



## Community honors fallen 'Sapper'

**Story and memorial photo**  
**By Mark Heeter**

Mickey kicks doors good.

That was the simple citation that Spc. Sean K. McDonald wanted on an award for training in Kuwait, before he headed into Iraq last year.

Family, friends, the Schweinfurt community and 2nd Brigade Combat Team bid farewell to McDonald in a memorial service at the Ledward

Chapel April 5.

McDonald, 21, of Company A, 9th Engineer Battalion, was killed in Iraq by an improvised exploding device in Baghdad, Iraq, March 25.

"He knew the right thing to say to make you feel better when you were upset," said Pfc. Seth Gordon, reading remarks that Sgt. Joshua Staderman, McDonald's team leader, gave at an earlier memorial service.

"Mickey loved numbers and

doing math," Staderman said, telling the story of a time when he had to turn to "Mickey D," as he was called, for assistance. "After that day, and math problem, I took it to him," Staderman said.

Gordon also read the remarks of Pfc. Travis Yazzie, who described the tension between himself and McDonald, before the two became roommates and friends.

"I didn't like him, and he didn't like me. But for some reason, he would always stick up for me and the squad," said Yazzie.

"He overcame that, and we became friends," Yazzie said.

"The truth is, I will never have another friend like Sean McDonald," he said.

McDonald's commander, Capt. Geoff McKenzie recalled him as a bright, talented and energetic young man in a speech relayed at the ceremony by Capt. Chad Ramskugler.

"As a Pfc., he immediately took charge of his peers and led

us through the training to prepare us for combat," McKenzie said.

Ramskugler also read the remarks of Lt. Col. Glen Masset,



the 9 ENG commander.

"Spc. McDonald is a true American hero," Masset said.

"He has been, and will remain, a Sapper in our ranks," he said.

McDonald is survived by his mother, Magdalena M. Aalten, and his father and sister, Russell and Jessica McDonald.



A Soldier salutes the memorial display for Spc. Sean K. McDonald.

## Garrison commander, AFAP steering committee select issues to send forward to IMCOM-Europe conference

**By Mark Heeter**

Lt. Col. Anthony Haager, USAG Schweinfurt commander, and the Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) steering committee have selected the four issues the garrison will submit to Installation Management Command, Europe.

Delegates from throughout the community met in late February at the annual AFAP and teen AFAP conferences, and they prioritized 143 issues.

"We literally went through them, one by one. We went through every single issue," said Jennifer Litchfield, AFAP program manager, referring to the steering committee meeting held March 20.

"Some of the issues that we received were already active up at the DA level, like getting your pets on your orders. That's a huge

one," Litchfield said.

The four issues from the USAG Schweinfurt are: improving veterans' administration benefits training; obtaining stateside driver's licenses while overseas; passport timeline accountability; and Localization of Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) Standardization Process.

"IMCOM then takes those issues. That is their solicitation is our issues that we send up. Then IMCOM will do the same with a steering committee and they will decide what needs to go up to DA," Litchfield said.

"All issues and their progress can be found on the Schweinfurt website in the Info Vault. They will be updated as updates are received. Individuals can also go to MyArmyLifeToo.com to find out more," she said.



## News Briefs

### Antique and flea market

The Wuerzburg Community Spouses' Club presents a flea market and antique treasures luncheon & benefit auction April 19 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Leighton Community Activities Center. Proceeds will benefit the Landstuhl Wounded Warrior Fund. For reservations, email wesc.reservations@gmail.com by April 16

### Finance offices closed

The offices of Detachment D, 39th Finance Battalion will be closed during the morning hours April 18 for the detachment change of command ceremony. Normal Finance services will resume at 1 p.m.

### BOSS Kick-off party

The USAG Schweinfurt Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS) program will host a meet & greet April 19, from 3 to 9 p.m. at the Finney Recreation Center on Conn Barracks. Come meet your local BOSS representatives, put in your two cents about the direction the BOSS program will take, and enjoy free food, music, and entertainment. Transportation from Wuerzburg to Conn will be provided. Contact your BOSS representative for more information.

### Fishing with MWR

Join the USAG Schweinfurt Morale,

Welfare & Recreation division for fishing trips to Gersfeld. First trip departs from Finney Fitness parking lot April 14, 8:30 a.m., and should return by 5 p.m. Cost is 3 Euro for a one-day fishing permit, and 7 Euro per kilogram of fish caught. Rods are available for rent, and bait is available on-site.

### Spring Aerobathon and Deployment hourly care

It's time for another aerobathon, this time in the Leighton Fitness Center in Wuerzburg. Join USAG Schweinfurt community members April 14 beginning at 10 a.m. Try out Pilates, yoga, spinning, kickboxing and more. All participants will receive t-shirts, water, healthy snacks, and a jump-start on their fitness routine. Call 350-6115 or 0931-889-6115 for more information. Free childcare will be provided at the Leighton Child Development Center April 14 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in support of the Aerobathon. Use your Deployment Care Card to take advantage of this opportunity. Stop by central registration to pick up your card and make your reservation.

### Parents Night Out

The USAG Schweinfurt Child & Youth Services outreach services is giving you parents the night off April 20, from 6:30 to 11 p.m. in Schweinfurt and Wuerzburg. Parents can drop off their children who are registered with CYS from 6 weeks old to 5th grade. Reserve your spot in person today at the Central Registration offices.

### ACS SNAPS up newcomers

The Schweinfurt Newcomers Awareness Program for Spouses runs April 16-20. Come learn a bit about the military and local national communities and get to know your neighbors. This monthly program is free, and childcare is provided. For more information, or to sign up, call 354-6933 or 09721-96-6933.

### UMUC weekend seminar

The University of Maryland University College is holding a weekend seminar about Power Point. The seminar takes place in building 20 on Conn Barracks, Sat and Sun, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 353-8661 or 09721-96-8661. The textbook costs \$28.

### SY 07-08 Registration

- Schweinfurt Elementary School
  - April 18-20, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
  - Packets home April 16.
  - Kindergarten packets available after April 9.
- Schweinfurt Middle School
  - April 17-19, 8 a.m. to noon
  - Packets home soon
- Wuerzburg High School
  - April 19, 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Abrams Club
  - April 20, 8:15 a.m. to noon, and 1 to 3 p.m., WHS.

## Schweinfurt Dispatch



**Commander** Lt. Col. Anthony Haager  
**Command Sgt Maj.** CSM Keith McMullen  
**Public Affairs Officer** George Ohl  
**Command Information Officer** Mark Heeter  
**Writer/Editors** Kimberly Gearhart  
 Elvira Gladwell  
 Sandra Wilson  
 Roger Teel  
 Scott Rouch

The Schweinfurt Dispatch weekly newsletter is an unofficial publication of the U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt, IMCOM-Europe and the U.S. Army authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1.

The newsletter is published and distributed weekly in an electronic format. The newsletter can be viewed on the U.S. Army Schweinfurt Website at <http://www.schweinfurt.army.mil>.

This newsletter is a command information product that places emphasis on events and activities occurring throughout the Schweinfurt and Lower Franconia areas.

Information and photos included in this

newsletter are acquired from sources that highlight events, programs and activities in Schweinfurt and Lower Franconia.

Dates, times, locations, and the events themselves might change or be cancelled without prior notice.

To be added to the Schweinfurt Dispatch distribution list, please email: [mail.sft.pao@eur.army.mil](mailto:mail.sft.pao@eur.army.mil).

This address can also be used to submit community slides or information on upcoming events, or you can reach the USAG Schweinfurt public affairs office by calling 354-1600/6381 or (09721) 961600/966381.



- 14 APR** --Fishing trip with MWR to Gersfeld, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call for more info. 353-8476.  
--Spring into Fitness Aerobathon, Leighton Fitness Center, 10 a.m. until you're done!  
--Deployment hourly care, Leighton CDC, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., in support of Aerobathon.
- 15 APR** --Flag Football tournament with Middle School/Teen Center. Call 350-6694.
- 19 APR** --WCSC Luncheon and Benefit Auction, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Leighton CAC. Proceeds benefit the Landstuhl Wounded Warriors Fund.  
--B.O.S.S. Meet & Greet party. 3- 9 p.m., Finney Recreation Center, Conn Barracks.
- 20 APR** --Parent's night out from 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. Register in The Commons. Sign up begins April 9.  
--Family Game Night, Leighton CAC, 6-10 p.m.  
--USAG Schweinfurt Volunteer recognition ceremony, 10 a.m., Conn Club.  
--Schweinfurt Scrapbooking Crop, 299th Classroom, CMR building, Conn Barracks. Call 09721-96-6141 for more information.
- 21 APR** --Kinder Olympics, Dickman Field, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., free for participants 2-19 years old.
- 22-26 APR** --Schweinfurt Brauhaus (brewery) open festival, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- 26 APR** --ACS "Lunch Bunch" 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call 354-6933.
- 27 APR** --SES Skate Party and PTA Board elections, 4-6 p.m., SES parking lot.
- 28-29 APR** --WCSC Schoolhouse antiques sale, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wuerzburg Middle School Gym. Proceeds benefit "Homes for our Troops."
- 29 APR** --Fishing trip with MWR to Gersfeld, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call for more info. 353-8476.
- 30 APR** --ACS German language 4-week class begins. Call ACS to sign up 354-6933.  
--Take Back the Night Walks, Victory Park and Askren Manor, 6 p.m. Call 354-6933.
- 3 MAY** --Spanish Club presentation, 5 p.m., Schweinfurt Elementary School gym.
- 4-5 MAY** -- Pottery market at the Schweinfurt Market Square, starting at noon. More than 30 artists will sell hand-crafted pottery and ceramics.
- 11 MAY** --Asian Pacific Heritage Month celebration, 1:30-3 p.m., Schweinfurt Middle School gym.
- 12 MAY** --Bavarian Red Cross Flea Market, Volksfestplatz, beginning at 7 a.m.
- 18 MAY** --Parents Night Out, 6:30-11 p.m., Schweinfurt and Wuerzburg. Sign-up begins May 7.  
--Spring Dance. Leighton Middle School/Teen Center. 7-10 p.m. Cost is \$4.
- 22-23 MAY** --Environmental Awareness Days, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Conn Recycling Center.
- 26 MAY** --D-Day Fun Runs, 2-, 3-, 5-, and 10-kilometers, Kessler Fitness Center, 9 a.m.  
--Farmers' market with fresh, local produce. Schweinfurt market square, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

**Community 6-week outlook calendar**



# Seventh-grader makes math count

Story and photo by Kimberly Gearhart

A train traveling north from Washington to New York travels an average of 65 miles per hour. Another train, traveling south along the same route, and leaving at the same time, averages 70 miles per hour.

For many of us, that is the beginning of a recurrent nightmare left over from high school algebra classes.

For Daniel Mikkelson, it's fun. Of course Mikkelson isn't your average seventh-grader either.

Mikkelson is a member of the Schweinfurt Middle School (SMS) MATHCOUNTS team. MATHCOUNTS is a nationwide competition where middle school "Mathletes" compete for math supremacy. Each year, more than 500,000 students participate at the school level. 40,000 of those will actually make the team. Of those 40,000, 228 Mathletes score well enough to compete in the nationals.

Mikkelson made the cut—again. This will be his second year advancing to national competition.

"Last year, I went in feeling like the underdog," Mikkelson said. He was the youngest on his team, and one of the few

sixth-grade participants to advance so far. This year, Mikkelson goes to nationals as team leader.

"Daniel is a unique person, and he accepts that, but he doesn't let it go to his head," said Steven Richman, math instructor and MATHCOUNTS coach at SMS.

The majority of MATHCOUNTS problems are algebra-based, and very advanced for sixth-grade students.

Each year, interest in the MATHCOUNTS team at SMS grows. That trend excites Richman.

"It's about generating enthusiasm for math. The idea is to learn how to do the math, and have fun. I try to draw the sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-graders in, to get them interested in math ...but there are 20 percent of the problems that even I don't figure out," Richman said.

Mikkelson figures he gets about 60 percent of the answers, but every day, he gets a little better.

"It really does help you develop better math skills, and it's fun," he said.

Mikkelson will return to national competition in Fort Worth, Texas, May 11. His goal this year—be in the top 100.

"I really just want to do better than last



Mikkelson

year," Mikkelson said.

If you are interested in MATHCOUNTS, or maybe want to try your hand at some of the problems from previous competitions, visit the MATHCOUNTS website <http://www.mathcounts.org/>.

# Tour with ACS: Learning all things German

Story by Sandra Wilson

So you find yourself in Germany—whether by choice or not—and it's time to get to know the country and people you live around.

What better way to tour around than with an English guide and provided transportation?

On March 19, Army Community Service (ACS) took 27 people from the community on a tour of Würzburger Hofbrau Brewery. The cost was 2 Euro per person and included transportation from Schweinfurt to Würzburg and an English tour of the factory.

Michael Payne, a brewery tour participant, talked about the unlimited taste-testing segment of the tour. He described how they were given a pretzel and were allowed to drink as much as they



wanted.

Participants also learned about the process of making beer in Germany. "It reinforces the fact that beer is made so much better here than it is in the States," Payne said.

Alongside the brewery tour, ACS plans to do more outings on the German economy.

"(We want) to make this experience of living over here more enjoyable and take the fear out of people," said Becky Brown, relocation cultural integration program coordinator at ACS in Würzburg.

In the coming months a trip to a "spargel" (white asparagus) farm will be scheduled. Participants will be allowed to harvest asparagus and learn several ways to prepare it.

**See Taste, Page 5**



# Egg hunters go hoppin' down the bunny trail

**Story and photo by Scott Rouch**

The Easter egg hunt at the Leighton Community Activities Center April 5 was truly a community affair.

Children of all ages, younger ones assisted by their parents, flooded the CAC field to get a jump on Easter and gather the 8,000 plastic eggs filled with chocolate and toys.

When the scramble for eggs was over all were invited back inside the CAC for a free picnic dinner and prize giveaways.

“Even with the downsizing of the community, it was wonderful to get the help and support of everyone to make it possible,” said Tanja Homas, event organizer.

Homas got the ball rolling

after calling USAG Schweinfurt leadership to see if there were plans for a dual community egg hunt.

“I called Justin (Mitchell, USAG deputy commander) and he said ‘no, but we would love to help you’” she said laughing.

Homas said all of the local unit family readiness groups (MEDDAC, 69th ADA, 3/58 Aviation, 72nd Medical Detachment) contributed the side dishes for the dinner, the Wuerzburg Spouses’ Club donated pizza for the egg-stuffing party and the Girl and Boy Scouts, their parents and neighbors came out to stuff the eggs.

She also gave thanks to Morale, Welfare and Recreation, United Services Automobile Association, Andrews Federal



**Families race to the Leighton Community Activities Center field April 5 at the beginning of the community Easter egg hunt.**

Credit Union, Defense Commissary Agency, Army and Air Force Exchange Service — who contributed four bikes and an iPod Shuffle for the raffle — and a huge thanks to Kraft Foods for contributing hot dog buns and paper products.

The event had more than

enough food for all and if anyone was surprised by the large turnout, it didn’t show.

“It took that many to pull it off as many (people) as we had. It was fantastic,” said Jimmy Collins, Leighton CAC business manager.

## **Taste, from Page 4**

“There’s so much to see in Europe,” said Beate Williams, relocation readiness program manager at ACS in Schweinfurt.

Another tour on the calendar is a visit to a privately-owned winery. The farmer offers an opportunity to harvest some grapes, and then learn how he makes the wine in his basement. Of course taste-testing the wine is on the menu as well.

“It’s a great opportunity that not many people, or even Germans, get to experience,” Brown said about the unique trips they will be taking in the near future.

The next trip is planned for April 27 to learn how to shop on the German economy. Those interested will meet at ACS and then use the city bus system to travel downtown.

Apart from the bus ride, the tour is at no cost to participants.

These trips will help community members get out into the culture and be adventurous, said Williams. The ease of just following along with a guide will calm any fears of going into unknown territory, she said.



**Kimberly Gearhart**

**2<sup>nd</sup> BCT family members got a special treat Wednesday, April 11 during a visit to the Germany Army Infantry School in Hammelburg. As part of a family day event organized by the Dagger Brigade and member of their partner units in Hammelburg, community members were conducted on a tour of the school, participated in an Easter candy hunt, ran through a labyrinth, and even got to ride in German Army vehicles.**

The school, which hosts 10,000 visitors per year, rarely gets the opportunity to host young families. Nearly 80 family members took part in the event.

“I think this is what partnership is all about,” said Mike Cormier, who organized the event.