

FOCUS

DECEMBER 2022



See our special
section on MWR's
**winter
festivities**

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PLUS:

Explore what new outdoor
adventures winter brings

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Prevent winter travel dangers

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reading program

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NOTE: Events mentioned in this issue may be canceled or revised after publication date. For current updates, visit JBLM.armymwr.com.

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Moving in the middle of the year can be difficult if you're a student in the middle of a semester and haven't completed the requirements for your course work. This is what we hear often from military families when they arrive during the winter break or spring break. Here are some practical preparation tips that can be completed prior to you withdrawing from your school.



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Anyone can apply!

JOIN
the MWR
TEAM!

Flexible hours!

Benefits:

- Shopping privileges at the Exchange.
- Free gym and pool access.
- Full access to leisure activities (bowling, golf, skate parks, beachside picnic areas, on-base dining, special events and festivals).
- Discount tickets to popular attractions across the U.S., movies, sports and more.
- Affordable recreational rentals.
- Access to MWR ranges, marina, cabin rentals, travel camps and more.
- Use of self-help auto center, arts & crafts center, library programs and more.



[WorkAtJBLM.com](https://www.jblm.mwr.com)

JBLMmwr





FREE



FITNESS RESOLUTION FAIR

**Saturday, Jan. 7
8–11 am**



Wilson Sports & Fitness Center

On-Site Services

- R2 • AWC • Personal Training
- Intramural Sports • ODR
- Madigan Dietician

Class Schedule:
8–8:40 am

MixedFit: Basketball Court
WOD: Functional Fitness Area

8:50–9:30 am

Zumba/Dance Vibe: Basketball Court
Circuit: Functional Fitness Area

9:40–10:20 am

HIIT: Basketball Court
Kettlebells: Functional Fitness Area

10:30–11 am

Tabata: Basketball Court

Participants must check in with all vendors and participate in one class to be entered into drawing.

Registration required:
JBLM.armymwr.com/programs/races

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What does MWR do for you?

Meet MWR employees who serve with you in mind

When you think of MWR, think about all the special events we plan for the JBLM community. The Special Events Team gets the ball rolling and manages coordination of the players and logistics to create and make each event memorable.

When you think of Better Opportunities for Single Service members, think about the monthly events organized to meet the recreational needs of single Service members. BOSS benefits by having experienced advisers both to help plan events and get the word out to everyone.

Meet Jenney, who wears two hats as Special Events Coordinator and BOSS Adviser. She devotes her passion and energy to helping create fun for everyone at JBLM. Jenney has worked in recreation for over 20 years with the Marine Corps and Navy all around the country, and now the Air Force, Army and Reserves at JBLM. "I've liked every position that I've had," says Jenney. "I've learned a lot of new skills at every installation I've been at and have met amazing active duty members and their families everywhere I've been. Honestly, serv-

ing the single population of active duty Service members is especially rewarding to me — to be able to give them recreational opportunities to relieve stress and decompress from their day by providing things for them to do. No matter where I've worked, they've all had some really good people."

Jenney continues, "What brought me to the Pacific Northwest was the opportunity for growth. My favorite part of my previous job was to serve the single Service member population, but now that I'm here and also in special events, I look forward to providing fun, recreational opportunities to the entire military community. I want to feel like I'm making a difference in the community I serve. To be able to serve the entire population is rewarding to me."

Now that Jenney is an adviser to BOSS, she is seeing the opportunity to spread the word to more single Service members. "Working with BOSS, I see we need to grow our participation numbers, to make sure single Service members are aware of all the activities we do and provide for them. We want to include as many people as possible in this program. They're



Patti Jeffrey

a large part of the incoming population who need to be connected to the community.”

Looking at the past two years, Jenney says, “Coming out of COVID restrictions, I’m so excited to be able to host all these events again with large gatherings. Through the entire COVID period, I saw programming become virtual, and I’m really excited to be back in person through human connection. We were missing that vital ingredient — getting out and being social with each other. We need to get back into that mindset.

“I’ve also learned that the key to surviving the craziness that was COVID is to remain flexible — have options ready and go with the flow in case protocols change (and they sometimes changed daily). Being flexible and prepared for any circumstance — that’s a mark of resiliency.”

Looking at the coming new year, Jenney concludes, “I look forward to more involvement with the JBLM community, meeting new people, making a difference and a having a positive impact.”





Outdoor winter fun has just begun

Outdoor Recreation offers a variety
of adventures for everyone

For fun outdoor adventures, you can't beat JBLM's Outdoor Recreation program! Join us for a variety of upcoming activities. Find registration information at *JBLM.armymwr.com*. Here's what we're planning for you!

Learn fly fishing

Our popular, low-cost fly fishing clinics are a great way to introduce yourself to the world of fly fishing. Available at Northwest Adventure Center, these fun and engaging classes cover all the fundamentals, including rods and reels, basic rigging, essential knots, fly selection and basic casting. All fly fishing gear and course material is included in the \$45 cost. Bring your own personal gear and clothing, food, snacks or beverages.

The next classes are Sunday, Dec. 4 and Saturday, Jan. 7.

Learn more fly fishing techniques

Want to learn more advanced techniques? Take the 201 clinic. Once you've completed the 101 clinic or have a little experience, join us for this three- to five-hour class, designed to build on your casting skills, fly selection, types of rigging and knot tying. The \$45 cost includes all fly fishing gear and course material. Bring your personal gear and clothing, food snacks or beverages.

Classes meet Sunday, Dec. 18 and Saturday, Jan. 21.

Continued on next page.

Go on fly fishing trips

Join guided walk, wade or float trips on rivers around the Pacific Northwest. Trips offer both beginning and advanced fly fishing clinics that will enhance your fly fishing experience. All you need to do is show up — your guide will conduct recon, weather and environment check and outfit participants as needed.

Dates vary, depending on weather and river flow. For updated information, call 253-967-7744 or check registration dates at JBLMmwrRegistration.com.

The \$150 cost includes a guide, all fly fishing gear and transportation.

You'll need to bring your fishing license, catch card, meals and any additional personal items. A detailed equipment list will be sent to all participants.

Travel to Krampus Nacht Bremerton

Come with us as we head off to Krampus Nacht in downtown Bremerton Friday, Dec. 2.

Krampus, an old European mythical creature, is referred to as "Santa's Shadow," where Santa rewards good behavior and Krampus punishes bad behavior (much like the "coal in the stocking"). Meet Krampus and his friends for a fun prelude to Christmas and the winter solstice.

The \$50 cost includes round-trip transportation. Wear outdoor clothing (you're encouraged to wear a festival costume) and bring money for shopping, food and drinks.

Get excited for Christmas Train

Purchase your tickets now for the 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3 Mount Hood Christmas Train.

We'll be transporting you and your family to enjoy a day of Christmas magic in the Oregon Hood River area, which turns into a wonderland with shopping, food and fun. With your prepurchased train ticket, you'll be whisked into a land of songs and stories, treats, elves and a special gift from Santa himself!

The cost for transportation and parking fees is \$75. All ages are welcome to sign up; minors must have parent or guardian supervision.

Visit Leavenworth's Village of Lights

Each December, the mountain village of Leavenworth celebrates the holidays with more than 500,000 lights, music and entertainment. Let us drive you there so you can simply enjoy the day exploring, shopping and dining!

We'll be providing trips Sundays, Dec. 4, 11 and 18, and Saturday, Dec. 17. The cost for transportation and parking fees is \$55. All ages are welcome to sign up; minors must have parent or guardian supervision.

Snowshoe near Mount Rainier

Come with us Saturday, Dec. 10 or 17 for an afternoon exploring the fresh snow around Reflection Lake at Mount Rainier. Snowshoeing gives you the perfect way to explore with both flotation and traction! Bring your camera and lunch, and we'll enjoy the mountain view during the 3.5-mile trek.

Ages 13 and older (with parent or guardian supervision for minors) are welcome to sign up. The \$65 cost includes your guide, transportation and winter equipment.

Pack meals, water, waterproof boots and extra layers of winter clothing.

Enjoy Bellingham brewery tour

Join us Saturday, Dec. 10 for a trip to Bellingham, a scenic college town close to the Canadian border and San Juan Islands. Bellingham offers a relaxing day to enjoy three local breweries, tour the scenic waterfront and local shops and taste the fare with local flair.

Open to ages 21 and older, the \$50 cost includes transportation and parking fee.

Bring money and ID for the breweries and snacks, and wear comfortable walking shoes.

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Courtesy photo from Krampus Bremerton's Facebook group: Krampus Seattle and Krampus Bremerton.



Learn outdoor photography

Every good photo begins with the right exposure. As adept as automatic mode on cameras are, they aren't perfect and cannot make an artistic setting.

Elevate your picture-taking from good to great as you begin to understand the most important elements of proper exposure in a half-day beginner's class Saturday, Dec. 10.

Class members younger than age 18 must have parent or guardian supervision. The \$45 cost includes instruction and practice outdoors.

Bring your digital single-lens reflex camera, any extra lenses, memory card, extra batteries and appropriate outdoor clothing.

See Krampus in Belfair

Join us for an afternoon trip to see Krampus at a beautiful Belfair nursery featuring local art Saturday, Dec. 10. Crazy Hill Garden & Botanicals is ushering in the winter solstice at this unique, creative and fun gathering place.

The \$50 cost is for round-trip transportation. Shop and take photos of unusual plants and creative arts and crafts while enjoying the company of Krampus and friends. (You might find a few great holiday gifts!)

Compose better photos

One of the key elements to creating impactful images is knowing the principles of photo composition. From portraits and still life to landscapes, you'll learn techniques for placement within the frame.

Sign up for this half-day class Sunday, Dec. 11. The \$45 cost includes instruction and practice on your camera. Class members younger than age 18 must have parent or guardian supervision.

Bring your digital single-lens reflex camera, any extra lenses, memory card and extra batteries.

Go snowshoeing for fun

We've planned a series of winter snow trips to the mountains for fun family snowshoeing. This is the perfect way to experience active adventures while you get better at snowshoeing. Enjoy the mountain air while taking in mountain snowscapes on our trips to various locations this winter.

The \$45 cost includes your guide, transportation, winter equipment, parking fees and snowshoe instruction. Ages 6 and older (with parent or guardian supervision for minors) are welcome to sign up.

Pack meals, water, waterproof boots and extra layers of winter clothing.

Sign up for day trips Dec. 19, 21, 23, 27 and 29. Look for more trips coming in January!

Practice nature photography

Taking really good nature photographs seems hard, but knowing how to start and getting outdoors to practice is as easy as signing up for this Tuesday, Dec. 20 nature photography class.

We'll spend time at the Nisqually River delta taking photos while you learn how to capture wildlife in uniquely beautiful ways.

The \$45 cost includes transportation, instruction and practice on your camera. Class members ages 6–17 must have parent or guardian supervision.

Bring your digital single-lens reflex camera, any extra lenses, memory card and extra batteries. Dress warmly for the outdoors.

Get exposed to nighttime photography

Cities take on a completely different vibe at night. Take advantage of this unique feeling to enjoy some creative photography Friday, Dec. 23, 5–9 p.m.

You'll learn about long exposures to capture headlight trails, creating starbursts with street

Continued on next page.

lights and photographing illuminated billboards and signs to capture the unique persona of the city at night.

We'll meet at Northwest Adventure Center and combine classroom instruction with a trip to downtown Tacoma to capture some great nighttime images.

Ages 16 and older (with parent or guardian supervision for minors) are welcome to sign up. The \$45 cost includes instruction, transportation and practice.

Bring your digital single-lens reflex camera, any extra lenses, memory card, extra batteries and appropriate outdoor clothing.

Spend New Year's Eve at Snoqualmie

Here's a unique way to ring in the new year — come with us on a nighttime snowshoe near Snoqualmie Pass! We'll be swishing through snow atop a wide, flat valley floor that's easy enough for first-timers.

The trip leaves Northwest Adventure Center at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 31 and returns at 2 a.m. New Year's Day.

The \$99 cost includes transportation, guide, instruction, snowshoes and a warm, tasty treat. Pack a meal, snacks and water and wear waterproof boots and layers of winter clothing.

Happy New Year!

What's coming up		Cost	Head count
Friday, Dec. 2	Krampus Nacht Bremerton	\$50	Max. 12
Saturday, Dec. 3	Mount Hood Christmas train	\$75	Max. 12
Sunday, Dec. 4	Fly Fishing 101	\$45	Max. 15
Sunday, Dec. 4	Leavenworth Lights	\$55	Max. 12
Saturday, Dec. 10	Mount Rainier showshoeing	\$50	Max. 10
Saturday, Dec. 10	Bellingham brewery tour	\$50	Max. 10
Saturday, Dec. 10	Photography 101 class	\$45	Max. 10
Saturday, Dec. 10	Krampus Nacht Bremerton	\$50	Max. 12
Sunday, Dec. 11	Composition 101 class	\$45	Max. 10
Sunday, Dec. 11	Leavenworth Lights	\$55	Max. 12
Saturday, Dec. 17	Mount Rainier showshoeing	\$65	Max. 12
Saturday, Dec. 17	Leavenworth Lights	\$55	Max. 12
Sunday, Dec. 18	Leavenworth Lights	\$55	Max. 12
Monday, Dec. 19*	Snowshoe trip	\$45	Max. 12
Tuesday, Dec. 20*	Nature photography	\$45	Max. 12
Wednesday, Dec. 21*	Snowshoe trip	\$45	Max. 12
Friday, Dec. 23*	Night photography	\$45	Max. 12
Friday, Dec. 23*	Snowshoe trip	\$45	Max. 12
Tuesday, Dec. 27*	Snowshoe trip	\$45	Max. 12
Thursday, Dec. 29*	Snowshoe trip	\$45	Max. 12
Saturday, Dec. 31	New Year's Eve snowshoe trip	\$99	Max. 36

**Special winter break trips for family members!*



Note: These trips and classes may be filled or canceled after the publication date. To check on availability, call 253-967-7744.



Celebrate **WINTERFEST** with MWR





Turn the page
for details on
Winterfest
events!



Lionel Kam



Patti Jeffrey

Party at Winterfest

Join us for entire day celebrating the upcoming holidays with good cheer!
Here's what we've planned for you Saturday, Dec. 3:

Run Rudolph Run 5K & 1K

If you haven't yet registered, there's still time! Go to Soldiers Field House at Lewis Main to register in person before Saturday, Dec. 3. SFH is located at 3236 2nd Division Dr. at Handrich Road. Call 253-967-4771 for more details.

You also can register during Friday's packet pick-up or the day of the race at the race site on S. 12th Street and Liggett Avenue. Look for the Trees for Troops lot; the race registration and pick-up table is located behind the lot. The race starts at 10 a.m.; register starting at 8 a.m.

The cost is \$30 for the 5K (ranks E1–E4 pay \$25). The 1K costs \$12 (ranks E1–E4 pay \$10). If you've registered for the race online, pick up your race packet at Bowl Arena Lanes Friday, Dec. 2 from 11 a.m.–6 p.m. or at 8 a.m. at the race event.

Trees for Troops

Free trees from Trees for Troops are available for military personnel ranks E1–E5 and their families, first-come, first-served from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. at the lot on the corner of Liggett Avenue and S. 12th Street. Leftover trees will be available to anyone after 4 p.m.

Preregister for your tree by calling Northwest Adventure Center at 253-967-7744.

Winterfest celebration

Join us at the party at the MWR Fest Tent and Bowl Arena Lanes 10 a.m.–4 p.m., located at 2200 Liggett Ave. at Lewis Main. We're offering photos with Santa, holiday movies on a big screen, face painting, free balloon twisties, arts and crafts, games, giveaways, entertainment and more:

- Meet Buddy the Elf and the Grinch 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. who will pose with you while you take family photos.
- Rent free skates at the "ice" skating rink and glide across the smooth surface for fun.
- The Arts & Crafts Center will be offering free crafts at the "Spare Room" inside Bowl Arena Lanes, which you can assemble and take home, or take home and work on later.
- Bowl Arena Lanes is offering one game free for each youth age 16 and younger (with free shoe rental) 10 a.m.–3 p.m. Parental supervision is required. The Strike Zone Café opens early at 10 a.m.!
- Purchase holiday food and beverages to keep your tummies happy and warm!

Holiday Tree Lighting

Come watch the tree-lighting ceremony in front of Jensen Family Health & Fitness Center just a few blocks away at 2022 Liggett Ave. at Division Street after Winterfest. Hear the 56th Army Band play holiday tunes, the Thomas Middle School Choir sings, introductory speeches and the tree-lighting ceremony at 4:30 p.m.

Events are subject to change. Visit fb.com/JBLMmwr for updates.



Lional Kam



Angela Frasier

Spend your leisure time with us

Discover more of MWR's events & leisure activities

Go bowling with friends

Get in on Pizza & Bowling Sundays

Bring your group to Bowl Arena Lanes Sundays noon–6 p.m. and receive a large one-topping pizza for \$3 off the regular price (limit two pizzas).

Show your bowling receipt to the Strike Zone Café staff to receive your discount. Pizza redemption must be made on the same Sunday you bowl.

Bowl Arena is at 2272 Liggett Ave., Lewis Main. Questions? Call 253-967-4661.

Rent a party space for active fun

Did you know that you can host parties and more at Bowl Arena Lanes? Rent out the "Spare Room" for up to three hours with packages that include pizzas and soda pitchers, bowling and shoe rentals. Choose from packages for 10, 15, 20, 25 or 30 attendees.

Questions? Call 253-967-4661 or visit the front counter.

Make creative gifts

Personalize your holiday gifts

Your Arts & Crafts Center is also your holiday gift shop! Come in and discover all the personalized items you can create. Here are some ideas:

- Create personalized holiday photo cards at

the Arts & Crafts Center's photo kiosk.

- Purchase unique keepsake wood-and-glass ornaments designed by Arts & Crafts Center staff. You even can add your own custom engraving on the glass ornament.
- Order coffee mugs printed with your favorite photos.
- Make a colorful ceramic plate with your child's handprints on it for parents or grandparents to hang on the wall or for display.
- Decorate your tree with ceramic ornaments from the paint-and-go studio, or even paint and bring home your own ceramic light-up Christmas tree from the studio!
- Create a family memento with personal objects artistically arranged in a custom shadow box.
- Custom-frame your family portrait.
- Order engraving on glassware, photo frames, keepsakes and other items that you order or bring in.

Please note that Friday, Dec. 9 is the last day to order framing work to be guaranteed completion before Christmas, and Friday, Dec. 16 for engraving orders to be guaranteed completion before Christmas.

Want more ideas? Our experts can help you create many more customized gifts. Call 253-982-6719 or drop by to ask about our selection of materials and projects.

The Arts & Crafts Center is located at 1121 Barnes Blvd., McChord Field.

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Patti Jeffrey

Warrior Zone fun

Enter NFL Pick 'Ems for prizes

Come out to Warrior Zone to fill out your weekly football picks for the NFL Pick 'Ems contest lasting all NFL season.

At the end of the season, first place wins a \$250 Exchange gift card, second place wins a \$100 Exchange gift card and third place wins a \$50 Exchange gift card.

Participants also can enter a drawing once weekly to get a chance to win an NFL jersey of your choice at the end of the season.

Join more fun times at Warrior Zone

Want a place to hang out Wednesdays–Sundays? Warrior Zone offers games, competitions and recreation for adults:

- Watch sports on our big screens and overhead TVs. Grab a strategic spot after you grab a burger and brew to watch your favorite team.
- Join us for Wednesday Trivia every week starting at 7 p.m. — it's free to play! Trivia questions will be displayed throughout the facility and players use your personal devices to answer. Play for bragging rights and café food vouchers.
- Compete for prizes in our pool tourneys Thursdays at 7 p.m.
- Get in on Fighting Games Night Fridays starting at 7. Compete and show off your slick skills on our gaming stations!
- Saturdays, come out for Anime Night at 7.
- Join us for PlayStation VR all day Sundays.

Compete in COD MW2 tourney

Drop by Warrior Zone Saturday, Dec. 3 to enter the COD MW2 2v2 tournament and

compete for one of the top three team player prizes — a \$200, \$100 or \$50 Exchange gift card per team.

Watch UFC 282 live

Visit Warrior Zone to view live UFC 282 action with Procházka vs. Teixeira 2 Saturday, Dec. 10 at 5 p.m. Purchase appetizers, dinner and drinks from Warrior Zone Café and grab a seat either inside or out on our heated, covered patio with overhead TV.

Play holiday trivia

Do you know your holidays, traditions and stories? Win prizes when you play in a special Kahoot! holiday trivia night at Warrior Zone starting at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14.

Play three rounds of 20 questions — each round gets progressively more challenging. The winner of each round receives a \$25 gift card; second- and third-place winners in each round each receive a \$10 café food voucher.

Compete in FIFA 23 tourney

Drop by Warrior Zone Saturday, Dec. 17 to enter the FIFA 23 tournament and compete for one of the top three player prizes — a \$150, \$100 or \$50 Exchange gift card.

Warrior Zone hosts New Year's Eve

Join us Saturday, Dec. 31 for door prizes, fun, gaming, movies and complimentary sparkling wine at 5 minutes to midnight (ages 21 and older only). Get your food and drinks at Warrior Zone Café.

The facility is open 10 a.m.–midnight. Door prizes will be given out 9 p.m.–midnight.

Warrior Zone events are open to DOD ID card holders ages 18 and older and is located on the corner of 17th and D streets at Lewis North. Questions? Call 253-477-5756.

WARRIOR ZONE



Emiliano Hernandez



Prevent winter travel dangers

By Patti Jeffrey

Don't be caught in the cold when it comes to vehicle safety this winter. The seasoned experts at your MWR Auto Centers are ready to help you get your vehicle in good shape for cold weather.

Here are quick tips on how to winterize your vehicle and be prepared for winter travel.

- It's critical to check your fluids no matter what season it is. Make sure your vehicle has adequate antifreeze, even if it's not being used. Your engine block is in danger of freezing and cracking (an expensive repair) without antifreeze to protect it. Use all-season oil, which won't get thick in colder temperatures. Most new cars use 5W/20 or 5W/30. Check to see if your windshield washer is formulated for winter temperatures. Even window-washing solutions have some antifreeze to prevent your windshield from icing up. Remember to check your transmission and brake fluid levels before you go on any trip.
- Check your wiper blades to see if they are proper for winter use. Some blades can freeze and become rigid rather than remain flexible.
- Make certain your tire pressure is adjusted for cold weather. Tire pressures are naturally higher in warm temperatures and lower in cold temperatures. Underinflated tires wear out more quickly. Also check your spare tire

for proper air pressure and ensure that you have a jack and tools needed to change the tire in case of a flat.

- Speaking of tires, buy good all-season tires that wear well in both summer and winter.
- Get your battery and battery cables serviced. You wouldn't want to get stuck somewhere in freezing weather for any length of time.
- Carry an organizer in your vehicle with these essentials: de-icing fluid, quart of oil, quart of transmission fluid, jug of 50/50 mix of antifreeze, bottle of brake fluid, emergency flares, paper towels, portable air pump, windshield scraper, booster cables and a distress flag. Also carry snow chains or cables, portable shovel and tow chain or rope if traveling in cold conditions or over passes.

Each person in your vehicle should bring extra warm clothing, medication for a day or two, extra water and nourishing snacks. Also carry a first-aid kit, pocket knife, duct tape, flashlight and emergency blankets.

Winterize it yourself inside

Need somewhere warm and dry to winterize your car? Rent a stall at one of your Auto Centers! For a fee, you can rent bays and lifts that vary according to function at each location.

For instance, you can use a drive-on lift for

Continued on page 27.

Have a home-based business at JBLM? What you need to know:



Do you have a home-based business and live at JBLM? Your business is an important contributor to the JBLM quality of life!

Depending on what type of business you have at home, you may need to obtain approval so that you're not in violation of installation policy. The good news is the approval process is quick and easy! It's even easier if

you've just moved here and have a previously approved HBB.

Not everyone who works from home operates what's considered an HBB, so visit *JBLM.armymwr.com/programs/home-based-business* to find out more on what qualifies, and how to apply for approval.

If you still have questions after visiting the webpage, please call 253-967-2906 or 253-477-9675.



changing oil easily, arm lifts for changing and rotating tires and rotary lifts for better access. If you need tools, you can check some out from the tool room.

Learn how to perform car care

Changing your own oil and fluids and lubing your vehicle saves you a lot of money — learn

how at your Auto Centers. McChord Auto Center even has a lube and oil change class and a car check-up class; just call to make an appointment!

Call the Lewis Main Auto Center (open Saturdays) at 253-967-3728 or McChord Field Auto Center (open Thursdays–Sundays) at 253-982-7226.

Free oil change for spouses of deployed Service members at Lewis Main & McChord Field

Spouses of deployed Service members can bring in a copy of orders to get free oil change service. This is for the service only. Please bring your own new oil and filter. Call 253-967-3728 or 253-982-7226 for an appointment.

Free 16-point maintenance inspection for deployed spouses at McChord Field

Deployed spouses can bring in copy of orders to get a free vehicle inspection. The inspection service is free but does not include the cost of any parts or supplies. Call 253-982-7226 for an appointment.



MWR Question of the Month



JBLMmwr

We asked our Facebook followers:

What's the best gift you've ever given or received?
Here's what many of you said.

Sylvia: **The gift of life.** I had emergency surgery with a 33% chance to live. The doctors at the University of Louisville hospital got me up and running.

Alana: Best gift I've given — I told my friend I had a birthday surprise for him and blindfolded him all the way to the airplane that we would jump out of. **We went sky-diving**; looking back, good thing he was adventurous because that's a terrible, frightening surprise!

Amanda: Best gift I ever got was **cozy socks and a sweater**. I'm such an old lady at heart!

Christina: My husband came home and surprised me with **Disneyland tickets**.

Deidre: My grandmother before she passed made me a **beautiful ornament**. She loved arts and crafts time at her senior center and always made me adorable pictures!



When she came home, she had the ornament wrapped in adorable wrapping paper and had a huge smile when she gave it to me. To this day I hang it on my tree.

Sairah: My husband and I went to London for my birthday while we were stationed in Germany. We went on a tour of the Harry Potter film set at Warner Brothers Studios and got to see an exhibit of all the Bond vehicles!

Haley: I did a lot of digging and tracked down my great grandfather's draft card, had it printed on the same card stock they were printed on back then, and framed it for my grandfather for his Christmas present a few years after my great-grandfather died.

Lindsey: My husband and I share a birthday week — we're four days apart! We always buy something big for each other, and in 2009 he bought me a house! #thusbandaward

Sue: My husband came home unexpectedly during an overseas remote tour. He surprised me while I was teaching a class to Soldiers. Still one of the biggest and most memorable surprises. Lots of joy, laughter, and tears, as well!

Dorothy: Best gift I've received is becoming a naturalized citizen, thanks to my parents.

Lina: One of the best gifts that I was able to give was a surprise visit this summer of

the whole family to see my son at his first duty station. He thought I would just be able to make it but our whole immediate family and my parents were able to visit with him.

Mariell: Best gift I've received was a little wooden doll to remember the baby I lost last year.

Nichole: Best gift ever was having our miracle baby girl. She was born right before Christmas and she was the thing that was missing from our family. She has two brothers who adore and love her and I couldn't think of a better way to round out our family.

Iris: The best gift I gave was a drawing of my grandma and then later her late husband. Any personal gifts I gave are probably the best because a lot of thought went into it. The same is true for when I receive gifts.

Joanna: As material gift: Kindle — a light, compact way to have books with me whenever and wherever. Immaterial: My friend offering to babysit so I could have a break when it was most needed.

Jessica: My friends put together a "sunshine box" for me after my sister passed to help lift my spirits. I've never forgotten how much that helped in those trying times and I still use a number of the cheerful items they included. It's one of the most thoughtful gifts I've ever received.

Chrissy: A few years ago, my husband gifted me my first nice purse and special nail polish, which sounds silly but it was a moment that I was like "Wow, I didn't ask for this, but he remembered I mentioned it."

Hope: The Christmas after my mom passed, my dad had put a ring she had bought for me the year before into my stocking. She was always hiding gifts all over the house in random places, so it was nice getting that final gift that she picked out. It was also her birthstone color, so it just added a little extra specialness to it.

Annalyn: The best gift I've received was a hand-crafted bowl from The Great Alaska Bowl Company with my children's faces on it! My husband won the husband of the year when he presented it to me!

Samantha: The best gift I've received was from my dad — a ticket for animal encounters with a penguin, sloth, kangaroo and otters. I got to hold a baby sloth, which is my favorite animal. I'll never forget that my dad gifted me that.

Lisa: A framed picture of me and my uncle. He passed away a few years prior, and I had never seen this picture before. It brought me to tears.

Chrissi: A church donated a truckload of toys and some gift cards last year around Christmas. I was able to give

Continued on page 31.

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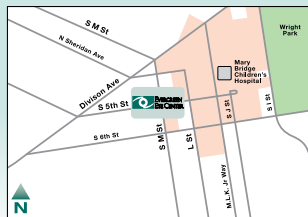


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out toys to neighbors and families around base, and walked around the Exchange handing gift cards to strangers. One of the best days of my life!

Diana: Going to Disney World and SeaWorld. When my grandpa was dying of cancer, they sold everything and paid for all of us to go to Florida. I was 9 at the time and it gave me memories that can never be replaced. I hope to give that experience to my kids one day.

Angel: A quilt that was handmade by my great-great-grandma. It was brought over from Germany.

Stephanie: Best gift was my bestie flying to visit for the holidays when my husband was deployed. She found out I'd be alone and surprised me!

Denisse: A birthday surprise with my best friends and family — they flew all the way here to spend time with me. My husband and daughter planned it.

Patricia: My sister gave me her high school class ring when I couldn't afford one. I just added my graduation date to the inside.

Savannah: A sleep sack for my daughter knitted by my abuela who helped raise me.

Angela: Best gift I received was a dog when I was around 9. I ended up having three generations of male dogs until

about 4 years ago.

Audrey: A handmade quilt after the birth of my son!

Amber: A blanket filled with pictures of our family to my husband while he was overseas.

Gudrun: My big boo! We bought a farm but husband said no cows. At a barter fair I found a 2-day-old calf, but I couldn't get him. Two weeks later, the owner called me to pick up a goat. The calf was in a dog kennel in the mud. I looked at my husband and he said pay and load him into the van. So, we drove home with a calf in the van. He is 4 now, 2,000 pounds and a big baby. He comes when I call him and I'm so glad we could give him a forever home. Husband still doesn't like cows.

Liane: The best gift I received was at Fort Campbell. They had a program, "Operation Ride Home," where they sent active duty Soldiers and their families home for the holidays. They gifted us round-trip tickets to California during Christmas for our entire family. I really appreciated spending the holidays with family.

Jennifer: I handmade a quilt for my first niece when she was born. I didn't know how to sew all of it and took a class so I could create a special gift. She's almost 9 now and she still has it!

NichMi: A new vehicle — not having a car can be very challenging.

Denise: A plane ticket to visit family.

Sara: A surprise visit from my parents on my birthday.

Patty: Very close friends of mine lost their only adult son five weeks before Christmas. I knew exactly what would help them through Christmas that year. I saved \$300 and began to scour the newspaper every day for that gift. I almost gave up hope, but three days before Christmas, I found it! I drove down to Shelton (yes, it was snowing). I got the gift and brought it home. As we all gathered at my friend's sister's house for Christmas that year, I made an announcement prior to us exchanging gifts. I said that someone special wasn't with us to celebrate, but I got you something I hope will bring the both of you a little joy. My niece handed me the gift from the other room. The entire family gasped and she said "Aww." I got them a chocolate lab puppy.

Karen: The best gift received was my first grandchild born on my birthday. The best birthday gift given was taking my daughter to the same beach her now deceased grandfather took her 25 years earlier. Her first time at the ocean was with him.



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Connect to the right resource at the new JBLM Resource Finder, a comprehensive list of resources to point you in the right direction for assistance!

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Grandstaff Library
2109 N. 10th St.
Lewis Main
253-967-5889

**Book Patch
Children's Library**
2109 N. 10th St.
Lewis Main
253-967-5533

McChord Library
851 Lincoln Blvd.
McChord Field
253-982-3454

Cozy up with winter reading fun & activities

Holiday family craft times

If you and your kiddos like crafts, you'll love creating fun holiday crafts that you can use as gifts or home decor! These free crafts are targeted for ages 6–12, but parents can help younger hands (parent participation required with all children). Also enjoy snacks and beverages.

Come join us at 4 p.m.:

- Thursday, Dec. 8 at McChord and Book Patch Children's libraries for holiday candle holders.
- Tuesday, Dec. 20 at McChord and Book Patch Children's libraries to make snowglobes.

Find Elf on the Shelf

When you visit McChord Library Dec. 1–16, look for the elf hidden throughout the library. Once you find the elf, check out a book and you'll get a sweet surprise at the front desk.

Enter Santa Paws Pet Costume Contest

If you're on Facebook, enter our online contest starting Monday, Dec. 5 and show off your fur-kids, both dogs and cats, dressed in holiday attire or with Santa!

All you do to enter is post a photo on our Facebook announcement at fb.com/JBLMLibrary. One costume winner for dogs and one for cats will be chosen and announced Friday, Dec. 30.

Winners receive a dog or cat prize basket filled with pet goodies (valued at \$150)!

Winter book sale at McChord

If you want to stock up on used books, DVDs, audiobooks and music CDs, attend McChord Library's Winter Holiday Book Sale Dec. 5–16. If you want to wait until the last day of the sale, you can fill up a bag for \$5 (the library even supplies the bag!).

Interact with Harry Potter movie

Join other families at McChord and Book Patch Children's libraries at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14 for a free interactive viewing of "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone."

Get ready to hop aboard the Hogwarts Express for this magical evening!

Attend Holiday Open House

Come to JBLM libraries' Holiday Open House Monday, Dec. 19, noon–6 p.m. at all locations. You'll be treated to music, snacks, beverages, crafts for kids and a photo op with Santa!

Continued on next page.

Santa will be at Grandstaff Library 1–3 p.m. and at McChord Library 4–6 p.m. Your leashed pets are invited for photos!

Have fun in Winter Reading Program

When winter winds howl, warm up with a good book and join our Winter Reading Program. Nurture a love of reading with your family and discover more of the world!

The program runs Dec. 19–Jan. 31 for all ages (adults can read to prereaders). Sign up in person at the front desk of your JBLM library.

Pick up a bingo sheet to record your reading. To earn your first-level prize, complete one bingo line. For your second-level prize, complete three bingo lines. For your third-level prize, complete five bingo lines.

Decorate sugar cookies

Everyone's invited to Book Patch Children's Library's free holiday sugar cookie decorating event Wednesday, Dec. 21 starting at 1 p.m. Limit one per person while supplies last.

'Treat Yo Elf' teen time

Teens ages 13–17 are invited to McChord Library Wednesday, Dec. 21 at 4 p.m. for a free "Treat Yo Elf" time. Wrap presents, create holiday ornaments from old books, watch a holiday movie and make hot cocoa drinks from the cocoa stand!

Play creative games

Play at Pokémon gaming club

Families of all ages are invited to McChord and Grandstaff libraries on the first and third Saturdays each month for Pokémon games.

Join this friendly competition under the eye of a Nintendo-certified Pokémon Professor. Don't know how to play? No problem, we'll teach you — we have demo decks!

We'll meet 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Dec. 3 at McChord Library and Dec. 17 at Grandstaff Library.

Also enjoy snacks and drinks, plus \$10–\$15-valued prizes.

Build at Family Lego Nights

We provide the Lego sets and you provide the imagination! Come and get creative at JBLM libraries' Family Lego Nights 4:30–6 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of the month at Grandstaff and McChord libraries.





Families can choose a kit or free-build Lego sets for creative family bonding time. McChord Library even puts your projects on display!

Look at our collection of Lego books that show you new ways to build. See you soon for building creatively!

Unique learning & reading fun

Attend Travel & Culture Talk

Grandstaff and McChord libraries are offering a series of Saturday Travel & Culture Talks. Ages 16 and older are welcome to attend the free presentations with a Q&A session and snacks afterward!

Presentations take place 10:30 a.m. at Grandstaff Library and 1:30 p.m. at McChord Library.

This month's presentation is Dec. 10 and focuses on the Christmas season in Europe and Japan.

Come and learn while having fun!

Join Little Sprouts learning time

Parents with children up to 24 months can attend McChord Library's Little Sprouts Music and Stories each Tuesday at 10 a.m. (except Dec. 20 and 27). Parent participation required.

This special time enhances your young ones' development through engaging storytimes with songs, rhymes and dance and movement with activities such as puppets, color parachute, peek-a-boo scarves and simple instruments.

Drop by for this free learning and play time — no registration needed!

'Books with Bogan' returns

Kids can spend time reading their favorite book to a reading assistance dog. "Books with Bogan" is back in December on the second and fourth Thursdays, 10–11 a.m.

He'll alternate between locations — the second Thursday, he's at McChord Library and the fourth Thursday, he's at Book Patch Children's Library.

By providing quiet comfort, the trained dog transforms into a supportive reading buddy and trusted friend in a safe, welcoming space.

If you'd like to read with Bogan, call the location you'd like to come to register ahead of time.

Bogan's waiting to hear from you!

Continued on next page.

Book clubs for adults

Take part in monthly book discussion

Like to discuss current books? Join JBLM libraries' book discussion group for adults that meets Friday, Dec. 9 at Grandstaff Library at 5 p.m. and Tuesday, Dec. 13 at McChord Library at 4:30 p.m.

This month, we'll discuss "The Only Woman in the Room" by Marie Benedict. A limited number of copies are available; register in person to receive a copy. Digital e-books or audiobooks also may be available.

Check out fan/sci-fi book club

Grandstaff Library is offering a fantasy/sci-fi book club for adults the third Monday of the month that meets in the conference room 4:30–6 p.m. Each month, we'll alternate genres.

If you enjoy fantasy and science fiction and want to discuss this underserved genre with other like-minded adults, join us for our Dec. 19 meeting.

We'll discuss "Piranesi" by Susanna Clark. A limited number of copies will be available for checkout at the library circulation desk.



Family reading times

Join us for storytime

McChord and Book Patch Children's libraries offer free weekly children's storytimes where reading is fun for the entire family.

Storytimes are held Wednesdays at 11 a.m. at McChord Library and 3:30 p.m. at Book Patch Children's Library. Afterward, each child is invited to make a craft to take home.

Sign up for Kinder-Ready Storytime

Come join us at Book Patch Children's

Library for Kinder-Ready Storytime. We offer two sessions every Tuesday at 10 and 11 a.m. (except Dec. 20 and 27).

This hands-on teaching time helps develop skills to prepare children ages 3–5 for kindergarten. The program teaches social and emotional skills, letter and number recognition and academic skills through songs, rhymes, games and crafts. Parents are encouraged to participate in your child's activities.

Registration is required due to space and group size limit for more individualized attention. Call 253-967-5533 to reserve your place.



Tips for students

By Norma Martinez-Melo, JBLM School Liaison Officer

Moving in the middle of the year can be difficult if you're a student in the middle of a semester and haven't completed the requirements for your course work. This is what we hear often from military families when they arrive during the winter break or spring break.

Here are some practical preparation tips that can be completed prior to you withdrawing from your school.

Leaving the area

If you're leaving JBLM, let us help you with your school-age children's transition. Contact the JBLM School Liaison office by phone or email, or drop by our office at Parent Central Services to get your questions answered.

- Get information about the new installation and the schools near that installation, along with a checklist of things you should take with you.
- Receive information on connecting with a youth sponsor at the new installation before you get there. They can answer questions you may have about schools and the base.

The key is to give your school teachers and counselors time to help prepare you for the move. You can prepare some things ahead of time:

- Make an appointment to see your counselor to review your records — it's better to be prepared and know what you have to do than to arrive at the new school and not be prepared.
- Ask about finishing the coursework ahead of your departure — this can work if you have less than a month from the end of the semester to the day you leave. This may

require some online learning or additional coursework to be able to test out prior to leaving. Note that many schools may have problems with this if there are more than four weeks left in the semester.

- If you're taking AP classes, see about being able to finish the course online or check with the receiving state about whether or not this is available for incoming transfers.

It's difficult to say goodbye to what is familiar and what you know, but it can be exciting to be able to start again at a new place and discover what's available and to make the most of that.

These types of skills provide you an opportunity to practice resiliency, enabling you to be better and stronger with change. If you look at it closely, this transition is preparing you to become an adult, adaptable and flexible enough to make the best of any situation.

If you're just arriving

Let the School Liaison Officer know you are here — we can help you get into a district school.

Get a youth sponsor who can help you maneuver all the things you want to know about JBLM and schools locally. You can email us to get started.

Regardless of whether you're leaving or arriving at JBLM, remember to bring the school name, address and telephone number of the school you just left.

Our contact information

Contact the JBLM School Liaison Office at 253-967-7195 or email us at usarmy.jblm.imcom-fmwrc.mbx.slo@army.mil. You also can come by our office at Parent Central Services, 2295 12th St. (at Bitar Street), Lewis Main.

about to transition



Connect with Youth Sponsorship Program

Getting ready to PCS? You can get to know your new installation before you move! New here and wondering what there is to do? Get connected with Youth Sponsorship!

The CYS Youth Sponsorship Program is peer outreach designed to help incoming youth make a smooth transition from their previous installation to the new installation and community.

A sponsor is an experienced, energetic youth who provides regular outreach with new students through welcome packets, face-to-face communication and email.

Peer sponsors communicate information about school resources, provide encouragement and support, develop trust, provide appropriate referrals and are a point of contact within the Youth Sponsorship Program, including Hillside Youth Center/Teen Zone, community activities and events and so much more!

Are you a youth who excels at creativity, problem-solving and patience with a desire to help and serve others? Join our team and become a sponsor and a leader in your community!

To request a youth sponsor or apply to become a sponsor, contact School Support Services at 2295 S. 12th St., Lewis Main, or call 253-967-7195. You also can call Hillside Youth Center/Teen Zone at 253-967-4441.





Enroll in winter break sports fun

Youth sports stresses safety & inclusion

Our comprehensive youth sports program enhances youth attitude, physical fitness and self-esteem. We host recreational leagues that are inclusive of all ages of youth who want to learn the fundamentals and have fun.

For players with advanced sports skills and greater ambition, parents may wish to check local alternatives.

Enrollment is open for winter break sports (see chart). Sign up on WebTrac through JBLM.armymwr.com under youth sports.

We need your energy for youth sports!

Do you come to all your child's games or meets and connect well with kids and parents? Share your love of sports with JBLM youth as a volunteer sports coach.

Youth Sports provides training and offers sports fee vouchers. A background check is required for all volunteers.

For more details, stop by the Youth Sports office at 6398 Garcia Blvd., Lewis Main.

The office is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. Questions? Call 253-967-2405.

WINTER BREAK	Sign-up Dates	Ages & Cost	Dates	Time & Location
Funky Fit Development	Through Dec. 19	3–4; \$25	Dec. 20–22	3:30–4:30 p.m. Youth Gym, 2295 S. 12th St.
Basketball BOOT Camp	Through Dec. 19	5–15; \$35	Dec. 20–22	Ages 5–8: 10 a.m.–noon. Ages 9–15: 1–3 p.m. Youth Gym, 2295 S. 12th St.
Volleyball Camp	Through Dec. 26	9–15; \$35	Dec. 27–29	10–11:30 a.m. Youth Gym, 2295 S. 12th St.
Funky Fit Games/ Indoor Sports	Through Dec. 26	5–15; \$35	Dec. 27–29	12:30–2 p.m. Youth Gym, 2295 S. 12th St.

CLASSES	Sign-up Dates	Ages & Cost	Dates	Time & Location
Karate & Gymnastics	Monthly	4–18; \$40	Online	Online

Enroll in sports, camps and classes at JBLMcysRegistration.com. The Youth Sports office is located at 6398 Garcia Blvd., Lewis Main. Questions? Call 253-967-2405.

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JBLM kids need you!

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Free training, resources & support from Child & Youth Services! \$1,000 bonus for new providers.*

Orientation: Tuesday, Dec. 20, 6–8 p.m.

Call 253-967-3039 for appointments.

2275 Liggett Ave., Lewis Main

Due to the importance of the meeting, children are not allowed.

*Conditions apply. Call 253-967-3039 for details.

Youth fun activity pages

Hidden Winter Objects

Happy holidays! Can you find the 10 hidden objects in the picture? Also find the hidden polar bear as a bonus!



ANSWER ↴





MWR Staff Pick



Courtesy photo

One of my favorite services that MWR offers is fitness facilities. I like to stay active, and I think it's awesome that I'm able to do that here on base, within walking distance from my work and without having to pay for a membership. I enjoy going to the gym and doing some cardio. A couple of the gyms have an indoor track, which is nice for when you want to work out, but the weather is bad. I also

Each month, hear what staff members across MWR like best about our services!

Gabi

like to use some of the cardio machines, like treadmills or the Stairmaster.

Another activity that I like to do sometimes is swimming laps at the pool. It's a fun way to stay active without it feeling like an actual workout, but it really can tire you out.

My other favorite service is Outdoor Recreation. I like to experience new things and visit new places, and I feel that they offer so many amazing activities and trips. I haven't been on a trip with them yet, but a few that I am currently interested in are the Oregon waterfall tour and Leavenworth Lights. I even have a few activities in mind that I would like to try next summer.

HAPPY
Holidays



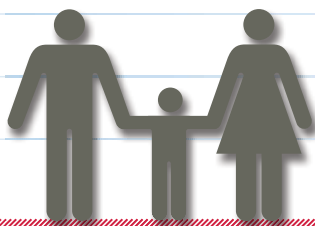
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