

U.S. Army Garrison Fort Polk

Fort Polk First!

GUARDIAN

Feb. 19 Vol. 53, NO. 3

**CLEE offers
community insights**
Page 5

**Sign up for
R2PC training**
Page 7

**USO to host
ribbon cutting**
Page 9

LEESVILLE LIONS
**Rodeo Queen
Contest**

**Fort Polk takes part in
Mardi Gras parade**
Page 27



CONTENTS

Feb. 19

AER campaign The campaign kicks off March 1	03
Offpost events Take a look at things happening outside the gates	04
Annual CLEE Working with local communities	05
R2PC Offering resiliency training	07
USO ribbon cutting The USO and Fort Polk invite you to attend	09
Look for new food truck DFMWR'S food truck will open soon	17
Corvias scholarships Apply for Purple Tassel scholarship	19
Hiring our Heroes Transitioning Soldiers Career Summit hiring event	21
Antiterrorism training Register for virtual seminar	22
Auditions being held Audition for The Great Gatsby at DeRidder's Wooten Theater	30



COVER PHOTO

Beads are thrown to the crowd at the Leesville Mardi Gras parade Feb. 14. (U.S. Army photo by Angie Thorne)



5
CLEE offers opportunities



7
Sign up for R2PC training



9
USO hosts ribbon cutting



27
Fort Polk takes part in Mardi Gras parade



JRTC AND FORT POLK

Maj. Gen. Jason A. Curl
Commanding General
Col. Adam Barlow
Garrison Commander

PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

Laurel Stone
Director of Public Affairs
Keith Houin
Deputy Director of Public Affairs
Angie Thorne
Command Information
Jeff England
Public Affairs
Chuck Cannon
Community Relations
Porsha Auzenne
Public Affairs
Gabe Walker
Community Relations
Antoine Aaron
Public Affairs
Karen Sampson
Public Affairs

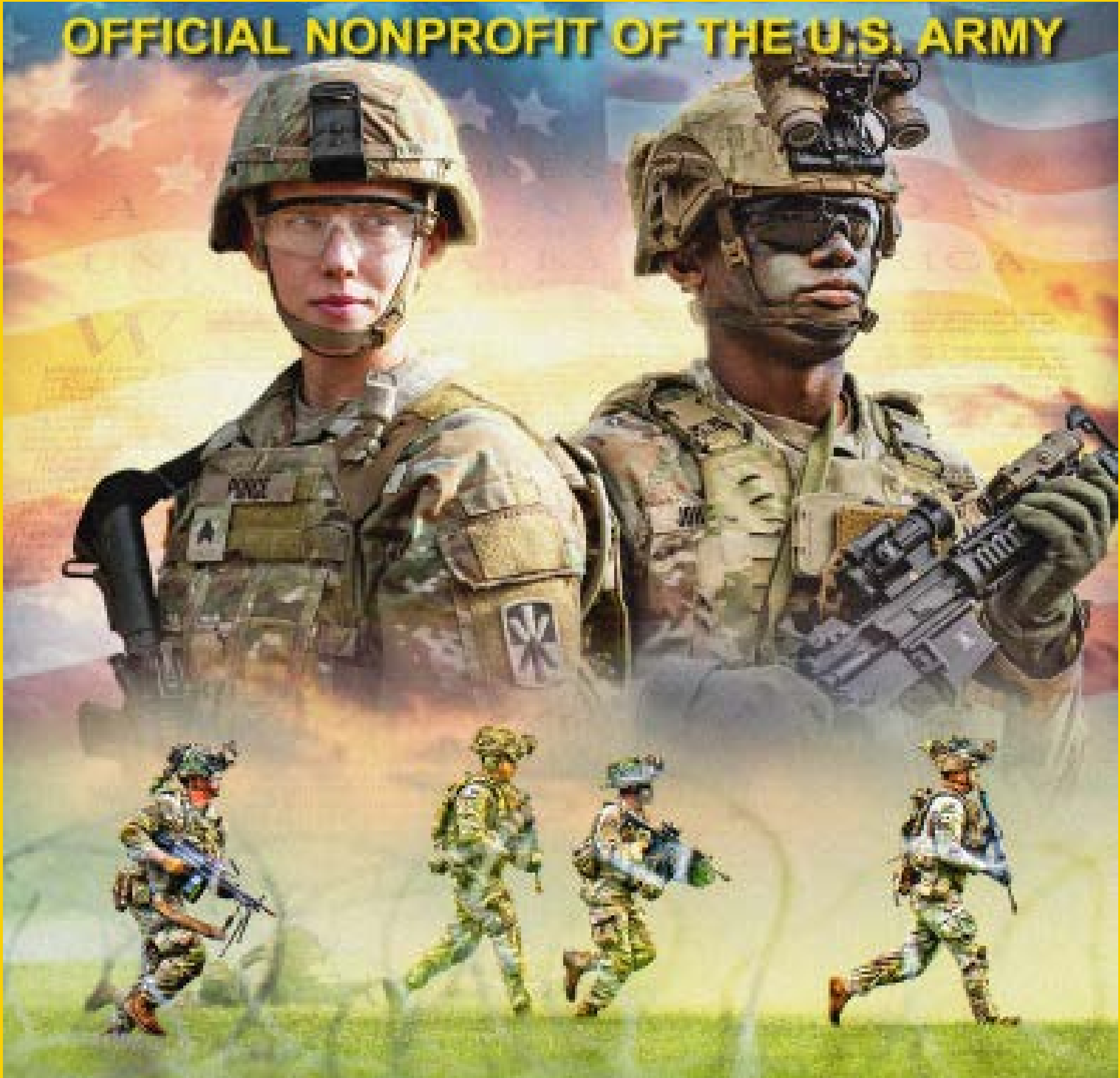
Editorial Offices

Building 4919, Magnolia Street
Fort Polk, LA 71459-5060
Voice 337-531-4033
Fax 337-531-1401
Fort Polk Homepage
home.army.mil/polk/

The Guardian is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the Guardian are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or Fort Polk. The Guardian can be found on the JRTC and Fort Polk website at home.army.mil/Polk and the JRTC and Fort Polk Facebook page at @JRTCandFortPolk/. Links to the Guardian are included in all-users emails to government email users and by request to non-military units. Editorial content of the Guardian is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the Public Affairs Office, Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk.

For additional information, please visit the @JRTCandFortPolk Facebook page.

OFFICIAL NONPROFIT OF THE U.S. ARMY



Empowering Soldiers, Enhancing Lives

2026 Annual Campaign



March 1 - June 14





OUTSIDE THE GATES

OFF POST

EVENTS





28
Feb.-March 1

TaD's Annual Crawfish Boil
LAKE CHARLES, LA.
[Click for more info](#)



28
Feb.

SWLAA Gumbo Cookoff
LAKE CHARLES, LA.
[Click for more info](#)



19-22
March

Iowa Rabbit Fest
IOWA, LA.
[Click for more info](#)



20
March

DHS presents:
"Little Shop Of Horrors"
DERIDDER, LA.
[Click for more info](#)



21
March

5th Annual CASA Color Run
DERIDDER, LA.
[Click for more info](#)

NO ARMY OR FEDERAL ENDORSEMENT IMPLIED.

4



CLEE invites community to Fort Polk

Fort Polk hosted its annual Community Leader Economic Engagment meeting Feb. 5 at the Warrior Center. Leaders from surrounding communities attended the event to communicate and better partner with Fort Polk leadership and events in 2026. (U.S. Army photos by Antoine Aaron)





Ready and Resilient Performance Center offers training opportunities

By R2PC

FORT POLK, La. — Get ready to sharpen your mind and strengthen your skills at the Ready and Resilient Performance Center, 8148 Alabama Ave, bldg. 2380.

The goal of the center is to provide Soldiers, families and Department of the Army civilians with the opportunity to develop strength through training provided by master resiliency trainers, resiliency training assistants and performance experts.

R2PC provides the foundation for individuals to build and sustain personal readiness and resilience. These skills and techniques will enhance resilience, optimize performance and assist in building cohesive teams.

The following are a few ways people can do that.

Think Tank Thursdays

Introducing a new professional development series! Each Thursday of the month, the R2 Performance Center will put on professional development workshops aimed at teaching and applying resilience-based and performance psychology skills.

These workshops will cover different levels of performance: leadership, unit/team, and individual. These workshops are offered to all Soldiers, Dependents, and DoD Civilians across the installation.

•**Escape Room (1st Thursday of each month (One-hour blocks as requested))** — Work together as a team to strategize your way out by solving clues and decoding messages.

•**Leadership Labs (2nd Thursday of each month; 1-2 p.m.)** — Dynamic training focused on leading from the front, building trust, and bringing the best out of your team.

•**Team Building Sessions (3rd Thursday of each month; 1-2 p.m.)** — Grab your squad and tackle hands-on team challenges built to strengthen communication, cohesion and mindset for mission success.



•**Mind Gym Sessions (fourth Thursday of each month; 1-2 p.m.)** — Targeted performance training to enhance resilience and key mental skills, self-awareness, self-regulation and more.

Resilience Training

• Mission Statement: The Fort Polk R2 Performance Center (R2PC) is committed to forging the warrior spirit and strengthening mental readiness across the Fort Polk community. The mission is to ensure that the Home of Heroes continues to thrive by equipping Soldiers, families and Department of Defense civilians with the tools to build and sustain excellence, maximize the benefits of training, and enhance the mental side of performance. Performance Experts develop adaptive and resilient Soldiers to perform at their full potential in every aspect of their mission. Through teamwork, education, and applied skills, the center develops strong, high-performing teams ready to meet every challenge with confidence and purpose.

The Fort Polk R2PC offers a variety of train-

ing formats to meet the unique needs of individuals and groups across the installation:

•**Individual Sessions (45-60 mins, as requested)** — Sessions tailored for skill-building in personal and professional performance areas. Learn and apply resiliency skills to overcome personal and professional barriers to performance and sustain performance excellence.

•**Unit and Team Trainings (Ranges between 15-120 min, as requested)** — Learn and apply resiliency skills to enhance overall group readiness and optimize performance in the face of operational stress and adversity.

•**Resilience Training Course (Offered quarterly and as requested)** — A three-day professional development course that equips Soldiers, civilians and dependents with resilience-building skills to enhance personal and group readiness, improve well-being, and optimize performance in the face of stress and adversity. The course covers six core competencies and 14 skills.

For more information call 337-531-2427

Awareness is first step to better storm water protection

By Janet Collins
DPW-ENRMD-CMB

FORT POLK, La. — Safeguarding the planet and its natural resources for current and future generations is an important goal.

When people work together to protect the planet, it helps to raise awareness about environmental issues and encourages actions to protect the earth. Storm water management is a significant part of this protection as it directly impacts water quality.

When storm water runs off paved surfaces, it picks up pollutants, which can contaminate water bodies and harm aquatic life. By promoting practices such as installing rain gardens, using permeable pavement, and implementing proper drainage systems, everyone can help mitigate these negative impacts and keep storm water as pure as possible. Clean storm water not only sustains ecosystems

but also ensures safe drinking water for communities.

Examples of pollutants found in storm water



include trash, dog waste, sediment, motor and cooking oils and debris.

DOWNLOAD TODAY!

STAY IN THE KNOW AT FORT POLK

- INSTALLATION SERVICES
- GATE HOURS
- COMMUNITY EVENTS
- MAINTENANCE REQUESTS
- WEATHER
- RESOURCES
- EMERGENCY ALERTS
- AND MORE

DOWNLOAD AT
GOOGLE PLAY, THE APP
STORE OR USE THE QR
CODE BELOW

DOWNLOADING MAPA ON GOVERNMENT DEVICES

EMPLOYEES CAN DOWNLOAD THE MY ARMY POST APP ON GOVERNMENT DEVICES USING THE APP STORE, AS LONG AS THE APPLE ID IS AFFILIATED WITH THE EMPLOYEES .MIL EMAIL ADDRESS.



USO to Celebrate Grand Opening of USO Center on Fort Polk

By USO

FORT POLK, La. – Leaders from the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk and the United Service Organizations will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony March 3 at 2:30 p.m. to mark the official opening of the USO's newest center on a military installation.

Established through a robust partnership between Army and USO leadership, this new center will deliver essential programs, resources and support services to more than 40,000 active duty service members and military families throughout the region.

"The USO opening this center on North Fort, right in the training area, is a direct investment in readiness, both for our rotational training units and our tenant units," said Maj. Gen. Jason Curl, commanding general of the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk. "When our Soldiers train hard at JRTC, the USO helps them recharge and stay connected. We're grateful for their commitment to Fort Polk and America's warfighters."

Col. J. Adam Barlow, U.S. Army Fort Polk garrison commander, will officiate the ceremony, joined by USO Southeast Regional President Lisa Marie Riggins, and several other military and civilian officials.

"Fort Polk is where our troops endure some of the toughest training environments our military can create, preparing for combat under intense and unforgiving conditions," said Jason Burkett, Executive Director of the USO for Louisiana and Mississippi. "This new USO center strengthens morale and resilience while



honoring a legacy that began just miles away in DeRidder, Louisiana, where the nation's first off-base USO center opened in 1941. It is a powerful reminder that caring for our service members is both a timeless commitment and a present day responsibility."

The USO Fort Polk center will serve as a home away from home for service members and their families.

It will be a place where they can attend special programs, offering a warm, welcoming, alcohol-free lounge; internet connectivity for guests; healthy drinks and snacks; and various

forms of entertainment such as board games, books and video games.

USO center staff will also provide additional programming during special observances and holidays, and outreach support to the surrounding local community throughout the year.

Media seeking assistance in covering this event should call the JRTC and Fort Polk Public Affairs Office at 726-780-0995 or 726-780-0992 no later than Feb. 27 at noon.

To learn more about how you can support USO Fort Polk, contact USO Center Operations Specialist John Lum at jlum@uso.org.

RESILIENCE MEETS RELIEF: JOIN US FOR THE USO FORT POLK RIBBON CUTTING

Tuesday, March 3rd, 2026

2:30 PM CT

Ft Polk USO Center

Bld 8403 H Ave, Fort Polk North, LA 71459

Where thousands of service members prepare for the realities of combat, the USO is opening a sanctuary of escape and renewal. We invite you to stand with us as we cut the ribbon on a new USO center that elevates morale, strengthens resilience, and reminds our troops they're not alone on the North Fort.



Attire: Civilian Business Casual / Military Duty Uniform
RSVP by February 17, 2026 to John Lum: jlum@uso.org

Chaplain services provide support beyond clinical care at BJACH

By Jean Clavette Graves
BJACH PAO

FORT POLK, La. — When Soldiers, patients, Families, and staff walk the halls of Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital, many may not realize that care extends beyond medicine and treatment plans. Capt. David Rutkin, hospital chaplain, is dedicated to supporting the spiritual, emotional and mental well-being of the BJACH community.

Rutkin's path to the Army Chaplain Corps did not follow a traditional trajectory.

Raised in Tampa, Florida, he earned a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of South Florida and spent more than a decade working in supply chain and business development before seeking a new professional challenge. At age 33, Rutkin enlisted in the Florida Army National Guard. During basic combat training, a spiritual calling tracing back to his Christian upbringing led him to pursue ministry and ultimately commission as an active-duty Army chaplain.

"I felt called to serve in a different way," Rutkin said. "Army chaplaincy allows me to walk alongside people during some of the most vulnerable moments of their lives."

Rutkin holds a Master of Divinity from Liberty University and is currently completing a Doctor of Ministry at Wesley Theological Seminary, with graduation anticipated in 2027. He is also a board-certified chaplain through the National Association of Veterans Affairs Chaplains.

Serving as a chaplain in a hospital setting brings both reward and challenge, Rutkin said. In Army Medicine, chaplains care not only for patients and Families, but also for the Soldiers, civilians and staff who deliver care every day.

"Rigorous training and extensive life experience prepare chaplains for the diverse and complex situations a hospital brings," Rutkin said. "We often meet needs that are overlooked or difficult to address within time constraints, especially emotional and spiritual needs."

Chaplain Services are a critical part of holistic care at BJACH. While medical and mental health professionals focus on physical and psychological treatment, chaplains address what Rutkin describes as the intangible needs of individuals — those tied to meaning, values, grief, stress and resilience.

"Human beings are made up of body, soul and spirit," Rutkin said. "Optimal well-being requires care in all of those areas."

Patients and Families receiving care at BJACH can access chaplain services including confidential counseling, emotional and spiritual support, religious services and resources for navigating life challenges. The BJACH chapel, located on the fifth floor, is open 24 hours a day for prayer and reflection.



Pfc. Nhu Dang, a mental health specialist at Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital, participates in a guided self-awareness exercise with Capt. David Rutkin, hospital chaplain, during a Building Strong and Ready Teams luncheon Jan. 23 at the Warrior Center on Fort Polk, Louisiana. The event encouraged reflection, dialogue and connection among hospital staff. (U.S. Army photo)

For staff members, Rutkin emphasizes presence and approachability.

He regularly walks the hospital, checking in with departments and engaging in informal conversations that often lead to deeper dialogue.

He also provides confidential counseling sessions for Soldiers, civilians and staff seeking support with personal, professional or life concerns.

Each morning, Rutkin sends a "Word of the Day" email to the BJACH workforce, sharing a brief quote and reflection intended to encourage motivation, perspective and self-awareness. The daily message is designed to offer a moment of pause at the start of the workday.

In addition to daily outreach, Rutkin hosts a weekly "Spiritual Power Hour," creating space for staff to step away from routine and engage in dialogue centered on mental, emotional or spiritual reflection. He also leads Building Strong and Ready Teams events that bring staff together outside the hospital environment for training and connection.

One such event took place Jan. 23, when Rutkin hosted a Building Strong and Ready Teams luncheon at the Warrior Center.

During the session, participants explored the Enneagram, a self-awareness tool focused on understanding motivations behind behavior to improve communication and relationships.

"The goal was to strengthen relationships within the BJACH staff community," Rutkin said. "The feedback showed that people found value in learning more about themselves and how they interact with others."

Rutkin said informal gatherings like luncheons are especially important in a hospital environment, where staff members often remain focused on daily tasks within their own sections.

"Taking time away from routine helps promote creativity, self-care and community bonds," he said. "It gives people an opportunity to connect across departments and apply what they learn within their own teams."

Chaplain services contribute directly to readiness and resilience by recognizing the dignity and humanity of every individual, Rutkin said. "We approach people as individuals with unique experiences and needs," Rutkin said. "Our role is to listen, empathize and support mental, emotional and spiritual well-being."

Rutkin emphasized that chaplain services are available to everyone, regardless of religious affiliation, and that confidentiality remains a cornerstone of the profession.

"Chaplains exist for you," Rutkin said. "We are here to protect your freedom to practice religion or spirituality and to walk alongside you through any circumstance."

What motivates Rutkin most is the sense of community he found at BJACH and Fort Polk.

"This is a place built on relationships," Rutkin said. "The BJACH community is welcoming, supportive and deeply connected. Serving alongside this team motivates me every day."

For more information about Chaplain Services at Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital, visit the BJACH website:

<https://bayne-jones.tricare.mil/Health-Services/Other/Ministry-Pastoral>

Silver Caduceus Society builds Medical Service Corps leaders

By Jean Clavette Graves
BJACH PAO

FORT POLK, La. — The Fort Polk Silver Caduceus Society held its first formal professional development gathering of 2026 on Jan. 28, bringing together Medical Service Corps officers to strengthen leadership, professional growth and cross-discipline collaboration across the installation.

The Silver Caduceus Society is an informal professional organization for U.S. Army Medical Service Corps officers that promotes leader development, career advancement and awareness of the Corps' diverse specialties. The Society provides a forum for officers to share experiences, build professional networks and better integrate medical expertise into operational planning.

Lt. Col. Riliwan O. Ottun, deputy commander for administration at Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital and a health services administration, 70B, deputy consultant to The Surgeon General, said the Silver Caduceus Society plays a critical role in developing MSC leaders at Fort Polk. The 70B Consultancy supports leader development, training and career management for health services administration officers across the MSC.

"The Silver Caduceus Society at Fort Polk directly enhances the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk mission by building highly capable MSC leaders," Ottun said. "Through focused development and networking, SCS ensures MSC officers can deliver superior medical planning, optimize evacuation strategies and maximize return-to-duty rates — all essential to operational readiness."

The event was hosted by 1st Battalion, 5th Aviation Regiment at Maks Army Airfield and featured a speed-networking and elevator-pitch discussion focused on helping officers clearly articulate their roles across disciplines and areas of concentration.

Established in 1917, the MSC is a component of the Army Medical Department. MSC officers serve in administrative, scientific and operational medical roles — including health services administration, preventive medicine, environmental science and engineering, behavioral health and aeromedical evacuation — enabling Army Medicine to support warfighters across training and operational environments.

Capt. Shanice Hurkes and Capt. Michael Collins volunteered to coordinate future informal Silver Caduceus Society activities, including professional networking, peer engagement and social events, throughout 2026.

Hurkes, an environmental science and engineering officer serving as a force health protection officer assigned to the 710th Logistical Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team,



Medical Service Corps officers assigned to units across Fort Polk pose for a group photo in front of a UH-72 Lakota helicopter during the Fort Polk Silver Caduceus Society's first formal professional development gathering of 2026 Jan. 28 at Maks Army Airfield. The quarterly event, hosted by 1st Battalion, 5th Aviation Regiment, focused on professional networking and cross-discipline collaboration to support leader development and operational readiness. (U.S. Army photo by Jean Graves)

10th Mountain Division, said the Silver Caduceus Society helps officers better communicate their value to the mission.

"Networking helps others understand what our roles are and how we support operations," Hurkes said. "It gives officers a way to explain what they bring to the fight."

Collins, an aeromedical evacuation officer assigned to C Company, "Cajun Dustoff," 1st Battalion, 5th Aviation Regiment, agreed the Society also provides an important professional support network for junior leaders.

"It helps junior officers see the bigger picture of the MSC," Collins said.

Formal Silver Caduceus Society meetings are held quarterly, with informal engagements planned throughout the year to sustain professional connections and continue developing future MSC leaders.



FUN FACTS ABOUT MARDI GRAS — part 2!!!



- Mardi Gras is more than just a day, it's an entire season. Carnival season begins on Twelfth Night (January 6) and ends on Fat Tuesday.
- The iconic colors of Mardi Gras, purple, gold, and green, are not random, and chosen in 1872 they symbolize justice, power and faith.
- Laissez Les Bons Temps Rouler: a Cajun French saying that means "let the good times roll," became a mantra of Mardi Gras throughout the years.
- Mardi Gras is a holiday in 29 Louisiana parishes and two counties in Alabama
- There is a city ordinance in Orleans Parish that prohibits Mardi Gras from being commercialized. No corporate sponsorships are allowed on floats.
- The King Cake Baby is a small plastic figurine hidden inside a Mardi Gras king cake, symbolizing Baby Jesus and representing luck and prosperity. Finding it makes the person "king" for a day but requires them to host the next party or provide the next cake.

Check VIN numbers

The Directorate of Emergency Services Traffic Division will release the following vehicles to MWR for disposal if they remain unclaimed. Vehicles are listed with the last four of their VIN number. If one of these vehicles belongs to you, please contact the Fort Polk Police Traffic Division at 337-531-1806, 6675 or 2675.



2016	Chevrolet	1500	5376
2018	Nissan	Versa	1902
2011	Volvo	XC 90	5453
2015	Nissan	Sentra	9958
2007	Ford	Edge	7768
UNK	Boat trailer	Homemade	none
2011	Chevrolet	Impala	4578
2003	Kia	Optima	2898
2009	Ford	Crown Victoria	2951
2012	Honda	Accord	8762
2013	Nissan	Sentra	5613
2020	Chevrolet	Malibu	9378
2014	Hyundai	Genesis	4966
2003	Chevrolet	Suburban	9751
2009	Chrysler	300	4616
2016	Ford	Escape	6912
2002	Ford	Taurus	5257



FOLLOW JRTC AND FORT POLK ON
FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM AND
YOUTUBE

GET CONNECTED

 /JRtCandFTPolk

 @jrteandfortpolk

 @JRtCandFortPolk



Types of Tornadoes

SUPERCELL TORNADOES

Tornadoes that come from a supercell thunderstorm are the most common, and often the most dangerous. A rotating updraft is a key to the development of a supercell, and eventually a tornado. There are many ideas about how this rotation begins. One way a column of air can begin to rotate is from wind shear – when winds at two different levels above the ground blow at different speeds or in different directions. Once the updraft is rotating and being fed by warm, moist air flowing in at ground level, a tornado can form.



LANDSPOUTS

Landspouts, narrow, rope-like condensation funnels that form while the thunderstorm cloud is still growing and there is no rotating updraft. The spinning motion originates near the ground.



WATERSPOUTS

Waterspouts, similar to landspouts, except they occur over water.



OTHER CIRCULATIONS

GUSTNADOES

Gustnadoes, whirls of dust or debris at or near the ground with no condensation funnel, which form along the gust front of a storm.



DUST DEVILS

A well-developed dust whirl; usually of short duration, rendered visible by dust, sand, and debris picked up from the ground. Dust devils are best developed on a hot, calm afternoon with clear skies, when intense surface heating causes large temperature differences in the lowest couple hundred feet of the atmosphere.



FIRE WHIRLS

Much like dust devils, the extreme heat of fires create strong updrafts, near the ground that interact with circulations in the lower atmosphere. Fire whirls are usually about 1 to 3 feet wide and 50 to 100 feet tall.







Awareness For Travelers





Personal protection – your life may depend on it

Assess the environment before travel:

- State Department travel warnings
- Combatant Command warnings or restrictions
- Terrorist threat level
- High crime rate areas

Determine travel requirements:

- Soldiers and DA civilians complete Level-I AT Awareness Training
- Family members ages 14 and older traveling outside CONUS on official business complete Level-I AT Awareness Training
- Encourage family members to complete Level-I Training before any overseas personal travel
- Country/Region (AOR) specific training
- Determine requirement for a Country Clearance

Key references covering personal protection:

- CJCS Guide 5260, A Self-Help Guide to Antiterrorism
- CJCS Pocket Card, Antiterrorism Protective Measures
- Unit Antiterrorism Officer Handbook
- Antiterrorism Enterprise Portal

15

16



*Check out
DFMWR's new
food truck!*



*Watch for more information
about the food truck on the
Fort Polk Family and MWR
Facebook page.*



USO ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

AN EXCLUSIVE SCREENING

OF NETFLIX'S *THE NIGHT AGENT* SEASON 3

FEATURING A MEET AND
GREET WITH ACTOR

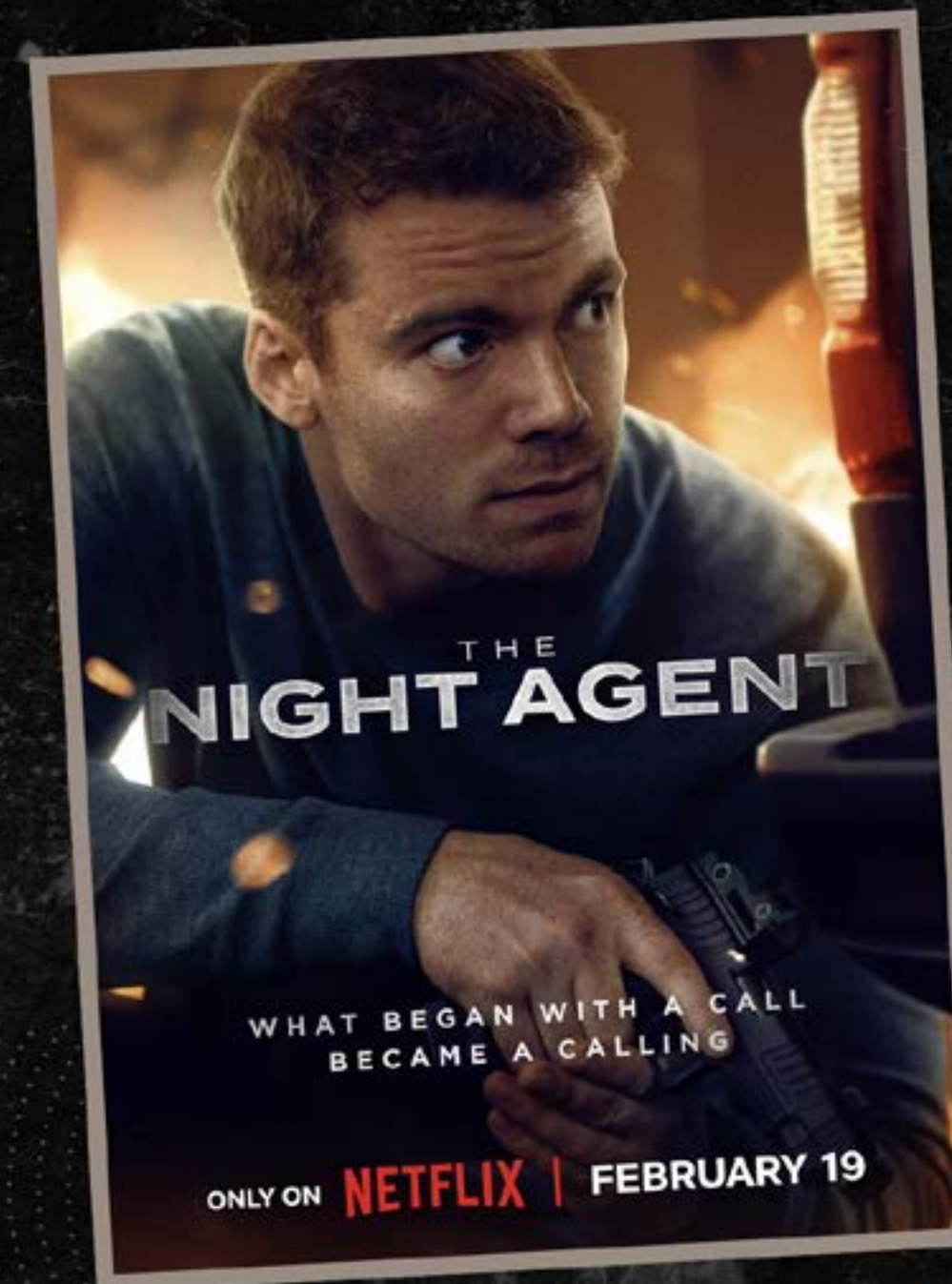
GABRIEL BASSO

FEB 19, 2026
USO CENTER, FORT POLK
8403 H AVENUE



1600: MEET & GREET
WITH GABRIEL BASSO

1700: SCREENING OF
NEW SEASON
(SEASON 3, EPISODE 1)



FREE REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED!



Applications Open for Corvias Foundation Purple Tassel College Scholarship

By Corvias

WARWICK, RI — Corvias Foundation, a nonprofit supporting the educational goals of military-connected families, has opened applications for its 2026 Purple Tassel College Scholarship, offering up to \$20,000 in awards to high school seniors from active-duty military families.

The announcement kicks off the Foundation's year-long 20th anniversary celebration, commemorating two decades of educational support and opportunities. Since its founding in 2006, Corvias Foundation has awarded more than \$20 million in scholarships to military families and children of Corvias team members.

Who May Apply

•The Purple Tassel College Scholarship is for military dependents who are high school seniors pursuing a four-year college degree.

•Applicants must be a child of an active-duty service member stationed at one of the following Corvias-managed installations: Aberdeen Proving Ground, Fort Bragg, Fort Meade, Fort Polk, Fort Riley, Fort Rucker, or Fort Sill.

When to Apply

•Applications opened Jan. 30 and close March 20.

What the Scholarship Covers

•Recipients may use funds for tuition, school fees, on-campus housing, food, books, school supplies, transportation, or required equipment such as a personal computer.

How to Apply

•Complete the online application [here](#).

Recognizing that military families may pursue different paths to education and career success, Corvias Foundation will offer additional programs for active-duty military families stationed at a Corvias-managed installation:

•**Purple Tassel Vocational Achievement Scholarship:** Open to high school seniors pursuing a vocational, technical or skilled trade degree or certification. The application opens on Oct. 12 and closes on Dec. 31.



Corvias Foundation offers scholarships to military family members pursuing a four-year college degree, re-licensing, skilled trades certification and more.

•**The Purple Tassel Program:** A free, web-based resource for college and career planning, beginning with a self-discovery assessment that helps military-connected students identify majors and careers aligned with their strengths and learning styles.

•**The Corvias Foundation Military Spouse Scholarship:** Open July 20 through Sept. 25. Funds may be used for tuition, continuing education credits, professional examinations, and related expenses.

For 20 years, Corvias Foundation has supported more than 500 military-connected families and remains committed to helping military families thrive.

Through Opportunity Hubs, we connect communities with resources, tools, and partners to open pathways for achievement, foster transformative connections, and prepare students for life-enriching college and career decisions. To learn more, please visit: [Corvias-Foundation.org](https://www.corviasfoundation.org).

Are you receiving Fort Polk Alerts?

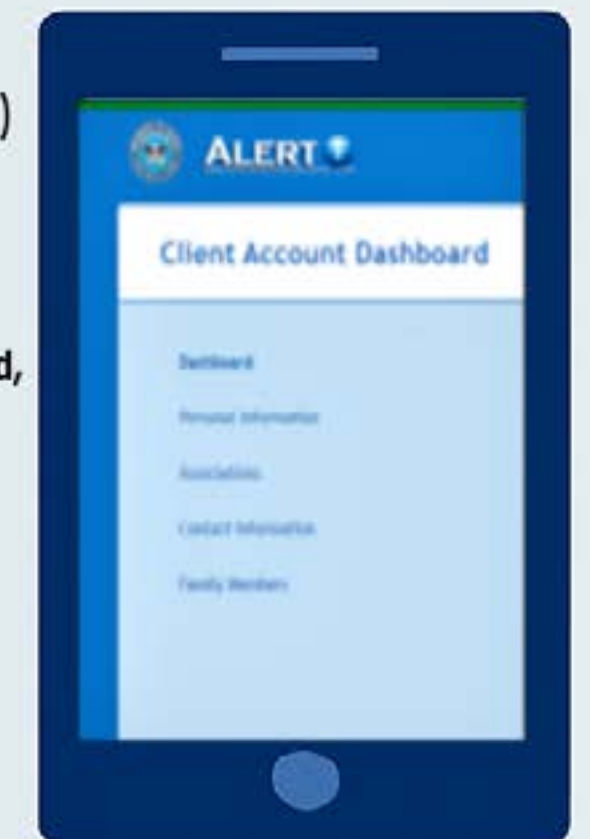


When Soldiers and Civilians (with a CAC) change duty stations, they must make the update in the system themselves.

If they do not, they will not receive Fort Polk alerts. Soldiers and Civilians with a CAC can add family members to the alert system. Family members without a CAC cannot independently sign up for Fort Polk alerts.

It's easy to set up!

1. Go to the ALERTS homepage, <https://alert.csd.disa.mil/AlertSplashPage> (CAC Login)
2. Once logged in, the client dashboard will display.
3. Enter / Update Personal Information.
4. Enter / Update / Select "Associations" (military location, command, YOUR address (work / home) and "Additional Attributes" define your preferred / required "Notification" lists.
5. Under "contract information" once you add your primary numbers, ensure you check the "Receives Text Messages" box.
6. Family Members is NOT required (optional only)



★★★ FORT POLK ★★★

CAREER SUMMIT

RESOURCES | TRAINING | CONNECTIONS



📍 Bayou Theater

7830 Mississippi Ave. | Ft. Polk, LA

📍 Warrior Fitness Center

1321 Corps Rd. | Ft. Polk, LA

APRIL 2

Transitioning service members, veterans, military spouses, and military caregivers are welcome.

**TRANSITION
WORKSHOPS**

9 AM - 12:30 PM

**HIRING
FAIR**

1:30 - 4 PM



Register now!

HiringOurHeroes.org/polk

*The DoW and Service Branches do not endorse any company, sponsor or their products or services.

BE SURE TO REGISTER!

Register for the Army Worldwide Antiterrorism Training Seminar

The virtual seminar takes place March 3-6 and is open to all trained antiterrorism officers, past or present, for certification purposes. Registration is open through Feb. 25.



**2026 Army Worldwide Antiterrorism Training
Seminar Information and registration:**

www.atvirtual2026.com

Full AT Training Seminar registration is not considered complete until each registrant's security clearance information has been successfully passed to the AT Training Seminar Security Manager.



For more information:

•ID-R/G34 POC for questions regarding this task:

Christopher Pickett, christopher.w.pickett.civ@army.mil; 910-570-2987

•ID-R/G34 POC for questions regarding this task:

Shawn Hoaglund, shawn.d.hoaglund.civ@army.mil; 910-824-4716

•ID-R/G34 POC for questions regarding this task:

Christopher Douglas, christopher.d.douglasciv@army.mil; 520-692-6886

Fort Polk Soldiers take part in Norwegian Ruck March

Fort Polk Soldiers stepped off Feb. 12 to complete the Norwegian Foot March at Honor Field. The march began in 1915 to prepare Norwegian recruits for the demands of military service. The standard for current and former Norwegian marchers and U.S. Army Soldiers is to march 18.6 miles with a 25-pound ruck in under four hours and 30 minutes.

(U.S. Army photos by Karen Sampson and 1st Lt. Natalie Gilomini)



23



24



EXCHANGE



THE NORTH FORT POLK TROOP STORE

— WILL BE —
RE-OPENING

ON FEBRUARY 23RD!

BLDG 7828
4535 Entrance Rd.
North Fort Polk

Monday-Saturday
7 a.m.-8 p.m.
Sunday
10 a.m.-5 p.m.



U.S. ARMY FORT POLK
**FOLLOW
US**



SCAN ME



SCAN ME



SCAN ME



SCAN ME



@USArmyFortPolk



/usarmyfortpolk



@usarmyfortpolk



home.army.mil/polok

**Don't let the dark thoughts
in your head win.**



SHARP
24/7
hotline:
337-718-7272

988
**Suicide &
Crisis
Lifeline**

Fort Polk participates in Leesville Mardi Gras parade



Ways to Connect This Weekend with Your Unity Fellowship Community

Grow in faith • Build community • Be encouraged.

MEN OF THE ANVIL

Men's Fellowship Breakfast & Bible Study

This Saturday, 21 February 2026 • 0800–1100
Main Post Chapel

- Hot breakfast
- Brotherhood & conversation
- Practical Bible study
- Strengthening faith for everyday life

Iron sharpens iron — come build strength together!

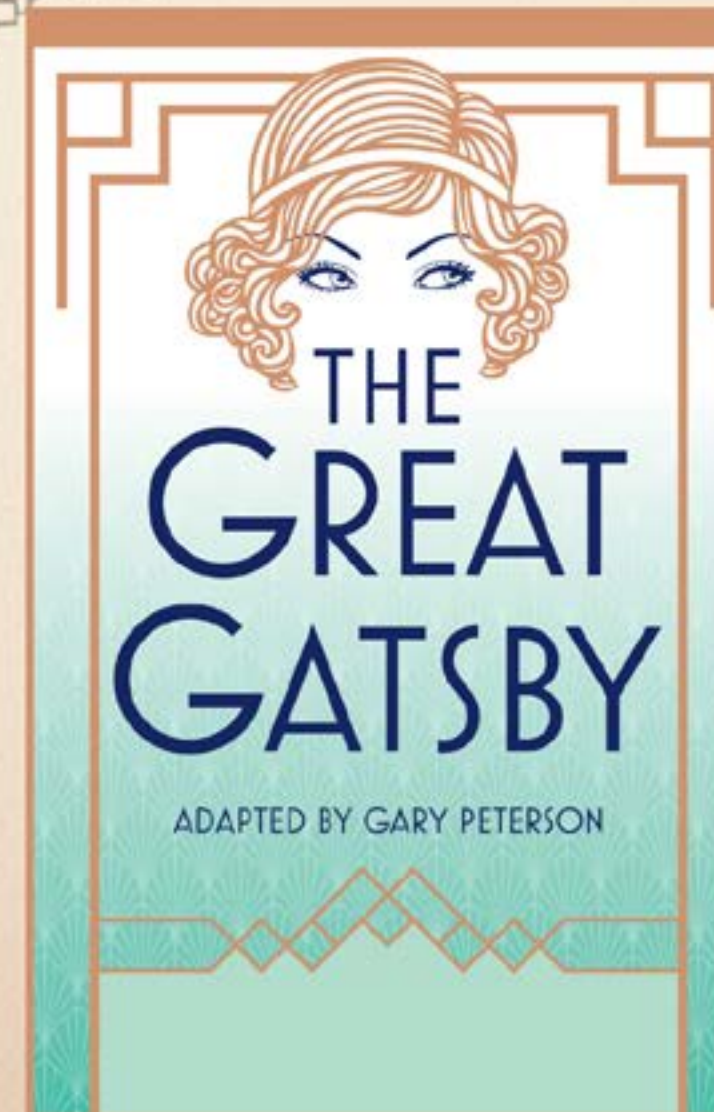
UNITY FELLOWSHIP WOMEN'S GATHERING

This Sunday, 22 February 2026 • 1300–1400

A light lunch • Fellowship • Encouragement

Held at the Main Post Chapel

Come connect, be refreshed, and grow together in faith and community.



Auditions

We need to cast

6-10 males
5-10 females

Ages 16 and up.

No experience necessary!

Performance Information

Performances
April 24, 25, 26, May 1, 2

Rehearsals are held 6-8 pm on
Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

Audition Information

March 2 & 3
6:00 PM

Wooten Theater
102 E. 1st St.
DeRidder