



Schweinfurt Dispatch

Serving the Military Community of Schweinfurt

Oct. 2, 2008



Cav leaves legacy, 'fragile stability'

By Mark Heeter

Third in a three-part series.

Scrolling through briefing slides in his headquarters conference room Sept. 20, Lt. Col. Christopher Kolenda, then-commander of the 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment, contrasted the "green" areas on a pair of



Distributing humanitarian aid, school supplies, and hope, the Airborne Cav worked to build trust with the populace and give them the tools needed to build a better future for their children. (Courtesy photo)

Afghanistan maps, one from April 2007, the other April 2008.

The vastly greener April map illustrated the locals' sentiment and cooperation flowing from the side of the insurgents toward the side of the government and the Americans by July, when the squadron completed its 15-month deployment.

"I call it a fragile stability ... the level of violence has dropped precipitously ... people are able to go about the business," Kolenda said.

Just as compelling as the stark improvement was Kolenda's explanation of another slide, a photograph which captured an Afghan soldier donating a soccer ball to a young boy.

"We want this kid to look at this guy and say, 'That's what I want to be when I grow up,'" Kolenda said.

Children, youthful hope, and education were among the cornerstones of the squadron's effort to transform its corner of Nuristan and Kunar provinces.

"These children, these 8- to 15-year-olds, are going to grow up to be illiterate fighters or educated patriots, and I would

much rather see them grow up to be educated patriots," he said, explaining the immeasurable value of school partnerships and improving literacy among Afghan youth.

"We had people all over Schweinfurt, Germany, in the states, giving school supplies, and books to us, so we could support education in Afghanistan," he said. The unit gave away about 10,000 books to teach the children how to read and write, he said.

Their efforts were not lost on older students, either, in the constant effort to put jobs into young men's hands. About six months after one of the unit's noncommissioned officers stumbled onto an abandoned construction site, it was the site of a newly constructed trade school that will soon graduate 1,250 students, equipped for life with a marketable trade.

"It's more developmental dollars that we brought in 15 months into that area than anybody has brought into that area in the history of the planet," Kolenda said.

"The real asymmetric weapon became **LEGACY, see page 5**

Askren Manor streets to get \$2 million facelift

By Kimberly Gearhart

Two million dollars.

That's the price tag for an ambitious project to upgrade the streets, parking areas, landscaping, and private refuse containers for four streets in Askren Manor set to begin Oct. 27.

"We have four roads funded where construction will begin: Pine, Spruce, Birch, and Jackson," said Falk Staeublin, engineering chief for the directorate of public works in Schweinfurt.

The upgrades are intended to raise the quality of life of those

living in Army housing areas in Schweinfurt, said Helga Deherrera, acting housing chief. Enclosed, private garbage cans; improved, aesthetically pleasing walkways; better lighting; and landscaping changes are all part of the overarching plan.

According to Manfred Brunner, furnishings branch chief, the upgrades are in line with the Army Family Housing Master Plan, as proposed in 2003.

"The plan is a goal, and implementation depends on our budget," Brunner said. Staeublin noted that while the housing areas are not out of



Planned improvements include private trash bins, hand-laid walkways similar to those on Ledward Barracks, and general landscaping changes, not unlike this Bamberg neighborhood. (Courtesy photo)

compliance with regulations, the upgrades will improve living conditions as intended by the housing plan and the Army Family Covenant.

The covenant promises improvements to Soldier and family housing as a method of ensuring Soldiers and their

FACELIFT, see page 6



SPRECHEN SIE FUN?

Events and activities in the local communities

Tomorrow:

Reunification Day, German holiday celebrating the reunification of East and West Germany. Stores and concessionaires will be closed.

Kites Fest at the Aero Club Schweinfurt, Schwebheimer Landstrasse. Starting at 10 a.m. all types of kites can be flown as long as the string is not longer than 100 meters. Various types of kites will be for sale at the airfield as well as food and beverages.



Wine fest (new red wine) at Weingut Gessner, located in Bergrheinfeld-Garstadt, Kirchsteig 2.

Wine and Bremser fest (new red wine) in Oberschwarzach/ Handtal, Forellenhof at the Weingut Baumann. Festival will run through Sunday.

Tomorrow:

Thanksgiving and traditional parish fest in Grafenheinfeld begins. Runs through Monday. Parades and harvest celebrations.



Saturday:

Thanksgiving concert

by music school Hambach at the baroque chapel in Dittelbrunn-Pfändhausen at 7:30 p.m.



Johann-Strauss Gala, 7:30 p.m., at Max-Littmann-Saal in Bad Kissingen.

Sunday:

Traditional Thanksgiving festival and parade in Gochsheim, Am Plan beginning at 1 p.m.



Thanksgiving festival in Schwebheim, Am Plan.

Village Market at the Dorfplatz in Michelau.



Wine fest at Music Hall Gebstättel in Rothenburg beginning at 10:30 a.m.

Flea Market at Schranrenscheune in Rothenburg from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Benefits the local Tierheim.

Schweinfurt Dispatch



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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.



News Briefs

Instructors needed

Ledward Chapel Sunday school begins Oct. 19 and committed teachers are needed for preschool through adult classes. Training and curriculum is provided. There are openings for lead teachers and assistants. Catholic Catechism classes are held from 9:30 to 10:40 a.m. and Protestant classes follow from 10:45 to 11:45 a.m. Contact the chapel at 354-1370 or 09721-96-1370.

SMS flea market

Schweinfurt Middle School will host a flea market Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the middle school gym. There will be food available for purchase, and tables are still available for sellers. Call 09721-804-301 for more information.

Firefighter demo

Come to the Ledward Library for a firefighter demonstration Wednesday starting at 2 p.m. October is Fire Prevention Month and the community is encouraged to attend, learn fire safety, and see what firefighters do in emergencies.

Newcomers orientation

Are you new to the Schweinfurt community? If so, then the five-day Schweinfurt Newcomers Awareness Program beginning Monday and going through Oct. 10 is the fit for you. Free childcare is available the entire week. Get acquainted with the military community as well as the German town of Schweinfurt. For information, call 354-6933.

Learn German

Want to learn how to speak German? Sign up for Army Community Service's free beginning German language class starting Monday through Oct. 31. Class is held Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at Ledward's Yellow Ribbon Room and runs from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. For more information, or to sign up, call 354-6933.

Birth and babies

Do you have a baby on the way and want to be prepared with what to expect? Come to Army Community Service's two-part series Birth-n-Babies at Ledward ACS on Oct. 9 from 1 to 4 p.m. and Oct. 10 from 9 a.m. to noon. For more information, or to sign up, call 354-6933.

IACS closed

The Installation Access Control System office, located in the Military Police station, will be closed Oct. 9. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Fall fest and showcase

Come have fun and become informed at the Schweinfurt fall fest and community showcase on Kessler Field Friday from 2 to 10 p.m. The community showcase, from 2 to 6 p.m., will display tables and representatives from many agencies that can provide resources to make your stay in Schweinfurt more enjoyable. Entertainment begins at 6 p.m. with the Washington Redskins' cheerleaders and a concert by Kojak. The Operation Rising Star winner will also perform.

Grand re-opening

The Ledward Library will hold a grand re-opening renovation celebration Tuesday beginning at noon. New furniture is just the beginning! Come see what the newly-updated library has to offer, and maybe check out a good book. For more information, stop by the Ledward Library or call 354-1740.

Schweinfurt



Tonight-	7 p.m.	Dark Knight (PG-13)
Tomorrow-	7 p.m.	Mamma Mia (PG-13)
Saturday-	4 p.m.	The Mummy (PG-13)
	7 p.m.	The X-Files (PG-13)
Sunday-	4 p.m.	The Mummy (PG-13)
	7 p.m.	The X-Files (PG-13)
Monday-	closed	
Tuesday-	closed	
Wednesday-	7 p.m.	The X-Files (PG-13)

Schweinfurt three-day weather forecast

A.M.		P.M.	
	Friday Partly cloudy Lows 5 C / 42 F		Friday Partly cloudy Highs 10 C / 50 F
	Saturday Cloudy Rain Lows 5 C / 41 F		Saturday Mostly cloudy Rainshowers Highs 9 C / 48 F
	Sunday Partly cloudy Lows 4 C / 39 F		Sunday Cloudy Rain Highs 8 C / 46 F

Source: 21st Operational Weather Squadron



- 10 OCT --Teacher work day. No school at SES, SMS, Bamberg High.
- 13 OCT --Columbus Day, U.S. federal holiday.
--Trivia contest about the discovery of the New World, Ledward Library. Call 354-1740.
- 14 OCT --Bulk trash pick-up at Askren Manor, Yorktown Village, and government-leased housing.
--FRG crash course for leaders, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Yellow Ribbon Room.
- 15 OCT --Building and area coordinator meeting, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., Ledward Theater.
- 16 OCT --“This One’s For You” Boss event, Finney Fitness Center, 1 to 5 p.m. Music, food, games.
- 16-18 OCT --Community theater presents “The Game” by Louise Bryant, Abrams Center, 7 p.m.
- 17 OCT --Parents’ Night Out, childcare 6:30 to 11:30 p.m. Sign-ups open now. Call 354-6414.
- 18 OCT --BOSS go cart racing, victory party, 99 euro. Call 353-8476.
--Cancer awareness fun walk/run, 5 kilometers, begins at Kessler gym, 9 a.m. Call 354-6735.
--Community flea market, Schweinfurt Elementary, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tables open for those wishing to sell, e-mail lisaebanks@yahoo.com for more information.
- 21 OCT --Pool tournament at Finney Recreation Center. Starts at 6 p.m. Play for prizes.
- 22 OCT --Pastries for Parents, Schweinfurt Elementary, 7:30 a.m. Breakfast with child in cafeteria.
--Sign-ups begin for Super Saturday child care on Nov. 22, 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Call 354-6517.
--Beginner’s spinning classes, Kessler Fitness Center, 6 to 6:45 p.m.
- 23 OCT --Commissary closed for an organizational/training day, reopens 10 a.m. the following day.
--Army Community Service Lunch Bunch meeting, meet at ACS, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. 354-6933.
- 23-31 OCT --Red Ribbon Week observance “Step it up: A call to action!”
- 24 OCT --Unit-level flag football championship game, Gold Field on Conn Barracks, 6 p.m.
- 25 OCT --BOSS adults-only trip to Frankenstein Castle. Cost is 24 euro, departs at 4:30 p.m., 353-8476.
- 26 OCT --End of daylight saving, turn clocks back one hour at 2 a.m.
--Family friendly trip to Frankenstein Castle, departs 12:30 p.m. Cost 24 and 12 euro, 353-8476.
- 27 OCT --ADD and ADHD support group, ACS, 10 a.m. to noon. Call 354-6933.
- 28 OCT --Bulk trash pick-up at Askren Manor, Yorktown Village, and government-leased housing.
- 30 OCT --Ledward Library adult book club, 5:15 p.m. Coffee, tea, and treats served. Call 354-1740.
--FRG roundtable meeting, 6 to 8 p.m., Ledward Yellow Ribbon Room. Call 354-6933.
- 31 OCT --No school for students, teacher workday.
--Harvest Festival open to the community, Ledward gym from 6 to 8:30 p.m.
--Halloween night at Ledward Library, 5 to 10 p.m. Watch scary movies and play eerie games.
- 8 NOV --BOSS trip to Mystery Castle and Knight’s dinner in K-town, 120 euro. Call 353-8476.
- 11 NOV --Deadline to register for unit level basketball. Call Finney Fitness Center 353-8234.
--Veteran’s Day, U.S. federal holiday.

Community 6 week outlook calendar



Make money from home as an FCC provider

By Sandra Wilson

Have you wanted to find a way to earn money at the same time as staying home? Child and Youth School (CYS) Services offers that opportunity by giving Family Child Care (FCC) provider training next week. Stay-at-home parents or those seeking at-home employment can attend and start the process to become a provider in their own home.

FCC providers can offer child care to up to six children from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. in their home and are paid a standard CYS rate. Providers may also claim reimbursement for other expenses, such as food.

"We really don't have many

homes at the moment. We've got a big need for child care," said Brian Eve, FCC trainer, acting director, explaining the need for more providers.

To be eligible for the training, those interested must live in government quarters on post or in government-leased housing. The next step is to pick up an application at CYS central registration in the Commons.

"There's quite a bit that they have to do before we can certify them," Eve said, explaining that applicants go through extensive background checks; submit personal references; attend CPR, first aid, and fire safety training; and allow inspections of their home. Once the requirements are finished

successfully, a provisional certification is issued under which child care can begin.

Despite the rigorous application process, FCC provider training is free of charge, and the ending certificate is nationally recognized.

"In the states, they would have to pay out of their own pocket" for training, Eve said.

The training received to become an FCC provider is "considered the same" that an employee at the CDC would receive, said Pam Rio, CYS outreach services director.

"We have a huge waiting list" of children needing care, Eve said.

"(Home providers) will be really busy with kids all



Eve

the time. It's just a matter of checking off all the little boxes on our list of stuff that needs to be done" in order to get a home up and running, he said.

The next block training begins Monday. Applications are available at CYS central registration in the Commons on Ledward Barracks. An orientation program is offered every Friday. For questions, please call CYS at 354-6517.

LEGACY

development," he said, referring to more than \$12 million that poured into the Task Force Saber area of responsibility and was spread among more than 90 projects, from school construction and road improvements to water and irrigation systems.

The jobs – overwhelmingly carried out by Afghans – provided young Afghans an alternative to picking up weapons and an incentive to become involved in self-governance, according to Kolenda.



Task Force Saber poured \$12 million into improvement projects, but the majority of the work was carried out by Afghans. Providing income not based on fighting became a key to winning the trust of locals for the Airborne Cav. (Courtesy photo)

"We have more than 40 new villages join the governing and developing process. That's 40 villages that hadn't participated at all," before the Americans arrived in spring 2007.

"What we found was that when the village elders were routinely involved, their young men were not fighting," he said.

After explaining so many of the projects and partnerships that he and his Soldiers were able to build and cultivate, Kolenda reflected for a moment on what his troopers had learned from their deployment to what he had called "one of the most highly contested areas in the country."

"They spent the majority of their time building allies and building bridges to people, and over the course of many, many conversations, and many cups of tea, and many positive interactions in the villages, you build that trust. At that same point the local elders come to the point that they realize these guys are here to help," he said,

despite the long and bitter history of foreign forces in Afghanistan.

"Their whole history has been bad experience with foreigners. So one of the first things is, we really just want to make a good impression and reach out to people and build allies and bridges," Kolenda said.

Finally, marking the end of the deployment, block leave, recovery period, and only days prior to relinquishing his command, Kolenda turned his attention to the squadron's other, enduring, partnerships.

"We just can't thank the people of Schweinfurt, our families, the U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt for everything they have done to support all of us in Afghanistan and, most importantly, all our families back home," Kolenda said.

"Everybody from the garrison to the local communities to the partnership units really wrapped their arms around our families and our Soldiers back here on the home front and made the deployment as good an experience as it could be for our folks here. And we really appreciate it," he said.

And with that, another chapter in the storied history of the U.S. Army cavalry is closed.



Get full replacement value for damaged goods

By Sandra Wilson

Upon arriving to your new duty station, it can be exciting when you are finally reunited with your household goods. But finding belongings in more pieces than when they were packed or discovering that something is missing can be a rather upsetting experience.

The military knows the troubles caused by frequent moves and long ago established a claims program to reimburse

costs for repairs or replacement. In addition to the traditional claims filing process with the Army, last fall a new option was instituted for overseas shipments, and by the spring of this year, moves within Europe were also eligible.

The new option has been added to greatly benefit Soldiers and their families, said Schweinfurt claims examiner Gerti Mathis, so that they don't lose out with each move of their household goods.

"They have an option of either filing a claim with the Army, like they used to, or directly with the carrier," said Regine Stinson, Schweinfurt claims examiner.

With the carrier, claimants must file their paperwork within nine months of the date of delivery. Army claims are still allowed to be filed within a two-year time frame. The more appealing aspect of filing with the carrier comes in the fact that their settlement offers can end up returning more money.

"You are still only entitled to the present replacement value" regardless of the claim method used, said Mathis, explaining that a 3-year-old computer will not be valued at its original purchase price because that model no longer sells for that much in stores. But because of regulations, Army claims make an additional deduction for depreciation.

"Financially, the claimants are better off (filing) with the carrier. The carrier is supposed to fully reimburse you" for destroyed or missing items, Mathis said. If the item is

repairable, the carrier is only responsible for reimbursing the cost of repairs.

As far as the turn-around time for this new claims process, once a claim is filed with the carrier, Stinson says the settlement offer seems to come without delays. If the claimant is not happy with the carrier's offer, they can decline and opt to file with the Army instead.

"We don't have a lot of complaints, so we're assuming that the system is working," she said about claims with the carriers. She went on to add that if there is a language barrier, or any other complication, between the claimant and the carrier, the Schweinfurt claims office is happy to help.

But regardless of which avenue of filing the claimant wants to take, one thing remains the same: the DD form 1840 declaring damaged or missing goods must be completed and returned to the Schweinfurt claims office within 70 calendar days. From there, the process may begin and the Schweinfurt claims office can offer advice on the route to take.



Damaged or missing items are a hazard in any move. Filing claims through the carrier, rather than through Army channels, can result in receiving full replacement value. (Photo by Kimberly Gearhart)

FACELIFT

families with a "Quality of Life that is commensurate with their service." By sinking millions into family housing areas, the Schweinfurt community is following through on that promise.

"There will be inconveniences, as there always are with construction," said Deherrera, adding that she believes families will find the end result worth the trouble.

Although parking areas will have to be relocated as the street-by-street plan is phased in, walkways to each stairwell will remain easily accessible.

"And if someone has to move, we will, of course, let the moving truck come in, but for safety reasons, we cannot

allow (privately owned vehicles) into the construction area," Staeublin said.

The first street scheduled to undergo construction is Pine Street, and residents there should begin to see construction of a provisional parking area soon. As each phase nears, affected residents will be notified by mail.

"They will each receive a letter advising of when construction will begin as well as giving residents a point of contact in case they have questions about the changes," Brunner said.

Future construction is funded—to the tune of another three million dollars—for more areas in Askren Manor, said Staeublin, but for now, those upgrades are in the beginning stages of planning.





173rd ABCT honors its Soldiers, families across Europe

Story by Sgt. Nathan Bowen
173rd ABCT Public Affairs

VICENZA, Italy – They’re all back, they’ve all had a chance to unwind a little, and now the soldiers of the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team are taking time to honor each other, their families, and their fallen.

In ceremonies conducted in Vicenza, Bamberg, and Schweinfurt soldiers and families came together to look back on the last year and a half and what it has meant to them. There were many sacrifices made, both in combat and on the home front, lives changed, and bonds formed.

The first ceremonies were held at Caserma Ederle in Vicenza, Italy. On Sept. 16, the brigade colors were officially uncased, signifying the brigade’s return home. During the ceremony Brigade Commander Col. Charles Preysler remembered the fallen.

“Those who fell fighting for and beside us made this better world possible. To our brothers; we have known them, we love

them, and we will remember them until it is our time to join them again,” said Preysler.

The next ceremony was the Freedom Team Salute, which recognizes the families of the Sky Soldiers who served downrange, who made everyday sacrifices while their Soldiers were away.

These Freedom Team Salutes marked the first time the spouses of an entire brigade were nominated, according to Amanda Grigsby, 173rd ABCT Family Readiness Support Assistant.

Usually, individuals are singly nominated for the packet, which includes a certificate of recognition and a letter of appreciation signed by the Secretary and Chief of Staff of the Army.

After the formal ceremonies, a third day was set aside for a fun and friendship at Soldier and Family Appreciation Days.

Ultimately, the ceremonies helped to put some positive closure on what is always a difficult time for all who are involved: the Sky Soldiers of the 173rd Airborne Brigade, their families, and communities.



Maj. Darren Fitzgerald, 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment executive officer, presents his wife, Hannah, with a Freedom Team Salute packet Sept. 23. (Photo by Mark Heeter)

ACS class series offers real-life relationship skills

By Sandra Wilson

Shopping, whether at the commissary, a department store, or even online, can cause strain in any relationship. These are the times when couples discover their partners’ spending habits.

As part of domestic violence awareness month, Schweinfurt’s Army Community Service (ACS) has designed a series of hands-on classes for couples to work out differences and manage various aspects life together. Through these classes, ACS hopes to emphasize the importance of communicating about parenting, money, and time spent together.

“We’re not just focused on those folks who are married— it could be anyone sharing a committed relationship,” said Billy May, family advocacy program specialist.

Classes begin with addressing finances on Tuesday from 2-3 p.m. at the education center. Couples will be taught about saving, budgeting, and preparing for the future. The two-part class continues Oct. 20 from 2-4 p.m. on Askren Manor when the couples will compete in a commissary shopping trip.

“Rather than saying, ‘This is how you should talk to your spouse,’ we’re going through the motions and have examples, and they may be able to learn from each other how to work it out,” said Twanna Ivey, installation victim advocate and sexual assault response coordinator.

Couples will be given an imaginary budget to plan a week’s

worth of meals based on their family size. From that list, they must shop together for each of the ingredients. The competition is weighed on how the couple communicates, the time in which they complete their task, and how well they stay within their “budget.”

“If you only have \$150 for groceries for the week, you can’t be going out getting steak and crab legs ... when you have four kids to take care of,” Ivey said, explaining how the commissary activity is designed to help promote understanding within the couple.

“Maybe one spouse doesn’t understand how hectic it is to go and shop with three or four kids with you (as well as) only having a few dollars to shop,” Ivey said.

Couples are also given the opportunity to compete Oct. 15 at the Auto Skills Center on Conn Barracks with the duty of changing a tire. Women may want to sit back and watch during a task like this, but this time the couples must learn to figure it out together.

“We have to put those practical skills back into play,” May said, explaining how learning together or teaching one another can offer valuable communication skills in a relationship.

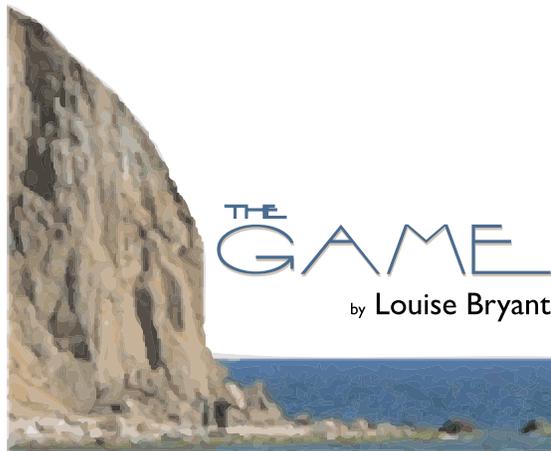
To wrap up the “boot camp for couples” series, ACS offers a class on building a family crest Oct. 28 from 2-4 p.m., which will serve as a symbol of the family unit.

“There are people out there looking for various resources and help and that’s what we’re here for,” May said.

Couples may sign up for one or all of the classes offered in October. For more information, call ACS at 354-6933.



COMMUNITY THEATRE



Directed by Derek Malaney

2008 IMCOM-Europe Festival of One Act Plays Entry

October 16-18 at 7 p.m. in the Abrams Center
Tickets: 354-6225 / 09721 96 6225
garland.travis@eur.army.mil



SKIRUN/WALK
BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

OCTOBER 18 9 A.M.

Kessler Fitness Center
Yorktown Village
Schweinfurt

Sign up in advance at your local fitness center or at Kessler the day of the event. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. For information, call 09721-966735 or DSN 354-6735.



LIBRARY

Internet Music Periodicals Books Movies

Grand Re-Opening Ceremony
Oct. 7,
12 p.m.



Check out your newly renovated Ledward Library! Refreshments, prizes and more.

New Arrivals

Ledward Crafts Studio

Sewing Fabric

Scrapbook Materials

Quilting Supplies

Over 4000 Items in Stock!

For info, call 09721-966903 or DSN 354-6903.