



Community enjoys ‘conversations’ with notable author

Story and photo by Emily Athens

The Schweinfurt community enjoyed an evening of the arts yesterday outside of the Conn Community Club where participants sipped wine, nibbled hors d’oeuvres, and mingled. Critically-acclaimed novelist and travel writer, Gary Shteyngart, author of award winning books, “The Russian Debutante’s Handbook” and “Absurdistan”, was the guest of honor, humoring the audience with story readings, book signings, and a question and answer session.

“I like to have a program away from the library and have the people from the community involved. It’s beneficial because we are in a deployment situation, so we have to make it special for family members here,” said Christine Willis, librarian at the Ledward Library.

The evening kicked off with a poetry jam session and presentation by the summer hire teens, followed by a question and answer portion where attendees could enjoy getting to know Shteyngart, as he answered personal questions and offered his expertise on the subject of writing.

“I really like these workshops. I talk about what writing means to me, how I became a writer, take questions, and do a brief reading. Writing is my dream job. ... It’s a calling in some ways. And having an experience like this makes it even better and more



Gary Shteyngart, right, notable author of novels and travel pieces, reads to community members during a writer’s workshop held yesterday on Conn Barracks. The workshop, consisting of a poetry jam, a question and answer session, book readings and signings, was part of the “Conversations” series in USAREUR libraries.

worthwhile,” Shteyngart said.

Shteyngart, who is also a contributing editor at “Travel and Leisure” magazine and has fiction and essays featured in such publications as “The New Yorker”, “Granta”, “GQ”, “Esquire”,

AUTHOR, see page 5

Referral process at health clinic altered to satisfy AFAP issue

By Sandra Wilson

If something is broken, Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) is out there to fix it. The three-day AFAP conference was held back in February, and since then, positive change has been on the horizon in many different Schweinfurt offices and agencies.

“It’s just such a great program. It helps in several different ways, not only bringing issues up front to the forward so we can fix them but also, if it is an issue, we can explain well this is what we’re doing to fix it already,” said Katy McClelland, AFAP program manager at Schweinfurt’s Army Community Service.



Borrero-Ruiz

One particular issue about the health clinic’s TRICARE referral process was brought up more than once at the conference through submissions from the community.

Patients that were seen by a health clinic provider and then given a referral to an outside doctor described the process of getting that appointment as “complicated and time-consuming,” as one community member reported in an issue paper that was submitted early this year.

“After that issue was brought up to our commander’s attention, we created a different way that a person can get a referral,” said Milagros Borrero-

Ruiz, TRICARE nurse case manager. “Before it was only by appointment, they had to wait— now we have two alternatives.”



Peabody

Having to make three appointments— one with the health clinic, then returning for another appointment with the referral office, and lastly the referral office setting up an appointment with the German doctor— was causing delays that could “result in complicating existing health issues” said one issue submitter.

By initiating the walk-in sign-up sheet, patients are now able to virtually eliminate the middle step by walking into

ISSUE, see page 6



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

Today through Sunday:

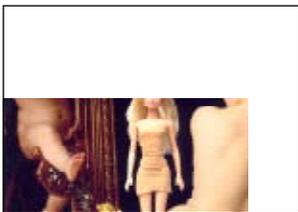
“The Taming of the Shrew” comedy by Shakespeare, performed at the open air theater, An der Oberen Saline in Bad Kissingen at 7:30 p.m. For tickets and weather forecast, call 0971-8071110. In case of bad weather, the play will take place at the Kurtheater at 8 p.m.



“A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” a comedy by Shakespeare is performed at Burg Schwarzenfels at 8 p.m. For tickets, call 06664-402454 or visit www.bergwinkel-festspiele.de.

Today through April 18:

“Beautiful and Ugly” exhibition- 100 works at the Georg Schaefer Museum in Schweinfurt, Brueckenstrasse 20, Thursdays at 7 p.m., Saturdays at 3 p.m.



Tomorrow:

Concert by “Bailando” at castle Hallburg near Volkach at 8 p.m.

Mallorca Beach Party at Hofheim – live music by “Outer Limits 7.”

Jazz concert at castle Hallburg near Volkach at 11 a.m.

Horse riding and jumping tournament at the Lindenhof in Dittelbrunn-Hambach.

Tomorrow - Monday:

Parish fest at the Festplatz (Sportclub) in Heidenfeld, 5 – 11 p.m.

Tomorrow – live music at 9:30 p.m. with Kojak and Triple X

Saturday – live music at 8 p.m.

Sunday – live music at 5 p.m.

Monday – live music at 6 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday:

Wine fest at the market square in Zeilitzheim-Kolitzheim.

Romantic fest in the wine yards at Michelau-Prüßberg.

Fair in Schwanfeld, Adenauer Platz. Stores are open Sunday in Schwanfeld.



Aug. 28 - 31:

Parish fest at the festplatz Holderhecke in Bergtheinfeld.

Parish fest in Niederwerrn at the sport field.

Aug. 29 - 30:

Park festival in the castle park of Gleisenau at 10 a.m. each day. Wine fest at 7 p.m.

LOOKING AHEAD...

Aug. 30:

“Nabucco” opera by Verdi at 7 p.m., recreation area Sennfeld. For tickets call 09381-40112 or 0931-600199859.

Sept. 12 - Oct. 2:

Nachsommer concert season, 10th anniversary. The trade mark of the festival is its “Crossover” program between classic, soul and jazz performed by national and international artists at SKF Hall 410 in Schweinfurt. Concert dates are: Sept. 12 and 17 at 7:30 p.m., Sept. 27 at 11 a.m., Sept. 30 and Oct. 2 at 7:30 p.m. For tickets, visit www.eventim.de or call 01801-052052, 0951-9808220, or the ticket hotline at 01805-570070.



Schweinfurt Dispatch



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The Schweinfurt Dispatch weekly newsletter is an unofficial publication of the U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt, IMCOM-Europe and the U.S. Army authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1.

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...

Christian fellowship nights

Are you a single, adult family member or civilian wanting to learn about the Bible and meet new friends? Then come to the Christian fellowship nights Thursdays and Sundays from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Conn Chapel. Free dinner provided. For more information, call 09721-96-6860.

Flea market bargains

Come shop for bargains at the tailgate flea market Saturday in the motor park across from Ledward's Main Exchange parking lot. Sales begin at 10 a.m. and go until 4 p.m.

Playmorning moves

Beginning Tuesday, Playmorning will return to the School Age Services facility in bldg. 575 on Askren Manor. They will no longer take place in the Schweinfurt Elementary School multipurpose room. Playmorning is a playgroup for parents and their children ages birth to three years and is held Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 to 11:30 a.m. For more information, call 354-6933.

AAFES fuel card outage

Due to a scheduled system outage, customers will be unable to purchase fuel at ESSO or AAFES stations from 10 p.m. on Aug. 22 to 6 a.m. on Aug. 23. In addition, fuel cards cannot be issued or renewed during this time.

Law center closed

Due to an organizational day, the Schweinfurt Law Center on Conn Barracks will be closed tomorrow. Regular operating hours will resume Monday.

Dodgeball registration deadline

The deadline to register for the dodgeball tournament is Saturday. The tournament will be take place Aug. 27 at 6 p.m. in the Finney Fitness Center. For more information, call 09721-96-8234.

New social network site

The Department of Defense offers a new social networking Web site. The site, www.defense.gov, will emphasize personal, two-way communication. News and feature articles, photographs and special reports will also be available.

Sign up for a night off

Do you need a night away from the kids to hang out with friends or relax at home? Sign up now for the next Parent's Night Out event which will take place Aug. 28 from 6:30 to 11:30 p.m. Deadline to sign up is tomorrow. The cost is \$16 for children ages 6 weeks to fifth-grade. The program includes one meal. Children must be registered with Child, Youth, and School Services and also have current immunizations. For more information, call central registration at 354-6517 or 09721-96-6414.

Middle school barbecue

Parents and students of Schweinfurt Middle School are invited to join the Parent Teacher School Association for a back-to-school barbecue Aug. 27 at the playground next to the school from noon to 2 p.m. The PTSA will provide meat and drinks and asks guests to bring a side dish to share.

POC training

Interested in becoming a point of contact (POC) for your family readiness group? Come to the POC training at Army Community Service Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. To register, call 354-6933.



Tonight-	7 p.m.	My Life in Ruins (PG)
Tomorrow-	7 p.m.	Imagine That (PG)
Saturday-	4 p.m.	Aliens in the Attic (PG)
	7 p.m.	The Taking of Pelham 123 (R)
Sunday-	4 p.m.	Aliens in the Attic (PG)
	7 p.m.	The Taking of Pelham 123 (R)
Monday-	closed	
Tuesday-	closed	
Wednesday-	7 p.m.	Year One (PG-13)

Schweinfurt three-day weather forecast

A.M.		P.M.	
	Friday Mostly cloudy Lows 20 C / 68 F		Friday Mostly cloudy Highs 21 C / 70 F
	Saturday Partly cloudy Lows 15 C / 59 F		Saturday Partly cloudy Highs 20 C / 68 F
	Sunday Sunny Lows 12 C / 54 F		Sunday Mostly cloudy Highs 23 C / 73 F

Source: 21st Operational Weather Squadron



- 27 AUG --Book club meeting, Ledward Library, 5:15 p.m. Discussing "Quite a Year for Plums".
- 28 AUG --Parents' Night Out child care for ages 6 weeks to fifth-grade, 6:30-11:30 p.m. Call 354-6517.
- 31 AUG --Kindergarten readiness camp begins at School Age Services, 9-11 a.m. Call 09721-96-6090.
--School begins at Schweinfurt Elementary, Middle, and Bamberg High School.
- 2 SEPT --Registration ends for unit-level dodgeball league. Season starts Sept. 16. Call 09721-96-8234.
--Registration opens for community basketball. Season begins Oct. 1. Call Finney at 354-8234.
- 3 SEPT --Teen magazine meeting, Ledward Library, 3 p.m. All teens invited. Call 09721-96-1740.
- 4 SEPT --Registration ends for youth sports soccer ages 3 to 18. Call 09721-96-6822.
--Registration ends for youth sports flag football and cheerleading ages 10 to 15. Call 354-6822.
- 4-7 SEPT --Adventure in Austria, Outdoor Rec trip: canyoning, rafting, hiking and more. Call 353-8080.
- 5 SEPT --Splash Bash, Askren Manor, noon to 8 p.m. Concert and fun for kids and adults.
- 6 SEPT --Teen magazine meeting, Ledward Library, 3 p.m. All teens invited. Call 09721-96-1740.
- 8 SEPT --Community update forum in the multi-purpose room at the elementary school, 6 p.m.
--Lunch 'n Learn, Ledward Library, 12:15 p.m. Bring own lunch & learn about Tumblebooks.
--Hired! 12-week teen apprenticeship program begins for ages 15-18. Call 09721-96-6970.
- 9 SEPT --Career Status Bonus/Redux retirement briefing, Conn bldg. 40, 1-2 p.m. Call 353-8683/8693.
--Pre-transition briefing, Conn bldg. 40, 9 a.m.-noon. Call 09721-96-8683/8693.
--Community home Bible study kicks off with "Epic," 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Call 0170-277-8980.
- 12 SEPT --National video game day, Ledward Library, compete in Rock Band tournament, 3 p.m.
- 14-18 SEPT --Schweinfurt Newcomers Awareness Program for spouses. To register, call 09721-96-6933.
- 16 SEPT --Pre-retirement briefing Conn bldg. 40, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Call 09721-96-8683/8693.
- 16-18 SEPT --American Red Cross wilderness first aid 16-hour course. Call 09721-96-1760 for details.
- 17 SEPT --Teen magazine meeting, Ledward Library, 3 p.m. All teens invited. Call 09721-96-1740.
- 19 SEPT --Munich Oktoberfest, Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers trip, 6 a.m. Call 09721-96-8476.
- 20 SEPT --Trip to Lichtenfels basket market with Crafts Studio. Departs 8 a.m., returns 6 p.m. 354-6903.
- 22 SEPT --Lunch 'n Learn, Ledward Library, 12:15 p.m. Bring own lunch & learn about Tumblebooks.
--Registration ends for community basketball. Season starts Oct. 1. Call Finney 09721-96-8234.
- 22-23 SEPT --Auditions for community theater comedy and drama "Quickies!" Abrams Center, 1 & 6 p.m.
- 23 SEPT --Hispanic heritage month lunch, Ledward Library, 12-1 p.m. Free food.
- 24 SEPT --Library book club meeting, 5:15 p.m. Coffee, tea and treats served. Book TBA. 09721-96-6487.
--Stress management class class at Army Community Service, 11 a.m. to noon. 09721-96-6933.
- 29-30 SEPT --Auditions for community theater comedy and drama "Quickies!" Abrams Center, 1 & 6 p.m.
- 6 OCT --Coffee bar opens at the library. For more information, call 09721-96-1740.

Community 6 week outlook calendar



Youth invited to afterschool fun beginning Aug. 31

Story and photo by Sandra Wilson

With the beginning of school just around the corner, family members may be wondering what afterschool activities will begin to fill up their schedules. The Edge program, sponsored by Family, Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (FMWR)



Tom Woditsch, auto skills center program director, prepares to push "The Edge" car into its parking space while Cory McDowell, auto skills center assistant manager releases the hand brake. Teens are invited to learn the skills of a mechanic through The Edge program by fixing up this vehicle throughout September.

partnered with Child, Youth, and School Services, invites youth to join their special activities slated for September.

"One of our complaints that we hear from especially the teens is that there is nothing to do here because they feel like their options are limited overseas," said Patricia Lamson, FMWR partnership specialist.

The intention of The Edge is to combat that boredom with programs targeted at a variety of ages: Gaming, Bowling Adventure and Tournament, Theater 101, Get Fit, and Pimp This Ride.

"The programs are free for middle school and teenage kids, and there is a minimal fee for first- through fifth-graders," Lamson said, describing the Discover Schweinfurt program for first- through fifth-graders, which includes field trips to a castle, animal park, and Georg Schafer Museum.

Even if participants cannot attend each event during the month, it's best to sign up now to guarantee a slot for the remaining September events. Lamson recommended that homeschoolers call to make special arrangements if they find themselves outside the grades recommended for each activity.

The gaming group invites teens to play Wii sports, Rock Star, Halo and much more.

Bowling introduces middle-schoolers to the game, rules, and courtesies as well as teaches the participants how the pin-setter works and how to drill holes in a bowling ball. Theater 101 helps kids in grades 6 through 8 with acting techniques and how to get over stage fright.

Get Fit introduces fitness to the middle school-aged kids through Pilates, tennis, circuit training and more.

"It's not three hours of intense (working out), but it gives them a chance to see what are all these things their parents are always talking about," Lamson said about

the Get Fit program. The time is split between fitness instruction and fun games of dodgeball or basketball.

Lastly, Pimp this Ride is for high-schoolers to learn the basics of auto repair, safety, and maintenance.

"We actually have a vehicle that is the 'Edge' vehicle, and kids are going to learn how to repair it," Lamson said, explaining that the goal is to eventually replace the clutch in the vehicle. "If you don't have a parent that's big into cars or doesn't have time, this is a chance for young people to be there with a certified person that can teach them."

"This is going to be a complete new thing," said Tom Woditsch, certified auto mechanic and auto skills center program director. There's no need for prior automotive experience, he added.

"(The teens) are definitely going to learn a lot. ... We're going to teach them tricks" in auto repair, said Cory McDowell, auto skills center assistant manager.

Regardless of the activity in which one is registered, all participants meet at their designated centers for snacks before traveling to the site where the activity takes place, Lamson explained. Signing up for the activity of choice in the September package is a matter of simply stopping into the Commons next to Rohr's Café to register before Aug. 31.

"A lot of these programs will be continuing on in future months, but we are also looking for ideas for other programs. So if there's something that the youth are interested in, they should let us know, and we'll see what we can do to build a program to offer that," Lamson said.

AUTHOR

and the "New York Times", read two personal essays to the crowd once published in The New Yorker. He concluded the book reading portion with two blurbs from The Russian Debutante's Handbook.

According to Shteyngart, the atmosphere of workshops like this are relaxed and takes participants away from a typical academic setting, adding that "there's nothing at stake here."

Shteyngart's visit concluded his tour of eight garrisons within Europe as part of the Army-Europe "Conversations" literary discussions, which has brought in authors like Daniel Wallace

and Andrew Carroll. According to the Army Europe Libraries Web site, these workshops are meant to provide inspiration for anyone interested in creative writing, or just reading in general, while giving Soldiers and family members the opportunity to meet notable authors.

"Reading takes people away from the day in and day out realities, which is so sad at times. Reading is your fantasy, your imagination, and that's what's important," Willis said, quoting Shteyngart who said, "If you don't read, you don't think."

For more information on the "Conversations" series up to date, visit <http://www.library.eur.army.mil/events/conversations/>



Living conditions improve for Soldiers in Iraq

Story and photo by Pfc. Bethany Little
172nd Infantry Brigade

PATROL BASE MAHAWIL, Iraq— Amongst the threat of sand storms and extreme heat, the Multi-National Division-South Command Sgt. Maj. Doug Julin came to visit the Soldiers of Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, Black



1st Sgt. Richard Mitchell, Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, shows the shoot house, a new urban terrain training facility to Division Command Sgt. Maj. Doug Julin, Multi-National Division-South, 34th Infantry Division.

Lions, August 6.

The visit was to view the improved living conditions and morale of the Soldiers stationed outside of the small town of Mahawil.

“I came to see how conditions have improved since the last time I was here,” said Julin. “I have to say, I’m very impressed by the leadership and the spirit of the Soldiers here.”

Led by Charlie Company’s first sergeant, the tour of the patrol base upgrades began with a tour through the company aid station, headquarters building, dining facility, key leader engagement

room and the improved ranges.

“When the company first arrived, barely any of this was here,” said 1st Sgt. Richard Mitchell, “We’ve improved force protection, training and personal comfort levels.”

The need for the improvements was identified two months ago when the force protection team from MND-S determined the patrol base was austere and offered undesirable living conditions.

Leadership of Charlie Company looked at the suggestions and comments made by the team and began planning the improvements for the patrol base.

Soldiers created supplemental fighting positions that are completely movable to improve force protection on the patrol base. Training facilities were another focus for the company, which included redesigned ranges and new urban terrain training facilities.

“As an infantryman, one can never have enough training, so we created a training house that resembles many of the houses in Iraq. It has a right hand shooter room, a left hand shooter room and a long narrow hallway that the Soldiers must negotiate,” Mitchell said.

Personal comfort was the last aspect the company looked to improve.

“There’s a difference between taking care of Soldiers and pampering Soldiers,” added Mitchell. “My guys live in tents and air conditioners can only do so much. We received tent foam kits from division and placed the foam on the majority of the tents, which keeps the temperature within the tents about 20 to 25 degrees cooler.”

Soldiers are no longer living in austere conditions because of the improvements made to the patrol base, such as the renovated training facilities and updated bathrooms.

“When the Soldiers are supported the way they are here, then they are more likely to do whatever their leadership asks of them,” said Julin. “It is evident that the Soldiers are happy and they really want to be here.”

ISSUE

the TRICARE referral office after their appointment with the provider.

“We have two books: one for the same-day appointments and that is a walk-in ... the other is they have a choice of making an appointment for later on. So that has allowed that the process goes a lot smoother,” Borrero-Ruiz said.

Eliminating part of the waiting time for referrals was made possible by the cross-training of several staff members. The patient liaisons have now been trained to assume the responsibilities of a health care finder by being able process

the paperwork and make appointments at the doctors’ offices, according to Borrero-Ruiz.

“We’re a lot more flexible. ... I always try really hard to get them in really as soon as possible,” said Nicole Peabody, health care finder and technician. “I always see that we fulfill the needs of the patient.”

Even in the midst of a staffing shortage at the clinic, the new adaptations to the health clinic referral process can declare another successful moment of positive change through AFAP in the community of Schweinfurt.

“(AFAP) gives us feedback,” said

Lt. Col. Patrick Denman, health clinic commander, emphasizing the need for people to use the forum to express concerns. “If you come into the clinic or if you go to Leopoldina or St. Joseph’s and you have an issue ... you need to let us know so that we can resolve it so that others don’t have the same dilemma.”

Services are available in the TRICARE office Monday through Friday, but the office closes every Wednesday and Friday afternoon due to German doctor offices being closed. The entire health clinic is closed Friday afternoons for mandatory training.



Army warns troops to avoid ‘diploma mills’

By Fort Leavenworth Lamp

FORT LEAVENWORTH, Kan. - The Army is warning Soldiers to avoid unaccredited colleges and universities that offer instant degrees supposedly based on military experience or training.

“The Army Human Resources Command is initiating an all-out campaign to warn Soldiers about these educational establishments and to work with Army educators and personnel to ensure Soldiers are not enticed by unscrupulous vendors to purchase these fraudulent documents,” said a message sent to all Army activities earlier this month.

“Soldiers who knowingly purchase one of these documents from a ‘diploma mill’ and attempt to have it placed in their official military personnel file for purposes of promotion (or) assignment consideration or other military reasons are perpetrating a crime, which may be punishable under the (Uniform Code of Military Justice),” the ALARACT message said.

“Diploma mills” are schools that offer certificates, degrees and diplomas for a fee. They are not accredited or recognized by the

Department of Education, the message said.

Army tuition assistance is not approved for these schools, promotion points are not authorized and the credential will not be posted to official military records, the message added.

The message also listed resources educators, personnel specialists and Soldiers can check to see if a school is accredited. The Web site www.goarmyed.com lists all accredited institutions used by Soldiers to obtain degrees.

The Council for Higher Education Accreditation Web site, www.chea.org lists all colleges and universities that are nationally and regionally accredited. The American Council on Education also

publishes a book and CD, “Accredited Institutions of Postsecondary Education.”

The Department of Education maintains a database of accredited postsecondary education institutions and programs at <http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation>.



Crocodiles dock at chapel for VBS



Chaplain (Maj.) Kevin Forrester, dressed as the Bible’s Old Testament pharaoh, declares to the kids that he will not let God’s people go from captivity. Vacation Bible School docked at Ledward Chapel this week with the kids ages 4 through 10 learning how to fear not because “God is powerful”. Nearly 115 kids attended each day with more than 65 volunteers from 11 years old to adult helping to make the chapel event a success. (Photo by Sandra Wilson)

Summer camps throw kids into action



Rashad Rogers, 10, practices throwing a football at the Youth Sports and Fitness flag football camp while others wait their turns. Children from kindergarten through 12th-grade were invited to join the various sports camps throughout the summer in Schweinfurt. (Photo by Emily Athens)

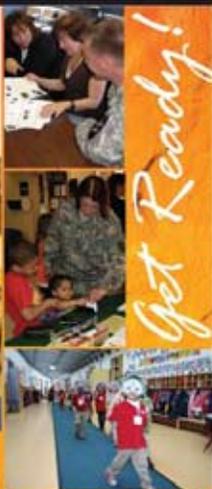


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Free for all registered with CYS Services. Sign up at Central Registration. We'll cover Readiness Skills and Expectations and provide an Orientation and School Tour.



Questions?

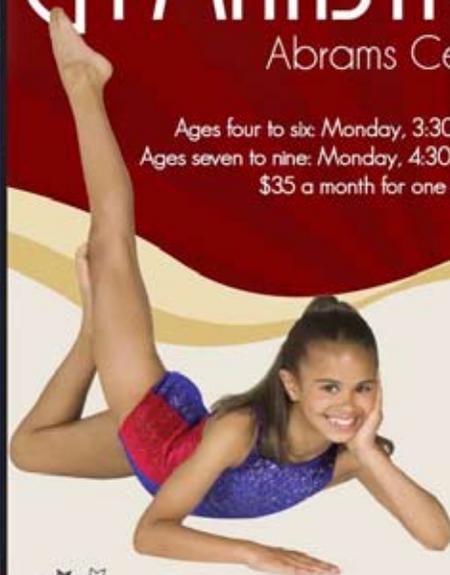
Call CIV 09721-96-6517/DSN 354-6517.



GYMNASTICS

Abrams Center

Ages four to six: Monday, 3:30 - 4:15 p.m.
Ages seven to nine: Monday, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.
\$35 a month for one class/week



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Central Registration
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DSN 354 - 6517