

# YEAR IN REVIEW EDITION



Photo by Henry Villarama, OCPA

President Joe Biden presents the Medal of Honor to Laura E. Blevins on behalf of her father, former Gen. Richard E. Cavazos, during a Medal of Honor ceremony Friday at the White House at Washington D.C.

## Gen Cavazos, six others receive Medal of Honor

*Editor's note: This is an abridged version of the article. To read the full story, visit [www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/4021420/7-soldiers-from-korean-vietnam-wars-receive-medals-of-honor](https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/4021420/7-soldiers-from-korean-vietnam-wars-receive-medals-of-honor).*

BY C. TODD LOPEZ  
DOD News

**WASHINGTON** — At a White House ceremony Friday, President Joe Biden presented Medals of Honor to seven Soldiers who served in either the Korean War or the Vietnam War.

Among the Soldiers honored were Pvt. Bruno R. Orig, Pfc. Wataru Nakamura, Cpl. Fred B. McGee, Pfc. Charles R. Johnson and Gen. Richard E. Cavazos. All served in the Korean War and received the medal posthumously. Family members accepted the decoration on their behalf.

From the Vietnam War, both Capt. Hugh R. Nelson Jr. and Pfc. Kenneth J. David were decorated. Nelson received the medal posthumously, while David, the only living recipient, accepted the medal in person.

### Gen. Richard E. Cavazos

Born in Kingsville, Texas, in 1929, Cavazos earned his commission in 1951, after having served in the Reserve Officer Training Corps at Texas Tech University.

“Richard led his men through a difficult and deadly mission in enemy territory,” Biden said. “Eventually, he was ordered to retreat, but he stayed. He stayed rescuing wounded Soldiers, one by one, until every one of them was evacuated. Richard went on to serve for three decades in the Army, becoming ... the country’s first Hispanic four-star general.”

At the time of the combat action which earned him the Medal of Honor, Cavazos was a first lieutenant serving as the company commander of Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 65th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, in the vicinity of Sagimak, South Korea.

On the night of June 14, 1953, Cavazos led his company in a raid on an entrenched enemy outpost with the mission of destroying the personnel and installation there. During the initial attack, he led his men through enemy mortar and artillery fire. Upon entering the trenches, close combat ensued during which Cavazos directed heavy fire on the enemy and their positions.

When an enemy mortar and artillery barrage hit his position, Cavazos withdrew the company and regrouped his men. Twice more he led his men through intense enemy fire in assaults on the enemy position, destroying vital enemy fortifications and personnel.

When ordered to withdraw his company, Cavazos complied but remained alone on the enemy outpost to search for missing men. Although exposed to enemy fire, he located five battle casualties and evacuated each, one by one, to a point on the reverse slope of a nearby hill where they could be safely recovered by friendly forces.

After, he returned to the battlefield where he found a small group of men who had become separated from the main assaulting force and personally led them to safety. When informed there were still men missing, Cavazos again returned to the scene of the battle. There, he located and led another small group of men to safety. He then made two more unassisted trips to the battlefield searching for missing Soldiers.

It wasn’t until he was satisfied the battlefield was cleared on the morning of June 15, that he allowed treatment of his own combat wounds.



Photo courtesy of the Cavazos family

Cavazos retired from the Army in 1984, after attaining the rank of general. At the time of his combat action, he was 24 years old. He died in 2017, at San Antonio, Texas.

As Biden closes out his term as commander in chief, he said it’s been the greatest honor of his life to lead the world’s greatest military.

“They’re the finest military in the history of the world,” he said. “Today we award these individuals a Medal of Honor. We can’t stop here. Together as a nation, it’s up to us to give this medal meaning, to keep fighting, to keep fighting for one another, for each other, to keep defending everything these heroes fought for and many of them died for: the ideals of America, the freedom we cherish, the democracy that has made our progress possible.”

The United States, Biden said, was built on an idea, rather than on geography, ethnicity or religion.

“We are the only nation based on an idea,” he said. “The idea is that we hold these truths to be self-evident, all men and women are created equal (and) deserve to be treated equally throughout their entire lives. We haven’t always lived up to it, but we’ve never, ever, ever walked away from it. Today we must say clearly, we never, ever, ever will.”

### NEWS BRIEFS

#### Mayborn Gate closes

Mayborn Gate, located at Tank Destroyer Boulevard and Fort Hood Street, will close 5 a.m.-9 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday to support gate repairs. The adjacent Guillen Gate, located at Rancier Avenue and Fort Hood Street, will be open to facilitate entry and exit to the installation.

Please adjust accordingly.

#### Fort Cavazos hosts town hall

Fort Cavazos leaders invite area ranchers, landowners, community leaders and neighbors to participate in a town hall and community outreach meeting from 1 to 3 p.m. Jan. 23 at the San Saba Civic Center at San Saba, Texas. The event is an opportunity for attendees to ask questions and discuss concerns regarding Fort

Cavazos helicopter training in the Western Training Area with installation leaders and pilots. The civic center is located at 1190 S. Thomas Stewart Dr., San Saba, Texas. Go to [einvitations.afit.edu/inv/index.cfm?i=972075&k=0B6640097C52](https://einvitations.afit.edu/inv/index.cfm?i=972075&k=0B6640097C52) to RSVP.

For more information, call the Fort Cavazos Public Affairs office at 254-286-5139 or 254-288-7625.

#### TAP hosts Mega Career Fair

The Transition Assistance Program will hold a Mega Career Fair 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Jan. 28 at the Lone Star Conference Center. Jobseekers can meet with local, state, national and international employers at this event. It is open to everyone. Those without a Department of Defense ID will need to acquire a visitor’s pass. For more information, call TAP at 254-

288-2227 or 254-288-5627.

#### Scholarship applications open

The Fort Cavazos Family Scholarship Fund application period is open through Feb. 17. High school students and military spouses seeking undergraduate and/or graduate degrees are eligible to apply. Visit [fortcavazosscholarship.org](https://fortcavazosscholarship.org) for more information.



Sentinel file photo by Shawn Davis, Fort Cavazos Public Affairs

Volunteering Soldiers and members of the Central Texas Food Bank package assorted goods including fresh produce, prepackaged foods and beverages to give to families attending Fresh Food for Families Aug. 1, 2024, at the Phantom Warrior Stadium parking lot at Fort Cavazos.

# Great Place reflections, resolutions: Installation goes to new heights

BY COL. LAKICIA STOKES  
USAG-Fort Cavazos Commander

As we close the chapter on 2024 and look out across the potential of 2025, it is with immense pride I reflect on the exceptional year marked by innovation, resilience and achievement. The dedication of Soldiers, civilians and families has propelled The Great Place to new heights, earning recognition and laying a foundation for continued success in 2025.

## Installation excellence

Fort Cavazos earned the Commander-in-Chief's Annual Award for Installation Excellence, in addition to being named the Best Garrison by U.S. Army Installation Management Command, celebrating our outstanding mission support, environmental stewardship and quality-of-life initiatives. Some of our notable achievements included cost-saving intergovernmental agreements and high marks in service culture. The Directorate of Public Works was highlighted for its environmental conservation and resilience efforts, while the Directorate of Emergency Services received accolades for award-winning community partnerships with the Killeen Fire Department and the Emergency Management Working Group.

The Directorate of Human Resources played a vital role, fostering programs for workforce health and development, while Child and Youth Services received exceptional scores in the Army Higher Headquarters inspection, showcasing the installation's commitment to military families. These collective efforts underscore Fort Cavazos' comprehensive approach to excellence.

## Enhancing quality of life

At The Great Place, ensuring quality of life is not just a priority but a cornerstone of mission success. In 2024, significant strides were made in improving living and working recreational environments.

## Housing improvements:

- Constructed 217 new homes in Heritage Heights for junior-enlisted Soldiers, with 409 more planned by 2027.
- Demolished 314 old homes in Chaffee Village, clearing the way for modern housing developments.
- Completed roof replacements on 3,036 homes and conducted interior renovations on 803 of the 1,347 planned homes.
- Barrack 100 was unveiled for the 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade.
- Progress is underway on the construction of Barrack 101 for 69th ADA and 102 for 1st Cavalry Division, with work advancing steadily. These new facilities promise state-of-the-art accommodations for our single Soldiers.
- Completed five barracks renovations for 3rd Cavalry Regiment and 1st Cavalry Division Artillery. We currently have 11 in renovation. Renovations leave no detail untouched, ensuring a modern and comfortable living environment for our Soldiers.

## Workplace enhancements:

- Renovation of two motor pools is underway, with completion expected by spring. Design work for Motor Pool #70 is complete. Five tactical vehicle maintenance shelters were completed. These upgrades address critical functionality gaps, ensuring facilities meet Army standards.

- Renovation of Hangar 6940 is underway, with completion expected by summer. This modernization will enhance mission readiness and support.
- Construction of a new battalion headquarters for 1st Air Cavalry Brigade at Yoakum-DeFrenn Army Heliport is in progress, with expected completion by spring.
- Installed the cutting-edge microgrid on West Fort Cavazos to enhance energy resilience, reduce dependency on external power sources, and integrate renewable energy solutions.
- Installed hard targets in the live-fire area of our training ranges and is in the process of purchasing new moving armored targets.
- Completed the construction of the Robert Gray Army Airfield Fuel Facility.
- Completed the construction of the 69th ADA Supply Support Activity.

## Dining enhancements:

Campus-style dining debuted in 2024, transforming meal services with flexibility and variety. Highlights include:

- 254 Blend coffee services launched at the Operation Iraqi Freedom Dining Facility, offering accessible and quality coffee.
- Phantom Centralized HUB at Ironhorse Dining Facility opened, offering grab-and-go options, culinary outpost food trucks and meal prep services.
- Action stations at both the Operation Iraqi Freedom and Theodore Roosevelt DFACs feature a food court-style setup with diverse options for Soldiers.
- Additional dining options, including the opening of Lucky's Café, Panera Bread and Sbarro, with more on the horizon.
- Partnered with the Central Texas Food Bank to launch one of our newest monthly initiatives, Fresh Food for Families.
- Partnered with Military Family Advisory Network to provide Permanent Change-of-Station Pantry Restock Box for incoming families.

## Expanding transportation

The Cavazos Connector mass transit system, launched in March 2024, has revolutionized transportation on post. Serving over 188,000 riders since its inception, this free, app-based service provides convenient mobility for all Department of Defense common access card holders. With a user-friendly experience akin to

ride-sharing apps, the Cavazos Connector exemplifies innovation in public transit.

## Modernizing recreation

- The Heritage Heights Playground and Dog Park opened in September, becoming a central hub for family-friendly activities.
- Four fitness centers have been transitioned into Soldier Performance Readiness Centers, supporting holistic health through targeted physical fitness, nutrition and mental resilience programs.
- 24/7 manned fitness center: Warrior Way Fitness Center hours changed to a 24/7 manned fitness center. We continue to work toward a combination of manned and 24/7 unmanned capability for Warrior Way, Abrams, Airfield and North Fort Cavazos Fitness Centers.

## Looking ahead

The upcoming year holds immense promise as we continue to build on our successes. Key initiatives for 2025 include:

- Accelerating housing and barracks renovations to provide modern, high-quality living spaces.
- Modernizing training ranges with advanced target systems to enhance mission readiness.
- Expanding recreational facilities, including the completion of the Abrams Outdoor Sport Court Fitness Park. The one-of-a-kind park broke ground in October and is set to open this summer. It will include diverse fitness spaces and a playground to promote wellness for Soldiers and families alike.
- Strengthening affordable housing initiatives through the Military Value Program and Rental Partnership Program. These programs ensure Soldiers and families have access to stable, affordable housing options off-post.

## Bright future together

As we reflect on 2024, we celebrate the achievements that have solidified Fort Cavazos as a beacon of excellence. Yet, our journey continues. With your unwavering support and partnership, we are poised to reach new heights in 2025 and beyond. Together, we will ensure Fort Cavazos remains a great place to serve, live and grow, setting the standard for installations across the Army.



Sentinel file photo by Janecze Wright, Fort Cavazos Public Affairs

Construction workers install new roofs for homes in the Heritage Heights neighborhood, housing for junior-enlisted Soldiers, July 9, 2024, at Fort Cavazos.



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# GROWTH: Innovation, modernization driving forces for Fort Cavazos in 2024



Sentinel file photo by Blair Dupre, Sentinel News Editor

Pfc. Leonardo Fyffe, a nutrition care specialist, 190th Medical Detachment, 32nd Hospital Center, 1st Medical Brigade, smiles as he and other volunteers sort fresh produce items into bags Sept. 5, 2024, during the Fresh Food for Families event at the Phantom Warrior Stadium parking lot at Fort Cavazos.



Sentinel file photo by Eric Franklin, Fort Cavazos Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Viktoria Moore, a culinary specialist with the 1st Cavalry Division, showcases her cooking skills during a demonstration July 15, 2024, at the Phantom Centralized HUB at Ironhorse Dining Facility at Fort Cavazos. Phantom Fresh offers Soldiers a quick way to grab fresh meals on the go, akin to an airport kiosk.

BY AYUMI DAVIS  
Sentinel Editor

Throughout 2024, Fort Cavazos welcomed new leadership as it continued its modernization through several initiatives and projects, working to improve quality of life, readiness and operations across the installation.

## III Armored Corps welcomes new commander

Fort Cavazos and III Armored Corps welcomed Lt. Gen. Kevin D. Admiral as the new commanding general and bid farewell to Lt. Gen. Sean C. Bernabe Aug. 7, 2024, during a ceremony at III Armored Corps Headquarters.

Admiral previously commanded 1st Cavalry Division and had been heading U.S. Army Task Force Pegasus in Europe when he changed commands.

“To my teammates across III Armored Corps, you can count on me giving 100% effort and carrying out my duties as we work together to uphold the high standards our nation and the Army expect and deserve,” he said.

## Partnership drives food donation

The Religious Support Office began a new initiative in

June with the Central Texas Food Bank, running a monthly grocery drive-thru food drive for families on-post.

The drive-thru was officiated with a ceremony Sept. 5, 2024, giving away over 24,000 pounds of foods to 332 families. Three pilot events prior to the ceremony distributed food to more than a thousand families, giving away fresh produce, meats and packaged goods.

“This effort goes beyond just providing food,” said Col. Lakicia Stokes, U.S. Army Garrison-Fort Cavazos commander, during the ceremony at the event. “It’s about ensuring our Soldiers and their families are cared for and have the resources they need to thrive. As we move forward, I’m confident that this program will continue to grow and positively impact the lives of our military families.”

Since July, the RSO and CTFB have distributed over 130,000 pounds of foods to over 2,000 families.

## 1st Cav. Div. new commander

1st Cav. Div. welcomed their new commanding general, Maj. Gen. Thomas M. Feltey, in a change of command ceremony Aug. 2, 2024, at Boleslawiec, Poland.

“I stand here this morning, excited and humbled to lead the legendary First Team, especially as it continues its mission in assuring our allies and deterring our enemies,” Feltey said in



Sentinel file photo by Blair Dupre, Sentinel News Editor

Lt. Gen. Kevin D. Admiral, incoming commander of III Armored Corps and Fort Cavazos, accepts the unit guidon from Gen. Andrew P. Poppas, U.S. Army Forces Command commander, during a change of command ceremony Aug. 7, 2024, at III Armored Corps Headquarters at Fort Cavazos.

his opening speech during the ceremony. “To the leaders and troopers of the mighty 1st Cavalry Division, I am honored to be your commander, and I will do my very best to serve you, our families and our mission. I look forward to getting to know everyone over the months ahead and seeing our troopers in action.”

Along with taking command of 1st Cav. Div., Feltey took command of U.S. Army Task Force Pegasus, operating across Poland and the Baltic States.

## Cavazos Connector launch

The Cavazos Connector launched back in March and has given more than 188,000 rides, as of Monday. The free service averages approximately 580 riders per day, servicing five zones.

Since its inception, the ride has modified weekday hours to 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. and routes to better serve its riders, modifying the micro-transit zone to include the Mission Training Complex and replacing fixed route service from Copperas Cove to Temple, Texas.

“It’s the first micro-transit system in the country for a military base, and it’s been highly successful,” said Darrell Burtner, assistant general manager of the Hill Country Transit

See **Growth**, A6



Sentinel file photo by Blair Dupre, Sentinel News Editor



Sentinel file photo by Col. Kamil Sztalkoper, III Armored Corps Public Affairs

**LEFT**, Pfc. Sieria Harris, 215th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, poses with her steak, mashed potatoes, broccoli and roll she picked from the Headquarters Department of the Army Go for Green Action Station Oct. 9, 2024, at the Operation Iraqi Freedom Dining Facility at Fort Cavazos. **ABOVE**, Soldiers, veterans, Army civilians, Fort Cavazos Good Neighbors and the city of Killeen gather to show support at the National Mounted Warrior Museum grand opening ceremony Sept. 18, 2024, at Fort Cavazos. The National Mounted Warrior Museum currently offers more than 12,000 square feet of permanent gallery space, situated on 17 acres near the Bernie Beck gate.

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Photo by Rodney Jackson, CRDAMC Public Affairs

Proud parents 1st Lt. Brady Smith, air defense artillery officer, 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, and Danielle Smith pose with their newborn son Greyson, the first baby of 2025 to be delivered at the Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center, Jan. 1 at CRDAMC at Fort Cavazos.

# CRDAMC rings in 2025 with first baby of year

BY RODNEY JACKSON  
CRDAMC Public Affairs

Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center welcomed Greyson Holbrooke Smith, the first baby of the year born at the hospital at Fort Cavazos.

Proud parents 1st Lt. Brady Smith, an air defense artillery officer, 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, and Danielle Smith welcomed baby Greyson at 3:04 a.m. Greyson arrived weighing 8 pounds, 2 ounces and measuring 20 3/4 inches.

The couple are both from Rancho Cucamonga, California, and are looking forward to spending time

together with family during the beginning of the new year.

Greyson is their second child and older sister Margo, 2, was excited about coming to see her new baby brother.

“As soon as we get moved over to the Mother - Baby Unit, Grandma is going to bring Margo over,” Brady said about the siblings’ upcoming introduction.

This was a great experience and less scary than the first time, he laughed.

The family has only lived in the Central Texas area for a little over a year and are enjoying it.

# Post observes National Day of Mourning

Editor’s note: Due to potentially severe winter weather, please call services prior to going or visit [fortcavazosmediacenter.com](http://fortcavazosmediacenter.com) for the most up-to-date information.

BY FORT CAVAZOS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

III Armored Corps and Fort Cavazos will render appropriate honors today in remembrance of former President James Earl Carter Jr., who died Dec. 29, 2024. Most III Armored Corps and Fort Cavazos offices will be closed in honor of the National Day of Mourning for the 39th president.

These honors are in compliance with Army Regulation 600-25 (Salutes, Honors and Visits of Courtesy) and Presidential Executive Order 11528 issued Friday.

- The Clear Creek Exchange will be open from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.
- Clear Creek Commissary and Warrior Way Commissary will be open.
- Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center will provide limited services today. Emergency services, inpatient care and labor and delivery services will not be affected and remain open. Patients who have scheduled outpatient appointments will be contacted by clinic personnel to reschedule appointments. If beneficiaries are unsure about the status of an existing appointment, they should contact their care team by phone, through the MHS GENESIS Patient Portal at [patientportal.mhsgenesis.health.mil](http://patientportal.mhsgenesis.health.mil) or by calling the Patient Appointment Service at 254-288-8888.
- The Directorate of Emergency Services essential police and fire services will continue. All access control points normally closed on a federal holiday will be closed. The police records office is closed.
- All Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities will be closed except for Abrams Physical Fitness Center, Warrior Way Physical Fitness Center, Airfield Physical Fitness Center and MOB Physical Fitness Center, which will be operating under federal holiday hours.
- All Directorate of Public Works offices will be closed; however, they will respond to emergency facility repairs or other issues as required. Their 24/7 service order desk will be available at 254-287-2113. Units should call the service order desk to report facility and infrastructure issues. Normal service contracts will continue as well — custodial, refuse, etc.
- All other nonemergency services Fort Cavazos Garrison offices will be closed.
- Killeen Independent School District schools will be open on post. For more information, call KISD public affairs at 254-336-6810.
- The Fort Cavazos USO center will be open.

For more information, call the Fort Cavazos Public Affairs Office at 254-287-9993.

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PRESS 1

**Dining Facility Operations Schedule** Jan. 2025

For the most updated schedule, visit [home.army.mil/cavazos](http://home.army.mil/cavazos)

OPEN (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner)

OPEN (Brunch & Supper)

CLOSED

HOLIDAY

**Phantom Centralized HUB** Building #41018  
Old Ironside & 77th St.

SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Breakfast: 7:30-9 a.m. Monday-Friday  
Lunch: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday-Friday  
Dinner: 5-6:30 p.m. Monday-Friday  
WR Manager: SFC Philpott: 954-654-1083

(BRUNCH/SUPPER): 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.  
(BRUNCH/SUPPER): 5-6:30 p.m.  
(HOLIDAY): 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

**OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM** Building #21020  
Battalion & 58th St.

**Closed due to renovation. Tentatively scheduled for completion in May.**

Breakfast: 7:30-9 a.m. Monday-Friday  
Lunch: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday-Friday  
Dinner: 5-6:30 p.m. Monday-Friday  
COR: Richard Johnson: 254-535-6845

(BRUNCH/SUPPER): 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.  
(BRUNCH/SUPPER): 5-6:30 p.m.  
(HOLIDAY): 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

**BLACK JACK** Building #34002  
Old Ironsides Ave. & Pyongyang Dr.

SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Breakfast: 7:30-9 a.m. Monday-Friday  
Lunch: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday-Friday  
Dinner: 5-6:30 p.m. Monday-Friday  
Manager: SFC Moore: 254-618-8914

(BRUNCH/SUPPER): 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.  
(BRUNCH/SUPPER): 5-6:30 p.m.  
HOLIDAY: 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

**CULINARY OUTPOST KIOSK** BLDG 56063  
Tedesco Way

SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

BRK, LUN, DIN: 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Friday  
(WNK): 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

69th ADA Food Advisor: 254-368-9214

**PATRIOT INN** Building #12007  
Old Ironside & 33rd St.

**Closed for conversion to a bistro. Tentatively scheduled for completion in summer.**

Breakfast: 7:30-9 a.m. Monday-Friday  
Lunch: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday-Friday  
Dinner: 5-6:30 p.m. Monday-Friday  
Food Advisor: WO1 Greene: 843-901-0260

(BRUNCH/SUPPER): 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.  
(BRUNCH/SUPPER): 5-6:30 p.m.

**ALWAYS READY** Building #91226  
HQ Ave., West Fort Cavazos

SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Breakfast: 7:30-9 a.m. Monday-Friday  
Lunch: 11:30-1 p.m. Monday-Friday  
Dinner: 5-6:30 p.m. Monday-Friday  
Manager: 254-288-9538

(BRUNCH/SUPPER): 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.  
(BRUNCH/SUPPER): 5-6:30 p.m.  
(HOLIDAY): 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

**NORTH FORT CAVAZOS** Building #56320  
Garand St.

SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Breakfast: 5:30-8:30 a.m. Sunday-Saturday  
Lunch: 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Sunday-Saturday  
Dinner: 5-7:30 p.m. Sunday-Saturday  
COR: Richard Johnson: 254-535-6845

Building #56447 is only for overflow.  
(HOLIDAY): 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

**THEODORE ROOSEVELT** Building #9205  
Battalion & 21st St.

SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Breakfast: 7:30-9 a.m. Monday-Friday  
Lunch: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday-Friday  
Dinner: 5-6:30 p.m. Monday-Friday  
COR: Richard Johnson: 254-535-6845

(BRUNCH/SUPPER): 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.  
(BRUNCH/SUPPER): 5-6:50 p.m.  
HOLIDAY: 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

**CULINARY OUTPOST FOOD KIOSK** Old Ironsides and Pyongyang Drive

SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

BRK, LUN, DIN: 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Friday  
(WKN): 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

Food Advisor: SFC Moore: 254-618-8914

**ALWAYS READY KIOSK** HQ Avenue  
West Fort Cavazos

SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

BRK, LUN, DIN: 2-7 p.m. Monday-Friday  
(WKN): 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

WR Manager: 254-288-9538

Culinary Outpost Food Truck 1, 2 and 3 are undergoing services and maintenance.

Installation Food Service: 287-6595    III Armored Corps Food Service: 287-0573    Division Food Service: 287-3134

# Fort Cavazos improves dining, energy, more in 2024



Multiple medical agencies work together to transport volunteers portraying wounded gunshot victims to different medical facilities May 7, 2024, during the full-scale exercise at Fort Cavazos.

**Growth:** *Continued from A3*

District. “We expect it to continue to grow and be more successful. We are getting phone calls from other military bases wanting us to answer questions for them as to how we did it. It’s very unique in that it was micro-transit and not fixed-route service and it’s also very unique in how we are connecting the base to the region and allowing Soldiers and their families on base to integrate into the community a lot more.”

## National Mounted Warrior Museum

People visiting Fort Cavazos can now look at the history of the mounted warrior and cavalry Soldiers after the opening of the National Mounted Warrior Museum in September 2024.

The free museum features more than 12,000 square feet of permanent gallery space, over 1,000 square feet of temporary exhibit space and a 4,900-square foot rotunda.

“Our tradition of excellence in mounted warfare is Fort Cavazos’ proudest legacy and one that we work to inculcate in every Soldier who is assigned to armored units at our installation,” said Brig. Gen. Geoff Van Epps, III Armored Corps deputy commanding general of maneuver, key speaker for the museum’s ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Since opening, the museum has had nearly 8,000 visitors, as of Dec. 26, 2024.

## Installation Excellence Award

Fort Cavazos received not one, but two, awards in 2024 for the installation in July. U.S. Army Installation Management Command named U.S. Army Garrison-Fort Cavazos the best garrison, and the Department of Defense awarded the post the Commander-in-Chief’s Annual Award for Installation Excellence.

Installations are judged on 13 categories including mission support, environment, real property asset management, real property stewardship, quality of life, and safety and health. Highlights included environmental research and conservation efforts from the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division, an award-winning partnership between the Directorate of Emergency Services and Killeen Fire Department and the Emergency Management Working Group, and events to improve the quality of life on the installation, such as

Nature in Lights and Cow-boys-4-Heroes/Bumpers and BBQ, from the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

“This award recognizes the incredible work our garrison team does day in and day out to ensure that Fort Cavazos Soldiers and their families are well cared for while they serve our country,” said Lt. Gen. Sean C. Bernabe, then-commanding general of III Armored Corps and Fort Cavazos. “We could not do what we do here at The Great Place without the dozens of Soldiers and over 4,000 Department of the Army civilians who comprise the garrison team.”

## Full-scale exercise

Fort Cavazos conducted a full-scale exercise of an active-shooter scenario May 7-8, 2024, assessing the installation’s response.

Working with off-post agencies as well, such as Killeen Police and Fire Departments, the post conducted the exercise’s incident at Shoemaker Center.

“Training on complex incident response scenarios increases our proficiency and interoperability,” said Bob Adams, DES deputy director. “This training helps to ensure that when an incident does occur, we will be ready to effectively respond and protect our communities.”

## Microgrid completion

In February, Fort Cavazos officially completed a microgrid, which can provide a minimum of 14 days of operational capability for 43 installation facilities at West Fort Cavazos, even in the instance of loss of power. The microgrid also provides more than \$125,000 in energy savings per day during any Electric Reliability Council of Texas peak demand period.

The microgrid, an intelligent energy grid sustainability and restoration tool, is also



Fort Cavazos leadership cut a ribbon during a ribbon-cutting ceremony commemorating the completion of Barrack 100 March 28, 2024, at the barrack at Fort Cavazos.

vital to the operations at the air traffic control facilities, impacting both military and civilian aircraft.

“The power redundancy will ensure air traffic control facility operations continue their missions without interruptions and ensure aircraft operations are conducted safely at Robert Gray Army Airfield, Killeen Regional Airport and seven additional military and civilian encompassing 11 counties in Central Texas,” explained Mark Vick, Directorate of Aviation Operations air traffic control chief. “Fort Cavazos, our local communities and the state of Texas have been great partners and projects such as the microgrid are shining examples of this fact. This project will ensure an everlasting impact on the air traffic control mission here at Fort Cavazos.”

## Barrack 100

Fort Cavazos improved quality of life for Soldiers living in barracks, such as the reopening of Phantom Village in November, but most notable was the opening of Barrack 100 in April.

The first barrack to be constructed at the installation since 2012, the furnished housing for 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade Soldiers provides them individual bedrooms to allow for more privacy, walk-in closets and a larger, shared kitchenette space.

“We couldn’t do anything without our Soldiers,” said Brian Dosa, director of DPW. “We have great equipment, we have great leaders, but we need Soldiers. We want to provide a quality, safe, healthy place for them to live that will be commensurate with their service.”

Currently, as of Monday, 11 barracks are undergoing renovations, Dosa said.

## SECARMY visit

Secretary of the Army Christine Wormuth visited Fort Cavazos Jan. 30, 2024, exploring the installation’s quality-of-life initiatives

and programs, along with interacting with Soldiers, their families and Department of the Army civilians.

In addition to touring the People First Center, Wormuth observed training, attended a sensing session with Soldiers, visited 1st Cav. Div.’s Pegasus Troop and went to the Family Advocacy Program.

“It’s been a while since I have come back to Fort Cavazos,” she shared during a press conference Jan. 31, 2024, “and I wanted to really come out and see how we are doing here at Fort Cavazos and the III Armored Corps to build combat power, to make sure that we’re building up our readiness and see some of the work that we’re doing to kind of pivot from our focus on counterinsurgency and counterterrorism to large-scale combat operations. And then, I also really wanted to look at a lot of the quality-of life-issues that are so important to our Soldiers and our families.”

“I would say there is a lot of work being done here across the board to take care of Soldiers and families,” she added.

## DFAC initiatives

Fort Cavazos innovated food programs for Soldiers with the Phantom Centralized HUB and the Headquarters, Department of the Army Go for Green Action Menu and Station initiative which began Oct. 9, 2024.

The Phantom Centralized HUB offers alternatives to Soldiers, providing meals on the go or to prep at home with Phantom Fresh, a grab-and-go service, and Phantom Prep, a meal prep program. The action station, located at Operation Iraqi Freedom Dining Facility, offers a campus-style food course with customizable meal options.

“Fort Cavazos is at the forefront of food service modernization, pioneering innovative concepts to enhance support for Soldiers,” said Chontrelle Sturdivant, installation food program manager for Army Field Support Battalion-Cavazos, in an interview Dec. 10, 2024. “These efforts reflect our mission to promote health, fitness and readiness.”

“Our action stations feature customer-preferred selections comparable to the commercial food industry,” Sturdivant added. “Phantom Fresh and Phantom Prep provide convenient, nutritious options tailored to our Soldiers’ needs. We aim to enhance each dining experience and foster a sense of connection and care.”



Honorable Christine Wormuth, United States secretary of the Army, climbs into the new M2A4 Bradley infantry fighting vehicle Jan. 30, 2024, at Fort Cavazos.



Sentinel file photo by Samantha Harms, Command Information Chief

Newly built single-family homes line the streets of Heritage Heights, a neighborhood at Fort Cavazos for junior-enlisted Soldiers and their families, June 16, 2023, at Fort Cavazos.

BY DOD

WASHINGTON — The Department of Defense released the 2025 Basic Allowance for Housing, or BAH, rates. BAH rates increased an average of 5.4%, with the new rates having taken effect Jan. 1. An estimated \$29.2 billion will be paid to approximately 1 million service members. While average BAH rates increased, different rental markets experienced different market trends, and the 2025 BAH rates reflect those geographic market condition differences.

The DOD collects rental housing-cost data annually for 299 military housing areas in the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii. The BAH rate-setting process relies on a wide variety of data sources (e.g., U.S. Census Bureau survey data, Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index, commercial subscription rental cost databases, industry-leading online rental listing websites and input from the armed services and local mili-

# DOD releases 2025 BAH rates

tary installation housing offices, among other sources) to obtain high-quality, accurate, current-year housing-cost data.

Median market rents and average utilities (including electricity, heat and water/sewer) comprise the total housing cost for each military housing area and are included in the BAH computation. Total housing costs are determined for six housing profiles (based on dwelling type and number of bedrooms) in each military housing area. BAH rates are then calculated for each pay grade, both with and without dependents, based on the housing choices of civilians with comparable incomes to each service member pay-grade grouping.

The 2025 BAH rates, as part of a robust military compensation package, continue the member cost-sharing element at 5% of the national average housing cost by pay grade. These amounts vary by grade and dependency status and range from \$90 to \$202 monthly for the 2025 rates. Even with this cost-sharing element, the overall military pay and benefits package remains competitive and healthy.

An integral part of the BAH program is the provision of individual-rate protection to all

members. No matter what happens to measured housing costs — including the out-of-pocket expense adjustment — an individual member who maintains uninterrupted BAH eligibility in a given location will not see his/her BAH rate decrease. This ensures members who have made long-term commitments in the form of a lease or contract are not penalized if the area's housing costs decrease.






The DOD is committed to the preservation of a compensation and benefit structure that provides members with an adequate standard of living to sustain a trained, experienced and ready force now and in the future.

For more information on BAH, including the 2025 BAH rates and 2025 BAH rate-component breakdown, visit [travel.dod.mil/Allowances/Basic-Allowance-for-Housing](https://travel.dod.mil/Allowances/Basic-Allowance-for-Housing). Service members can calculate their BAH payment by using the BAH calculator at [travel.dod.mil/Allowances/Basic-Allowance-for-Housing/BAH-Rate-Lookup](https://travel.dod.mil/Allowances/Basic-Allowance-for-Housing/BAH-Rate-Lookup).

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**BY SENTINEL STAFF**

## SeaWorld - Derika

## Wonderspaces Austin - Blair

### Mayborn Museum Complex - Blair

## Rage Room - Sam

## Museum of Illusions - Janeczne

*Photo by Janecze Wright, Fort Cavazos Public Affairs*

## Robinson Family Farm - Blair

## Drive - In - Ayumi

“(The snack bar) offered quite the selection and cheap prices,” Davis wrote. “It had all the classic movie-watching treats as well as



*Photo by Blair Dupre, Sentinel News Editor*

*See* **Tex-ellent**, B3

# MONTY'S SPORTS CORNER

## Holiday season is over, now what?

BY MONTY CAMPBELL  
Fort Cavazos Public Affairs

All the presents have been opened, and the New Year's parties are over. There is absolutely nothing to do until the Super Bowl, right?

Like ESPN college football commentor Lee Corso would say, "Not so fast, my friend!" There is a college football tournament this month everyone has been excited to watch, and I can't wait to see how this all plays out.

Let's start with how the College Football Playoffs have entertained us thus far. Prognosticators far and wide could not wait until this year's expanded field would get to play in the playoffs and they were spot-on with their calls of parity in college football.

In this first year of the expanded 12-team College Football Playoff, none of the teams that earned a first-round bye advanced to the national semifinals. Oregon, Georgia, Boise State and Arizona State lost their first playoff game to get knocked out of the tournament.

The University of Oregon Ducks, who coasted through the regular season and eventual Big Ten Conference Championship game, came back to Earth and learned, maybe, their new conference isn't as easy as they thought it was.

The Ohio State University Buckeyes routed the previously unbeaten Oregon Ducks, 41-21, in one of the CFP quarterfinal games. Everything came up roses for the scarlet and grey at the Rose Bowl, in the rematch of a closely contested loss in Week 6 of the regular season in Eugene, 32-31.

Notre Dame hasn't let an early-season slip up at home against the unranked Northern Illinois University Huskies, 16-14, slow them down. The Fighting Irish went into the Caesars Superdome and knocked off perennial powerhouse Georgia, 23-10, in the Sugar Bowl.

The Fighting Irish now face another Big Ten school (which I think was the best conference in football this year and, no, not because I graduated from the University of Illinois) in the semifinals — the Penn State University Nittany Lions.



Photo by Gene Gallin, Unsplash

Penn State has proven itself all season, only losing to the Oregon Ducks and Ohio State — both by one score. Going into this semifinal today, I think Penn State will advance over Notre Dame in a game that will keep everyone on the edge of their seats at the Capital One Orange Bowl at Miami, Florida.

In the other semifinal, which will be played Friday at the Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic at Dallas, Texas, the University of Texas Longhorns and starting quarterback Quinn Ewers face the Ohio State Buckeyes.

Before we discuss this other semifinal, what does Ewers have to do to be loved by the

Longhorn faithful? They're still clamoring for the nephew of the famed Mannings, Arch Manning, to be the team's signal caller.

I am definitely not part of Longhorn nation, but all the junior quarterback (Ewers) has done with UT is win. Last season, he led the Longhorns to another national semifinal appearance, eventually falling to the University of Washington, 37-31.

Despite Ewers' propensity to get the Longhorns to the national semifinals, that's where the "Buck" will stop again this year, as I believe that the Buckeyes are going to send Texas reeling into the offseason with a

blowout victory.

So, the Ohio State University Buckeyes and the Penn State Nittany Lions will meet in the College Football Playoff National Championship game at Jan. 20 Mercedes-Benz Stadium at Atlanta, Georgia.

Two Big Ten schools battling it out for a national championship. Once again, I believe the Buckeyes have too much momentum and talent to be stopped and will reign supreme this year. But the biggest winner will be the fans with all the excitement leading up to the championship.

As always, be safe!

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<div>OFF POST ONLY</div>  <div><b>Jingle</b> 3-yr-old, pit bull mix, tan, male.</div>	 <div><b>Jangle</b> 2-yr, 1-mo-old, boxer mix, brown brindle, male.</div>	<div>OFF POST ONLY</div>  <div><b>Velma</b> 9-mo-old, border collie/pit bull, black &amp; white, female.</div>	<div>OFF POST ONLY</div>  <div><b>Louise</b> 9-mo-old, border collie/pit bull, black &amp; white, female.</div>	 <div><b>Richard</b> 3-yr-old, domestic short-haired tabby, brown, male.</div>	 <div><b>Valentine</b> 2-yr-old, domestic short-haired calico, tricolor, female.</div>
<div>ADOPTED</div>  <div><b>Spencer</b> 3-yr-old, pit bull mix, white &amp; black, male.</div>	<div>ADOPTED</div>  <div><b>Titus</b> 4-yr-old, pit bull mix, tan &amp; white, male.</div>	<div>ADOPTED</div>  <div><b>Primrose</b> 2-yr-old, Australian cattle dog mix, red &amp; tricolor, female.</div>	<div>ADOPTED</div>  <div><b>Pumpkin</b> 1-yr, 8-mo-old, domestic short hair, gray &amp; white, female.</div>	<div>ADOPTED</div>  <div><b>Chunk</b> 3-yr-old, domestic short-haired tabby, gray, male.</div>	<div>ADOPTED</div>  <div><b>Star</b> 2-yr-old, domestic short-haired tabby, brown, female.</div>

# Texas travels create memories, facilitate fun

**Text:** *Continued from B1*

Southern favorites, including candies, pickles, popcorn, hot dogs, sweet tea, lemonade and pizza. I got a medium popcorn for \$3, and that was plenty.”

Her mother enjoyed the fact the two could talk without worry of bothering anyone, Davis added.

“There’s something about the atmosphere of a drive-in that makes movie-watching more memorable for me, and The Last Drive-In Picture Show did not disappoint,” she wrote.

## Schlitterbahn - Brandy

In July, Brandy Gill, Fort Cavazos Public Affairs, beat the Texas summer heat with her family at Schlitterbahn at New Braunfels, Texas.

She wrote the hardest decision to make was what to do first, as the park has 45 rides spanning over 70 acres of land that cater to a variety of thrill levels.

“As I dipped my toes into the frigid waters on my first ride, I knew the raging summer heat didn’t stand a chance against the brisk chill of Schlitterbahn’s water rides,”

she wrote. “Our sons, Caleb, 17, and Benjamin, 15, liked the White Water Rapids tube ride with its swift currents and dramatic drops. Our daughter, Rebecca, 9, enjoyed the more mellow vibe of The Falls, which is touted as the world’s longest water park ride.”

Gill wrote her family also were able to enjoy making a staple summer snack at Schlitterbahn.

“By the end of the first day, our crew was totally relaxed,” she wrote. “The resort offered nightly s’mores over an open fire, and we took full advantage while watching an outdoor movie with other guests.”

She and her family had a great time and offered some tips to those who may visit in the future, Gill wrote.

“For those who choose to make the trip, here are a few recommendations,” she wrote. “Wear SPF 50-plus sunblock and a hat. The middle of the week is the best time to visit. Take pictures. This is a trip you’ll want to remember.”

The Sentinel Staff enjoyed their travels in 2024 and look to 2025 with just as much excitement to explore the Lone Star State.



Photo by Blair Dupre, Sentinel News Editor

Jessica Rodriguez feeds Red and Annie in the petting zoo at the Robinson Family Farm at Temple, Texas.



Photo by Brandy Gill, Fort Cavazos Public Affairs

The Master Blaster is one of the 45 rides at Schlitterbahn Waterpark and Resort at New Braunfels, Texas. The two-man tube ride travels uphill in spots and is a favorite of many patrons.



## FORT CAVAZOS CHAPEL SERVICES



### CATHOLIC

**Sunday Mass**, 9 a.m., Main Chapel, [facebook.com/FrCavazosRomanCatholic](#)

**Noon Mass**, Monday through Friday, Main Chapel

**Confession after Mass or by appointment**, call 254-286-6749, Main Chapel

### PROTESTANT

**St. George Parish (Anglican, Lutheran, Episcopalian)**, Sunday, 9 a.m., Old Post Chapel, [facebook.com/SaintGeorgeFortCavazos](#)

### SPANISH PROTESTANT

**Alcance**, Sunday, 1:30 p.m., Veterans OIF Chapel.

### GOSPEL CONGREGATION

**Gospel Service**, Sunday, 11 a.m., Memorial Chapel, [facebook.com/ComancheHappeningsNow](#)

### TRADITIONS

**Traditions Service**, Sunday, 10 a.m., Ironhorse Chapel, [facebook.com/groups/jfhtps/](#)

### CHAPEL NEXT

**Contemporary Service**, Sunday, 11:15 a.m., Main Chapel, [facebook.com/FortCavazosChapelNext](#)

### OPEN TABLE

**All-Inclusive Christian Chapel**, [facebook.com/OpenTableChapel](#)

### WFC PROTESTANT

**Non-Denominational Protestant**, Sunday, 11:00 a.m., West Fort Cavazos Chapel

### JEWISH

**Shabbat Service**, Friday, 6 p.m., Lucky 16 Chapel

### MUSLIM

**Friday Jumma Prayers** at 1:30 p.m., 25th Street Chapel

### OPEN CIRCLE

**Camp Finlayson**, contact Linn Vodisek, [vodiseklinn@gmail.com](#)

### BUDDHIST

**Soku Gakkai International (SGI) Nichiren**, Online, contact Martin Bonner, 254-258-0844  
**Theraveda**, Thursday, 10:00 a.m., Rugged Spirit Chapel, Contact Chap. Guan Zhen, 213-281-1927

### NORTH FORT CAVAZOS

Call 254-286-5223 for service schedule and Bible study

### ADDITIONAL SERVICES/STUDY

**Children in the Middle**, call 254-288-1913 to reserve, Family Life Chaplain Training Center  
**Men of Honor**, Contact Ken Wooten, 254-466-6254

**Protestant Women of the Chapel (PWOC)**, Tuesday, 9-11:30 a.m., Main Chapel, [facebook.com/FortCavazosPWOC](#)

**Mothering Bluebonnets**, [facebook.com/FortCavazosMotheringBluebonnets](#)

**Club Beyond-High School**, Contact Frank Ayala, [fayala@clubbeyond.org](#)

**Club Beyond-Middle School**, Contact Frank Ayala, [fayala@clubbeyond.org](#)

**Catholic Women of the Chapel (CWOC)**, Tuesdays from 9:30-11:30 a.m., bimonthly Thursdays 5-7 p.m., Main Chapel. Facebook: Fort Cavazos CWOC (Catholic Women of the Chapel)  
**Catholic Youth Ministry-Crusaders**, 8-12 grades, Contact Maria Fuavia, 573-842-8181  
**Catholic Religious Education-CCE**, Wednesday, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Main Chapel, Contact Maria Fuavia, 254-287-0241

**\* Holiday hours and events are posted on the Garrison Chaplain's Facebook page, [facebook.com/FortCavazosChaplain](#)\***

**If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our Religious Support Operations office at 254-288-6545.**

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# From fireworks to fitness: 2024 was blast at Fort Cavazos

BY BLAIR DUPRE  
Sentinel News Editor

There were many opportunities for the Fort Cavazos community to come together for fun and camaraderie in 2024.

## Rock for the Brave

Thousands of Soldiers and family members gathered Sept. 28, 2024, at Phantom Warrior Stadium for “Rock for the Brave,” an event aimed to celebrate Soldiers and their families.

The event was made possible by Fort Cavazos; Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation; Defense Commissary Agency; Army and Air Force Exchange Service; Procter and Gamble and partners.

“It’s a culmination of about 18 months of work ... to put on what I consider to be an iconic show of support to military families,” said Marc Knowles, global military team leader for Procter and Gamble. “I learned a long time ago that it’s critically important for the community surrounding the military community to support them (the military).”

There were many activities for families to participate in, including rock climbing, ladder ball and cornhole while event volunteers showered them with free items provided by sponsors. Entertainment included a BMX show, dog show, magic show by illusionist Kid Ace, stand-up comedy performance by Adam Yenser and a concert by country artist Cole Swindell concluded the event.

Appearances were made by other public figures including Chip Gaines of “Fixer Upper,” Duff Goldman of “Ace of Cakes” and former professional football player Rob Gronkowski who held a meet and greet at the beginning of the day.

Amber Pafford, marketing and advertising manager for DFMWR, said it was heartwarming to see families having fun together during the event.

“It highlighted the sense of community and support that exists among military families at Fort Cavazos,” she said. “The laughter, joy and shared experiences created a vibrant atmosphere, reminding everyone of the



Sentinel file photos by Blair Dupre, Sentinel News Editor

Wild West Night guests participate in the line dancing portion of the night’s events March 1, 2024, at the Lone Star Conference Center at Fort Cavazos.

strength that comes from these connections.”

## Freedom Fest

To celebrate Independence Day, the Fort Cavazos DFMWR hosted Freedom Fest June 28, 2024, at Phantom Warrior Stadium at Fort Cavazos.

Thousands of community members attended the beloved annual tradition to enjoy great food, fun, entertainment and fireworks.

Lance Pooler, deputy director of DFMWR, said preparing for the event is a demanding task that always provides great reward for the DFMWR team.

“Once we ... start seeing the local community and the Soldiers and their families start to pour into the stadium, it’s basically just gratification for us,” he said. “This gives us the enthusiasm to continue to do what we do, which is provide these types of things for our Soldiers and their families.”

The festivities kicked off with a “Salute to the Nation” ceremony.

The ceremony consisted of Soldiers carrying the flag of each state in the order they joined the union. The sound of cannon fire echoed across the stadium as each state was announced.

Artists were performing on two stages throughout the event, including country group Parmalee and pop artist Gavin DeGraw, who both took the main stage.

“It’s great to come and provide entertainment (for

service members),” said Matt Thomas, Parmalee lead singer. “Every show we’ve ever done for service members has been awesome.”

DeGraw said he was proud to be performing at The Great Place for the Fourth of July celebration.

“This is the lifeline of the country right here,” he said. “This is our fighting men and women. I’m proud to be an American, so I’m in the right place. Anything to celebrate our independence is up my alley.”

## Wild West Night

The Fort Cavazos Spouse’s Club hosted their Wild West Night March 1, 2024, at the Lone Star Conference Center at Fort Cavazos, where they raised more than \$40,000.

Wild West Night is one of the FCSC’s fundraising events that allows them to award grants to charitable organizations in the community at their annual grant luncheon.

The theme was ‘90s country and the more than 350 guests showed up in their best western attire to line dance, ride a mechanical bull, enjoy casino-style games and participate in both a silent and a live auction.

“It was a night of high-energy, nostalgic ‘90s country throwbacks and dazzling cowboy and cowgirl attire,” said Karissa Dolan, Wild West Night co-chair. “Throughout the entire evening, every time I looked around the room attendees were laughing, enjoying the company of others, and engaged in a variety of activities. We had a steady group enthralled with the variety of casino games, while others enjoyed conversation, the photo booth, the mechanical bull, line dancing and curious check-ins on their silent auction bids.

“Seeing our community and military coming together for an evening of fun and a goal of raising funds for grants that’ll bless

Central Texas nonprofits made all the coordination of the night worth it,” she added. “Our goal was to create an event atmosphere that kept attendees engaged — the energy and excitement in the room was amazing! It was a fantastic way to round out our year of raising funds for community grants.”

## Housing area add-ons

Not only has Cavalry Family Housing and Lendlease opened up new housing on the installation, but many new amenities came to housing areas on the installation in 2024.

In January, a pickleball court was opened in the Comanche II family housing area. Life Scout Claire Kerfoot, who was 15 at the time, daughter of Col. Jeremy Kerfoot, 89th Military Police Brigade commander, and volunteers built a gaga ball pit near the pickleball court Comanche II Village playground in August. In September, the ribbon cutting for a new state-of-the-art dog park took place in the Heritage Heights subdivision.

Eagle Scout Ewan Choy, who was 17 at the time, Eagle Scout Troop 229, set up flag disposal boxes at the five community centers on post in October, and many Fort Cavazos residents had Level 2 Electric Vehicle chargers installed at their homes thanks to the partnership between TRO Energy Solutions, Lendlease and Cavalry Family Housing.

## Ben Hogan Classic

Hundreds of Soldiers gathered April 26, 2024, at the Courses of Clear Creek at Fort Cavazos to participate in the annual Ben Hogan Classic Golf Scramble.

The free, three-person scramble is a highly anticipated event at The Great Place —

See 2024, B6



INSET, Fireworks light up the night sky to close out Freedom Fest June 28, 2024, at Phantom Warrior Stadium at Fort Cavazos. ABOVE, Sgt. 1st Class Miguel Melo, III Armored Corps Inspector General’s Office, poses as he and the other golfers head onto the course during the Ben Hogan Classic April, 26, 2024, at the Courses of Clear Creek at Fort Cavazos.



Sentinel file photo by Blair Dupre, Sentinel News Editor

Fort Cavazos leadership, and representatives from the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, and Kompan, a company that designs and constructs playground and fitness sites, participate in a ground-breaking ceremony for the new Abrams Outdoor Fitness Park Oct. 16, 2024, behind Abrams Physical Fitness Center at Fort Cavazos.

# 2024: Events, fitness park offer respite opportunities

2024: Continued from B5

active-duty Soldiers typically line up on registration day and fill the 200 spots within an hour.

Throughout the event, participants were treated to food, drinks, swag bags and unusual activities at some of the holes including corn-hole and using a hand-held cannon to make their first shot at one of the holes instead of using their driver.

Sgt. 1st Class Miguel Melo, III Armored Corps Inspector General's Office, was especially excited to be participating in the Ben Hogan Classic for the second year in a row.

He said the event is a huge morale boost for Soldiers at The Great Place, providing a break from their fast-paced workdays.

"When you're afforded the opportunity to come out here ... take it," Melo said. "Soldiers that do have the opportunity ... to come play at the Ben Hogan, come and get your swing on."

Maj. Gen. Thomas Feltey, then-III Armored Corps deputy commanding general of maneuver, now commander of 1st Cavalry Division, made some brief opening remarks before the golfers were sent onto the course.

"Thank you to the Ben Hogan Foundation for putting this awesome event on ... and all of the volunteers that are out here in order to make this happen," he said. "Also a big shoutout to all of our Garrison staff that makes everything happen at the installation behind the scenes. We know you're the ones that make this happen. As we reflect on this awesome event and everyone coming



Sentinel file photo by Ayumi Davis, Sentinel Editor

John "Jax" Larson, 12, tightens a bolt while Tommy Yagalla, 11, holds a nut at the end in place Aug. 2, 2024, at Fort Cavazos. The two, along with other children and adults, assisted Claire Kerfoot, 15, in constructing a gaga pit.

together ... this is what makes this place The Great Place."

## Cowboys 4 Heroes/Bumpers and BBQ

Authentic chuck wagon barbecue, shop at local vendor booths, enjoy a pumpkin patch, vote on their favorite modern or classic car and more at the Cowboys 4 Heroes/Bumpers and BBQ event Oct. 19, 2024, at the Phantom Warrior Center at Fort Cavazos.

"Cowboys 4 Heroes comes out to honor the veterans and the active-duty — the first responders," said Norma Hernandez, Fort Cavazos DFMWR community activities coordinator. "It's their way of giving back to them and honoring them today."

The Houston-based organization was founded in 2009 to assist combat veterans with the transition from active duty to civilian life.

Since their inception, Cowboys 4 Heroes donors and volunteers have provided more than 1.5 million meals and nutritional support to active-duty military, veterans, their families and first responders. This is in addition to providing more than \$350,000 in educational support to Future Farmers of America and 4-H youth who raise the steer, which are locally processed and provided to the program partners to assist veterans and their families.

"When we first started doing this, the youth of Texas and then service members, it became such an easy group to serve," said Greg Liles, founder of Cowboys 4 Heroes. "It doesn't matter who you are, what side of the ledger you're on politically, male or female, young

or old, it doesn't matter. It's such an easy group to serve, and they're underserved in a lot of ways."

## New outdoor park

In October, the Fort Cavazos DFMWR, along with representatives of Kompan, a company that designs and constructs playground and fitness sites, and Fort Cavazos leadership conducted a ground-breaking ceremony for the new Abrams Outdoor Fitness Park.

The new facility funded by U.S. Army Installation Management Command will feature workout stations with equipment for different types of workouts, a multi-use court, walking/running track, play areas for children and more.

There is no other like it in the Army, and the aim of the \$2-million facility is to give families a place where adults can focus on their physical fitness while still being near their children.

"(This facility) symbolizes not only our commitment to fitness but our dedication to innovation, readiness and community well-being," said Col. Lakicia Stokes, U.S. Army Garrison-Fort Cavazos commander, during the ceremony. "Physical fitness has always been a cornerstone of military readiness and building resilient units, Soldiers, families and communities. We recognize that the way we train must evolve to meet the challenges of tomorrow — this park represents that evolution."

Summer Inwood, chief of Sports Fitness and Aquatics for DFMWR, said the ground-breaking event marked the culmination of four years of planning, and the facility will be a great place for families to gather.

"Army regulations really prevent children from accompanying the parents, spouses or active duty, into the fitness facilities, so we really have to be creative and look for outdoor spaces where we can accommodate the need," she said. "This will be that. We will be able to provide a really great training modality, several modalities in fact. Whether it be group fitness or function fitness, CrossFit style, whether it be weight training, all of this will be encompassed by the ability to be able to bring your child into a safe environment while you work out."



Sentinel file photo by Blair Dupre, Sentinel News Editor

Nathan Glade, a BMX athlete, balances on one wheel while T.J. Ellis, another BMX athlete, soars above him as part of the BMX show during the "Rock for the Brave" event Sept. 28, 2024, at Phantom Warrior Stadium at Fort Cavazos.



Sentinel file photo by Samantha Harms, Command Information Chief

Chris Joplin, volunteer with Cowboys 4 Heroes, brings hot coals from a fire to sit on a pot; inside the part are homemade biscuits. Biscuits were just one of the many items served during Cowboys 4 Heroes Bumpers and BBQ event Oct. 19, 2024, at the Phantom Warrior Center at Fort Cavazos.



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F N L L A U G A R V O G A R E

C E E L O D A L Y I H X V V U

S S F N E H N V Q N K P I N M

R I N F A H K I J E Y H K F E

C B Z O Y X V K R R E U T R Q

P O M H S E N R A G R O B L K

unlisted clue: REYKJAVIK

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Tuesday's unlisted clue hint: CAPITAL CITY

Akranes	Grenivik	Höfn	Reykholt
Borgarnes	Grindavík	Hólar	Selfoss
Dalvík	Hafnir	Innes	Vogar
Flateyri	Hella	Laugar	

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**JUMBLE** THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

You're the new guy! I hope you like pastrami! We're splitting this.

Pete, this is Sam.

I'm glad I didn't eat breakfast.

WHEN THEY GOT TOGETHER MIDDAY AT THE DELI, IT WAS A ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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Jumbles: CONCH MOUND ABIAZE BEAUTY

Answer: When they got together midday at the deli, it was a "LUNCH-N-MEET."

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**PREMIER CROSSWORD/** By Frank A. Longo

**CONTINGENCY STRATEGY**

**ACROSS**

1 Horn sound  
5 Long-haired sheepdogs  
10 Channel showing hearings  
15 Fine shower  
19 Arctic chunk  
20 Striped gem  
21 Without — in the world  
22 Tug-of-war need  
23 Last leg  
25 One of four archangels  
26 African antelopes  
27 Glide like a model  
28 North, south, east or west  
31 Tenor Caruso  
34 Auto engine wheel  
35 Full of stones  
36 Lame duck's time in office, e.g.  
43 — polloi  
44 Barber's powder  
45 Sit-ups work them  
46 Military post  
50 One title of the Virgin Mary

**DOWN**

54 Tyrolean peaks  
59 Dwell  
60 "Make me a part of this deal!"  
62 Sils solos  
63 Building front  
65 Mean dog  
66 Rowing need  
68 Hurry-scurry  
69 "In the way" or "by the sea," e.g.  
74 Kauai garland  
75 Liltling syllable  
76 Dallas NBAer  
77 "Forget it!"  
78 Unsuitable  
80 Rushes to attack  
82 "Family Guy" baby  
86 Yellowstone or Yosemite  
89 Groveled, informally  
90 Vivacity  
91 Lyrical verse  
92 "— to differ" or "Hardly!"  
96 Cup of tea, so to speak  
104 Classic name in arcades  
107 Kabuki sash  
108 More senseless  
109 English writing uses it

**114** Marinara and mole, say  
**118** G3, G4 or G5 computer  
**119** Designer Vuitton  
**120** Contingency strategy ... as found in eight long answers in this puzzle?  
**123** Bamboozle out of money  
**124** Al — (pasta request)  
**125** More mellow, as a fruit  
**126** DVR brand  
**127** Afflictions  
**128** Yawning gulf  
**129** How pastrami may be served  
**130** Spurt

**7** When repeated, the yellow Teletubby  
**8** "No worries"  
**9** "I — bad moon rising"  
**10** — fin (fish's rear appendage)  
**11** Penny-pinch  
**12** Aspirin target  
**13** Environs  
**14** Actress Carter  
**15** Hershey's candy in a yellow wrapper  
**16** Charged, as atoms  
**17** Vivacity  
**18** Peevish  
**24** PC-to-PC linkups  
**29** DVR brand  
**30** Ace  
**32** — bitity  
**33** Clandestine U.S. org.  
**36** Thunder deity  
**37** Debauched dude  
**38** Shows on TV  
**39** March Madness org.  
**40** Bring home  
**41** Slugger's stat  
**42** "That — lie!"  
**47** Phony name

**48** Digging tool  
**49** Gas choice in Canada  
**51** Vitality  
**52** Accept after a while  
**53** Style of furnishing  
**55** Expose  
**56** Bowl over  
**57** Albania's capital  
**58** Tell a tale  
**60** Tyrant Amin  
**61** Floor-soaking implement  
**64** Butterfield of "Ender's Game"  
**66** Mil. missions  
**67** Tons  
**69** Pertaining to punishment  
**70** Lasso  
**71** "Today — man"  
**72** Ton  
**73** Mimicked mockingly  
**74** Queue  
**79** Tiny punctures  
**80** Queen played by Liz  
**81** Cut, as class  
**83** — "Dixie (grocery chain)"  
**84** '80s Camaro

**85** Suffix with novel  
**87** Here-there linkup  
**88** Commercial spots  
**89** Onetime big name in camera film  
**93** "Great" part of Europe  
**94** Nightfall, poetically  
**97** German "a"  
**98** Pitches extremely well against  
**99** Belittles  
**100** Ad- —  
**101** Make certain  
**102** Scythe a crop  
**103** Ejects lava  
**104** Court excuse  
**105** Indian language  
**106** In any way  
**110** "White Mile" co-star Alan  
**111** "Stay" singer Lisa  
**112** Runtish  
**113** Spanish river  
**115** Scissor cut  
**116** Icicle locale  
**117** Stuff to ski on  
**121** EMT's skill  
**122** Lock opener

#2,228 Average time of solution: 67 minutes

## SLYLOCK FOX

BY BOB WEBER JR.

A bandit wearing a clown mask and costume snatched a purse from a bus passenger this evening. Witnesses report seeing the thief on this fire escape. The alligator insists he's innocent and claims he has been sick in bed with a fever all evening. But Slylock Fox isn't buying the gator's alibi. Why not?

SOMETHING'S NOT ADDING UP, AURELIUS ...

— PLUS I'M COULROPHOBIC, IF THAT HELPS!

Spot six differences between these panels.

HOW TO DRAW a hungry bear

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Today's terrific artist is Erin, age 8

Submit your drawing to [www.slylockfox.com](http://www.slylockfox.com)

What was the length of Lolong, the largest crocodile accurately measured and recorded?

a) 12 feet 9 inches  
b) 17 feet 5 inches  
c) 20 feet 3 inches

Answer -- (c) Lolong, a Philippine crocodile caught in 2011 and died in 2013.

Answer -- Eye, tail, spot, leaf, tree and cloud.

Have fun solving a new comic puzzle every day at [www.slylockfox.com](http://www.slylockfox.com)

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**Sale Price \$20,999**

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2021 BMW  
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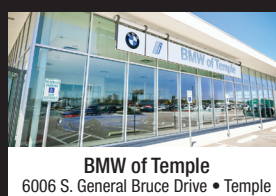
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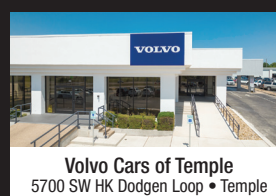
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