



Community honors 2 Soldiers

Story and memorial photos
By Mark Heeter

The Dagger Brigade Combat Team and Schweinfurt military community gathered this morning at a memorial service for two Task Force Steel Tiger Soldiers killed in Iraq July 1.

Sgt. 1st Class Raymond R. Buchan, 33, and Staff Sgt. Michael L. Ruoff Jr., 31, died July 1 in Ta'meem, Iraq, of wounds sustained from enemy small arms fire.

Buchan was assigned to



Buchan

Company B, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, while Ruoff was a member of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment. Both were on their second deployment with Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Reading the remarks that Sgt. 1st Class Curtis Woolsey gave at an earlier memorial service in Ramadi, Iraq, Staff Sgt. Aaron Torphy recalled Buchan as a highly motivated Soldier.

"He was truly the epitome of a Soldier for all of us to emulate," Woolsey said. "Sgt. 1st Class Buchan loved being an infantryman."

In remarks relayed by Staff Sgt. Stephen Gowin, 1st Lt. Scott Smith, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry, said he drew strength from Buchan during difficult times in Iraq.

"I could see the determination in his face as he fought



Melissa Miletich offers condolences in the guest book prior to the memorial service for Sgt. 1st Class Raymond Buchan and Staff Sgt. Michael Ruoff Jr.

through the fog and the friction of war," Smith said.

"It was in that moment when you thought you would waver," Smith said, that Buchan would be seen coming or heard on the radio with his confidence and determination.

"Ray was a great man, and I'm a better man just for having

known him," he said.

Ruoff was remembered as intensely proud of being chosen to lead the personnel security detail for the task force leadership, having jumped into the job during the mission rehearsal exercise prior to deployment.

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Time to register for fall sports programs

Story and photo by Kimberly Gearhart

The weather is warm, and summer seems to have finally come to Schweinfurt. The kids are outside getting sunburns, and parents are busy trying to stay cool in the shade.

But now is also the time to start thinking about fall—fall sports, that is.

Fall sports registration is going on now. If your children are interested in playing soccer, or flag football, or maybe trying their pom-poms at cheerleading, now is the time to sign up.

This year, youth sports will register children ages 3 and up for fall soccer in both Schweinfurt and Wuerzburg. Flag football and cheerleading are geared for 10- to 12-

year olds. In order to participate, children must be registered with Child and Youth Services, and have a current sports physical on file.

Register in person at Ledward Central Registration, in The Commons, or on Leighton Barracks in the Child Development Center. Fall sports registration ends Aug. 10.

Parents who aren't "up" on sports knowledge will be offered the opportunity to attend "Soccer 101" and other such fall-sports seminars in late August, part of the Youth Sports effort to educate families, rather than just children, about sports activities.

For more information about the fall sports programs, call 09721-966822.



Kohilani Taylor, right, fights to keep the ball away from Jordan Westbrook during a soccer camp scrimmage. Soccer is one of the fall sports being offered this year.



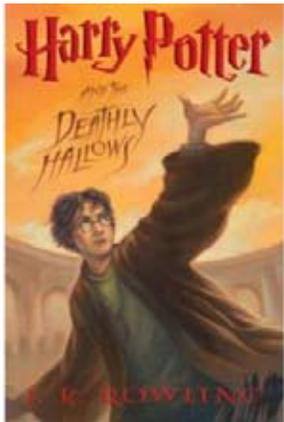
News Briefs

CPR and First Aid classes

Standard First Aid with Adult, Infant and Child CPR with Adult and Child AED is available through the Schweinfurt American Red Cross station. The cost is \$45.00. The class will be over a two day period: Wednesday and Thursday from noon to 4:30 p.m. The class will be taught at the Schweinfurt station in the basement of building 206. Call 354-1760 or 09721-96-1760 to register.

Harry Potter release party

The Ledward Shoppette will host a Harry Potter book release party tomorrow from midnight to 2 a.m. This late Friday night/early Saturday morning party will feature a Harry Potter look-a-like contest, a drawing for a copy of the new book, and quizzes for all you muggles out there. The Shoppette will close, as usual, at 11 p.m. Friday, then reopen for the event.



Separating junior officers sought

The local Army Career Alumni Program (ACAP) wants junior military officers who are preparing to separate from the service to know about an upcoming recruitment conference to be held in Wuerzburg Saturday, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Hotel am Congress Centrum. Personal Marketability Assessments are available evenings Saturday and Sunday. Call 0800-85-22670.

MWR Street Party

Join your friends and neighbors for an Askren Manor street party Saturday from noon to 8 p.m. This Morale, Welfare & Recreation sponsored event will feature live Latin music from Salsa Fever from 6 to 8 p.m., and jugglers, clowns, food, and fun all day. Admission is free.

Learn to bowl

The next installment in the "I can do it" series will teach you proper bowling posture and etiquette, as well as how to drill a customized bowling ball. Come to Kessler Bowling Center, Tuesday at 1 p.m. and try your new-found bowling skills. Call 354-6933 for more information.

Couples' Communication

The Leighton Army Community Service

Center will hold a Couples' Communication class Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The class teaches you to build trust and friendship through better communication skills. Call 350-7103 or 0931-889-7103 to register.

Check those labels for energy savings

The USAG Schweinfurt environmental division offers the latest energy-saving tip: when buying electrical devices, look for the energy labels, which guide the consumer to the most energy-efficient products. Three types of labels are generally available, depending on the type of equipment: the energy star, the blue angel and the "Eco-Kreis." For more information, call the environmental division at 09721-966795.

Checkbook management

Visit the Ledward Army Community Service Center Tuesday from 9 to 11 a.m. for some pointers on balancing checkbooks, developing and managing a budget, and taking advantage of available bank or credit union products and services. Call 354-6933 for more information.

MSZ temporary move

Middle School Zone has temporarily relocated with the Teen Center in Bldg 241 on Ledward Barracks. The new telephone number for MSZ is 354-6732 or 09721-96-6732. Hours will remain the same.

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.



Community 6 week outlook calendar

- 20 JULY** --Parents' Night Out respite care 6:30 to 11 p.m. Sign-ups begin July 9.
- 20-22 JULY** --Teen Center special event Paris Trip, departs 10:30 p.m. Returns 7 a.m. \$30. Call 354-6732.
- 21 JULY** --MWR Street Party on Askren Manor, noon to 8 p.m. Live Latin Music starting at 6 p.m.
- USO shopping express trip to Czech. Sign up by July 16. Cost is \$45. Call 354-6711.
- Family Friendly Trip to Warner Bros. Movie World, free transportation. Call 350-6305.
- Transition conference in Wuerzburg, directed at Junior Officers planning to separate in the next year. 1-4 p.m. in the Hotel am Congress Centrum. Call 0800-852-2670.
- 24 JULY** --Checkbook Management class, Ledward 9 to 11 a.m. Call 354-6933.
- ADHD support group, Ledward ACS, 10 a.m. to noon. Call 354-6933.
- 25 JULY** --ACS Progressive Perspectives: Never a Dull Moment 1 to 3 p.m. Limited childcare available free of charge, call one week in advance 354-6933.
- VA Benefits Briefing, Ledward Theater 8 a.m. to noon. Call 354-6019.
- Kitchen Passport Series: German Cooking class, Ledward 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Call 354-6933.
- Sponsorship Training, Ledward ACS, from 9 to 11 a.m. Call 354-6933 to sign up.
- 27 JULY** --Autism Support Group, 10 a.m. to noon, ACS classroom. Call 354-6833 for more information.
- 28 JULY** --Family Friendly Trip to Luxembourg, free transportation. Call 350-6305.
- 30 JULY** --CAV call-in show with AFN at 7 a.m. Tune to AFN radio 1143 AM.
- 31 JULY** --Middle School Zone summer camp trip to Pullman City, 2 days, call 354-6308.
- Habits of Successful Investors class, Ledward 9 to 10 a.m. Call 354-6933.
- Bulk Trash pick-up for housing areas and leased housing in Schweinfurt. 354-6201 for info.
- 1 AUG** --ACS Progressive Perspectives: Experiencing Fruitful Relationships 1 to 3 p.m. Limited childcare available free of charge, call one week in advance 354-6933.
- 3 AUG** --Teen Summer Stress Buster, Kessler Field, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 354-6933 for info.
- 6 AUG** --Leighton Youth Services and SKIES program begin service in bldg. 153. Call 350-6828.
- 9-12 AUG** --Bike and Music weekend at Geiselwind, concerts and motor shows. Call 09556-18-18-1.
- 10 AUG** --Last day to register for fall sports at Central Registration in The Commons or Leighton Barracks Child Development Center.
- 11 AUG** --MWR Street Party on Askren Manor, noon to 8 p.m. Live country music, featuring line dancing instruction starting at 6 p.m.
- Bone Marrow Donor Registration Drive, from 1 to 6 p.m., Askren Manor, during Street Party.
- 13-17 AUG** --Vacation Bible School, Ledward Chapel, Ledward Barracks, Schweinfurt, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Pre-register by calling 09727-909-516.
- 21 AUG** --Children's physicals, for school and sports, given in the afternoon. Call 354-7901 for info.
- 27 AUG** --First day of school for Schweinfurt Elementary and Middle Schools and Wuerzburg Elementary and High School Freshmen (28 AUG, grades 10-12).



Fischetti takes command of 69th ADA

Story by Staff Sgt. John Queen
69th ADA Public Affairs

The 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade welcomed Col. Joseph M. Fischetti as its new commander Friday during a morning ceremony at Dickman field on Leighton Barracks in Wuerzburg.

Fischetti, who comes to the brigade from the Missile Defense Agency in Arlington, Va., accepted the unit's colors from the V Corps commander, Lt. Gen. James D. Thurman, formally signifying his assumption of command of the Patriot Brigade.

Fischetti replaces Col. Mark S. McConkey, who has led the brigade since July 2005.

Throughout McConkey's 24-month tenure as commander, the brigade has gone through significant changes as part of the United States Army, Europe's transformation. It redeployed one of its battalions, 6-52 ADA, to Fort Sill, Okla. and the brigade headquarters itself, relocated from Giebelstadt Army Airfield to Wuerzburg.

During that time the brigade also successfully completed rotations to Israel for "Juniper Cobra 2007" and the Greek island of Crete for "Joint Project Optic Windmill". In addition, several Soldiers deployed to Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

McConkey's next assignment will be with Space and Missile



Lt. Gen. James D. Thurman passes the 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade colors to Col. Joe M. Fischetti during a ceremony on Leighton Barracks Friday.

Command in Huntsville Ala., where he will take up post as The United States Army Training and Doctrine Command's capabilities manager for National Missile Defense.

The 69th ADA Brigade, which is among the Army's most deployed, is one of two forward deployed Patriot brigades.

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"He never wasted a minute or an opportunity to train," said Staff Sgt. Michael Curtis, as he read the previously delivered remarks of Staff Sgt. Joshua Tiffany. "He had a reason why were training."

"Mike was a warrior. He left us as a warrior and happier," he said, while describing Ruoff as a special member of a group called

the Pipe Hitters Union.

"They are the people you can always count on in a tough situation," he said, calling his comrade "Ranger Ruoff."

Their battalion and task force commander, Lt. Col. Miciotto Johnson, called himself a better commander and a better leader for having served with the two fallen Soldiers.

"They epitomized the Warrior Ethos and all that the Army stands for," Johnson said, in remarks delivered by Capt. Thomas McMurtrie.

"He was a clear and decisive leader who led from the front at all times," Johnson said of Buchan, while recognizing Ruoff as a member of his own security detail.

"I never worry because I know I'm protected by the best

Soldiers," he said.

Both Soldiers were posthumously awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart Medals, and both had previously been awarded the Bronze Star Medal for previous actions,

according to the bulletin distributed at the memorial service.

Buchan, who had been in Schweinfurt since November 2001, is survived by his wife Laura, and two sons, Hayden and Andy.

Ruoff, a member of the Dagger Brigade since 2002, is survived by his wife Tracy, daughters, Danielle and Grace, and his parents, Mike and Vicki Ruoff.



Ruoff



Spc. John Clayburn plays Taps at the end of this morning's memorial ceremony at the Ledward Chapel.



Crafts center welcomes all who say 'I can do it'

Story and photo by Sandra Wilson

It's hot outside. And when it's not, it's raining. What is there to do during these summer months while school is out, and there's no air conditioning to be found?

The Schweinfurt Arts and Crafts Center has gotten creative with their involvement in the Army Community Services' "I Can Do It" success series.

Each Friday a free instructional class, materials included, shows participants how to make a new craft. And the crafts are simple enough for school-aged kids to learn as well.

"It was a slow start, but now that the word has gotten out, a lot of people are coming," said Nikki Gagliardo, an employee at the Arts and Crafts Center.

Twenty adults and children looked on as Gagliardo taught how to make Fimo beads Friday. She demonstrated how each clay bead could be made with a variety of colors and any creativity one could muster up.

When finished with the decorating, a tiny hole was made with a needle, and then the beads were baked in an oven. The finished beads could be strung to make a necklace, unlike any that could be bought in a store.

"This is wonderful. It gives us something to do. And these are Christmas presents for Family members," said Laura Leiter, Family member from the 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry and participant in the Fimo bead craft.

These free craft demonstrations have been publicized as beginning at 1 p.m. each Friday, said Gagliardo, but she emphasized that the studio will do the craft until 5 p.m. with a second demonstration at 3 p.m. in order to split up the crowds.

Tomorrow, participants will learn how to make Sunbonnet Sue lace ups, and July 27 will be candle making. More exciting crafts are to come each Friday throughout the months of July, August, and September, so come out and beat the heat in a creative way.



Participants in Army Community Services' "I Can Do It" success series at the Schweinfurt Arts and Crafts Center, watch a demonstration on how to make Fimo beads. Free craft demonstrations and materials are provided every Friday at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. until the end of September. Jo Ellen Arthur and her two children, Robert and Heather, shape and decorate their Fimo beads as part of a project in the "I Can Do It" success series at the Schweinfurt Arts and Crafts Center.

Safety officer offers tips on the danger of lightning strikes

By Mark Heeter

Most people can't always hide from lightning storms so USAG Schweinfurt safety officer Eddi Sauer offered some safety and prevention tips for those who might find themselves in the middle of a storm.

"When a cold front and warm front meet, that can build up charges of 100 million volts. And if the tension is so high, there's a sudden release of energy," said Sauer, trained as an electrical technician, adding that lightning follows the simple laws of physics.

"It always wants to go the shortest and nearest way," he said,

leading to an explanation of some basic safety tips.

"If you're outside, don't go under a tree, because it's the closest point," Sauer said. The same goes for crests and hilltops. "Go to a valley, a depressed area."

And keep those feet together. Lightning will look for connecting points once it strikes, and the distance between two feet, for example, increases the voltage of the electrical stream, Sauer said.

"Keep your feet together and crouch down," Sauer advised.

Remaining indoors is not always fool-proof he said, because lightning can travel through telephone and electrical cables.

"Since lightning strikes inside outlets, don't go near them," he said.