



Media Release

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Davidson Fitness Center to partially close for 60 days

Story and photos by Matt Decker

GUIDON Leisure/Sports editor

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. – “Thank you for your patience,” is a phrase Davidson Fitness Center patrons will be seeing a lot of over the next two months.

A 60-day project to strip and refinish the fitness center’s floors will temporarily close part of the facility beginning Aug. 5. Officials with Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation have a plan in place to move weight training and aerobics classes to other facilities in the interim, and are trying to get the word out to those patrons most affected.

“It’s been over a year in the works as far as setting the date and getting the contract finished,” said Eli Wilson, FMWR Community Activities manager. “They’re going to basically take the finish off that’s on the floor now, sand it down to the wood and then put a fresh coating or final finish on it. (The project) also includes repainting of the striping on the floor — that’s why they have to go all the way down with the sanding, so they can repaint. We’ll have a nice, shiny, newly painted high-gloss finish when it’s done.”

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DFC's floor is overdue for the work. While, manufacturers typically recommend gym floors undergo the process every two to three years, Wilson said it has been at least five years since the floor at DFC was last treated.

While the work is going on, the center's main gym floor, weight room, racquetball courts, aerobics studio, in-sight child care room and indoor running/walking track will be closed.

"All the areas from the main gym doors at the lower level, and the door upstairs to the running track will be closed," Wilson said. "The areas not involved, including the cardio room, the locker rooms, the sauna and the pool, will remain open."

During the project, fitness classes will be relocated to the Chaplain's Office in Bldg. 6501 on Indiana Avenue.

"That's the former Pershing Elementary School," Wilson said. "That program will be relocated beginning Aug. 1 until the completion of the project."

An August fitness calendar can be found online at www.fortleonardwoodmwr.com/images/Aug%2010/Aug2013FitnessCalendar.pdf.

For weight training, Specker Gym, located in Bldg. 1714 on Cooley Avenue, will extend its hours. It will be from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. each Monday through Friday and from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. each Saturday, Sunday and on holidays.

"Specker Gym will have extended hours to accommodate more folks over there," Wilson said. "We know we are going to have an increase in traffic over there, and they will extend their hours every day through the week."

Wilson said that for more information about the project, patrons can call DFC at 596.4359.

"If they have questions or concerns, or if they want information on the status of the project, I recommend just calling the main DFC number. We'll keep everyone informed," Wilson said. "Of course, we ask for everyone's patience and understanding while we make improvements to the facility."

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PHOTO CAPTIONS:

DFC_001, DFC_002

All areas inside Davidson Fitness Center that include the gym floor will be closed while the floor is stripped and refinished. The 60-day project begins Aug. 5.

DFC_003, DFC_004

A sign outside Davidson Fitness Center informs patrons of a partial closure that will begin Aug. 5.

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Media interested in more information should call the Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs Office at (573) 563-4145.

About Fort Leonard Wood

Fort Leonard Wood is a thriving and prosperous installation that has evolved from a small basic training post 70 years ago to a premier Army Center of Excellence that trains 80-90,000 military and civilians each year.

Home to the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence, Fort Leonard Wood now trains and educates service members and develops doctrine and capabilities for the Training and Doctrine Command's U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear School, U.S. Army Engineer School, and U.S. Army Military Police School, three gender integrated Initial Military Training brigades, one of only five reception stations in the Army, and the Army's largest Non Commissioned Officers Academy.

Over the past several years, Fort Leonard Wood has received numerous additional responsibilities to include supporting the 4th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, a large Forces Command unit that is responsible for all deployable capabilities at Fort Leonard Wood. A colonel-commanded Marine Corps Detachment and an Air Force Detachment, which are both the largest on any Army installation, are located on Fort Leonard Wood; a large Navy Seabee Detachment and elements of the Coast Guard train here as well.

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