



## Community remembers fallen Soldiers

Story and photo by Sandra Wilson

“When we reflect on (death), our minds go numb, our eyes swell and water,” said Lt. Col. Glen Masset, Battalion Commander, Task Force Gila in comments relayed by Capt. Chad Ramskugler at a memorial ceremony at the Ledward Chapel Monday.

“We choke up, and then, while drawing a deep breath, we lift our heads in a type of pride that only an experienced combat

proven Soldier can feel.”

Community members, Family, and friends gathered June 11 at Ledward Chapel to remember and honor the lives of Staff Sgt. Virgil Chance Martinez of B Battery, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 7<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery and Pfc. Clinton Coy Blodgett of A Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment.

In separate incidents, both Soldiers were killed by Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) while carrying out their duties in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Sgt. Derrick Salas relayed roommate Sgt. Alexander Morales’ remarks about his friendship with Martinez.

“I remember at first he was hardly proficient at his artillery job, but he put in a lot of time and commitment to learn and came out with astounding results,” said Morales.

Hanging out with

Martinez over cups of coffee became Morales’ most fond memory of their friendship, although Martinez’s caring attitude left an impression as well.

“He was a loving husband, father first, an excellent leader, and a great friend,” Morales said.

Blodgett was also remembered for his devotion to friends and Family.

“He was the kind of guy who would almost literally give the people he cared about the shirt off his back if they needed it,” said best friend Spc. William Dunleavy, whose remarks were read by Sgt. Stephen Castillo.

Castillo also spoke on behalf of Blodgett’s squad leader Staff Sgt. Kevi Fahie.

“He’s the type of person that would smoke and joke with you, but when it came down to business, he was always ready to roll out on a mission,” he said.

“When Soldiers die we mourn not only the life that was lost but also the life that might have been. Sorrow is a reflection and measure of our love,” said Chaplain (Col.) James Brown.

“They fell as freedom fighters seeking to bring peace.”



Mourners take a moment to remember two of Schweinfurt’s fallen.

## Weekend festivals bring fun on and off post



The weekend was full of festivals on Ledward Barracks and off as well.

The Schweinfurter Volksfest kicked off Friday night with speeches, friendship, and beer (right). Lord Mayor Gudrun Grieser invited USAG Schweinfurt commander Lt. Col. Tony Haager to be a part of the festivities.

Back inside the gates, the Schweinfurt Morale, Welfare & Recreation

organized a Street Festival, this time with a flea market and country music by Daniel T. Coates. Community members set up tables and soaked up the sun while children enjoyed bouncy castles and a bucking bronco, like seven-year-old Kenneth Elliott (left).



Mark Heeter



## News Briefs

### Survey due tomorrow

Calling all civilians, retirees, and spouses. Please take the opportunity to tell us what you think about this USAREUR community. Fill out a well-being survey today through June 15. Call 354-6763 for survey locations.

### MLB coaching clinic

The USAG Schweinfurt will host professional baseball coach John Noce June 18 and 19. Noce will conduct baseball clinics in both Schweinfurt, at Kessler Field, and in Würzburg, on Leighton Barracks. Children ages 6 to 18 are welcome to come learn from one of the best, as are volunteer coaches. Monday, the clinic will be held in Schweinfurt, and Tuesday in Würzburg. For more information, call 354-6822.

### '7 habits' classes

Learn the "7 Habits of Highly Effective Army Families" with USAG Schweinfurt Army Community Services June 26 through 28 from 8:30 a.m. to noon at the Leighton Community Activities Center. Based on the successful "7 Habits" series of books by Stephen R. Covey, this interactive workshop, will help you develop and maintain a successful military Family. Practical lessons, helpful hints, and much more are offered. Call 354-6933 or 350-7103 to register today.

### Free summer fun

The USAG Schweinfurt Morale, Welfare & Recreation crew has organized for you and your Family to have some free fun every week this summer. Come out to the Kessler Bowling Center Wednesdays for free bowling from open to close. Thursdays take advantage of the free batting cages.

### Memorial ceremonies

A memorial ceremony for Sgt. Bacilio E. Cuellar, Spc. James E. Lundin, and Pfc. Joshua M. Moore, of C Company, 1-18 Infantry, will be held Wednesday, June 20, at 10 a.m. in the Ledward Chapel. A second memorial ceremony for Sgt. Shawn E. Dressler and Spc. Joshua D. Brown, of A Company, 1-18 Infantry, will be held Thursday, June 21, at 1 p.m. in the Ledward Chapel. The uniform for military attendees is duty (ACUs), and for civilian attendees it is business casual. Immediately after the ceremony, an open reception will be held in the Ledward Chapel fellowship room. The community is invited to attend.

### USO trip deadline

The USO will host a shopping trip in Poland June 22. Deadline to register is Monday, June 18. Passport is required to participate. Call 354-6711 to sign up.

### ACAP events, briefing

The Schweinfurt Army Career and Alumni Program (ACAP) will offer a resume writing class for Soldiers and Family members June 18 from 1 to 3 p.m. In addition, ACAP will hold a Veterans Affairs benefits briefing June 20 from 8 a.m. to noon in the Ledward Theater. Both seminars are vital to both Soldiers their Family members. Call 354-6019 to register for either event.

### Get some GUTS

Are you a teen new to the community? Wish you knew a bit more about your new home? Then GUTS (Giving Understanding to Teens in Schweinfurt) is just for you! Learn useful German phrases, how to manage euro and exchange rates, and take a stroll around downtown Schweinfurt. This quarterly session runs June 19 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., beginning in the Education Center on Ledward Barracks. For more information, call 354-6933.

### Communication Skills

Learn more about your communication style and improve your skills in conversing with others June 19 from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Leighton ACS. Problem solving skills will also be addressed. Or try Couples' Communication June 21 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Build trust and friendship with the one you love by learning how to communicate. Call 350-7103 or 354-6933 to register.

## 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

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.



- 16 JUNE** --Family Friendly Trip to Neuschwanstein Castle, free transportation. Call 350-6305.  
--Best ball golf tournament, Loeffelsterz golf course, call 354-6264.
- 18 JUNE** --Baseball Clinic, Kessler Field, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., call 354-6822 for more information.  
--Resume writing for Soldiers and Families, 1-3 p.m., ACAP building. Call 354-6019.
- 19 JUNE** --Baseball Clinic, Leighton Barracks, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., call 354-6822 for more information.  
--Middle School Zone trip: Geiselwind Amusement Park, call 354-6308 or 09721-87465.
- 20 JUNE** --VA benefits briefing, 8 a.m. to noon, Ledward Theater. Call 354-6019 to register.
- 21 JUNE** --Middle School Zone trip: go kart racing, call 354-6308 or 09721-87465.
- 22 JUNE** --USO shopping trip to Boleslawiec in Poland. Departs 6 a.m., returns 7 p.m. \$45 per seat. Last day to sign up June 18. Passport required. Call 354-6711 or 09721-96-6711.
- 23 JUNE** --Family Friendly Trip to Europa park. Transportation free, bring euro for entry fees. Call 350-6305 for more information.
- 26-28 JUNE** -- “7 Habits of Highly Effective Military Families” class, Leighton CAC, 8:30 a.m. to noon. Call 350-7103 or 354-6933 to register.
- 30 JUNE** --Horseshoe tournament with BBQ & music by Texas Rooster, Conn Club, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- 4 JULY** --Independence Day Celebration, Kessler field, 2 - 11 p.m.  
--4th of July Fun Run, 9 a.m., Kessler field.
- 7 JULY** --Family Friendly Trip to Strasbourg, France, free transportation. Call 350-6305.
- 9-11 JULY** --Three day FRG/FRL training, begins at 9 a.m. each day, Ledward ACS. Call 354-6933.
- 10 JULY** --Free Paintball lessons at the Conn Paintball field, 1 p.m. Materials provided. Call 354-6933.
- 14 JULY** --Music on the Patio, Leighton CAC. BBQ, bounce activities, live music. Call 350-6305.  
--Family Fun Fair and Flea Market, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Leighton Barracks. Call 354-6715.
- 20 JULY** --Parents’ Night Out respite care, 6:30-11 p.m. Sign-ups begin July 9.
- 21 JULY** --MWR Street Party on Askren Manor, noon to 8 p.m. Live Latin Music starting at 6 p.m.  
--USO shopping express trip to Czech. Sign up by July 16. Cost is \$45. Call 354-6711.

**Community 6 week outlook calendar**



# Würzburg seniors sail to graduation

By Roger Teel

Fifty-two seniors from Würzburg American High School boarded a boat at Würzburg's Alte Krane on the Main River June 7, traveling together one last time to their graduation ceremony at the Mainfrankesale in nearby Veitshochheim.

After the school's 53<sup>rd</sup> commencement exercise, attended by Department of Defense Education Activity director Dr. Joseph Tafoya, the seniors set sail on the river of life.

As a prelude to the ceremony, comments by Gen. William "Kip" Ward, deputy commander, European Command, Gen. David McKiernan, commander, U.S. Army, Europe, and the Dagger (Schweinfurt's 2<sup>nd</sup> Combat Brigade) command team of Col. J. B. Burton and Command Sgt. Maj. John Fortune were projected on a huge on-stage screen. The ceremony was also transmitted

via video teleconference to Soldiers/parents serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Each graduate's baby picture was presented before it was morphed into their graduation photo, a presentation prepared by teacher Tom Tucker.

Seniors chose to represent themselves at the lectern and addressed the lessons they learned, the importance of their mentors, their love for their parents and their respect for each other.

Salutatorian Nils Aaron Lake Jonsson set a humorous tone as he talked about one of his favorite books, "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy," reciting a phrase that has stuck with him – "Don't panic." Jonsson used the phrase to advise teachers and administrators who may be looking for jobs in the near future, as well as to parents and his fellow classmates.

"We have a diversity of great teachers in our school," Jonsson said, "and they have

given a great diversity to our class."

Valedictorian Afton Cissell noted how her parents had sacrificed so that she could graduate from Würzburg. Her father now lives and works in Virginia, and her mother had to become the Family's sponsor in order for Cissell to remain in school.

"I saw my mother struggle, but I also watched her persevere, and how both my parents' love and generosity continues," Cissell said.

Acacia Allen burst into tears as she talked about gratitude, thanking her mother and father (who is deployed downrange).

"Thank God we'll never be this young again!" she said as she left the podium.

Zach Smith said people in America say military kids have it easy. "Yes, we live in other places, and we have left home, which some of them have never done. But it still takes determination to achieve."

Diana Rosslerova, who was born in the Czech Republic, perhaps best demonstrated the diversity of the Class of 2007, "We are lucky to be graduates because our diplomas are our passports to opportunity. I thank the United States of America for having schools here that I could attend."

Amid cheers, tears and applause, the graduates turned their tassels, tossed their mortar boards in the air, and jumped into life beyond high school.



Acacia Allen



Afton Cissell



Alex King



Angel Castaneda



Brittany Dallen



Bryant Harvey



Camille Edwards



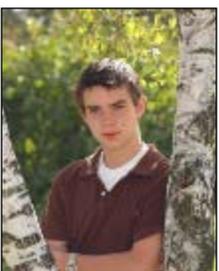
Candice Hall



Carlos Figueroa



Cassie Shaw



Chandler Griffith



Chelsea Stroud



Christin Slater



Daniel Davis



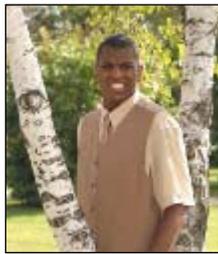
Daniel Ross



Danielle Bushelle



Danielle McKay



Darrin Shorts



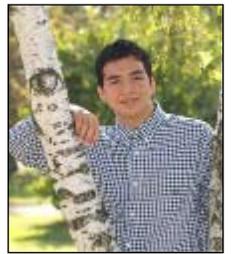
Diana Rosslerova



Donald Bryant



Eric Flom



Eric Trevino



Gregory Pico



Jaileen Madera-Torres



Jamie Chanler



Jamielle Lamson-Buscho



Jasmine Watts



Jenna Reilly



Jessica Tavares



John Swisher



Jose Torres



Joseph Serpa



Kandice Turner



Katherine Riley



Kennyatta Joyner



Kent Barrios



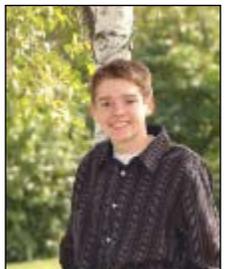
Kirstin Brewster



Kristin Hickey



Lindsey Cole



Mark Dixon



Meghan Janda



Nathalie Pinschmidt



Nicholas Evans



Nils Jonsson



Sean Kell



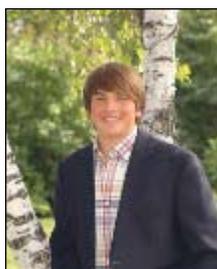
Sunisa Kunsiri



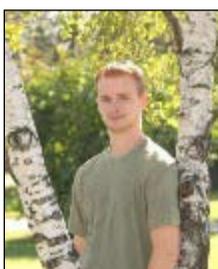
Taylor Dallen



Toni Serpa



William Blake Whitmire



Zachary Smith



Ashley Jackson



Brittanie Langford



# SMS students display year-end projects

By Sandra Wilson

Schweinfurt Middle School (SMS) students mustered up their energy to display one last project for their teachers at the close of this school year.

Eighth-graders, through a series of entrepreneurial projects like the Touch of Class Café, showed their skills at running

their own small businesses within the school. They sold candy grams, pies, cookies, and more. The profits went toward purchasing Spring Formal tickets and picture packages for the eighth-graders.

Sixth-graders constructed birdhouses using their creativity on the decor while learning about taking measurements in inches and calculating mathematical values such as surface area.

As their end of the year project, SMS seventh-graders took on a topic close to former Vice President Al Gore's heart: global warming.

"We're destroying the earth, and we can be the only ones to save it," said student Carl Cook.

Pollution negatively affects the air, water, and land that we, and all animals, need to survive. And unnecessary waste depletes the already tainted supply.

Students suggested measures like turning off the shower when shaving, or not getting ATM receipts, which waste paper.

"We've made ourselves way too lazy," said Danielle Mitchell, as she described how people drive cars they don't need and never turn off their computers anymore.

To demonstrate their dedication, many students, like Matthew Vanattia, advocate choosing to walk or ride bike instead of relying on vehicle transportation.

Along with carpooling to conserve gas consumption and emissions, students suggest using energy-saving (or "bio") light bulbs even though they cost more than traditional incandescent light bulbs. Bio



Troy Purdin

From left, Shelby Sims, Alyssa Breault, Sarah Sanchez and Suzanne Davidson make pies for the eighth-grade entrepreneurial project. Profits went toward the Spring Formal.

bulbs can last up to ten times longer, and they greatly reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions from power plants.

Jacob Martin explained how many adults don't care about the subject because major problems won't occur during their lifetime. But he's concerned about the younger generations.

"If adults and kids alike don't help save the environment now, there will be devastating effects," he said.



Sandra Wilson

Dan Wilson, sixth-grade math teacher, uses a ruler to measure for the prescribed dimensions of the birdhouses.

# Würzburg American Middle School closes doors

By Roger Teel

After 17 years, Würzburg American Middle School ceased operations June 8.

When school started last fall there were 130 students in grades 6, 7, and 8. Only 91 students remained at the end of the 2006-07 school year, evidence of the impact the Army's transformation has had on the Würzburg region.

Guest speaker Col. Dallas Homas, commander of the Würzburg Medical Department Activity and senior area commander, said there were two missions to be accomplished. The first was to get the kids off on an enjoyable summer vacation. The second was to close the school.

"When I think of my school days, I don't think about the building where I went to school or my locker or any of that stuff. I think about the good times and the people I shared them with. That's what you will do, too. You'll take the positive energy you got from teachers who have been developing you as young adults," Homas said.

Several students spoke, presenting their reflections on the school. Jamie Carle's comments were especially intriguing, as she recited a poem she had written that conveyed the sentiments held by many in attendance.

Bavaria District Superintendent Mike Thompson said the event reminded him of the closure of American schools in

Nuremberg 12 years ago. He then segued to next year.

"A year from now we'll be closing Würzburg elementary and high schools ... Nothing happens without change," he added. "And we're always in it."

Citing author David McNally, Thompson likened the middle school process to a mother eagle pushing her young out of the nest.

"The push was the greatest gift she could give them," he said.

"The imprint is already there," Thompson told the students. "So as you fly, remember what you have learned here in this school. Remember your time here, your teachers, and the events you took part in."