



VBS triggers Avalanche of fun

Story and photo by Sandra Wilson

Ledward Chapel has been infused with excitement this week as kids from preschool age to fifth grade learn about God through Vacation Bible School's (VBS) Avalanche Ranch.

Avalanche Ranch takes the kids on a "wild ride through God's Word," with activities to meet each child's learning style. Leaders and kids alike donned cowboy hats, boots and bandanas for the festive week.

"It was really great. The activities were interactive and entertaining for the kids. Some of the younger kids have very short attention spans, but all the activities were very relevant to each age group and kept their interest," said Pfc. Jonathan Conerly, a volunteer crew leader throughout the week.

Each morning began at 9:30 a.m. with more than 155 kids gathering to sing and dance. From there, crew leaders with their kids stampeded from one station to the next every 20 minutes until the program's end at 12:30 p.m.

Arts and crafts provided the opportunity for kids to have hands-on fun while horseplay games gave them a chance to run

off energy in the motorpool. In the classroom, the kids watched their fuzzy friend Chadder learn about God and then discussed how Chadder's experiences applied to their lives.

"We teach five fundamental truths about God throughout the week, and the kids learn that God is truly involved in [their] lives," said Patricia Wiedemer, VBS director from Leighton.

"They are also given the chance to show that God is working in their lives by doing a service of love at home," she said.

At the conclusion of each program, the kids were presented with a challenge of their choice. Many kids responded by deciding to make their bed or wash the dishes at home.

"Every single child is capable of showing love. That's what is so great for the parents to see," said Wiedemer.

The success of VBS was attributed to more than 75 volunteers. At a time when



Schweinfurt's Vacation Bible School (VBS) hosted horseplay games among many other activities throughout this week. More than 155 kids attended VBS to have fun and learn about God. Here, participants try to break through the wall of Jericho.

many are talking about transitions and may have their minds elsewhere, said Wiedemer, she was amazed to see the unity of those who came together to make the decorations and create the atmosphere that was needed.

SCSC contributes to Schweinfurt Wildpark



Schweinfurt Community Spouses' Club (SCSC) members, from left, Lisa Eubanks, Carol Haager, and Denise Higgins, along with a host of community youth, presented a 925.00 euro donation to the Schweinfurt Wildpark August 14. The donated money will be used to help fund English-language signs, like the ones the children are holding, for animals displays at the park.

The SCSC sponsors community events, makes charitable donations, and even offers college scholarships to community members. They will hold a membership drive August 24 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Josef-Reuss-Strasse #5, in Schweinfurt. Join them for fun and food at this end of summer Luau. For more information, contact scscmail@googlemail.com. (Photo by George Ohl)



News Briefs

Babysitter Training

The Schweinfurt American Red Cross office will offer a Babysitter Training course with Infant & Child CPR August 22-23 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Children must be 11 years or older to attend. Cost is \$45, and you can register at the American Red Cross office in the basement of building 206 on Ledward Barracks, or call 354-1760 for more information.

IG Move

The Inspector General's (IG) office has moved from Wuerzburg and is now located on Conn Barracks in building 30, room 105. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and it is closed for lunch from noon to 1 p.m. You may contact the IG office at 353-8561.

Leighton Lunch Bunch

Leighton community members are invited to take a lunch break with the Army Community Services Center and the Lunch Bunch. This month's outing will be August 22 from 9:45 a.m. to 2 p.m. Meet with your family at the ACS building on Leighton, and head out for lunch on the economy with your friends and neighbors, with a little help from a German-speaking ACS employee. For more information, call 350-7103.

PAO office contract

We have a non-personal service contracting opportunity for a Writer/Editor at the Public Affairs Office, USAG Schweinfurt with a ceiling price of \$32,000.00. We anticipate a performance period of Sept. 1, 2007 through Aug. 31, 2008. Interested parties should contact the RCO Franconia for a copy of the solicitation packet, which shall be used for submission. Completed packets will be accepted up until September 5, 2007, 4 p.m. For further information contact, Peter Schenk, 469-9403 or 0951-300-9403.

First Day of School

All Wuerzburg High School students will begin classes on August 27 this year, due to the small class sizes. All students in the USAG Schweinfurt, grades 1-12, will begin school August 27. Kindergarten begins Septemeber 4. Previous reports of a later start day for upperclassmen have been amended.

Coach Clinics

Schweinfurt Youth Sports & Fitness will hold coach certification clinics August 20 and 25 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Ledward Gym. Instruction includes a course on recognizing child abuse, a coaching video, and first aid and CPR certification. For more information, call 354-6822 Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Memorial Ceremony

The memorial ceremony for Spc. Christopher Neiberger of C Company, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, will be held on Wednesday, August 22 at 10 a.m. at the Ledward Chapel. Immediately after the ceremony, an open reception will be held in the Ledward Chapel fellowship hall.

1-91 Spouse Retreat

The USAG Schweinfurt Chaplain's office will host a 1-91 CAV Spouse retreat to Bad Kissingen August 24-29. Call 354-1570 for more information.

ID Cards at the Gym

Use of fitness centers in the USAG Schweinfurt is restricted to U.S. I.D. card holders. New tracking equipment has been installed to increase security and monitor center usage for the purpose of funds justification. First time registration will take a few moments, but subsequent visits will require only a swipe of your I.D. card.

Helmet Use Policy

Helmets are required for riding bikes, using roller blades, scooters, or heelys on post, and must be fastened. Repeat violators, or their sponsors, may be ticketed and assessed points against their USAREUR license. Please help us maintain a safe community. Wear your safety equipment, and make sure your children do, too.

Schweinfurt Dispatch



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The Schweinfurt Dispatch weekly newsletter is an unofficial publication of the U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt, IMCOM-Europe and the U.S. Army authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1.

The newsletter is published and distributed weekly in an electronic format. The newsletter can be viewed on the U.S. Army Schweinfurt website at <http://www.schweinfurt.army.mil>.

This newsletter is a command information product that places emphasis on events and activities occurring throughout the Schweinfurt and Lower Franconia areas.

Information and photos included in this

newsletter are acquired from sources that highlight events, programs and activities in Schweinfurt and Lower Franconia.

Dates, times, locations, and the events themselves might change or be cancelled without prior notice.

To be added to the Schweinfurt Dispatch distribution list, please email: mail.sft.pao@eur.army.mil.

This address can also be used to submit community slides or information on upcoming events, or you can reach the USAG Schweinfurt public affairs office by calling 354-1600/6381 or (09721) 961600/966381.



- 17 AUG** --Parents' Night Out, from 6:30 to 11 p.m. Registration begins August 6. Sign up in person at Central Registration in The Commons on Ledward Barracks or the Leighton CDC.
- 20 AUG** --Registration deadline for unit level flag football. Register at Finney Fitness Center.
- 21 AUG** --3-C Problem Solving, from 12:30 to 4 p.m., Leighton ACS. Call 350-7103.
- Basic Auto Repair class, 1 p.m. at Leighton Auto Skills Center
- Individual Credit Report, 9-10 a.m. at Ledward ACS, 1-2 p.m. at Leighton ACS.
- 22 AUG** --Leighton ACS "Lunch Bunch," from 9:45 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call 350-7103 for information.
- Teddy Bear Tea Party, 10-11 a.m., Abrams Club, for 4-5 year olds and their parents. Limited to 15 pairs, call ACS to sign up.
- 23 AUG** --Kessler Skate Park grand opening, 4 p.m., Kessler Field.
- 27 AUG** --First day of school for Schweinfurt Elementary and Middle Schools and Wuerzburg Elementary and High Schools
- ADHD support group, 10 a.m. to noon, ACS classroom, building 242.
- 27-29 AUG** --Army Family Team Building Instructor training, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Ledward Education Center. Call 354-6933 to enroll.
- 28 AUG** --Couples' Communication, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Ledward ACS. Call 354-6933 to register.
- AAFES and DeCA open community forum, 10 a.m., Garrison Conference Room, 1st Floor, Building 206 on Ledward Barracks.
- 1 SEPT** --Concert "Pflasterklang," Gutermann promenade (On Main River), 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and 8 p.m.
- 2 SEPT** --Open-air play, "The Guardian of Muennerstadt," 2:30 and 8 p.m.
- 5 SEPT** --Protestant Women of the Chapel (PWOC) fall kick off 9 a.m. at Ledward Chapel.
- Love and Logic 7-week course begins, from 9 to 11 a.m. SAS building, Askren Manor. Call 354-6933 to register.
- Kitchen Passport, Russian cooking, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Ledward Library.
- 8 SEPT** --MWR Family Friendly Trip to Strasbourg, France, free transportation. Call for more info. or to sign up 350-6305. Tourist passport required.
- Parent's Day Out, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sign-ups begin August 27. Register in person at Central Registration in The Commons on Ledward Barracks or the Leighton CDC.
- 9 SEPT** --Protestant Sunday School and Catholic CRE kick off, Ledward Chapel.
- Chapel community welcome picnic, 2 p.m., Kessler Field.
- 13 SEPT** --ACS Lunch Bunch, Schwimm Club, Italian restaurant, meet at Ledward ACS, 11 a.m.
- 15 SEPT** --MWR Street Party on Askren Manor, noon to 8 p.m. featuring Donny Vox Band (variety rock) starting at 6 p.m.
- 3rd annual Little Miss and Mister Schweinfurt Pageant at MWR Street Party. Applications available at Ledward Thrift Store for ages infant to 19 years old, plus a Ms. Division.
- MWR Family Friendly Trip to Europa Park, free transportation, entrance fee of 30 euro per adult & 26.50 euro per child. Call for more info. or to sign up 350-6305.
- 26 SEPT** --Kitchen Passport, German cooking, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Ledward Library.



'I Can Do It' series conquers the Wall

Story and photo by Sandra Wilson

Conquering fear and conquering the wall was part of the mission of Army Community Service's (ACS) "I Can Do It: Rock Climbing" last week. All summer long, the success series sponsored by ACS has conquered a multitude of arenas: auto basics, arts and crafts, framing, bowling, paintball, and now, the wall.

"Part of ACS' mission is to have an engagement program to identify and hear issues in the lives of Soldiers and Family members... before they become big problems," said F. "Lew" Lewis, ACS community service specialist in Leighton.

These activities provide a physical outlet as well as providing an environment where people can share about the stresses in their lives if they so choose. The "I Can Do It" Success Series not only gets people out of the house but is also designed to boost the emotional and spiritual well-being during these difficult times for both adults and children, he said.

Christian Hofstetter, outdoor recreation director explained how he enjoyed seeing people conquer their fears.

"I tell them: don't look down, concentrate on the next grip, hug the wall. Some three- and four-year-olds that were afraid of heights went up and then came down with big smiles, and they were so proud," he said.

The automatic rope belay system can hold a 30 pound kid or a 300 pound man.

"This was my first time climbing a wall, and I was scared. But now that I've gone up twice [today] it's fine," said Kelly Brock, Family member of 69th ADA in Leighton.

Outdoor recreation has been offering a lot of leisure trips and activities, but when the Soldiers return, the intensity will be stepped up even further, said Hofstetter.

Trips and activities from mid to high adventure levels will accommodate those who are ready for a challenge.

The next class in the series will be auto basics and will be held Aug. 21 at Leighton. Call 354-6933 for more information.



Kelly Brock, Family member of 69th ADA in Leighton, tries her hand at rock climbing on the wall erected outside outdoor recreation on Conn Barracks.

AFTB offers education, opportunities for all

By Kimberly Gearhart

Have you ever listened to your spouse spouting acronyms and jargon and wondered, "What in the world is he saying?" Or maybe you understand the alphabet soup but are really unsure what to do when you are approached by members of the media.

If so, then Army Family Team Building (AFTB) courses can help.

Community members are sometimes reluctant to attend AFTB courses, believing them to be "something that the Army wants us to do, but that's not it at all," said Jennifer Litchfield, AFTB program manager here in Schweinfurt.

AFTB grew out of issues presented during Army Family

Action Plan conferences— suggestions offered by military Family members.

The training program is broken down into three levels.

"The first level is great for newcomers. We go over acronyms, military traditions and customs, and we do it all with fun and games," Litchfield said.

Subsequent levels offer progressively more detailed, specific seminars on everything ranging from creating successful presentations to dealing with the public media.

This month, AFTB instructor training will be offered August 27-29 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Education Center on Ledward Barracks.

You need not have completed the first three levels to attend

instructor training; that can be completed afterward. However, you must have taken a class before you offer training in that class.

"AFTB training is purely for your personal and professional growth," Litchfield said, explaining that all instructors are volunteers.

Volunteer instructors are supplied with course materials to present but are encouraged to be creative in the way they teach it. Yvette Stewart, for example, began the Level III media module by inviting a member of the local public affairs office to do mock interviews with the students.

Soldiers are encouraged to attend as well and can earn promotion points for attending all three courses.

"We really try to get them in on Level III," since there is so much offered dealing with professional growth, Litchfield said.

The challenge, Litchfield said, is in getting enough instructors to share the workload. Often, more knowledgeable community members are reluctant to attend, feeling that community members should already know the material AFTB teaches.

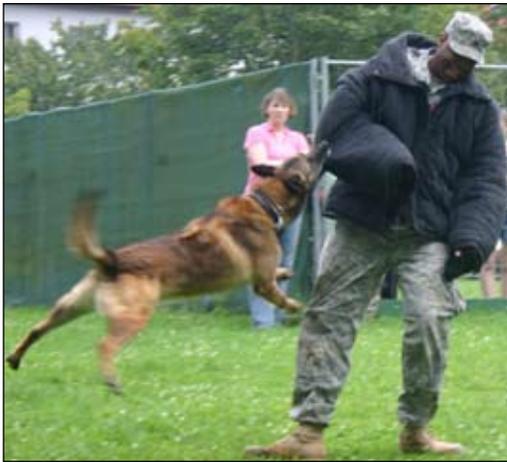
Litchfield has an answer for that.

"Come on out and teach them."

For more information regarding the program, or to register for AFTB instructor training, call 354-6933 or 354-7079 or on the Internet at <http://www.aftb.org>.



Flying dogs, falling eggs, Family fun for all



The latest Askren Manor Street Party went to the dogs—in a good way.

Families brought their pets to compete for the longest tail, smallest paw, best trick or (top right) best look alike in which Francisco Lozada of 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, took the prize. An egg race put dog owners' balancing skills to the test (bottom center) as Tonja Togafau, Charity Jennrich, and Janette Comfort close in on the finish line. Military working dogs fly to their tasks during demonstrations (top left) as Spc. Joshua Washington poses as a threat.

Children enjoyed bouncy castles and free games (bottom right) and the Dusty Brothers band (bottom left) provided country music to cap off the evening. (Photos by Sandra Wilson)



JAG office offers voting hints

Legal Assistance Office Release

Many states allow the transmission of election materials electronically either by facsimile (fax) or electronic mail (email). The state may allow you to receive and send the following documents through one of these electronic modes:

- 1) Federal Post Card Application
- 2) Receive the blank and return the voted absentee ballot.

To check on your state, see the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) website at www.fvap.gov and view State and Territory Policies Concerning the Electronic Transmission of Election Materials.

The deadline for registering or transferring your voter registration differs from state to state; however, generally it is 29 or 30 days before an election. To check the deadline for your state, visit the above referenced website.

Remember these important guidelines:

1. Provide your current mailing address
2. Sign and date your application.
3. Complete your state's witness or notary requirements. Not all states require a witness or notary. Refer to the above referenced website for specific requirements.
4. Register to vote early.
5. Mail in your ballot.



Celebrate women's suffrage, register

By Kimberly Gearhart

Did you know that women in the United States have only been legally voting in elections for 87 years?

August 26 is Women's Equality Day, which commemorates women's suffrage—the right to vote.

The USAG Schweinfurt Equal Opportunity Office will set up informational booths August 17 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at all community mail rooms and in front of the Ledward PX to mark the occasion.

You can learn about women's struggles to gain the right to vote, and at the same time register to vote yourself.

Information on absentee voting will be available as well as regular voter registration.