



## AVID challenges students, prepares for future

Story and photo by Emily Athens

Avid students, AVID classes. Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) is a program for those conscientious students who strive for structure and challenge. Beginning almost 30 years ago, the AVID program prepares students for four-year college



Trevor Wright (left) and Danielle Carroll work on their gingerbread projects in hopes to promote and sell their finished product.

eligibility by placing them in rigorous courses promoting acceleration.

“There is data that shows AVID students have a better chance to graduate if you compare it to the average kid. They have a 95 percent graduate rate

in college because they’ve already been challenged,” said Troy Purdin, teacher at Schweinfurt Middle School.

Purdin explain that the AVID curriculum includes extensive writing, collaboration, note-taking, study skills, and questioning. These organizational skills enrich their academic success, he said.

This year, students of the AVID program are embarking on challenges that will equip them with well-rounded skills beneficial

to their future.

Using the explore, plan, solve, and examine problem-solving model, Purdin and other AVID instructors hope the students will, among other things, expand their vocabulary, increase math abilities, and demonstrate effective decision-making skills.

“We really focus on the 21<sup>st</sup> century skills taking academics and applying them together, integrated into some kind of real life situation. It gives it a real purpose,” said Purdin about this year’s business projects the students are currently working on. Each grade has been assigned a different creative project centered around production, promotion, and selling.

Specifically, eighth-grade students are developing a Family Fun Night Café to take place tomorrow. Goals are to generate a fun atmosphere, market the event, and sell the products – baked goods – to customers. Seventh-grade students are working on a gingerbread industry, where an established client makes a request for a particular gingerbread house. The student must then design it and meet the needs of their client. Sixth-graders, along with helping out their seventh- and eighth-grade peers, are marketing and selling peanut brittle. Each student is responsible for selling a certain amount to clients within the community, Purdin explained.

Each project provides the opportunity for students to plan, execute, and evaluate their simulated business.

“It’s a good experience for me. I like cooking and I’m learning,” said Trevor Wright, seventh-grade student of the AVID program.

According to Purdin, when given an academic push, all students can achieve excellence at high levels.

Today, AVID is a school-wide program in more than 36 states beginning in upper elementary grades and continuing through high school.

## Holiday closures and reductions announced

By Mark Heeter

All agencies, offices, and facilities throughout the USAG Schweinfurt will close Christmas and New Year’s days, both federal holidays, unless otherwise noted.

Several organizations will close or have additional reduced operating hours, according to the following announcements.

The Army Post Offices for mailing packages on Conn and Ledward will be closed Dec. 24 and 31.

The Ledward and Conn Consolidated Mail Rooms (CMRs) will be open and distributing mail Dec. 24 until 6 p.m.

The USAG Schweinfurt military personnel division offices in building 40 on Conn Barracks will be closed Dec. 26 and

Jan. 2.

The civilian personnel advisory center and non-appropriated funds personnel offices will both be closed Dec. 19.

The USAG Schweinfurt Army Substance Abuse office will be closed Dec. 26 and Jan. 2.

The USAG Schweinfurt Equal Employment Opportunity Office will close tomorrow at 11 a.m. and will be closed Dec. 26 and Jan. 2.

The USAG Schweinfurt Directorate of Resource Management will close tomorrow at 11 a.m. and will also be closed Dec. 24 and 26.

The USAG Schweinfurt religious support office will be closed Dec. 26 and Jan. 2.

Ramon’s Bar and Grill, located in Finney Recreation Center, will be closed from Dec. 22 until Jan. 7.

The Schweinfurt Information Technology operations center will close tomorrow at noon. Day-to-day work requests should be submitted through 119. Any emergency work requests can be handled by contacting the USAG Schweinfurt information operations center.

The USAG Schweinfurt Directorate of Logistics and all of its facilities and offices will close tomorrow at noon.

All USAG Schweinfurt recycling centers will close at noon Dec. 19 and will be closed Dec. 24 and 26. The Askren Manor

**CLOSURES, see page 4**



# SPRECHEN SIE FUN?

## Events and activities in the local communities

### Schweinfurt Christmas Market open daily through Dec. 22

Mon - Wed: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
Thu - Sat: 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
Sun: 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.



### Schedule of events:

#### Tonight

5 - 8 p.m. The DJs of discotheques "Rock Fabrik" and "Mad" perform a "Rock Christmas" on stage at the Christmas market.

#### Tomorrow

5 - 6 p.m. The horn blower duo of Dürfeld performs advent music on stage.

7 - 8 p.m. Live folk music performed by the "Richl Brothers", the "Reichenbacher Clarinet Trio" and the "Turmbläser" of Schweinfurt perform on stage.

#### Saturday

10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Arts and crafts market in the exhibition hall in the city hall.

11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Child care for toddlers and school-aged children at the youth center, Friedrich-Rückert-Bau.

2:30 - 4 p.m. Free photo shooting with St. Nikolaus on stage. Photos can be picked-up on Monday at "Photo Porst" (Marktplatz).  
5 - 6 p.m. Students of Bernhard Schäfer's school perform "Fun with music."

#### Sunday

10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Arts and crafts market in the exhibition hall in the city hall.

2 - 4 p.m. Christmas cake "Stollen" weighing - A VIPs weight will be compensated in "Christ Stollen" which will be passed out to the visitors of the Christmas market.

5 - 6 p.m. The music association of Grafenrheinfeld performs advent music.

5 - 6 p.m. "Franconian Christmas" performed in the entrance of the city hall.

#### Monday

2 - 3 p.m. Tour of the Christmas market. Meeting point is at the nativity scene.

5 - 6 p.m. The music friends of Waldsachsen perform advent music.

#### Tuesday

3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Santa Claus passes out goodies.

5 - 6 p.m. The music association of Greßthal performs advent music.

#### Wednesday

5 - 6 p.m. The brass band of Hirschfeld performs advent music.

#### Dec. 18

3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Santa Claus passes out goodies.

### Other events...

#### Now until Dec. 24:



**Christmas tree market** at the Martin-Luther-Platz in Schweinfurt.

#### Tomorrow:

**Advent concert** performed by the students of the Schweinfurt music school at the "Spitalkirche" in Gerolzhofen at 6 p.m.

**Swim by candlelight** at the indoor pool in Gochsheim 7 - 9:30 p.m.

#### Saturday:

**Public Christmas celebration** at community center in Niederwerrn 7 p.m.



**Flea market** at Wirsingstrasse 13 in Schweinfurt from 6 a.m. - 4 p.m.

#### Sunday:

**"Forest Christmas"** at the Wildpark in Schweinfurt at 4 p.m. Festivities include performances and a visit from Santa. Hot sausages, ginger bread, hot punch and gluhwein available.

**Ice hockey game** - Schweinfurt Mighty Dogs vs. ERC Sonthofen Bulls at the Ice Dome in Schweinfurt at 6 p.m.



## Schweinfurt Dispatch



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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 web site 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 e-mail: [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 354-1400/6381 or (09721) 961400/966381.



# News Briefs

## Final sale for fuel coupons

AAFES fuel coupons will no longer be sold effective close of business Dec. 15. AAFES and Esso will accept coupons as payment for fuel until Dec. 31. There is no further extension of these fuel coupons. All customers can return their remaining booklets starting the day their fuel card is activated or after Jan. 1. As of January, all vehicles must have a new Esso fuel ration card to buy tax free fuel at either AAFES or Esso gas stations.

## Sign up for a night off

Do you need a night away from the kids to hang out with friends or relax at home? Sign up now for the next Parent's Night Out event which will take place Dec. 19 from 6:30 to 11:30 p.m. Deadline to sign up is tomorrow. The cost is \$16 for children in School Age Services or the Child Development Center. The program includes one meal and is available for children ages 6 weeks to fifth-grade. Children must be registered with CYS and also have current immunizations. For more information, call central registration at 354-6517.



Stefanie Winter is the fourth in our series to introduce a patient liaison of the week from the Schweinfurt health Clinic. Winter has been a patient liaison since May 1.

## Christmas dodge ball tourney

Tomorrow is the last day to sign up for the dodge ball tournament at Finney Fitness Center Dec. 18. The format is double elimination and games run from 2 to 4 p.m. Tournament is open to all teams in the community (men, women, or mixed). Late registration is possible on the day of the tournament between noon and 1 p.m. Call 353-8234 or 09721-96-8234.

## Make personal video

Want to email or mail a personal video to your Soldier downrange or your family in the states? Sign up for a time slot at Army Community Service to make a video Dec. 15 or 22 in the Yellow Ribbon Room with the assistance of a technician. For more information, call 09721-96-6933.

## Saving & Investing 101

Do you want to learn the basics of how to invest your money? Come to Army Community Service's class, "Saving & Investing 101" Wednesday from 9 to 10 a.m. at ACS. Learn how to save and make your money grow. For more information, or to sign up, call 354-6933 or 09721-96-6933.

## Bulk trash

Bulk trash is scheduled to be picked up from Askren Manor, Yorktown Village, and government-leased housing Tuesday. Please put bulk items out prior to 7 a.m. on day of pick-up but no earlier than the day before. Bulk trash is only those items too large to transport in your vehicle. For more information, call SORT coordinator at 354-6201 or 0162-270-9403.

**Schweinfurt**

Tonight-	7 p.m.	Ghost Town (PG-13)
Tomorrow-	7 p.m.	Flash of Genius (PG-13)
Saturday-	4 p.m.	Bolt (PG)
	7 p.m.	Eagle Eye (PG-13)
Sunday-	4 p.m.	Bolt (PG)
	7 p.m.	Eagle Eye (PG-13)
Monday-	closed	
Tuesday-	closed	
Wednesday-	7 p.m.	Lakeview Terrace (PG-13)

## Schweinfurt three-day weather forecast

A.M.		P.M.
	<b>Friday</b> Cloudy with snow Lows -1 C / 30 F	
	<b>Saturday</b> Cloudy with snow Lows -1 C / 30 F	
	<b>Sunday</b> Cloudy with snow Lows -2 C / 28 F	

Source: 21st Operational Weather Squadron



## News briefs continued...

### Find great stocking-stuffers

Visit the town where Little Red Riding Hood called home by joining the Ledward Crafts studio on a trip to Ziegenhain Christmas market Sunday. Enjoy the crafters market in the museum and an outside traditional market to find great stocking-stuffers. Transportation is free and departs Ledward at 8 a.m. Call to reserve a seat at 09721-96-6903.

### Girl scouts needs volunteers

Girls in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup>-grade need volunteers to help make the world a better place. You are invited to join the adult leadership of Girl Scouts to help the girls develop leadership skills, learn to love the outdoors, travel, and sell cookies. Not a parent? No problem! All men and women are encouraged to apply. There are many opportunities apart from working directly with the girls. Email [schweinfurtgirlscouts@yahoo.com](mailto:schweinfurtgirlscouts@yahoo.com).

### School family fun night

Schweinfurt Middle School is hosting a family fun night tomorrow from 6-9 pm. Enjoy games with prizes, a semi-formal dance for middle school students, and tasty food for purchase.

### Deployment support group

If your spouse has deployed, you may need to seek guidance. The Army Community Service Deployment Group meets Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon at Army Community Service. This support group is open to all Soldiers and spouses who want to share thoughts, exchange coping strategies, voice concerns, ask questions, and get feedback. For information, contact ACS at 354-6933 or 09721-96-6933.

### FRG roundtable

If you are're active in your Family Readiness Group (FRG) and want to learn what's going on with other FRGs within the community, then attend the FRG Roundtable discussion Dec. 18 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Yellow Ribbon Room. Call 09721-96-6933 for information.

### Visit Christmas market with B.O.S.S.

Join Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers on a trip to the Bad Wimpfen Christmas market Dec. 20. Transportation is 30 euro and bus leaves from Finney Fitness Center on Conn Barracks at 8 a.m. For more information, or to sign up, call 353-8476 or 09721-96-8476. Sign-up deadline is Monday.

### Open mic night Wednesdays

Every Wednesday night, above Finney Fitness Center, Ramon's will host an open mic night for anyone interested starting at 6 p.m. Come to sing, play guitar, read poetry, do stand up comedy, or just have a good time.

### Mail rooms open Saturdays for holidays

The Consolidated Mail Rooms on Conn and Ledward Barracks are open on Saturdays through Dec. 27. Come pick up your mail or package during the hours of 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Hours during the week remain the same.

## CLOSURES

recycling center will be open Dec. 27.

The Finney Recreation Center will be open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Dec. 24 and 31.

The Finney and Kessler Fitness Centers will be open Dec. 24 and 31 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Dec. 26 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The Auto Skills Center will open for the same adjusted hours as the fitness centers.

The Crafts Studio will be open Dec. 24 and Dec. 31 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and will also be open Dec. 26 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The Wood 'n' Frame shop will be closed from Dec. 20 to Jan. 4. Patrons may pick up their frame projects at the Crafts Studio during this closure.

The Schweinfurt commissary will be open Dec. 24 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Dec. 31 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

With the exception of the military police desk and patrols, all Provost Marshal Office (PMO) departments will be closed Dec. 25 and 26; Jan.

1 and 2; and the afternoons of Dec. 24 and 31.

The PMO administration section will be closed Dec. 19-24 in the afternoons.

The PMO will operate at reduced staffing during the USA-REUR half-day schedule from Dec. 19 to Jan. 4.

The installation access control system (IACS) offices in building 40 and the MP station will close tomorrow afternoon.

AAFES announces the following adjustments:

The Main Exchange will be open Dec. 24 and 31 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Conn Shoppette will close Dec. 24 at 10 p.m. and will open Dec. 25 at 10 a.m.

The Ledward Shoppette will

be open Dec. 24 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; closed Dec. 25; open Dec. 31 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and open Jan. 1 from noon to 8 p.m.

Burger King will be open Dec. 24 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; closed Dec. 25; open Dec. 26 and 28 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; open Dec. 31 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and closed Jan. 1.

Popeye's will be open Dec. 24 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; closed Dec. 25; open Dec. 26 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; open Dec. 31 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and open Jan. 1 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The food court will open 30 minutes prior to, and close 30 minutes after, the Main Exchange.





- 19 DEC --Deposit due for Teen Club Beyond service project in April. Call 0160-332-1498.  
--“Daddy Basic Training” class, Army Community Service, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Call 354-6933.
- 20 DEC --Trip to Christmas market in Bad Wimpfen, 30 euro, leaves Finney Gym 8 a.m. Call 353-8476.  
--Racquetball tournament, Finney gym, 10 a.m. Registration starts at 9 a.m. Call 353-8234.
- 20-24 DEC --Ledward Library elves give presents to children who check out their favorite story books.
- 22 DEC --Last day for Schweinfurt Christmas market, downtown market square, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
--“Make an email-able Christmas video” class, Yellow Ribbon Room, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., 1 p.m. - 6 p.m. Call Army Community Service at 354-6933.  
--Teen Center & Club Beyond ski/snowboard trip. Call 354-6732 for details.
- 23 DEC --Sign-up deadline for Spades tournament on Dec. 28, Ledward Library, 6 p.m. Call 354-1740.
- 24 DEC --Candlelight Christmas Service with children’s play & adult choir, Ledward Chapel, 6:30 p.m.
- 25 DEC --Christmas Day, U.S. federal and German holiday.
- 26 DEC --Asperger’s & Autism support group meets at ACS, 10 a.m. Call for info. at 09721-96-6933.
- 29 DEC --ADD & ADHD support group meets at ACS, 10 a.m. Call for info. at 09721-96-6933.
- 30 DEC --Anger Management class three part series begins at ACS, 3-5 p.m. Call 09721-96-6933.
- 31 DEC --New Year’s Eve bash for School Age Services (1st-5th grade), Askren, 4-6 p.m. Call 354-6974.
- 1 JAN --New Year’s Day, U.S. federal and German holiday.
- 2 JAN --Sign-up deadline for Prague trip Jan. 17-18. Call BOSS for details at 353-8476.
- 5 JAN --Rehearsals begin for “Schoolhouse Rock Live!” community theater, Abrams center, 6 p.m.
- 6 JAN --Becoming a Love & Logic Parent module 1 & 2, School Age Services, 9- 11 a.m. Call 354-6933.
- 7 JAN --Budget Management class, Army Community Service, 3:30-4:15 p.m. Call 09721-96-6933.
- 8 JAN --Night skiing begins with Outdoor Rec. Departs 5 p.m., returns 11 p.m. \$25 includes transportation and rental; \$15 if own equipment is used. Call 353-8080.
- 9 JAN --Sign-up deadline for ski trip to Austria with Outdoor Rec. Jan. 16-19. Call 353-8080.
- 12 JAN --FRG Crash Course for Leaders, Ledward Yellow Ribbon Room, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. 354-6933.
- 12-16 JAN --Newcomer’s orientation class, Army Community Service, free childcare. Call 09721-96-6933.
- 13 JAN --Community Update Forum, Schweinfurt Elementary School MPR, 6 p.m. Everyone is invited.
- 16 JAN --Daddy Basic Training for new dads, Army Community Service, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 354-6933.  
--Registration due for Club Beyond middle school “Escape” weekend Feb. 13-16. 0160-3321498.  
--Deadline to sign-up for CYSS Super Saturday child care on Jan. 24. Call 354-6517.
- 21 JAN --Sign-up deadline for Czech Republic crystal shopping trip Jan. 31-Feb. 1. Call 353-8476.  
--Learn to write volunteer nominations, Ledward Yellow Ribbon Room 10-11 a.m. 354-6933.
- 26 JAN --ADD & ADHD support group meets at ACS, 10 a.m. Call 09721-96-6933.
- 30 JAN --Asperger’s & Autism support group meets at ACS, 10 a.m. Call 09721-96-6933.

**Community 6 week outlook calendar**



# Players sought to identify the ‘function of a conjunction’ *‘Schoolhouse Rock’ audition opening for singers, volunteers*

By Sandra Wilson

Remember the days of “Conjunction Junction” and “I’m Just a Bill”? Or maybe you can recite the Preamble of the Constitution? Those days are back as the USAG Schweinfurt Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (FMWR) community theatre plans to relive them with the musical production of “Schoolhouse Rock Live!”

Three males and three females, youth or adult, will be cast in the musical with auditions Tuesday and Wednesday at the Abrams Center, across the street from Ledward Barracks, at 6 p.m.

“Casting will be based on vocal range,” said Jamie Morales, family member of 1st Battalion, 77th Field Artillery, and volunteer director of this production.

Although no previous experience in acting is necessary, being animated while singing is essential.

“If you can sing it really well but you’re going to stand there like a dead fish, that’s not going to be very good,” she said.

Rehearsals begin Jan. 5, 2009, and the curtains open Mar. 6.

“This is a pretty big commitment,” Morales said, explaining that rehearsals will be four nights a week because of the extent of material to be memorized and practiced. The musical features 21 songs, and all of the characters sing in a majority of them, she said. Musicians are also needed to provide live music for each song.

Offstage help is sought after as well. Volunteers for stage managing, light and sound, costume and set design, and more can help transform an ordinary set into an extraordinary stage show.

Morales has participated in theater ever since she can remember, but this play will put her offstage skills to the test as a first-

time director of a full-length production.

“This is the next progressive step in her development as a director. She started out with me as a stage manager for a few shows, and I have been mentoring her,” said Garland Travis, Schweinfurt’s FMWR entertainment director, explaining how Morales has also taken the opportunity to attend theater workshops and training sponsored by FMWR and has put in countless hours helping with Schweinfurt’s community theater.



After the curtain closes on one of the production nights in March, three theater professionals will critique the show. The analysis will be submitted as an entry into IMCOM-Europe’s Annual Tournament of Plays to compete for the “Topper” Award.

“It’s a good learning opportunity for the people who get involved ... because being adjudicated is a really good opportunity to hear what people, who are really truly experts, have to say about what you’re doing,” Morales said.

“Schoolhouse Rock Live!” was Morales’ own choice for Schweinfurt’s community entertainment this spring and Travis agrees that it suits the community well.

“The play appeals to the adult crowd as it will bring back memories of growing up with television. The kids will enjoy the music and the performance,” he said.

“It’s fun, it’s nostalgic, and it’s educational. I think it’s a perfect piece for this community,” Morales said.

# Blood drive Tuesday offers the gift of life this holiday season

By Emily Athens

During the busy holiday season blood donation usually decreases, while the need for blood unfortunately increases, said Mike Peacock, Armed Services Blood Program (ASBP) donor recruiter.

As part of the effort to combat that decrease, the USAG Schweinfurt will host a blood drive at the Kessler Fitness Center, Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Anyone eligible is encouraged to come out and donate.

“The rules are strict and make collecting blood very difficult, but it ensures that the (ASBP) blood supplies are the safest in the world, which is a comforting thought for those that may one day need it,” Peacock said.

Some disqualifying factors include having lived in Europe for more than five

years, being pregnant, weighing less than 110 pounds, or travel to certain regions, according to Peacock.

Considering sign-in procedures and consumption of recommended refreshments, the average donor can expect to be there for 45 minutes to an hour, explained Peacock, although the needle will only be in for about five to ten minutes.

Despite perhaps feeling a little tired afterward, donors should feel good knowing they have just done something that can save another person’s life, he said.

Appointments can be made, but walk-ins are also welcome. All blood collected by the ASBP stays within the military community.

“We have the mission of supplying blood products for all military, family members, retirees, and other eligible beneficiaries in Europe, even for troops located down-

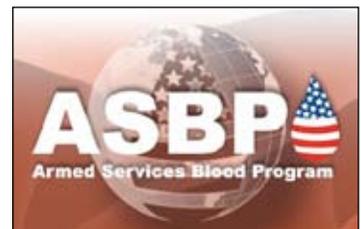
range,” Peacock said.

Those who can not donate due to the strict rules are encouraged to help in another way.

“Inform and encourage a friend, family member, or co-worker that is eligible to come out and save those in need of blood. We need your donation of life,” Peacock said.

To schedule an appointment, visit [www.militarylifeforce.com](http://www.militarylifeforce.com), click on Landstuhl, find Schweinfurt, and select your desired time.

The Web site also provides a complete list of eligibility restrictions.





# Cleanup effort sweeps through Askren Manor

By Mark Heeter

Rakes, brown bags, and a little elbow grease have gone a long way to improve the appearance and cleanliness of Askren Manor housing area, and USAG Schweinfurt leadership wants to hold the residents up as an example for others to follow.

"In the five months I've been here, I've seen what has to be an 85 to 90 percent improvement of Askren Manor," said USAG Schweinfurt Command Sgt. Maj. Ernest Lee.

Coming from installations in the United States to an overseas housing area can be somewhat of a "culture shock," simply because of the way the buildings and units were constructed, Lee said.

"Your first appearance of anybody, or thing, that you see — you start judging it," he said. And he wants that judgment to be a positive one.

Citing a young private who recently took charge of his stairwell and engaged

his fellow residents in a clean-up effort, Lee noted the importance of getting involved.

Giving residents ownership of buildings and stairwells encourages them to take pride in their appearance, according to Lee.

"He didn't have to. He just called a meeting and they did it. And that building stays clean," Lee said.

"Engaging the building coordinators and area coordinators," was leverage tipping the scale toward improving Askren Manor, Lee said, "giving them the power to do their jobs, and they're doing a great job."

Active engagement of the garrison and local chains of command has also helped Schweinfurt maintain its clean and tidy appearance, said Sgt. 1st Class Frederick Bompuku, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of projects with the USAG Schweinfurt Directorate of Public Works (DPW).

"We have the full backing of the chain of command that we have. It's all a team effort, and that's why it comes out very

clean," Bompuku said.

The other critical team in the push to keep Schweinfurt installations clean has been Lee, Bompuku, Sgt. 1st Class Michael Boozer, also with the DPW, and the deputy installation coordinators.

"The first thing we did was put more time on building inspections. We're doing more inspections," Bompuku said. "So it was a team effort."

"We pushed more about the building coordinator meetings. I personally trained a lot of the coordinators, to teach them exactly what they are supposed to be doing," said Bompuku, himself a building coordinator in a town near Schweinfurt.

The greatest challenge on the horizon, according to Lee and Bompuku, is keeping deployed Soldiers' families involved in the cleanup effort while the 172nd Infantry Brigade (Separate) is deployed.

To that end, according to Bompuku, three non-deployed Soldiers were selected as area coordinators to ensure Askren Manor continues to sparkle.

## *Savings Deposit Plan an option for deployed Soldiers*

By Emily Athens

As Soldiers deploy, many things start to add up on the to-do list. Near the top of the list are finances, which prove to be a major concern for numerous deploying Soldiers and their families. One option to save the extra money accrued while downrange is to invest in the Savings Deposit Program (SDP).

Established by the Department of Defense (DoD) during the Vietnam War, the SDP enables service members serving in a combat zone for more than 30 days to build their financial savings.

"This savings plan allows the service member and their families to save and earn a set interest rate while the Soldier is

deployed," said Darryl Jones, financial readiness program manager for Army Community Service (ACS).

Soldiers are eligible to open an SDP account once they have scanned into a qualifying combat zone. Once the SDP is activated, they can deposit all or part of their net pay each month into the account up to \$10,000. Any amount in the account over \$10,000 will not earn interest. Interest is computed at the rate of 10% annually and is compounded quarterly, Jones explained.

"Per annum pays out 2.5% every quarter. So your account will earn interest based on what amount you have in there each quarter," Jones said, emphasizing that the most anyone can earn off interest is \$1,000. It is

important to note that in order to earn the full interest amount, \$10,000 has to be in the account by the first quarter.

"This is a great opportunity to get a great interest rate that you can't get anywhere else. We have a lot of Soldiers out there who would like to make additional money so I think it's a good way to do that," said Steve Kamau, internal control analyst of the 106th financial management company.

Service members may close their SDP accounts only after returning from the combat zone. Emergency withdrawals can occur during deployment but must be authorized. Requests for withdrawal from the SDP account can be made through the myPay system and is the easiest approach, explained

Kamau, but other options are available.

Service members can also submit requests by e-mail, fax, or mail.

"Every deployment we do briefings to financially prepare the Soldiers and families with savings advice," Kamau said, noting that they always strive to inform Soldiers and families of SDP because of the program's guaranteed benefits.

"The benefits are the money is safe, guaranteed by the federal government. It is not subject to the hostile environment of today's stock market. It is a good way for the family members to start good savings patterns to save money," Jones said.

For more information, call ACS at 354-6751 or contact the finance office at 354-1730.



# Club Beyond challenges teens to change lives

By Sandra Wilson

With the holidays just around the corner, the last thing you may be thinking about is what to do over spring break. But now is the time, because deposits are due Dec. 19 for a "life-changing experience." Club Beyond's service project to Czech Republic takes place April 3-10, and interested high school students need to sign up now with their \$100 deposit.

As many as 800 teens travel from throughout Europe to service projects, sponsored by Club Beyond (CB) and Malachi Ministries, located in Slovakia, Czech Republic, or Poland. This year, Schweinfurt teens, along with other nearby installations, travel to Turnov, Czech Republic to volunteer their time in the community.

"This ... is the best thing that Club Beyond does. It's really a life-changing experience," said Sara Doughty, Schweinfurt CB community director, about the trip that happens once a year in which all teens in the community are invited to attend.

Teens travel together and stay in cabins much like

"stripped down hostels," Doughty said. During daylight hours, they volunteer within the city of Turnov by cleaning yards, working on construction sites, and teaching English.

"(The locals') living situation is getting better and better," Doughty said, explaining that this may be the last year that teens travel there to help the community.

Prepared with simple Czech phrases before departure, students are challenged to communicate with the locals in their native tongue. During their week-long trip, teens also take part in the Slovak and Czech diets of soup, breads, and fried meats.

While their days are full of physical labor, each evening a key-note speaker shares and challenges the youth to reflect on their life's purpose. Cabin mates gather in small groups and youth are given the opportunity to share about themselves.

"One big thing is that we don't allow them to have their iPods there," Doughty said. "It forces them to hang out, talk to other people. It's really a great time for them to process life in

Schweinfurt."

A visit to Turnov and working with the locals "gives them a bigger picture of the world," said Elizabeth Cable, Schweinfurt CB associate community director.

"Teenagers today don't appreciate what they have, and so them being willing to work ... and see how other teenagers live ... is great," Cable said. "And also instilling service in their lives is huge. Serving people is a way we can ... show love to those around us."

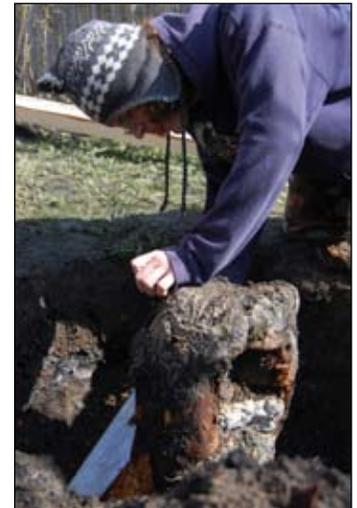
The week ends with a street festival and sports competition in the community. Easter services for Protestants and Catholics are provided by a military chaplain while in the Czech Republic, and teens are sure not to miss the Easter celebration with their families back at home on April 12.

By planning ahead and making the deposit by next week, teens can secure a slot and be involved in each step of preparation.

"It's an experience that you'll never forget," Doughty said, encouraging all youth to participate.

"It often turns out to be the time when the most kids come to the know Lord and grow their faith," she added.

To sign up your teen or



**Ryan Berry, saws roots of a stump to get it out of the ground. He attended Club Beyond's service project last year. The next service project is from April 3-10, 2009, in Turnov, Czech Republic, and all high school student are invited to attend. (Courtesy photo)**

volunteer as an adult, call Doughty at 0160-332-1498 or Cable at 0175-666-3339. In Bamberg, call Shea and Sandy Morgan at 0160-968-83180.

## Deployed Soldiers can use pillow to snuggle with family



Brianna Wilson-Lee, third-grader at Schweinfurt Elementary School (SES), irons her photo onto a pillowcase as a gift to accompany her loved one to Iraq.

Students at SES created these gifts for parents over the course of a couple weeks with the help of their teachers and other staff members. Photos were brought from home and designed with a message on a Power Point slide, printed on special paper, then ironed onto the pillowcase and wrapped with a ribbon.

Many of these pillowcases were presented to deploying parents over Thanksgiving weekend. (Courtesy photo)



**FALL '08/WINTER '09 TRIPS**

**MWR**

**OUTDOOR RECREATION CENTER**  
 Conn Barracks, Bldg. 50  
 CIV: 09721-96-6980  
 DSN: 353-8080

**January 16-19**  
 Ski and Snowboard Trip  
 Flachau, Austria

**February 13-16**  
 Ski and Snowboard Trip  
 Dolomites, Italy

**January - February**  
 Night Skiing  
 Wasserkuppe, Rhoen  
 ODR goes Night Skiing  
 every Thursday depend-  
 ing on snow conditions.

**FINNEY REC CENTER/  
BOSS TRIPS**  
 Conn Barracks, Bldg. 64  
 CIV: 09721-96-8476  
 DSN: 354-8476

**January 17-18**  
 Prague

**January 31 - February 1**  
 Czech Republic Crystal  
 Shopping Trip  
 (express trip, no overnight)

**February 28**  
 Dachau

**March 14**  
 Lego Land

**March 28**  
 Neuschwanstein

**December 20**  
 Bad Wimpfen Christmas  
 Market

**February 7**  
 KisSalis Spa,  
 Bad Kissingen

**December 14**  
 Ziegenhain  
 Christmas Market

**ARTS & CRAFTS STUDIO**  
 Ledward Barracks, Bldg. 203  
 CIV: 09721-96-6903 or  
 DSN: 354-6903

**WANTED**  
 no experience necessary

**On Stage**  
 Actors  
 Dancers  
 Musicians

**Off Stage**  
 Directors  
 Stage Managers  
 Lighting / Sound  
 Hair / Make-Up  
 Costumer  
 Set-Design  
 Construction

The Schweinfurt Community Theatre is starting a new project. The project requires the assistance of the whole community. This project will be a IMCOM-E entry in the Annual Tournament of Plays (ToPpers). The project will be adjudicated by theatre professionals and have the chance to win a "ToPper" Award.

**AUDITIONS**  
 December 16 & 17 at 6 p.m.  
 Abrams Entertainment Center  
 Youth & Adult

**SCHOOL HOUSE ROCK! LIVE!**

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Contact  
 Garland Travis  
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 0162 296 2776  
 email: garland.travis@eur.army.mil

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**PARENTS' NIGHT OUT**  
 DECEMBER 19 - 6:30 - 11:30 P.M.  
 COST: \$16

Sign up at any CYSS facility by December 12.  
 Questions? Call Central Registration.  
 CIV: 09721-96-6414 or  
 DSN: 354-6417

**MWR**