



## Finney Rec best in the Army

**Story and photos  
by Kimberly Gearhart**

Striving to be the best Army community is Europe has long been the goal of USAG Schweinfurt commanders and garrison agencies. Recently, those efforts have been widely recognized as successes, ranging from commendations for the best Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS) program in Europe to, most recently, the best recreation center in the Army.

The Finney Recreation Center, located on Conn Barracks, was chosen as the best recreation center in its size category in the Army and will be formally recognized Aug. 27 during the Soldier Family Action Plan training symposium in Louisville, Ky.

“We just found out Monday. We’re really proud of that ac-

complishment. Last year we won the best overall recreation program in Europe. This year we won the best recreation center in the department of the Army,” said Dave Luellwitz, community recreation division chief for USAG Schweinfurt.

Installation Management Command, Europe’s Morale, Welfare, and Recreation branch chief Dan Gasparino called the award “a true indication of the excellence and pride” demonstrated by the management and staff of each winning facility.

Luellwitz credited his own staff with the lion’s share of the credit for capturing the Army-wide honors.

“Our recreation programmer, Silvia Joiner, has done an outstanding job ... getting the community involved and establishing partnerships” which enrich the program and highlight the Recreation Center’s capa-



**Sgt. Brian Moore prepares for another shot at the pool tables in the Finney Recreation Center, which was named the best center in its category in the entire Army. The recreation center’s new offerings and expanded services catapulted it to the top, said FMWR officials.**

bilities, he said.

Joiner is currently in the United States, representing the Schweinfurt BOSS program, which is under consideration for Best in the Army honors.

The dedication and determination of the staff is bolstered by the Finney Fitness Center’s recent half-million dollar face-

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## School officials urge parents to register their kids now

**By Lindsey Cole**

New community members are encouraged to get children registered for the upcoming school year as soon as possible. Those returning to the community must also register before children can begin the school year.

“There are so many great programs and opportunities going on and we just don’t want the kids to miss any of it,” said Beverly Erdmann, assistant principal at Schweinfurt Elementary School (SES).

Waiting to register at the last minute can be hectic and panic-making for both parents and administrators, but Erdmann noted that the biggest problem, of which many are unaware, is that a last-minute swelling of registration numbers can result in staffing

shortfalls—staff numbers are determined by registration numbers. The resulting classroom shuffles, program curtailments, and possible school entry delays can make it difficult for children to adjust to school, she added.

D a m o n McGiboney, school liaison officer for the USAG Schweinfurt, noted that it has been a challenge to prepare for the upcoming school year due to the recent



**McGiboney**

movement of the Blackhawk brigade, as well as the normal moves associated with life in the Army. Additionally, the block leave for the 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment will affect many families; parents are urged to register beforehand, even if they won’t be here for the first few days.

This is also the first year that Schweinfurt high school students will attend Bamberg High School. Parents may pick up registration packets from McGiboney’s office in the Commons on Ledward Barracks and have the option of either taking it to the school or leaving it with McGiboney.

Parents wishing to register their children at any school in the community must bring

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## News Briefs

### Update Forum

Got questions? Get answers. The Schweinfurt Community Update Forum will be held Tuesday at 6 p.m. in the Schweinfurt Elementary School multipurpose room. The entire community is invited and encouraged to attend.

### Take an art trip

The Arts and Crafts Studio takes a trip to Roth, departing from the studio on Ledward Barracks at 8 a.m., on Sunday. Tour the Lyonsiher Museum and enjoy the art experience. For details, or to sign up, call the arts and crafts center 354-6903.

### High School transition

For students making the transition from Wuerzburg High School to Bamberg, the school liaison office offers daily tours Monday through Wednesday which include transportation, an orientation trip to the city of Bamberg, and a tour of the American high school. For details or to sign up call the school liaison Office at 354-6460

### Play softball

Registration for unit-level softball tournament will run Monday through Friday next week, with tournament dates of August 19-20. For more information or to register go to or call the Finney Fitness Center 353-8234.

### Sign up for a night off

Sign up now for the next parent's night out, August 22 from 6:30 to 11 p.m. Deadline to sign up is August 19. The cost is \$15 for children in School Age Services or the Child Development Center. The program includes one meal and is available for children ages 6 weeks to fifth-grade. Children must be registered with Child and Youth Services and also have current immunizations. For more information, stop by central registration in the Commons or call 354-6414.

### Go climb a rope

Outdoor recreation offers a high ropes course Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Explore the beautiful Rhoen Mountains, while learning or developing the skill of rock climbing. Cost is \$10 and covers transportation, equipment, and all training. Bring euro for food and souvenirs. For more information or to sign up, call Outdoor recreation 353-8080.

### Register for college

Registration for Central Texas College Term 1 face-to-face courses ends Monday for courses beginning as early as Aug. 18. Registration for University of Maryland University College Term 1 face-to-face and online courses begins Monday and runs through Aug. 22 for classes beginning Aug. 25. Stop by the Ledward education center for help enrolling, applying for tuition assistance, or for more information call 354-6383.

### Balance your checkbook

Army Community Service (ACS) offers a checkbook management class in the ACS building Wednesday from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. This class covers how to write checks, manage online checking accounts, make checking withdrawals and deposits and more. For more information or to sign up call ACS 354-6933.

### Leighton restricted

Access is limited to the Leighton Barracks closure team and authorized personnel, whose primary function is the preparation of the installation for its return to the host nation, and the prevention of theft, vandalism or dumping to or on government property. Please note this change, and stoppage of services on Leighton Barracks, in your travel plans.

### German events

A concert performed by "Strings & Voices" takes place at castle Hallburg near Volkach, tomorrow at 8 p.m.

The Catholic holiday "Holy Mary's Ascension Day" takes place Wednesday. Many of the stores off post will be closed.

### Birth n' babies

Army Community Service (ACS) begins the first part of the Birth N' Babies training course August 14, from 1-4 p.m. The second part continues September 12. For more information or to sign up call ACS 354-6933.

## 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](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.



- 15 AUG** --Daddy Basic Training, Ledward ACS, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Call 354-6933.  
--German Holiday, many stores/concessionaires closed.
- 16 AUG** --Askren Manor Street Party Splash Bash from noon to 9 p.m. Live music from 6 to 9 p.m.
- 15-17 AUG** --Club Beyond high school leadership retreat. Call 01603321498.
- 17 AUG** --Ledward Crafts Studio trip, Klein Sassen Art Festival, departs 8 a.m. Call 354-6903.
- 18 AUG** --Computer Basic and Windows XP class, 8 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. Call 354-6933 to register.
- 18-22 AUG** --Registration open for unit level flag football tourney Aug. 26-28 at 6 p.m. daily. 353-8234.  
--Registration open for racquetball tourney Aug 26-28 open to U.S. ID card holders. 354-6735.
- 19 AUG** --Europa Park, part of Camp Challenger. Call the Teen Center 354-6732.  
--Basic Word I Computer class, 8 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. Call 354-6933 to register.
- 20 AUG** --SMS orientation for new students and parents, 6th grade: 1 to 2 p.m.; 7th and 8th: 2 to 3 p.m.  
--Basic Word II Computer class, 8 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. Call 354-6933 to register.
- 21 AUG** --Basic Web Design Computer class, 8 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. Call 354-6933 to register.
- 22 AUG** --Beautiful Generation, alternative rock performance, Finney Fitness, 7 p.m.  
--Last day to register for UMUC fall session 1. Stop by the Education Center for more.
- 23 AUG** --Teen Center trip to Czech for shopping, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Call the teen center 354-6732.  
--Outdoor Recreation high ropes course, \$10, for more information call 353-8080.
- 25 AUG** --Basic Excel I Computer class, 8 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. Call 354-6933 to register.
- 25-29 AUG** --Registration open for unit level soccer tourney Sept. 2-4 at 5:30 p.m. daily. Call 353-8234.
- 26 AUG** --Play Morning moves back to Askren SAS, 10 to 11:30 a.m. Call 354-6933 for information.  
--Basic Excel II Computer class, 8 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. Call 354-6933 to register.  
--Women's Equality Day. Info booths will be set up in the community from 10 a.m. to noon.
- 27 AUG** --Community Banks on Conn and Ledward close at noon for Works Council meeting.
- 28 AUG** --Lunch Bunch Meeting, meet at ACS, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call 354-6933.  
--Exploring Europe on the internet training, Library 5 p.m. Call the library 354-1740.
- 29 AUG** --Outdoor Recreation white water rafting in Austria. Returns Sept. 1. Cost is \$99. 353-8080.
- 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.
- 9 SEP** --Halo 3 XBOX 360 tournament, Finney Recreation Center. Call 353-8476 to sign up.
- 11 SEP** --BOSS This One's For You event, Finney Recreation Center, 1 to 7 p.m.. Call 353-8476.
- 13 SEP** --BOSS Go Kart Racing and Hooters victory party. Cost is 99 euro Call 353-8476.
- 17 SEP** --Pool Tournament at Finney Recreation Center. Call 353-8476 for more information.
- 20 SEP** --Outdoor Recreation trip to Europa Park. \$10 plus 31 euro entry fee. Call 353-8080.

**Community 6 week outlook calendar**



# They've caught the reading bug!

Story and photo by  
Lindsey Cole

American libraries in the United States often offer an annual summer reading program, and the Army and federal libraries are no exception. A theme is chosen every year by a committee of librarians in the U.S., and that theme is used throughout the nation—and here in Schweinfurt at the Ledward Library.

This year's theme was "Catch the Reading Bug!" where participants were able to learn about bugs and their way of life while enjoying new books. Children read about bugs, got up close and personal with some real live insects, and even took field trips.

"I liked when we got to go to the butterfly park," said 8-year-old Brom Eccles. The park gave the young participants a chance to see insects they read about in a more natural, fun environment.

"It shows that the library has other things going on then just to take a book out, or take a CD or a movie. We want to run programs so the children can participate, play games and to do arts and crafts, and we want them to learn things. This year we learned about

insects and their lifestyle," said Christine Willis, librarian.

Kids were excited to learn about bugs and the program encouraged them to decrease their TV intake and increase their reading, opening up a new way to explore life. They also learned helpful lessons like "Don't just step on a bug, because it didn't do anything to you!"

Parents could see the affect the interactive program had on their children.

"This has been a benefit for my kids. They start to read more and it gets them out of the house!" said parent Paula Shree-



Christine Willis, librarian at the Ledward Library, entertains Wesley Smith, 5, seated, and Brom Eccles, 8, during the summer reading program, which ended July 30.

be. Many parents echoed Shreebe, noting that kids were spending less time on video games and more time with books.

The summer reading program's goal is always the same: to get kids to read and learn more and getting them to enjoy it. For more information call 354-1740.

## REGISTER

the following paperwork with them when filling out registration packets: sponsor's orders for Germany indicating the child's name and Schweinfurt as the duty station, extension orders or updated orders with DEROS or enlisted record brief or officer record brief.



Erdmann

The registration packet may be picked up and filled out at home or done at the office. The process takes less than 30 minutes under normal circumstances, McGibboney said.

For students who are already registered, both Schweinfurt Middle School (SMS) and SES offer orientation programs the week before school begins. Orientation will be held Aug. 20 between 1 and 2 p.m. for new sixth-grade students and their parents, and between 2 and 3 p.m. for new seventh-and-eighth-grade students and their parents.

For questions or concerns contact the schools—SES at 354-6734, SMS at 354-6813, or Bamberg High School at 469-7630—or the school liaison office at 354-6090.



Megan Stockdill fills out the paperwork necessary to register her daughter, Morgan, 10, at Schweinfurt Elementary School. School officials are urging parents to register their children, which will allow the schools to plan ahead. (Photo by Lindsey Cole)



# Program recognized as 'best practice'

## 'Operation 2-1-5' co-founder set to speak at force health conference

By Mark Heeter

2-1-5.

What do those numbers mean?

Two hours or less of television. One hour of physical activity. Five servings of fruits and vegetables.

Angela Hunter, USAG Schweinfurt health promotion coordinator, and Lily Bagtas, the former nurse at Schweinfurt Middle School, created Operation 2-1-5 four years ago as a youth weight management program.

"From that, the program has expanded and is now a comprehensive school-based program," Hunter said.

And from that moment in 2004, Operation 2-1-5 has become a program recognized as one of the best practices in the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine, Europe.

Hunter will provide a special brief about the program at the force health protection conference next week in the United States.

"It is definitely about changing habits and about education," Hunter said, emphasizing the educational aspects of Operation

2-1-5.

A collective effort of health professionals, Operation 2-1-5 is aimed not only at the children, but also their parents.



Hunter

"We have to go back to teaching parents, because a lot of this is about behavior. So we have to go back to reinforcing

healthy habits," Hunter said.

"The bottom line is that they all signed up for 2-1-5, so we're going to help facilitate this change in lifestyle as best they can," said Jenny Roper, regional manager of the Women Infants and Children (WIC) Overseas program, who focuses her efforts on the nutritional aspects, the "5" daily servings of fruits and vegetables.

"We encouraged the parents to come to

the nutrition session so they can see what we're teaching their children. And we also gave them healthy recipes," Roper said.

Hunter echoed the standing invitation to parents to take part in any of the Operation 2-1-5 sessions, simultaneously inviting all youth to participate.

"Not only do we want our affected population to get healthier, we want to protect the kids who are already healthy and encourage them to keep on doing the right thing," she said.

In fact, peer involvement has helped to destigmatize the program, according to Hunter.

"(People) should know that the program is open to everyone, and I would encourage all students to participate," she said.



Roper

### BEST

lift as well.

"It definitely gave us an edge," Luellwitz said. "We have new computers, free wi-fi access, improved gaming capabilities with flat-screen TVs. It's a real first-class operation."

The recreation center, which had last been updated in the early 1980s, updated its look and its equipment during the renovations.

The Internet Café now hosts 25 computers, and the movie lounge has new, comfortable furniture, a wide selection of DVDs, and a new plasma screen TV for viewing.

"You have to have the top-of-the-line technology in order to attract these young Soldiers. They're used to having the latest and greatest gadgets, and nothing short of that will do. They're digital natives, and we had to change to accommodate them," Luellwitz said.

Patrons of Finney Recreation Center can now choose between playing XBOX 360, Playstation, or Wii games, shooting pool on newly-refurbished tables, or logging on to the Internet—for free—with their personal laptops.

One of the most striking aspects of the renovation, and one Luellwitz credits with helping "put us over the other facilities," is a glass wall between the Recreation Center with the sports bar and



grill adjacent to it.

"We can open that wall up, and do partnership events. It allows for so many more possibilities," he said.

And although the Recreation Center has been named Best in the Army, there are no plans to rest on their laurels.

"We're planning more activities every week ... adventure activities, XBOX 360 and pool tournaments," and much more, Luellwitz said.



# Riders must get heads on straight with helmets

By Mark Heeter

The Bicycle Helmet Safety Institute has some important numbers for riders to think about.

Nearly 800 bicyclists died one U.S. roads in 2006, just a slight decrease from the previous year. More than 90 percent were killed in crashes with motor vehicles.

About 540,000 cyclists enter emergency rooms each year; of those, more than 60,000 people have head injuries, according to the institute web site at [www.bhsi.org](http://www.bhsi.org)

And the Department of Defense has another message.

“(Traffic safety) Programs shall emphasize the mandatory use of bicycle helmets approved by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) or the Snell Memorial Foundation. This applies to all personnel including dependents who ride bicycles on DoD installations,” according to DoD instruction 6055.4.

Mandatory.

“When I go through the housing area, I see so many little kids without a helmet,” said Eddi Sauer, USAG Schweinfurt safety

officer.

Some riders, especially children, have a problem with the image of wearing a helmet, Sauer said.

“It might not look cool, but it’s the only thing that parents can do to protect their children,” he said.

“Make it cool for the children, so that they would never want to sit on a bike without the helmet without their helmet.”

And the problem will continue, he said, until wearing the helmet becomes the norm.

“It should become a part of the culture. If it becomes part of the culture, then no one will worry,” Sauer said.

Maj. Kenneth Glidewell, USAG Schweinfurt director of emergency services, is quick to note one positive development recently.



Jamar Thomas, left, and Frances Johnson simulate a fender bender on Ledward Barracks. One of them is properly attired; the other is violating a Department of Defense Instruction (Photo by Lindsey Cole)

“I’ve seen a great increase in helmet usage by adults and children in Askren Manor...to include observing children correcting each other and adults,” he said. Still, one age group continues to test the authority of the policy: teenagers.

“And I know, because they’re the ones I’m yelling at,” Glidewell said.

## *EEO manager hopes to fill ranks of qualified counselors*

By Mark Heeter

Bennie Howse is looking for a few good men. And women. This is the equal employment opportunity (EEO) office, after all.

Howse, the USAG Schweinfurt EEO manager, is hoping to fill his ranks of EEO counselors, the “front-line information gatherers,” as he calls them.

“I like to have a cadre of about four or five (counselors). That way, we wouldn’t overwork the ones we have,” he said.

EEO counseling is a collateral duty which consumes about 20 percent of an employee’s time when he or she is working on a case, according to Howse.



Howse

“I know people are busy and going through this period of more with less,” he said. Still, Howse is looking for U.S. employees to volunteer to become counselors – and expand their skills and abilities along the way. Certain appropriated-fund and non-appropriated fund employees, with the approval of their supervisors, are eligible to apply for the program, which begins with the Department of the Army counseling course.

“They’ll get training from the begin-

ning and it’s continuous,” Howse said, adding that counselors are required to attend refresher training annually.

Counselors are assigned cases early and act as data collectors and information gatherers, charged with then turning the information over to the EEO manager.

“Once I give it back to the EEO manager, then the counselor is out of the picture,” said O.W. Newkirk, who has been an EEO counselor since 1997 and is the last remaining counselor at the moment.

Requirement number one is to be a good listener, according to Newkirk.

“As a counselor you must be a good listener, you can’t do all the talking. Sure it’s a two-way street, but you have to listen to the person to find out what the inquiry is all about,” Newkirk said.



Newkirk

“People will tell you things that they probably won’t tell their loved ones. You find out things without even asking the questions,” he said.

After clearing the idea with their supervisors, those interested in becoming EEO counselors should call 354-7067 or 09721-96-7067.



# Teens end summer with a BANG!!!

Sixth-through-12th graders were invited to attend the "Teen Summer Stress Buster" Friday at Kessler Field, sponsored by Army Community Service. Staffers from various community agencies taught life skills classes. Andrews Federal Credit Union, Army Community Service, the teen center all came out to show their support in aiding the teens' future. There was a barbecue that served a large amount of tasty food for the teens and all the workers.

(Photos by Lindsey Cole)



Teens took part in the many endurance activities that were offered, such as a mechanical bull, rock climbing wall, inflatable boxing ring and surfing ride, basketball and football, and, of course, the popular teenage art of "chilling." Youth enjoyed this day as their 2008 summer nears its end.