workforce.

"I will be forever grateful for everything that the military gave me, to include this career that allows me to continuously further my education and experience in a way that I enjoy so that I am able to provide the best care to every patient," Flores said.

Serving the Fort Leavenworth community and Military Health System beneficiaries in the greater Kansas City area, Munson Army Health Center provides compassionate, efficient and highly reliable healthcare. MAHC's mission is to enable soldier readiness and promote health for all those it serves.

For civilian career opportunities in the Defense Health Agency, visit USAJobs.gov and search "Military Treatment Facilities under DHA."

RIGHT: Julia Flores, a clinical laboratory scientist at Munson Army Health Center, was named Civilian Employee of the Quarter for the third quarter of 2025.

Photo by Christina Yager/Munson Army Health Center Public Affairs



Greening of the Chapels (continued from Page A1)



Photo by Prudence Siebert/Fort Leavenworth Lamp

Twelve-year-old Liam Quinlan and 11-year-old Sadie Thomas redistribute lights to evenly hang along a garland while helping with the Greening of the Chapel Nov. 22 at Frontier Chapel.

Sadie also emphasized the reason for the decorating tradition and why she liked being part of the process.

"I think it's fun because you're just helping out; it feels good to help other people out, especially to make something that will last a few weeks over the course of the season of Advent. I would say it just adds a little bit of extra holiday cheer... signifying that our Savior is coming," Sadie said. "Although presents are fun, a lot of people forget that Jesus is the reason for the season. A lot of people just think, 'Oh it's all about the gifts.' Well, no — you have to turn your eyes to the Lord and understand that Jesus is the reason we celebrate Christmas."

Preserving history

Retired Lt. Col. Lowell Solien first helped with the greening of Memorial Chapel in 2000 when he was a permanent party instructor in the Department of Logistics and Resource Operations at the Command and General Staff College. He said the Lutheran and Episcopal congregations, now known as the Protestant Liturgical service, would come together for the greening — and cleaning — of the historic chapel. The annual tradition at Memorial Chapel entails more than decorating for the season. It also includes tasks such as oiling the century-old altar piece and vacuuming the pews.

"The paneling needs to be oiled periodically or it'll deteriorate, so we do this at least once a year as a part of this," Solien said about helping preserve the 1878 chapel. "I just love coming here. I love that historic feel to this chapel. I mean, it's the only historic chapel left on the post, so it's our way of preserving that for future generations."

Solien described the chapel as a history museum, housing artifacts from its religious history such as the communion set on display in the foyer, as well as the memorial plaques on its walls.

"This whole place is a museum, a history museum. Everything in here, practically, was donated by some unit that probably no longer exists in the Army — the brass podium sitting there, the brass rail up at the

altar — everything has an inscription on it from some unit that's probably gone now."

Returning volunteers

Retired Lt. Col. Tom Ward has been involved in the greening of Pioneer Chapel for many of the past 20-some years.

"I certainly enjoy the ambiance of the Advent season and the preparation for the birth of the Christ child. So, if I enjoy it that much, I ought to help put it together."

Ward got his decorating start as a youth working for his father, who was a florist in Bartlesville, Oklahoma.

"Growing up, I helped decorate the banks and the shopping centers and the retail stores and the headquarters for Phillips Petroleum. I kind of developed an eye for how some of these things should be," Ward said, recalling a time when he noticed that someone had hung the wreaths upside down in Pioneer Chapel and made sure that was remedied. "Chaplain (Maj.) Chris Weinrich really has been the focus and the organizer (of this year's greening). I've just been able to pitch in and do things every once in a while. I'm not in charge, I'm just cheap labor with some experience."

Hope, peace, joy and love

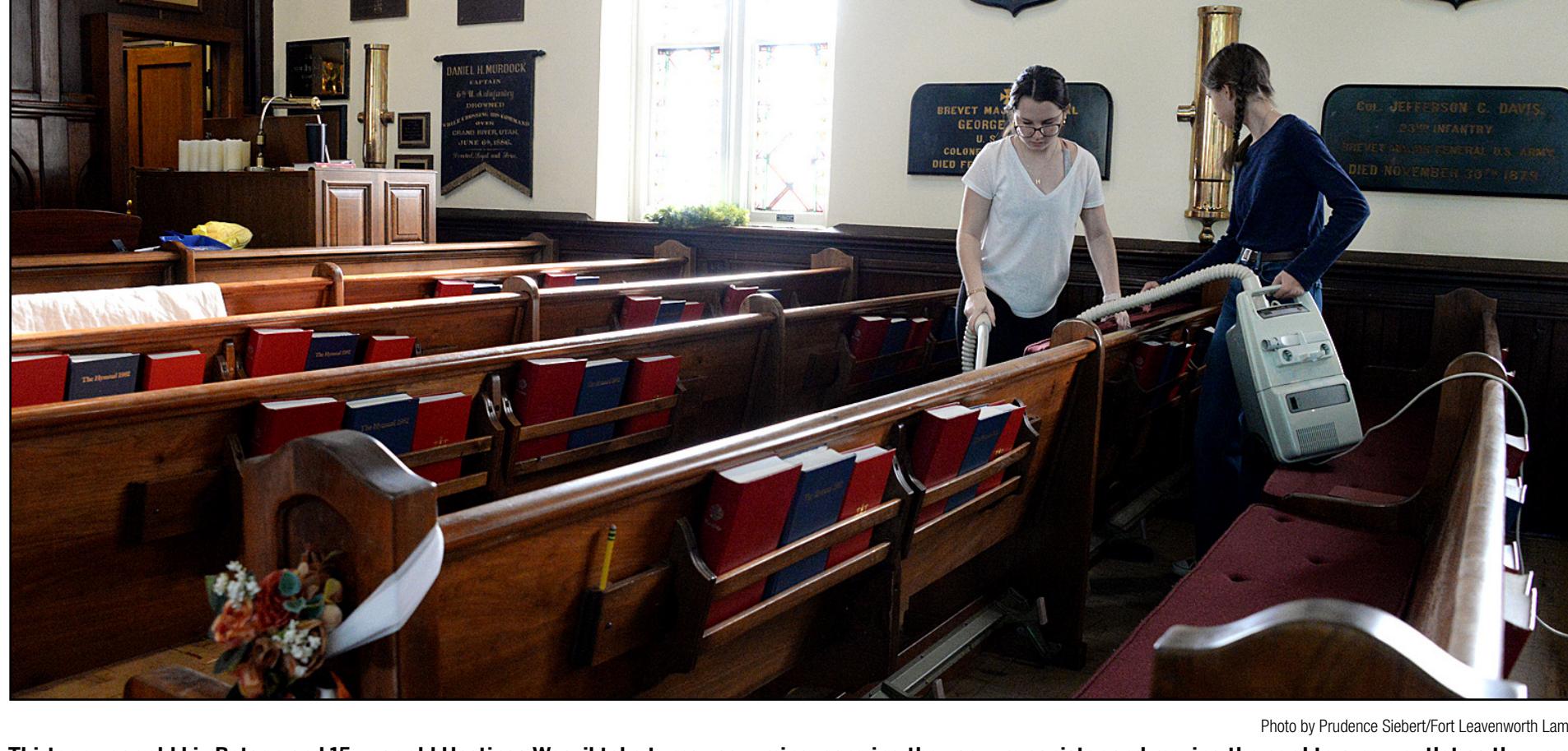
During services in the post chapels, special candles will be lit each Sunday during Advent, symbolizing hope, peace, joy and love leading up to Christmas Eve, when the Christ candle will be lit.

"Each week we light one of the four (candles) until they're all four burning after the four Sundays of Advent. And on Christmas Eve when we have a service, we light the Christ candle in the center — Christ has come," Ward explained.

He remembers participating in the tradition growing up, having an Advent wreath in his home.

"I really appreciate that tradition," he said. "Here in this chapel, we usually get families to light the candles each week, especially if they have younger children, because they read a scripture that talks about the prophecy and the coming and the wait-

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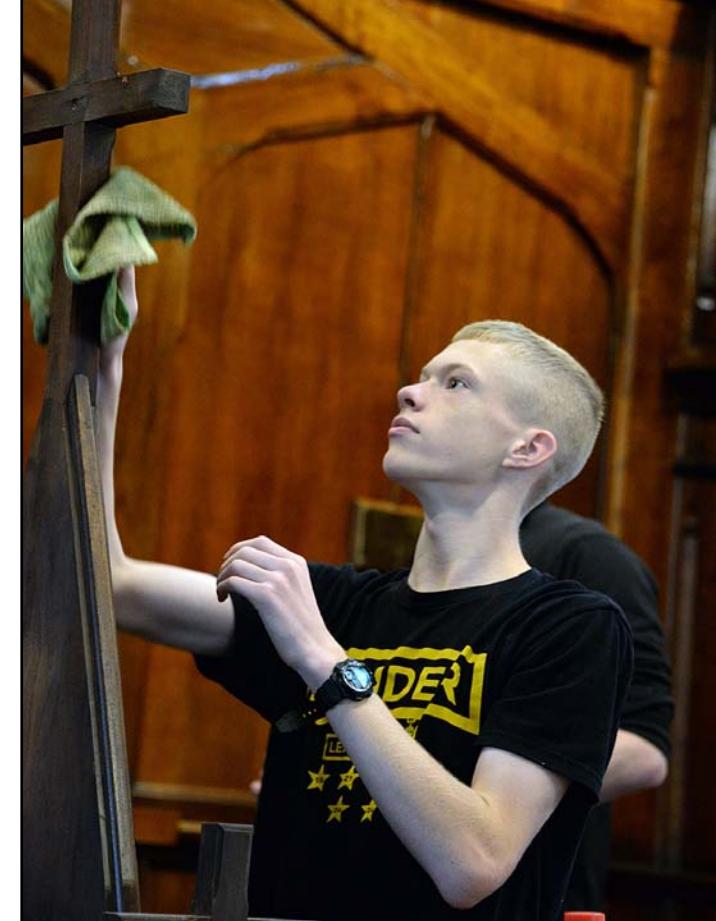


Thirteen-year-old Liv Betson and 15-year-old Hastings Weavil take turns vacuuming, carrying the vacuum canister and moving the cord to a new outlet as they maneuver through each pew to clean the cushions while helping with the greening and cleaning of Memorial Chapel Nov. 22.



Photo by Prudence Siebert/Fort Leavenworth Lamp

British Liaison Officer Col. Sam Stuthridge, ABOVE, and 15-year-old Ethan Betson, RIGHT, oil the altar piece, paneling, chairs and other wood at the front of Memorial Chapel during the annual greening and cleaning of the chapel Nov. 22.



Greening of the Chapels

(continued from Page A4)

ing and that sort of thing... It's really neat; I love it."

He still recalls fondly how several years ago, four generations of his own family, including his now-97-year-old mother, his daughter and his grandson, participated in the lighting of the Advent candles during church.

"It's such a neat family ceremony and tradition. It's very memorable," he said. "We only did that once, but that was because that was a unique moment in time for all of us."

Bring in, build up, send out

Chapel Community members often use the saying "Bring in, build up, send out," referring to the annual process of welcoming new community members, building them up in the faith, and sending them out when they PCS to continue the cycle.

"Well, I don't know its origins, but it's certainly an apt description for the way the place works," said Chapel Community member retired Lt. Col. Dave Bodde, "because you bring in classes of people who are smart up-and-comers in the Army. We try to build them in the faith. Many are of the faith already; some are not. Those we try to introduce to it at least during the time that they're here."

Ward said that "bring in, build up, send out" philosophy is part of what makes this post unique. He described Fort Leavenworth as a wonderful community, unlike any other post he's been to.

"I think part of (what makes Fort Leavenworth special) is that you have a retiree population that provides the continuity, so there's a base that's here through the three-year cycle of PCSs, that they're here to receive the folks coming in, and they're also here to say goodbye to the folks going out, and most posts don't have that," Ward said. "I'm not saying that the guys who are coming and going are not pulling their load, but there is kind of a foundation underneath that is very helpful for making a lot of that happen."

In tandem with that continuity observation, Ward said the book describing how the decorations are to be displayed in the sanctuary could not be found this year. He felt assured that the SOP book is somewhere and not lost forever, but it couldn't be located in time for the greening. His many years of helping with the annual tradition came in handy, with pictures of greenings past in his mind to help sort out where things should go as volunteers hung ribbons and ornaments on trees, draped lights and garlands over railings and positioned the nativity scene at the front of the sanctuary.

Special services and upcoming services for each congregation are listed in the box below. For more information on religious services, e-mail christopher.w.weinrich.mil@army.mil.



Photo by Prudence Siebert/Fort Leavenworth Lamp

Longtime Greening of the Chapel volunteer retired Lt. Col. Tom Ward, member of the traditional Protestant congregation, positions burlap under the donkey in a manger scene while getting the sanctuary ready for the Advent season Nov. 22 at Pioneer Chapel.



Photo by Prudence Siebert/Fort Leavenworth Lamp
Linda Stephens vacuums up glitter after decorating a Christmas tree with other volunteers Nov. 22 at Pioneer Chapel.



ABOVE: Operations Chaplain (Maj.) Christopher Weinrich, right, offers donuts and coffee to volunteers Linda Stephens and Tom Ward as they finish decorating Pioneer Chapel for the Christmas season Nov. 22.

LEFT: Chaplain (Col.) Seth George, Combined Arms Command senior chaplain, and Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Eric Bryan, Garrison chaplain, help clean and decorate Memorial Chapel with family members and other volunteers Nov. 22.

Photos by Prudence Siebert/Fort Leavenworth Lamp



Religious holiday services

SPECIAL SERVICES

Dec. 5 - Tree lighting event starting at 4 p.m. at Zais Park. Memorial Chapel will be open.

Dec. 6 - German Christmas service at 5:30 p.m. at Memorial Chapel

Dec. 19 - Jewish Hanukkah dinner at 6 p.m. at Pioneer Chapel

Jan. 9 - Jewish Shabbat dinner at 6 p.m. at Pioneer Chapel

Jan. 10 - Chapel decorations restoration event at 9 a.m.

CATHOLIC SERVICES at Pioneer Chapel, unless otherwise noted

Nov. 30 - First Sunday of Advent Mass, 9:30 a.m.

Dec. 6 - Spiritual Retreat, 10 a.m. at Frontier Chapel

Dec. 7 - Second Sunday of Advent Mass, 9:30 a.m.

Dec. 8 - Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, noon and 6 p.m.

Dec. 13 - Advent Penance Mass, 10 a.m.

Dec. 14 - Third Sunday of Advent Mass, 9:30 a.m.

Dec. 21 - Fourth Sunday of Advent Mass, 9:30 a.m.

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Mass, 5 p.m.

Dec. 25 - Christmas Day Mass, 10 a.m. at Frontier Chapel

Dec. 28 - The Holy Family Mass. 9:30 a.m.

Jan. 1 - Solemnity of Mary Holy Day of Obligation, noon

Jan. 6 - Epiphany, noon

PROTESTANT (LITURGICAL) SERVICES at Memorial Chapel

Nov. 30 - First Sunday of Advent, 9:30 a.m.

Dec. 7 - Second Sunday of Advent, 9:30 a.m.

Dec. 14 - Third Sunday of Advent, 9:30 a.m.

Dec. 21 - Fourth Sunday of Advent, 9:30 a.m.

Nov. 30 - First Sunday of Advent, 10 a.m.

Dec. 7 - Second Sunday of Advent, 10 a.m.

Dec. 14 - Christmas Cantata/Third Sunday of Advent, 10 a.m.

Dec. 21 - Fourth Sunday of Advent, 10 a.m.

PROTESTANT (CONTEMPORARY) SERVICES at Frontier Chapel

Nov. 30 - First Sunday of Advent, 11 a.m.

Dec. 7 - Second Sunday of Advent, 11 a.m.

Dec. 14 - Third Sunday of Advent, 11 a.m.

Dec. 21 - Fourth Sunday of Advent, 11 a.m.

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 6 p.m.

Dec. 28 - First Sunday after Christmas, 11 a.m.

PROTESTANT (TRADITIONAL) SERVICES at Pioneer Chapel, unless otherwise noted

Nov. 30 - First Sunday of Advent, 8:30 a.m.

Dec. 7 - Second Sunday of Advent, 8:30 a.m.

Dec. 14 - Third Sunday of Advent, 8:30 a.m.

Dec. 21 - Fourth Sunday of Advent (Christmas Cantata), 8:30 a.m.

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 6 p.m. in Frontier Chapel

Dec. 28 - First Sunday after Christmas, 8:30 a.m.

For more information, e-mail christopher.w.weinrich.mil@army.mil.

Leaders, mayors go on Village Walks



Photo by Scott Gibson/Fort Leavenworth Garrison Public Affairs

Fort Leavenworth Garrison Commander Col. Todd Sunday, Garrison Command Sgt. Major David Franks and representatives of Fort Leavenworth Frontier Heritage Communities; Housing Oversight Office; Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation; Religious Support Office; and Garrison Public Affairs Office join village mayors for a Village Walk through the Shawnee, Pawnee and Santa Fe neighborhoods Nov. 20. The Village Walks program is a grassroots effort that allows Fort Leavenworth residents an opportunity to provide feedback directly to post leaders. Another walk was conducted in Kickapoo and Pottawatomie neighborhoods Nov. 25. Upcoming Village Walks are Dec. 9 in Oregon, Nez Perce and Iowa villages and Dec. 11 in the Normandy and Main Post neighborhoods.

Army launches new training management system

by Adam Fugent/Army.mil

NEWPORT NEWS, Virginia — The U.S. Army has taken a significant step to modernize how it manages soldiers' training data.

On Nov. 15, ATIS Training — a streamlined, intuitive platform for managing individual and unit training records — launched to every soldier across the Army.

As the Army's authoritative enterprise training management solution, ATIS Training replaces the Digital Training Management System. ATIS Training offers an efficient suite of ap-

plications designed to empower leaders and soldiers by modernizing the planning, visualization and management of individual and unit training data.

Soldiers, commanders and support staff can now access real-time data on individual soldier training records, access leader dashboards to visualize unit metrics, build training schedules and use different apps that automate manual processes, reducing the time it takes to complete administrative tasks.

The Army Training Information System team developed the new platform

using Agile software methodologies and with input and feedback from soldiers starting from day one. Since summer 2024, the ATIS team has gathered continuous user feedback across all three Army components and at all echelons — from company through division-level formations.

One soldier noted how intuitive and efficient the system is in assigning all mandatory training to all unit personnel in 15 minutes — something that wasn't previously possible. The team also tested the platform's interoperability at scale with the Army's online

HR solution known as Integrated Personnel and Pay System – Army, and other data sources.

"ATIS Training is designed by soldiers, for soldiers," said Lt. Col. John Nikiforakis, ATIS product manager at PEO Enterprise. "We developed our software in direct partnership with training room non-commissioned officers, company command teams and battalion leadership to deliver software that's not only easy to use but that informs decisions at all echelons."

One of ATIS Training's key objectives is to reduce

the amount of time soldiers spend on administrative tasks like data entry and allow more time for actual training. This objective aligns with the Army's readiness goal to train soldiers as they fight, enabling them to reach their potential and maintain the Army's strategic advantage.

The launch of ATIS Training is a significant milestone, reflecting the Army's commitment to adopting modern, agile solutions to meet the evolving needs of leaders and soldiers. Moving forward, the ATIS team will continue releasing enhancements and

new functionality for the platform, including the integration of Army civilians' training records.

ATIS Training is developed and managed by the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center — a major subordinate element of the Training and Transformation Command — and the ATIS product office at U.S. Army Program Executive Office Enterprise.

For more information about ATIS Training, Army users can visit the Army Training Network website.

Army revamps direct commissioning program to accelerate recruitment of applicants with specialized skills

by Lt. Col. William Lincoln/U.S. Army Directorate of Military Personnel Management

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Army recently announced updates to its Direct Commissioning Program aimed at attracting top-tier professionals with specialized skills directly into its officer corps. The program offers qualified civilians and former service members the opportunity to be appointed as officers, potentially entering at ranks from second lieutenant to colonel, depending on their qualifications.

The overhaul, formalized in a recent executive order, centralizes the recruiting, screening and selection process under U.S. Army Recruiting Command. This move seeks to create a more unified and standardized approach to accessing talent, replacing a previously fragmented system where procedures varied by branch or component.

"The Direct Commissioning Program fundamentally changes how we bring specialized talent into the Army," said Brig. Gen. Gregory Johnson, director of Military Personnel Management. "By reducing commissioning timelines across a wide range of emerging skills, cyber, technology, logistics and beyond, the program directly enhances warfighting readiness and ensures we remain competitive in an evolving operational environment."

A key objective of the revised DCP is to shorten commissioning timelines to approximately six months, a significant reduction intended to improve efficiency. The program also aims to improve transparency by consolidating applicant screening, waiver processes and board procedures under US-AREC.

The revamped DCP provides an alternative ac-

cession pathway beyond traditional routes like Reserve Officers' Training Corps, U.S. Military Academy and Officer Candidate School. It helps align civilian expertise with critical mission needs and potentially reduce costs associated with scholarships, permanent-change-of-station moves and training requirements.

Positions are available in both active-duty and Army Reserve components. Applicants must meet specific criteria to be considered, including:

• U.S. citizen.

(Dual citizenship disqualifies applicants.)

• Meet Army medical, physical and fitness standards, including height and weight standards.

• Clean moral background.

• Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution.

• Match specific education and skill requirements, demonstrating leadership and technical expertise.

• Able to obtain and maintain a security clearance.

(Secret or Top Secret, depending on the position.)

• Meet age requirements.

(Waivers may be possible.)

The program is not open to inter-service or inter-component transfers.

"Ultimately, the DCP is part of a broader effort to modernize the Army's talent management strategies," Johnson said. "The updated DCP provides a more adaptable model for accessing specialized skills needed now and in the future. We will be more lethal because of this effort."

For more information, visit <https://www.army.mil/dcp>.

Army expands program allowing soldiers with civilian skills to bypass initial training

by Lt. Col. Andrew Yang/U.S. Army Directorate of Military Personnel Management

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Army has added 17 new military occupational specialties to its Civilian Acquire Skills Program (ACASP), effective since Oct. 1.

The ACASP allows soldiers with relevant civilian skills to bypass some initial training and start their military careers at an advanced level. This expansion brings the total number of eligible occupations to 60.

"ACASP offers a two-pronged benefit," said Brig. Gen. Gregory Johnson, director of Military Personnel Management. "The Army gets skilled specialists into the force faster and at a lower cost, while the soldier receives a significant head start in their military career."

Through ACASP, qualified applicants with verified civilian training, certifications or experience can receive advanced rank, accelerated promotion, or modified training requirements upon enlistment. The latest update authorizes the following 17 new MOSs under ACASP: respiratory specialist (68V), M1 Abrams Tank system maintainer (91A), quartermaster and chemical equipment repairer (91J), Bradley Fighting Vehicle system maintainer (91M), self-propelled artillery systems mechanic (91P),

Stryker systems maintainer (91S), automated logistical specialist (92A), petroleum supply specialist (92F), water treatment specialist (92W), unit supply specialist (92Y), radio equipment repairer (94E), computer/detection systems repairer (94F), multiple launch rocket system repairer (94P), avionics and survivability equipment repairer (94R), Patriot system repairer (94S), short-range air defense system repairer (94T), and automatic test systems operator/maintainer (94Y).

While specific requirements vary by career field, all ACASP applicants must meet several general criteria. Candidates need verifiable work experience, training or certification in a qualifying job and must satisfy all standard Army enlistment requirements, such as age, physical fitness and background checks. To verify eligibility, applicants must also provide official documentation of their skills, which can include licenses, transcripts or letters from an employer.

The revised ACASP MOS inventory will be available for applicants entering into the Regular Army, U.S. Army Reserve and Army National Guard. For more information on the ACASP and the complete list of eligible MOSs, access the Smartbook DA PAM 611-21 at <https://www.army.mil/g-1#org-g-1-resources>.



Pet of the Week: Dusty



Photo by Prudence Siebert/Fort Leavenworth Lamp

Dusty is a male 8-month-old tabby available for adoption at the Fort Leavenworth Stray Facility. He has already been neutered, vaccinated and microchipped. The adoption fee for a cat is \$100, which helps cover some of the care received. E-mail fortleavenworthstrayfacility@gmail.com for an adoption application.

Visit www.FLSF.petfinder.com for adoptable pet profiles. Call 913-684-4939 (no voicemail) or 913-335-0788 (voicemail) for more information. Military affiliation is not required to adopt from the Fort Leavenworth Stray Facility.

Fort Leavenworth Stray Facility, at 510 Organ Ave., is open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday; 9 a.m. to noon the second Saturday of the month; and by appointment for pre-approved adopters. Call 913-335-0788 for an appointment.

Volunteers are needed to help cover pet care shifts, walk dogs, clean kennels and more. Foster homes for adoptable pets are also needed.

To apply to volunteer with the Fort Leavenworth Stray Facility, visit <https://vmis.armyfamilywebportal.com/>, enter ZIP code 66027, then search for "stray animal facility."



Holiday PET PHOTO CONTEST

Enter December 1 - December 31, 2025

2 GRAND PRIZE WINNERS
RECEIVE A \$500 EXCHANGE GIFT CARD.

8 RUNNER UP WINNERS
RECEIVE A \$250 EXCHANGE GIFT CARD.

PURINA
Your Pet, Our Passion.

x giftcard

X EXCHANGE



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WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 26, 2025



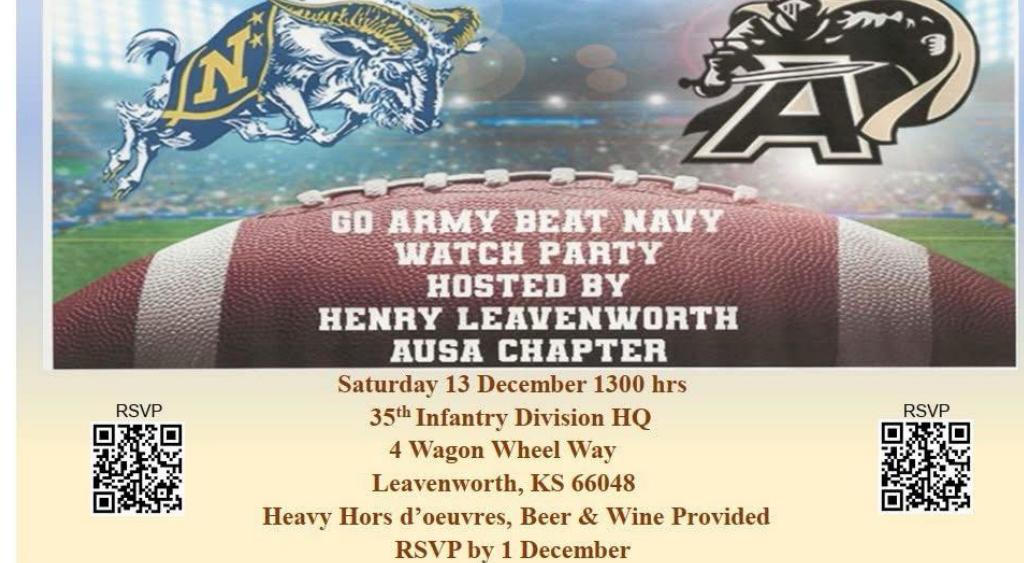
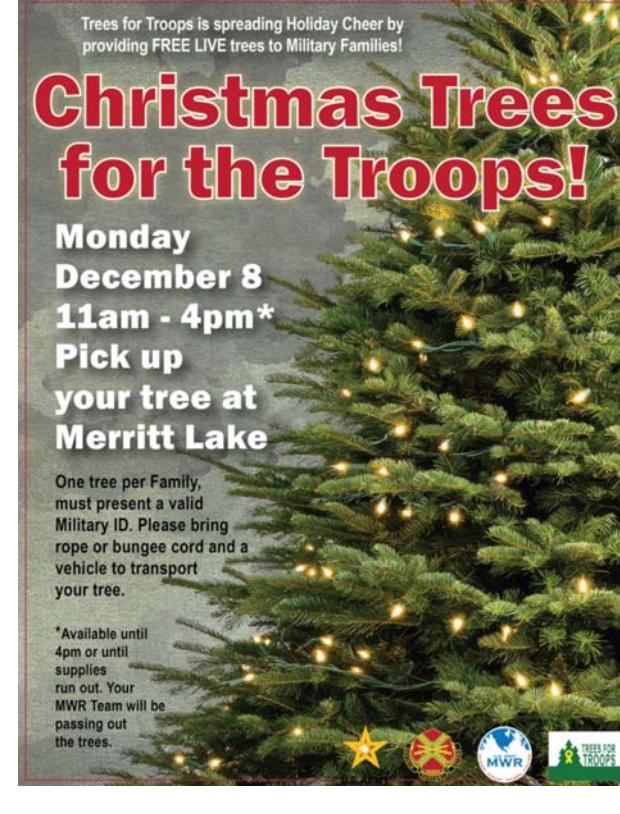
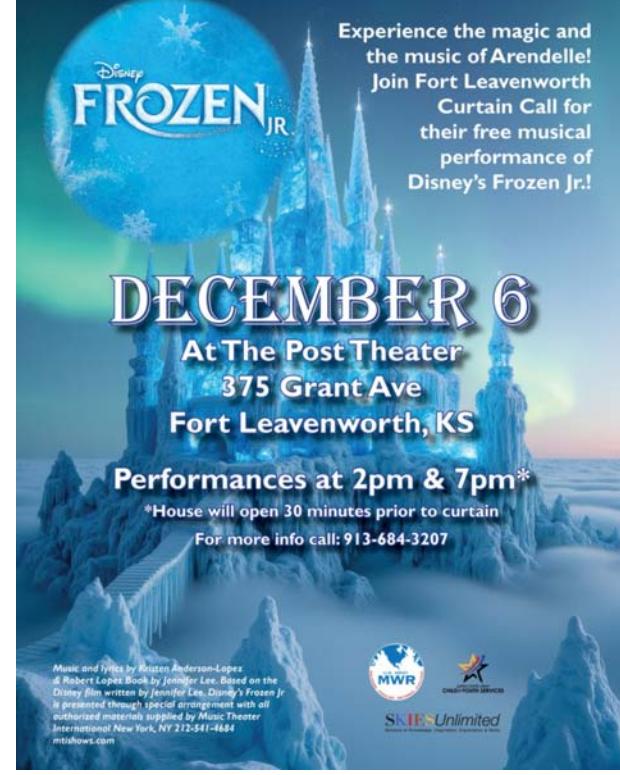
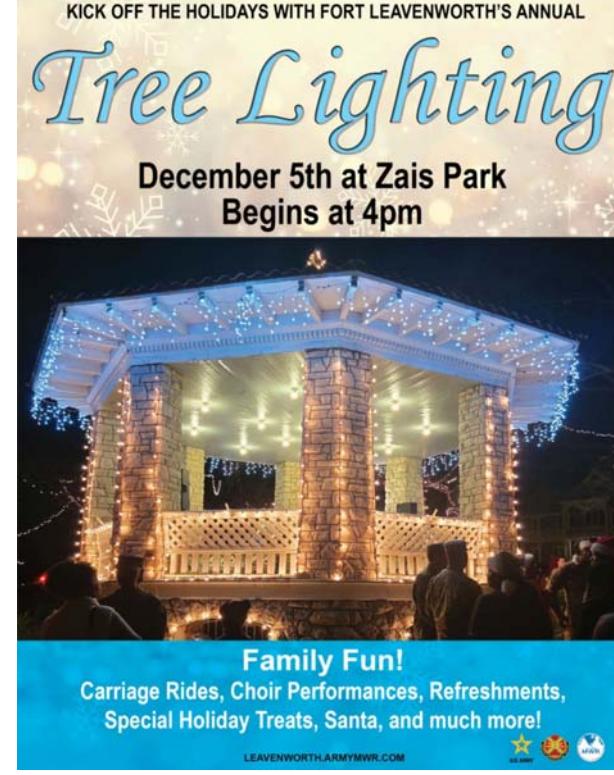
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Notes

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Online: <https://home.army.mil/leavenworth/about/news>

B1



Starting October 13th, 2025

**Fort Leavenworth
Group Fitness Classes**

GRUBER FITNESS CENTER - 200 Reynolds Ave. - 684-5120

Mon-Fri: 0500-1800, Sat and Sun: 0800-1700

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
0530			Spin (Karyn)				
0600	Vinyasa Yoga (Leslie)		Vinyasa Yoga (Leslie)				
0900						Yin Yoga (Brandie/Leslie)	
0930	Zumba (Virmarie)				Power Yoga (Kim)		
1200							
1630	Zumba (Virmarie)	Power Cycling (Kim)	Yin Yoga (Brandie)				
1700	Power Yoga (Kim)						

HARNEY SPORTS COMPLEX - 185 Fourth St. - 684-2190

Mon-Fri: 0500-1800, Sat and Sun: 0800-1700

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
0800						
1630	"Power Cut" (Kim)		"Power Cut" (Kim)			

*Power Cut classes are held in the Bubble Gym



Single Ticket For \$5.00
10 Tickets For \$45.00
20 Tickets For \$80.00

U.S. ARMY
SFA
SPORTS - FITNESS - AQUATICS

<https://leavenworth.armymwr.com>**YOUTH SPORTS & FITNESS
Winter Sports**REGISTRATION
October 14 - November 17**Winter Youth Basketball**
January 7 - February 28
\$50

Kinder (5 - 6 yrs old)
1st & 2nd grade (7 - 8 yrs old)
3rd & 4th grade (9 - 10 yrs old)
5th & 6th grade (11 - 12 yrs old)

Start Smart Basketball ages 3 - 4 yrs old
January 12 - February 23 (Monday Sessions)
January 14 - February 11 (Wednesday Sessions)
\$30

Winter Youth Wrestling
January 8 - February 26
5 - 12 yrs old
\$50

VOLUNTEER HEAD COACHES NEEDED!
All Youth must have an updated sports physical before the first practice. Enrollment can be done at any CYS location if centrally registered. Webtrac enrollments can only be done with a current Youth Sports Physical.
For more info call 913-684-7525/ 7526

**Youth Sports & Fitness
Winter Basketball Camp**

Registration
Oct 14 - Dec 1
Camp
Dec 1 - 4
Harrold Youth Center
45 Biddle Blvd

Camp Schedule
Ages 5 - 8
4:00pm - 5:00pm
Ages 9 - 10
5:00pm - 6:00pm
Ages 11 - 14
6:00pm - 7:00pm

cost \$40

Each Youth participant will receive a camp t-shirt. Must be centrally registered with Parent Central. Enrollment can be done at any CYS location.

Call for more info 913-684-7525/ 7526

October - December Workshops**Watercolor**

\$30 per workshop

Watercolor (Basic Techniques)

Thursday, Oct 2
12pm - 2pm

Watercolor (Color Theory)

Thursday, Oct 9
12pm - 2pm

Watercolor (Floral)

Thursday, Oct 16
12pm - 2pm

Watercolor (Autumn Wreath)

Thursday, Oct 30
12pm - 2pm

Watercolor (Holiday Cards)

Tuesday, Nov 18
12pm - 2pmPre-registration required for all classes.
Cost includes all supplies!Tues & Thurs 9am - 7pm, Wed & Fri 9am - 4pm
Call now to register: (913) 684 - 3373**Ft. Leavenworth Arts & Crafts Studio****Paint & Sip**\$35
Must be 21 years or older.
BYOB

Modern Calligraphy (Intermediate)

Tuesday, Oct 28
11am - 12:30pm

Modern Calligraphy (Holiday Cards)

Tuesday, Nov 4
11am - 12:30pm

Holly Jolly Highland Cow

Friday, December 12
6pm - 8pm

Cute Witchy Pumpkin

Friday, October 10
6pm - 8pm

Grateful Pumpkin Stack

Friday, November 14
6pm - 8pm

Ceramic Christmas Ornaments

Wednesday, Dec 3
11am - 1pm

Hand Building (Autumn Plates)

Tuesday, Oct 14
12pm - 2pm

Wheel Throwing (Mugs)

Wednesday, Nov 19
12pm - 2:30pm

Wheel Throwing (Pumpkins)

Wednesday, Oct 8
12pm - 2:30pm

Wheel Throwing (Pumpkins)

Wednesday, Oct 27
6pm - 8:30pm

Hand Building (Autumn Plates)

Tuesday, Oct 14
12pm - 2pm

Wheel Throwing (Mugs)

Wednesday, Nov 19
12pm - 2:30pm

Wheel Throwing (Pumpkins)

Wednesday, Oct 27
6pm - 8:30pm

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Wheel Throwing (Mugs)

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Wheel Throwing (Pumpkins)

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Tuesday, Oct 14
12pm - 2pm

Wheel Throwing (Mugs)

Wednesday, Nov 19
12pm - 2:30pm

Judaism 101

LUNCH & LEARN

Hungry to Learn?

Discover. Ask. Connect.
All are Welcome

Wednesday, December 10th, 12:00 - 13:00
Pioneer Chapel Fellowship Hall

JEWISH HOLY DAYS AND MEETINGS
Frontier & Pioneer Chapels

PIONEER CHAPEL
(500 Pope Avenue, Fort Leavenworth, KS 66027)

HANUKKAH DINNER
19 December 2025 @ 1800-2000

JEWISH SHABBAT DINNER
09 January 2026 @ 1800-2000

***Please RSVP within 5 days of the dinner to:
POC: CH (MAJ) Chris Weinrich: christopher.w.weinrich.mil@army.mil

FRONTIER CHAPEL
(625 Thomas Avenue, Fort Leavenworth, KS 66027)

WEEKLY JUDAISM 101 SERIES
10 December 2025 – 14 January 2026
Time: 1200-1300
Room 153



CHRISTMAS CANTATA 2025
THEIR STORY: A CHRISTMAS WITNESS
"BECAUSE THEIR STORY BECAME OURS"

Music, Dance, and The Story

"And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart." Luke 2:18-19

Sunday, December 14, 2025
Pioneer Chapel
Fort Leavenworth
10:00 AM

Followed by a Fellowship Meal in the Activity Room




VERTICAL Marriage
THE ONE SECRET THAT WILL CHANGE YOUR MARRIAGE

DATE NIGHT
08 AUG, 05 SEP, 10 OCT, 07 NOV, 05 DEC

For more information and to register, scan the QR code or call/text 910-644-2999

Meals & Childcare provided



FINANCIAL Peace
UNIVERSITY

Sunday Afternoons, 1 - 3 p.m.
23 November – 22 February
Frontier Chapel, Fort Leavenworth

*First five individuals or couples to sign up and attend the first session will receive a **FREE FPU Membership & Book**
Contact Zach at zjmundell@gmail.com for more details.

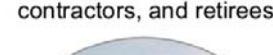
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IG: @campuslifefortleavenworth
Samantha Odle
(605) 569-3820 / sodle@yfc.net

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Pioneer Chapel
500 Pope Avenue



Frontier Chapel
625 Thomas Avenue



Memorial Chapel
626 Scott Avenue

PROTESTANT

- Traditional Worship – 0830 (Children's Church – K-5th grade)
- Sunday School – 0945

MULTI-CULTURAL GOSPEL

- Sunday Worship – 1000

CATHOLIC MASS

- Tuesday-Mriday – 1200-1230
- Sunday Religious ED – 0810

PROTESTANT

- Sunday School – 0945

- Contemporary Worship – 1100 (Children's Church – K-5th grade)

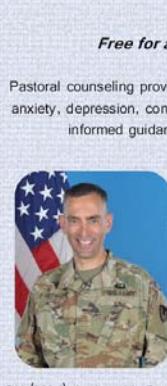
Chaplain Family Life Center

100% Confidential & Faith Informed

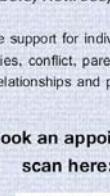
Pastoral Counseling Services

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Free for all Service Members, Retirees, DoD/DA Civilians and Dependents



To book an appointment
scan here:



Located at the back of Pioneer Chapel
500 Pope Ave., Bldg. 56
Fort Leavenworth, KS 66027
Government Cell: (913) 680-7336
joshua.m.portwood.mil@army.mil
<https://cal.com/chaplainportwood>

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Easily Sign up for an account

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opportunities and log your
hours easily!

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ACS
Real-Life Solutions for Successful Army Living

MUNSON NOTES

MUNSON NOTICES

■ Military families may be able to get dental or vision coverage through the Federal Employees **DENTAL AND VISION** Insurance Program. Federal Benefits Open Season is currently underway but ends Dec. 8 — one day before TRICARE Open Season ends. You must have a TRICARE health plan to get FEDVIP vision coverage.

■ TRICARE Prime and TRICARE Select beneficiaries ages 13-64 experiencing recurring **HAND, WRIST AND ELBOW PAIN** may find relief through occupational therapy services available at Munson Army Health Center. No referral required. Call the appointment line at 913-684-6250 to schedule a consultation.

■ The **MUNSON ARMY HEALTH CENTER PATIENT AND FAMILY PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL** meets quarterly at MAHC. The PFPC captures voices and insights of patients and families to improve the patient care experience. The council is composed of volunteers who represent the interests of patients who receive care from MAHC. Volunteers can be active-duty, active-duty family member, retirees or retiree family members. Call 913-684-6211 or email usarmy.leavenworth.medcom-mahc.mbx.patient-advocate@health.mil if interested in participating.

■ It is important that military families new to the Fort Leavenworth community **ESTABLISH A NEW PRIMARY CARE MANAGER** for their health care needs. Munson Army Health Center offers a wide range of primary care providers to choose from for personalized care at a convenient on-post location. Once your new address is established in DEERS, call 1-888-TRIWEST (874-9378) and follow the prompts to establish a primary care manager at MAHC. Learn more about services at munson.tricare.mil.

■ Service members, retirees, family members and Department of Defense federal employees on Fort Leavenworth are **ELIGIBLE TO USE THE ARMED FORCES WELLNESS CENTER FOR FREE**. This includes physical fitness testing, body composition analysis, stress management, improving sleep habits and individual health coaching. You set the goals; the AFWC staff puts you on the path to achieving them. Programs are individualized to address your current needs, motivation and confidence level. Visit the Fort Leavenworth AFWC in Eisenhower Hall or call 913-758-3403 to schedule an appointment. The health educators are also available to go mobile, taking their class to units or organizations on post and family readiness groups. To learn more about AFWC services visit <https://dvidshub.net/r/8wtlf>.

■ The **NUTRITION CARE DIVISION** offers a broad range of nutritional services designed for service members, families, and retirees. Individual Nutrition Therapy and Group Nutrition Therapy are available, and include the Body Composition Program, Weight Control Program, Prenatal Nutrition and Wellness for Life. Call the appointment line at 913-684-6250 to schedule an appointment with MAHC's registered dietitian.

■ **MEDICAL APPOINTMENT CHECK-IN:** Please arrive 15 minutes prior to your appointment to complete any required paperwork and bring the following items: DoD ID card; list of current medications including over-the-counter meds, vitamins, and supplements; any relevant paperwork or forms; and a list of questions or concerns. If you are not able to make your scheduled appointment, call the appointment line at (913) 684-6250 to cancel.

Change of responsibility



Photo by Christina Yager/Munson Army Health Center Public Affairs

Munson Army Health Center's Medical Company welcomed 1st Sgt. Scott Munday during a change of responsibility ceremony Oct. 9 at Frontier Chapel. Capt. Andrew Ingalls, Medical Company Commander, also recognized and thanked Master Sgt. Seain Dunne for his outstanding service as interim first sergeant since April.

The first sergeant plays a critical role in training, administration, accountability, morale and mentorship — key factors that keep soldiers focused, supported and mission-ready.



Everyday preventive actions can reduce the spread of:



Flu



COVID-19



RSV

DHA
Defense Health Agency

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