

Fort Wainwright

Ongoing

Seward getaway

Are you planning your summer traveling and fishing season? Check out Seward Military Resort at www.sewardresort.com.

For more information or to make reservations, call 224-2659.

Need space?

Birch Hill Lodge is available for rent throughout the summer. If you need space, we have the place, as well as plenty of tables and chairs, a great view, a fireplace and a kitchen.

For more information, call 353-1998 or 353-6725.

Child's play

The Last Frontier Community Center hosts the Army Community Service Play Morning every Tuesday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Children can enjoy developmentally appropriate activities, including play time, crafts, singing and more. A copy of current shot records is required to participate.

For more information, call 353-7515 or 353-4345.

Work and play

Stop by the Last Frontier Community Center and check out the Mommy Gym, where you can get in a workout while the children play. The gym is open Monday through Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday from 1 to 6 p.m.

Call 353-7755 for information.

This Week

TUESDAY

Pick and paint

The Arts and Crafts Design Center

is offering a 45-minute Pick and Paint Ceramic Class today. Stop by between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. to complete your project. There is a \$15 fee for materials and instruction.

Call 353-7582 for details.

THURSDAY

Bowling outing

The Exceptional Family Member Program is featuring a night of bowling at Nugget Lanes today from 6 to 8 p.m. The cost is \$2.25 a game, and there is no shoe rental fee. North Star Cards are not valid for this event.

Call 353-4243 for information.

FRIDAY

Swim or float

The Exceptional Family Member Program is having a free swimming outing today at Melaven Gym from 6 to 7 p.m. A lifeguard will be on duty, but parents must be in the pool with

their children. Participants must bring a swimsuit and towel.

For more information, call 353-4243.

Change it

The Auto Skills Center is offering a free tire changing class today at 6 p.m. Learn how to properly and safely change the tires on your vehicle.

Call 353-7436 for details.

Upcoming

APRIL 23

Thanks, volunteers

Army Community Service will host a Volunteer Recognition Ceremony today at the Last Frontier Community Center. A reception begins at 5:30 p.m. The ceremony begins at 6:30 p.m.

For more information, call 353-6267.

Fort Richardson

This Week

SATURDAY

Pet fun run

A 2.5-kilometer pet fun run or walk departs from the base of Dyea Ski Hill today at 9:45 a.m.

The trail will be marked for easy navigation. If your pet doesn't interact well with other animals, large numbers of people or children, this race isn't for you or your pet.

Those with problem animals may be asked to leave, and any dog that bites will be kenneled at the recommendation of the Fort Richardson veterinarian.

All pets must have current vaccinations, and owners must have proof of pet vaccinations with them for their pet to participate. Pets must also be on a leash, and owners should be prepared to clean up their pet's mess with their own waste bag or scoop.

Call 384-1305 for information.

Eggstravaganza

Child, Youth and School Services is having an Easter egg hunt at the Family Zone at 1 p.m. today. This event is free and is open to children of all ages, so don't miss out on the free fun, food and prizes.

Call 384-1508 for information.

MONDAY

National Library Week

The Consolidated Library is giv-

ing away books Monday through April 18 in honor of National Library Week. There will also be a story and craft time for children 4 and older April 17 from 4 to 5 p.m. Registration required for this free event.

TUESDAY

Get job ready

Employment Readiness is having a class on the Alaska Labor Exchange System civilian resume process at 3 p.m. and a From Pink Slip to Paycheck class at 4:30 p.m. today and April 23 in Building 600, Room A112.

For more information, e-mail mike.spann@us.army.mil or call 384-6716.

WEDNESDAY

Welcome to Alaska

A newcomers orientation is today and April 29 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Community Education Complex lecture hall. This is a great way to gather information and meet new people and is a requirement for all incoming Soldiers. Spouses are highly encouraged to attend. Free child care can be scheduled by calling 384-7483.

For more information, call 384-1515.

THURSDAY

Money smarts

The Financial Readiness Program is having a brief for first-term Soldiers today and April 30 in Building 600, Room A18 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Call 384-7509 for information.

Deployment support

Army Community Service is having a Deployed Spouses Support Group session at the Family Zone from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on how to cope in the absence of a spouse. Come and share your experiences with others who understand. Participants should bring a lunch.

For more information, call Jennifer Frysz at 384-7506.

FRIDAY

Story and crafts

The Consolidated Library and the Community Education Complex are having story and craft time from 4 to 5 p.m. today. Registration required. This free event is for children 4 and older.

For information or to register, call 384-1640 or stop by Building 7.

Abuse awareness

The New Parent Support Program is having a class on the effects of domestic violence on children in Building 600, Room A37 from 1 to 2 p.m. today.

For more information about this class, call 384-7506.

Pool play

A free "April Showers" family pool party is today at the Buckner Physical Fitness Center Pool at 7 p.m.

Call 384-1313 for information.

Upcoming

APRIL 21

Volunteer recognition

Fort Richardson volunteers will be honored at the 2009 Volunteer Recognition Ceremony April 21 at the Community Education Complex, Building 7. Registration is at 5:30 p.m., and the ceremony will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Call 384-6716 for information.

APRIL 23

Water ready?

The Otter Lake Park boat rental facility and snack bar will open for the season April 23 if weather conditions are favorable. The hours of operation will be Thursday through Monday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

For more information, call 384-6245.

Paintball time

The Warrior Xtreme Paintball Course will have its first day of operation for the season April 23 at upper Otter Lake.

The course will be open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday through Sunday and features more than two acres of playing area, a snack bar rental packages and some paintball supplies. Military group rates will be offered Thursdays only.

For more information, call 384-1476 or 384-6250.

Month stresses military children's lives more than child's play

Connie Storch
Fort Wainwright PAO

Military installations around the world are thinking of their youngest family members throughout April during the Month of the Military Child.

As part of the legacy created by former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, who died March 28, 2006, the commemoration of April as the Month of the Military Child began in 1986, according to a Department of Defense fact sheet.

The Army recognizes that military families serve with their Soldiers.

"Adjusting to military life in general can be difficult," said Linda Wermers, a training and curriculum specialist with Fort Richardson's Family Child Care program.

Frequent moves and family separations caused by training and deployments may also prove challenging, and statistics can provide insight into the life of military children.

Wermers said, "1.7 million American children

under the age of 18 have at least one parent who has deployed. The Army has 900,000 military children where one or both parents have been deployed."

Forts Richardson and Wainwright will host special events commemorating the month with special activities featured in addition to day-to-day programs and services offered by Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, Army Community Service and other supporting agencies.

The Month of the Military Child celebration at Fort Richardson will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 25 at the Family Zone.

"We will have a variety of activities for the children to do," Wermers said, adding the celebration is a day to bring families together to have fun.

"Most of the Soldiers at Fort Richardson (and Fort Wainwright) are deployed now. When a deployed Soldier knows their family is happy, they're better able to do their job," Wermers said.

Scheduled activities include bubble making, carnival games, door prizes and displays featuring a fire truck, military vehicles and a Black Hawk helicopter, Wermers said. Families will also be able

to visit with McGruff the Crime Dog and Darren the Drug Abuse Resistance Education lion and pick up fingerprint safety kits for children.

Families with children of all ages will have an opportunity to get out and enjoy the Fort Wainwright Month of the Military Child celebration at Youth Services at 4109 Neely Road April 25 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event will feature carnival games, exhibits, a petting zoo, a bouncy house and other activities.

Children and parents don't have to wait until specially designated days to enjoy Month of the Military Child, however, as youth activities to celebrate of the month will be offered through the end of April at both installations, to include pajama days, hat days and picnics at various Child, Youth and School Services facilities. Patrons should check with their child's CYSS program managers for special events offered throughout the month.

For more information about Month of the Military Child observances, call 384-1500 for Fort Richardson or 353-7372 for Fort Wainwright.