

HeraldPOST

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

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Aug. 18, 2011

Speed Read

EMBRACING CHANGE

U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg Commander Col. Bryan DeCoster offers words of encouragement to Mannheim students transitioning to Heidelberg schools. **2**

BACK TO SCHOOL BASICS

USAG BW Schools Liaison Officer Jim Ruehmling answers questions from parents and community members about what their children can expect this school year. **3**

MEET THE GARRISON



The USAG Kaiserslautern garrison will host a special event to welcome new troops and families. **6**

JOINT TRAINING

Soldiers from the 361st Civil Affairs Brigade train with members of the Serbian Army during a communications training exercise. **8**



RISING STARS

Local military installations prepare to kick off the 2011 Operation Rising Star singing contest. **14**

Defense Details

MILITARY RETIREMENT

The military retirement system isn't going to change any time soon, Defense Department officials said Monday. The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Navy Adm. Mike Mullen said any changes to military retirement should be studied carefully and should be "grandfathered" so the military doesn't break faith with those in the service. Pentagon officials are reviewing all areas of the defense budget, and the goal of the review is to "inform the decisions and strategies that we have to make," Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta said. In support of the department's efficiency initiatives, a small group of Defense Business Board members was tasked to develop alternative plans to the current military retirement system.

www.defense.gov

What's Inside

Transformation Update.....	4
Our Army Around the World.....	10
Dear Ms. Vicki.....	14
GET OUT!.....	15
Movies.....	15
Announcements.....	16
Sports.....	17



Bus offers kids access to after school activities

Schools Liaison Officer

U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg Child, Youth and School Services and Department of Defense Dependents Schools Europe will team up to maximize the accessibility of after-school programs in the Heidelberg and Mannheim communities for the 2011-12 school

year starting Aug. 29, the first day of school. Regardless of where students live within the Heidelberg and Mannheim footprint, DODDS will provide bus transportation to after-school activities at the high school student center, the Lion's Den, on Patrick Henry Village in Heidelberg. Middle school students who attend school on PHV and can walk after school to the Panther's Place adjacent to the school. Both CYSS facilities offer activities and a social gathering place for students after the school day ends. "This will ensure that all community youth have access to a wide range of exciting after-school programs," said Middle School and Teen Director Zev Paul. "We offer programs such as a

see **BUS** page 12

Illustration by Brandon Spragins

Try German kindergarten

By **K.R. Pinkston**
USAG BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG STRINGER

Going to a German kindergarten provides an opportunity to integrate your child into the German way of life. Usually, all kindergarten classes welcome American children; however, if the particular kindergarten that you contact has limited availability, you may be advised to look elsewhere if you do not want to be placed on a waiting list.

Most German children attend kindergarten between the ages of 3 and 6 years old. These kindergartens are often sided by a church, but you do not need to have the same denomination to enroll your child. In addition, you can find municipal or private kindergarten classes.

"My husband and I decided to use the German kindergarten for various see **GERMAN** page 12

Mannheim set to close clinics in September

By **Anthony Sosa**
HMEDDAC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The US Army Health Clinic-Mannheim and the Benjamin Franklin Village Dental Clinic will finish their final day of patient care on Sept. 30 after this date, beneficiaries will receive care at other local military treatment facilities.

Active duty servicemembers stationed in Mannheim will be assigned in the Coleman Troop Medical Clinic and their command sponsored family members to the Heidelberg Health Center.

Mannheim Health Clinic patients may begin changing their enrollment site immediately. Servicemembers residing in Heidelberg but with duty in Mannheim may have

the option to enroll at the Heidelberg Health Center.

Patients not already re-enrolled in a new facility will be automatically enrolled on Sept. 30 with active duty at Coleman TMC and family members at Heidelberg Health Center.

Patients are encouraged to begin their healthcare transition prior to Sept. 30 to enhance their continuity of care.

Active duty and their family members may visit the TRICARE enrollment office to conduct the enrollment change. Heidelberg TRICARE enrollment offices are located at the Heidelberg Shopping Center in the Central Processing Facility and at the Heidelberg Health Center on Nachrichten Kaserne in Bldg. 3613, Room 2047. Both are open 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday-Friday and closed on U.S. Holidays. For questions on enrollment or disenrollment procedures contact the Heidelberg TRICARE enrollment office at DSN 371-2445 or civ. 06221-17-2445.

Social Work Services currently lo-see **CLINICS** page 12

COMMENTARY

Back to school brings changes

By **Col. Bryan DeCoster**
USAG BW COMMANDER

Teachers are returning to school this week to make preparations for the next school year.

Parents are buying school supplies and students are nervous and excited as they wait for school to begin Aug. 29.

As always, some students face bigger transitions than others. Students entering the next "big" school wonder if it will be harder, if they can make the grades, if they will be liked – common emotions whether the next step is entering kindergarten, middle school or high school.

Our U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg community has an added transition as a result of the deactivation of the U.S. Army Garrison Mannheim last May. Now, our Mannheim middle and high school students will travel to Heidelberg to attend school.

Likewise, Mark Twain Elementary School closed last spring and those students will attend Patrick Henry Village Elementary School.

The command wants to make sure the transition for students from Mannheim and Mark Twain Elementary to Heidelberg is as smooth as possible.

The Department of Defense

Dependents Schools has taken steps to help ease the transition by partnering with Child, Youth and School Services to provide buses to after school activities at our teen centers, the Lion's Den and the Panther's Place.

Buses will transport students after school at regular times each day.

Students at the high school can take buses to the activities on Patrick Henry Village.

Both high school and middle school students can take buses back to their communities (Benjamin Franklin Village or Mark Twain Village.)

Every teen will have the opportunity to participate in the programs offered.

Military students often have to transfer to new schools during their growing up years.

The command wants to help with these moves but it's also important for parents to help, too.

Parent involvement in their children's education has been proven to be a key factor in student success.

Parents can keep in touch with the schools to make sure their children are getting what they need in terms of academic courses and extra-curricular activities.

Our teachers and administrators are devoted to their profes-

The command wants to make sure the transition for students from Mannheim to Heidelberg is as smooth as possible.

sions and want to help students get the most from these special years in Europe. Transition is part of our lives and we want to make sure students feel included in the Baden-Württemberg experience whether they are from Mannheim or Heidelberg.

We know that students in Kaiserslautern are experiencing the same feelings because they are the same no matter where they happen.

If we all work together, students' experiences this year will be some of their best.

Finally, we want children to be safe. We ask everyone in the community to help achieve this. Make sure students know the rules of safety whether they walk to school, ride the bus or a bicycle. Staying safe is everyone's responsibility.

My family and I want to wish all of our students, parents, teachers, administrators and support personnel a great school year.

Join BW's virtual community – BWnow

♦ Get a complete and up-to-date list of community events, announcements and news.

♦ Share your opinion with others in the community and find out what they think in the forum discussion boards.

♦ Let the command group know your thoughts on hot topics through the Question of the Week, and you might see your answer in the Herald Post.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:
"What have you spent the most money on while shopping for back to school items?"

To join, go to mybwnow.ning.com.
We're your source for community information.



www.facebook.com/BWnow
<http://myBWnow.ning.com>

DISCUSSION BOARD

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

Question: What do you think are the biggest concerns or issues facing military families right now?

"One of the hot-button issues is the possible huge overhaul to the military retirement system. I'm NOT happy about it. As somebody who's served over 20 years already and is still on active duty, I would like

some sort of reassurance that it's not going to affect me. I think this change in the retirement system is going to affect retention more than recruiting, but it WILL have an impact on manning in the future

–Stiggity Biggity, BWnow Facebook fan

"Does PHES have an open house this week for parents? My daughter is in the 1st grade and we

would like to know who her teacher is going to be."

–Robin Tong, BWnow Facebook fan

"Robin, we spoke with the school and there will be a new student and parent orientation Aug. 19 at 11 a.m. On Aug. 26 class lists will be posted and students will have the chance to meet their teachers 1:30-2:30 p.m. on that day."

–BWnow Facebook Administrator



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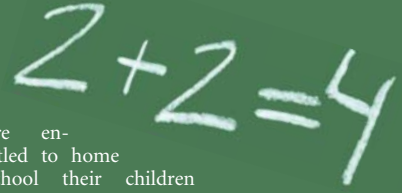
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Submissions are welcome, including letters to the editor, but we reserve the right to edit for style, space, libel, clarity, security and good taste. To be considered for publication in a particular issue, they must be in our hands by noon the preceding Thursday.

Back to School Breakdown

with Schools Liaison Officer Jim Ruehmiling



Q: When is the first day of school this year?
A: The first day of school is Monday Aug. 29.

Q: What time will the school day start?
A: Due to bus scheduling each school has a slightly different start time. They are:
 Patrick Henry Elementary School: 8:15 a.m.
 Mannheim Elementary School: 8:20 a.m.
 Heidelberg Middle School: 8:10 a.m.
 Heidelberg High School: 7:55 a.m.

Q: How do I register my child for school?
A: You will need to go into the school with a copy of your current orders, your child's shot records and ID documentation and let the staff know that you wish to register. The process takes about 10-15 minutes.

Q: I live off post. Will there be school buses to bring my child to school and home?
A: Off post students are bused to and from school. When you searched for your house through the housing office, they should have shown you a map of the areas serviced by the "feeder zone." As long as you reside within that zone, your child will receive bus service. The school registrar will provide you with the documents you will need and information on how to get a bus pass for your child. It is also possible to request an alternate drop-off location such as the School Age Center or the Teen Program's Lion's Den.

Q: Do the schools have a sponsorship program for new students?
A: Both the middle school and the high school have the Student to Student sponsorship program. To enroll your child in the program, contact the school guidance office. The Child, Youth and School Services Program as well as the Middle School Program and the Teen Program all offer sponsorship programs. For more information or to get a sponsor for your child simply contact the CYSS program that your child will be attending or ask the guidance counselor.

Q: What about the school lunches?
A: In order to have the school lunch provided in the cafeterias by the Exchange, parents will need to establish a Horizon account at any Exchange cash cage location. They will be able to place a balance on the account to pay for lunches. They will also be able to control what their kids eat by limiting the account to certain selections and placing warning notices regarding food allergies. There is also a free or reduced school lunch program in place. Parents who want to know if they qualify for this program should contact the CYSS Parent Central Services Office. Applications are valid for the entire school year, and must be renewed before the beginning of each school year.

Q: What changes can U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg families expect for the 2011-2012 school year?
A: Mannheim High School and Mannheim Middle School closed at the end of the 2010-2011 school year, so students residing in Mannheim will be attending Heidelberg Middle School, and Heidelberg High School starting on Aug. 29. In addition, Mark Twain Elementary School in Heidel-

berg closed and those students will attend Patrick Henry Elementary School. That is a major transition, and a lot of planning and preparation have gone into making it a smooth one. The schools held special orientation events for the students and families to ensure that they will feel comfortable in their new schools.

Q: Will Heidelberg High School be a lot different for Mannheim students?
A: All Department of Defense Dependents schools have basically the same curriculum and standards. The quality of instruction is standardized across the Department of Defense Education Activity, and is closely monitored at the Area and Headquarters level. The most significant difference will be that HHS is almost four times the size of MHS, and will offer more diverse opportunities for activities and educational programs. The teacher to student ratio will be about the same.

Q: Is there an information forum for new students?
A: All families with new students at the middle or high school levels should plan to attend the orientation days at those schools. Heidelberg High School's orientation is 10 a.m. Aug. 25 and Heidelberg Middle School's orientation is on 10:30 a.m. Aug. 26. For information on these events parents should contact the high school at DSN 370-8004 civ. 06221-57-8004 and the middle school at DSN 388-9311 or civ. 06221-338-9311.

Q: What if my high school student wants to take a class that is not offered at the high school?
A: DODDS has launched a "Virtual School" program with on-line courses available to students when the course is not available locally. This program is in its infancy, so parents should check with the guidance office to see if the particular course is available.

Q: What about homework? Are the kids on their own?
A: CYSS has homework assistance staff at the School Age Center as well as at both the Panther's Place middle school program and the Lion's Den teen center. The trained staff members there to assist students with their homework. In addition to specialized staff members, these programs also have computer labs where kids can access the Study Strong (*Tutor.com*) on-line homework assistance program which is free of charge to all military dependants as well as children of deployed civilians. The program is available 24-hours a day seven days a week, and certified content area specialists are on hand to assist with homework and tutoring. Registration for the program is easy by going to www.myarmyonesource.com and following the CYSS tab down to the Study Strong button. Participation and registration to use the middle school and teen programs in the Panther's Place, and Lion's Den is free of charge. For information, contact CYSS Parent Central Services.

Q: Is home schooling allowed in Germany? I heard about a non-DODDS school program can I take advantage of that? What about curriculum materials?
A: Families with Status of Forces Agreement status

are entitled to home school their children in Germany. There is an active home school association in Heidelberg. I also encourage families wishing to home school their children to contact me and register as home schoolers. While this is not mandatory, there are some advantages to doing so. The Non-DODDS school program seems to be a source of confusion for a lot of families wishing to home school their children. It is only available in situations where a DODDS school program is not within commuting distance. It is not an option in Heidelberg as there are fully equipped and staffed DODDS schools here. Home school curricular materials are as diverse as the reasons for home schooling. It is up to parents to acquire these materials, but the Home School Association in Heidelberg has a lot of members with a great deal of experience and can be a very helpful source. I also keep a database with sources which I will be happy to share with families on request. Neither DODDS nor the military reimburses families for home school expenses.

Q: Are cyber-stalking, cyber-bullying and sexting a problem in Europe?
A: These are global problems. I know that it is an unpopular thing to say, but it is not a great idea to allow kids to have a computer in their bedroom. The best insurance that only appropriate activity is going on is having a computer in a place where parents can casually observe. It is the same for cell phones. There should be a clear understanding of expectations regarding privacy and safety should always take the lead role in that conversation. The schools' authority to investigate this type of abuse is extremely limited. Even though they may involve classmates, or occur during school hours, the use of electronic media to intimidate, threaten or otherwise abuse are matters for the military police. All instances of cyber-abuse should be reported to the MPs. If you feel that the school can be helpful in any way, please feel free to discuss this with the school principal after you have reported it to the MPs as a criminal complaint.

Q: I want to be able to voice my opinion regarding certain matters in the school. What is the best way to do this?
A: Each school has a School Advisory Council. This council is made up of elected parent and teacher representatives and provides parents with an opportunity to voice their concerns. Heidelberg schools have postponed their SAC elections this year in order to allow time for former Mannheim parents to submit their nominations for the elections. Even if parents are not on the SAC as elected members, they are welcome to attend the meetings and submit items for the agenda. Each school offers SAC training for members before the first council meeting of the school year. For information, contact the school principal.

For information or assistance regarding the USAG BW schools, parents can contact Jim Ruehmiling at DSN 388 9398 or civ. 06221-338-9398. His office is located in Room 451, Bldg. 4526 on PHV in Heidelberg.

21st STB welcomes new command team

By Staff Sgt. Tramel S. Garrett
21ST TSC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 21st Special Troops Battalion, 21st Theater Sustainment Command, held a change of command and responsibility ceremony on Panzer Parade Field in Kaiserslautern Aug. 5 to welcome in a new command team and wish a fond farewell to the outgoing one.

Lt. Col. Michael A. Cortez and Command Sgt. Maj. Clifton D. Lewis relinquished command to Lt. Col. Donna K. Fanning and Command Sgt. Maj. Mariano Z. Alvarez after a successful two years as the 21st STB command team.

"Today's ceremony is special. It's not just change of command but a change of command team ceremony," said Maj. Gen. Patricia E. McQuiston, the commanding general of the 21st TSC.

"Since 2009, these two remarkable men have led, cared for and trained the battalion's 972 Soldiers, 207 Department of the Army civilians and 159 local national civilians."

Cortez expressed his gratitude to the Soldiers of the 21st STB and to Lewis for supporting him during his command.

"Command Sgt. Maj. Lewis, thank you," Cortez said. "Wherever I go, whomever I work with, I will never forget what you did for the Soldiers and what you did for me."

McQuiston acknowledged the accomplishments of the outgoing command team and the promising future of the 21st STB as she welcomed the new command team.

"The only thing that makes it easier to say goodbye to this great command team is the confidence we have in our Army, that the incoming command team will take the work they have done and build upon that very solid foundation to lead this battalion to even greater accomplishments," McQuiston said.

Fanning expressed her appreciation to Cortez for helping her make a smooth transition.

She also addressed the Soldiers of the 21st STB with her plans as the new commander.

"I know the coming months will bring more missions and require first and foremost support, flexibility and energy," Fanning said.

"I'm absolutely confident that this unit along with our numerous partnerships will meet that challenge."



Sgt. Frank Sanchez

Lt. Col. Donna K. Fanning (left), the incoming commander for the 21st Special Troops Battalion, 21st Theater Sustainment Command, receives the battalion colors from Maj. Gen. Patricia E. McQuiston, the commanding general of the 21st TSC, during a change of command ceremony Aug. 5 on Panzer Parade Field in Kaiserslautern.

"Command Sgt. Maj. Alvarez and I are excited to be here and look forward to the opportunities that we share together as a unit, a team of teams, family and a community," Fanning said.

transformation UPDATE

Frequently Asked Questions

Have a transformation-related question you'd like answered?

E-mail usaghd.post@eur.army.mil. We'll find the answer for you and share it in the Herald Post and on the garrison's transformation Web page at www.bw.eur.army.mil/transformation.

Facilities Operations Changes

Mannheim Physical Therapy – The final day for physical therapy services in Mannheim was Aug. 11, according to health clinic officials. Currently, Physical Therapy only serves the active duty population, who will now need to go to Heidelberg for this treatment.

Mannheim SATO – The last day of operation for the SATO travel office will be Aug. 24. SATO handles travel for official and leisure purposes and also books rental cars, hotels, cruises, day trips and bus tours. Customers can still use the SATO offices in Heidelberg on the Shopping Center and on Campbell Barracks. The SATO office on the Shopping Center is in the Community Support Center, Bldg. 3850, and is open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday and closed on German holidays. DSN 370-6949, civ. 06221-57-6949. SATO on Campbell Barracks is in Bldg. 31 and is open 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and closed on German and American holidays. DSN 370-6615, civ. 06221-985-0690. SATO in Mannheim until Aug. 24: DSN 380-4694, civ. 06221-727-680. www.satovacations.com.

Mannheim Middle School – Mannheim seventh and eighth grade students will attend Heidelberg Middle School on Patrick Henry Village next school year which begins Aug. 29. Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe has been watching enrollments and noted a steady decline in registered students. It became clear that the best educational program for these students would be at HMS, a 25-minute bus ride from Mannheim. A separate bus will take high schoolers to Mark Twain Village to attend Heidelberg High School.

Heidelberg Acute Care Clinic – The Acute Care Clinic in Nachrichten Kaserne in Heidelberg will close Sept. 30. Enrolled beneficiaries will be seen at the Family Practice Clinic and emergency care can be found on the economy by host nation providers. During the months of August and September, the Acute Care Clinic will be closed Sundays and federal holidays. For information, pick up a Guide to Host Nation Health Care at the Heidelberg Health Center or visit <https://ermc.amedd.army.mil/heidelberg/index.cfm>.

Mannheim Social Work Services – Social Work Services has moved to the health clinic, Bldg. 739, on Benjamin Franklin Village. To contact SWS call the Health Clinic front desk at DSN 380-9500, civ. 0621-730-9500. For emergencies, call the military police station: DSN 114, civ. 0621-730-114.

Spinelli Auto Skills – Spinelli Auto Skills has new hours of operation. It is closed Mondays, Sundays and U.S. holidays and open 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Tuesday-Fridays and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays and training holidays. DSN 373-5196, civ. 06221-17-5196.

Security Office – The Security office for USAG-Baden Württemberg has moved to Bldg. 110, Room 104, on Patton Barracks in Heidelberg.

Mannheim TMP – Due to customer demand the Mannheim Transportation Motor Pool is now open 8 a.m.-noon and 1-3:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Customers can also use the Heidelberg Transportation Motor Pool, open 7:30 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m. Monday-Friday. Both offices are closed on American and German holidays. Mannheim TMP is located in Bldg. 1563 on Spinelli Barracks in Mannheim. DSN 384-6353, civ. 0621-730-6353. Heidelberg TMP is located in Bldg. 157 on Patton Barracks in Heidelberg. DSN 373-8350, civ. 06221-17-8350.

Army Emergency Relief – The Army Emergency Relief office in Mannheim now processes requests for emergency travel only. All other AER requests are processed at Army Community Service in Heidelberg on the Shopping Center, Bldg. 3850, Room 250. DSN 370-6883, civ. 06221-57-6975. American Red Cross after hours service for emergency travel in Heidelberg: DSN 370-1760, civ. 06221-57-1760 and civ. 001-877-272-7337.

Patrick Henry Village Commissary – The Patrick Henry Village commissary hours have not changed even though the gate near the commissary has recently reduced hours. The commissary is open 7:30-9 a.m. every day for early bird shopping, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday.

Barber Shops – Hours of operation at Tompkins and Patton Barracks Barber Shops have changed. Services are now offered at the Patton Barber Shop in Heidelberg 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The Tompkins shop in Schwetzingen serves customers 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Mannheim Drivers Testing – Mannheim's Drivers' Testing Station located on Sullivan Barracks, Bldg. 253, is closed. All drivers' testing services are offered in Heidelberg on the Shopping Center, Bldg. 3850, Room 136, with operating hours 7:30-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. DSN 370-7889, civ. 06221-57-6681.

Mannheim Red Cross – The Red Cross office in Mannheim is now closed and all services have transferred to the Heidelberg station, Bldg. 3850, on the Shopping Center. In cases of a family emergency when a communication message is needed, the Heidelberg number will reach an emergency caseworker. The Heidelberg Station is open 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. DSN 370-1760, civ. 06221-57-1760.

Vehicle Registration and Inspection – Heidelberg's vehicle registration office located inside of the Community Support Center is now closed. Heidelberg offers a satellite vehicle registration office at the Military Police station on Patrick Henry Village, Bldg. 4511. This office is open 8 a.m.-4 p.m. to provide limited services. Civ. 06221-678-2586. The Mannheim vehicle registration office on Spinelli Barracks, in Bldg. 1567 directly next to vehicle inspection, has extended its hours to serve customers 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m. in issuing license plates and registrations for the Mannheim and Heidelberg communities. Please bring checks or money orders for transactions at vehicle registration. Cost is \$30 per year per transaction. A consolidated vehicle inspection station for the Heidelberg and Mannheim communities is available on Spinelli Barracks in Mannheim. Telephone numbers are: vehicle registration manager DSN 384-6100, civ. 0621-730-6100; support DSN 384-6911, civ. 0621-17-6911; fax for vehicle registration DSN 384-6127, civ. 0621-730-6127; vehicle inspection DSN 384-6120, civ. 0621-730-6120.

www.bw.eur.army.mil/news/transformation

Video Blog

For more information on transformation issues and changes visit www.youtube.com/BWnow to view all of our command information blogs.



Rick Scavetta

Sparky, U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern's fire prevention mascot, will be one of the several attractions at this year's Operation Meet the Garrison, Aug. 26, at Armstrong's on Vogelweh.

Kaiserslautern garrison set to welcome community members

By Rick Scavetta
USAG KAISERSLAUTERN PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Each summer, hundreds of Soldiers and their families move to Kaiserslautern – some of whom have never lived in an overseas military community.

To help them become acquainted with the people and services that support them during their tour, U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern sponsors an introductory event – Operation Meet the Garrison.

“We invite agencies within our community to extend a welcome to our families, and introduce the services and events they provide,” said Cheryl Carter, an Army Community Service outreach coordinator who helped organize the annual event.

This year, the event is scheduled for 2-7 p.m. Aug. 26, from at Armstrong's Community Club located on Vogelweh Housing area.

One of the organizations planning for the event is the garrison's directorate of emergency services, which include military police and firefighters.

“We'll be there to discuss the many things we do in the community to include everything from working with the Air Force on law enforcement to fire prevention,” said Master Sgt. Ken Pryor, the U.S. Army Garrison

“We invite agencies within our community to extend a welcome to our families, and introduce the services and events they provide”

—Cheryl Carter, ACS Outreach Coordinator

Kaiserslautern provost sergeant.

Staff from the DES will offer tips to stay safe when at home and in the community. Mascots Darren the Lion and Sparky the Dog will also be there, Pryor said.

The free event will include more than 73 community agencies, said Sarahjane Phillips, ACS marketing specialist.

There will be hand outs, goodies, bouncy castles and lots of fun activities.

“It's not your average garrison event. It's for the entire community at large,” Phillips said. “It's about having fun and enriching your life.”

For information, call DSN 493-4203, civ. 0631-3406-4203. To learn more about the Kaiserslautern community you can also visit the garrison website at www.kaiserslautern.army.mil/.

Faces of the community: Finance Office



Brandon Spragins

Finance customer support team chief Gisela Schmitt assists a customer at the finance office located in the Community Support Center on the Shopping Center in Heidelberg. The office provides service to Soldiers from both the Mannheim and Heidelberg communities. The finance office is open 8 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m. Monday- Friday and closed on weekends and federal holidays. The facility assists Soldiers with in and out processing and customer service needs. DSN 370-8570, civ. 06221-578570.

Troops overcome obstacles to bring home coveted badge

USAREUR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Nearly 300 service members from U.S. Forces in Europe and the Bundeswehr, Germany's military forces, took on the challenge of earning the Expert Field Medical Badge – and 61 succeeded.

In addition to 56 Army in Europe Soldiers, four Bundeswehr soldiers and one U.S. Airman earned the highly sought after EMFB.

The 2011 U.S. Army Europe EFMB Standardization and Testing concluded Aug. 13 at the Grafenwöhr Training Area in Germany.

Over the course of two weeks, the candidates took a written exam and fought through three combat testing lanes, day and night land navigation courses and a 12-mile road march to earn the right to wear the badge.

In his remarks during the awards ceremony honoring

those who successfully completed the testing,

Lt. Gen. Mark P. Hertling, USAREUR's commanding general, referred to the candidates' selflessness and courage, and their respect for one another.

He also praised the successful candidates standing in formation.

“Watching you all compete today to win something that will show how much better you are than all the others in your field is significant to me,” Hertling said.

USAREUR, NATO and other coalition partners from throughout its 51-country area of responsibility, trains for, conducts, and supports contingency operations.

Headquartered in Heidelberg, USAREUR has forces throughout Germany as well as in Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, Bulgaria, Kosovo, and Romania, and in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Cadets use classroom theory, treat combat injuries

By **Chuck Roberts**
LRMC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

For 22 ROTC cadets who finished a month of Cadet Troop Leader Training Monday, it was the opportunity to transcend from the theoretical study of healthcare at a stateside university to hands-on medicine at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, where more than 63,000 wounded warriors from Afghanistan and Iraq have been treated.

The cadets treated battle injuries on patients their same age who came straight from the battlefield.

"It was inspiring to see the blended staff of Army, Air Force, Navy and civilian workers use their individual strengths to provide optimal care to Soldiers.

"Even more inspiring was the determination of young Soldiers to regain strength and their desire to return to duty," said Elizabeth "Bea" Lauren Foley, a 22-year-old nursing student from Viterbo University in La Crosse, Wisc.

Foley, who said she wanted to become a healthcare provider to interact with people while improving their well-being both professionally and personally, expects to graduate in about a year.

The cadets said their biggest reward was seeing the looks of appreciation from the Soldiers they cared for.

"The most memorable experience I have had was watching the facial expressions of a Soldier

and his family while he walked for the first time after his injury," said Rochelle Kathleen Lawson, a 21-year-old exercise science major from East Tennessee State University.

"As a future occupational therapist, I have had the opportunity to watch patients rediscover basic activities of daily living after a severe injury.

"Watching patients come from the operation room to the later stages of recovery is a phenomenal experience.

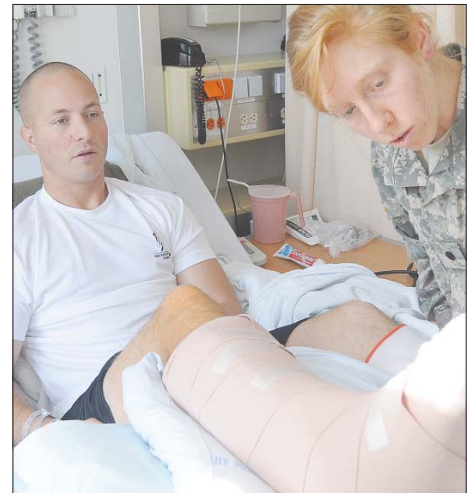
"I have watched patients sit in a chair for the first time, stand for the first time and walk for the first time after surgery," Lawson said.

LRMC has a staff of more than 3,000 Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Soldiers and Civilians and provides medical care for more than 245,000 U.S. military personnel and their families within U.S. European Command.

LRMC, which falls under Europe Regional Medical Command, is the only Level I Trauma Center verified by the American College of Surgeons, and joins 141 stateside hospitals with Level I ACS verification.

LRMC serves as the evacuation and treatment center for all U.S. servicemembers and civilians injured in Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as servicemembers from 48 coalition forces.

The LRMC footprint includes the Vincenza Health Center and a total of six U.S. Army Health Clinics in Germany, Italy and Belgium.



Phillip A. Jones

Elizabeth (Bea) Lauren Foley, a 22-year-old nursing student from Viterbo University in La Crosse, Wisc., examines an injured Marine at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, where the Richland, Mich., native spent four weeks treating Wounded Warriors from Afghanistan and Iraq. LRMC serves as the evacuation and treatment center for all U.S. servicemembers and civilians injured in Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as servicemembers from 48 coalition forces. The LRMC footprint includes the Vicenza Health Center and six U.S. Army health clinics in Germany, Italy and Belgium.

Joint training strengthens relationship with Serbian army

By **Sgt. 1st Class Michelle Conrad**
7TH CSC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Representatives from the Serbian Army recently participated in a communications training exercise with the 361st Civil Affairs Brigade, 7th Civil Support Command at Daenner Kaserne in Kaiserslautern.

The exercise's purpose was to demonstrate the tools that will enhance the Serbian army's capabilities in civil military operations during natural disaster and humanitarian aid missions, said Master Sgt. Gregory F. Doles, 361st operations non-commissioned officer.

In the 21st century strategic environment, the need for humanitarian aid and CIMC is becoming more common.

The Serbian commander briefed the 7th CSC on how they perform humanitarian aid and CIMC operations in their country.

Serbian army officers complete NATO tactical and strategic CIMC courses to prepare for natural disasters, provide humanitarian aid and as overseas support the United Nations.

Sgt. 1st Class James R. Faulk, 361st operations NCO, demonstrated a fully functional Secure, Non-secure-Internet Protocol Router Satellite Access Point.

SNAP provides secure or non-se-

"We are hoping that this is going to be the basis for our cooperation in the future years."

-Serbian Gen. Zvonimir Pesic, civil-military operations cure internet capability over a satellite communications terminal, which is a critical capability in humanitarian aid and natural disaster missions.

The Serbian Army's current system is not compatible with today's ever advancing communications systems, making it difficult for them to execute humanitarian crisis missions at the local level.

The capabilities of SNAP introduced the Serbian counterparts to advances in tactical and strategic communications systems they may use in the future.

The event culminated with members of both armies working together to install and operate SNAP.

Gen. Zvonimir Pesic, commanding general of the civil-military operations for the Serbian Armed Forces was greatly appreciative of the 7th CSC for hosting the exercise.

"We are hoping that this is going to be the basis for our cooperation in the future years," Pesic said.



Sgt. 1st Class Michelle Conrad

Zvonimir Pesic (left), commanding general of the civil military operations of the Serbian armed forces, Sgt. 1st Class James R. Faulk (center), civil affairs specialist, 361st Civil Affairs Brigade, and Dedic Radisa, civil military cooperation officer, observe the functions of the remote control for the Secure, Non-Secure Internet Protocol Router Satellite Access Point.



U.S. ARMY

First Lt. Stuart Barnes, 366th Headquarters Headquarters Company, and 1st Lt. Shane Smith, Paktika Provincial Reconstruction Team, speak with Kala Hagi Azgar village elders about any problems they might have in the village and the possible help they could provide Aug. 10 in Sharana, Afghanistan. Village elders voiced concerns such as only having one working well for the entire population of their village.



Sgt. Marcus Butler

A Soldier with Black Daggers Parachute Demonstration Team freefalls onto a landing zone, Aug. 13, as part of the festivities at the Airborne and Special Operations Museum, Fayetteville, N.C., in celebration of National Airborne Day.



Sgt. Michael J. MacLeod

Soldiers mount a Shadow 200 unmanned aerial vehicle onto its launching catapult for a training flight on Fort Bragg, N.C., Aug. 10. The catapult launches the 400-pound UAV in less than 40 feet.

ourARMY
around the world

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U.S. Army

Pfc. Danielle Robinson, a carpenter and mason with the 84th Battalion, 30th Brigade, 643rd Company out of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, seals gaps in sheet metal roofing during the Engineering Civic Action Program portion of Exercise Khaan Quest 2011 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, Aug. 1. The purpose of the program is to improve medical care in the area by adding on to the Ayut Family Hospital, a 17,000 square foot urgent care clinic, which will serve the 9th sub-district of Khaan-Uul District. Khaan Quest is a training exercise designed to strengthen the capabilities of U.S., Mongolian and other participating nations forces in international peace support operations and civic outreach programs worldwide.

Unlimited imagination, creativity fuels students' fire for youth program



Courtesy photo

Dancers Allison Sober, 18, and Kyle Jarvis, 19, perform a ballet routine as part of the SKIES Unlimited program. The program offers a variety of dance, music and martial arts classes.

SKIES instructors contribute their professional experience to teach a new generation of musicians, artists, dancers, athletes

SKIESUNLIMITED

The School of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration and Skills' offers a wide variety of activities for children ages birth to 18 years old with classes such as dance, gymnastics, Tae Kwon Do, Kindermusik, engineering, philosophy, group and individual music lessons and driver's education.

The SKIESUnlimited instructors are professionally trained and love to teach their skills to children.

Ballet instructor, Isabel Christie received her early ballet training in Scotland, where she studied with the Royal Academy of Dance syllabus. Christie also trained in jazz, modern, character and conditioning dance.

During her professional career, she danced as a member of the Glasgow Theatre Ballet Company.

Christie has appeared as a

principal dancer in ballets, musicals, operettas and on various television programs.

During her time as a SKIESUnlimited Ballet Instructor, Christie has taught the upper-level ballet classes and choreographed and produced many full-length ballets for her students.

SKIESUnlimited also offers several private and group music lesson options. A student can take individual piano, voice, flute, drums, guitar, saxophone and bagpipe lessons and group chamber orchestra, percussion ensemble and guitar classes.

The SKIESUnlimited music percussion ensemble instructor, Greg Riffel studied percussion at California State University, Fullerton, and at the Staatliche Hochschule für Musik in Freiburg, Germany.

In 1989, Riffel received diplomas both as an orchestra musician and as a music

teacher.

Riffel has performed in a number of venues, such as the Pacific Symphony Orchestra in Los Angeles, the Sinfonietta in Basel, Switzerland, and at the Stadttheater in Freiburg.

He is currently a guest musician of the Ensemble Modern in Frankfurt and a member of the Heidelberg Philharmonic Orchestra.

He has recorded with Frank Zappa and several orchestras and ensembles in Europe.

Riffel has taught percussion lessons since 1981 while maintaining his career as a professional musician.

The SKIESUnlimited violin instructor, Christoff Schlessinger, joined the Hamburg Symphony for his first professional musical engagement.

He then became a member of various ensembles, in addition to performing as a so-

loist. During a distinguished career spanning almost 30 years, Schlessinger has still been able to find time to teach children and adults violin, viola and chamber music.

Since 1985, he has been a member of the Heidelberg Philharmonic Orchestra, and in 1990, he accepted an offer to join the Deutsches Kammerorchester (German Chamber Orchestra).

Schlessinger's experiences have given him the opportunity to participate in concert tours throughout Europe, Japan and Korea.

He is also the director of the SKIESUnlimited Chamber Orchestra.

SKIESUnlimited also offers a large gymnastics program for children and youth ages 4 months to 18 years old. The instructor for the advanced gymnastics classes is Ruscha Kouril. She holds a degree from the University

of Physical Education and Dance in Karlsruhe, and she has coached gymnastics and choreography for more than 10 years.

An American citizen, Kouril received her early gymnastics training in Heidelberg. At the age of 12, she became a member of the German National Gymnastics Team and won 13 State Championships and seven German National Championship titles.

Kouril has traveled throughout the world to compete in more than 50 international gymnastic competitions and is presently instructing a variety of aerobics classes, and teaching physical education at the Englisches Institut in Heidelberg.

Registration is now open for SKIESUnlimited fall semester classes scheduled to begin Sept. 6. Contact the SKIESUnlimited office at civ. 06221-338-9399.

BUS

continued from page 1

cooking club featuring ethnic foods, basketball and billiards tournaments and board games.”

The centers include a technology lab and students can also learn calligraphy, knitting or use the active disc jockey booth to record music onto a computer.

For students who live on Mark Twain Village and Benjamin Franklin Village and need to return in the evening, CYSS will provide bus transportation from the Lion's Den and the Panther's Place.

CYSS buses will leave the PHV Lion's Den at 5:30

p.m. Monday through Friday and the Panther's Place at 5:45 p.m. and drop students off at MTV at 6:15 p.m. and BFV at 6:30 p.m. Additionally there will be a Friday evening bus leaving the Lion's Den at 8 p.m., arriving at MTV at 8:30 p.m. and BFV at 9 p.m. Since the Lion's Den is also open from 3- 10 p.m. on Saturdays, a bus will pick up youth at BFV at 4 p.m., arrive at the Lion's Den at 4:30 p.m. and then make the return trip leaving the Lion's Den at 8 p.m. to arrive at BFV at 8:30 p.m.

All youth riding CYSS buses must be registered with CYSS and participate in the Lion's Den or

Panther's Place programs. For information on bus schedules and drop-off locations, parents should contact the Lion's Den at DSN 388-9396, civ. 06221-338-9396.

Heidelberg High School students will be able to register with the DODDS Bus Office to receive a special bus pass allowing them to use the PHV-based CYSS program as their afternoon bus destination. To register for this service, Heidelberg parents should contact the DODDS Bus Office at DSN 388-9335, civ. 06221 338 9335. Mannheim residents should contact their bus office at civ.0162-270-4769.



Courtesy Photo

Children from a German Kindergarten class enjoy the warm weather during their daily block of playtime. American children can also sign-up to attend one of the local German Kindergartens offered throughout the community. Most German children attend kindergarten between the ages of three and six years.

GERMAN

continued from page 1

reasons,” said Dawn Wester, a military spouse stationed in Mannheim. “We wanted an environment where our son could learn German and get to expend his excessive energy. It has been a really good experience for both him and us,” Wester said.

After you have contacted a kindergarten, you will be asked to come in for a visit. This meeting gives you a chance to learn information about-- the facilities, staff, schedule and fees. The visit will also help you make a decision in placing your child in a kindergarten that fits your needs.

While all children get to explore the world through play and creativity, there are differences among kindergartens. At the Kindergarten Unionsgemeinde in Mannheim, teachers find out what interests or talents each child has, so they can match activities or play to suit the child. “We put emphasis on providing an environment that is child-centered; a place where individuality is important,” said Kerstin Haeufle, a teacher at the Unionsgemeinde. “Not all kids like to do the same activities; however, we also do a lot of weekly group activities, like cooking, physical education or going to church,” Haeufle said.

In contrast, at the Nikolaus-Lenau-Haus in Leimen speech development is a priority.

“In our kindergarten we emphasize speech development, either for kids who have speech delays, or for kids who do not speak German. We use games, audio equipment and even the laptop to work with the children to improve their speech,” said Christina Arrigo, the interim director of the Nikolaus-Lenau-Haus.

At a German kindergarten, children are divided into different groups, with no separation into different ages, and they will continue to go to their group each day. The number of teachers that lead one group varies depending on the group size.

“We have 25 kids per group with two teachers,” explained Arrigo.

Teachers are professionals who have spent two to four years studying childhood education. The parents are encouraged to communicate often with the teachers to discuss individual progress.

Helping and sharing are important aspects of the daily routine at a kindergarten. Children will be asked to help others, clean up toys or even help with setting a table or preparing a simple meal. Also, at most German kindergartens, children will go outside to play each day, so do not be surprised if you are asked to leave a raincoat or rubber boots for your child at the kindergarten.

During the final year of kindergarten, between the ages of five and six, children are considered to be in Vorschule, or preschool.

Before entering first grade, children do not go through an academic curriculum.

“Like at most kindergartens, at the Unionsgemeinde we teach kids in their final year to write their name and work with simple numbers, but we also take trips to the fire department, police or to the vet to educate them,” Haeufle said.

From a parental perspective, taking your child to a German kindergarten will need some open-mindedness. “I t has been a little challenging for us at first just because it is totally different from what we are used to expecting with American schools. The learning environment is laid back. Most of the time is spent playing in areas with different themes. The kids learn without even realizing it. There are times for more structured learning, and also when the kids sit down together for stories or quiet play like puzzles and crafts,” Wester explained.

“It takes a few months for the kids to get adjusted to a new language and feel somewhat comfortable. But you just have to be encouraging and consistent with sending them,” Wester said.

CLINICS

continued from page 1

cated in the Mannheim Health Clinic will be relocated to the Heidelberg Health Center's Social Work division in Bldg. 3617 on Nachrichten Kaserne. Patients needing to contact social work should call DSN 371-2084 or civ. 06221-17-2084.

The dental clinic on Benjamin Franklin Village will also close September 30. After that, servicemembers will receive dental care at Coleman Barracks Dental Clinic. Family members will receive dental care at Patrick Henry Village Dental Clinic. For information, call the BFV Dental Clinic at DSN 380-4545, or civ. 0162-730-4545, the Coleman Dental Clinic at 0162-779-5262 or DSN 382-5262, or the PHV Clinic at DSN 388-9500 or civ. 06221-338-9500.

Retirees and their family members enrolled at the Mannheim AHC will be disenrolled on Sept. 30. The Heidelberg Health Center will offer these beneficiaries care on a space available basis. Retirees will also have the option of picking up prescription medications at the Coleman TMC pharmacy. Customers should be aware that this pharmacy does not carry geriatric products. For those Retirees wishing to begin accessing care on the economy, the Mannheim AHC TRICARE Service Center may assist by providing names and contact information for German primary care physicians upon patient request.

Host Nation emergency room information is listed in the Heidelberg Health Center's “Guide to Host Nation Health Care” available at the TRICARE Service Center or online at <https://ermc.amedd.army.mil/heidelberg/index.cfm>.

This guide includes maps and other information about seeking healthcare on the local economy.

The garrison shuttle bus, which makes stops on Benjamin Franklin Village, Spinelli, Coleman and Sullivan Barracks en route to the Heidelberg Health Center, is available for beneficiaries requiring transportation between the Mannheim and Heidelberg communities. Copies of the shuttle schedule are available at the Mannheim Army Health Clinic check-in desk.

München mag Dich

Official motto means 'Munich likes you'

By Elizabeth Casebeer
USAG BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Munich, Bavaria's capital and one of the most famous cities in the world, is a mere three and a half hours' train ride from Heidelberg, perfect for a weekend trip with the family, with friends or even alone.

Just be forewarned: You won't be able to do everything in a few days and you'll definitely want to come back.

Perhaps best known by Americans as the home of Oktoberfest, held annually since 1810 in late September until early October, Munich is renowned for its weissbier and breweries, but there is so much more to enjoy.

At more than 850 years old, the city of 2.6 million is an intriguing combination of Romanesque, Gothic, Baroque and Renaissance architecture and modern day, with a plethora of uniquely decorated underground train stations nestled under centuries-old buildings.

The public transportation system in Munich is excellent and can get you anywhere around the city in a relatively short amount of time and seems to be the preferred method for locals. A lot of the attractions are free or at a nominal cost.

Start off your journey at the pedestrian zone between Karlsplatz and Marienplatz and pick up breakfast from the enormous outdoor market, which offers a variety of delicious fruits, olives, cheeses and much more, then follow the crowds to the Rathaus-Glockenspiel.

For over a century, at 11 a.m., noon and 5 p.m. during the summer, 43 bells and 32 realistic life-sized figures reenact a pair of 16th century tales for about 15 minutes.

A few consecutive bells mark the end of the show, so head to the Frauenkirche (Church of Our Lady), the cathedral of the Archdiocese of Munich and Freising and the seat of its archbishop.

Like many landmarks throughout the city, the cathedral was heavily damaged by World War II, but reconstruction was completed in the mid-90s.

The crypt contains the tombs of several historical figures and the tomb monument of Emperor Louis IV is located near the cathedral's entrance.

If time permits, climb the south tower for a spectacular view of the city and the nearby Alps.

Particularly if the weather is nice, wander across the city and marvel at the construction, old and new or windowshop for luxury goods on your way to the English Garden, one of the biggest public parks in the world. Even larger than New York's Central Park, it stretches from the city center to the north eastern corner.

Hop back on the subway and head to BMW Welt (BMW World), located close to the train exit. Sit in the seats of various current model vehicles or fork over some euro to test drive the car of your dreams.

If you can't get enough BMW, hit up the adjacent BMW Museum (entrance fee charged), which boasts close to a quarter million visitors a year.

Until Sept. 25, the museum's special exhibit is a large collection of contemporary BMW models painted by famous artists from nine countries.

If cars aren't your thing, walk over the hill to Olympia Park, home of the 1972 Summer Olympics and now, various events like concerts, indoor and outdoor sports like ice skating and tennis, even rappelling, year-round.

Smack-dab in the middle of the park is Sea Life, home to more than 4,500 animals, the perfect stop for kids and those who love the ocean. You might just see a green sea turtle or shark being fed.

After all these adventures, it will probably be high time for one of those famous aforementioned Munich beers.

Head to the original Hofbrauhaus, a Munich staple for more than 400 centuries and one of the city's biggest attractions, enjoyed by historical figures from Mozart to John F. Kennedy.

Owned by the state government, this is probably the largest restaurant or bar you'll ever step in.

Be prepared to make friends since seating is limited due to the immense popularity. Also be ready to pay your tab before digging in. It's hard for the servers to keep track of the influx of visitors, but you are welcome to sit as long as you please.

Munich and the surrounding area has many more attractions, like King Ludwig II's famous castles, the Allianz Arena, Dachau, the Deutsches Museum and the other museums, the opera house, Munich Residence and seasonal events. Munich is one city you'll want to visit again and again.



Life-sized figures reenact a pair of 16th century tales for about 15 minutes outside the Rathaus-Glockenspiel in Munich's Marienplatz. A tradition for more than 100 years, 32 dancers perform with music from 43 bells three times daily during the summer.



Above, a helicopter is one of 50 aircraft on display in the aeronautical section of Munich's Deutsches Museum, the largest museum of technology and science in the world.

Below, the Nymphenburg Palace was the birth place of King Ludwig II, who later built Neuschwanstein Castle, one of the castles, that inspired Walt Disney to later design his famous Cinderella castle.



Photos by Marc Behring

GERMAN NEWS

Paraglider collision

An investigation has been launched after a paraglider who was filming for television station Bayerische Rundfunk crashed Friday afternoon into a cable car's wires, trapping 20 adults and children 100 above the ground for 17 hours. Food, water and blankets were taken to the victims Friday night via a cable car still able to run along the cables. A check conducted Sunday indicated no damage was done to the wires and the cable car was expected to run again Monday.

Discrimination Sanctions

The head of Germany's federal anti-discrimination agency said penalties are not severe enough for those who unfairly treat certain religious and ethnic or gay minorities. The General Equal Treatment Act went into force in 2006, but the agency said compensation is too low for those illegally fired from jobs. Victims should have more time to file discrimination complaints and it should be easier for alleged violators to be sued.

Pipe bomb in Berlin park

A hunt is ongoing for whomever planted a homeade pipe bomb filled with shrapnel and concealed by a plastic bag at Schiller Park in Berlin's Wedding district Sunday afternoon. The bomb exploded and hit a cyclist in the face and legs, and the victim underwent eye surgery and remains hospitalized. Sniffer dogs searched the cordoned-off park for more bombs but located none. In May, a similar bomb was found nearby but was defused by police before it detonated, authorities said.

Colorful Iron Age dwellings

Archaeologists in Saxony-Anhalt have discovered a 2,600-year-old wall painted in red, beige and white ornamental patterns such as triangles, S-shaped hooks and symbolic characters. The discovery indicates Iron Age humans painted their dwellings using pigment from iron oxide and other elements instead of leaving them bare as previously believed. The State Museum for Prehistory in Halle put part of the prehistoric clay wall on display Monday, which archaeologists initially discovered in 1,500 pieces two years ago during an excavation for a new high-speed rail line in a nearby village. The prehistoric site once covered a piece of ground the size of more than 200 football fields.

Source: www.thelocal.de



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 keep seeing articles about G.I. Bill benefits now being increased, extended or passed on to the children or spouse. My husband of 12 plus years retired from the Army in 2005, and he used his benefits after his first tour of duty to earn his college degree. He was young and single with no wife or children at the time.

My husband later went back into the Army, went through Officer Candidate School and retired after 20 years of service.

Since he used his education benefits in the mid '80s, am I or our daughter eligible to use them? From: G.I. Bill Info Needed

Dear G.I. Bill,

The G.I. Bill has recently changed to allow family members to use the benefits in some cases. Here is some information from www.military.com.

"The Department of Defense is authorized to allow individuals who, on or after Aug. 1, 2009, have served at least six years in the

Armed Forces and agree to serve at least another four years, to transfer unused entitlement to their spouse.

"Once the member has reached the 10 year anniversary, they may choose to transfer the benefit to any dependant(s) (e.g., spouse, children). Note: the ability to transfer benefits is limited to those currently serving in the military with some limited provisions for those retiring over the next few years."

Your husband should ask the VA about his G.I. Bill benefits. If you or your children have already applied to a college or university, the financial aid counselor should be able to provide information. Please let me know what you learn, as this is great information for other readers.

Dear Ms. Vicki,

My niece is in the military and will go on her second deployment this year. My concern is with her ex-boyfriend, who is the father of her son.

He has been living with a woman whose husband is deployed and is returning soon. From the information I have received, this is not his first indiscretion.

I'm somewhat in awe that he would disrupt the camaraderie that Soldiers have among themselves.

This lady is going to ask her husband for a divorce when he redeployes. I can't imagine what this Soldier will endure when he is informed of her actions. Besides disrupting his son's life, what will he be doing to his fellow Soldier's life? Is there any action the military can do? Sincerely, A Concerned Aunt

Dear Concerned Aunt,

I know you have concerns about this Soldier's character and conduct and now you are worried for your

niece and their son.

I'm not sure what can or will be done about this. Hopefully the Soldier will be surrounded by supportive family and friends, but don't be surprised if she decides to remain with her husband. Many couples stay together after such indiscretions.

I'm concerned about your niece and her son. If there is a way I can support, please let me know.

Response to previous columns:

Dear Ms. Vicki,

About three years ago, you made me promise to keep in touch after I wrote you. I was 20 at the time and on a basketball scholarship, but I fell in love with a Soldier. He was scheduled to deploy as soon as he PCS'd and I could not fathom the idea of living without him.

You told me to continue with my education and tried to help me understand the benefit of having a scholarship. I didn't want to listen to you or to my parents. I ran off and got married.

I honestly thought I would be in the lap of luxury as an Army wife, but I was sadly mistaken. While my husband was deployed, I believed I was keeping the home fires burning.

He was very controlling even while away, and he continuously cheated and said I had gained too much weight. Maybe I did because I was very depressed.

My marriage did not last, and now at 24, I'm going back to college. My coach is still at the school and is trying to reinstate my scholarship, and I could not ask for more.

Ms. Vicki, I should have listened. I had read many of your letters and thought you were sometimes very crass.

Now I realize you are just trying to help, so thanks for your honesty.

Military vocalists can compete for a trip to Hollywood

By Staff Report

Songbirds from throughout U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg will soon have the opportunity to show off their talents at the 2011 Operation Rising Star singing contest, sponsored by Army Entertainment.

Active duty, reserve and national guard servicemembers and their dependents ages 18 and older who pre-register can audition a capella 6:30 p.m. Sept. 1 at Kazabra Club on Vogelweh's Kleber Kaserne in Kaiserslautern, said theater specialist Nate Records.

Local competitions began the first week of August at 37 Army installations and depots around the world.

Other installations throughout Germany participating in this year's contest include Ansbach, Bamberg,

Baumholder, Grafenwöhr, Schweinfurt and Wiesbaden.

Unlike similar military-wide contests and the television show that inspired it, "American Idol," Operation Rising Star will focus solely on singing talent, not fashion sense or gimmicks.

"We are looking at raw talent, not any other ability. This is solely a singing contest, and that's what we'll focus on," Records said.

Just like "American Idol," though, judges who have some kind of musical background will comment on each singer's performance.

--- In 2010, the U.S. Army Europe band director was one of the judges, Records said.

The first place winner will receive \$500, the second place winner, \$250 and third place, \$100.

The top contestants will also move

on to the videotaped public show Sept. 9 at Kazabra Club. There, the scores will be determined 50 percent from the judges and 50 percent from the audience.

Audience participation is appreciated and expected, Records said. A \$300 Spirit Award will be awarded to the military unit or Family Readiness Group that provides the most support to a singer at the local competition.

A by-name roster of the winners, the night's video tape and a clip of the local winner performing an additional song will be forwarded to Army Entertainment, which will in turn choose 12 finalists to compete in the military-wide competition in San Antonio Nov. 12-19.

The final, which will be judged by a panel of celebrity judges and aired on the Pentagon Channel, will be deter-

mined by online voting at www.OpRisingStar.com.

The grand-prize winner will receive an all-expenses-paid trip for two to Hollywood, Calif. to record a three-song demo compact disc.

The trip includes airfare, lodging, \$1,000 spending money and three days and nights of studio time with the support of top-rate musicians and recording technicians.

The professional studio time includes musicians, music arrangement, mixing and mastering, a vocal coach, an audio engineer and a CD producer. The approximate retail value of the prize package is \$18,700.

For information on the contest, including eligibility requirements and installation-level competitions, call DSN 483-6626, civ. 0631-411-6626 or visit www.oprisingstar.com.

GET OUT!

area events

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

August 18

Pukkelpop Belgium—The annual Pukkelpop music festival attracts thousands of visitors from all over the world. Today Pukkelpop has become one of the biggest alternative open-air festivals in Belgium. This year's line features the Foo Fighters, Thirty Seconds to Mars, Eminem, Deftones, The Offspring and others. Each year about 200 acts play on one of the eight Pukkelpop stages during the three-day festival in Kiewit-Hasselt.

Summer Festival—There's nothing more magical than a late summer night's spin on the Ferris Wheel. Far below, the amusements of a summertime fun fair glimmer with warm lights as the cityscape stretches to sunset's pink horizon. Head to the Summer Festival at Munich's Olympia Park for a dazzling fireworks display. Free entry to the Olympiapark, Spiridon-Louis-Ring 21. The festival is noon - 11:30 p.m. Monday - Saturday and 11 a.m. - 11:30 p.m. Sunday through Aug. 21. www.olympiapark.de

August 19

Pig Festival—The Wittlich Pig Festival, or Säubrennkirmes features food, fun, music, parades and more to satisfy every appetite. It's one of the largest street festivals in Rhineland-Palatinate. Pigs are roasted on spits in the marketplace and are made into sandwiches and other delicious dishes for hungry festgoers. Festival runs 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. through Aug. 22. Free entry. Wittlich Town Center, Wittlich 54516.

Wine Fest—For more than 35 years, the Rheingau Wine Festival, which was once initiated by the winegrowers of the Rheingau Region as a promotional event, has turned the center of Wiesbaden into the "longest wine bar in the world" or the largest Wine Festival in the world—and is an attraction for more than a thousand visitors. Sample select wines at one of the 120 booths winegrowers have set up. Fest runs through Aug. 21. www.buzzoffbase.com.

Mall Trip—Spend the day shopping at the CentrO Mall, the largest mall in Europe, located in Oberhausen, north of Düsseldorf. CentrO Mall houses more than 200 stores and boutiques and more than 20 restaurants, snack bars and pubs, with authentic Irish, Louisiana-style and Mexican foods. The mall also features an aquarium, model train exhibit, amusement park and plenty of outdoor cafes. <http://affiliates.usa.org/kaiserslautern/files>.

August 20

In Mark Twain's Footsteps—The annual tour is being offered in English at 3 p.m. starting at the Lion Fountain on the University Square in Heidelberg. The tour starts at the Student Prison and the festive Alte Aula

auditorium following in the footsteps of Mark Twain and other famous personalities from England and America. The meeting place is on the Grabengasse, or Moat Alley, just off of Hauptstrasse. Buses 31 and 32 go directly there (bus stop at Universitätsplatz) from Bismarckplatz or from the Hauptbahnhof. The tour takes about two hours and costs €7 (Students €5) plus a fee of €3 for the Student Prison and the Alte Aula. Civ. 06221-43-6880.

August 21

Army Fest Band—The U.S. Army Europe Band and Chorus' Fest Band will perform at 8 p.m. in the fest tent in Markgröningen (in the greater Stuttgart area).

August 23

Art Exhibit—London-based artist Tomma Abts applies myriad layers of oil and acrylic paints on huge canvases to create vibrant geometric works. Visitors can view 12 selections hanging at Kunsthalle Düsseldorf 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Tuesday - Sunday. Exhibit is open through Oct. 9. Civ. 0211-899-6240. www.kunsthalle-duesseldorf.de

August 24

Stuttgart Wine Festival—Experience the Stuttgart wine festival for yourself and savor samples of the many delicacies available at this annual event. Each year thousands flock to the festival to enjoy the delicious Swabian food and wine. More than 120 stalls are set up around the old Schillerplatz, offering good food and good times for festgoers. Schillerplatz, 70173 Stuttgart. Festival is located in the town center and runs through Sept. 4.

August 25

Night of the Open Museums—Berlin, the former divided city and beautifully refurbished capital of Germany, beckons you to come on this special weekend. During a long weekend in Berlin, you'll have guided tours to the most popular sights: the Wall, the Brandenburg Gate, Potsdamer Platz, Unter den Linden, the Memorial Church, Checkpoint Charlie and Olympic Stadium. Twice a year, Berlin keeps all museums open until 2 a.m. The price of admission is included in the price of this tour. <http://affiliates.usa.org/kaiserslautern/files>.

August 27

Open Air Music Fest—Enjoy an open air concert 4-10 p.m. at the Warrior Zone on Coleman Barracks in Mannheim. Money Head and Dizzle Don Johnson will feature hip hop and Kojak for fest goers who like

alternative rock. DSN 382-4410, www.mwrgermany.com.

August 28

Mirabelle Fruit Fest—Discover this beautiful French city with its cathedral famous for its stained glass windows and other historic sites. During this weekend, Metz will celebrate its annual Mirabelle or yellow plum Fruit Fest. <http://affiliates.usa.org/kaiserslautern/files>.

September 1

Normandy Tour—The Allied invasion of France in Normandy on June 6, 1944, led to the liberation of France and the end of the Nazi regime. On this exciting and action packed military history tour you will experience the drama and tension of the Allied buildup and the massive deployment across the English Channel which led to the landing of five American and British Divisions on the beaches of Normandy. Over the course of this tour, the group will visit the historic sites of Omaha and Utah Beaches, Ste Mère Eglise, Pegasus Bridge, Arromanches, Pointe du Hoc, Avranches, and Mortain and of course the American Cemeteries at Colleville sur Mer and St. James. <http://affiliates.usa.org/rheinmain>.

September 3

Amsterdam—Explore exciting, beautiful Holland. Start your tour off with an early morning breakfast and visit to a wooden shoe maker and cheese farm. Sample and buy some of the cheese products, as well as shoes and other souvenirs. Then enjoy a short orientation of downtown Amsterdam. From the Dam Square, visit Anne Frank's House, the famous Red Light District, the Royal Palace or some of the many other downtown sights, museums and shops. Those wishing to visit the Anne Frank House can reserve tickets in advance at <http://www.annefrank.org/content.asp?PID=754&LID=2>. (When ordering tickets, indicate the 1833 p.m. time slot) <http://affiliates.usa.org/kaiserslautern>.

September 9

Wurstmarkt Wine Festival—Even though it's called a Wurstmarkt (sausage market), Bad Dürkheim claims to host the biggest wine festival in the world through Sept. 13 and Sept. 16-19 on the fest grounds. GPS: Auf den Brühlwiesen, 67098 Bad Dürkheim.

September 25

Volkstest—The U.S. Army Europe Fest Band performs at 4:30 p.m. at the Bürgerhaus in Wiesbaden-Erbenheim.

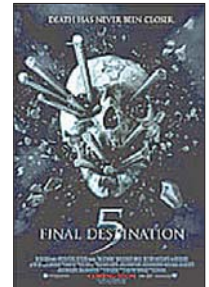
THEATERS

FINAL DESTINATION 5

(Nicholas D'agosto, Emma Bell) A group of co-workers on a corporate retreat escape the collapse of a suspension bridge because of a fellow worker's premonition of the disaster, and then are hunted by an invisible force that seems to be death itself, coming to collect its due. (Rated R for or strong violent and gruesome accidents and some language.) 86 minutes.

GREEN LANTERN

(Ryan Reynolds) A test pilot is granted a mystical green ring that bestows him with other worldly powers. (Rated PG-13 for intense sequences of sci-fi violence and action) 105 minutes.



PLAYING THIS WEEK

Heidelberg, Patrick Henry Village

Aug. 18 - JUDY MOODY AND THE NOT SO BUMMER SUMMER (PG) 7 p.m.
 Aug. 19 - FINAL DESTINATION 5 (R) 7 p.m., 10 p.m.
 Aug. 20 - GREEN LANTERN (PG-13) 4 p.m.; X-MEN: FIRST CLASS (PG-13) 7 p.m.; FINAL DESTINATION 5 (R) 7 p.m.
 Aug. 21 - X-MEN: FIRST CLASS (PG-13) 4 p.m.; FINAL DESTINATION 5 (R) 7 p.m.
 Aug. 22 - GREEN LANTERN (PG-13) 7 p.m.
 Aug. 23 - FINAL DESTINATION 5 (R) 7 p.m.
 Aug. 24 - FINAL DESTINATION 5 (R) 7 p.m.
 Aug. 25 - X-MEN: FIRST CLASS (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Vogelweh, Galaxy

Aug. 19 - RISE OF THE PLANET OF THE APES (PG-13) 7 p.m.
 Aug. 20 - GREEN LANTERN (PG-13) 4 p.m.; X-MEN: FIRST CLASS (PG-13) 7 p.m.
 Aug. 21 - X-MEN: FIRST CLASS (PG-13) 4 p.m.

Ramstein, Gateway Movieplex

Aug. 18 - RISE OF THE PLANET OF THE APES (PG-13) 11 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7:15 p.m.; JUDY MOODY AND THE NOT SO BUMMER SUMMER (PG) 11:30 a.m., 2 p.m., 4:15 p.m., 6:30 p.m.; KUNG FU PANDA 2 (PG) 11:15 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 4 p.m., 6:15 p.m.
 Aug. 19 - FINAL DESTINATION 5 (R) 11 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7:15 p.m., 10 p.m.; GREEN LANTERN (PG-13) 11:30 a.m., 2 p.m., 4:45 p.m., 7:15 p.m., 9:45 p.m.; X-MEN: FIRST CLASS (PG-13) 11:15 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m.
 Aug. 20 - FINAL DESTINATION 5 (R) 11 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7:15 p.m., 10 p.m.; GREEN LANTERN (PG-13) 11:30 a.m., 2 p.m., 4:45 p.m., 7:15 p.m., 9:45 p.m.; X-MEN: FIRST CLASS (PG-13) 11:15 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m.
 Aug. 21 - FINAL DESTINATION 5 (R) 11 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7:15 p.m.; GREEN LANTERN (PG-13) 11:30 a.m., 2 p.m., 4:45 p.m., 7:15 p.m.; X-MEN: FIRST CLASS (PG-13) 11:15 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m.
 Aug. 22 - FINAL DESTINATION 5 (R) 11 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7:15 p.m.; GREEN LANTERN (PG-13) 11:30 a.m., 2 p.m., 4:45 p.m., 7:15 p.m.; X-MEN: FIRST CLASS (PG-13) 11:15 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m.; RAMONA & BEEZUS (G) noon, 3 p.m., 6 p.m.
 Aug. 23 - FINAL DESTINATION 5 (R) 11 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7:15 p.m.; GREEN LANTERN (PG-13) 11:30 a.m., 2 p.m., 4:45 p.m., 7:15 p.m.; X-MEN: FIRST CLASS (PG-13) 11:15 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m.; RAMONA & BEEZUS (G) noon, 3 p.m., 6 p.m.
 Aug. 24 - FINAL DESTINATION 5 (R) 11 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7:15 p.m.; GREEN LANTERN (PG-13) 11:30 a.m., 2 p.m., 4:45 p.m., 7:15 p.m.; X-MEN: FIRST CLASS (PG-13) 11:15 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m.; RAMONA & BEEZUS (G) noon, 3 p.m., 6 p.m.
 Aug. 25 - FINAL DESTINATION 5 (R) 11 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7:15 p.m.; GREEN LANTERN (PG-13) 11:30 a.m., 2 p.m., 4:45 p.m., 7:15 p.m.; X-MEN: FIRST CLASS (PG-13) 11:15 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m.; RAMONA & BEEZUS (G) noon, 3 p.m., 6 p.m.

THEATER INFORMATION

Patrick Henry Village, Heidelberg, 06221-27-238

Galaxy Theater, Vogelweh, 0631-50017

Gateway Cineplex, Ramstein, 06371-47-5550

Visit www.aafes.com for updated listings and more movie descriptions
 Mannheim, CinemaxX, P4 13, 68161 Mannheim, cv. 01805-62-5466, www.cineplex.de

Mannheim, CinemaxX - English Language movies

Aug. 18 - 21, 23, 24 - RISE OF THE PLANET OF THE APES (PG-13) 7:45 p.m.; 10:30 p.m.

community HIGHLIGHTS

New Student Orientations

Families new to the Heidelberg community who have middle or high school aged children are encouraged to attend orientation 10 a.m. Aug. 25 at Heidelberg High School and 10:30 a.m. Aug. 26 at Heidelberg Middle School. HHS: DSN 370-8004, civ. 06221-57-8004; HMS: DSN 388-9311, civ. 06221-338-9311.

Army Career Tracker

The Army Career Tracker is a leadership tool that integrates training, assignment history and education into one personalized, easy-to-use portal. Users can search for multiple education and training resources and monitor career development, which will allow them to manage their career objectives and monitor their progress toward career requirements and goals. www.us.army.mil/suite/page/659786.

HMEDDAC Soldier Medicine Team

The Heidelberg Health Center has a Soldier Team Clinic on Nachrichten Kaserne, Bldg. 3617, second floor for all active duty military. Hours are 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, Friday and 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday. Appointments: DSN 371-2622, civ. 06221-17-2622 or via www.Tricareonline.com.

Wounded Warrior Ride

A Community Soldier Ride will take place 9:30 a.m. Sept. 11 at Bostalsee Lake to commemorate the 10th anniversary of 9/11 and to also support wounded warriors. Registration opens at 7:30 a.m. at the Freizeitzentrum Bostalsee, followed by an opening ceremony at 9 a.m. The ride is a 4-mile or 18-mile route and is followed by a ceremony and picnic at 11:45 a.m. Soldier Ride is a Wounded Warrior Project™ initiative that provides rehabilitative cycling opportunities to restore physical and emotional well-being. Fifty wounded warriors will participate in a three-day ride to rebuild confidence and strength in a supportive environment. This is the first European Soldier Ride sponsored by the WWP and it is being supported by the European Regional Medical Command's Warrior Transition Battalion-Europe. It provides wounded warriors the opportunity to promote a positive message of recovery and encourages community members to ride alongside, support from the sidelines or volunteer to assist. The event is free but registration is requested at www.soldierride.org/germany.

EMPLOYMENT local

ACS Job Fair

Army Community Services will host a career fair 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Aug. 27 at the Patrick Henry Village Pavilion in Heidelberg. Recruiters include the Exchange, Microsoft and Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation's business division. Applicants should be prepared to interview on the spot.

Religious Support Office

The USAG Baden Württemberg Religious Support Office has a number of non-personnel service contracts available for appropriated funds and non-appropriated funds positions in Heidelberg, Mannheim and Kaiserslautern. DSN 373-7715, civ. 06221-17-7715.

Central Texas College

Central Texas College is seeking adjunct faculty for classes in early childhood professions, automotive technology and emergency medical technology. DSN 382-5560, civ. 0621-779-5560, www.europe.ctcd.edu.

KAISERSLAUTERN

Community

• **Top 40 Tunes** – Kazabra Club on Vogelweh plays rock, pop, soul and country hits 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Aug. 19 and every Friday. DSN 489-7261, civ. 0631-536-7261.

• **EDGE! Survival Camping** – Youth enrolled in Child, Youth and School Services gain appreciation of the outdoors and learn the wonders of the natural environment 4-6 p.m. Aug. 18 and 25 at the Landstuhl Youth Center. DSN 493-4516, civ. 0631-3406-4122.

• **Landstuhl Clinics Closed** – Landstuhl Regional Medical Center clinics will be closed Aug. 26 for Organizational Day. The LRMCM pharmacy will be open 8 a.m.-noon. The Emergency Room will remain open.

• **Zak The Zebra** – Zak the Zebra has galloped from faraway lands to meet children 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Aug. 27-28 at the Kids' Zone on Pulaski Barracks.

• **Operation Rising Star** – Singers can compete for a chance to win an all expenses paid, three-day professional recording studio experience in Hollywood, Calif. A capella auditions are 6:30 p.m. Sept. 1 at Kazabra Club on Vogelweh housing. Sign-up required. DSN 483-6626, civ. 0631-411-6626.

• **CYSS Apprenticeship Program** – Teens 15-18 should register by Sept. 16 for the Child, Youth and School Services apprenticeship program, to help them prepare for college and the workforce. Fall term begins Sept. 26 in Bldg. 2898 on Pulaski Barracks. DSN 493-4516, civ. 0631-3406-4516.

• **Sexual Abuse Support Group** – The incest, sexual abuse and assault support group meets 6-8 p.m. Wednesdays in the Yellow Ribbon Room, Bldg. 2926, on Vogelweh. Civ. 01609-797-8785.

• **Ramstein Toastmasters** – Overcome the fear of public speaking and listen, evaluate and present skills learned in a friendly atmosphere at noon every first and third Tuesday of the month in Ramstein's Northside Chapel Conference Room. www.ramstein.freetoasthost.net.

• **Pulaski Auto Skills** – Any customer purchasing a service at Pulaski Auto Skills automatically receives a prepaid carwash at half price. DSN 493-4167, civ. 0631-3406-4167.

• **Newcomers Housing Brief** – Initial housing briefs for incoming active duty Soldiers are now 8 a.m. Mondays on Kleber Kaserne, Bldg. 3245, Room 006, and 1 p.m. Wednesdays on Daenner Kaserne, Bldg. 3109, except holidays. DSN 483-7372.

• **SKIES Unlimited** – SKIES Unlimited offers ABC Music and Me. The ongoing class focuses on early language and literacy development through music and story time. Program open for children enrolled

in child care or pre-K programs. DSN 493-4516, civ. 0631-3406-4516.

HEIDELBERG

Education

• **ACS Classes** – Civilian Resume Writing, 1-3 p.m. Aug. 22; Culture College, 5-8:30 p.m. Aug. 22-25 with field trip 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Aug. 27; Interviewing Skills, 1-3 p.m. Aug. 23; Financial Readiness Training, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Aug. 24; Sponsors-Ambassadors to Readiness, 10-11 a.m. Aug. 24; 1-2-3 Job Fair Ready, 1-3 p.m. Aug. 24; Conflict Resolution, 2-4 p.m. Aug. 25.

• **UMUC Fall Enrollment Open** – Registration for the Fall 2011 Session at the University of Maryland University College Europe is open through Aug. 21 with classes starting Aug. 22. Field study courses include Expatriate Writers in Venice: 1800 to Present Oct. 15-22 in Italy and A Brief Literary History Oct. 15-22 in Ireland. Register by Sept. 25. DSN 314-370-6762, civ. 06221-3780, www.ed.umuc.edu/fieldstudy.

Community

• **Parents Night Out** – Child, Youth and School Services offers parents night out 7 p.m.-midnight and parents day out 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Aug. 19-20, Sept. 16-17, Oct. 21-22, Nov. 4-5, 18-19, Dec. 2-3, 16-17. Parent Center Services: DSN 388-9241, civ. 06221-338-9240.

• **CPAC** – The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center will be closed Aug. 19. For urgent matters, the customer assistance team will be available. DSN 370-8514, civ. 06221-57-8514.

• **Paris Trip** – Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers will tour Paris and visit Versailles Palace Aug. 19-21. Bus leaves evening of Aug. 18. DSN 388-9282, civ. 06221-338-9282.

• **Krakow, Poland and Auschwitz** – Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers visits Krakow, Poland and Auschwitz Concentration Camp Aug. 19-21. Bus departs evening of Aug. 18. DSN 388-9282, civ. 06221-338-9282.

• **Women's Equality Day** – Women's Equality Day will be observed with a static display at the commissary on Patrick Henry Village Aug. 20-26. There will also be a cake cutting ceremony noon Aug. 26 at the commissary. Voting assistance officers will be on hand after the ceremony for questions. DSN 373-7955, civ. 06221-17-7955.

• **A Day At The Park** – The Heidelberg Medical Department Activity and Europe Region Medical Command will hold a picnic at the Patrick Henry Pavilion park across from Burger King noon-4:30 p.m. Aug. 26.

• **Nachrichten Health Center** – The health center pharmacy on Nachrichten Kaserne will close early (open 7:30 a.m.-1 p.m.) Aug. 26 due to the MEDDAC and ERMCM organiza-

tional day. Acute Care Clinic hours, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., will remain the same.

• **GMD's European Comedy Tour** – Comedians Matt Collins, Bengt Washburn and Jokster Niem Lyon are part of the European Comedy Tour (Part 2) 10 p.m. Aug. 26 at the Recovery Room. There will also be an open mic night. Civ. 0175-671-2371.

• **C.A.R.E and Career Fair** – The Community Activities Registration and Education Fair offers free food, games and big prizes at the Patrick Henry Village Pavilion 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Aug. 27.

• **All You Can Eat Pizza** – Take the family for all the pizza and bowling they want at the Patrick Henry Village Bowling Center 6-8 p.m. Mondays through Aug. 29. DSN 388-9040, civ. 06221-338-9040, www.mwgermany.com.

• **To Hell And Back Showing** – The Sergeant Audie Murphy Club will host a free showing for ID card holders of the movie "To Hell and Back" 1 p.m. Sept. 2 at Wilson Theatre on Nachrichten Kaserne in recognition of the 25th anniversary of the club and to raise awareness about post traumatic stress disorder. Parental discretion is advised for minors due to war scenes, violence and adult language.

• **Hispanic Heritage Month** – Enjoy traditional cuisine served buffet style, Latin dancing, food contest, an art exhibition and more 6:30-11 p.m. Sept. 24 in the Patrick Henry Village Pavilion. Food contest and art exhibition entry forms will be available online, in the arts and cultural center and at select community locations. DSN 388-9418, civ. 06221-338-9418.

• **Volksmarch Volunteers** – Volunteers of various skills and commitment levels are needed for the 37th annual Volksmarch held Sept. 24-25 at the International Gesamtschule in Heidelberg-Hasenleiser. Free T-shirt and food and drink coupons. Civ. 06227-841226, www.hiwv.de.

• **Commissary Gate** – The Patrick Henry Village commissary hours have not changed even though the gate near the commissary has recently reduced hours. The commissary is open 7:30-9 a.m. every day for early bird shopping, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday.

• **Tompkins Gym** – Tompkins Fitness Center has new hours: 5:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Friday and closed Saturday, Sunday and U.S. holidays. DSN 379-7700, civ. 06202-80-7700.

• **Shooter's Bar and Grill** – Shooter's Bar and Grill has new hours: 6-9 p.m. Wednesday, 6-10 p.m. the second Thursday of the month, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday and closed Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays. Civ. 06202-927-9315, www.mwgermany.com.

MANNHEIM

Community

• **Board Game Night** – Test your skills in chess, UNO, Pictionary and more 4:30-10 p.m. Aug. 22 and every Monday at the Warrior Zone on Coleman Barracks. DSN 382-4410, www.mwgermany.com.

• **GMD's European Comedy Tour** – Comedians Matt Collins, Bengt Washburn and Jokster Niem Lyon are part of the European Comedy Tour (Part 2) 9 p.m. Aug. 26 at the Top Hat Club. There will also be an open mic night. Civ. 0175-671-2371.

• **School Age Center** – The School Age Center on Benjamin Franklin Village will move to Bldg. 699 next to the elementary school Aug. 29. DSN 380-4321, civ. 0621-730-4321.

• **Shuttle Bus Stops** – The shuttle bus is available for beneficiaries who need transportation between the Mannheim and Heidelberg communities to the Heidelberg Health Center. Copies of the shuttle schedule are available at the Mannheim Army Health Clinic check-in desk.

• **Spinelli Auto Skills** – Spinelli Auto Skills has new hours: closed Sunday, Monday and U.S. holidays; open 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and training holidays. DSN 373-5196, civ. 06221-17-5196.

• **Warrior Zone** – The Warrior Zone on Coleman Barracks has new hours: closed Monday, Tuesday and U.S. holidays, 5-10 p.m. Open Wednesday and Thursday, 4-10 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 4-9 p.m. Sunday. DSN 382-4410, civ. 0621-779-4410, www.mwgermany.com.

• **Social Work Services** – The Social Work Services office has moved to the Health Clinic, Bldg. 739, on Benjamin Franklin Village. DSN 380-9500, civ. 0621-730-9500.

• **Salsa Lessons** – Learn to salsa 6-7 p.m. for level one and 7-8 p.m. for level two Wednesdays at the Top Hat Club on Benjamin Franklin Village. DSN 380-9370, civ. 0621-730-9370, www.mwgermany.com.

• **Summer Specials** – Spinelli Outdoor Recreation, Bldg. 1570, offers monthly discounts now through September. DSN 384-6300, civ. 0621-730-6322, www.mwgermany.com.

• **Youth of the Chapel** – Youth of the Chapel meet 3:30 p.m. (junior high) and 6 p.m. (high school) Wednesdays at the Sullivan Barracks Chapel across from the gym. Groups meet 6 p.m. Sundays.

• **Military History** – The Military History Round Table, an informal group of Germans and Americans interested in World War II is open to anyone who has an interest in military equipment, uniforms, patches and memorabilia. The group holds meetings 7 p.m. every third Thursday at the Heidelberg Rod and Gun Club. DSN 370-8686, civ. 06221-57-8686.



Tim Hipps

U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program boxer Sgt. Samuel Vasquez Jr. (left) of Fort Carson, Colo., loses a 31-23 decision to Amir Imam of Albany, N.Y., in the 152-pound division of the U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Men's Boxing Aug. 4 at the Mobile Civic Center in Mobile, Ala.

Vasquez leads at U.S. Olympic boxing trials

By Tim Hipps
INCOM PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MOBILE, Ala. — U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program boxer Sgt. Samuel Vasquez was the last Soldier standing when he climbed into the ring at the U.S. Olympic Boxing Team Trials Aug. 4 at the Mobile Civic Center.

Vasquez was leading after one round and tied after two, but Amir Imam of Albany, N.Y., unleashed a flurry of combinations midway through the third and final round for a 31-23 victory, eliminating Vasquez from the double-elimination tournament.

"I was doing well until the last round," said Vasquez, 25, a two-time Armed Forces champion stationed at Fort Carson, Colo. "In that last round, I let my hands down. And when I let my hands down, I get clocked by shots I shouldn't be taking."

"Once that happened, he broke me a little bit and I kind of fell apart. None of the shots hurt me, but I was counting his points in my mind and that discouraged me. I wanted to keep my hands up and still go forward to catch up, but he just kept scoring."

Vasquez threw a flurry of punches and led 9-7 after one round of the 152-pound bout. He stuck to his game plan in the second round and the score was tied going into the third. Then Vasquez reverted to his bulldog style and stepped into several of Imam's scoring blows.

"In hindsight, I would have been smarter and boxed him more; maybe not allowed him to come in so much and countered his shots," Vasquez said. "He was careful. He did it perfectly. He watched what I did and waited for me to engage him and then came right at me ... He was the smarter boxer today. I let my ego get to me, but I'll be back."

Army WCAP boxing coach Basheer Abdullah, a three-time U.S. Olympic coach and technical advisor, agreed with Vasquez's assessment.

"I know he left it in the ring and I know that he can beat any of these guys when he's performing up to his best," Abdullah said. "When he performs up to his ability and stays focused and executes the fight plans, then he gives himself a great chance of winning. I think he's going to learn a lot from this."

Vasquez was in complete control during his 18-10 victory over Bryant Perella of Lehigh Acres, Fla.

"He's in all the national tournaments at the end, like top four, so I knew he was pretty decent," Vasquez said. "I kept staying in and just boxed."

Vasquez was encouraged by his 19-10 victory over Golden Gloves reigning national champion Arturo Trujillo of Easton, Pa.

"I knew he was an aggressive fighter," Vasquez said. "I was coming forward, but he was slower than me. Every time he came in, it would be boom, boom, boom, and I would move out of the way. He couldn't touch me. He kept on missing."

Vasquez started rolling with a 26-10 victory over Houston's Regis Prograis.

"I just boxed him," Vasquez said. "He wasn't any problem. I just kept my distance. He was a shorter guy, and I just out-boxed him."

Vasquez lost a 24-17 decision to eventual tournament champion Errol Spence of Desoto, Texas, in their opening bout on Sunday.

"I didn't box him," Vasquez said. "I went in for the knockout all three rounds, and I wore him down. After the fight, I told him, 'I'm coming for you. I'll see you in the finals.'"

"Errol told me, 'To be honest with you, I hope you lose because I don't want to fight you again.' Those were his exact words. So I knew I had him."

Vasquez, however, did not advance to the finals against Spence, but the Soldier's chances of competing in London at the 2012 Olympic Games did not necessarily end in Mobile.

Boxers who prevailed at the U.S. Olympic Trials must qualify their respective weight classes to compete in the Olympics.

The boxers from light flyweight through light heavyweight will have to place in the top 10 while the heavyweight and super heavyweights will have to place in the top six at the 2011 International Boxing Association World Championships this fall in Baku, Azerbaijan. If they falter in Azerbaijan, USA Boxing will re-open those weight classes to competitors at the 2012 U.S. National Championships. Winners there will then attempt to qualify their weight classes for the Olympics at a last-chance America's Qualifier in Mexico.

Vasquez is already talking about becoming a professional fighter, but he has not given up on boxing in London just yet.

"I need to turn pro, that's my whole goal through this thing," Vasquez said. "To make the Olympic team, of course, was my first goal. I still have a chance because if [Spence] does not qualify my weight class we're going to have another tournament, and I'm in it, so it's not over yet."

staying ACTIVE

Rod and Gun Club

The Rod and Gun Club in Oftersheim will host a needle shoot 9 a.m. Aug. 20 that requires a hunting license, fun shoot 10 a.m. Aug. 21, shotgun safety course 5 p.m. Aug. 26, skeet course 1 p.m. Aug. 27 and fishermen's meeting 7 p.m. Aug. 31. Civ. 06202-51-193.

Heidelberg Sea Lions

The Heidelberg Sea Lions are enrolling swimmers for the 2011-2012 season. Swimmers 6-19 years old can complete the swim proficiency test administered by the coach. Season begins Aug. 22 at the SRH pool in Wieblingen. esfsealions@yahoo.com, www.heidelbergsealions.com.

Unit Level Flag Football League

Heidelberg Unit Level Flag Football League games begin 6-9 p.m. Aug. 29-Oct. 31. Units and components assigned to Heidelberg and Mannheim are authorized to participate. Letters of intent to participate can be obtained at the Patton, Tompkins and Campbell fitness centers and are due by Aug. 22. DSN 373-8032, civ. 06221-17-8032.

Sergeants Major Annual Golf Scramble

Registration is open until 24 team slots are filled for the Heidelberg Sergeants Major Annual Golf Scramble, with check-in time starting at 6:45 a.m. Sept. 9 at the Heidelberg Golf Course. Cost is \$45 per person and includes greens fees, cart, range balls and lunch. Prizes awarded for 1st-3rd place, men's and women's longest drive and closest to the pin and more. DSN 379-7979.

Sports Physicals

The Department of Pediatrics at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center offers increased availability in August for sports physicals for all children 5-18 enrolled with the LRMIC Pediatric Clinic. The primary care manager-booked appointment is to fulfill the school requirement for a sports physical. The appointment will not include medication refills, acute appointments, sick child visits, lab work or immunizations. Complete the Child and Youth Services Health Assessment/Sports Physical form prior to appointment: www.vicenzamwr.com/pdfs/CYS%20Services/CYSS_Sports_Physical.pdf or by an Internet search for AE Form 608-100A. Appointments: DSN 486-5762, civ. 06371-86-5762.

Ice Hockey

The Baden Bruins Army hockey team is looking for experienced ice hockey players for the upcoming 2011 and 2012 season. The team, coached by ex-NHL player Bob Sullivan and ex-German National player Volker Lindenzweig, is open to ID card holders and local nationals, and all games and practices are held locally. Civ. 0172-6263642, info@badenbruins.com.

Bowlopolis

Children under 17 can bowl through Aug. 29 with a Bowlopolis card good for \$1 games and \$1 shoe rental before 5 p.m. daily at the Patrick Henry Village Bowling Center in Heidelberg. DSN 388-9040, civ. 06221-338-9040, www.mwrgermany.com.

20-20-20

Landstuhl Fitness offers a three-part class: 20 minutes cardio, 20 minutes body sculpt with Yoga and Pilates moves and 20 minutes resistance training 9:30-10:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, on Landstuhl Post, Bldg. 3720, in Kaiserslautern. DSN 486-7172, civ. 06371-86-7172.

Cosmic Bowling or Kids Free

The Bowling Center on Benjamin Franklin Village offers Cosmic Bowling 7 p.m.-1 a.m. Saturdays. DSN 380-9528, civ. 0621-730-9528, www.mwrgermany.com.

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