

Bank closes

The Baumholder Community Bank will be closed June 19 in observance of a legal German holiday. Automatic teller machines will be operational as usual. For more information call mil 485-7575.

SEAP funding

A financial aid workshop is scheduled for 10 a.m. June 10 at the Baumholder Education Center in Building 8332.

The workshop focuses on the Spouse Education Assistance Program, a need-based education assistance program that provides Army spouses with financial assistance so they can pursue educational goals.

In order to receive SEAP, spouses must apply for it in advance so spouses are asked to apply now before going on summer vacation so that their applications can be ready by the start of the fall semester. It is only available to spouses residing with active duty soldiers in Europe, Korea, Japan and Okinawa. Since it is need-based, financial information must be provided.

Adjustments are made to income based on number of people in the family. Once adjustments (which actually lower the income-received) are made, assistance can be provided for anyone with an adjusted gross income of \$69,000 or less. For more information, contact the Education Center at mil 485-7557.

Bookkeeper position

A bookkeeper and cashier position is available at the Baumholder Thrift Shop. Applicants must be 21 years or older, a U.S. identification card holder and have at least one year retention in the Baumholder community. If interested, drop off application or resume at the thrift shop by June 12.

The thrift shop is currently holding an "under new management sale" going on now. They are located next to the Service Mart in Building 8544, cross from the post exchange. Their hours of operation are:

Post notes



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

IACS is here

Eric Howard enters information into the Installation Access Control System for Staff Sgt. Shane Pope. All persons entering the Post will soon be required to be entered into the system before being allowed onto the installation.

Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays from 10 – 2 p.m. and Thursdays from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Consignment hours are:

Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. and Thursdays from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. and 2 – 4 p.m..

The thrift shop also pays cash for all transformers that are in good condition. While at the thrift shop, check out the new antique corner. For more information call Natasha

LaRock, thrift shop manager at civ (06783) 6-6653 or mil 485-6653.

ACAP services

The Baumholder Army Community Alumni Program office hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ACAP is also open during lunch to assist clients. Soldiers scheduled to separate can get information about their options at ACAP. ACAP offers preseparation

briefings, job assistance workshops and job assistance counseling that can help soldiers review their options and assess how the skills developed in the Army can be transferred into civilian life. Soldiers can make appointments for ACAP services at mil 485-6741/6330 or civ (06783) 6-6741/6330.

Preseparation briefing

Soldiers must complete a mandatory preseparation briefing at ACAP no later than 90 days before their estimated date of separation. Appointments are available every day at 9 a.m. and require approximately an hour and a half.

Job assistance

ACAP offers job assistance workshops and counseling to help with the transition from the military to the civilian job market. Two day workshops are offered by formal instruction every other Tuesday. The next workshops are April 15 – 16 and 29 – 30 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Job assistance can also be accessed through ACAP's computer system and covers such topics as how to create a resume, find jobs, network, and interview. Clients can cover topics by computer at their own pace.

Call to schedule an appointment, or drop by any afternoon to work with ACAP's computer-based job assistance tools. For more information, call ACAP at mil 485-6741/6330 or civ (06783) 6-6741/6330.

The center is open during training holidays but customers are reminded that the center is closed one Thursday a month for training, from noon till close of business.

VA briefings in June

A Veterans Affairs representative will be available the Baumholder ACAP center at 10 a.m. June 23 for a briefing on all relevant VA benefits. All soldiers are welcome; orders are not necessary to attend. Additional briefings are scheduled for Aug. 1 and Sept. 8. Briefings in the Kaiserslautern area are scheduled for July 21, Aug 8, and Sept. 17.

Get smart before your move, save money

Understanding the Personnel Claims Act is an important aspect of preparing for a household goods shipment. Hopefully, your move will be free of any loss or damage. However, there are occasions when individuals sustain catastrophic losses. Then, it seems, the soldiers who have already lost the most, discover they will sustain further out of pocket losses due to the limitations in the claims system.

Two important features for you to remember are:

- The maximum amount that can be paid for any loss or damage to personal property arising from a single incident is \$40,000. This limitation is statutory.

- Within this \$40,000 limitation, there are maximum amounts

allowable for certain items. For example: if you own a stereo system worth \$5,000 and it is lost in shipment, the maximum amount that can be paid is \$4,000. Please consider such limitations in deciding if you need to purchase extra coverage for your personal property.

In order to make an informed judgment on whether you are adequately covered by the Personnel Claims Act, you need to know whether the value of any category of property you own is in excess of what the Army could pay if you sustained a total loss.

There are more than 80 categories of property, from air conditioners to wigs, that the Army has established a maximum allowable per claim.

You should obtain a copy of the "It's Your Move" pamphlet and review the maximum amounts al-

lowable for the categories of property. If the pamphlet is unavailable, or if you have additional questions, consult your ITO outbound shipping counselor or local claims office.

Other "do's and don'ts" of the pre-move process include:

Do not ship your proof of ownership documents, e.g., purchase receipts, prior appraisals, pictures, etc., of your personal property with your household goods. Hand-carry these important documents.

If items are extremely valuable, you might want to obtain an appraisal.

The burden will be upon you to prove ownership and value. For example, if prior to shipment, you cannot prove you own a particular comic or baseball card and that it is in mint condition, you should consider some type of professional

appraisal to substantiate ownership and value. It will be extremely difficult to prove ownership and value for an item after it is lost if you do not have such proof. An appraisal made after the item is missing based on your verbal description will have very little value.

Identify items, such as expensive jewelry, which must be hand carried with you to your next duty station.

If you own a large number of items such as expensive comic books, baseball cards, compact discs (CDs), make sure you do a separate inventory of each item prior to shipment. Such an inventory will help you account for these items if some or all of them are lost in shipment, but the listing in itself cannot substantiate value or prove it was tendered to the carrier.

The Army will not pay any com-

ensation for coin collections or money if lost in shipment.

Personal computers must be prepared for shipment by you in accordance with the manufacturers instructions; put in park, key lock, etc. This is not the packers responsibility.

Computer printers must have the toner cartridge removed by you prior to shipment in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. This is not the packers responsibility.

Take pictures of household property. This will help prove you owned and shipped the items.

If you have any questions pertaining to claim policies, contact claims personnel at the Baumholder Law Center, Building 8222 on Smith Barracks, or call mil 485-6507.

Learning opportunities abound at ACS

International spouses support group

The International Spouses Club and Support Group meets June 17 from 10:30 a.m. to noon in the Army Community Services lounge in Building 8746. The club is open to any military and DOD civilian spouse who is interested in meeting other spouses and learning about other countries and cultures.

The topic for this session will be “German holidays- when are they, how are they celebrated, and how they can affect my travel and shopping plans.” Participants will learn about German holidays and receive a handout. There will be plenty of time for questions as well as information exchanges among attendees.

Reservations are requested but not required. Contact Frauke Battiste at civ (06783) 6-8188 or email at Frauke.Battiste@104asg.mwr.army.mil for more information or to register.

Military Life Support

The Military Life Support Group meets the first and third Tuesday of every month at the Iron Kids playground at noon and the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at the Strassburg Family Assistance office at noon.

The group is a support group for military spouses to help them network, offer or receive support and to get together so they can discuss various issues around being a military spouse. All classes are free and children are welcome. For more information contact Melissa R. Petrone at civ (06783) 6-8188 or email Melissa.Petrone@104asg.mwr.army.mil.

Expectant moms

The Expectant Moms Support Group meets the third Thursday every month from noon – 1 p.m. at the Army Community Service Lounge. The support group is for mothers who are expecting to get together and offer wisdom and support to one another. All classes are free and participants are invited to bring a bag lunch or any snacks for to eat during the class. Contact Melissa Petrone at civ (06783) 6-8188 or email at

Melissa.petrone@104asg.mwr.army.mil for information or to sign-up for this class.

Successful interviews

The Employment Readiness Program at Baumholder ACS offers “Interviewing for Success” classes the first Wednesday of each month. The next class is scheduled June 18 from 9 – 11 a.m. in the ACS conference room. The class assists job seekers prepare for an interview, discuss frequently asked and difficult to answer questions, and how to dress.

Participants are given possible interviewing scenarios and asked to discuss appropriate responses and reactions. Research is introduced from current career assistance publications, Internet and employment experts. They are shown how to research the hiring organization and prepare for the interview. A portion of the class is set up as an open forum for participants to share any questions or problems they have experienced in past interviews. This affords all participants to offer suggestions. The class is open to spouses and family members. Contact Camille Jackson at mil (06783) 6-8188 or email camille.jackson@104asg.mwr.army.mil for information or to sign up for a class.

Resume writing

The Employment Readiness Program at the Baumholder ACS offers a class in Resume Writing the last Friday of each month. The next class is scheduled June 27 from 9 – 11 a.m. This class assists participants in preparing a resume to give a brief history of accomplishments that can open doors to your future employment. The class is open to spouses and family members. Contact Camille Jackson at mil (06783) 6-8188 or email camille.jackson@104asg.mwr.army.mil for information or to sign up for a class.

Employment orientation

The Employment Orientation Class meets June 17 from 9–10:30 a.m. in the ACS conference room and includes insights as to the employment opportunities in the Baumholder community and its surrounding area. Participants receive information concerning military spouse preference, defining federal and private sector opportunities and application procedures, basic Resumix start-up informa-

tion and volunteer opportunities. This class will equip family members with the tools and resources needed to find employment within the community. The class is open to spouses and family members. Contact Camille Jackson at mil (06783) 6-8188 or email camille.jackson@104asg.mwr.army.mil for information or to sign up for a class.

Blended family living

Learn to understand what causes blended families to succeed or fail June 10 from 2 – 4 p.m. at the New Parent Support Group conference room. Put an end to the “revolving door” of marriage. Learn to deal with unexpected emotions, such as rejection, blame, rage and jealousy. Gain insight to how adults and children can process difficult transitions. The class is open to service and family members. Contact Melissa Petrone at civ (06783) 6-8188 or email melissa.petrone@104asg.mwr.army.mil for more information or to sign up for this class.

Resolving conflict

Learn why conflicts occur and about the advantages and disadvantages of conflicts June 25 from 2 – 4 p.m. at the New Parent Support Group conference room. Discuss how each person has a different perception of the issue at hand (hence the conflict) and ways of dealing with conflicts both positive and negative.

Learn different behaviors that a person takes on when involved in a conflict. Recognize your own type of behavior during a conflict (Assertive, Non-assertive and Aggressive). Identify and work on communication skills and learn problem solving skills for conflicts. The class is open to service and family members. Contact Melissa Petrone at civ (06783) 6-8188 or email melissa.petrone@104asg.mwr.army.mil for more information or to sign up for this class.

Marriage is a journey

Learning the dynamics of marriage is the hardest work you will ever do during the Journey of Marriage class June 11 from 2 – 4 p.m. Learn how to positively resolve conflicts in a marriage, understanding that you can not change your partner, you can only change yourself. The three R’s of relationship, relate, reveal, reciprocate will also be addressed. The class is open to service and

family members. Contact Melissa Petrone at civ (06783) 6-8188 or email melissa.petrone@104asg.mwr.army.mil for more information or to sign up for this class.

Managing stress, time

Have a clear understanding of what stress is and how it manifests itself throughout the mind and body June 23 from 2 – 4 p.m. in the New Parent Support Group conference room. Each person will be able to identify their own stressor (what triggers their stress) and recognize their symptoms of stress (i.e., headache, irritable, back ache, poor concentration, etc.). The class is open to service and family members. Stress reduction and relaxation techniques will be taught. Contact Melissa Petrone at civ (06783) 6-8188 or email melissa.petrone@104asg.mwr.army.mil for more information or to sign up for this class.

Anger management

The Recognizing and Controlling Your Anger Class helps you learn what anger is, how to identify and recognize anger, what happens to a person’s body, mind and spirit when they become angry. The next class is June 24 from 2 – 4 p.m. in the New Parent Support Group conference room. Learn techniques to keep anger under control. Learn the difference between “good” and “bad” anger. Provide techniques for managing anger. The class is open to service and family members. Contact Melissa Petrone at civ (06783) 6-8188 or email melissa.petrone@104asg.mwr.army.mil for more information or to sign up for this class.

Surviving seperation

The Surviving Deployment Separation class June 26 from 2 – 4 p.m. in the New Parent Support Group conference room provides a variety of coping methods and time management skills to military spouses and service members. This class is designed to prevent physical, emotional abuse before, during and after deployments. Contact Melissa Petrone at civ (06783) 6-8188 or email melissa.petrone@104asg.mwr.army.mil for more information or to sign up for this class.

Warn relatives before they visit Europe

Payment of medical bills not a given

If your in-laws or parents are descending on you this summer for a European vacation you can make their stay more pleasant by informing them about the pitfalls of medical care overseas.

Relatives are not always automatically eligible for the same medical benefits as military family members so they should either have a health insurance policy that covers medical care overseas or buy temporary travel

insurance.

If you have a relative who achieved dependent status, like parents, parents-in-law, or any other household member, those dependents are only eligible for direct care in a military treatment facility. They are not eligible for TRICARE.

That means if the patient is being transferred to a civilian host nation medical treatment facility, even in an emergency situation

or when the Baumholder Health Clinic is closed, the government can not and will not pay for the treatment, under no circumstances. This makes the patient responsible for the entire bill.

If your relative or dependant is covered under Medicare in the states, they should be aware that Medicare does not pay for care received outside the United States. Medical officials emphasize that there are no excep-

tions to this rule.

If you need any further information or have questions about health care benefits contact Gabi Martini, beneficiary counseling and assistance coordinator, at mil 485-6205 or civ (06783) 6-6205 or visit her during duty hours at the Baumholder Health Clinic, Building 8744, Room 213, Mondays through Thursdays from 8 a.m. – noon and 1 – 4 p.m.; or Fridays from 8 a.m. – noon and 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Girl Scouts maintain graves, earn award

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava
222nd Base Support Battalion Public
Affairs Office

Three Baumholder Girl Scouts have stepped in to reinforce the final link in the chain of life and death for several U.S. soldiers buried in the Baumholder cemetery by helping to main their grave sites.

About 11 former U.S. soldiers are buried in the Baumholder cemetery but the graves of five of these soldiers are not being maintained by family members simply because they have no more family or the families have long since left Baumholder.

The result was caved in graves overrun with weeds and complaints from German families who have family members buried next to these dilapidated grave sites.

"The Germans really take care of their grave sites, so we wanted to show that the Americans there weren't forgotten," said Emily Hernandez-Goldstein, one of the three Cadet Girl Scouts who participated in a community project that earned the three of them the coveted Girl Scout Silver Award, the highest award that a cadet can achieve. The only other higher achievement in Girl Scouting is the Gold Award which is reserved for Senior Girl Scouts.

Ripmeister's background is somewhat of a mystery. The only records available at the Baumholder City Hall are those of this date of birth and death....Yet someone paid for his burial and there are still 18 years left in his allotted 25-year period.

Their project began more than a year ago



Photo by Bernd "Bernie" Mal

Girl Scout Erica Hill and her assistant, Tiffany Guyette, plant flowers at the grave site of Master Sgt. Leon Stalker, a World War II and Vietnam War veteran buried in the city of Baumholder's cemetery. Guyette is not a Girl Scout but plans on becoming one soon.

when the girls visited the cemetery during Memorial Day to place American flags on the graves of the U.S. soldiers buried there.

"Last Memorial day they went to the cemetery in Baumholder and noticed that the graves were in really bad shape. The only thing they did at that time was clean them up and put flags on them," said Ileana Arvelo, Girl Scout advisor and mother of Maria Arvelo, another of the three girls who participated in the project.

"When it came time to decide on what they wanted to do to earn their Silver Award they came up with the idea to take care of

those graves," said Arvelo.

"It was sort of embarrassing, almost, to see the American graves in poor condition," said Hernandez-Goldstein.

The third cadet, Erica Hill said, "I thought this was a great idea so I decided to participate. I feel better because I've helped my community and I've helped other people besides myself. That's why I like being in Girl Scouts, to help other people."

"We are delighted that the graves of these U.S. soldiers are being maintained," said Ingrid Schwerdtner, Baumholder deputy mayor.

Baumholder residents who have family members buried next to these graves were concerned about the safety of the caved in graves.

"We are therefore pleased that the girls filled in the graves and adorned them as nicely as they did," said Schwerdtner.

Schwerdtner explained that German grave sites are purchased for a 25-year period. When that time expires, the graves are reclaimed and the site is sold to someone else. "Of course if there is a problem with a grave site before the 25-year period runs out, we can vacate the site so that it does not become a safety hazard or unsightly, but we are not allowed to sell it to anyone else before the 25-year period.

The three graves the scouts refurbished are those of Master Sgt. Karl Kohlgraf, a Vietnam War Veteran; Master Sgt. Leon Stalker, a World War II and Vietnam veteran; and Buster Ripmeister. Ripmeister's background is somewhat of a mystery. The only records available at the Baumholder City Hall

are those of this date of birth and death. There are no records of family members and the 222nd Base Support Battalion adjutant's office has not been able to confirm that he was a U.S. military member. Yet someone paid for his burial and there are still 18 years left in his allotted 25-year period.

"If nobody claimed, or came forward and took care of this grave (Ripmeister), the city was going to flatten it out," said Arvelo. She also explained that because it has not been proven that he was military the Army will not donate the frame for his grave site. Regardless, the girls fixed up his grave but left the flowers in pots in case his identity was verified and a frame is later installed.

"The entire project took about a year and a half and the goal was to complete it by the Memorial Day weekend, which they did," said Arvelo.

They took care of three graves for their project but there were still two more that needed attention.

The soldiers buried there still have family in Germany but they have not been or cannot be contacted, so as a service, the girls fixed those graves after they completed their project.

"These are soldiers that lived here. They most likely married German women and they stayed here in Baumholder. But now the families are gone and there is absolutely no one taking care of those graves. That's why the girls fixed up the three graves. But we want to make the community aware that there are more than three and that on Memorial Day and on Veteran's Day they should be remembered," said Arvelo.



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Ingrid Schwerdtner, Baumholder city deputy mayor, presents Emily Hernandez-Goldstein with a Baumholder city pin in recognition of the work she did to renovate the graves of U.S. military members buried at the Baumholder cemetery. Erica Hill, center, and Maria Arvelo also participated in the project and received pins from Schwerdtner. The three Cadet Girl Scouts earned their Silver Award as a result of all their efforts.

Vandalism and your POV - know your options

If you've ever had your vehicle vandalized, you know the feeling of returning to your car and finding it keyed, scratched, or the windows broken. Your first thought is "How am I going to get the *%!@# \$ one-celled character that did this? When cooler heads prevail you start to think more rationally and scratch your head endlessly as you ponder the cost of your repair options.

There are ways to obtain compensation for these damages, but first you must meet certain criteria.

Private insurance is the most effective way to receive compensation for vandalism. It is up to you to make certain that you have adequate insurance on your vehicle. Some policies may not cover vandalism. Such policies may make compensation difficult or impossible to obtain. Your Army Claims Service may offer an alternative source of compensation. Before you can file with the Army Claims Service, however, you must exhaust all of your private insurance options. Keep in mind, the Army Claims Service is not a substitute for private insur-

ance and many vandalism claims are not payable by the Government.

For both private insurance claims and Army claims, accurate compensation requires compliance with several procedures and requirements. Private insurance company requirements may vary from company to company, but AR 27-20 and DAPAM 27-162 specifically outline the Army's requirements. You must first settle with your private insurance before you can file your claim with the government.

When vandalism occurs, immediately report the incident to the local authorities, or as soon as you notice the damage. Waiting too long to report the incident may result in a denial of your claim, because there is a presumption that the incident did not occur in the manner alleged.

Keep in mind that you will be required to produce "clear and convincing" evidence of vandalism to meet the high burden of proof required by Army regulations. Do not move the vehicle until you have proven that the vandalism occurred and compiled all of the details per-



Photo by Ignacio "Igggy" Rubalcava

taining to the incident. One way to do this is to have either the police or a disinterested third party perform a complete inspection of the vehicle and of the location where the vandalism occurred. If this is not possible, you can take pictures or make a videotape of the damage and the surrounding area. Include location, condition of other vehicles in the area, statements from witnesses, how the damage was no-

ticed, and any identifying markings (such as words or designs, broken glass found on the ground, etc.) left at the scene. Your statement alone is not sufficient.

After you have gathered all of the information pertaining to the vandalism, pick up your final military police report (normally, it takes a week to be ready for pick up) and contact the Baumholder claims office so that claims personnel may

inspect your vehicle. Claims personnel will provide you with a claims packet that includes a list of garages providing estimates. Prior to having any repairs done, take pictures of the damage or let the claims office inspect your vehicle. This will assist the Army Claims Service in substantiating your claim. Keep copies of all estimates and receipts until you are ready to file your claim.

You have two years to file your claim from the date of the incident, preferably by appointment. Claims personnel may also ask questions about the condition of your vehicle prior to the vandalism, such as age and value of your vehicle, and if any modifications have been made to your vehicle since its purchase (such as a new paint job).

For more information, please contact the Baumholder Claims office, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, at mil 485-6507 or civ (06783) 6-6507 or stop by our office at the Baumholder Legal Center, Building 8222 on Smith Barracks during walk-in hours 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesdays or by appointment.