



Schools open arms to parents, too

Story and photo by Mark Heeter

Come Monday, school bells will ring again through the halls of local schools, calling students back to the fountain of knowledge.

With the beginning of another school year, parents are encouraged to answer a different call: getting involved in their kids' education and activities.

"You can tell by looking at (children) if the parent is involved. The kids want to get involved," said Teresa Duncan, president of the Schweinfurt Elementary School (SES) Parent Teacher Association (PTA).

The differences can be "huge," Duncan said.

"Parental involvement is so important," said Beverly Erdmann, SES assistant principal, adding that parents and teachers have a common goal.

"We work on behalf of the child," she said.

One popular method of igniting the interaction is with open houses, according to Damon McGibboney, USAG Schweinfurt school liaison officer. Each school will host one in the next few weeks, he said.

"This will give parents the opportunity to go into the school in a non-school setting. It's an open area; the classrooms are going to



Lt. Col. Anthony Haager, USAG Schweinfurt commander, speaks to teachers at their "welcome back" breakfast yesterday.

be open with the teachers," McGibboney said.

"It's more of a casual setting to allow parents to interact with the teachers," he said.

The open house schedule is: Schweinfurt Elementary School, Sept. 4, from 4:30 to 6 p.m.; Schweinfurt Middle School, Sept. 11, from 4:30 to 6 p.m.; and Bamberg High School, Aug. 28, from 6 to 8 p.m.

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Lending a useful hand in the daily essentials

Story and photo by Sandra Wilson

A pot of hot coffee in the morning, some reheated leftover pizza, and cool air blowing during the waning summer warmth makes for a good day's start for many people. But

those three things are difficult to enjoy without a coffee pot, a microwave, and a fan. It's even harder to have these small comforts when your household goods are in transit, but that's why Army Community Service (ACS) provides the "lending closet."

The lending closet is available to all incoming and outgoing Soldiers and provides the opportunity to borrow kitchen supplies and baby accessories on a short term basis.

"The lending closet works extremely well and is heavily used," said Hal Snyder, director of ACS in Schweinfurt. Even so, there are many people who didn't know about its services.

"When I started

in the military, I didn't even know this existed," said Ilbaisa Mella, relocation program assistant at ACS. Elizabeth Capellan, central intake and relocation readiness coordinator at ACS, said her and her husband went out and bought the needed appliances and utensils when they arrived at his duty station, discovering the lending closet only after they had made the purchases.

"It gets expensive eating out all the time," said Sgt. Larry Willis of Headquarters and Headquarters Company 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment.

Spending all that money upon arrival to buy living essentials, or eating out because you don't have any, is not needed when such a resource is available. Even living without conveniences before departing to a new duty station is not necessary. If your household goods have left without you, the Lending Closet is open for temporary borrowing.

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Sgt. Larry Willis selects the cooking utensils out of the lending closet at Schweinfurt's Army Community Service for his family to use while they wait for their household goods. On the left, Elizabeth Capellan, central intake and relocation readiness coordinator at ACS, records the implements on an issue sheet.



News Briefs

Bamberg HS orientation

Bamberg High School will host a new student orientation tomorrow at 1 p.m. The USAG Schweinfurt will provide bus transportation for parents and students from Askren Manor, departing at noon. School personnel will be on hand to answer questions, and registration will be open for those who have yet to complete their packets. Please sign up at Central Registration in The Commons on Ledward Barracks. For more information, call 354-6090 or 354-6517.

PWOC and PJs

Protestant Women of the Chapel (PWOC) invites all ladies to join in on a relaxing pajama spa night in the Ledward chapel fellowship hall Tuesday from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Free childcare is available for ages 11 and under. Wear your PJs, and come enjoy pizza, fellowship, and a pedicure. For more information or to carpool, call Sandra Wilson at 0170-277-8980.

Lunch Bunch outing

The Schweinfurt Lunch Bunch holds its monthly outing Thursday, Aug. 28 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Meet at Army Community Service Center, and carpool to the restaurant. Children are welcome to join this family-friendly lunch break. Bring euro for the meal. Call 354-6933 for more information.

Bulk trash pick-up

Bulk trash is scheduled to be picked up from Askren Manor, Yorktown Village, and government-leased housing Tuesday. Please put bulk items out prior to 7 a.m. on day of pick-up but no earlier than the day before. Bulk trash is only those items too large to transport in your vehicle. For more information, call SORT coordinator Brad Posey at 354-6201 or 0162-270-9403.

First day of school

Monday is the first day of school for students in grades 1-12, and with that comes the reinstatement of bus routes. When driving around schools and in housing areas in the mornings, be aware of children walking to school or to bus stops, and remember that it is illegal to pass a bus that is loading or unloading children on an U.S. Army installation.

Schweinfurt optometry clinic

Schweinfurt Optometry Clinic will begin seeing patients again in mid-to-late September, when we will welcome our incoming optometrist, Maj. James Eddis. If you would like to be placed on an appointment wait list or have questions, please contact Staff Sgt. Kathy Yusuf, noncommissioned officer in charge of the optometry clinic by phone at 354-6501 or 09721-96-6501 or e-mail Kathy.Yusuf@amedd.army.mil.

Basic computer courses

Schweinfurt Army Community Service offers free computer classes Monday through Thursday next week on the basics of Excel, PowerPoint and Access. All classes run from 8 a.m. to 12:50 p.m., and are free of charge to U.S. ID card holders. For more information, call 354-6933.

Women's Equality Day

Schweinfurt will honor the struggle for women's rights on Women's Equality Day Tuesday. Information booths will be set up in building 40 on Conn Barracks and the PX, The Commons, and the library on Ledward Barracks from 10 a.m. to noon. Join us as we honor the contributions and accomplishments of women throughout history, and honor the history-making women in our own lives.

Community volleyball

Community men's and women's volleyball teams are now being formed. Registration ends August 29. A coaches' meeting will take place Sept. 2 at 6 p.m. in the Kessler Fitness Center. Practices begin Sept. 3 at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call Finney Fitness Center at 353-8234.

Community Bank

Both Community Bank branches in Schweinfurt will close at noon Wednesday for mandatory employee training. Regular hours will resume Thursday.

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 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.

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.



- 29 AUG --Outdoor Recreation white water rafting in Austria \$99, returns Sept. 1. Call 353-8080.
- Deadline to sign up for unit-level soccer. Games held Sept. 2-4 at 5:30 p.m. Call 353-8234.
- 1 SEP --Labor Day holiday, no school.
- 2 SEP --First day of kindergarten.
- 4 SEP --Thursday Night mixed bowling league begins, 6 p.m., Kessler Bowling Center. Call 354-6332.
- 5 SEP --Employment information job fair, Kessler Fitness Center, 2 to 5:30 p.m. Call 354-6735.
- 6 SEP --Single Soldier adventure day, bungee jumping, 100 euro. Call Outdoor Rec 353-8080.
- Outdoor Recreation high ropes course, \$10. For more information, call 353-8080.
- 8-12 SEP --Schweinfurt Newcomers Awareness Program for spouses. Call ACS 354-6933.
- 9 SEP --Halo 3 XBOX 360 tournament, Finney Recreation Center. Call 353-8476 to sign up.
- Club Beyond middle school resumes, Ledward Chapel, 5:30-7 p.m. Call 0160-332-1498.
- Community Update Forum, Schweinfurt Elementary School, 6 p.m.
- 10 SEP --Protestant Women of the Chapel (PWOC) kicks off, Ledward Chapel, 9-11:30 a.m. Free childcare. Three small group Bible studies offered. Call Sandra Wilson 0170-277-8980.
- Wednesday night potluck Bible study begins, location TBA, 6-8:30 p.m. Open to the community. Call 0170-277-8980 for directions, childcare, or carpooling.
- 11 SEP --BOSS This One's For You event, Finney Recreation Center, 1 to 7 p.m. Call 353-8476.
- Club Beyond high school resumes, Bamberg Chapel, 5:30-7 p.m. Call 0160-332-1498.
- PWOC Thursday night Bible study begins, Ledward Chapel, 5:30-7 p.m. Call 0170-277-8980.
- 11-12 SEP --Birth n' Babies I & II, Ledward ACS. Part I: 1-4 p.m. Part II: 9 a.m.-noon. Call 354-6933.
- 13 SEP --BOSS Go Kart Racing and Hooters victory party. Cost is 99 euro. Call 353-8476.
- Super Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Call central registration 354-6517.
- 2008 Gospel Musical, Ledward Chapel, 6 p.m. Enjoy choirs, musicians, & soloists.
- 17 SEP --Pool Tournament at Finney Recreation Center. Call 353-8476 for more information.
- FRG crash course for leaders, Yellow Ribbon Room 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Call 354-6933.
- 20 SEP --Outdoor Recreation trip to Europa Park, \$10 plus 31 euro entry fee. Call 353-8080.
- 23 SEP --"Off The Wall" concert, Askren Manor, 7 p.m.
- 25 SEP --Soldier and family appreciation day with activities, food, music and more.
- 27 SEP --Free BOSS bus to Munich for Oktoberfest. For more information, call 353-8476.
- 28 SEP --Outdoor Recreation high ropes course, \$10, for more information call 353-8080.
- 30 SEP --AAFES/DeCA forum, Ledward Barracks bldg. 206, garrison conference room, 9-11:30 a.m. The community is encouraged to attend.
- 3 OCT --Fall fest & community showcase, Kessler field, noon to 9 p.m.
- 7-8 OCT --Fittest Male/Female Contest, Finney Fitness Center, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Open to all I.D. card holders. Register day of event

Community 6 week outlook calendar



SMS prepares students, parents for new school year

Story and photos by Kimberly Gearhart

Soon-to-be sixth-graders and their parents got a first look at Schweinfurt Middle School (SMS) Wednesday, meeting the principal, school counselor, and student leadership for an hour-long orientation and school tour. The orientation intended to make parents familiar with school principles and procedures, as well as detail the schedule for the first day of school.

“Parents are welcome to come with their children on the first day of school, but you probably don’t want to stay all day. You’ve already been to middle school,” joked school counselor Fred Conrad. The first day of school can be nerve-wracking, he acknowledged, but even more so when several extra people

are thrown into the mix.

“The mission of our school is to serve you,” said Principal George Carpenter. “We will offer quality education to prepare students with the skills they will need to live in the 21st century.”



Principal George Carpenter discussed school policies with parents and sixth graders new to SMS.

Working to strengthen foundation skills—such as math and reading comprehension—is of paramount importance for students at SMS, according to math and science teacher Dan Wilson.

“We want the kids to come ready to learn,” he said.

That sentiment was echoed by Linda Sanborn, SMS educational technologist.

“Students are encouraged to experiment and see how these skills apply in life or work situations,” she said. “Learning is a lifelong

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Learn tips to save money, energy consumption

By Mark Heeter

The heater or the air conditioner? The weather has been known to do crazy things this time of year in Germany, whisking in the perfect opportunity to turn off both.

“It’s perfect to save energy. You don’t need air conditioning and you don’t need heating right now,” said Lothar Rueckert, chief of the environmental division of the USAG Schweinfurt Directorate of Public Works (DPW).



Rueckert

The tiny red dot – the standby light – on computers, radios and other equipment is an easy place to start, according to Battenberg.

Rueckert and Kai Battenberg, USAG Schweinfurt pollution prevention manager, offer a wide variety of steps people can take to enhance their energy efficiency at home and in the workplace.

“One big thing is to turn off equipment when they are not using it,” he said, noting that standby mode still consumes about 10 percent of the energy required to power an appliance.

And while on the subject of equipment, Battenberg recommended looking for energy-efficient equipment and examining the European Union energy labels while in Germany.

Controlling the air flow and room temperature is a common method for reducing energy waste, Rueckert said.

“You must not only see the cost when you are saving energy. You must also see the environmental aspect,” Rueckert said.

For example, he said, overheating a room or heating a room with the windows open can increase carbon dioxide emissions, thereby contributing to the greenhouse effect.

“This is another energy loss: heating energy with the wrong airing habits,” Battenberg said, recommending opening the windows in shorter bursts.

“That’s more efficient to exchange the air, and you don’t lose as much energy,” he

said.

Unnecessary heating and cooling unoccupied rooms is a great source of waste, Rueckert and Battenberg agreed.

“I think awareness now is better than it used to be,” Battenberg said.

And here is one for the laundry list of energy-efficient moves:



Battenberg

“You could dry clothes on a line outside, instead of using a dryer. You can still do that now,” Battenberg said.

Refraining from the illegal practice of extended idling of vehicles, walking or cycling to work, and reducing plastic usage when possible are key methods to reducing energy consumption, they said.

The staff at the environmental management division is available to offer classes about energy efficiency. For more information, call 354-6795 or 09721-96-6795.



Street festival makes a splash



Saturday's Askren Manor street festival kicked off with a splash, and finished that way, too. The Splash Bash incorporated the bouncy castles and live music Schweinfurt residents have come to expect from the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) sponsored events, with the added twists of water-centered play in the form of a pool and water slide. Inflatable palm trees added to the beach theme, but the Schweinfurt weather just wouldn't cooperate, with highs never quite hitting 70 degrees.

Even though the day was cool and the overcast sky threatened rain, kids from around the community came out with swim gear and towels to brave the water and put the "splash" into the Splash Bash. In fact, though many parents brought umbrellas in case of rain, they came in just as handy for deflecting well-aimed walls of water from the pool. (photos by Kimberly Gearhart)





Hometown News kicks off holiday greetings

Story and photos by Christine June
USAG Kaiserslautern Public Affairs

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany – An Army and Air Force Hometown News Service team from San Antonio will be traveling throughout Europe in August and September to record holiday

- About your greetings:**
- Active-duty members must be in uniform.
 - Civilians should be in appropriate attire.
 - Hometown-specific clothing is OK.
 - Bring U.S. city, state, phone number
 - Family members/sponsors recorded together
 - No limit to number of greetings per family
 - Can send greeting to deployed loved ones
 - Greetings only for blood or legal relatives

greetings for broadcast on television and radio stations in all 50 states and U.S. territories. The team will be in Schweinfurt Sept. 8 and in Grafenwoehr Sept. 16.

Those eligible to participate: active-duty servicemembers, government civilians, retirees, Department of Defense Dependent School teachers and family members who won't be home for the holidays.

Last year, the news team recorded 2,677 greetings in Europe, said Kris Grogan, HN broadcast chief.

"We had a confirmed audience of (almost 40 million) for television and (more than 55 million) for radio," said Grogan, who was last year's and will be this year's European team chief. "Our greetings aired in almost 100 million homes last year alone."

BORROW

The current lending time is up to 60 days, but according to Capellan, it's not a problem to extend that time if household goods still haven't arrived.

Where the problem lies is when users do not return the items in a timely manner.



Mella

fellow Soldiers by bringing (the items) back," said Beate Williams, relocation

"We have incoming and outgoing Soldiers and families that need to use the lending closet. (Users) can help out their

readiness manager.

When items are returned, they are inspected to ensure proper working order for the next user. The most popularly checked out item, the microwave, as well as all the other appliances are continually maintained and repaired or replaced as needed.

Soldiers and families can also check out a variety of dishes, silverware, cooking and baking dishes, utensils, and baby accessories. In the month of July, 363 Soldiers and families came through ACS on their way out of Schweinfurt, and 150 new families arrived asking for the service.

"We're working on improving our inventory," Snyder said, adding that the main task now is to get the word out that the lending service is available.

For more information about how you can borrow, call ACS at 354-6933 or 09721-96-6933.

Allowing families back home to see or hear loved ones living overseas is the program's mission, said Grogan.

"I don't know how many phone calls I get from crying parents saying 'thank you because I haven't been able to see my son or



Kris Grogan, Army and Air Force Hometown News Service broadcast chief, reminds the Bond family to wave during a 2007 holiday greetings program taping in Kaiserslautern.

daughter in the past year or two years," he said. "It means a lot to them."

Such was the case with the Gary family who has been in Germany since 2004 and did greetings last year for relatives in New York, Florida and Jamaica.

"Our family doesn't get to see us much," said Sgt. First Class Allah Gary, of the 21st Theater Sustainment Command, explaining why he and his wife, Sherla, and their 4-year-old daughter, Jayllah, participated last year. "When I was home on leave, I saw

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OPEN ARMS

The latter is especially important because of the new relationship, McGibboney said.

"It would be really nice if parents here in Schweinfurt could go to that and meet these teachers, meet the principal, know who your kids are dealing with every day," he said.

"We're looking forward to having Bamberg with us this year. We're excited about it. Change is always on the horizon in the Army," McGibboney said.

Parents have another avenue toward being involved in their children's education: volunteering.

"They're always looking for someone to do something. There's plenty of opportunities to volunteer," McGibboney said. Interested parties can feel free to contact the schools, he said.



Schweinfurt



Tonight - 7 p.m. The Happening (R)
 Tomorrow - 7 p.m. Swing Vote (PG-13)
 Saturday - 4 p.m. Kung Fu Panda (PG)
 7 p.m. Swing Vote (PG-13)
 Sunday - 4 p.m. Kung Fu Panda (PG)
 7 p.m. Swing Vote (PG-13)
 Monday - Closed
 Tuesday - Closed
 Wednesday - 7 p.m. Swing Vote (PG-13)

New DSN numbers

Your USAG Schweinfurt office DSN numbers have changed. New numbers will be 354-XXXX as listed below for each of the following directorates:

Garrison Commander	1300
Garrison XO	1310
Garrison CSM	1320
Garrison Department of Public Works	1360
Garrison Chaplain	1370
Garrison Director of Emergency services	1380
Garrison DPTMS	1330
Garrison Public Affairs	1400
Garrison DOL	1340
Garrison HHC	1450
Garrison DHR	1350
Garrison CPAC	1430
Garrison Information Management	1440

SCHOOL

pursuit.”

With the change from elementary to middle school comes a change in scheduling as well. SMS operates on what is known as “block scheduling,” with students attending half of their classes per day on alternating days, referred to as “A” and “B” days.

Students will be provided with a planner, which they are expected to carry at all times and use to keep track of their lessons and daily schedules. The planner is also used as a hall pass. Sixth grade teachers help new students become accustomed to using them, Conrad said.

“But it is vitally important that you as a parent use the planner as a guide as well,” he added, noting that every student should have some

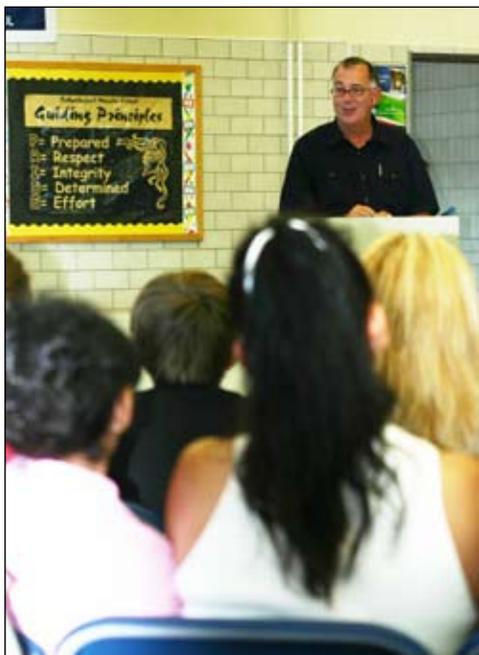
sort of homework every day.

Soon, parents will be able to track student progress, grades, and missed assignments via an online system known as GradeSpeed, Carpenter said. Once in place, parents can sign up to use the system.

“We’re excited to start the new school year and see the new student population. We may have smaller classes this year, but that’s a wonderful experience, both for the teacher and the students,” Sanborn said.

Advisory, or homeroom, class schedules will be posted on the main entry doors to the school this weekend. Teachers for each advisory class will lead new students into the school and distribute class

schedules, locker assignments, and handle general first-day orientation. Regular classes begin Tuesday.



Schweinfurt Middle School counselor, Fred Conrad, explained at orientation yesterday what students can expect on their first day of school.

GREETINGS

commercial with servicemembers saying ‘hello’ to their families, and I thought, ‘wow, it would be nice if I could do that too’ – now, it’s my chance.”

Chances of such greetings airing are excellent, Grogan said, explaining, “We are the only ones who (tape holiday greetings from military members) in the United States ... Your chances of getting on the air are almost 99 percent.”

The process is “super easy” according to Kaiserslautern High School teachers Steve and Marcy Bond, who taped greetings with their four young children last year.

“So easy – we will do it every year now,” Marcy said.



Kris Grogan, Army and Air Force Hometown News Service broadcast chief, checks video and audio levels while taping a family during a 2007 holiday greetings stop. A greetings team is visiting Schweinfurt Sept. 8.