



## Soldiers decorated for Battle of Donkey Island

Story and photo by Mark Heeter

Col. Jeffrey Sinclair, Dagger Brigade commander, pinned medals for valor Feb. 14 on three 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 77<sup>th</sup> Armor Regiment, scout platoon Soldiers who



Sgt. Abriel Garcia, receives an Army Commendation Medal with "V" device from Col. Jeffrey Sinclair, moments after Sinclair awarded Staff Sgt. Brian Nethery, left, a Silver Star Medal and Spc. Tyler Aguilar a Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device.

fought in the Battle of Donkey Island throughout the night of June 30 and July 1, 2007.

Staff Sgt. Brian Nethery was presented

with the Silver Star, the military's third-highest decoration for valor, for having "heroically distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous conduct in the face of the enemy of the United States," according to the narrative accompanying the Silver Star.

Nethery was a section sergeant with a quick reaction force (QRF) that was dispatched to support a platoon that was in direct fire contact with 50 to 75 armed insurgents.

Attempting a maneuver to pull watch over the on-scene commander's fight, Nethery's vehicle came under intense direct fire, which wounded his gunner.

"Staff Sgt. Nethery immediately administered life saving first aid to his wounded gunner and pulled his gunner down into an open seat," before training his sights on and eliminating several insurgent fighters.

He returned to a nearby canal with the sole intention of rescuing a wounded

comrade who could not extract himself from the battle.

"Despite closing fire from the enemy, "Nethery low-crawled from his truck 10 meters to (the Soldier's) position and dragged him back to his vehicle. Although outnumbered and under heavy fire, (he) never hesitated in rescuing his fallen comrade," according to the narrative.

Spc. Tyler Aguilar, also with the dispatched QRF, was presented the Bronze Star with "V" Device, for his role in the fight and operations to evacuate several wounded Soldiers.

Credited with killing several enemy fighters while moving into position, "Aguilar provided accurate covering fires while his section in concert with (the commander's) element began to clear tents and buildings along the canal under heavy and accurate" enemy fire, according to the narrative accompanying the medal.

Meanwhile, his wingman gunner and four other Soldiers were wounded.

"Without orders, Spec. Aguilar took command of his truck and moved it into enemy fire to divert the enemy's attention

**MEDALS, see page 4**

## SMS students show MATHCOUNTS in chapter competition

Story and photo by Sandra Wilson

Schweinfurt Middle School (SMS) student mathletes brought home nearly every trophy from the chapter-level (or district) MATHCOUNTS competition at Wiesbaden High School Feb. 6.

MATHCOUNTS, a middle school competition program, was founded 25 years ago and was designed to increase enthusiasm for and enhance achievement in math.

"Last year, I did it because it (was) good for me to work on my math skills," said eighth-grader Dani Mitchell.

In the team competition, Jacob Bautista, Dani and Trent Mitchell, and Alexandria Curry, took first place above Ansbach, Hohenfels, Grafenwoehr, and Garmisch middle schoolers, after securing the most correct answers, given 20 minutes for 10 problems.

"These kids aren't afraid of math problems. They take it as a challenge. If they get it wrong ... it's a learning experience," said Schweinfurt MATHCOUNTS coach, Steve Richman.

All four trophies for the individual competition were also swept up by SMS students: first place, Bautista; second, Trent; third, Curry; and fourth,

Austin Eubanks.

"It's a way to practice and learn more math ... you deal with math all the time like with money when you get your allowance," said Curry, eighth-grade.

Bautista and Trent took home first and second place, respectively, in the fast-paced, oral countdown round.

"I didn't know there was a MATHCOUNTS club at first, and Mr. Richman saw I was doing well in class and asked if I wanted to come," said Bautista, eighth-grade.

The next competition, consisting of the top

DoDDS competitors, will be held in Wiesbaden Mar. 19 and will determine who will go to the final national competition in May.



Eighth-graders, Jacob Bautista (front), and Austin Eubanks work on a six-minute practice test during MATHCOUNTS after school club. The club meets every Tuesday and is open to any student interested.



## News Briefs

### Crafters needed

Do you have crafts that you would like to sell? Now is the time to reserve a table for your wares. Crafters are wanted for Schweinfurt Elementary School craft fair April 19. Applications may be acquired at the elementary school front office or by emailing maria.wiliamson@eu.dodea.edu. Half a table is \$10, and a full table is \$20.

### Dodge balls on Saturday

Join the dodgeball tournament Saturday at Finney Fitness Center from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call the fitness center for more information at 353-8234 or 09721-96-8234.

### Take action on community issues

The Army Family Action Plan conference is here again at the Conn Club from Tuesday to Feb. 28, 8:15 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lunch and child care are provided free of charge to volunteers. Volunteers are needed to be a part of the committees to talk about issues in the Schweinfurt area that need resolution. Also, there are 25 submission boxes located throughout the community with issue forms attached. The community is encouraged to submit issues for this year's conference until Friday. To get more information, call Army Community Service at 354-6933 or 09721-96-6933.

### Library hosts book club

Come to the Ledward library book club Feb. 28 to discuss "The Glass Castle" by Jeannette Walls. The book club is open to adults in the community and meets at 5:15 p.m. in the library conference room 1. Join in on the reading for next month's discussion about Philip Roth's, "The Human Stain." For more information, call the library at 354-1740 or 09721-96-1740.

### Learn to manage debt

Are you in debt and don't know how to get out? Do you need expert advice and tips on staying out of debt? Come to Army Community Service's (ACS) "Seven steps to getting out of debt" class at Schweinfurt ACS Tuesday from 9-10 a.m. For more information, or to sign up, call 354-6933 or 09721-96-6933.

### Single Soldier events scheduled

Participate in Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers (BOSS) events throughout the winter. All instruction, materials, and games are provided free of charge. Call the new BOSS telephone number 353-8476 or 0170-725-6464 for more information.

- Paintball, Conn paintball field, Feb. 23 from 2 to 4 p.m.
- Safety restraint, Conn Auto Skills Center, Feb. 27 from 6 to 9 p.m.
- Wii Warrior Challenge, Finney Gym, Mar. 7, 8, 13-15, 27

### Sign up for free computer classes

Do you need to learn more computer skills? Or do you know the basics of Microsoft applications but want to learn more advanced techniques? Army Community Service (ACS) is offering free computer classes. Classes are held in Ledward building 206, third floor computer lab and run from 8 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. A certificate of completion will be issued at the end of each class. For more information, or to sign up, call ACS at 354-6933 or 09721-96-6933.

- Fri. – Basic Web design
- Mon. – Basic Microsoft Excel I
- Tues. – Basic Microsoft Excel II
- Weds. – Microsoft PowerPoint
- Feb. 28 – Microsoft Access

### Socialize with the monthly Lunch Bunch

Do you want to get out of the house, make a few new friends, and learn where good restaurants are around town? The Army Community Service monthly Lunch Bunch is the perfect fit. Join Leighton's next Lunch Bunch Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Schweinfurt's Lunch Bunch takes place Feb. 28 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sign up for the carpool or call to get directions to the restaurant. Call 354-6933 or 09721-96-6933. Experience a little of the German culture with an English-speaking guide to help you translate the menu. Children are welcome! Please bring euro for lunch.

## 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 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.



- 29 FEB** --B.O.S.S. cosmic bowling, Kessler Bowling Alley, 11 p.m. to 1 a.m. Call 353-8476.
- Military Saves Campaign financial seminars, Ledward Theater, 10-11 a.m. and 1-2 p.m.
- Symphony orchestra concert, Schweinfurt Theater on Rossbrunnstr. 2, 7:30 p.m. For tickets, call 09721-510 Mon – Fri 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. or Sat 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- 1 MAR** --Schweinfurt Easter market, parish hall Maria Hilf on Fritz-Soldmann-Str. 33, 3–6:30 p.m.
- 2 MAR** --Easter market trip with Ledward art studio, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call for more info. 354-6903.
- Schweinfurt Easter market, parish hall Maria Hilf on Fritz-Soldmann-Str. 33, 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.
- 4 MAR** --Kinder Musik, Abrams Center, 10 -11 a.m. Registration limited to ten 3-4 year olds. 354-6933.
- 6 MAR** --Final day of youth baseball registration at CYS. Call 354-6414 for more information.
- 7-8 MAR** --Wii Warrior Challenge sponsored by BOSS: boxing, bowling, golf, baseball & tennis tournament, Finney Recreation Center. Great prizes. Call 353-8476 to register.
- 7-9 MAR** --Schweinfurt Community Spouses’ Club spring bazaar, Finney Fitness Center, Fri. from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Sat. from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sun. from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- 9 MAR** --Easter market trip with Ledward art studio, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call for more info. 354-6903.
- 11 MAR** --Schweinfurt Community Update Forum, Schweinfurt Elementary School, 6 p.m.
- BOSS Olympics registration deadline: basketball Mar. 12, volleyball Mar. 13. Call 353-8476.
- 12 MAR** --Sign-ups begin for April 12 CYS Super Saturday respite care. Call 354-6517.
- Leighton Community Update Forum, Community Activities Center, 6 p.m.
- Sponsorship training, Ledward ACS, 9 a.m. to noon. Call 354-6933.
- 13-15 MAR** --Wii Warrior Challenge sponsored by BOSS: boxing, bowling, golf, baseball & tennis tournament, Finney Recreation Center. Great prizes. Call 353-8476 to register.
- 14 MAR** --Bavarian teen lock-in for grades 9-12, Ledward Teen Center, 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. Call 354-6732.
- Sign-ups begin for March 21 CYS Parents’ Night Out in Leighton. Call 350-7762.
- 17 MAR** --GUTS: Teen Newcomers Orientation, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call Schweinfurt ACS at 354-6933.
- 18 MAR** --I ran to Afghanistan/Civilian fitness assessments, Finney Fitness Center, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 19 MAR** --I ran to Afghanistan/Civilian fitness assessments, Finney Fitness Center, noon-3 p.m.
- 20 MAR** --B.O.S.S. “This one’s for you” event, Finney Fitness Center, 3-7 p.m. Call 353-8476.
- Teen scrapbooking, Ledward Teen Center, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Call 354-6933.
- 21 MAR** --Leighton Parents’ Night Out, 6:30-11 p.m. Cost is \$15. Register at Leighton CDC.
- 20-22 MAR** --Wuerzburg High School play “Noises Off”, high school auditorium, 7:30 p.m. Call 350-7230.
- 25 MAR** --Bike and skateboard safety, Leighton Skate Park, 4-5 p.m. Call 354-6933.
- Teen scrapbooking, Leighton Youth Center, 4-5 p.m. Call 350-7103.
- 27 MAR** --Wii Warrior Challenge sponsored by BOSS: boxing, bowling, golf, baseball & tennis tournament, Finney Recreation Center. Great prizes. Call 353-8476 to register.
- 27-29 MAR** --USAG Schweinfurt community theater “Bus Stop”, Abrams Center, 7 p.m.
- 3-5 APR** --USAG Schweinfurt community theater “Bus Stop”, Abrams Center, 7 p.m.

**Community 6 week outlook calendar**



# Surf the 'Net anywhere you go at low cost

By Sandra Wilson

It will follow you wherever you go: into Café Rohr, the bowling alley, Ramon's Bar and grill ... What you thought were only places to drink, have a bite to eat, and a little fun are soon to provide "alternate escapes," otherwise known as WiFi. The new wireless internet network is about to follow you wherever you go.

All that's needed is a laptop or personal digital assistant (PDA) with wireless capabilities: a standard internet browser and a WiFi compliant wireless Ethernet card. Some newer laptops have built-in WiFi capabilities and will alert you to the presence of an available WiFi network when the browser is open.

"(WiFi) gives Soldiers an opportunity to access internet without having to enter into contracts with German companies. (Also) the fees are much lower than the economy," said James Barrett, USAG Schweinfurt Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR) chief of business division for clubs and special events.

Currently, Rohr Café has WiFi installed

as well as The Commons and Rohr's Diner, all in building 224. The Kessler bowling center is slated to have the network installed by the end of next week. Ramon's bar and grill and the Finney recreation center are scheduled to be completed by the end of March. The Irish Pub at the Conn Club is coming soon.

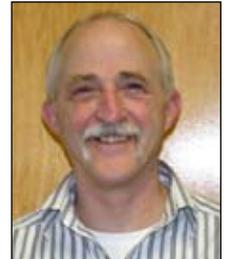
"It's rapidly expanding in Germany to various casernes," said Barrett. "No matter where you go, you can get connected."

And perhaps one of the best features of WiFi is that your service plan travels with you. Whether you're staying here in Germany or you're moving back to the States, WiFi can be found at numerous military posts throughout the U.S. Not only that, but WiFi, provided by Army Recreation Machine Program (ARMP), has various roaming partners that will allow usage of their networks.

Service plans can be as short as one hour for \$3.50 but get cheaper as the plans extend longer periods of time: a day for \$9.50, a week for \$24.50, or a month for \$39. Payment can be made with credit or debit, Mastercard or VISA.

"I don't think anybody will find (wireless internet) cheaper," said David McDaniel operations manager of Schweinfurt ARMP.

In addition, WiFi broadens web-browsing options for users compared with other government internet services, which use filters to block certain web sites. But there are some other things to consider before relying solely on WiFi.



Barrett

For example, there is no ready access to printing and although WiFi boasts secure access to the internet, Barrett highly recommends having anti-virus software installed on your personal machine.

The final bonus to this new network is that all profits are returned directly to military service members and their families through MWR services. For more information about how to get connected, call Barrett at 354-6186/6715 or 09721-96-6715 or McDaniel at 353-8667.

## SES celebrates 100 days with Valentine's read-in



Kathlyn Hofmann

Miles Brice reads to his parents, Kim and Marcus, at Schweinfurt Elementary School which celebrated the 100th day of school on Feb. 14. As part of the celebration, second-grade teacher Claire Ramberg invited parents to come and read with their children. Afterwards they enjoyed eating lunch together in the classroom.

## MEDALS

from the pinned down Soldiers on the river bank. While providing heavy suppressive fire on enemy positions five to 100 meters from his vehicle, (he) established a mobile blocking platform that enabled the pinned down Soldiers to conduct" casualty evacuations, according to the narrative.

Aguilar's subsequent actions are credited with "expediting the casualty evacuation process and preventing the dismantled team from suffering more casualties."

Sgt. Abriel Garcia, also a member of the scout platoon QRF, received the Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device.

"Upon arriving to augment the fixed platoon, Sgt. Garcia, a scout squad leader, assaulted the enemy's position, assisting in the seizure of key terrain, killing of over 22 Al Qaeda in Iraq, and evacuation of four critically wounded Soldiers," according to the narrative accompanying his medal.

During the operation, the platoon destroyed a substantial cache of weapons that posed a future threat to the entire area of operations.

"Quickly grasping the scope of the situation ... Sgt. Garcia attacked forward and selflessly threw himself in harm's way to destroy the enemy without regard for his own safety," according to the narrative.

His actions on the battlefield embody the Warrior Ethos and are the standard for all to emulate," the narrative reads.



# Club Beyond welcomes new leadership

Story and photo by Sandra Wilson

Club Beyond welcomes two new leaders to its staff assigned to Schweinfurt, replacing the two that have recently moved from the community. Sara Doughty, a native of Washington, moved from Heidelberg to Schweinfurt Club Beyond in January. Elizabeth Cable, originally from Pennsylvania, is new to the Club Beyond scene, but definitely not new to the arena of youth ministry.

“The Club Beyond regional director met with me ... and promised that he would get us two quality youth workers to assist with our ministries here in Schweinfurt and Leighton. He definitely came through for us with Sara and Elizabeth ... they have some great things planned for our youth,” said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Thomas Wesley.

Club Beyond staff are vocational youth workers recruited from across the United States to Military Community Youth Ministries, the parent organization of Club Beyond. These youth workers are often from the ranks of Young Life or Youth for Christ and are assigned for an initial two-to three-year commitment to serve as Club Beyond staff.

“I’ve always liked working with kids ... I changed a lot of schools when I was

growing up, and I think something about the unsteadiness of military life kind of drew me to (Club Beyond),” said Cable, who went to a total of 10 schools between pre-kindergarten and college graduation.

Cable originally started her youth work at a community church, in summer programs

track in tandem with her Club Beyond position.

As Club Beyond staff, both Doughty and Cable raise financial support for their positions. People and churches back at home donate money for them to be able to work with military youth overseas. But that financial support doesn’t always come easy.

“As an adult who has a degree, it’s a little humbling,” said Doughty, explaining how they send out letters up to eight times a year to a large mailing list of people asking for money and prayer. Cable described raising support as stressful but a blessing because it makes her “rely on God and also other people.”

Now settled into their new homes near Schweinfurt, both have a common vision for Club Beyond in the community with service projects, retreats, and all sorts of themed events for the kids to “unwind and escape.”

“Youth ministry changed who I was as a student,” said Doughty. “I hope (Club Beyond) is a place where they hear that there’s a God who loves them.”

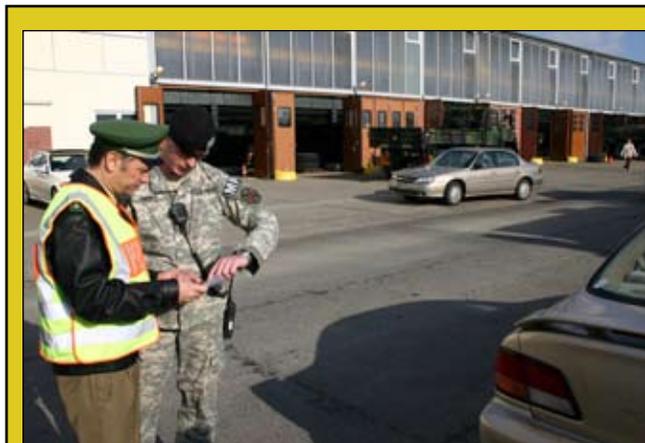
“(It’s) a place where kids can just hang out and be kids ... where they can let down that wall. They don’t have to impress, and they don’t have to have the, ‘I’m fine and I’m tough and nothing affects me’ (attitude),” said Cable.



Elizabeth Cable (left) and Sara Doughty lead the middle schoolers in a song at club. Middle school Club Beyond meets every Tuesday from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Ledward chapel and high school club meets at Leighton building 88 on Wednesdays from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

and camps, and with Youth for Christ. Likewise, Doughty, in southern California, also began her vocation at a church youth group and later graduated with a degree in Christian ministries, entering youth work with Young Life.

After discovering Club Beyond, Doughty spent her first two and a half years in Heidelberg coaching cross country and



## From one officer to another

Sgt. Andrew Abbott, right, from the USAG Schweinfurt directorate of emergency services, provides tips, in English, to Uwe Hueckmann, an instructor with the German reactionary force police on Ledward Barracks Tuesday. Hueckmann and a group of his colleagues have visited their American counterparts this week in a partnership event allowing the Germans to practice their English skills. The event has also given the local officers a chance to become familiar with military vehicle registrations and regulations, as well as other general information about drivers affiliated with the U.S. forces. (Photo by Mark Heeter)