



Family and Consumers

Military Family Camp eases stress for Idaho National Guard families

With four children to raise and a husband with the 1016th Quartermaster Company in Iraq, it's no surprise that RoseMarie Bedke sometimes feels overwhelmed. "You have everything to do: the house, the chores, the kids, work, church, the community. It can feel like the walls are coming in."

Last July 7-9, the Burley family headed into the Central District 4-H Camp's clean mountain air for Idaho's first "Military Family Camp." Sponsored by Operation: Military Kids—which is funded by Army Child Youth Services through the USDA and the University of Idaho's 4-H Youth Development Program—the inexpensive camp attracted 32 members of Idaho National Guard and Reserve families and as many volunteer staff. Developed as an opportunity to "relax and play in a supportive environment with others who have recently experienced similar life circumstances," it will be held again this July 13-15, says OMK coordinator Sue Philley.

Besides enjoying the wilderness north of Ketchum, family members fished, sang campfire songs, and practiced archery, shooting sports, and leather crafts. They participated in a GPS Scavenger Hunt and learned rappelling at Redfish Lake Lodge.

Bedke's son, Wytt, made a leather key chain for his dad, Stuart. "There was lots for the kids to do," his mom says. "There were things going on every other hour, and the kids had a blast."

For Bedke, a volunteer family support group leader, "it was a nice getaway, and we would love to attend again. The teen counselors took care of my kids, so I even got a few minutes to myself."

Contact Philley at sphilley@uidaho.edu.

"Care Enough to Call" video helps Idahoans understand child-abuse reporting law

When Linda Webb, UI Extension 4-H/youth specialist in Boise, shopped around for an educational video to teach new volunteers about Idaho's child-abuse reporting law, she couldn't find one. So Webb found partners to make a 10-minute video that clarifies exactly what Idahoans should do when they suspect that a child is being neglected or physically or sexually abused.

Produced by University of Idaho Educational Communications and funded by the Governor's Task Force on Children

at Risk, the video is being used by 4-H and other youth-group volunteers, juvenile justice and health district employees, police and sheriff's department personnel, and school administrators, teachers, and counselors. The National Association of Extension 4-H Agents was so impressed it named "Reporting Child Abuse: Care Enough to Call" its best video for 2006.

Order it (\$19.95) at info.ag.uidaho.edu/catalog/. Contact Webb at lwebb@uidaho.edu.

DID YOU KNOW?

6th IN NATION: Idaho's 2004 rank in percentage of children under 18. At 26.7%, Idaho was exceeded only by Utah, Alaska, Texas, Arizona, and California.

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, State and Metropolitan Area Data Book: 2006

Block Fest reaches 3,000 parents, wins national award

About 3,000 southern and eastern Idaho parents and their 8-month- to 8-year-old children have learned the educational value of block play through a traveling block-building extravaganza called Block Fest. One of three national winners of the Parents as Teachers' Losos Prize for Excellence, the exhibit will delight more hearts and minds when it tumbles and spills into northern Idaho this spring.

Developed by Idaho Parents as Teachers in cooperation with Treasure Valley United Way and funded by the Micron Foundation and Qwest, Block Fest helps children discover math and science concepts as they explore and build.

"There's so much fun, fantasy, social interaction, excitement, and frustration," says Harriet Shaklee, University of Idaho Extension family development specialist. Most important of all, there's so much learning for Idaho's young "lively learning beings."

See www.blockfest.org/. Contact Shaklee at hshaklee@uidaho.edu.