



German infantry school welcomes WTU

Story and photo by Sandra Wilson

Nearly 25 USAG Schweinfurt Soldiers and civilians visited the Hammelburg Infantry School Monday to visit the history museum there. The group was welcomed onto the German installation and into the museum, before sharing a meal at the officers' club and meeting the deputy commander of the school.

"It's a change of pace to visit the museum. Plus it gives them a chance to interact with the German soldiers," said Michael Cormier,

partnership officer for the 172nd Infantry Brigade (Separate).

Most of the visiting Soldiers were part of the Warrior Transition Unit (WTU) in Schweinfurt.

"On a daily basis, they're going to a lot of appointments. This isn't something we normally do," said Sgt. 1st Class Scott Isom, Company C, Warrior Transition Battalion, explaining that it is good to get them off of their routine on occasion.

The infantry school sniper instructor, Master Sgt. Maurice Orben, began the two-hour museum tour with comments about the importance of learning history.

"We have to know the past to set the future," he said.

Orben guided them around the museum, speaking and answering questions in English, and pointed out significant uniforms, weapons, and flags in the display cases. He revisited battle stories from the 30 Years' War in the 1600s, as well as World Wars I and II.

The visit was intended to continue building the partnership between the infantry school and American Soldiers, but it also served to start a new friendship, specifically with the WTU.

"This is the first time the WTU has done something with a foreign military," said Greg Miller, Soldier and Family Assistance Center specialist at USAG Schweinfurt.

"The WTU is a point of great interest to our allies. They are struggling to deal with their own wounded soldiers. Maybe they can get some ideas about how they can help their own wounded soldiers when they come back," said Maj. Nathan Hurt, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command liaison officer.



The German infantry school sniper instructor, Master Sgt. Maurice Orben, right, gives information about the school's museum to the visiting American Warrior Transition Unit Soldiers March 2.

Mild traumatic brain injuries not permanent damage

By Mark Heeter

Get a good night's sleep.

That is medical professionals' seemingly simple, yet sometimes complicated, goal when they reintegrate Soldiers who have returned from deployments and might have suffered traumatic brain injuries, according to Brig. Gen. Keith Gallagher, commander of Europe Regional Medical Command.

"When you come back from Afghanistan or Iraq, part of the screening program process is going to be if you had multiple concussive injuries downrange," Gallagher

said.

"The objective of the reintegration is to get you to where you can function and go to sleep at night," he said. "Sleep is very important for the healing process."

And, contrary to popular misconceptions, these physical injuries will heal, according to Dr. (Brig. Gen.) Loree Sutton, special assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs) for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI).

"One of the myths out there is that mild traumatic brain injuries, or concussions, means that somehow your brain is broken forever. No, it's an injury," said Sutton, who is also director of the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury.

"If you have some long term, later

symptoms that pop up, that's probably post-traumatic stress. That's probably not related to the concussion," she said.

Sutton and Gallagher were joined for a meeting and video teleconference Friday at the Schweinfurt Army Health Clinic by Dr. (Brig. Gen.) Rhonda Cornum, director of comprehensive soldier fitness, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff (G-3/5/7), Department of the Army.

"We need to address (brain injury and psychological health) in a holistic fashion," said Cornum, who aims to see

MTBI, see page 8



Sutton



Gallagher



SPRECHEN SIE FUN?

Events and activities in the local communities

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON LOCAL ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS VISIT:
www.schweinfurtserver.de/user/tourismus/Neu/stadtplan_EN_Endversion_2008.pdf

Schweinfurt's new mall, the Stadt-galerie, is now open with the following hours:
Mon - Sat
9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.



Saturday & Sunday:

Easter egg market in Kloster Seligenstadt (approximately an hour and a half ride from Schweinfurt direction Aschaffenburg)

Opening hours:
• Saturday noon – 6 p.m.
• Sunday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Saturday:

Farmers' market at the Schweinfurt market square 8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.



Flea market at Wirsingstrasse 13 in Schweinfurt 7 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Children clothes and toys markets

- Fritz-Zeilein-Halle in Gochsheim 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
- Parish Center St. Kilian, Friedrich-Stein-Strasse 30 from 1 – 3 p.m.
- Lukas Church in Schweinfurt 2 – 4 p.m.

Spring Fest in Ostheim v.d. Rhön – a variety of activities downtown and in the industrial area “Auf der Bündt” with activities such as BMX free style show and rides for children.

Opening hours downtown Ostheim:
• Saturday 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
• Sunday 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.
Opening hours in the industrial area:
• Saturday 10 p.m. – 5 p.m.
• Sunday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.



Volksmarch with the German-American Hiking Club in Ansbach. From 7 a.m. – 1 p.m. walking 10 or 20 kilometers.

Looking ahead...

March 14:

“What a wonderful World”



concert performed by the Louis Armstrong Revival Band at Max-Littmann-Saal in Bad Kissingen, 7:30 p.m.

March 15:

“Voices from Britain” concert performed by King Singers at Kulturhalle in Grafenrheinfeld at 5:30 p.m.

March 18:

“The Jungle Book” musical performed by the Vienna Theater Ensemble (for children 5 years and older) at the Schweinfurt Theater at 9 a.m. For tickets call 09721-51475.

March 20:

Symphony orchestra of Bamberg performs at the Schweinfurt theater, Rosbrunnstrasse 2 at 7:30 p.m. for tickets call 09721-51475 or 510.

March 22:

“Cinderella”

by Tchaikovsky performed by the ensemble of the Ukrainian State opera of Kiev at the Schweinfurt theater, at 7 p.m. For tickets call 09721-51475.



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 354-1400/6381 or (09721) 961400/966381.



THIS WEEK...

Financial education

Attend a free financial education forum presented by the FINRA Investor Education Foundation in partnership with your Army Community Service at the Ledward Theater Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Learn about saving, investing, mutual funds, 529 plans, retirement and more. For more information, call 09721-96-6933.

NAF resume class

Learn how to apply for non-appropriate funds (NAF) vacancy announcements by attending the NAF resume class March 12 at the Ledward education center from 10 a.m. to noon. Learn what NAF positions are available and discover the tricks to writing a resume specifically for them. To sign up, call 09721-96-6444.

Lego Land with BOSS

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers invites you to join a trip to Lego Land March 14 from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Deadline to sign up is tomorrow. Call 09721-96-8476 for more information.

Vacation communication

Army Community Service offers the class "Couples communication through travel" at the education center Monday, 9-11 a.m. Couples will learn how traveling opportunities can benefit relationships by establishing and achieving goals. To register, call 09721-96-6933.

Bulk trash

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.

Get tips on 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 (ACS) two-part series, "Birth-n-Babies" at Ledward ACS on Wednesday and March 13, both from 9 a.m. to noon. Learn the latest about what is available for labor and delivery, how to handle complications, and what to do the first night home with your new baby. Sign up by calling 09721-96-6933.

Sponsorship training

Come learn the ropes of helping new Soldiers and families integrate into the community. By attending Army Community Service's "Sponsorship Training" class in the education center Tuesday from 9 a.m. to noon, you will obtain skills to become a valuable resource to Schweinfurt newcomers. Call 09721-96-6933 for more information.

Play racquetball

Sign up to play in the St. Patrick's Day racquetball shootout at Kessler Fitness Center March 14. Male and female divisions are open to ID card holders age 18 and up (not in high school). Registration ends Wednesday. Games run from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call 09721-96-8234 or email william.comeford@eur.army.mil.

Unit-level soccer open

Registration for unit-level six-on-six soccer season begins tomorrow and runs through March 20. Play is open to unit-level teams only (rear detachment teams can combine within battalion). Season runs April 8-May 18. Call 09721-96-8234.



Tonight-	7 p.m.	Yes Man (PG-13)
Tomorrow-	7 p.m.	Friday the 13th (R)
Saturday-	4 p.m. 7 p.m.	Marley & Me (PG) Friday the 13th (R)
Sunday-	4 p.m.	Marley & Me (PG)
Monday-	7 p.m.	Friday the 13th (R)
Tuesday-	closed	
Wednesday-	7 p.m.	Valkyrie (PG-13)

Schweinfurt three-day weather forecast

A.M.	P.M.
 Friday Cloudy with rain Lows 5 C / 41 F	 Friday Cloudy with rain Highs 6 C / 43 F
 Saturday Cloudy with rain/snow Lows 1 C / 34 F	 Saturday Partly cloudy Highs 3 C / 37 F
 Sunday Mostly cloudy Lows 3 C / 37 F	 Sunday Cloudy with rain Highs 7 C / 45 F

Source: 21st Operational Weather Squadron



- 13 MAR** --Deadline to sign up for Super Saturday child care Mar. 21, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Call 354-6517.
--Deadline to sign up for youth softball/baseball ages 6-18. Season is \$46. Call CYSS 354-6414.
- 14 MAR** --Flea market, elementary school MPR, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sponsored by 9E Alpha Company. To reserve a table or for more information, e-mail nicholerp@hotmail.com.
- 16 MAR** --Visit Schweinfurt city's new mall 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Depart from ACS. Reserve a seat at 354-6933.
- 17 MAR** --Food handlers' training at Ledward chapel, 6 p.m. Child care available. Sign up at 354-6860.
--Green beer & appetizers served at the Irish Pub, Conn Community Club, 5:30 p.m.
- 18 MAR** --Treasurer training in the Yellow Ribbon Room 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Call 354-6933.
--Microsoft PowerPoint training in the bldg. 206 computer lab 8:30 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. 354-6933.
- 19 MAR** --Women's History Month tea party with guest speakers, Conn Community Club, 2 p.m.
- 20 MAR** --Registration ends for unit level soccer season Apr. 8 through May 18. Call 353-8234.
--Deadline to sign up for B.O.S.S. trip to Neuschwanstein Mar. 28, 6 a.m.-10 p.m. Call 353-8476.
--Job Fair at the Kessler fitness Center 9 a.m. to noon. For information, call 09721-96-6933.
- 24 MAR** --Bulk trash pick-up in Askren, Yorktown, gov't-leased housing. Put items out prior to 7 a.m.
--B.O.S.S. council meeting. For more information, call 09721-96-8476.
- 25 MAR** --"Seven steps to get out of debt" training at ACS 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Call 09721-96-6933.
- 25-27 MAR** --Soccer clinic, Finney Fitness Center, 6-8:30 p.m. Tournament Mar. 28, 6 p.m. Call 353-8234.
- 26 MAR** --Lunch Bunch meets at Army Community Service 11 a.m. Bring euros for lunch. Call 354-6933.
--Book Club meets at Ledward Library, 5:15 p.m. to discuss "The Zookeeper's Wife" by Diane Ackerman. Coffee and treats will be served. For more information, call 09721-96-1740.
- 27 MAR** --Asperger's and Autism support group at ACS 10 a.m. to noon. Call 09721-96-6933.
- 27-29 MAR** --Annual spring bazaar by Schweinfurt Community and Spouses' Club, Finney Fitness Center. Visit www.schweinfurtspousesclub.com for opening and closing hours.
- 28 MAR** --Spring festival outside Finney Fitness Center, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. for the whole family.
--Miss/Mister Schweinfurt pageant at Finney Fitness Center in conjunction with spring bazaar. For more information, call 0151-5161-2690.
- 30 MAR** --Effective management of volunteers class 10 to 11 a.m. at the Yellow Ribbon Room. 354-6933.
- 31 MAR** --Volunteer Management Information System (VMIS) training 10 a.m. to noon at ACS.
- 1-2 APR** --"Christ in the Passover" Protestant Women of the Chapel special program, Ledward Chapel. Community is invited. Wed 9 a.m. & Thu 5:30 p.m. Free watch care on premises.
- 3-5 APR** --Fishing license class, Conn Outdoor Rec \$65. Call for details at 09721-96-8080.
- 7 APR** --Bulk trash pick-up in Askren, Yorktown, gov't-leased housing. Put items out prior to 7 a.m.
- 12 APR** --Easter egg hunt at Ledward Andrus Garden, 2:15 p.m. Call 354-6186 for more details.
- 13-17 APR** --Spring Community Enhancement. Information TBA.
- 15 APR** --"Gourmet Night" at Finney Fitness Center, 6 p.m. For more information, call 09721-96-8476.
- 22 APR** --New PWOC small group Bible study begins, Ledward Chapel, 9 a.m. Call 0170-277-8980.

Community 6 week outlook calendar



Schweinfurt youth participate in Imagemakers contest

By Mark Heeter

The back wall of the School Age Services (SAS) gymnasium came to life Tuesday evening, covered with photographs and digital art in the Boys and Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) Imagemakers competition.

“Since we have the partnership with (BGCA), it’s one of the things they asked us to do,” said Helen Corriea, the SAS computer lab technician who guided the children through the project, beginning in September 2008.

“These kids started not even knowing how to put batteries in a camera, not knowing how to take the chip out of the camera,” she said.

“This is all their work,” she said, gesturing to all 88 pieces of art hanging behind her in the gym.

The children, whose work was displayed in three categories according age group Tuesday, took full control of their work, to include printing, matting and mounting.

Twenty-three children from SAS and five from the Teen Center offered their photographs for judging; additionally, 12 teens also displayed their work in the non-judged digital arts category.

“It’s amazing to see your children pick these things up as quickly as they do,” said SAS employee Betty Riggins, while admiring the children’s photographs.

“They do some marvelous work,” she said.

While Corriea wanted the children to learn lessons about respect and responsibility through the project, she made them aware of her most important rule.

“They know that my number one rule is I want them to have fun. That’s very important,” she said.

The six-month project also offered the children a couple other important lessons, according to Bobbie Jones, SAS director.

“One of the big things is patience. They didn’t do this in a day or a week. This shows them that things do take time to get quality,” Jones said.

“And another thing is, everybody isn’t always considered the best, but you can still be recognized for what you do. And I think that’s important for them to see – that all of their art work is important,” she said.

Whether winners, runners-up or great photographers, the children seem to have gotten the point.

“I had fun learning to take pictures with all of my friends,” said 8-year-old Steven Fontelle. “I learned how to put batteries in the camera ... take the chip out and ... how to use it,” he said.

Participants in Imagemakers contest

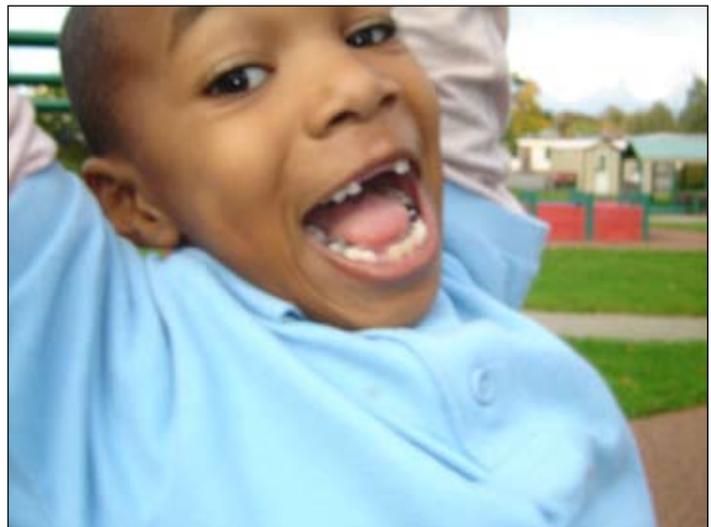
School Age Services	Middle school / teen
Samantha Alvarez	Jasmine Collins
Robert Angulo	Santrice Jackson
Daja Baker	T’erra Felder
Shamus Burns	Nathaly Ardila
Teresa Burns	Trevor Wright
Quan Dasalla	Ashley Bangura
Steven Fontenette	Jada Edelen
Jalen Funches	Cassie Carreras
Malik Funches	Demetrius Lindsey
Romeo Gonzalez	Taylins Hayes
Marissa Ixlahuac	Digital art
Antonio Lawrence	Johnathan Thiele
Jabari London	Kendric McIntyre
Jendayi London	Dustin Byrd
Catara Martinez	Tierney Houston
Alexander Perez	Cody Atwell
Joaquin Quilling	Andrew Hayes
Estaban Rodrigues	Taya Hayes
Tommy Rusch	Alyssa Isom
Anja Sandrock	Benjamin Tuccitto
Leonie Vanhorn	Keavne Gayles
Keziah Wilson	



“Fish world” by Santrice Jackson, first place ages 13-15



“Adorable puppy” by Marissa Ixlahuac, first place ages 10-12



“I love Jaden” by Joaquin Quilling, first place ages 9 and younger



Improving terrain, saving habitat serve as valuable training

By Emily Athens

In an effort to better the training area, dubbed Area Mike, the Department of Public Works (DPW) has partnered with the 500th Engineer Horizontal Company of the 15th Engineer Battalion, who arrived to Schweinfurt within the past year. This partnership has provided the Soldiers with invaluable training supporting their mission readiness.

“This is a coordination between the



Pfc. Joseph Nix performs earth-moving operations utilizing the slot dozing technique. (Photo by Lt. Brent Johnson)

troops and DPW, and a coordination between the U.S. Army and the host nation. It’s an overall stewardship supporting the environment and training,” said Lothar Rucker, chief of the environmental division at DPW.

While making area improvements, the engineer troops are assisting in relocating biotopes, or habitats, occupied by a species of frogs that could potentially be disturbed. This type of labor is not only supporting their training but maintaining the environment as well, explained Rucker.

“The technique we use to dig the biotopes for frogs is the same we use to build tank ditches ... for vehicles. Just because we are not digging specifically to our mission does not mean we are not getting any training value and honing our skills from this project,” said Lt. Brent Johnson, a platoon leader for the battalion.

The experience not only tests the skills of the company, but it builds individual capabilities that can be translated to missions within a combat environment.

“It’s inevitable that we’re going to deploy, so our job as leaders is to make sure our guys get trained,” said Capt. Randy Simon, company commander.

During the four-week project, Soldiers advanced reconnaissance skills, enhanced tactical abilities, and increased technical

knowledge, focusing on sustainable military occupational specialty skills for engineers.

“I would rather know my guys are trained, so we’re prepared when it’s go time,” added 1st Sgt. Steven Kelly, “We don’t care if the work demands only a four-Soldier squad ... we don’t care if it’s the whole company. We just want to do the work. It’s always about training.”

In the midst of the training, Soldiers have encountered various challenges but none have hindered the productivity of the Soldiers as they continue to work hard to obtain the valuable training. According to Simon, the entire process has created a professional exercise for his Soldiers as they worked through environmental, logistical, and everyday issues.

“The biggest thing with earth-moving is that you’re always fighting the weather,” Johnson said, adding that the equipment also poses a challenge.

Despite the project’s demands, the Soldiers of the horizontal construction company still enjoyed the labor.

“The morale overall has skyrocketed just because they get to go out there and do what they went into the Army to do. Any Army Soldier would rather be out in the field doing their job, so it’s been a really positive month,” Johnson said.

Community tours of commissary food aisles to teach nutrition

By Sandra Wilson

Nutrition labels on food can be difficult to understand, but they contain important information about the food to be purchased or consumed. As part of National Nutrition Month in March, Schweinfurt’s Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Overseas offers two opportunities for community members to discover healthier shopping and eating.

“I want to give people the tools so they can decipher what these labels mean,” said Sandy Erb, registered dietician who is the wellness counselor at WIC Overseas.

The community is invited to the commissary Monday at 10 a.m. for the WIC Overseas tour of the food aisles. Participants will learn a strategy behind losing or maintaining weight and about healthy eating habits. Normally closed to shoppers on Monday, the commissary opens only for this special event next week as well as March 23 at 4 p.m. for the second tour.



Erb

“If you don’t take care of yourself when you’re younger, you’ll pay for it when you’re older,” said Jenny Roper, registered dietician who is the regional manager at WIC Overseas.

A bag of apples may be more expensive than a bag of chips, but, “You get a lot more nutrients per money,” Erb said. People will find they get many more fulfilling servings out of the apples than they would the chips, she said as an example.

“All of us need to be practicing healthy nutrition,” Roper said.

Discussing serving sizes, recommended percent daily values, and product health claims are only a couple of the areas that will be addressed.

“Our portion sizes over the last several years is way out of control,” Erb said, not to mention the types of food people put into their bodies. Getting educated about how to eat is the first step in the right direction for a better quality of life.

To sign up for the tour, please call WIC Overseas at 354-6791 or 09721-96-6791.



Roper



Parental role vital to children's success

By Sandra Wilson

"It takes hundreds of hours of lap time for a child to gain the pre-literacy skills necessary to learn to read early and well," said the National Children's Reading Foundation Web site about the need for parents to read to their children.

But don't let the number of hours be intimidating because those necessary reading skills can be attained through reading aloud to children for just 20 minutes a day, said the site.

National Read Across America was celebrated the week at the Schweinfurt schools with reading activities, games and Dr. Seuss' birthday March 2. Throughout the celebration, the schools hoped to emphasize the importance of reading in all arenas of students' lives.

"Like other skills, reading is mastered over time, with lots of practice and with the help of another person," said the reading foundation Web site. And one of the primary helps comes from the child's parents.

"I can remember sitting on my dad's lap on Sunday mornings ... and him reading the comics to me," said Sara Maka, READ 180 teacher at Schweinfurt Middle School (SMS).

"Children learn how to talk by hearing

talk, and they learn how to read by hearing reading," said LaVonne Ector, part-time reading recovery and part-time literacy coach at Schweinfurt Elementary School.

"Children learn more in the first five or six years than they are going to for the rest of their lives," she said.

Even once a child begins to read themselves, it is still important to read aloud together, she continued.

"Even middle-schoolers ... they enjoy it when we read to them," Maka said, describing times she read aloud to her class.

Adults reading to children encourages kids to read even when someone is not available to do it with them. Children are more likely to grow an affinity toward books when it's done together on a regular basis.

"Even when I taught first-grade, the kids who were read to as pre-schoolers were more apt to pick up reading and look at books more often than someone who never had someone read to them or take them to the library," said Darlene Edgar, reading/literacy teacher at SMS.

Reading is not just for the sake of reading, either. It's the foundation for everything else in life, they said.

"You can't do math if you can't read. You can't get a job if you can't read the application," Edgar said.

"If they have trouble reading in school, they are going to have trouble in all their subjects. Reading really is the most important thing," Ector said.

Not only is reading aloud vital, but having books around the house at the skill level of your child is important. If a page has more than a couple words that are unknown to the child, frustration may set in.

"When I needed to go to the library, they took me," said Darlene Spencer, language arts teacher at SMS, about her parents when she was a child. "I can remember piles of children's books when I was 5."

Visits to the library and bedtime stories are only a few of the possible ways for parents to approach reading. Lists of chores, calendars of events, scavenger hunts with written clues, or even reading recipes can promote reading as well as lend to family bonding and encourage listening.

"Focus on them when their little. If you give them a good start ... they're not going to have problems when they're older," Ector said. "The most important thing you can do to help your child to be a success is to read to them."



Omar Torres (left), a seventh-grader at Schweinfurt Middle School, reads to Angel Costilla (from right), Claire Flynn, and Brianna Kloeckl today for Read Across America week at the Schweinfurt schools. (Photo by Emily Athens)

How can I help my child learn to read?

- Run your finger under the words as you read to show your child that the print carries the story.
- Use funny voices and animal noises. Do not be afraid to ham it up! This will help your child get excited about the story.
- Stop to look at the pictures; ask your child to name things she sees in the pictures. Talk about how the pictures relate to the story.
- Invite your child to join in whenever there is a repeated phrase in the text.
- Show your child how events in the book are similar to events in your child's life.
- If your child asks a question, stop and answer it. The book may help your child express her thoughts and solve her own problems.

For more tips, go to <http://www.aap.org/healthtopics/literacy.cfm>.



The newest sergeants major in the Army

Story and photo by Mark Heeter

Two stars are shining over Schweinfurt today.

“I was told once there are only two ranks in the Army that wear stars. And I wasn’t one of them,” joked Lt. Col. Paul Fellingner, commander of the 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment (Airborne), just before promoting two of his Soldiers to the rank of sergeant major.

“I was told that by a wise command sergeant major,” he said.

Moments after being promoted at the Camp Robertson training area north of Schweinfurt today, Sergeants Major Gerard Hatley and Nuuese Passi reflected on how they got to this point.

Hatley, who will soon begin a new assignment with the 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, recalled on his days in 1986 in Fort Carson, Colo.

“I learned at that point that I need to listen to my leaders, my NCOs, and learn. They taught me a lot – team leaders, squad leaders, platoon sergeants,” he said, also crediting his schooling along the way with his advancement to be counted among the highest enlisted ranks.

“The biggest thing is to be able to listen, take orders, understand and learn from my seniors, my leaders,” he said.

Passi, the squadron operations sergeant major, thought back to a retired sergeant major whom he knew as a sergeant first class.

“What I loved about his mentorship was he never raised his voice. He never was loud and in your face. He would quietly and passively chew your butt, and you wouldn’t even realize it. Then when you walked away, you’re just like, ‘What just happened?’”

In a room full of officers and senior NCOs, Passi was joined by an old friend with whom he served in Company C, 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment in the late 1980s.

“We weren’t shooting for the stars. We were just, ‘Hey, I’m



Left to right, Command Sgts. Maj. Paul Bayless, Nicholas Rolling, Lt. Col. Paul Fellingner, and Sgts. Maj. Gerard Hatley and Nuuese Passi at the promotion ceremony today.

going to get good at what I am right now,’ and lo and behold, good things happen,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Nicholas Rolling, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, who made the trip from Vicenza, Italy, for the ceremony.

“He’s right. I never thought about that. I only thought about doing my job right, no matter what. And somehow the Army has a way of rewarding hard work and perseverance,” Passi said.

Their cohorts from their days in “Hard Rock Charlie” boast at least 11 current or former sergeants major, they said.

The senior NCOs – joined also by Airborne Cavalry Command Sgt. Maj. Paul Bayless– also molded together their views on what it means to complete the mission while taking care of Soldiers.

“Mission accomplishment means taking care of Soldiers both on- and off-duty,” Passi said.



MTBI

more components of Soldiers’ total health come into focus, through prevention and training, across the Army culture. “(Recruits) come in, and we do the (physical training) test twice a year. We do PT training every week. And so we have a program to make people stronger, but we have not had a program to worry about psychological, spiritual, emotional, family,” she said.

“The Department (of Defense) has made an enormous investment in both better understanding concussions, mild TBI, and in psychological health,” said Sutton, who admitted that doctors’ and researchers’ recent discoveries about the brain make this an “exciting” time to be working on injured servicemembers’ behalf.

“When I was in medical school, in the 80s, we were taught what was then thought

to be true, you know, you’re born into this world with all the brain cells you’re ever going to get,” Sutton said, quickly dispelling those old misconceptions with words like neurogenesis and neuroplasticity that define the brain’s ability to recover and adapt.

Soldiers – or anyone – who have likely suffered a TBI should seek help with their care providers, according to Gallagher.

“If they’re having problems, they can go see their primary care provider. If they’re still having problems, go see them again,” he said.

“But don’t stay awake, watching movies, because you can’t go to sleep, and then wonder why you’re getting up late for work. That’s not helpful,” Cornum quickly added.

It’s not just about that good night’s sleep.



R&R leave, sponsorship issues to be evaluated

AFAP conference in Schweinfurt prioritizes six issues

By Emily Athens

The three-day Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) conference that took place Feb. 24-26 marked yet another successful year of collaborative efforts to improve the Army way of life. Fifty-nine issues were addressed



Jane White, left, and Joye Klein, who assisted with the AFAP conference, refer to past issue documentation to help clarify an issue. (Photo by Mark Heeter)

resulting in six prioritized concerns that were analyzed and given possible solutions by the participating delegates.

“(AFAP) is really important in our community because it makes changes within the community. We’re able to hear what the community has to say, and then take it and actually put it into effect. We feel like we

are actually making a difference ... people are being heard,” said Regina Moore, 15th Engineer Battalion Family Readiness Support Technician who participated as a delegate in last week’s conference.

According to Katy McClelland, AFAP coordinator, these delegates, ranging from family members to Soldiers of all ranks, served a vital role in the productivity of the conference.

“The theme this year was ‘champions of change’ because our delegates are really the champions of change within our community,” McClelland said, “All the groups were really good, hardworking groups.”

Three groups of delegates, branded the Avengers, the Transformers, and the Power Rangers, worked on issues pertaining to housing, medical, dental, the consumer, entitlements, force support, and family support.

A broad range of issues were submitted by community members with a heavy focus on family-oriented concerns, McClelland explained.

“Anything from where dogs go to the bathroom, to R&R, to sponsorship training was addressed,” McClelland said, noting

that the rest and recuperation leave and sponsorship training submissions were two of the six prioritized issues.

To be more specific, delegates addressed the online sponsorship gateway, referred to as S-GATE, and made recommendations that satisfy the program’s goal of providing every inbound Soldier with a sponsor.

Furthermore, the issue of leave being charged for Soldiers taking R&R was addressed and given the recommendation of allotting the Soldiers those days as a reward for their combat service.

These along with the other four prioritized issues will be reviewed by the Lt. Col. Haager, garrison commander, and then possibly sent up to Installation Management Command Europe (IMCOM-E).

“Any issues that we cannot handle here will get sent to IMCOM-E for the June conference in Heidelberg,” McClelland said, emphasizing that Haager will take the time to read through each issue and make decisions on what can be fixed, what can’t be fixed, and delegate out to the agencies that can handle it.

“I really feel like this is real important in our community because when you have an issue, you can actually turn it into progressiveness and move forward with it,” Moore said.

Middle school students make history at competition

Story by Sandra Wilson
Photo by Nancy Dauber

Schweinfurt Middle School (SMS) eighth-grader Kiersten Cade (left) stands by to answer questions as judges Marie McGurn and Bev Williams evaluate her history exhibit at the Bavarian district National History Day competition in Ansbach Feb. 27.

SMS brought home three first place wins in the junior individual division with seventh-grader Samantha Gray’s documentary, seventh-grader Pamela Rivera-Torres’ performance, and eighth-grader Miguel Guevara’s research paper.

Since November 2008, the students have been creating their history projects in the form of documentaries, Web pages, papers, exhibits, and performances for the competition based on this year’s theme, “The Individual in History: Actions and Legacies.”

First place winners move onto the Department of Defense Dependent Schools competition for the whole of Europe in Wiesbaden April 21-23.





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