



Schweinfurt Dispatch

Serving the Military Community of Schweinfurt

March 27, 2008



And the beat goes on with SKIES Unlimited

Story and photo by
Mark Heeter

The instrument is called a gathering drum, for a reason that becomes clear to the observer almost immediately as the children swarm together in a tight circle and begin pounding away at the first note.

"It's kids working on rhythms and movements. It's a lot of fun," said Tom Williams, referring to the Music Together workshop currently underway with the USAG Schweinfurt Schools of Knowledge, Inspiration, Education and Skills

(SKIES) Unlimited.

"Music Together is an internationally recognized early childhood program for babies, toddlers, preschoolers, kindergartners, and the adults who love them," according to the program website at www.musictogether.com.

The SKIES Unlimited version of the program awaits the granting of a contract for continuation, but the current workshop had ten children and their moms singing, clapping, and banging out tunes at the Abrams Entertainment Center March 19.

"Research shows that, when young children enter into a program like this, they prepare themselves for music classes later on," said Peter Potter, a SKIES Unlimited program assistant and guitar teacher.

"It gives them different sounds and triggers in children different tones," Potter said, referring especially to the different types of drums used in the



program.

For information about this and other programs offered by SKIES Unlimited, call Williams at 354-6460 or 09721-96-6460.



I'm Dreaming of a white Easter?

A combination of the early holiday and late winter weather meant that, in addition to colored eggs and chocolate candies, many children in the area awoke to snow on the ground. Kristen Gearhart, 10, took the opportunity to sculpt a snow bunny Easter surprise for her father, Sgt. John Gearhart, a Soldier in the Schweinfurt Warrior Transition Unit. (Photo by Sgt. John Gearhart)

Take safely to the streets and follow rules of the road with bikes

By Mark Heeter

Although the ground around Schweinfurt has been covered with snow the past few days, spring is here. For many people, that means take out the bicycle, dust it off, and hit the road. But before saddling up, remember rules and safety tips, said Eddi Sauer, USAG Schweinfurt safety officer.

"On the streets, the same rules apply as those for autos. You have to drive on the right side. You can never go against the traffic," Sauer said, emphasizing that, riders must use the bicycle path on the correct side of the street.

"You have exactly as much right-of-way as any car. If you come to an intersection and have a red light, you have to stop," Sauer said.

Before getting to that bike path or stop light, though, cyclists should perform general maintenance and safety checks on their bicycles, Sauer said.

This begins with maintenance and proper

greasing of the chain, which cuts down on resistance and makes it easier to pedal, Sauer said.

"And if they can't check out their bike, they can take it to a bike shop. There are many bike shops in Schweinfurt and the bike will be well checked over," he said.

German traffic laws – this applies to bicycles – dictate that riders must have front and rear lights, front and rear reflectors, and reflectors on the pedals and spokes, Sauer said.

"Have bright clothing if you are riding your bike at night," he said.

Finally, and most importantly, Sauer recommends investing in a good helmet, an accessory the Department of Defense requires.

"You don't even notice it's on. It's important if you fall on your head, that it fits well and doesn't slide on your head," he said, adding that the investment will be well worth the price paid for good headgear.



CLOCKS SPRING AHEAD SUNDAY AT 2 A.M.



News Briefs

Lunch talk for women

The Equal Employment Office (EEO) is sponsoring a Women's History Month class at Rohr's diner tomorrow from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. An array of skills will be taught for the modern day woman. Buy or bring your own lunch. For more information, contact Bonnie Cornelison at 350-6813 or 0931-8806813.

Learn German language

Army Community Service (ACS) offers beginners German courses in both Wuerzburg and Schweinfurt. At Leighton Barracks, class will be held at ACS starting Monday from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. every Monday and Wednesday. In Schweinfurt, class will be held at Ledward's Yellow Ribbon Room every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday starting April 4 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. For more information, call Schweinfurt's ACS at 354-6933 or Wuerzburg's at 350-6587.

Baseball clinic offered

Child and Youth Services sports and fitness is offering a baseball officials clinic at the Ledward gym, building 241, April 3-5 from 6 to 9 p.m. This clinic will give participants a chance to learn the rules of the game, umpire mechanics and signals, and practical application. If interested, call 354-6822.

Free martial arts for teens

Teens are invited to participate in free martial arts classes at the Ledward youth center, building 241, every Wednesday in April from 5-6 p.m. Teens must be registered with Child Youth Services. For more information, contact Tom Williams at 354-6460 or 09721-96-6460.

Carnival opens

Schweinfurt's Vogelschuss carnival in the Volksfestplatz, located across the street from Askren Manor, begins Friday at 6 p.m. and runs through April 6. Enjoy a German carnival with rides, food, and games.

Hula dance

Army Community Service gives hula lessons for children ages 3-12 at the Ledward gym April 3 from 4 to 5 p.m. Improve communication with your child through hula dance. For more information, call 354-6933 or 09721-96-6933.

Terrible to terrific two's

Army Community Service (ACS) is offering a child development course at Leighton's ACS Wednesday from 10 to 11:30 a.m. and at Ledward's ACS April 3 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Learn about positive discipline and normal behavior for children. For more information, call 354-6933 or 09721-96-6933.

Support group meets

Army Community Service (ACS) is holding a support group for families and individuals who live with ADD & ADHD at Ledward's ACS Monday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Learn about available resources and build a support network of friends. Childcare is available. For more information, call 354-6933.

Young artist lessons

Army Community Service is holding an art class at Leighton's Child Development Center Tuesday from 10 to 11 a.m. and at Ledward's Commons from 3 to 4 p.m. This class will give young artists a chance to learn hands-on drawing. For more information, call 354-6933.

Credit union closure

Leighton's Andrews Federal Credit Union will host an informational session Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This session will give information about closing details and answer relocation and financial questions. Refreshments and giveaways are available. For more information, call 350-6229 or 0931-705-860.

Gate hours change

Starting Tuesday, the hours for Geldersheim gate onto Conn will change to 5:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Additionally, the Abrams Center compound gate will be closed on weekends.

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.



- 3-5 APR** --“Madame Butterfly” opera performance in Italian, Schweinfurter Theater, Rossbrunnstr. 1, 7:30 p.m. each day. Call 09721-510 or 09721-51475 for tickets.
- 4 APR** --Beginners Conversational German, Ledward ACS, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Call 354-6933.
- 7 APR** --Bike and skateboard tips and safety, Kessler skate park, 4 to 5 p.m.
- 7-11 APR** --Schweinfurt Newcomers Awareness Program for Spouses, 9 a.m. daily. Call 354-6933.
- 8 APR** --Wild park children’s trip, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call Leighton ACS 350-7103.
- 9 APR** --Sexual assault risk reduction seminar, Ledward Theater, 10 a.m. Call ACS at 354-6933.
--Federal resume training, Leighton ACS, 2 to 3:30 p.m. Call Leighton ACS at 350-7103.
- 10-11 APR** --American Red Cross Babysitting Course with Infant & Child CPR, Red Cross conference room building 206, Ledward Barracks, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., \$45. Call 354-1760.
--Birth-N-Babies part I & II, Ledward ACS. Pt. I: 1 to 4 p.m., pt. II: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. 354-6933.
- 11 APR** --Sign-ups begin for May 10 CYS Super Saturday respite care. Call 354-6517.
--Kinder Music session, Leighton CDC, 10 to 11 a.m. Call ACS to sign up at 350-7103.
- 12 APR** --Retiree Appreciation Day, building 40, Conn Barracks, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.
--Dodgeball Tournament, Finney fitness center, 10:30 a.m. Open to all I.D. card holders over 18.
- 14 APR** --Auditions for April 19 “Robin Hood” children’s play, Askren Manor SAS. Call 354-6974.
--Spring enhancement deadline for DPW supply requests. Call (SHIP) 354-6853 or 350-7212.
- 15 APR** --No-risk investing financial class, Ledward ACS, 9 a.m. Call for more information, 354-6933.
--Anger management series part 1 of 3, every Tuesday, Ledward ACS, 3-5 p.m. Call 354-6933.
--Love & Logic series part 1 of 4, Askren Manor SAS, held April 15, 18, 22, 29. Call 354-6933.
- 17 APR** --National Prayer Breakfast, Conn Club, 7 a.m.
--Federal resume training, Ledward ACS, 2 to 3:30 p.m. Call 354-6933.
- 18-20 APR** --Fishing license class, outdoor recreation, call for more information 353-8080.
- 19-20 APR** --B.O.S.S. Texas Hold ‘Em tournament, Finney Rec Center, 2 p.m. For more info., call 353-8476.
- 23 APR** --Take Back the Night Walk, Askren Manor Commissary, 6 p.m. For more info., call 354-6933.
- 24 APR** --Ledward Library book club meets to discuss “Three Cups of Tea,” 5:15 p.m. Call 354-1740.
--“It’s Bunco Time,” Finney Sports & Leisure Center, 6 p.m. Open to all I.D. card holders over 18. Play for fabulous prizes. Call 353-8476 to sign up.
- 25-27 APR** --USO trip to Amsterdam/Keukenhof flower parade, 89 euro per person. Call 354-6711.
- 26 APR** --Community Family Festival, noon to 4 p.m., Askren Manor.
- 28 APR** --Spring community enhancement begins. Get supplies at DPW before April 14.
- 1 MAY** --Wee Can Do It success series: hula dancing, Leighton CDC, 4 to 5 p.m.
- 9 MAY** --Youth & Teens Can Do It, too success series: “Keeping in touch,” Leighton teen center & Ledward youth center, 4 to 5 p.m. Call 354-6933 or 350-7103.

Community 6 week outlook calendar



Going after the coveted EIB

Story and photos
by Kimberly Gearhart

The Expert Infantry Badge, (EIB), has been awarded to infantrymen and Special Forces Soldiers for nearly 65 years. In Schweinfurt, 408 officers and enlisted men tested their mettle in the EIB test this week on Conn Barracks.

“The EIB is a rite of passage for the infantry Soldier,” said Sgt. 1st Class Alfred D’Adda, the event’s non-commissioned officer in charge (NCOIC). The EIB has identified the most highly-skilled infantryman in

the Army since 1943.

But times have changed. Due to the high deployment rates and lack of downtime for testing, more Soldiers have the Combat Infantry Badge, or CIB, rather than their EIB.

“The EIB is a mark of excellence,” said Maj. John Cross executive officer for 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry. Soldiers who have been to war get a chance to polish their skills, and those who have not get a chance to prove they have what it takes when the time comes to go, Cross added.

EIB, see page 5



EIB candidates must demonstrate excellence in a number of tasks. Candidate (clockwise from top left) Cpl. George Jones of 1-2 IN studies a map at the call-for-fire map reading station; 1st Lt. Jason Davis, 2-28 IN, searches EPW ‘detainee’ Pvt. Steven Colnam of 1-2 IN; Spc. Sean Evannoff, of 3rd Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment works at a machine gun emplacement; and Staff Sgt. Gonzalo Tobon-Brito, also of 3-66 AR, takes cover behind a barrier in the revamped urban move under fire lane of the EIB course in Schweinfurt.



Swimming classes offered for infants

By Sandra Wilson

Who wants to swim when it's snowing outside? School of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration, and Skills (SKIES) does and they are inviting parents and their babies to join the new eight-session Baby and Me Swim Class starting next Wednesday at 11 a.m.

Only 15 minutes from Schweinfurt, Schonungen houses the indoor, heated pool used for the classes. Andreas Gentner, a certified water safety instructor with CPR and first aid training, conducts the once-a-week class in English.

"This is an opportunity for mothers or fathers to have interaction with their young ones," said Tom Williams, SKIES director.

Especially with Soldiers returning from downrange, this is a chance to reintegrate and spend time with the newest member of your family. The parents and the babies love the exercise in the water and the quality time together, said Williams about one of the

classes he watched at the pool.

"Water fascinates children. That's their natural element. Think of it as therapy for the (parent) and child,"

The eight sessions run from Wednesday to May 21 for a total of \$89. The class is designed for children ages 6 months to one year old, accompanied by their parent.

"This is what I consider cheap compared to what is offered (elsewhere)," said Williams, quoting prices above \$150 in the States for similar classes.

In the class, parents learn fun games to play with their child in the water and also how to teach their baby to float on his or her back.

While in the water, it's important, "to have the proper instruction to make that child feel comfortable," Williams said.

It's not too late to sign up. Call SKIES at 354-6460 or 09721-96-6460 or email Tom.Williams@eur.army.mil.

"Our aim (is) to make sure we offer quality programs," Williams said.



EIB

Although a long-standing badge, the EIB is flexible, and the course Schweinfurt Soldiers face is more modern, urbanized, and applicable to the current atmosphere of war.

"We're trying to focus on the war we're in now, the war on terror," D'Adda said.

To that end, changes were made, with approval from infantry headquarters in Fort Benning, to swap out certain parts of the EIB course. For example, rather than low crawls and dashes, Soldiers moving under fire must clear barriers and maneuver through a simulated urban environment.

EIB candidates must also search an enemy prisoner of war, or EPW. This testing module replaced a self-camouflage lane.

"It's been quite an experience. Some of the changes they've made make it more realistic," said 1st Lt. Jason Davis after searching an EPW and discovering a concealed weapon. "You can do this training and then apply it directly."

Candidates for the EIB must complete a 12-mile tactical road march in under

three hours, qualify on their weapons, pass day and night land navigation tests, and score a 75 percent or better on the Army Physical Fitness Test in order to qualify for the EIB. To pass, candidates must successfully negotiate 33 testing stations. Failing any station on a second attempt, or any three stations on a first try eliminates the candidate.

Test stations are manned by Soldiers from all over the garrison, including non-infantry units. Trainers and candidates alike put in long hours and late nights training.

"We're here for them," said Staff Sgt. Anthony Flores, of 1st Battalion 77th Field Artillery who was the station NCOIC for the call-for-fire station, a problem station during much of the EIB training.

"They're thinking too hard and getting nervous about it. It just takes some time



Cpl. Ryan Knudsen, of 2-28 IN, practices employing a claymore mine, one of 33 tasks assessed during training for the EIB competition on Conn Barracks.

and focus," said station grader Sgt. Marc Dubois.

"I'm starting to get it. It's just the small things that are hard, but we're going to work on this together, and we're going to get it," said Cpl. George Jones of 1-2 IN who was leading a squad through Flores' station.