

Funds available to local organizations

The Baumholder Community Service Club is now accepting applications from community organizations seeking monetary assistance. The club has experienced substantial support from the community in the last year and hopes to be able to disburse more than \$15,000 during the spring 2001 disbursement.

The application deadline is April 17. Members of the BCSC Welfare Committee will review each application received by this deadline. Emphasis will be placed on learning how each organization has tried to obtain funds, such as through group fund-raising. Consideration is also given to the donation's impact on the Baumholder commu-

nity. Once all the applications are reviewed, the committee will decide how to disburse funds to the various organizations on post. Distribution of funds is scheduled for May.

In past years, donations have been made to organizations such as elementary school enrichment programs, scout troops, American Red Cross, Army Community Service, community sports teams, and health clinics. Every organization is encouraged to apply.

For more information or an application, contact Tracey Rafferty at civ (06783) 186343 or write to BCSC Welfare Committee, c/o Tracey Rafferty, HHB Divarty, Unit 23705 Box 152, APO AE 09034.

Education update

Active duty service members may be eligible to use both Army Tuition Assistance and their Montgomery G.I. Bill benefits to pay for college tuition at the same time. Talk to an education counselor today to learn more about qualifying. Call Bill Badger at mil 485-6487 for more information.

It is now possible for active duty members with VEAP education benefits to convert to the more lucrative Montgomery G.I. Bill. Stop by the Baumholder Army Education Center today to confirm eligibility. For more information, call Bill Badger at mil 485-6487.

The Baumholder Army Education Center offers the Law School Admissions Test June 11. The deadline for registration is April 5. Call Julie Jason at mil 485-6308 for more information.

The Baumholder Army Education Center offers a Functional Academic Skills Training course 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 9 through 20. The course is free and focuses on math and verbal skills development and also prepares soldiers for retesting to raise their GT scores. For more information, call Bill Badger at mil 485-6487.

Persons wishing to use the computers located in the Army Learning Center or the University of Maryland's Computer Lab are reminded they must take and pass the USAREUR Computer Users Test. For more information call Bill Badger at mil 485-6487.

Now is the time to apply for spouse tuition assistance for the semester that begins in June. Stop by the Baumholder Army Education Center today to pick up an

application for the Army's Spouse Tuition Assistance and the free application for federal student aid, formally called the Pell Grant.

A reminder to all Baumholder college students, the 1st Armored Division Association offers college scholarships to family members and active duty soldiers on an ongoing basis.

Stop by the Baumholder Education Center today to pick up an application.

Soldiers needing help to prepare for military testing to attend PLDC or BNCOC may use the Tutoring Services being offered at the Baumholder Education Center. Call mil 485-6487 for more information.

The University of Oklahoma and Cameron University Representative from Ramstein Air Base visits the Baumholder Army Education Center on a monthly basis. The next visit is April 4 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Do you want to raise your GT score, attend Warrant Officer/Flight School, or are you thinking about applying for Special Forces? All your testing needs can be accomplished by visiting the Military Testing Office in Building 8255. For more information contact Julie Jason at mil 485-6487.

Free college credit is available for active duty military members. Soldiers can turn what they've learned through life experiences or independent study into college credits by passing CLEP examinations. Under the current revision to Army Regulation 600-8-19, each college credit is now worth 1.5 promotion points. Contact the Baumholder Education Center at mil 485-6487 for more details.



Photo by Bernd "Bernie" Mai

Sergeant 1st Class Matt Creath, a member of the 222nd Base Support Battalion chapel staff, performs his last concert in Baumholder at Bistro Pierrot. "I love to play there," said the 41-year-old NCO. No wonder he played his last concert there. All his fans turned out to listen to him play here for the last time before he leaves the Army and goes back to Virginia. Creath completed 20 years of service in the Army and spent six of those in Baumholder.

WIC is here

Baumholder's Women, Infants and Children nutrition program is finally here. At right, Staff Sgt. Perry Flowers, Headquarters, Headquarters Company 1-6th Infantry Battalion, places his two-week old son, Jaden, on a weight scale at Baumholder's WIC office. All children are weighed and measured as part of the WIC screening process. Below, WIC counselor, Stephanie L. Fluellen, discusses proper nutrition aspects with Flowers and his wife Marie. Their two-week old son Jaden, makes this family eligible to be WIC certified. Nutrition counseling is part of the screening process for all families eligible for WIC.



Photos by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava



Earth Day

How it all began

By Jonathan Martensen
Heidelberg Middle School

Earth Day—April 22 — each year marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970.

Among other things, 1970 in the United States brought with it the Kent State shootings, the advent of fiber optics, "Bridge Over Troubled Water," Apollo 13, the Beatles' last album, the death of Jimmy Hendrix, the birth of Mariah Carey, and the meltdown of fuel rods in the Savannah River nuclear plant near Aiken, South Carolina—an incident not acknowledged for 18 years.

It was into such a world that the very first Earth Day was born. Earth Day founder Gaylord Nelson, then a U.S. Senator from Wisconsin, proposed the first nationwide environmental protest to shake up the political establishment and force this issue onto the national agenda. "It was a gamble," he recalled, "but it worked." At the time, Americans were slurping leaded gas through massive V8 sedans. Industry belched out smoke and sludge with little fear of legal consequences or bad press. Air pollution was commonly accepted as the smell of prosperity. Environment was a word that appeared more often in spelling bees than on the evening news. Earth Day 1970 turned that all around.

On April 22, 20 million Americans took to the streets, parks, and auditoriums to demonstrate for a healthy, sustainable environment. Denis Hayes, the national coordinator, and his youthful staff organized massive coast-to-coast rallies. Thousands of colleges and universities organized protests against the deterioration of the environment. Groups that had fought against oil spills, polluting factories and power plants, raw sewage, toxic dumps, pesticides, freeways, the loss of wilderness, and the extinction of wildlife suddenly realized they shared common values.

Earth Day 1970 achieved a rare political alignment, enlisting support from Republicans and Democrats, rich and poor, city slickers and farmers, tycoons and labor leaders. The first Earth Day led to the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species acts. Senator Nelson was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom—the highest honor given to civilians in the United States—for his role as Earth Day founder.

As 1990 approached, a group of environmental leaders asked Denis Hayes to organize another big campaign. This time, Earth Day went global, mobilizing 200 million people in 141 countries and lifting the status of environmental issues on to the world stage.

Earth Day 1990 gave a huge boost to recycling efforts worldwide and helped pave the way for the 1992 United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

As the millennium approached, Hayes agreed to spearhead another campaign, this time focused on global warming and a push for clean energy. Earth Day 2000 combined the big-picture feistiness of the first Earth Day with the international grass roots activism of

Earth Day 1990. For 2000, Earth Day had the Internet to help link activists around the world. By the time April 22 rolled around, 5,000 environmental groups around the world were on board, reaching out to hundreds of millions of people in a record 184 countries. Events varied: A talking drum chain traveled from village to village in Gabon, Africa, for example, while hundreds of thousands of people gathered on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., USA.

Earth Day 2000 sent the message loud and clear that citizens the world round wanted quick and decisive action on clean energy. In 2001, the fight for a clean environment continues.

We invite you to be a part of this history and a part of Earth Day. Discover energy you didn't even know you had. Feel it rumble through the grass roots under your feet and the technology at your fingertips. Channel it into building a clean, healthy, diverse world for generations to come.

Wherever you are this Earth Day, make a connection, make a difference. Never doubt that a few dedicated people can change the world for better. I am going to try. Are you?



Photo by Bernd "Bernie" Mai

Cleaning up the town

Soldiers various Baumholder units braved the inclement weather to help collect trash in the Baumholder community. After the cleanup, they all gathered at Baumholder Sports Club House for food and drinks provided by the City of Baumholder. City officials were please to see soldiers turn out to help clean the community.

Earth Day events ready

Baumholder celebrates Earth Day with a variety of activities hosted by the 222nd Base Support Battalion and the Directorate of Public Works in conjunction with the local schools. Activities include planting trees and flowers, conducting contests, field trips to the Central Collection Point and Water Treatment Plant, decorate grocery bags and more.

Baumholder families are asked to make a difference this Earth Day by joining others and The Deutsche Waldejugend in a German/American Environmental Camp April 6 though 11. This event takes place in the forest near Idar-Oberstein. This is an opportunity for everybody to participate in planting trees, harvesting friendships and learning how to keep the planet clean and safe for future generations.

For more information and details about the Environmental Camp, contact Jonathan Martensen at civ (07263) 5652.

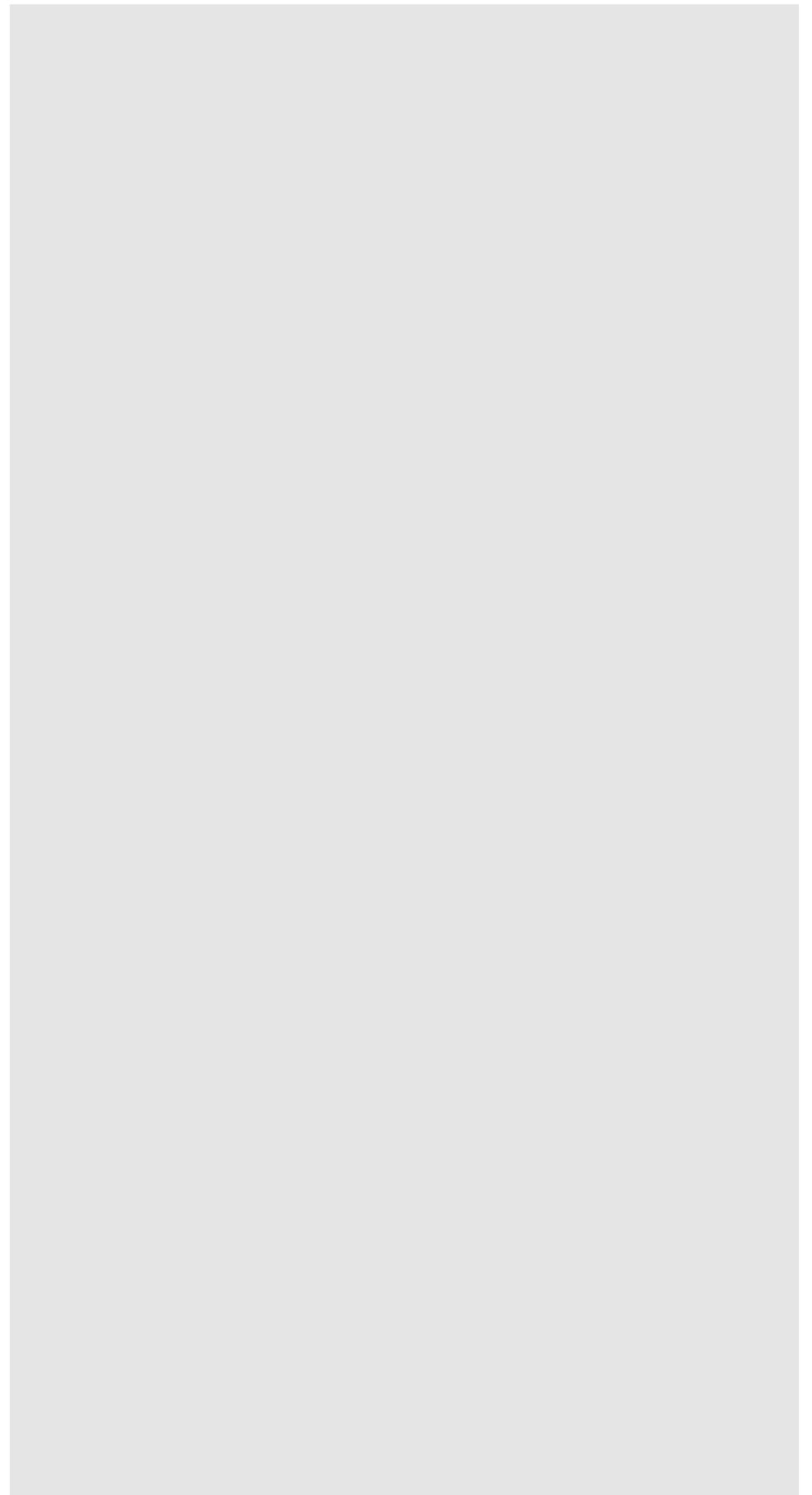
SGLI increases

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. — Soldiers will automatically be covered for a maximum of \$250,000 in military life insurance starting April 1.

Troops, however, may opt for reduced coverage or no coverage at all during a window that runs April 1-30. Officials from the Defense Finance and Accounting Service announced the change to the Service member's Group Life Insurance (SGLI) plan in a recent message to the field. A note was also included on service members' February Leave and Earnings State-

ment (LES). What won't change under the expanded coverage is the basic cost of the plan. The current premium of 80 cents per \$10,000 of coverage will continue, meaning troops will pay an extra \$4 per month for the expanded benefit. For example, service members currently pay \$16 per month for \$200,000 worth of coverage. With the new coverage, their premium will increase to \$20 for \$250,000 worth of term life insurance.

Questions regarding SGLI should be directed to your personnel office.



ACS at a glance

Army Community Services and the Baumholder Library are offering story hour for children the second and fourth Thursday of the month. Story hours are offered 9:30-10 The New Parent Support Program and ACS Outreach Program invite everyone to join their three new programs, parent and child playmorning, breast feeding class and new mother's support group pot luck luncheon. There will be interactive playtime for children up to school age and their parents. Call ACS for more information at mil 485-8188, or civ (06783) 6-8188.

Army Community Services and the Baumholder Library are offering story hour for children the second and fourth Thursday of the month. Story hours are offered 9:30-10:30am ages 0 - 18 months and 10:30-11:30 ages 19 months - school age. People who would like to be a guest reader may contact the ACS Outreach Program at mil 485-6252.

The New Parent Support Program and ACS Outreach Program invite everyone to join their three new programs, parent and child playmorning, breast feeding class and new mother's support group pot luck luncheon. There will be interactive playtime for children up to school age and their parents. Call ACS for more information at mil 485-8188, or civ (06783) 6-8188.

AFTB classes

Army Family Team Building invites everyone to join the following class:

Level II, April 3 through 4, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

AFTB is now offering night classes for Level III. Classes will be on Mondays from 6 - 7 p.m. with two modules each night. Listed are the April evening classes:

April 2, How to Develop Presentations, How to Plan & Conduct A Workshop

April 9, Understanding the Organization of the Total Army, Political Issues and the Army, Effective Public/Media Relations

Students receive a certificate of completion from AFTB after completing each level of AFTB

Child-care for day-time classes is paid for by AFTB. Classes are limited to 15 students, so call to reserve your space at mil 485-8542/8188.

ACS calendar

April 3
Stress and Time Management

April 4
Developing A Positive Self Esteem
Banking and Checking Accounts

April 5
Child Safety and Supervision

For information about classes listed or services provided call mil 485-8188, or civ 06783-6-8188.

Aquatics Academy set

The Baumholder American Red Cross sponsors the 16th Annual Aquatics Academy from April 23 through May 5. The academy offers a comprehensive educational opportunity for individuals interested in lifesaving and water safety. A life guarding premiere session will be held April 20 and 21 for currently certified lifeguards and lifeguard instructor trainees. For more information, contact the Baumholder Red Cross office at civ (06783) 6-1760 or mil 485-1760.

Post notes

Softball action

Visit Iron Soldiers Field April 23-26 to see some Unit Level preseason softball action. If you are interested in community softball, call the sports office for a schedule. For more information, call mil 485-7176.

Kids get spring fever

Spring has sprung at youth services. The sun is starting to come out again. Get the kids out from in front of the television and on a train ride to Frankfurt April 7. Or maybe the kids would prefer to go out for an Italian dinner April 20? Spring camp is April 9 through 12. This is a way for kids to make new friends for the summer. Call Community Youth Services central registration at mil 485-7003 to sign up.

Trip with Outdoor Rec

Let Outdoor Recreation do the driving to all those places you've wanted to go. Join Outdoor Recreation for a crystal shopping trip to the Czech Republic or go skiing Easter weekend in Kaprun, Austria. Call mil 485-7182 to sign up, or find out about the other trips planned for the month of April.

Cruise with Auto Crafts

Learn how to get your car ready for summer cruisin'. Call mil 485-6344 to sign up for the summer prep and safety class, or to find out about the auto body repair class offered April 12 and 20.

Rod and Gun Club

Join the Rod and Gun Club for a country style Easter buffet

April 15. There will be lots of activities for the kids including a visit from the Easter bunny and an Easter egg hunt. The fun starts at 10 a.m. and lasts until 2 p.m. Call mil 485-6345 for more information.

Club has Easter brunch

Take the whole family out for an Easter Sunday brunch at the Rheinlander on April 15. The kids can enjoy an Easter egg hunt and a variety of activities. Brunch starts at 10:30 a.m. and the Easter egg hunt starts at 1 p.m. Call DSN 485-7507 for details

City tourney on again

It's time again for the annual City Bowling Tournament scheduled for April 21. The competition begin at 4 p.m. Call mil 485-6569 for details

Hunt for eggs at pool

Make a splash this Easter at the Baumholder pool. Kids can doggy-paddle their way through a water-filled Easter egg hunt April 7 starting at 2 p.m. Call mil 485-6156 for more information.

Buc baskets needed

Community organizations and individuals are invited to donate theme baskets for Buccaneer Night, the annual scholarship fund-raiser for Baumholder American High School seniors. The event is scheduled for May 4 and proceeds from the basket auction will be added to the school's scholarship fund and distributed to all seniors who continue their educations after graduation. Individuals or organizations willing to help Baumholder graduates by donating a basket, contact Diane Rose at civ (06783) 980127, or by email at bucnight@hotmail.com.



Photo by Bernd "Bernie" Mal

German and American runners set off on a 5 and 10 kilometer run and 5 kilometer fun march during Baumholder's first joint German/American St. Patrick's Day celebration. More than 200 athletes turned out to participate in the activities and then partake of food and drinks.

Tax relief for vehicles going to Puerto Rico

Service-members traveling to Puerto Rico who paid an excise tax for the shipment of a second vehicle may be eligible for a refund, and those on the way may avoid the tax completely, but should contact the Fort Buchanan Legal Assistance Office for help. Service-members are exempt from Puerto Rico's excise tax for one privately owned vehicle. Relief for a second vehicle has been allowed in the past, but that policy is now under review by the Puerto Rico Tax Authority. Until that policy review is complete, service-members

should refrain from shipping a second vehicle or face the possibility of paying a hefty tax. The excise tax can exceed 10 percent based on the vehicle's value and type as determined by Puerto Rico's Tax Office, making it an important cost consideration before purchasing or shipping a second vehicle. Puerto Rico is an island that is approximately 100 miles by 33 miles. Approximately half of its 3.9 million people live in and around the metropolis of San Juan, where Fort Buchanan is located.