



## “When it’s Time to Say Goodbye”

### Wuerzburg schools close the doors for the final time

Story and photos by Mark Heeter

The area between the Wuerzburg elementary and high schools was turned into a street party Friday afternoon, a bittersweet occasion marking the closure of the Wuerzburg American Elementary, Middle and High Schools.

“Closing these schools will not take away the memories or connection to each other,” said Debbie Strong, elementary school principal, addressing the crowd of students, staff, friends and alumni who reached back into the 1960s.

Mike Thompson, superintendent of Department of Defense Dependent Schools (DoDDS)-Bavaria, began by recognizing the uniqueness of the Wuerzburg students who just completed the school year, bringing an end to more than 50 years of Wuerzburg American schools.

“Your effort, unity and working together have been very positive,” said Thompson, who listed off the school closures he has seen in 18 years in Germany, paralleling a dwindling military population here.

Diane Ohman, DoDDS-Europe director, amplified Thompson’s remarks, referring to the 40 schools that have closed during her tenure and enrollment numbers that have dropped.

“The intensity, feeling and emotions that go along with closing 40 schools is pretty intense,” she said.



Members of the Wuerzburg High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps retire the colors that flew over the Wuerzburg Elementary School at the schools’ closure ceremony Friday.

Wuerzburg students and schools have always been critical components in theater-wide events and programs, from honors band to the academic contests, Ohman said.

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## HHC 1-2 IN, USAG Schweinfurt show the meaning of giving

By Mark Heeter

The USAG Schweinfurt collected \$58,431 during the Army Emergency Relief (AER) campaign that ended May 15. The USAG Heidelberg was the only community in Europe that topped Schweinfurt, according to Tony Davis, AER coordinator at the Army Community Service.

“The secret to our success was getting the word out to the commanders and their participation in letting the Soldiers know about the AER,” Davis said. “It’s their money. It benefits them.”

While most units in Sch-

weinfurt participated heavily in the program, which turns donations into loans and grants for Soldiers in need, Davis cited one unit as a shining example of the “Army taking care of its own.”

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, raised \$10,400 through 100 percent participation, a rarity in which every Soldier in the company contributed to the AER.

“Some of my Soldiers have used AER, and most of them know someone who has used it for one reason or another. They like to think there is a support



mechanism if they should run into unforeseen problems in their lives,” wrote Capt. Bradley Kinser, HHC, 2-1 IN commander, in an e-mail response to a request for information.

The key to the company’s success was the careful selection of its AER coordinator, a choice that pointed Kinser directly to Sgt. Christopher Morrow.

“He took the task to heart and coordinated with the platoon sergeants to collect and track all of the Soldiers in the

company who contributed, and who did not, without violating their confidentiality,” Kinser wrote.

“He personally took time to meet and talk with those who had not yet contributed in private to prevent embarrassment or guilt trips in order to get Soldiers to contribute,” he added.

“A lot of us Soldiers take AER very seriously,” Morrow said, noting that come confusion about the program almost

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## News Briefs

### CYS Army birthday

The USAG Schweinfurt Child and Youth Services (CYS) program will celebrate the Army's birthday with festivities at all CYS facilities tomorrow. The events will feature birthday cake and a reading of the Army Birthday Story Book. The Schweinfurt Child Development Center (CDC) will kick off the day with their 9 a.m. event, followed by the Leighton CDC/School Age Services (SAS) at 2:30 p.m. The Schweinfurt SAS will hold their celebration at 3 p.m. and the Middle School/Teen Program will wrap up the day with a BBQ at 4:30 p.m.

### Take a picture of dad

Father's Day is Sunday and the Ledward Library celebrates universal father's week by having children bring in photos of their dads for a display. Contest runs all week and a prize will be given to the best photo. For more information, call the library at 354-1740.

### Youth basketball school

Boys and Girls Club of America and Child and Youth Services offers Snow Valley Iowa Basketball School at Kessler Fitness Center June 19-21 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The school is open for youth ages 11 through 18 and is taught by three coaches. For more information or to sign up, call CYS at 354-6414.

### Dance performance held

Join Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) at Finney Fitness Center for a dance performance by the Sonics Dance Team Wednesday at 6 p.m. Kick off the summer with entertainment provided free of charge by MWR. Keep an eye out for upcoming events and concerts through August.

### Pick Strawberries

Join the Schweinfurt Protestant Women of the Chapel for strawberry picking at a local patch Wednesday. Meet at the Ledward chapel at 10:30 a.m. to carpool. Bring a bucket or container for gathering and euro to purchase strawberries. Participants can also join PWOC for lunch at a local restaurant afterwards. For more information, e-mail [pwoc.schweinfurt@gmail.com](mailto:pwoc.schweinfurt@gmail.com).

### BOSS plans events

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers is having a meeting at the Finney Recreation Center Tuesday beginning at 2 p.m. The community is invited to attend and offer ideas for programming. For more information, call 354-8476.

### Volunteers get briefed

Army Community Service (ACS) holds a volunteer orientation at the Yellow Ribbon Room Monday from 10 – 11 a.m. For more information, call ACS at 354-6933.

### Arts & Crafts contest deadline coming

The deadline for entry into the Army Arts and Crafts contest is June 30. Submissions will be judged as novice or accomplished in ceramics, drawings, wood, fibers and textiles, glass, metals and jewelry, 2D mixed media, 3D mixed media, prints, water-base painting, and oil-base painting. Go to <http://www.armymwr.com/portal/recreation/artsandcrafts/contest.asp> and log on with AKO user name and password.

### Watch soccer games

A European Soccer Championship fan fest is held at the Schweinfurt market square beginning tomorrow and continues every day next week until Thursday. Each day different European countries are recognized. The fest starts at 4 p.m. and runs until midnight.

### Kids summer camp

Schweinfurt School Age Services (SAS) summer camp program kicks off Monday. This year's Camp Olympus theme will explore different types of sports and will include baseball and basketball camps. Children may attend on a weekly or hourly basis but must be registered with Child and Youth Services, and parents must attend a summer camp orientation. Orientations will be held every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the Schweinfurt SAS. For more information, call 354-6974.

## Schweinfurt Dispatch



**Commander** Lt. Col. Anthony Haager  
**Command Sgt Maj.** CSM Keith McMullen  
**Public Affairs Officer** George Ohl  
**Command Information Officer** Mark Heeter  
**Writer/Editors** Kimberly Gearhart  
Elvira Gladwell  
Sandra Wilson  
Lindsey Cole

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 web site 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 e-mail: [mail.sft.pao@eur.army.mil](mailto: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.



- 13 JUNE** --Last day of operations for Leighton customs office.  
--Perfect timing seminar for teens, Yellow Ribbon Room, 10-11 a.m.
- 14 JUNE** --Super Saturday, SAS and CDC, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., call 354-6517.
- 15 JUNE** --Father's Day. Give your dad something special.
- 16 JUNE** --Volunteer Orientation, Yellow Ribbon Room, 10-11 a.m., call ACS 354-6933.  
--Beginning of fathers week, bring photo to Ledward library for display.  
--Beginning day of Camp Olympus for SAS summer camp. Call 354-6974.
- 17 JUNE** --Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS) meeting, Finney Rec Center, 2 p.m., 354-8476.  
--Important decision making for teens, Yellow Ribbon Room, 1-2 p.m.
- 18 JUNE** --Finney Recreation Center grand re-opening, 4 p.m.  
--Seattle Supersonics Cheerleading/Dance team performs, 6 p.m. Finney Fitness Center.
- 20 JUNE** --Daddy Basic Training, Ledward ACS, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 354-6933.
- 24 JUNE** --Brian Stace Concert, 7 p.m., Finney Fitness Center.  
--Couples Communication, Ledward ACS, 2 to 4 p.m., call 354-6933.  
--Seven steps to getting out of debt, Ledward ACS, 3:45-4:45 p.m. Call 354-6933.
- 25 JUNE** --Communication skills for kids class, Yellow Ribbon Room, 11 a.m. - noon. Call 354-6933.
- 26 JUNE** --Job Search Strategies, Ledward ACS, 2 to 4 p.m. Call to sign up at 354-6933.  
--Ledward library adult book club meets to discuss "Eat, pray, and love" at 5:15 p.m.
- 27 JUNE** --Ledward Lunch Bunch, meet at Ledward ACS, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Call 354-6933.  
--Smooth Move Seminar, ACS building, 9 a.m. to noon. Call 354-6933  
--ADD/ADHD Support Group, ACS building, 10 a.m. to noon. Call 354-6933.  
--Parents' Night Out, SAS and CDC, 6:30-11 p.m., call CYS central registration at 354-6517.  
--Community Scrapbook Crop, 299th Classroom Conn Barracks, Call 016092177325.
- 30 JUNE** --Last day of service for Customs, POV inspection, and AFCU on Leighton Barracks.
- 4 JULY** --Fourth of July Celebration, noon to 10 p.m., Kessler Field. Live music by Sevendust.
- 7 JULY** --Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band in concert, 7 p.m., Kessler Field.  
--Baseball skills clinic, 1st-5th grade, Kessler Field. Call 354-6414 for more information.
- 7-11 JULY** --SNAPS orientation, new comers awareness program. Call ACS 354-6933.
- 8 JULY** --Baseball skills clinic, 6th-12th grade, Kessler Field. Call 354-6414 for more information.
- 9 JULY** --Final day of service for Leighton Vet Clinic.
- 9-10 JULY** --Dramatization about John Wesley and St. Patrick by Roger Nelson, Ledward Chapel, 7 p.m.
- 10 JULY** --Bamberg High School orientation program. Call 354-6460 for more information.
- 13 JULY** --Schweinfurt Commissary will close at 4 p.m. for shelving upgrades/installation.

**Community 4 week outlook calendar**



# Wuerzburg High seniors start next chapter

Story and photos by Sandra Wilson

The Mainfrankensaele near Wuerzburg was a bustle of excitement Thursday evening as family and friends waited for the arrival of the graduating seniors on the boat reserved specially for them.

Shouts and waves welcomed them onto the dock and the students debarked and paraded along the river promenade to the ceremony hall.

Class of 2008 had a notable graduation because it was the very last for Wuerzburg American High School, before the school officially closed its doors the next day.

"It's truly a sad day to say goodbye to a school we've loved so much," said Principal Walt Seely at graduation.

To reminisce over the past, a special picture slide show of the seniors' baby years was shown as a surprise gift to the graduates. Following the photo show, many of seniors stepped up to the microphone to share their high school experience and thank their family, friends, and teachers.

"The time we have spent mastering our school subjects means nothing without friendships," said senior Amanda Whitney.

"I learned that we could accomplish anything that we put our mind to," said senior Carly Sipes, salutatorian.

The 24 seniors received their diplomas, turned their tassels, and tossed their caps to celebrate the ending of a season and to mark the beginning of a new chapter in life. *(see page 5 for senior photos)*



Clockwise from top right: Ryan Barry and Yahuza Ishawu walk the aisle during commencement exercises. Seniors Lisa Little, left, and Miranda McConnell enjoy the ceremony with junior attendant John Reynolds. A riverboat carrying the Wuerzburg Class of 2008 sails the Main River before the graduation ceremony.

## CLOSURES

"I am here to tell you that, through the years, Wuerzburg has always been well-represented," she said.

"These schools have turned out some our nation's best and brightest. And like most people, these children of yesterday and today continue to look back on their junior and senior high school days as some of the best times of their lives," said Lt. Col. Anthony Haager, USAG Schweinfurt commander.

Referring to milestones and events from 1954 – the year Wuerzburg American High School opened – Haager drew similarities to students in 2008.



"Our military children still love a good song and a good book. And those children

continue to receive the same quality and excellent education that they did back then," he said.

Following the retirement of the flags that flew over both schools, the elementary and middle school choruses led the crowd through "Forever Friends."

Then, in a final act, the members of the Wuerzburg schools' family released a rainbow of balloons over the sky in a city that meant so much to so many students over the past 54 years.



# Congratulations!!



Ryan Barry



Thomas Kevin  
Comeford



Sarah Denman



Cassandra Gonzales



Stephanie Huettner



Steven Kniffin



Melissa Kuik



Lisa Little



Amber Manchester



Miranda McConnell



Brandyn McHaney



Victoria McKernan



Anthony Miles



Ann Kelli Montano



Stefanie Montano



Daniel Osgood



Benjamin Shelton



Carly Sipes



Benjamin Snyder



Kristina Van Horn



Amanda Whitney



Ishawu Yahuzza



Safiatou Yahuzza



Melissa Zinger



# WTU promotes, returns Soldiers to duty

By Kimberly Gearhart

Soldiers in need of complex medical care and those facing medical separation or Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) reclassification due to their health or physical status can now find the support they need within Warrior Transition Units (WTUs) throughout the United States and Germany.

Far from being a place for “broken” Soldiers to go, however, WTUs offer Soldiers an opportunity to focus on their primary mission of healing, while still maintaining Army discipline and standards.

“This is a real Army unit. We will promote you. We will demote you. We will send you to the board,” said Capt. Michael Weisman, Bavaria WTU company commander.

And the WTU helps, if possible, Soldiers return to duty (RTD).

Sgt. Scott Lombardi, a 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Soldier, who was injured during a night mission, was one of those.

“I fell from a cliff in Af-

ghanistan,” he explained. Lombardi tumbled nearly 60 feet, suffering multiple injuries that required his evacuation from theater. He is awaiting orders that will reassign him back to 1-91 CAV now that he’s been cleared to RTD.

“I actually want to try out for Special Forces,” Lombardi said.

Spc. Angel Gomez was injured in Iraq in April 2007 while serving with the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry. During a combat-related Bradley accident, Gomez suffered whiplash and Traumatic Brain Injury. Gomez reenlisted for four years, and will complete a Permanent Change of Station (PCS) move to Fort Benning, Georgia soon.

Not all WTU Soldiers were injured downrange, however. Sgt. Aaron Henry, for example, joined the WTU after being diagnosed with a hernia.

“The healing process was going to take time, no matter what,” Henry said. Once he is officially back in 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry, Henry hopes to lead Soldiers again.



**Capt. Michael Weisman administers the oath of re-enlistment to Spc. Angel Gomez June 5. (photo by Kimberly Gearhart)**

And although not all Soldiers in the WTU will RTD, many need only the time and resources to help them heal, and the determination to remain in the Army--like Spc. Jacob Brock, a 9th Engineer Soldier.

Brock, who was injured by an explosively formed projectile while attached to 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry in Iraq in June of last year, was facing medical separation for his injuries, which include a finger that

he cannot fully bend.

“He told them to cut it off, if that was all that was keeping him back,” said WTU 1st Sgt. Ron Quinn.

“I told them to send me RTD. I need to get back on the line, get back in the unit,” Brock said. Brock reenlisted in Iraq for 6 years, and will PCS to Fort Campbell and the 101st Airborne once his orders process.

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## AER

prevented some Soldiers from contributing.

“Some people confuse the AER with the CFC (Combined Federal Campaign) and say, ‘Oh, I gave already,’” Morrow said, adding that clarification helped him in his quest of obtaining 100 percent participation.

“Once the bigger majority of the group was giving, it helped,” he said.

Davis said a request for guidon streamer for the unit is in the works, following their exceptional performance in the AER campaign.

“My first sergeant and I are privileged to have such dedicated Soldiers,” Kinser wrote.



**Club Beyond middle-schoolers gathered at the Kessler field Tuesday for water wars in the sun. Various games were played such as the one above where the goal was to be the target of slung-shot water balloons. Look for more Club Beyond events for middle- and high-schoolers starting in July. For a list of activities and events, e-mail Sara Doughty at [popnotsoda@hotmail.com](mailto:popnotsoda@hotmail.com). (photo by Sandra Wilson)**



# CYS offers amnesty to unauthorized care providers

## European garrisons' program enrollment deadline June 30

By Kimberly Gearhart

If you care for children in your home for more than 10 hours a week, and those children are not blood-related to you, you may be in violation of Army Regulation (AR) 608-10-- unless you are a certified Family Child Care (FCC) provider.

FCC providers are certified care givers who live on post or in government-leased housing and provide care in an approved, monitored setting.

"We want to put a stop to unauthorized child care in our community. It's about insuring the safety and quality of care our children receive," said Mintina Houston, FCC program manager for the U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt.

Additionally, since unauthorized child care is expressly prohibited by Army regu-

lations, providing such care can carry the risk of adverse command action, including the revocation of government housing privileges, according to the provisions of AR 608-10.

Concern that coming forward will lead to adverse action may keep care givers from coming forward to get certified, noted Houston.

"We want those people to come from underground and become certified, so we offer the Amnesty program," she added.

The FCC Amnesty program allows caregivers to become certified without fear of adverse repercussions. June is designated an amnesty month for the program throughout Europe.

"The start-up costs for becoming a certified provider are very low. We provide training, insurance, and have a large lend-

ing library of supplies," Houston said.

For the garrison and unauthorized providers of child care, the FCC Amnesty program can be a win-win situation. Caregivers earn certification which allows them to legally earn money caring for children, a portable, viable job skill. The garrison expands its list of available providers, easing the pressure on Child and Youth Services care facilities, which carry large waiting lists for care.

"I wish I'd have known about the FCC when I was a spouse. I'd have stayed home with my children and earned money at the same time," Houston said.

The FCC Amnesty program applies to anyone who requests to begin the certification process by no later than June 30. To do so, contact the FCC office at 354-6551/6281 or 09721-96-6551/6281.

## WTU

Soldiers looking to continue their Army career while in the WTU, like Brock, Henry, Lombardi, and Gomez, are given every opportunity and resource to succeed, said Weisman.

Brock and Spc. Jonathan Cassidy, a 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry Soldier who just came to the WTU in March, went to the Bavaria Medical Department Activity (MEDDAC) Soldier of the Month board. Cassidy won the board.

"He did so well, I was asked why he wasn't going to the promotion board," said Quinn. Both attended the subsequent board and are now promotable.

"The WTU encourages us to do anything we can to advance ourselves," Cassidy said.

## Wuerzburg alumni gather in Wolves territory once more

Story and photo by Lindsey Cole

Closures are often a chance for remembrance. Four Wuerzburg American High School (WAHS) alumni from the classes of 1967-1969 attended the graduation and closing ceremonies.

Bill Suzuki, brothers Michael and Henry Chiasson, and Jackie Hall attended WAHS when it was relatively new.

During that time era, they agreed, Leighton Barracks looked very different. There were no fences around the post and people from the economy could walk in and out as they pleased.

"Being in Wuerzburg was the best time of my life. It was a rich cultural experience that we didn't appreciate as



(From left) Michael Chiasson, Bill Suzuki, Jackie Hall, and Henry Chiasson catch up on life and reminisce about past experiences at WAHS. All four attended WAHS' final graduation and closing ceremonies last week.

much as we should have. But it created an experience for us, and we just can't let go of it," Henry said.

Both Michael and Henry live in Florida and they came back specifically for the graduation and closing ceremony.

Before the Wuerzburg alumni website was

made, the only way previous graduates could stay in contact was by the postal service, and some didn't stay in contact at all.

"If it weren't for Bob Manwaring and the internet, we never would've gotten together," Michael said. Now past graduates have the

opportunity to reestablish contact with one another.

Hall moved back to Germany in 1972 and has lived here ever since. "I think the only thing that really makes me American is going to this high school, the experience itself," Hall said.



# Teens take challenge for a summer of new beginnings

By Sandra Wilson

There is no reason for teens to stay at home this summer glued to the television or video games all day. School is out, and now it's time for a "Summer of New Beginnings".

The Schweinfurt Teen Center has packed each week of this summer, from June 16 to August 29, with activities to appeal to all. Whether your teen is a sports jock, an artist, or a movie buff, there is something for everyone.

With themes for each of the 11 weeks, kids can sign up for whatever is most appealing for a minimal fee of only \$35 each week. The cost covers lunch, snacks, and transportation and entrance fees for two

field trips every week.

"It's going to be fun. We've got a lot of good trips. It's educational, it's physical ... it's giving back to the community," said Alicia Bienvenu, child and youth program assistant.

Some of the field trips include trips to the Berlin Natural History Museum, Phantasia Land, Bavarian Film Studios, a horse ranch, Silvana Schwimmbad, Palm Beach, and the list goes on. Local activities invite kids to participate in a basketball camp, martial arts, horseback riding, biking, serving the community, and much more.

"We're trying to use the strengths of our own CYS (Child and Youth Services) team," said Teen Center Director, Donna Hilley, about all the agencies that have

banded together to provide the ultimate summer program. "It's a really energetic team this year."

The agency partnerships have made available a vast array of choices for teens who choose to participate this summer. The only things required to participate are payment and a filled out parent permission packet.

"We want (the kids) to grow as individuals in the process of having fun and staying safe," Hilley said. "We really believe that they can ... learn to appreciate their environment and other youth and have a stronger sense ... of who they are and how they can help as individuals."

Call now for a list of activities or a parent permission packet at 354-6732.

## This is how we do it here

Diane Schmidt, right, librarian at Schweinfurt Middle School, talks to three teachers from Texas in the school's information center yesterday. The teachers were part of a group of visitors from Texas that included both local German and Texas members of Rotary International.

In addition to the visit to the middle school, the group also visited the elementary school and received a briefing from Justin Mitchell, USAG Schweinfurt deputy commander. (photo by Mark Heeter)



# USAG Schweinfurt names Montano local BGCA youth of the year

By Lindsey Cole

For years the Boys and Girls Club of America (BGCA) has held a Youth of the Year (YOY) contest to recognize one individual for his or her dedication to and involvement with the community. This year Stefanie Montano earned the honor for United States Army Garrison Schweinfurt.



In addition to being an active member in the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps, playing sports, and keeping a high grade-point average, Montano also shouldered the role of the USAG Schweinfurt youth representative. Montano attended meetings throughout the school year which in-

cluded the Youth Advisory council, communicated through e-mail and phone conferences with other youth representatives on problem-solving tasks, and participated in live European teen panels.

Her intense community involvement made Montano a likely YOY winner, however, like all the candidates, she had to complete the rigorous application process. Essays addressing subjects such as school, family, the community, and involvement with the BGCA were just the beginning.

Montano will attend the University of Hawaii with her sister Kelli, who is also a 2008 WAHS graduate.

"I'm really going to miss Schweinfurt. The opportunities and the people I've met have given me a great experience. I hope the next representative for this community will enjoy the experience as much as I did," Montano said.



# Last weeks of school prepare students for summer fun



Students at Schweinfurt and Wuerzburg elementary and middle schools enjoy end-of-the-year activities as a reward for working hard throughout the year.

Counterclockwise from below, sixth-graders (from left) DaJah Foy, Thomas Diaz, Pamela Riveria-Torres, Reid Knepp, and LaShawn Papala all receive awards for constructing the best birdhouses Tuesday. Sixth-graders Samantha Gray (left) and Gilbert Pinckney perform the balcony scene in Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" at the SMS Renaissance Fair May 29. SES students Sydney Bryant and Enrique Johnson plant their hand-made windmills into the sand at the environmental day event on Conn Barracks May 29. Third-graders Zach Johnson (left) and Milla George climb the inflatable wall at Wuerzburg Elementary/Middle School's field day June 3. Myah Jennrich watches as Aaleyah Decilos swings for the ball and students slip and slide in the water at SES' field day Monday. (photos by Sandra Wilson)

