

NEIGHBORHOOD

THE CORNER

Roads to be closed for Walk-a-thon

On May 16, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. the Fort Dix Elementary School will conduct the First Annual Walk-A-Thon/Health fair.

This event will result in the closing of the Pemberton Gate and Montpelier Ave from Juliustown Rd to Pennsylvania Ave.

The roads that will be affected for this event are as follows:

- New Jersey Ave at Montpelier
- W. 16th Street at Montpelier
- Doughboy Loop at Montpelier
- Pennsylvania Ave at Montpelier

Upon the completion of this event, normal traffic flow will resume.

Spouses club to host tea

The Fort Dix Spouses' Club is hosting a High Tea June 7 at the home of Chaplain and Mrs. Biederman, Quarters 1, Juliustown Road. Come enjoy the beautiful setting at one of Fort Dix's great farmhouses for tea, delicate sandwiches, and gourmet desserts served with fancy china tea cups and tea pots. Have a favorite tea cup and saucer or maybe a hat and gloves with a great story? Bring it along and share with everyone. Door prize awarded for the best story!

Members from Fort Dix and neighboring installations, as well as non-military members from outside communities are invited.

Cost for the event is \$20 per person with all net proceeds returned back into the community to benefit our Soldiers! There will be 3 seating options: 11 a.m., 1p.m., or 3p.m. Tickets can be purchased from any Spouses' Club Member, or at the Fort Dix Thrift Shop. For more information call the Thrift Shop at 723-2683, call Bonnie Reed at 499-3969 or email fort dixspousesclub@comcast.net.

Comedians bring laughs to Dix

Spc. Douglas York
Pfc. Lyndsey Dransfield
128th MPAD

There's an old cliché that states "Laughter is the best medicine." Arguably, and as a result of their duties, Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines often need higher doses of laughter than others.

Fortunately, a few members of our Armed Forces found that cure via comedian Jamie Kennedy's comedy show, "Funny Biz - Spread the Laughter," held May 7, at Club Dix.

Kennedy, along with comedians Bill Dawes and Gina Brillion, entertained servicemembers with a wide array of stand-up comedy and witty humor. Judging by the crowd reaction and overall noise coming from the audience, the name of the show is well suited.

"It gets your mind off of everything going on," said Spc. Joshua Hausmar from the 38th Military Police Company, Indiana National Guard.

The show was sponsored by Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation (FMWR), network of support and leisure services designed to enhance the lives of Soldiers and their families. "There is no greater job than to serve those who serve our country," said Ernst F. Yeager, who has worked for Fort Dix FMWR since 1979.

Kennedy and Dawes are long time supporters of US troops both here and overseas. In June of 2007 they traveled to Kuwait and Baghdad where they performed for the United Service Organization sponsored "Jamie Kennedy Hip Hop Comedy Tour" for troops serving there.

"For me it was amazing, one of the most gratifying things I have ever done," said Kennedy. "You get off the plane and they (the troops) start hugging you and crying. They're like, 'Pamela Anderson didn't show up, but we have you!'"

While traveling to and from Iraq, the comedians shared their airplanes

with servicemembers from all over the U.S.

"There were all types of people, colors, creeds, shapes and sizes. It's interesting how they're all connected. It was an emotional thing," said Kennedy. "I learned a lot while I was there. I don't like to talk about politics but when I listen to other people talk, I wonder how many people have actually been there and had a chance to talk to the troops."

Fort Dix is a major training and mobilization center for the Army Reserves and National Guard. As is the case with all mobilization stations, most Soldiers here undergo long days of training while sacrificing time away from their family and loved ones.

As a result, a treat like the one the FMWR delivered on Wednesday is the best prescription the doctor could have ordered.

"People look at us as heroes, but we are just doing our jobs," said Sgt 1st Class Todd W. Strong, also from the 38th MPs. "We really appreciate these guys who are going out in harms way to make us laugh. They, along with our families and those who support us, are the real heroes," he added.

Kennedy, Dawes and Brillion's talents and efforts are not only appreciated and recognized by those in attendance at Club Dix, but are wide spread by anyone fortunate enough to hear them.

"One time after a show I had a guy come up to me and tell me, 'Thank you so much. This is the first time I have laughed since 9-11,'" Brillion said. "It made me feel like my job is so much more important. I absolutely love to make people laugh."

Laughing, wheezing, tears of joy and coughing up gut-busting giggles was exactly what those in attendance did thanks to these three comedians.

"Cause they are people and they like being entertained. I love doing shows for the troops because they appreciate it so much. The troops are so happy to see you," Brillion added



Pfc. Lyndsey Dransfield, 302nd MPAD

FUNNY FOOD - Comedian Jamie Kennedy examines a Meal Ready to Eat following a post-show interview after the "Funny Biz" comedy tour held at Club Dix, May 7. Kennedy was the headline comedian for the tour and shared the stage with fellow comedians Bill Dawes and Gina Brillion.

Dixans give their hearts to returning Soldiers



Lisa Evans

WITH LOVE - Sgt. Michael Connors, 33, of San Pedro, Ca. of the 320th MPAD, accepts a ceramic heart from Jan Corbo, director of the Arts & Crafts Center, above. The ceramic hearts, shown below, are painted by Arts and Crafts Center volunteers and given to Soldiers returning from deployment. Volunteers are always needed to paint hearts. Call Arts and Crafts at 562-5691 for more information.



Lisa Evans
Public Affairs Staff

"The hearts have been flying out of here lately," said Jan Corbo, director of the Arts & Crafts Center.

This past Monday, 30 Hearts for Heroes were given to returning Soldiers at the Joint Readiness Center (JRC) as the Soldiers plan to return to their home states. Members of the 302 MPAD and the 418 MP Detachment received their hearts in a small ceremony.

Jim Jansma, pottery instructor at the Arts & Crafts Center, said that a clay supplier donated 1000 pounds of clay for the project. Jansma teaches volunteers to roll out the clay, cut it like cookies and paint the hearts.

Volunteers, students, individuals, spouses, Girl Scouts, and Soldiers paint hearts which are packaged in

signature red bags with yellow ribbons.

Hundreds of Hearts for Heroes are included in care packages sent to Soldiers in theater and given out to Soldiers returning home.

Major Laura Rutizer of the Walsen Medical Support Element is a big supporter of the Arts & Crafts Center. Speaking with Soldiers on Monday, Rutizer told them the hearts were just a small way to tell the Soldiers what they mean to America.

"When I started at the Arts & Crafts center, I liked all these hearts and thought it would be nice if we could be sure the Soldiers got them," Rutizer said.

"They've done their heroic deed. What better time to thank them than when they come home. What better time to get their hearts to them and see their expressions," Rutizer said,

adding that she wanted to give hearts to every service member.

Staff Sgt. Jeri Regenold put the bags together for this unit. Regenold and Rutizer are both big fans of the Arts & Crafts Center and would like to see more people using the services the Center provides.

Rutizer encourages Fort Dix employees to use the Center and make hearts so that every Soldier coming through Fort Dix could receive one on return from the rigors of war so far from their families and homes.

Corbo and Jansma also want to encourage employees on Fort Dix to get out during their lunch hours and paint hearts. Jansma said painters can use acrylics or they can paint for the hearts to be fired and glazed. Whatever method the painter chooses, everyone is welcome.

For more information call 562-5691.

Book 'bears' deployment info

Jacqueline M. Hames
Army News Service

WASHINGTON, May 8, 2008 - A new children's book, written by a former Soldier and single mother, helps to explain why mom deployed and how to cope with the emotions associated with her departure.

"My Mommy Wears Combat Boots," written by Sgt. 1st Class Sharon G. McBride, is geared to young children and toddlers to help explain why mom has to leave and how to manage feelings of anger, sadness and loneliness.

McBride was motivated to write the book just before her second deployment after her daughter was born. She scoured the internet and book stores looking for a children's book that would help explain the situation, she said, but could find none that seemed appropriate.

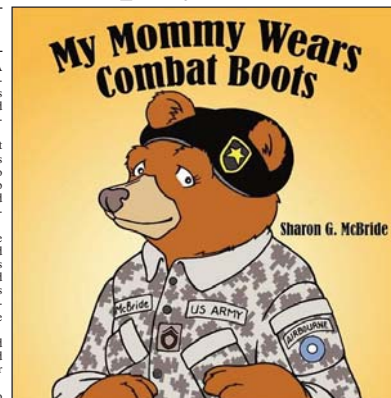
"What was available was geared toward daddies," McBride said. "And I thought that would confuse her more."

At a loss, McBride decided to write her own book. The original copy was written on the computer and illustrated by hand-drawn sketches, and then bound at the neighborhood Kinkos, she said.

The book helped to explain to McBride's daughter, Lyssa, why she had to deploy.

"Kids are egocentric," McBride said. "They don't understand duty and honor, they only want mom or dad back."

The main character of the book, a



Courtesy photo

BOOTS AND BOOKS - "My Mommy Wears Combat Boots" by Sharon McBride, helps kids understand a parent's deployment.

young girl bear-cub, has to deal with ways of dealing with those emotions with the help of a care-giver-in this case, Grandma.

In the book, McBride illustrates that proper forms of emotional expression, such as running outside or screaming into your pillow, are acceptable, but hitting Grandma or shouting at the family pet is not.

"My Mommy Wears Combat Boots" explains that those emotions are normal, and it is OK to feel them, McBride said. The book presents