

Wetzel balconies safe despite some crumbling

There's a story going around Baumholder that a building or balcony in Wetzel Housing has collapsed. This rumor was put to rest at the recent Links meeting by Lt. Col. Steven N. Miller, 222nd Base Support Battalion commander.

"The truth is that a chunk of concrete, approximately three inches wide, five inches long and 1 inch deep, (about the size of a pad of Post Its) fell from one second floor balcony of Building 8837, onto the floor of the first floor balcony below. No one was injured, but someone could have received a nice bump on the head had it hit them," said Miller.

Bob Baumgardt, chief of the 222nd BSB directorate of public works and other DPW engineers have investigated the structural integrity of the balcony and examined all of the other balconies in Wetzel housing. The engineers found that all of the balconies are steel reinforced and are not in danger of collapsing.

"However," explained Miller, "over the last 35 winters, water seeping into the concrete where the safety railings are mounted into the balcony floor, and at the edge of the balcony where the floor tiles overhang the concrete slab, freezes, causing the concrete to expand and eventually deteriorate."

A few of the Wetzel Housing buildings are scheduled for renovation in 2000, but that won't relieve the problem, said Miller.

"I'm submitting what's called a Risk Assessment Category 1 project that identifies our worst balconies as a safety hazard, and requesting emergency Army Family Housing funds for repair," he said.

Flyers have been distributed in Wetzel Housing, alerting residents of this possible hazard. Residents are asked to call the DPW housing NCOIC, Sgt. 1st Class Leroy Glover at mil 485-7578, if they feel their balcony is a safety risk.



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Several balconies throughout Wetzel housing have been identified for emergency repairs by officials at the 222nd Base Support Battalion.

Community thanks families for ongoing sacrifices

Military Family Week is a time when Army Community Services joins local military leaders in expressing appreciation for the dedication and sacrifices that are made by service members and their families in our community. Military Family Week is celebrated annually during the Thanksgiving holiday period. This year Military Family Week is being observed Nov. 21 through 28.

"In the daily press if activities that characterize our modern lives, we often overlook opportunities to express our appreciation to those who make a special contribution. To amend that oversight, we extend our community's gratitude to all military families," said Sabrina Bowman, ACS Outreach Program coordinator.

To help observe Military Family Week, the following activities have been scheduled by Baumholder's

Army Community Services Outreach Program:

Tripout

Join ACS for a trip Nov. 20 to the Wildenburg Nature and Animal Park and explore the wonders of nature located just outside the Baumholder community. Transportation is free and entrance to the park is DM 4,50 for adults, DM 2,50 for children 5 to 11 years old. Admission is free for children under 5 years. Space is limited and advance reservations are required. Call mil 485-8185/6252 for reservations.

Knowledge is power

Information tables will be set up at the post exchange from 3-5 p.m. to help keep families informed of events and services available throughout the area.

Family night has something for everyone

Everyone is invited for a night of family fun from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Rheinlander Nov. 23. Some of the

activities include Playdough tables, cutting and pasting, face and nail painting and mural drawing.

Mom and me playtime

Join the interaction at the Mountaineer Gym as children and adults enjoy two hours of socializing and playtime Nov. 24 from 9-11 a.m.

Draw your military family

Students in grades kindergarten through 12 are asked to make a poster depicting "My Military Family" and include a short essay on why their Military Family is special. Prizes will be awarded to winners in four categories: Kindergarten, grades 1-3, grades 4-6 and High School students. Prizes are U.S. Savings Bonds compliments of the Baumholder Warrant Officers Association. The winning posters will be displayed during Family Night Nov. 23. Contact the ACS Outreach office at mil 485-6252/8185 for more information.

It's never too early to prepare for annual tax season

It may be November and the dreaded tax deadline is not until April 15, 2000, but why wait? Now is the time to begin planning for a smooth and hopefully painless tax filing. The Baumholder Tax Center will open its doors for business Feb. 1, 2000 and remain open until June 30, 2000.

This year the Baumholder Tax Center will be located in Building 8670, next to the Community Bank. The center will offer tax assistance preparation for federal and state income taxes, as well as electronic filing. Electronic filing is

more accurate than paper returns, and tax payers get a faster refund, usually within four weeks.

The tax center offers free tax service to all service members, their family members and eligible Department of Defense/Department of the Army civilians. Internal Revenue Service trained soldiers and volunteers will prepare both federal and state tax returns. Why pay a commercial preparer when the Baumholder Tax Center is free? The center often saves customers more than \$200.

The center will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Fridays. Customers will be helped on a walk-in basis or they may schedule an appointment. Customers may schedule appointments starting Feb 1, 2000.

Customers must bring their W-2 forms, a copy of their 1999 tax return and all other tax documents such as their 1098 and 1099 tax forms. Customers will be asked to complete a simple questionnaire at the center that will enable tax center personnel to quickly

expedite a customer's tax return.

If a customer's taxes are complex, such as those that involve itemized deductions or family child care providers, they are asked to schedule an appointment.

The Baumholder Tax Assistance Center wants everyone's business and looks forward to serving you. If you have any questions concerning the center or are interested in volunteering and receiving IRS tax training, please contact the legal assistance office at mil 485-6506/6428.

ACAP mil 485-6741

ACAP briefings, seminars on tap

Baumholder's Army Career and Alumni Program offers the following classes through November and December:

Preseparation Briefing: Dec. 7 and 21, 8:30 to noon at the ACAP center. This briefing is mandatory for separating soldiers. Orders are not required to attend. All soldiers must attend a Preseparation Briefing no later than 90 days prior to their separation date.

Workshop Seminar: Topics include, skill identification, resume writing, networking, references, and interviewing.

This is a two-day event and clients must attend both days.

Nov. 17, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Dec. 7, 1-4 p.m.; Dec. 8, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Dec. 21, 1-4 p.m.; Dec. 22, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information or to reserve a space for all classes, contact ACAP at mil 485-6741/6330 or civ (06783)6-6741/6330.

ACS mil 485-7196

ACS, library sponsor story hour

Army Community Service and the Baumholder Library are offering story hour for the community children. This month, story hour is Nov. 18 at 4 p.m. at the Baumholder Library. People who would like to be a guest reader may contact the ACS Outreach Program at mil 485-6252.

Chapel chimes mil 485-1570

Thanksgiving services

The Catholic Thanksgiving Day Mass will be held Nov. 25 at 10:30 a.m. in Chapel Two. The Protestant Celebration of Thanksgiving will be at the same time in Chapel One. The ASG Chaplain, Chaplain (Col.) Roger Kappel will be the speaker. Music will be provided by multiple choirs. All members of the community are invited to these very important national celebrations.

Education mil 485-7557

Information meeting in Ramstein

National-Louis University will host an information meeting Nov. 18 from 6-8 p.m. at Am Lindenbaum, Reichswaldstr. 7 in Ramstein Village to explain it's master's of education program and curriculum. For details call Laura McEwin at civ (06221) 29025.

Maryland has seminars

University of Maryland in Baumholder will be offering some seminars throughout November and December. Two highlighted courses are featured below.

ENGL279/379, titled "Introduction to Native American Literature," is scheduled Nov. 20-21. This course explores the rich cultural heritage of the Native American

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can writer and storyteller by reading and discussing selected short stories and poetry.

A weekend seminar, UCSP198, titled "Information Systems and the Y2K Problem" will be offered Dec. 4-5. Topics covered include conditions that led to the millennium bug, its impact on today's financial markets, telecommunications, transportation, utilities, government, the military and international Y2K issues.

Other upcoming weekend seminars include: CAPP100G, Micros: Spreadsheets, Nov. 20-21 CAPP100K, Micros: Accessing Information via the Internet, Dec. 4-5

CAPP121, Micros: Advanced Word Processing, Dec. 11-12

HE100, Principles of Healthier Living, Nov. 20-21

For more information, call Laura Sproat at mil 485-6178

FSG update

47th FSG activities

The 47th FSG is selling cutout turkeys for \$1 through Nov. 19 to place in the battalion mailroom for decoration. The proceeds will go toward the cost of turkey dinners that will be given to some families within the battalion. The names of those who purchased the cutout turkeys will be entered in a drawing for two, three-day passes and one, four-day pass.

A class on learning how to shop for and cook German food is scheduled Nov. 17 at 7 p.m. in the Army Community Services kitchen, Building 8746.

Bravo Company goes on a Kaeffers trip Nov. 18. They'll meet at 5:30 p.m. and carpool from the Wagon Wheel Theater.

Charlie Company meets at 6 p.m. Nov. 18 in their FSG room for a Thanksgiving potluck.

Bravo Company goes on a trip to Italy Nov. 19. The cost is \$59. Contact the Bravo Company FSG leader, Barbara Horvath, at civ (06782) 7102 for more information.

Bravo Company goes bowling at 6 p.m. Nov. 20.

Bravo Company hosts a Crystal/ Beanie Baby Bingo at 4 p.m. Nov. 21 at the Rod and Gun Club.

There is an in progress review Nov. 24 in the battalion conference room for the battalion's Christmas party.

Headquarters, Headquarters Detachment, Alpha Company is hosting an adopt a single soldier program. Any family that would like to invite a soldier into their home for Thanksgiving may call the company FSG leader for more information.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact the Battalion Family Support Liaison, Sgt. Lisa Collis at mil 485-7040.

1-35th Armor FSG

Upcoming Family Support Group meetings for the 1-35th Armor Battalion are as follows:

The battalion steering committee meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. in the battalion conference room. Their next meeting is Dec 7.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company Family Support Group meets Dec. 14 in Building 8876.

Alpha Company Family Support Group meets Dec. 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the FSG room in Building 8876.

The Bravo Company FSG meeting will be Dec. 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the Wetzell FSG room, Building 8876.

Charlie Company holds its Family Support Group meetings on the second Thursday of each month in the company dayroom in Building 8213. The next meeting is Dec. 9.

2nd Brigade FSG

Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade holds its monthly Family Support Group meetings at 6:30 p.m. on the last Wednesday of the month in the company dayroom in Building 8252. Their next meeting is Dec. 29.

Public Affairs mil 485-1600

Spend Christmas with German family

Will you be away from your family this holiday season? Why not spend Christmas this year with a German family from the local community? Every year, Baumholder's 222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office plays matchmaker for single soldiers that are interested in spending the holidays with a German family. Visits with a family can range from one day to one week, or longer, depending on the soldier's availability and the German family's request.

Often, German families invite soldiers back to their homes for more visits.

To find out more about this German-American program, call the public affairs office today.

Red Cross mil 485-1760/6313

Red Cross has new emergency numbers

The American Red Cross has new emergency after hour telephone numbers. Their new emergency assistance numbers are mil 431-2334, or civ 07031-15-334.

The Baumholder Red Cross will maintain their regular phone numbers during normal operating hours. Their hours are Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (except holidays) and their telephone numbers are mil 485-1760/6313, or civ (06783) 6-1760/6313.

For more information about Red Cross services and programs, visit the Red Cross Office in the Baumholder Wagon Wheel complex or call them at mil 485-1760.

Staying in

Congratulations to the following soldiers on their recent reenlistment:

2nd Brigade

Spc Anthony Hastings

Sgt. William Mackey

Sgt. Leonard Messina

Staff Sgt. Michael Newbauer

Sgt. 1st Class Darren Johnson

Sgt. Carlos Valarezo

Sgt. John Meadows

Spc. James Fitzgerald

Sgt. 1st Class David Shotwell

Sgt. James Coffell

Spc. Solis Jose

Spc. Demetrius Campbell

Spc. Lorenzo Villescas

Sgt. Ernie Wooten

Staff Sgt. Jerome Battles

Staff Sgt. Tydas Blue

Pfc. Rafael Esqueda

Spc. Robert Gowen

Spc. Clay Coker

Command Sgt. Maj. Harold Doucet

Spc. Francisco Enriquez

Spc. Robert Acree

Spc. Allen Finandis

Spc. Travis Austin

Spc. Richard Hassemer

Spc. Charles White

Spc. Jason Cook

Spc. William Hannan

Pfc. Christopher Peabody

Spc. John Alvarez

Sgt. Cedric Woodyard

Spc. Mark Sinderson

Sgt. Nicholas Fleegeer

Spc. Timothy Kopp

Pfc. Robert Bruggeman

Spc. Corey Johnson

Spc. Reginald Clark

Spc. Jayson Thompson

Spc. Richard Schave

Sgt. Jason Ostrow

Sgt. Aaron Gaskin

DIVARTY

Spc. Justin Beckham

Staff Sgt. Samuel Cruzverga

Spc. Jason Cole

Spc. Christopher Ehrhart

Cpl. Scott Fulsom

Spc. James Fields