

HeraldPOST

Serving the communities in U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg

Kaiserslautern is first DoD safety 'Star' overseas

By Christine June
USAG KAISERSLAUTERN PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Employees making sure they are safe at work played a major factor in the U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern earning "Star Status" from the

Department of Defense Voluntary Protection Programs Center of Excellence June 12. "Kaiserslautern is the first Department of Defense and Army site overseas to achieve Star-site validation of the installation safety and

health management system comparable to the (U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration) criteria," said Jerry Boland, a principal VPP specialist with the Concurrent Technologies Corpora-

tion, a contractor operating the DoD Voluntary Protection Programs Center of Excellence. Boland serves as the Army's contact for this effective worksite-based safety and see **STAR STATUS** page 8

Funding enables wave of facilities maintenance, repair projects across Europe

IMCOM-Europe Public Affairs

Improved barracks, libraries, street lights and roads are just part of how Installation Management Command-Europe officials are applying the significant sum of Sustainment, Restoration and Modernization funds flowing to Europe this year.

According to IMCOM-Europe officials, this is the first year that Europe garrisons have ever received 100 percent of their authorized SRM funding. The fiscal year 2009 funding enables the reduction of outstanding work and service orders, more thorough execution of routine preventive maintenance, the initiation of a number of unit-move transformation projects and initiation of projects that improve barracks and repair facilities of deployed Soldiers, along with enhancing energy efficiency, the transportation infrastructure and community facilities.

This year's funding, coupled with favorable FY08 funding, has the cumulative impact of producing lasting improvements in facilities that up until now have historically suffered from funding challenges.

The dizzying list of projects aside, what this really means to Soldiers and families is that they will have more reason than ever to call their Europe garrison not only their home, but also their hometown.

"In Soldier terms this means that we in the installation management business will be eliminating some of the backlog of nagging maintenance see **SRM FUNDS** page 8

Mannheim Idol



Courtesy Photo

Victoria Raymond, 8, competes in the youth category of the second competition round of Mannheim Idol at the Top Hat Club Saturday. To see Victoria perform and vote for your favorite contestants, head to the Top Hat Club at 6 p.m. Saturday for round 3.

Competition heats up at Top Hat Club

By Princess Brown-Burkert
MANNHEIM FMWR MARKETING

More than 280 fans packed the Top Hat Club in Mannheim Saturday night to hear the 25 remaining Mannheim Idol contestants belt out their best in competition round 2.

In the end, four competitors were sent

home, leaving 21 in three categories to vie for a spot in the finals during round 3 competition starting at 6 p.m. Saturday.

The competition started with 38 contestants who auditioned June 6 for the 35 total slots in youth, teen and adult categories. The club consistently has been packed as each contestant attempts to see **IDOL** page 8

HP THURSDAY
June 25, 2009

Speed Read

FIREWORKS

Stay safe during Independence Day weekend, and remember that individual fireworks are prohibited both on and off post. 2



234TH BIRTHDAY

Kaiserslautern and Mannheim celebrated the U.S. Army's 234th birthday with events at the communities' local child development centers. 3

HERO FOR PATIENTS

HMEDDAC Patient Advocate Jutta Shoots spends her days ensuring patients in Heidelberg and Mannheim have the assistance they need. 4

PUBLIC SERVICE

A group of Delta Sigma Theta alumnae sorority members stopped by Heidelberg during a European trip to help the local fire department beautify the fire station. 6

SUMMER FEST

Head to Mannheim July 3-12 for the annual German-American Summer Fest on Benjamin Franklin Village. 14

Defense Details

GI BILL TRANSFERS

It's official. The Defense Department signed off Monday on policies and procedures service members will use to transfer their unused Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to their spouses or children. Eligible service members will be able to register their immediate family members to receive those benefits when a Defense Department Web site goes live Monday, according to Bob Clark, the Pentagon's assistant director for accessions policy. Defense officials are asking those whose families won't use the benefits for the upcoming fall semester to hold off registering until mid-July so applicants who need immediate attention get processed first. The bill takes effect Aug. 1, offering the military a tool to help encourage recruiting and retention and career service members the first opportunity "to share the benefits they've earned with those they love," Clark said.

Army news: www.army.mil

What's Inside

Our Army Around the World.....	10
Dear Ms. Vicki	12
GET OUT!	13
Movies	13
Leisure.....	14
Announcements	16
Sports.....	17

COMMAND MESSAGE

Stay safe as you celebrate Independence Day

Individual fireworks are prohibited on and off post

By Col. Robert J. Ulises
USAG BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG COMMANDER

The July 4 weekend provides an opportunity to remember and celebrate the independence of our nation and reflect upon the freedoms we enjoy with our friends and family.

We will have the opportunity to collectively celebrate the founding of our country throughout our three communities during July 4 festivities.

Prior to the start of celebrations, take time to reflect upon the freedoms we all enjoy, and honor the sacrifices of those who have defended and those continuing to defend our freedom even as we celebrate.

Throughout this holiday weekend, I ask that all leaders and individuals do everything within their power to prevent accidents. Personal responsibility is the key and begins with leaders who care about their personnel. Get involved, emphasize safety, and lead by example.

Prior to the holiday weekend, every supervisor will provide a safety briefing to their personnel. They will talk about their holiday plans, the hazards they may encounter, and what ac-

tions they will take to mitigate those hazards. In particular, address those hazardous activities traditionally associated with the Independence Day holiday period, such as driving while fatigued or under the influence, water sports and activities in excessive heat (remember to wear sunscreen).

Privately owned vehicle accidents due to drinking, fatigue, excessive speed and failure to wear seatbelts continue to be the greatest threat to our personnel. Everyone is reminded that use of fireworks by private individuals on U.S. Army facilities is strictly prohibited. Personal fireworks are also prohibited off post in German communities.

Ensure all Soldiers traveling by or operating a vehicle on pass or leave complete the Travel Risks Planning System at <https://cra.army.mil>.

Leaders should also encourage civilians to complete TRiPS if operating their POV for a long distance during this weekend. This has proven to be a significant tool for prevention of vehicle accidents. Remind personnel of that the Ground Risk Assessment Tool is available at the Combat Readiness Web site and helps identify the risk



Kelli Bland

Volunteers give American flags to the crowd at last year's Fourth of July celebration on Patrick Henry Village in Heidelberg. This year's celebration begins at 4 p.m. and features bands, games, food, giveaways, fireworks and more.

Heidelberg Shuttle Bus

A shuttle bus will run to PHV for the Fourth of July celebration starting and 3:30 p.m. with the final bus leaving PHV at 11:15 p.m. Pick-up points will be located on Patton Barracks, Mark Twain Village and Tompkins Barracks. See the schedule at www.mwgermany.com.

involved with off-duty activities.

The bottom line is supervisors must talk with their personnel and help them evaluate the activities they plan and be aware of their activities.

This is a special holiday, and you are valuable members of our USAG Baden-Württemberg team. Please

come out and enjoy the festivities and fireworks displays we have planned at the Heidelberg Fourth of July celebration or the Mannheim German-American Summer Fest. I want each of you to enjoy your families, celebrate smartly, and return to work safely.



Join the virtual community today
<http://myBWnow.ning.com>

BLOG ROLL

Find out what your garrison commanders and members of your community are saying in the BWnow virtual community

I met today with a member of our community that has lived and worked here for over 20 years. She said that she truly enjoys our community and is involved in many areas. I had a great time meeting and talking with her. She said that one thing that has her concerned are rumors. She told me that there are lots of rumors that are flying around that people want and need answers to. Trust me, I hear them too. What have you heard?

Send me some feedback and I'll be happy to address your questions and concerns.

-Lt. Col. Jeffrey Fletcher, USAG Mannheim Commander

No one really thought the idea of holding an event like this would work... but last Saturday night proved them wrong! Over 300 people crowded into the Top Hat to watch 38 military community members compete for the title of

MANNHEIM IDOL 2009 ... It was a long night, with music ranging from Sinatra to Aretha Franklin to Carrie Underwood ... The competition was fierce, and the Adult Competition experienced a HUGE upset, as the audience voted out three outstanding contestants ... You will not want to miss this Saturday's second Competition Round!

-Jacqui Haggerty, Mannheim Idol 2009 judge



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Celebrating 234th years of the United States Army



The U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern's child development center on Landstuhl Regional Medical Center hosts a parade June 18 to celebrate the U.S. Army's 234th Birthday. More photos of the celebration are available online at www.flickr.com/heraldpost.



Lt. Col. Jeffrey Fletcher, U.S. Army Garrison Mannheim commander, helps cut the cake honoring the U.S. Army's 234th birthday during a celebration at the Mannheim Child Development Center Friday.

New leader takes helm of 7th Civil Support Command

By Sgt. Daniel Friedberg
7TH CSC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Riding in from the state of Texas, Brig. Gen. Jimmie Jaye Wells assumed the duty of commander of the 7th Civil Support Command in a change-of-command ceremony held at Panzer Parade Field in Kaiserslautern Saturday.

The Texas native succeeded Brig. Gen. Jon J. Miller, who served nearly two years as commanding general of the 7th CSC.

In his initial address as commander of the 7th CSC, Wells said he was of simple taste, "wanting only the best" of and for his Soldiers. The general also said he expects his Soldiers to be capable to "lead, follow, or get out of the way."

Wells stressed the importance of the 7th CSC in handling future contingencies and then went on to underscore the importance of Army Reserve transformation.

"We are in a worldwide struggle with nefarious characters," he said. "These are long-term battles that will be won or lost with human skill and knowledge ... not bombs."

Wells then pointed out the unique consequence management role of the 7th CSC with its civil support teams and a civil affairs brigade.

"If our nation calls this specialized, skill rich unit to duty, it will respond as no other Army Reserve unit must," he said. "We have elements that are indeed ready, relevant and able to react to what one euphemistically could call 'consequences'."

Wells also was given the additional job of deputy commander of the 21st Theater Sustainment Command, the higher headquarters of the 7th CSC. Wells has served in a number of capacities in his 28 years of military service. Prior to coming here, he commanded the 1st Battle Command Training Brigade, 75th Battle Command Training Division, in Houston for two years.

His early military experiences include tours as an intelligence officer in Korea, an artillery fire support officer in the 82nd Airborne Division, and an infantry company commander with the 108th Infantry Division. Subsequently in his career, Wells also held



The outgoing and incoming commanders of the 7th Civil Support Command, Brig. Gen. Jon J. Miller and Brig. Gen. Jimmie Jaye Wells, along with the commander of the troops and the commanding general of the 21st Theater Sustainment Command, Maj. Gen. Yves J. Fontaine, salute the colors as they inspect the troops during the 7th CSC's change-of-command ceremony Saturday at Panzer Parade Field in Kaiserslautern.

operational, executive and command level positions in various maintenance, support and logistical commands. His combat experiences include participation in Operation Urgent Fury in Grenada and three tours in Iraq, the last of which he spent as deputy for operations at the Iraq Reconstruction Management Office, U.S. Embassy in Baghdad.

The day before the change-of-command-ceremony, Miller was honored during the 21st

TSC's retreat ceremony.

"I want you all to know what a privilege it is for my family and I to have served with you. I don't say that lightly, for as most of you know, I am an Army Reservist on active duty. I don't get the privilege and honor of wearing this uniform every day," he said during his speech at the retreat.

Many Americans may not know too much about military service, its structure and missions, but they know it in-

volves hardship and sacrifice – and that it deserves respect, he said.

"You earn it when you volunteer to leave your home, put yourself in harm's way, and when you live the Army values – when you are truthful, honest and selfless," he added.

The 7th CSC is the Army's only Reserve command stationed outside the territorial United States and is comprised of 14 Army Reserve units located in Germany and Italy.

Patient advocate: 'Patients always come first'

By Jennifer Walsh
HMEDDAC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Gotham City has Batman, Lois Lane relied on Superman and the Big Apple could always count on Spider-Man. So who can the people of Heidelberg and Mannheim turn to when they need help?

Jutta Shoots, patient advocate.

As the Heidelberg Medical Department Activity's patient advocate, Shoots is available to patients who have questions about their health care, patients who need help with their referrals, and, among other things, patients who wish to file a complaint or a compliment.

"In short, I'm just here for the patient," Shoots said. "Every issue, every question they have, they can come here."

And they do.

Judging by the number of times the phone rang during a 20-minute interview and the patients who stopped by for assistance, Shoots is as busy as they come.

"I never know what the day will bring," Shoots said. "For example, I normally go to morning report, but if I come in at 7:30 a.m. and there's a patient

at my door, my plans immediately change. Patients always come first."

According to Tracy LaGrange, a patient Shoots has assisted, it is this caring attitude that brings people to Shoots' door.

"She's very understanding," LaGrange said. "To me, she goes to bat for patients. She'll make sure you get taken care of."

Shoots, who has been the patient advocate for five years, said she uses her TRICARE and pediatric nurse background to handle a range of topics including patients who missed their appointments, talking to the command on a patient's behalf, and going to appointments with patients to make them feel more comfortable.

"My life is very colorful here," Shoots said.

As the HMEDDAC patient advocate, Shoots is available to all of the patients in the Heidelberg, Stuttgart, Mannheim and Sandhofen communities. In fact, her reach is often much farther than one would expect.

"I just got a call from Alaska and a call from Moscow," Shoots said. "You can always find a way to reach me."

The door to Shoots' office also is open to civilian patients and retirees. "Very close to my heart are the



Jennifer Walsh

Jutta Shoots, Heidelberg Medical Department Activity patient advocate, explains some of the Heidelberg Health Center's resources to Lina Beecham, who stopped by for assistance.

retirees," Shoots said. "I'm their representative, too, and I try to help them with their appointments."

Although it seems Shoots barely has time to breathe while she is at work, she said she would not trade her job for anything.

"When patients come back and they're taken care of – that feels good to me," Shoots said.

To contact the patient advocate, call DSN 371-2751, civ. 06221-17-2751, or stop by the patient advocate office located in Bldg. 3613, room 1045 at the Heidelberg Health Center on Nachrichten Kaserne.

Rumbling Rubbish rolls into Phase III

By Jason L. Austin
HERALD POST STAFF

Forty-one stairwells on Patrick Henry Village in Heidelberg are about to take the recycling plunge as they enter Phase III of Rumbling Rubbish, a program designed to educate residents, reduce waste, and save government money.

For the last four weeks, Marty Hanson and Markus Ecker have been dumpster diving across PHV in the early morning hours to establish a baseline report on how the 41 stairwells are performing in their recycling efforts.

"We want to see how things are going," said Hanson, Pollution Prevention Program manager with the U.S. Army Garrison Heidelberg Directorate of Public Works.

What comes next is a 15-week program of enforcing the standard when it comes to waste management through a feedback program – which consists of a green, yellow and red dot system at each recycling island – while providing assistance and education to the residents as needed.

If a stairwell falls below the standard – and receives a yellow dot – for more than three weeks in a row, the stairwell receives a red dot, and the gar-

ison commander is notified.

"When I'm informed about a stairwell receiving a red dot, the first action I take is to ask our folks what they have done to help," said Lt. Col. Robert White, USAG Heidelberg commander. "When face-to-face training and assistance has been rendered, but the stairwell continues to receive red dots, then I send a personal invite to the stairwell and building coordinators to come see me to determine how we can bring that stairwell into compliance with host nation law."

If the situation becomes a safety or health risk, White said he'll involve the Soldiers' chain of command, and if necessary, bring in health specialists and social services to remedy the problem. In a worst-case scenario, White said he can invoke UCMJ action. That said, White added that the community has really gotten into the program.

"I believe everyone wants to do their part," he said. "They just want to know how, so the educational portion of this program is the real key to our success, not the threat of enforcement action."

At the end of the 15 weeks, the city replaces the 1,100 liter restmüll (grey) containers with a 660-liter container. The switch saves the garrison about



Jason L. Austin

Marty Hanson, Heidelberg Pollution Prevention Program manager, pulls out a bouquet of compostable flowers from a rubbish bin June 18 to determine if a recycling island will get a green or a yellow dot as part of the Rumbling Rubbish program. Markus Ecker, a city of Heidelberg sanitation worker waits to document Hanson's decision and provides a helping hand with the inspections.

€1,000 per year, per stairwell.

The program has gone through a pilot and two other phases, bringing a total of 152 stairwells on board, including all of the Mark Twain Village buildings as well as many of the stairwell buildings on PHV.

To ensure the residents in the initial phase keep up the good work and to encourage residents new to the community, Hanson and Ecker, a sanitation worker with the city of Heidelberg, spot check 25 recycling islands each week and keep coming back if a stairwell is not meeting the standard.

The two look to see that the paper (blue) and packaging (yellow) containers are full, while the restmüll (grey) container is less than half full, and the compost container (brown) is at least being used.

To help with the compost program, the city of Heidelberg donated in-home composting bins for each of the apartments participating in phase III. "It's an indication of how the city is backing us in this program," Hanson said.

During a baseline inspection June 18, however, Hanson found one of the donated containers in a yellow bin. Ecker took pictures to show the building coordinator for possible action.

Whenever a stairwell doesn't meet the standard, Ecker takes pictures of the containers and the overall appearance of the recycling island to document their finding and to provide proof the building coordinators and, if necessary, the garrison commander.

"We get a hold of the stair-

well and building coordinators to keep them from going red," Hanson said. "We do all we can to keep them from going to Lt. Col. White."

The key to the whole program, and recycling in general, according to Hanson, is being set up in the home to separate the waste, then when you take the separate containers to the recycling island, there's little chance of putting waste in the wrong containers.

"Rumbling Rubbish has really opened the eyes of many as to how much of what we throw away can be reused or recycled," White said. "The net amount of rubbish we as a community dispose of is steadily decreasing in real terms – amount per capita – while the amount we recycle is constantly increasing."

Scouts give back to local community

By Nancy Ward
MANNHEIM ACS VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

The Mannheim community now has refurbished baseball dugouts and an eco-friendly lizard habitat thanks to the hard work of two local Boy Scouts.



CASH

Kevin Cash and Joshua Trout, both of Boy Scout Troop 137, became Eagle Scouts at the Benjamin Franklin Village Community Center June 13 after completing their respective community service projects.

Kevin planned, developed, and gave leadership guidance to others on the refurbishment of the Woods Field Baseball dugouts to include the score board.



TROUT

More than 150 hours were spent on planning; paint scraping; fixing cement walls and steps; reattaching safety screens; replacing benches; sealing roofs, walls and ceilings inside and out; painting the dugouts; repainting the scoreboard; and finally stenciling the dugouts to represent the Mannheim High School colors and mascot.

In a completely different type of project, Joshua planned, developed and led others to build a lizard habitat, adjacent to the Mannheim commissary retention pond and the Mannheim Waterworks water catchment area.

The habitat gives lizards and other wildlife in the area a safe place to live and reproduce. Joshua met with a Mannheim city and garrison Directorate of Public Works environmental officials for input into the design of the project. More than 80 hours were spent on the design, approvals, planning, preparation and placing of rocks, stone and sand.

Although these were their capstone projects, the dugouts and lizard habitat are not the only things Kevin and Joshua have done for their community. Both have participated in more than 20 Eagle Projects to complete their merit badge requirements.

The two have excelled in their duties as Boy Scouts and have shown leadership potential.

Kevin is presently 13 years old and a member of the National Junior Honor Society at Mannheim Middle School. Eagle Scout's are generally 15 to 17 years old.

As for Joshua, life experiences have shown him that he wants Boy Scouts to be part of his life as he grows into an adult.

Soon after becoming a Boy Scout, Joshua and his troop were returning from Intercamp in the Czech Republic. At a rest stop on the autobahn, he was struck by a vehicle in the parking lot. The accident almost cost him his life and his leg, but thanks to the quick thinking and the paramedic experience of his scout master, he survived. His leg was saved but still bears the severe scars from the accident.

Joshua credits his scout master, not only with saving his life, but also giving him the desire to live life to its fullest and to help others when they need it. He said he hopes to offer his services as an assistant scout master when he gets older, and he wants to eventually become a scout master of his own troop.

Both Kevin and Joshua are members of the Order of the Arrow, which is the Scout National Honor Society, and both have attended National Youth Leadership Training, a weeklong training camp teaching youths how to lead and work with their troop.

Clarification

In reference to last week's Herald Post story about 'smart' pedestrian gates, local national employees do not use their Common Access Card to enter the installation via the smart gate. They must use their installation pass instead.

Serving the community



Kristen Marquez

Mary Lee Davis, a member of the Decatur, Ga., alumnae chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority, rakes up grass around the pond area at the fire station on the Heidelberg airfield. Davis, along with around 40 other members of her chapter, traveled to Heidelberg during their European trip to help beautify the fire station as a public service project.

Alumnae sorority members help out in Heidelberg

By Kristen Marquez
HERALD POST STAFF

Around 40 Delta Sigma Theta alumnae sorority members traveled from the United States to Heidelberg recently to bring a little 'beauty' to the fire station at the airfield.

The women, from the Decatur alumnae chapter in Decatur, Ga., toured cities in the Czech Republic, Italy, France, Poland and Germany before stopping in Heidelberg Friday for their service project.

"We try to do a service project somewhere where we're going," said Francine Gadson, president of the chapter. "It's not just a vacation, but its part of what we do, which is service, and that's what we're about — community service."

The women stopped at the airfield to get a tour of the fire house and perform their public service project, which was organized in part by Delta Sigma Theta Germany alumnae chapter member Lt. Col. Anita Greenlee, the U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg director of emergency services.

"We couldn't just accept them, we had to come up with a program, so everything that we do has to meet a certain criteria," Greenlee said. "We can't just say, 'we're going to cut some grass.' (We have to determine) if it is fitting the type of sorority that we are, which is a social type with emphasis on service. So we had to write out our program, and it had to be voted on."

Greenlee said when she found out the Decatur alumnae chapter was going to be visiting, she knew right away what project she would propose.

"Mainly because I've always given back to the public, and when I think about our firefighters, their job is fire protection for the Heidelberg community and this area," she said. "They do not have the time to do all the things that they would like

to in their fire house, so I'm excited because it will indeed boost their morale."

While at the fire station, the women did some "summer cleaning," Greenlee said, including beautifying the pond and barbecue pit area outside the station, as well as cleaning the kitchen, dining room and day room areas inside the station.

The sorority was founded in 1913 at Howard University by 22 women. Overall, there are more than 350,000 members in 950 alumnae and collegiate chapters located throughout the world. The Decatur alumnae chapter has more than 400 members.

"What we've done, every two years we try to take an international trip, and we try to collaborate with 'sorors' — other sisters that are in that particular region," Gadson said. "Two years ago we were in South Africa, and we collaborated with a soror in Johannesburg."

"We went to an orphanage in Cape Town and participated in a project called Black Sugar Dreams, and we brought black dolls to Johannesburg for the girls there because they didn't have access to black dolls."

The chapters of Delta Sigma Theta follow the Five-Point Thrust system to organize programs to benefit the African-American community. The Five-Point Thrust system includes economic development; educational development; international awareness and involvement; physical and mental health; and political awareness and involvement.

Greenlee said the Germany alumnae chapter is also involved in projects year-round, including raising funds to offer scholarships to deserving students. They also sponsor Delta G.E.M.S., which stands for Growing and Empowering Myself Successfully, a program for females age 14-18, among other events and services.

SRM FUNDS

continued from page 1

deficiencies in our barracks and around our communities while simultaneously making some wise capital investments to our infrastructure thus improving sustainability and quality of life," said Diane Devens, director of IMCOM-Europe.

"Our ability to execute about 300 more projects than originally anticipated at the beginning of the year is simply great news for the Soldiers and families stationed in Europe."

Funding strategy and project priority development was a collaborative effort between garrisons and senior mission commanders. While not all requirements could be addressed, the collaborative approach best ensured that the most pressing maintenance needs were appropriately addressed.

Gary Berkner, chief of business operations and integration for IMCOM-Europe Public Works Division, said the funding level this year is particularly welcome.

"Because we also received specially-appropriated funds in 2008," Berkner said, "these last two years have been very good for our garrisons, probably the best ever for facilities maintenance and repair work, and that's a tremendous success story for Europe."

Indeed, every military community stands to gain in receiving the bulk of their priority SRM project funding. Examples of where the money is being spent:

- Transportation infrastructure: \$4.6 million;
- Barracks improvement: \$10.3 million;
- Energy projects: \$13.9 million;
- Transformation programs: \$38 million;
- Community facilities upgrades: \$9.3 million;
- General installation improvements: \$108.2 million.

Approximately \$30 million has been designated for the U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg communities – \$22 million for Kaiserslautern; \$4.5 million for Heidelberg, with the majority focusing on the enduring installation Germersheim Army Depot; \$1.3 million for Mannheim; and \$1.2 million for close-out projects in Darmstadt.

"FY08 and FY09 SRM funding has been significantly above historical norms," noted Al Rasper, chief of IMCOM-Europe Public Works Division. "Over the next year to year-and-a-half, we will see a number of improvements at garrisons that will enhance the quality of life for our people, increase mission capability, deliver cost savings, and provide energy improvements."

IDOL

continued from page 1

win over the audience with his performance.

Just like "American Idol," three judges give immediate feedback to each contestant, but it is the audience vote that determines who stays – and who goes. The finals, featuring the "Final Five" in each category, will be held at 6 p.m. July 4 as part of the Mannheim German-American Summer Fest.

The contestants are competing for various cash and travel prizes, along with the title, "Mannheim Idol 2009." The youth winner will receive \$250 cash, the teen winner will take home \$250, and the adult winner will be awarded \$500 cash and a trip to Sea Pines Lodge, courtesy of AFRC's Camp Darby.

Having reached the halfway point in the competition rounds, the four-week event has been a resounding

success with more than 100 fans on Facebook, and AFN Heidelberg's Sgt. Chad "The Hitman" Highland providing updates on the Morning Show every day.

If you're wondering who the judges are and what in the world qualifies them to judge a vocal talent competition, here's the skinny. Mark Lewis (Randy Jackson) has over 30 years of musical entertainment experience, including a contract with Sony Music®, numerous music video productions and a song writing/recording history of more than 15 years. Jacqui Haggerty (Paula Abdul) has over 35 years of award-winning vocal, choreography, acting, directing and broadcasting experience, and has worked with numerous recording artists. Highland of AFN Heidelberg's Morning Show has more than 20 years of broadcast entertainment and disc jockey experience, and is

the favored judge of the audience, as he very accurately portrays the "Simon Cowell" of the group.

In the youth category, tiny 8-year-old Victoria Raymond wowed the audience with her incredibly powerful vocals on "The Night Before the Light Goes On," while the teen category saw the first tie-breaking scores for Mechalonte Delapierre's (14) Macy Gray-like performance and Summer Jacobson's (16) soulful rendition of Morrison's "You Give Me Something."

In the adult category, top-notch favorites Joan Fortin and Deborah Michaels received near-perfect scores from the judges for their performances of "At Last" and "Lady Marmalade," respectively.

The idol program is under the direction of Haggerty, FMWR Business Division chief. She was the first to at-

tempt the concept in 2001 at Ramstein Air Base. "Nobody thought the idea would fly at first," Haggerty said, "but then over 2,000 people descended on the Freedom Fest field, and the production became the pilot for USAFE Idol, BOSS Idol and Military Idol, now known as Operation: Rising Star."

"Every person in the audience gets one ballot when they come through the doors," the judge explained. "Folks who decide to order dinner or snacks from the adjacent Winger's restaurant receive additional ballots as a value-added service through USAG Mannheim's FMWR Business Operations Division, in addition to those purchasing a beverage from the Top Hat throughout the evening."

Fans also can get extra ballots if they opt for something from Primo's Express, a short walk across the parking lot.

STAR STATUS

continued from page 1

health program. He was the leader of the four-member assessment team that evaluated and recommended Kaiserslautern for the VPP Star Status.

"Pretty intense," is how garrison Safety Manager Melissa Hastings described the final assessment visit, conducted here June 8-12.

"(The assessment team) looked at our whole program – accident statistics, our follow-up procedures, how we track and mitigate hazards, and even how we work with our (base maintenance) contractor," said Hastings, listing just a few areas that were inspected.

Assessment team members visited garrison worksites and conducted formal and informal interviews with garrison personnel.

"Since I've been here, this is the best safety program I have ever seen in my 25 years of government service," said Mimi Azcarraga, the garrison's Human Resources director, who participated as a manager for the VPP interviews. "Safety is very well incorporated in everybody's work place. Our safety program is going to be looked at for years to come."

This is the fourth year DoD is participating in the Volunteer Protection Programs, which was created by OSHA to recognize industries exhibiting the best safety programs for their business sector. Defense officials said DoD has already seen that VPP improves safety records and readiness of its military and civilian personnel.

Kaiserslautern was first evaluated in May 2007 for the program by the DoD's in-house Center of Excellence, which assists defense installations and agencies in achieving and maintaining

OSHA Volunteer Protection Programs Star Status.

"Kaiserslautern is the sole installation to achieve Star Status in the shortest time – 24 months since baseline," said Mike Schwarz, the Installation Management Command-Europe chief of safety.

He explained that DoD has set a national target for all sites starting the process at 30 months.

"Typically all sites go beyond that," Schwarz said. "A general rule of thumb for any management system development implementation is three to five years."

Requirements include a high degree of management support and employee involvement, a high-quality worksite hazard analysis, prevention and control programs, and comprehensive safety and health training for all employees, Hastings said.

"Each of these elements must be effective, in place and in operation for at least one year before an installation can even apply to join the VPP," Hastings said.

She added that 243 action plan items had to be accomplished before the garrison could apply for this prestigious program.

"We had to put together a comprehensive documentation system to track training, employee involvement ... hazard and accident reporting and follow-up procedures," said Hastings, giving a few examples of these action-plan items.

Employee involvement was crucial to qualify for this program. "It was a garrison project," Hastings said. "Every department had to participate or we would not have accomplished Star Status."

As a shining example of employee involvement, Hastings cited the Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation's free vehicle inspections, which were initiated two years ago and are held in the community twice a year.

A total number of 598 U.S. and local national garrison employees were involved in the VPP effort, Hastings said.

Because leadership and employees are active partners in VPP, defense officials said they hope ultimately to prevent injuries, preserve productivity and save DoD billions of dollars, thus enhancing readiness across the board.

Results have already happened here as the garrison was accomplishing the action-plan items, Hastings said.

"We have seen a huge decrease in the local national accidents – from 14 in 2007 to five in 2008 – that's a 64 percent decrease," Hastings said. "On the U.S. side of the house, there were 35 lost work days in 2007, and we had 16 in 2008."

Hastings said she expects to see even greater results in the coming years because employees are now even reporting near-miss type of accidents – ones that don't actually involve time off from work.

"Because they are reporting these near misses or minor accidents, we can hopefully avoid something major from happening," Hastings said.

She added that reporting these near misses is a direct result of the garrison being involved in VPP. Success is most likely to continue, Hastings said, because VPP is a continuous improvement program.

"We don't just get Star Status and drop it," she said. "We now have to maintain this level."

ourARMY
around the world

For more Army news,
visit www.army.mil



Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division connect lifting slings between M-119A2 lightweight towed howitzers and UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters from 5th Battalion, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade during training exercises at Fort Campbell, Ky., June 9. The process is complicated by flying debris kicked up by rotor wash.

Larry Noller



Army Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey Jr. celebrates the Army's 234th Birthday with children of Fort Detrick's Forest Glen Annex Child Development Center in Maryland June 17.

Myles Cullen



Sandra Wilson

Wilma Holt and Beverly Erdmann, principal and assistant principal, respectively, of the Schweinfurt Elementary School, congratulate the children at the USAG Schweinfurt Child Development Center "Strong Beginnings" graduation ceremony Friday.



U.S. Army

Gen. William E. Ward, commander of U.S. Africa Command, receives a Lifetime Leadership Award from Mr. Albert Dotson, junior chairman of the 100 Black Men of America, during the organization's gala in New York City June 13. Ward is the only active-duty, four-star African-American general and is only the fifth African-American to achieve this rank.

MWRGERMANY.COM



The REEL LIFE (HEIDELBERG)



Submit a video to the BNow & FMWR Video Contest and show us what life is like for YOU and YOUR military family in Heidelberg!

The winner will be announced at the Heidelberg 4th of July celebration!

**BW
now**

<http://myBWnow.ning.com>

Videos should be less than 2 minutes in length and uploaded to the BNow virtual community at <http://myBWnow.ning.com> by midnight, June 28, 2009. Remember to keep them family friendly and follow force protection guidelines. Vote for your favorite July 2-3 at the Arts & Cultural Center or at the 4th of July celebration on PHV.

For more information, call 373-7243; 06221-17-7243

CAMERA! WIN A SAMSUNG NV40 DIGITAL



GERMAN COOKING

Soft Pretzels

Serves: 10

Ingredients:

- 1 cup water
- 2 tablespoons yeast
- 1 teaspoon liquid malted barley
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 tablespoon shortening
- 1/2 egg
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3 cups bread flour
- 1/3 cup liquid malted barley
- 2 egg whites
- 1 tablespoon kosher salt

Directions:

- Combine water, yeast, 1 teaspoon malt and sugar. Allow to work for 10-15 minutes until frothy.
- Combine yeast mixture, shortening, egg, salt and 1 2/3 cup bread flour in a food processor to combine ingredients well.
- Add 1 cup flour and process until mixture cleans the bowl, adding flour or water as needed to make dough moist, not sticky or dry.
- Turn out onto a lightly floured board. Knead until very smooth and elastic.
- Place into a greased bowl, turn to coat. Cover and put in a warm place to rise for 90 minutes until doubled.
- Punch down and divide into equal portions. Roll each piece into an 18-inch rope and twist into a pretzel shape (pinch at ends to seal).
- Heat 8 cups water and remaining 1/3 cup malted barley to a simmer in a saucepan over a medium flame. Add 1 pretzel, simmer for 30 seconds on each side and drain well. Remove to a cookie sheet.
- Repeat with remaining pretzels.
- Brush pretzels with egg whites and bake at 400 degrees for 20 minutes.
- Dip into kosher salt and serve hot or warm with assorted mustards.

SOURCE: www.mygermanrecipes.com

Learn to Shop for German Food

Are you curious about local products and food items available on the economy? Visit an organic food store or a typical grocery store accompanied by a registered dietician who is fluent in the German language. Call the Nutrition Care Division at the Heidelberg Health Center to book your free tour, DSN 371-2747, civ. 06221-17-2747.



DEAR MS. Vicki

Vicki Johnson is a military spouse and clinical social worker with more than 12 years experience working with families in crisis. To contact Ms. Vicki, e-mail her at dearmsvicki@yahoo.com.

Dear Ms. Vicki,

I met my husband 20 years ago when we were both stationed in Germany. I got pregnant and left the Army. I went on with my life, got married, and started my family. I never bothered my son's father for support. My husband and I told our son at the age of 12 that he had another father.

In 2004 my husband passed away, and my oldest son started to have some problems. I told him that if he didn't straighten up, I would find his biological father and send him to his father. I gave my neighbor an admission of paternity that was signed by him and well as a JAG attorney. She gave the information to her niece (who has ties to the secret service) and since our son was 17, they knew I was not after child support.

All I was told was that he is still in the military. Try the post locator. To my surprise, within 30 minutes I had him on the phone, and he was telling how he had been praying that God would send me back into his life. Within a month he was here visiting his son he knew he had but had never seen. We were married soon after.

My husband is on his third tour to Iraq. I am so scared that he may find a little something while he is over there. He assures me that he is too tired and out at so many camps that he doesn't have time, however, I

nheim.

This applies even if the vehicle was wrecked in an accident and you did not receive any money for it, he added.

If you do not obtain this permit, you will eventually fail to clear vehicle registration when it is time to PCS.

Customs authorities also may require you to prove what happened to the vehicle, which may not be easy.

"This is obviously very difficult if the car was crushed long ago, you are in the middle of clearing

Ms. Vicki's Online Talk Show

Don't get enough Ms. Vicki in the Herald Post? Now you can tune in for her Internet radio show at www.blogtalkradio.com/dearmsvicki to hear her talk about teen dating violence, helping military children have a smooth transition, relationships and more. You can also visit her online at www.dearmsvicki.com.

hear that Soldiers have affairs all the time. I don't, of course, hear from him often, yet he assures me how much he loves me and never wants to hurt me. I want to believe him but I do remember our beginnings 20 years ago. Should I trust him and trust that what he is saying is true?

From: *Confused in Indiana*

Dear Indiana,

The circle of life really has a way of turning doesn't it? After all of these years, you and your oldest son's father would be married.

Well, I'm sorry to hear about your husband passing. I'm not sure if you gave yourself the opportunity to grieve, as it sounds like you loved him dearly. I hate to imply that your current marriage is a rebound relationship, but it sounds like you had, in fact, moved on with your life.

At any rate, you are married to him now. You can't waste time stressing and worrying about the unknown. I'm not sure why you don't trust him. Yes, many people have affairs, but many remain faithful.

This is my advice. Consider speaking to a professional counselor — one who specializes in grief and loss. I think it will be hard for you to have a successful marriage if you haven't come to closure from your first husband. I'm not sure if you ever will. However, I think there are some things to explore with a counselor that could help you build a successful relationship with your husband and as an individual.

When your husband returns, consider marital counseling and family counseling. Suggesting this does not imply that you have problems or that your children have problems, it simply helps us as individuals, couples and families. Military One Source would be a great place to start for counseling sessions.

Indiana, please stay encouraged. Deployments are stressful. I'm sure you are experiencing a range of emotions because of your husband's absence and given what he is going through at this time. Your husband needs to know that you are OK and that his children are OK.

Please take care of yourself, try to eat healthy, exercise as much as you can, even if it's just 20 minutes a day, and get plenty of rest. Moreover, whatever you do make every conversation with your husband a memorable one, not being accusatory about infidelity.

Dear Ms. Vicki,

My husband returned home from Iraq four months ago. I think he is suffering from PTSD. He thinks so, too. He is not suicidal, but he has a very short temper. We have a 4 year old and a 15 month old. He doesn't want counseling for himself, but we need to do something. Do you have any suggestions?

From: *A Worried Wife*

Dear Military Wife,

There is no way to solve his problems other than counseling. Your husband has to look at it two-fold: It's for his benefit and the benefit of his family.

He is not weak for seeking services; it won't adversely affect his career by seeking services. It's something he must do.

You and the children can be involved in the process because everyone could learn and support your husband. I'm not sure if you live near a military facility, but you could start there by making an appointment with his primary care manager. He should simply tell someone about his symptoms. It may not be PTSD; it could be combat stress symptoms or adjustment problems. However, he won't know unless he seeks services. Please tell him Ms. Vicki said, "go."

PCSing and need to sell your car? Don't forget the customs form

By Robert Szostek
CUSTOMS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

U.S. personnel can avoid big trouble by getting a customs "Permit to Transfer" when transferring a U.S. Army Europe-plated vehicle to a non-ID card holder in Germany.

"It is essential to get a permit to transfer before you sell, donate or transfer a car to a German car dealer, junkyard or person who is not an ID card holder," explained Fred Evans, chief of services at the USAREUR Customs Executive Agency in Man-

out of Europe and you have no record of where the car went," Evans said.

If you cannot show what happened to the vehicle, you may be identified in a military police report and subject to disciplinary action.

The "Permit to Transfer" (AE Form 550-175B) is available at the U.S. Forces customs office serving your garrison.

More information on selling personal property in Germany the right way is available online at www.hqusareur.army.mil/opm/custom2.htm or by contacting your local U.S. Forces customs office.



Movie Lovers Online

Join the "Movie Lovers" group in the BWow virtual community at <http://myBWow.ning.com> to give props and flops to the latest flicks and chat with The Reel Life's Spc. Joseph Nieves.

State of Play

Well I was a little skeptical about this one. I can't say Ben Affleck is an Oscar-worthy actor, and at times I find his acting a bit unfeeling. Russel Crowe, on the other hand, has been an amazing actor in some films ("Gladiator" anyone?)

So "State of Play" follows reporter Cal McAffrey (Crowe) as he investigates the apparent suicide of Congressman Steven Collins' (Affleck) mistress (I'm not ruining the story here).

The movie plays out very well, and surprisingly enough, Affleck didn't do a bad job at all.

Crowe, in a lot of ways I felt, carried the movie – while not his best performance, it certainly wasn't his worst.

It was a good movie overall, and it did pretty well in the States. I don't think you will be disappointed. The movie is rate PG-13, but as always, there are some scenes that are still a bit much – not that I think the movie will hold the attentions of the younger crowd. Check it out and see for yourself.

Also starting July 3, "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen" starts on PHV in Heidelberg. Get ready folks, the movie everyone's (well I have) been waiting for finally hits the theaters. It's going to be awesome. I know I'll be seeing it at least three times if its anywhere as good as the first one. See you all there.

GET OUT!
area events

More events online at <http://myBWow.ning.com>

Four-Castle Illumination Cruise

Tickets are on sale now for the Warrant Officers Association's river boat cruise and four-castle illumination with fireworks July 25. Cost: €25 per person, children under 7 are free. Proceeds fund the WOA scholarship program for graduating seniors and family members. DSN 375-5192, civ. 0162-297-4953, www.Rhein-NeckarSilver.com.

Apollo Amateur Talent Show and After Party

Get your act together now to win big cash on July 11 starting at 9 p.m. It's the audience who decides who walks away with the \$1,000 cash prize. The show takes place at the Schuh Theater followed by an after party at the Top Hat Club. All participants and patrons must be at least 18 years old. Interested participants must sign-up before July 27. Mannheim/Kaiserslautern: Civ. 01766-122-9743; Heidelberg: Civ. 01515-125-1285.

June 25

1043rd Valley Fair – Head to Bad Wimpfen for the biggest popular festival in the lowlands with a large farmer's market and supporting program through June 30. www.badwimpfen.de.

June 26

Prime Rib Dinner – Head to the Patrick Henry Village Pavilion in Heidelberg 5:30-9 p.m. for prime rib with au jus and creamy horseradish sauce, chicken parmesan or grilled salmon fillet with dill sauce, all accompanied by delicious side items, a fresh garden salad bar and savory dessert station. Reservations recommended, walk-ins welcome. DSN 388-9436.

Heidelberg Schlossfestspiele – Through Aug. 9, enjoy a variety of theater and musical performances at Heidelberg Castle, including "The Student Prince" July 24, 26 and 30 and Aug. 7 and the free German-American friendship concert featuring the USAREUR Band and Chorus at 5 p.m. July 5. Tickets: Civ. 06221-582-0000, tickets@theater.heidelberg.de, and at many local ticket outlets. www.heidelbergerschlossfestspiele.de.

Teddy Bear Festival – Head to Giengen an der Brenz for the festival of Steiff teddy

bears. With diverse attractions on the Steiff company premises and the Walter-Schmid-Halle as well as a dealers exchange and mobile exhibition in the "Schranne." Civ. 01805-131101, www.giengen.de.

June 27

Merengue Dance Competition – Armstrong's Club in Kaiserslautern will host a Merengue Dance Competition in the Irish Pub. Prizes will be awarded to first-, second- and third-place couples. Registration will take place 8-10:45 p.m. with the competition beginning at 11 p.m. Civ. 0631-354-9986, www.mwrgermany.com.

Mannheim Idol – Come out and support your favorite contestant at the Mannheim Idol's final competition round at 6 p.m. at the Top Hat Club. Youths (8-12), teens (13-17), and adults (18+) are critiqued by three judges, and the audience selects the winners. Finals will be held at the German-American Summer Fest July 4. All events start at 6 p.m.

Lucerne, Switzerland – Enjoy the mountain air, great shopping and Swiss hospitality. On the way to Switzerland, we'll stop for breakfast. In beautiful Lucerne, we'll have a walking tour where we'll see such famous landmarks as the covered Mill Bridge. <http://affiliates.uso.org/kaiserslautern>.

July 3

Bungee Jumping – Take the 725-foot plunge on a weekend trip through July 6 to Lake Como, Italy, with Kaiserslautern Army Outdoor Recreation. DSN 493-4117, civ. 0631-3406-4117.

July 4

Party at Legends – Still feel like partying after those fireworks go off? Head on over to Legends on Patrick Henry Village after the Heidelberg Fourth of July Celebration for some extra fun from 10 p.m. until 2 a.m. With the latest hip-hop beats from DJ Madlogic, Legends is the place to be. www.mwrgermany.com.

BBQ Bash – Kaiserslautern's Kazabra Club presents the 2009 Fourth of July BBQ Bash 9-11 p.m. featuring great food, great fun and a great atmosphere. DSN 489-7261, civ. 0631-536-7261, www.mwrgermany.com.

July 7

Ying Yang Twins Concert – R&B Hip Hop Artists Ying Yang Twins will perform live at 8 a.m. at the Recovery Room on Nachrichten Kaserne in Heidelberg. The event is free and open to all ID card holders ages 18 and over. The concert is presented by Armed Forces Entertainment, USO and Heidelberg FMWR.

July 10

North Sea Jazz Festival – Travel to Rotterdam, Netherlands, through July 13 to visit Europe's largest Jazz Festival. See such artists as: Duffy, Herbie Hancock & Lang Lang, B.B. King, James Taylor, Jamie Cullum and more. Trip price includes transportation and accommodations. Festival tickets are able to be purchased through Kaiserslautern Outdoor Recreation. DSN 493-4117.

coming to
THEATERS

THE PROPOSAL

(Sandra Bullock, Ryan Reynolds) When high-powered book editor Margaret faces deportation to her native Canada, the quick-thinking exec declares that she's actually engaged to her unsuspecting put-upon assistant Andrew, who she's tormented for years. He agrees to participate in the charade, but with a few conditions of his own. The unlikely couple heads to Alaska to meet his quirky family and the always-in-control city girl finds herself in one comedic fish-out-of-water situation after another. Rated PG-13 (nudity, sexual content, language) 107 minutes

PLAYING THIS WEEK

Heidelberg, Patrick Henry Village

June 25 - 17 AGAIN (PG-13) 7 p.m.
June 26 - THE PROPOSAL (PG-13) 7 p.m.; FIGHTING (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.
June 27 - HANNAH MONTANA: THE MOVIE (G) 4 p.m.; THE PROPOSAL (PG-13) 7 p.m.; STATE OF PLAY (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.
June 28 - HANNAH MONTANA: THE MOVIE (G) 4 p.m.; THE PROPOSAL (PG-13) 7 p.m.
June 29 - STATE OF PLAY (PG-13) 7 p.m.
June 30 - THE PROPOSAL (PG-13) 7 p.m.
July 1 - FIGHTING (PG-13) 7 p.m.
July 2 - HANNAH MONTANA: THE MOVIE (G) 7 p.m.

Mannheim, Schuh

June 25 - DRAGONBALL: EVOLUTION (PG) 7 p.m.
June 26 - THE TAKING OF PELHAM 1 2 3 (R) 7 p.m.
June 27 - STATE OF PLAY (PG-13) 4 p.m.; FIGHTING (PG-13) 7 p.m.; THE TAKING OF PELHAM 1 2 3 (R) 9:30 p.m.
June 28 - HANNAH MONTANA: THE MOVIE (G) 7 p.m.; STATE OF PLAY (PG-13) 7 p.m.
June 29 - THE TAKING OF PELHAM 1 2 3 (R) 7 p.m.
June 30 - FIGHTING (PG-13) 7 p.m.
July 1 - THE TAKING OF PELHAM 1 2 3 (R) 7 p.m.
July 2 - STATE OF PLAY (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Vogelweh, Galaxy

June 25 - THE TAKING OF PELHAM 1 2 3 (R) 7 p.m.
June 26 - HANNAH MONTANA: THE MOVIE (G) 3 p.m.; THE PROPOSAL (PG-13) 7 p.m., 10:30 p.m.
June 27 - HANNAH MONTANA: THE MOVIE (G) 11 a.m., 3 p.m.; THE PROPOSAL (PG-13) 7 p.m., 10:30 p.m.
June 28 - HANNAH MONTANA: THE MOVIE (G) 11 a.m., 3 p.m.; THE PROPOSAL (PG-13) 7 p.m., 10:30 p.m.
June 29 - STATE OF PLAY (PG-13) 7 p.m.
June 30 - FIGHTING (PG-13) 7 p.m.
July 1 - HANNAH MONTANA: THE MOVIE (G) 7 p.m.
July 2 - THE PROPOSAL (PG-13) (1STRUN) 7 p.m.

Ramstein, Hercules

June 26 - DRAGONBALL: EVOLUTION (PG) 3 p.m.; THE TAKING OF PELHAM 1 2 3 (R) 7 p.m., 10:30 p.m.
June 27 - DRAGONBALL: EVOLUTION (PG) 3 p.m.; THE TAKING OF PELHAM 1 2 3 (R) 7 p.m.; KNOWING (PG-13) 10:30 p.m.
June 28 - DRAGONBALL: EVOLUTION (PG) 3 p.m.; THE TAKING OF PELHAM 1 2 3 (R) 7 p.m.
June 29 - FIGHTING (PG-13) 7 p.m.
June 30 - STATE OF PLAY (PG-13) 7 p.m.
July 1 - THE TAKING OF PELHAM 1 2 3 (R) 7 p.m.
July 2 - DRAGONBALL: EVOLUTION (PG) 7 p.m.

Ramstein, Nightingale

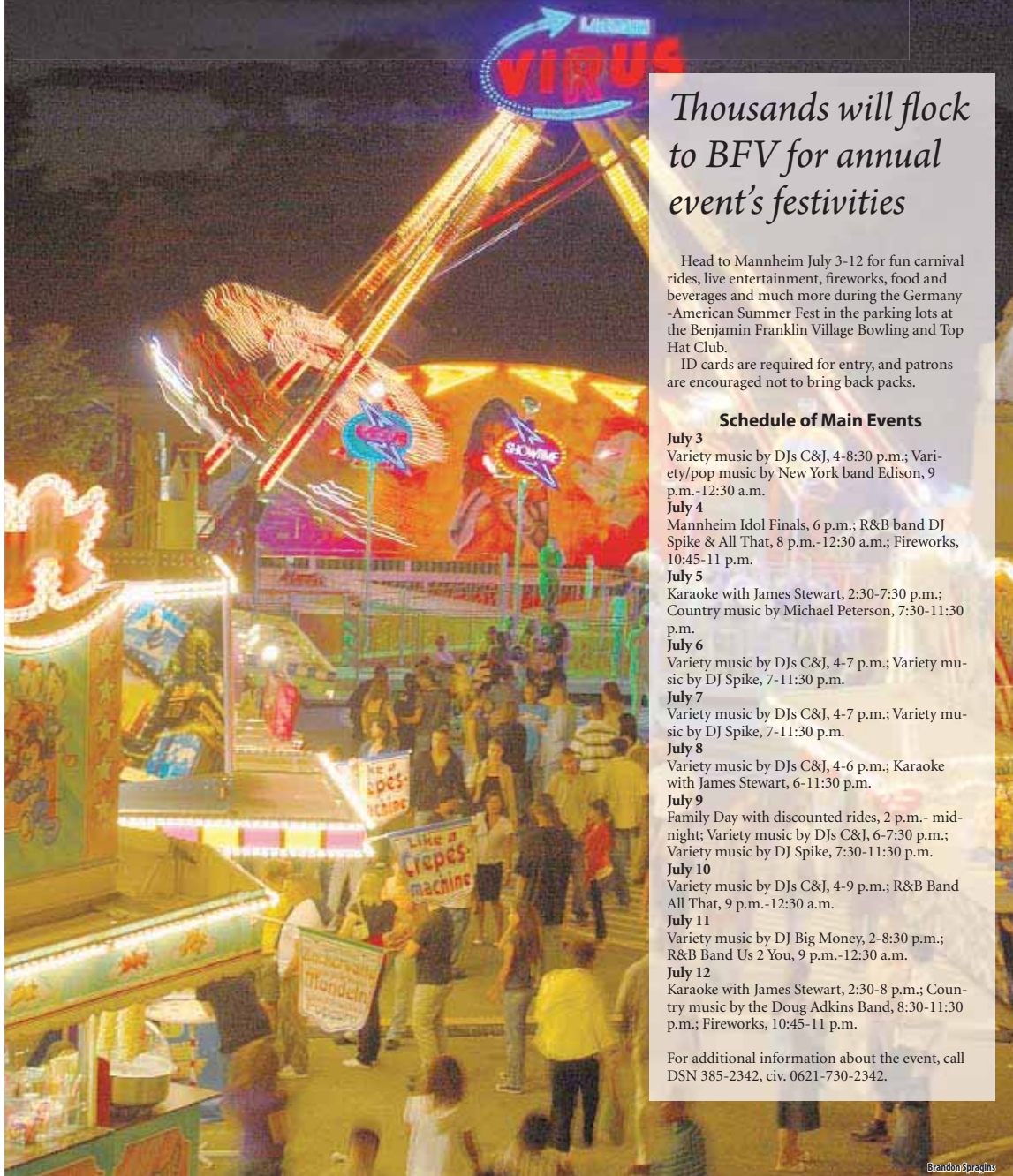
June 25 - 17 AGAIN (PG-13) 7 p.m.
June 26 - DRAGONBALL: EVOLUTION (PG) 3 p.m.; THE TAKING OF PELHAM 1 2 3 (R) 7 p.m., 10:30 p.m.
June 27 - DRAGONBALL: EVOLUTION (PG) 3 p.m.; THE TAKING OF PELHAM 1 2 3 (R) 7 p.m.; KNOWING (PG-13) 10:30 p.m.
June 28 - DRAGONBALL: EVOLUTION (PG) 3 p.m.; THE TAKING OF PELHAM 1 2 3 (R) 7 p.m.
June 29 - FIGHTING (PG-13) 7 p.m.
June 30 - STATE OF PLAY (PG-13) 7 p.m.
July 1 - THE TAKING OF PELHAM 1 2 3 (R) 7 p.m.
July 2 - DRAGONBALL: EVOLUTION (PG) 7 p.m.

THEATER INFORMATION

Patrick Henry Village, Heidelberg, 06221-27-238
Schuh Theater, Mannheim, 0621-730-1790
Galaxy Theater, Vogelweh, 0631-50017
Hercules, Ramstein, 06371-47-5550
Nightingale, Ramstein, 06371-47-6147

Visit www.aafes.com for updated listings and more movie descriptions

Mannheim German-American Summer Fest



Thousands will flock to BFV for annual event's festivities

Head to Mannheim July 3-12 for fun carnival rides, live entertainment, fireworks, food and beverages and much more during the Germany-American Summer Fest in the parking lots at the Benjamin Franklin Village Bowling and Top Hat Club.

ID cards are required for entry, and patrons are encouraged not to bring back packs.

Schedule of Main Events

July 3

Variety music by DJs C&J, 4-8:30 p.m.; Variety/pop music by New York band Edison, 9 p.m.-12:30 a.m.

July 4

Mannheim Idol Finals, 6 p.m.; R&B band DJ Spike & All That, 8 p.m.-12:30 a.m.; Fireworks, 10:45-11 p.m.

July 5

Karaoke with James Stewart, 2:30-7:30 p.m.; Country music by Michael Peterson, 7:30-11:30 p.m.

July 6

Variety music by DJs C&J, 4-7 p.m.; Variety music by DJ Spike, 7-11:30 p.m.

July 7

Variety music by DJs C&J, 4-7 p.m.; Variety music by DJ Spike, 7-11:30 p.m.

July 8

Variety music by DJs C&J, 4-6 p.m.; Karaoke with James Stewart, 6-11:30 p.m.

July 9

Family Day with discounted rides, 2 p.m.-midnight; Variety music by DJs C&J, 6-7:30 p.m.; Variety music by DJ Spike, 7:30-11:30 p.m.

July 10

Variety music by DJs C&J, 4-9 p.m.; R&B Band All That, 9 p.m.-12:30 a.m.

July 11

Variety music by DJ Big Money, 2-8:30 p.m.; R&B Band Us 2 You, 9 p.m.-12:30 a.m.

July 12

Karaoke with James Stewart, 2:30-8 p.m.; Country music by the Doug Adkins Band, 8:30-11:30 p.m.; Fireworks, 10:45-11 p.m.

For additional information about the event, call DSN 385-2342, civ. 0621-730-2342.

community HIGHLIGHTS

Scheduled Fuel Card Outage

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service will have a scheduled partial system outage that will affect the ESSO Ration Card System from 10 p.m. June 28 through 8:30 a.m. June 29. Between these hours AAFES will not be able to issue new fuel ration cards.

Used Government Vehicle Sale

Interagency Fleet Management System European Region, will hold a public auction of used U.S. government vehicles through June 28. Bidding will be via live Internet auction. The public inspection period is 9 a.m.-3 p.m. June 25 on Spinelli Barracks in Mannheim. Another auction will be held through June 29. Photos and details available at www.vwebg.de/vweb/en/auktionen/index.htm. DSN 337-7784, civ. 06111-705-7781.

Nostalgic for Darmstadt?

Members of the general public are invited to sign up for escorted group tours of Darmstadt's Cambrai-Fritsch Kaserne and Jefferson Village and Lincoln Village housing areas the afternoon of Sept. 4. Civ. 06151-132045, [konversion@darmstadt.de](mailto:konversion@ darmstadt.de). The message should list the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the visitors.

APO Use for Retirees

Retired members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their widows can apply to use the Army Post Office system after retirement. To obtain APO privileges, make arrangements with the local APO to receive your mail through "Box R" (General Delivery Mail Section). Your mail must be addressed to "Box R" of the APO concerned and the address must include the word "retired" (e.g., "U.S. Army Ret"). You must pick up your mail at the APO and take any parcels received unopened to German customs for clearance. If you fail to present parcels to German Customs within a reasonable time (about one week), you may lose APO privileges for the rest of your stay in Germany. DSN 370-7142, civ. 06221-577142.

local EMPLOYMENT

Bank Employees

Employment is immediately available for a part-time teller and a part-time customer service associate at the Coleman Barracks Community Bank. Call Harlan Morse, Banking Center Manager. DSN 382-4187, civ. 0621-784158. Applications are available for pick-up drop off at any Community Banking Center.

Thrift Shop

The Heidelberg Thrift Shop is accepting applications. Must have a valid ID card and be at least 18 years old. See manager for details.

Teens get HIRE!

If you are 15-18 years old, the HIRE! Program can find you a paid apprenticeship with MWR placement sites to match your goals and interests. The first 12-week term starts July 1. Applications are accepted no later than June 26. DSN 388-9396, civ. 06221-338-9396.

Program Assistants

The Kaiserslautern Child, Youth and School Services is now hiring program assistants. DSN 493-4370. Apply online: <http://cpolhr.belvoir.army.mil>.

KAISERSLAUTERN Education

• **ACS Classes and Events** – DSN 493-4203, civ. 0631-3406-4203, www.mwrgermany.com/ki/acs.
• **Pre-Separation Briefing** – The Kaiserslautern Transition Center hosts a pre-separation briefing 8:30-11:30 a.m. July 7 in Bldg. 3245 on Kleber Kaserne. Soldiers are required to take this presentation at least 90 days prior to separating (not retiring) from the Army. Registration: DSN 483-7071, civ. 0631-411-7071.

Community

• **Town Hall Meeting** – The Garrison and 21st TSC will hold a town hall meeting at 6 p.m. June 30 at the Armstrong Community Club on Vogelweh Housing. The town hall meeting is open to all members of the community. DSN 493-4241, civ. 06313-406-4241, emma.vinson@eur.army.mil.

• **Reduced Garrison Staffing** – The U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern will have reduced staffing at its facilities June 30 and July 10 for command functions.

• **Landstuhl Community Club Holiday Hours** – July 3 the club will open at 5 p.m. and will host Texas Hold 'Em; registration at 6 p.m., first deal at 7 p.m. Additionally, the club will be closed July 4 in observance of the holiday. DSN 486-7244, civ. 06371-86-7244.

• **409th CSB Change of Command** – Col. Stephen Leisenring, 409th Contracting Support Brigade commander, relinquishes command to Col. Debra Daniels at 10 a.m. July 9 at the parade field on Panzer Kaserne.

• **USAG Kaiserslautern Change of Command** – Lt. Col. Mechelle Hale, U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern commander, relinquishes command to Lt. Col. Kevin Hutchison at 10 a.m. July 10 at the Armstrong Community Club on Vogelweh Housing.

• **Daenner Chapel services** – The chapel, Bldg. 3150 on Daenner Kaserne is open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday to Friday. Catholic Mass is 11:45 a.m. Tuesday to Friday at Daenner Chapel. Confessions are by appointment. Individual and family counseling are also available at the chapel. DSN 493-4098, civ. 0631-3406-4098.

• **College Night Representatives Needed** – The annual Kaiserslautern College and University Information Night will be held Oct. 8. More than 1,200 high school students, plus parents and community members attend the program each year, making this one of the largest such events in Europe. College admissions, alumni or other staff are invited to provide information and materials and answer questions for potential students. kaiserslautern@agbc.de.

• **BOSS Meeting** – Better Opportunities for Single Service members hosts meetings 1 p.m. every first

and third Thursday of the month in Bldg. 2929 on Pulaski Barracks. DSN 493-4344.

• **CYS Services Parent Handbook** – The 2009-2010 CYS Services Parent Handbook is now available. Pick your copy up at Central Enrollment and Registration, Pulaski Barracks, Bldg. 2898 or download it from www.mwrgermany.com.

• **VBS** – The Chaplain's Office host the 2009 Vacation Bible School July 27-31 at the Landstuhl Elementary and Middle School. Registration is required and can be done online at <http://vbs2009ktown.eventbrite.com>. Password is "Kaiserslautern." DSN 493-4098, civ. 0631-4098, mirna.ocguera@eur.army.mil.

HEIDELBERG Education

• **ACS Classes and Events** – DSN 370-6883, www.mwrgermany.com/hd/acs.

• **Red Cross Classes** – A Child and Infant CPR and First Aid, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. June 27; Standard First Aid and CPR – Adult, Child and Infant, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. July 1. DSN 370-1760, civ. 06221-57-1760.

Community

• **Acute Care Clinic Hours** – Beginning July 1, the Acute Care Clinic at the Heidelberg Health Center will be open 9 a.m.-7 p.m. every day. DSN 371-2605, civ. 06221-17-2605.

• **Community Update** – Join Heidelberg community leaders at 9 a.m. July 8 in the Patrick Henry Village Theater to find out what's happening in the community, provide feedback and ask questions.

• **Patton DFAC Closure** – The Patton Barracks Dining Facility will close after the brunch meal July 5 because of building maintenance. The facility will reopen for breakfast July 10 and will serve soul food for lunch that day.

• **DPW Service Order Center Closure** – The Service Order Center will be closed July 8 for the annual division outing. For emergency service orders, call 115, the Fire Alarm Center, which will refer you to the appropriate DPW service contractor. Please hold non-emergency calls until the next day.

• **S1 Conference** – The Heidelberg Military Personnel Division will host an S1 Conference 9 a.m.-noon July 10 at the Heidelberg Shopping Center, Bldg. 3850, classroom 141. Military HR personnel from all Heidelberg unit S1s/Military Personnel offices are invited. Reservations: DSN 370-8399, mbsausagbw.hr/s1@eur.army.mil (USAG Heidelberg Personnel Services on the EUR global address list).

• **USAG Heidelberg Change of Responsibility** – U.S. Army Garrison Heidelberg Command Sgt. Maj. Annette Weber will transfer responsi-

bility to Command Sgt. Maj. Alberto Delgado at 10 a.m. July 15 at the flag pole on Patton Barracks.

• **USAG Baden-Württemberg Change of Command and Responsibility** – U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg Commander Col. Robert Ultes will relinquish command to Col. William Butcher at 9 a.m. July 17 on the Village Green on PHV. At the same ceremony, Command Sgt. Maj. Yolanda Lomax will transfer responsibility to Command Sgt. Maj. Annette Weber.

• **HMS Summer Hours** – Heidelberg Middle School is open daily for new student registration and PCSing student record requests. School hours during the summer recess are 8 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Student immunizations must be current at the time of registration. New students or returning students who need a booster shot or updated immunizations may go to the HMEDDAC Immunization Clinic and return a copy of the completed immunization certificate to the school during school hours. Civ. 06221-338-9310.

• **HIWC Events** – Join the Heidelberg International Wandering Club for the following volksmarches: June 27-28, Malsch; July 1, Bad Duerkheim; July 4-5, Grombach and Wiesbaden-Naurod (Sunday only). Sign up for our upcoming trips to Belgium and Versailles – closing dates for sign-ups are in July. Check out the Web site for new trips for the rest of the year. www.hiwc.de.

• **Summer Reading Program** – Sign ups are underway for summer reading programs at the PHV library. Grades 1-6, 11 a.m. Tuesdays June 30-July 29; ages 3-5, 11 a.m. Wednesdays July 1-July 29. DSN 388-9443.

• **Field Registration Office Open on Saturdays** – Don't have time to register your vehicle during the week? The Field Registration Office is open 8 a.m.-noon the first and third Saturdays of the month. DSN 370-9484, civ. 06221-57-9484.

• **IACS Closure** – The Installation Access Control System office in the DPW Compound, Bldg. 3962, Room 113, will be closed 11 a.m.-1 p.m. the last duty day of each month. The IACS office in the Community Support Center will remain open. DSN 370-3311.

MANNHEIM Education

• **ACS Classes** – Tschuess Teens, 3:30-4:30 p.m. June 26; English as a Second Language, 9-11 a.m. June 26 and 29 and 6-7:30 p.m. June 30 and July 2; Resume Writing, 10-11 a.m. June 29; Volunteer Orientation, 1-2 p.m. and 3-4 p.m. June 29 and July 1; Interview Skills, 10-11 a.m. June 30; Levy and Out-Processing, 1-2:45 p.m.

June 30; Hearts Apart, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. July 1; Sponsorship Training for Soldiers, 3-4 p.m. July 1; Organization POC VMIS Training, 3-4 p.m. and 5-6 p.m. July 2. DSN 385-3101, civ. 0621-730-3101.

Community

• **FMWR Facilities During German-American Summer Fest** – Because of the fest, the parking lots for the Top Hat Club and the BFV Bowling Center will be closed June 29-July 15. In addition, the following facilities will have adjusted hours: Winger's, closed July 3-12; Primo's Express, closed July 2-13; Top Hat Club, 8 p.m.-2 p.m. July 3, 8 p.m.-4 a.m. July 4, 10 and 11, 6 p.m.-midnight July 5, closed July 6, 6-11 p.m. July 7-9 and 12; The Cove, 10 p.m.-5 a.m. July 3, 4, 10 and 11, closed July 13-15; BFV Bowling Center, 4-10:30 p.m. July 2 and 6-13, 4 p.m.-midnight July 3, closed July 4, 4-11 p.m. July 5; Coleman Bowling Center and Mike's Pub, closed July 3-12.

• **Vacation Bible School** – VBS will be at Mannheim Elementary School, 5:30-8:30 p.m. July 13-17. Civ. 0163-717-7087.

• **Sullivan Library** – Scrapbook Club, noon-3 p.m. June 27; Film Screening, 4-5:30 p.m. June 27; Summer Reading Program, 10-11 a.m. every Thursday July 2-Aug. 6. DSN 380-1740, civ. 0621-730-1740.

• **Youth Services** – Youth Sponsorship, June 26, 5-6 p.m.; Sleepover/Lock-in, June 29-July 2. DSN 380-4864, civ. 0621-730-9997.

• **Day for Kids** – Mannheim Community Service will host Day Just for Kids 10 a.m.-1 p.m. July 9 on Benjamin Franklin Village. This is a fun annual event in which enrolled Exceptional Family Member Program children enjoy carnival rides, games, arts and crafts and free food at the German-American Summer Fest. Volunteer "buddies" are needed to assist the children on this special day. Contact ACS no later than June 30. DSN 385-3101, civ. 0621-730-3101.

• **School Liaison Transition Services** – July is the month to start applying for Free and Reduced Lunch School Year 2009/2010. Items needed for every application: sponsor's and spouse's most current LES; sponsor's orders with family members listed; completed application. Apply with Central Registration. Applications are available at all Mannheim schools, and in the SLO office. You must re-apply every year.

• **SKIES Unlimited** – Register for the following classes at the Central Registration Office: Mixed Martial Arts, Gymnastics, Piano Lessons, Kindermusic (music for beginners), TAE-BO, Ballschule, Technology for Youth, Arts and Crafts, Cooking and Baking, Voice Lessons, Dance Classes, Babysitters Training. DSN 380-9290, civ. 0621-730-9290.

Mannheim Duathlon



Courtesy Photo

Jacquelyn Dixon (left) and Jennifer Goltz take part in the 2-kilometer run as part of the U.S. Army Mannheim Garrison's Fifth Annual Duathlon Saturday on Sullivan Barracks. Along with the run, participants biked 10 kilometers. Goltz took first place in the female category with a time of 1.03.34, and Dix place second with 1.17.24. In the men's competition, Pedro Ramirez (1.02.55) took first with Joseph Martin (1.09.22) in second and Jay Chapman (1.09.28) coming in third.

Two Soldiers take fourth at boxing nationals

By Tim Hips
FMVRC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

DENVER – First Lt. Michael Benedosso and Spc. Adrian Ghisoio finished fourth in their respective weight classes in the 2009 U.S. National Boxing Championships June 8-13 at Denver Coliseum.

Benedosso, 24, a member of the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program, lost a 15-3 decision to Fabian Cervantes of Arleta, Calif., in the bronze-medal bout of the 106-pound division.

"Overall, I'd give myself a C+," Benedosso said of his second appearance in the national championships since graduating from the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. "WCAP is really helping me improve my skills and abilities – my stamina, strength and conditioning. A coach that I've known for the last six years said there's a night-and-day difference from when I first started boxing and now, so I'm very happy about my progress, but I still need a lot more improvement."

Ghisoio, 29, of Fort Hood, Texas, lost to Michael Ruiz Jr. of Fresno, Calif., when Army coach Basheer Abdullah stopped their 112-pound bronze-medal bout at 2:49 of the second round.

"My ultimate goal was to get to the U.S. Nationals and try to get the national title," said Ghisoio, who won four Pennsylvania Golden Gloves titles and sandwiched two Armed Forces crowns around a 14-month deployment to Iraq. "I don't have that much time left to compete as an amateur and I actually want to turn pro. With being in the Army, it's going to be tough to do, but I think I can work around it."

The Saturday setbacks epitomized a rough week in the ring for the All-Army boxing team. WCAP coach Basheer Abdullah shouldered part of the blame for ceasing sparring seven days prior to the tournament, a strategy that ultimately backfired because his troops appeared flat and fatigued in the ring.

"I was trying something new, hoping that they would come into the competition fresher with no injuries, all healed up, etc.," said Abdullah, head coach of the 2004 U.S. Olympic boxing team and a two-time Olympic technical advisor. "That was a bad decision on my part. A lot of guys looked tired ... They've been fighting all the way through every competition that we've been in at a very high level. I should have sparred them right up until the last two or three days before the competition."



Tim Hips

U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program boxer 1st Lt. Michael Benedosso, a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., throws a left jab during a 15-3 loss to Fabian Cervantes of Arleta, Calif., in the bronze-medal bout of the 106-pound division of the 2009 U.S. National Boxing Championships at Denver Coliseum.

The Army's strongest medal contenders lost preliminary bouts Monday and Tuesday, including WCAP team captain Sgt. John Franklin, WCAP Spc. Jeffery Spencer and WCAP Staff Sgt. Andrew Shepherd, a gold medalist at the 2007 CISM Military World Games.

staying ACTIVE

Youth Sports Registration

Heidelberg – Register through Aug. 7 for soccer, flag football, tackle football and cheerleading. Volunteer coaches are needed. If anyone is interested in becoming a paid official, clinic information is available at www.mwraonline.com. DSN 388-9397.
Mannheim – Register through July 31 for soccer, flag football, tackle football and cheerleading at Central Enrollment Registration. DSN 380-9290, civ. 0621-730-9390.

Soccer Olympic Development

There will be an information meeting about the U.S. Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program at 5:30 p.m. June 25 in the meeting room above the food court on Campbell Barracks in Heidelberg. Civ. 06205-305-1958 (after 7 p.m.), USYS-Heidelberg@googlemail.com. Get updates and ask questions in the group on <http://myBWhow.ning.com>.

Women's Basketball

The Mannheim Mustang Community Women's Basketball Team is looking for players for the upcoming season. DSN 385-3164, civ. 0621-730-3164.

Summer Slam

Heidelberg's 18th annual Summer Slam event, featuring Europe-wide competitions in beach volleyball, softball, basketball and racquetball will be held July 17-19. Softball and basketball require pre-registration by July 13 at Patton Fitness Center, DSN 373-8032, civ. 06221-17-8032.

Golf Tournament

Baumholder – The Theta Theta Lambda Alumni chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. will sponsor a "Swinging for the Youth" Golf Tournament July 11 at the Rolling Hills Golf Course in Baumholder. Entrance fee: \$50, includes lunch, golf cart and a team mulligan package. All proceeds benefit scholarships for DoDDS students. Civ. 0170-309-8659.

Heidelberg – The annual Golf Classic honoring the 234th Chaplains' Anniversary will take place at the Heidelberg Golf Club in Ofersheim July 24. A suggested donation of \$40 per person to support the Wounded Warriors Fund will be accepted at registration. This 18-hole, four-person scramble includes golf cart, green fees, range balls and a barbecue lunch. Registration deadline is July 17. DSN 388-9406, michael.griffith@eur.army.mil.

Sports Physicals

Heidelberg – The Heidelberg Health Center is currently scheduling sports physicals for children who plan to enroll in school sports or Child, Youth and School Services programs this summer. DSN 371-2622, civ. 06221-17-2622.

Landstuhl – Sports physicals for children ages 5 to 18 who are enrolled at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center are scheduled 8 a.m.-3 p.m. July 11. The AE Form 608-100A Child and Youth Services Health Assessment/Sports Physical form must be completed prior to the appointment. DSN 486-5762.

Soccer Summer Camps

Mannheim – Developmental Soccer Camps will be offered for ages 5-7 July 27-31 with morning (9 a.m.-noon) or afternoon (1:30-4:30 p.m.) sessions. Junior Soccer Camp will be offered for ages 8-13 Aug. 3-7 (9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) Senior Soccer Camp will be offered for ages 13-18 July 27-30 (6-8 p.m.). Cost: \$70. Central Enrollment Registration at Sullivan Bks., Bldg. 255. DSN 380-9290, civ. 0621-730-9290.