

## Post notes

### Need a job?

Check out the job fair Feb. 27 at the Rheinlander Convention Center from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. mil 485-6046. Customers can obtain information about jobs in the community and receive on the spot interviews.

### Officer board

The 222nd Base Support Battalion will be conducting an officer candidate selection board on March from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. the Training Support Division small classroom, Building 8475.

The board is open to any qualified enlisted soldier who is interested in becoming a commissioned officer.

Those interested must submit their completed packets to the 222d Base Support Battalion Adjutant Office by March 11. For more information call mil 485-6788.

### Trip to Anne Frank's house

The 222nd BSB is sponsoring a trip March 5 to Amsterdam to visit the house used by Anne Frank, a German-Jewish teenager, who was forced to go into hiding during the Holocaust. The bus leaves at 12:30 a.m.

The trip is opened to all Soldiers, Department of Defense Employees

and family members from the Baumholder military community. Family members that are 16, 17 and 18 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. For more information call mil 485-6510 or 1530.

### SAEDA briefings

Briefings on Subversion And Espionage Directed Against the US Army are scheduled March 2 in the Wagon Wheel Theater. The English version begins at 2 p.m. and the one in German starts at 3:15 p.m. This is an annual requirement for Soldiers and DoD civilians to include host nation employees.

Family Members are invited.

Units planning to have 10 or more attendees are asked call mil 485-7386 to confirm seating availability.

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### TIPOSH on line

Annual Refresher training in the Prevention of Sexual Harassment is now available on-line and must be completed by March 31.



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Cpl. Brian Cronoble, Headquarters, 4-27 Field Artillery, Headquarters Battery, receives tax assistance from Spc. Jeremy Cook at Baumholder's Tax Assistance Center. The center opened its doors Jan. 31.

## Tax center up and running

Baumholder tax center officials remind everyone that their services are up and running.

The center is located in Building 8670, next to the finance office, Service Credit Union and Community Bank.

The center offers tax assistance preparation for federal and state income taxes, as well as electronic filing.

Tax center volunteer are prepared to offer free tax service to all service members, their family members and eligible Department of Defense and Department of the Army civilians. Internal Revenue Service trained

soldiers and volunteers will prepare both federal and state tax returns. Last year the BTAC saved many customers upwards of \$200 in tax preparation fees.

The center is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays; Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon. Customers may walk-in or schedule an appointment. Appointments may be scheduled by calling mil 485-8644.

Customers must bring all W-2s, Social Security Cards for all family members, military identification cards, all 1099 Forms, a voided check or banking information including

routing number, a copy of their 1999 tax return, and a power of attorney, if needed. At the BTAC, customers will be asked to complete a simple questionnaire.

This questionnaire enables tax center personnel to expedite the customer's tax return. If a customer's taxes are complex, such as those that involve itemized deductions or FCC providers, they must schedule an appointment. The center wants everyone's business and looks forward to serving the community.



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

### A different drum

Dancers from the African Bi-Okoto Drum and Dance Theatre move to the sound of rhythmic drums Feb. 11 at the Rheinlander Convention Center. The group is sharing their cultural performances with U.S. military audiences throughout Europe. This is the second year they have performed for military audiences.

### Shop 'til you drop

The 2004 Baumholder Community Spouses' Club Spring Bazaar is scheduled Feb. 27 through 29 at the Hall of Champions. The doors will open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Feb. 27 and 28 and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Feb. 29. Admission is free to all U.S. identification card holders and their guests.

Traditionally, vendors from throughout Europe set up shop at the bazaar and offer an array of exotic items to select from. It's an excellent opportunity to pick up that special gift.

For more information call civ (06783) 188844.



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

A shopper examines all that glitters at a previous Bazaar.

## Fasching madness peaks on weekend

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

If you've been living in Germany and have not heard of Fasching, you've probably been living in a cave and the U.S. military is looking for you.

The Fasching or carnival season reaches its peak this year Feb.

21 through 23. As is the custom in Baumholder, the carnival club has organized numerous events during these days that are open to the entire military community.

"The Americans are very much a part of the Baumholder community. They live, work and coexist amongst us and they have the right to 'play' as we do," said Bernd Mai,

a Baumholder Carnival Club member.

"Not only are the activities open to Americans, but we encourage their participation so that we can share our cultures and continue to solidify the bond between us," said Mai.

One of the highlights of Fasching in Baumholder and just about any-

where Fasching is celebrated, is the traditional parade that includes dancing, music fun and lots of noise. As the merry makers parade down Kennedyallee Strasse, many throw candy to the spectators, sending the children and many adults into a gathering frenzy as they scurry to collect as much of the colorfully wrapped goodies as possible. Baumholder's Fasching parade begins at 2:11 p.m. Feb. 23

The parade stretches down Kennedyallee Strasse and ends at the Brühlhalle, where a large Fasching party for the children ensues at 3 p.m.

"We hold our parade on Rosen Montag (Rose Monday) and like many other communities, we dedicate this day to the children. That's why the parade ends at the Brühlhalle with a large Fasching party for the children," said Mai.

Backtracking just one day, a "sit-down" party is scheduled Feb. 22 beginning promptly at 7:31 p.m. at the Brühlhalle. The party includes stage performances, humorous performances by community members, "roastings," music, drinks and again, lots of fun and noise. Although this event is also open to Americans, it is recommended that those who attend have a good understanding of the German language in order to fully enjoy the evening. In other words, translation services will not be available. Tickets for this event cost € 8.50 and may be pur-

chased by contacting Mai at mil 485-1600 or civ (06783) 6-1600.

How people celebrate Fasching may vary from one region to the next but two things are constant, noise and masks.

During Fasching, or Fastnacht, celebration parties, dances and balls are accompanied by Kappen (caps) and masks. In many cities a carnival prince, referred to as "His Crazy Highness," is elected to head with his princess a court of fools and spearhead the festivities.

In many communities the "Crazy Fasching Royals" symbolically occupy the "Rathaus" (City Hall) to govern until midnight just before Ash Wednesday, when the merry-making and foolishness comes to a sudden halt.

Baumholder's "Crazy Royals" take this tradition one step further. Together with their court, they descend upon the military community the week before Fasching and proclaim themselves to be in command until the festivities come to an end. During this symbolic ritual, the 222nd Base Support Battalion commander and the commander of the German military training area are relieved of command by the "Crazy Royals." "If this all sounds like a party just waiting to be crashed, then go out and get crazy with the Fasching experience.

A list of other Fasching activities are currently airing on the Baumholder Information Channel.



Photo by Madeleine Dwoiakowski

Prince Dirk I signs the 222nd Base Support Battalion guest book during a visit to the 222nd BSB headquarters where he proclaimed himself symbolically in charge until the end of Fasching festivities. With him is princess Esther I, Bernd I, a former Fasching prince, and a reporter from a German newspaper, the Nahe Zeitung.



Photo by Ignacio 'Iggy' Rubalcava

### Mega fest?

This massive fest tent will take up the entire parking lot in front of the Wagon Wheel theater but the only partying that will occur will be after the returning soldiers finish their seven-day reintegration program inside this mother-of-all-tents that will remain in place until the last soldier has returned from Iraq. The tent will be sectioned into seven areas, one for each portion of the reintegration process. The facility comes complete with lighting, telephone lines, on-line computers and everything else required for soldiers to complete their reintegration process.

### FRG leader and FRL training

Don't miss the two day training session March 4 and 5 from 8:30 a.m.-noon for Family Readiness Group leaders and Family Readiness Leaders. Childcare will be provided, but reservations must be made one week in advance with ACS. For more call mil 485-8188 or civ (06783) 6-8188.

### Employment orientation class, job fair

Take advantage of the Employment Orientation Class at the Army Community Service Office on Feb. 17. This class includes valuable insights into the employment opportunities in the Baumholder community and its surrounding area. Participants in this free class will receive information concerning military spouse preference, defining federal and private sector opportunities, application procedures, basic Resumix start-up information, and volunteer possibilities. Call civ (06783) 6-8188 or mil 485-8188 to reserve a space. Also, be sure to attend the Employment Readiness Job Fair Feb. 27 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Rheinlander Convention Center. Participating agencies include (but are not limited to) AAFES, Civilian Personnel, NAF, Community Bank, TKS, Service Credit Union and many more! Call ACS for more information.

## Athletic club concept offers more

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion  
Public Affairs Office

Persons looking for a good physical workout like they used to get by going to the Rec Emporium or the indoor pool can forget about it because those facilities no longer exist – as individual entities. Say hello to Baumholder's latest offering to customers looking for a good physical fitness workout, the Rolling Hills Athletic Club.

"The Rolling Hills Athletic Club

is more of a change in concept than a change in name," said Jeff Milkas, chief, community recreation division.

"What we did is we established a standard fee so that our customers can now pay one price and they have access to the entire facility," said Milkas.

Before, customers who wanted to use the pool paid one fee and those who wanted to use the fitness facility paid another fee.

We changed the pricing concept because we want to make it

more of a club atmosphere for our customers," he said.

A self help renovation of the facility to make it more pleasing to the eye has been completed but really the concept is not in the physical plan it's more on how customers pay to use the facility, Milkas pointed out. "We've made it more user friendly. Our hours have increased. One of the problems we had before is that our hours were all over the board and it was difficult to remember when specific areas of the facility were open.

"For the most part, we've made the hours more consistent so that when customers go to the facility the whole thing is open. Before, each facility had separate hours.

"Buy doing this we'll have more customers satisfied with the services because they'll get more bang for their buck," said Milkas.

Customers can buy a ten-day punch pass that's good for six months. There's also a daily fee of \$3 that customers can pay when they walk in the door. This fee allows them access to the whole facility. There are also extended passes available.

Morale, Welfare and Recreation determined that a distinct group of people use the pool and another distinct group of people use the fitness center side of the facility and that only five percent use both. "So we priced the entire facility at the fitness side, which altered the overall daily fee from \$2 to \$3, but the other price changes, when purchasing extended passes, are much less," said Milkas. This new pricing scheme allowed pricing on the fitness side of the house to remain unchanged.

"Of course, the daily fee is the most expensive way to go but as you get into the other passes you'll note that the difference is like a cone, it (the price) gets smaller and

smaller," said Milkas.

The new prices for passes that allow customers use of the entire facility are: daily club pass \$3; 10-visit punch pass \$20; monthly club pass \$25; quarterly pass, \$65. "You get a discount with the more you purchase," said Milkas.

The pricing for family passes has also been adjusted. The family pass costs double what a single pass costs but allows the whole family access to the facility. So, a family of three, four or five would only pay the price of two passes.

"The facility's proximity to the golf course, driving range and camp grounds is the next logical step we're working toward. What we want to do is include the camp grounds in this package so that when people pay a fee during the summer to use the camp grounds they'll also get access to the athletic club," said Milkas.

"We've also talked with the golf folks about opening up the driving range at the same time as the fitness center and making this a package deal. We're working toward that end," he said.

The Rolling Hills Athletic Club is open to all military and family members and the same exception to policy that applies at the fitness centers for children 12 to 16 years old applies here.



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

The Baumholder indoor pool is now alligned with the fitness center as part of the Rolling Hills Athletic Club.

## Deployment benefits youth fitness

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

Youth in the community are more than happy that their parents are deployed because they now have the run of Baumholder's fitness centers. The deployment has dealt the fitness centers at Smith Barracks, Neubrücke and Strassburg a shortage of customers so the 222nd Base Support Battalion turned a bad situation into a beneficial one for the youth of the community.

Youth ages 12 to 16 have been given special permission to use the fitness centers while the deployment keeps the soldiers away from Baumholder.

"The deployment has opened up lots of free time at these facilities," said Jeff Milkas, chief, community recreation division.

The program started Nov. 11. "It was set up as a 90 day trial but we've asked for an extension from Installation Management Agency-Europe, who initially approved the exception to policy and opened the facilities to the kids," said Milkas.

The idea was coordinated with the

IMA-E sports director. "We threw ideas around to see what was good and what was bad about the program so we could make an informed decision," said Milkas.

"Children ages 12 to 16 don't really have enough to do so, at the time when they need us the most, we simply figured out how to open up the doors to children in these age groups. As a result we've had 10 percent of the eligible kids, about 40 children, come and take part," he said.

There are a couple of formalities the children must go through before they can participate, such as reading the rules of the facility, making sure they understand the consequences of any misbehavior and signing the statement they read.

"At that point they're able to come in and play basketball, use the multipurpose areas or play racquetball without parental supervision," said Milkas.

After receiving their orientation and youth fitness card, youth are also able to use the new Rolling Hills Athletic Club. Like all other customers, children must pay a fee for the use of this facility. All other facilities like the Hall of Champions, Mountaineer Gym and the fitness centers at Neubrücke and Strassburg are free.

For safety and health reasons, children who wish to use the weight lifting equipment must adhere to stricter rules before using the facility. Younger children must be screened to ensure their bodies are able to take the stress of weight lifting and they require parental approval as well as a coach while weight lifting.

Sports director David Jefferson works individually with each child who wants to use the weight lifting equipment.

"He's looking to make sure that kids who are 12 to 16 can handle the weight lifting. A great example would be kids who play football that want to get bigger and stronger so that they don't get hurt may be able to use the weights but they have to have a coach or guardian present that knows what they're doing," said Milkas.

"Of course, when the deployment is over, the soldiers will have priority in the facilities," said Milkas.

Children who are between the ages of 12 and 16 may call mil 485-7176, or civ (06783) 6-7176, or stop by the Mountaineer Gym to receive an orientation and youth fitness card.

## Reunion training

Spouses are urged to jump on the reunion training band wagon and contact ACS to schedule their session today. Soldiers will be redeploying to Baumholder soon and it is important for all family members to get equipped with the knowledge and skills to make the most of their return. The goal of the reunion/reintegration training is to reduce reunion stress, improve marital communications and teach family members how to recognize conflicts before they happen.

The reunion/reintegration training can and should be taken without the service member before he or she redeploy to Baumholder. Since trainees will learn how to recognize signals and learn about potential behaviors that may indicate a need for help, it is better to have the knowledge prior to the Soldier's return. For example, there is a discussion group that deals with resolving family conflicts. This might include how to deal with a child's resentment to introducing the Soldier back into the family dynamic as a parent. Another hot topic is couple's communication issues.

Contact ACS to learn how to schedule a training session for your FRG. If the training is held during the day, childcare is available provided the children are preregistered with CYS and reservations are made in advance. We can even come to your next FRG meeting at the location of your choice. Call mil 485-8188 or civ (06783) 6-8188 to learn more.

# Cub Scouts get media smart at PAO

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion  
Public Affairs Office

A few tigers and bears are now a little smarter about public affairs. The tigers and bears are of the two-legged variety, they range from 6 to 8 years old and belong to Baumholder's Cub Scout Pack 96.

The Cubs dropped into the 222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office Feb. 6 to find out what Public affairs and information gathering is all about.

"They have requirements they must fulfill in order to make their rank and in order to do that, one of the requirements was to go to a newspaper or a public affairs office, or some kind of information gathering place," said Kimberly McHugh, den leader for the Tigers and Bears of Cub Scout Pack 96.

The Cubs learned how information is gathered and then passed on to the community to keep everyone informed of everything from recreational activities to command news. They learned how Public Affairs uses the post newspaper, the Herald Union, the new Baumholder Information Channel as well as AFN radio and television to pass on news and information.

The Cubs also received an earful about community relations and



Photo by Kimberly McHugh

Cub Scouts visiting the 222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office, listen as Ignacio Rubalcava, 222nd BSB staff writer for the Herald Union, explains how he gathers information and produces the 222nd BSB's section of the newspaper.

media relations. "Although they were quite young, they showed a keen interest in learning how we work together with the local community to foster German/American relations," said Bernd Mai, public affairs specialist.

Visiting a public affairs or information dissemination is nothing new for the cubs. Previously the Cubs have gone to AFN in Kaiserslautern, "But because so many of the dads are deployed I wanted us to do it here on

Baumholder so they can learn and appreciate a little bit about their own community. K-town is close by but this is their community," said McHugh.

"This is exactly what they were looking for, ... the process of gath-

ering information and also the public affairs side, especially the German side because on German day we're going to talk about German/American relations," said McHugh.

During the annual Blue and Gold Banquet, Cubs who have completed all their requirements will be moving up in the ranks. Some of the Weiblos Two members will be moving up to the Boy Scouts. The banquet is scheduled for 5 p.m. Feb. 21 at the Rheinlander.

For any boys interested in Scouting it is not too late to get involved. "We want everyone who's interested to please get involved. It's not too late if they want to find out about Scouts. Our boys can recruit them and they even earn a recruiting badge for bringing in another scout, even this late in the year. It wouldn't be impossible for new scouts coming in at this time of the year to earn rank because the end of the scouting year is in May," said McHugh.

The Cubs are also looking for help from parents in the community. "We'd like to encourage people to volunteer. We have a lot of people leaving so we're going to need den leaders and we're even going to need a pack cub master next year," said McHugh.

To find out more about Cub Scouting call civ (06783) 904787.

# Children shadow community workforce

Dozens of children traded school for work Feb. 2 as part of National Groundhog Job Shadow Day.

Groundhog Job Shadow Day is an initiative to engage students in the world of work.

The goal of the National Groundhog Job Shadow Day is to provide 1 million young people with job shadowing experiences.

"This is an opportunity to mentor a young person and introduce him/her

to the workplace, by being a "shadow" for part of the day," said Gene Winfree, 222nd Base Support Battalion schools officer.

"Job shadowing demonstrates the connection between academics and careers, exciting students to learn by making their class work more relevant.

"Builds community partnerships between schools and businesses that enhance the educational experience of all students," he said.



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava



Photo by Julie Gowel

Beth Curran and her son Corey man the customer service counter at Army Community Services.

Staff Sgt. Edgardo Colon, cash control officer explains how checks are tracked to Tony Moore and his son Christopher Tuncap. Finance decided to give children who have deployed parents a chance to participate in Groundhog Shadow Day.