



Keep watch for warning signs of suicide

By Anne M. Torphy

Public Affairs Officer, Bavaria MEDDAC

The Army wants to remind Soldiers that they are stronger together, and that is especially important during tough times. Our mental health is just as important as our physical health; and there are several education and awareness programs that are available to help you better understand the warning signs of suicide and the appropriate response that may save a person's life.

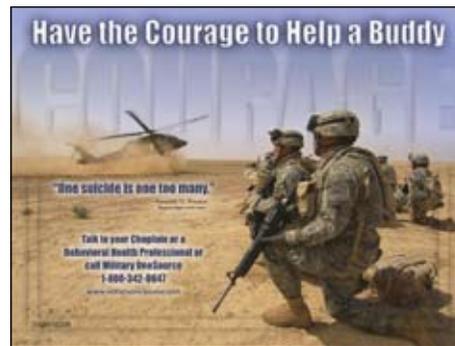
According to Brian Olden, Deputy Chief of Behavioral Health for Bavaria MEDDAC, feelings of suicide are different than combat-related stress.

"Symptoms related to the exposed stresses of combat are not unusual and most of those reactions will dissipate over time. If they don't, it may be time to seek professional help. However, I want to make clear that feelings of suicide are not typical, and require immediate professional intervention," he said.

Some typical warning signs to look for are depression; feelings hopelessness; big swings in energy levels; change in behavior; increased anxiety; or dropping out of

activities, sports, school, or job. Behavior changes can include alterations in eating habits, sleeping patterns, and personal appearance. Increase anxiety can manifest in withdrawing or increased agitation.

Serious warning signs can include a preoccupation with death and dying,



previous suicide attempt, increase in alcohol or drug use, giving away possessions, saying goodbye, or writing a will.

If someone is showing the warning signs, let them know that it okay to talk to someone. If they tell you that they are considering suicide, do not be judgmental; they are trusting you with their deepest

feelings. But make sure that the transition from talking to you to seeking professional help happens quickly. Direct that person to see a chaplain or behavioral health person immediately.

In case of an emergency, or after normal business hours, contact the emergency room at the local German hospital. According to Olden, if you are unsure if the person is suicidal, still encourage them to seek help – let a professional make the determination.

"It is that elephant in the living room. Tell that person that you worried about them and you want them to seek professional help," Olden said.

For more information, contact a Schweinfurt chaplain or behavioral health professional. CHPPM has several suicide awareness products that you can order at www.chppm.com. Click on the e-catalog at the top of the home page, and generating a search for "suicide prevention." Other resources can be found at www.behavioralhealth.army.mil.

To reach a behavioral health professional, please contact via the Schweinfurt Health Clinic at 354-7901 or 09721-96-7901.

Creative minds put to work at competition Saturday



Story and photo by Sandra Wilson

Make a car with five people and two toilet paper rolls. You've got two minutes— no talking.

One may wonder what kind of car that would turn out to be, but students involved in the Schweinfurt Middle School (SMS) afterschool club Odyssey of the Mind, know exactly how to achieve the end result with what they are given.

"We have to be

creative and think outside the box. We use our minds creatively to think of different things," said seventh-grader Samantha Gray.

A team of five SMS students and a coach meet each Monday to practice what is called, "spontaneousproblems." In a spontaneous problem, the coach presents a scenario or task with which the group must find a resolution in one to two minutes. The more creative the solution presented, the better.

"It sounded kind of interesting to me— you could be creative in it," said seventh-grader Seamus Hurley about why he joined the club. "It's not all really strict work ... the plain stuff that you get in school like math and language arts."

"I've been helping my friends with spontaneous problems since fourth-grade. I like the randomness, because I'm a very random person," said Pamela Rivera, seventh-grade.

ODYSSEY, see page 5



SPRECHEN SIE FUN?

Events and activities in the local communities

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON LOCAL ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS VISIT:
www.schweinfurtserver.de/user/tourismus/Neu/stadtplan_EN_Endversion_2008.pdf

Tonight:

Fasching dance at the Catholic parish hall in Bergheinfeld with the band "The stair climbers" at 8 p.m.

Tomorrow:

Country and linedance with the band "Country Blend" at the Mehrzweckhalle in Heidenfeld at 8 p.m.



Fasching performance including show dances and jester speeches at the ESKAGE Center am Hainig, Alois-Türk-Strasse 32 in Schweinfurt at 7:54 p.m.

Saturday:

Symphony orchestra of Bamberg concert at the Schweinfurt theater, Rossbrunnstrasse 2 at 7:30 p.m. For tickets call 09721-51475 or 09721-510.



Saturday continued...



Fasching performance including show dances and jester speeches at the ESKAGE Center am Hainig, Alois-Türk-Strasse 32 in Schweinfurt at 7:54 p.m.

Fasching party with the band "Sunset" at the Gemeindezentrum in Niederwerrn at 8 p.m.

Meyer's flea market at the DJK sportsclub at Niederwerrner Strasse, 7:15 a.m.



Sunday:

Children's costume party at the ESKAGE Center am Hainig, Alois-Türk-Strasse 32 at 2 p.m.



Children's costume party at St. Josef parish hall in Oberndorf at 2 p.m.

Children's costume party at the Marienbachzentrum in Dittelbrunn at 2 p.m.

Monday:

Rose Monday fasching performance including show dances and jester speeches at the ESKAGE Center am Hainig, Alois-Türk-Strasse 32 at 7:54 p.m.

Fasching costume dance at St. Kilian parish hall in Schweinfurt with the band "The Sonnys" at 7:59 p.m.

Tuesday:

Fasching parade downtown Schweinfurt (start: across the street from St. Josef Hospital) at 1 p.m.



Rock'n Roll Party at Galerie 7, Ernst-Sachs-Strasse 91 in Schweinfurt at 2 p.m.

Fasching concert at the Wandelhalle in Bad Kissingen at 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 26:



"Stadtgalerie" New city mall opens in downtown Schweinfurt 9:30 a.m. – 8 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.

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

German fasching parade

Commemorate the last day of Germany's carnival season by watching Schweinfurt's fasching parade downtown Tuesday. In partnership with Conn Outdoor Rec, Ledward library invites the community to take a free ride to downtown Schweinfurt for the event. Bus pick-up is at noon at the library. Seats are limited— reserve now by calling 09721-96-1740.

SAS dinner & show

All families are invited to celebrate Black History Month at School Age Services with their first- through fifth-grader Feb. 26. Dances will be performed with the annual SAS dinner to follow. For more information, call 09721-82181 or 354-6974.

Bulk trash

Bulk trash is scheduled to be picked up from Askren Manor, Yorktown Village, and government-leased housing Tuesday. Place bulk items out prior to 7 a.m. on day of pick-up but no earlier than the day before. For information, call 0162-270-9403.

New evening Bible study

Protestant Women of the Chapel invite you to join an evening women's Bible study in the Ledward Chapel fellowship hall Thursdays from 5:30 to 7 p.m. "Lord, I want to know you," Bible study by Kay Arthur begins Feb. 26. Child care is provided for free. Rides are available. For information, call 0170-277-8980 or email pwoc.schweinfurt@googlemail.com.

Military saves campaign

The Military Saves Campaign runs from Sunday to Mar. 1. Come to the saving and investing seminar Wednesday at the Conn Community Club from 6-7 p.m. to learn how to save and build wealth while avoiding debt. Call Army Community Service for more information at 09721-96-6933 or 354-6933.

B.O.S.S. trip to Dachau

Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers invites you on a trip to the Dachau Concentration Camp Feb. 28 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Deadline to sign up is tomorrow. Transportation is 35 euro. For more information or to sign up, call 09721-96-8476 or 353-8476.

Sell wares at flea market

Want to sell your unneeded wares? Alpha Company, 9th Engineer Battalion invites you to rent a table for the flea market at Schweinfurt Elementary School Mar. 14 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tables are rented by half for \$10 and full for \$20. Email nicholeRP@hotmail.com for more information about obtaining a table.

Wii challenge

Middle-schoolers are invited to take the Wii challenge every Friday at the Middle School Zone from 7-8 p.m. Call 09721-96-6822 or 354-6822.

Passport required for France travel

As of Feb. 13, the entry requirements for France have changed for both leisure and official travel. Tourist passports are now required to travel to France for all active duty members, civilian employees, and family members. When traveling outside of Germany, personnel should see their unit security officer or call the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization, and Security for a travel briefing at 09721-96-6680.

Schweinfurt



Tonight-	7 p.m.	The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG-13)
Tomorrow-	7 p.m.	Taken (PG-13)
Saturday-	4 p.m.	The Tale of Despereaux (G)
	7 p.m.	Taken (PG-13)
Sunday-	4 p.m.	Despereaux (G)
	7 p.m.	Taken (PG-13)
Monday-	closed	
Tuesday-	closed	
Wednesday-	7 p.m.	Delgo (PG)

Schweinfurt three-day weather forecast

A.M.	P.M.
 Friday Cloudy with snow Lows -7 C / 19 F	 Friday Cloudy with snow Highs 0 C / 32 F
 Saturday Mostly cloudy Lows 0 C / 32 F	 Saturday Cloudy with snow Highs 0 C / 32 F
 Sunday Cloudy with snow Lows -1 C / 30 F	 Sunday Cloudy with snow Highs 1 C / 34 F

Source: 21st Operational Weather Squadron



- 28 FEB** --Jr. NBA/WNBA Triple Play youth basketball games, Ledward Gym, 9 a.m. Come support.
- 2 MAR** --Celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday with story hour at Ledward Library 4 p.m.
- 2-6 MAR** --Schweinfurt Newcomers Awareness Program (SNAPS) at ACS. To sign up, call 354-6933.
- 3 MAR** --Child abuse/neglect awareness training, Ledward chapel, 6 p.m. Sign up at 354-6860.
--"Becoming a Love & Logic Parent" class, School Age Services, 9 - 11 a.m. Call 354-6933.
- 3-5 MAR** --Schweinfurt volleyball clinic, Kessler Fitness Center 6-8:30 p.m. Open to I.D. card holders.
- 4 MAR** --Registration ends for unit level volleyball season, Kessler Fitness Center, Mar. 18 - Apr. 20.
--Parent-Teacher Association meeting open to community, elementary school 2:30 p.m.
--Intro to Family Readiness Group 101, Yellow Ribbon Room, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Call 354-6933.
- 5 MAR** --Basic Web design class, Ledward bldg. 206 computer lab, 8 a.m.-12:50 p.m. Call 354-6933.
- 5-7 MAR** --"School House Rock Live!" performances, Abrams Center, 7 p.m. Reserve at 0162-296-2776.
- 6 MAR** --Registration begins for unit level soccer. To sign up, call Finney Fitness Center at 353-8234.
--Deadline to sign up for B.O.S.S. trip to Lego Land Mar. 14, 6 a.m.-10 p.m. Call 353-8476.
- 9 MAR** --"Couples communication through travel" class, Ledward ed. center, 9-11 a.m. Call 354-6933.
- 9-10 MAR** --Auditions for "Steel Magnolias," Abrams Center, 10 a.m. & 6 p.m. Call 0162-296-2776.
- 9-12 MAR** --Terra Nova testing at Schweinfurt middle & elementary & Bamberg high. Info. at 354-6090.
- 10 MAR** --Bulk trash pick-up in Askren, Yorktown, gov't-leased housing. Put items out prior to 7 a.m.
- 11 MAR** --Registration ends for racquetball shootout, Kessler Fitness Center, Mar. 14, 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- 12-14 MAR** --"School House Rock Live!" performances, Abrams Center, 7 p.m. Reserve at 0162-296-2776.
- 13 MAR** --Deadline to sign up for Super Saturday child care Mar. 21, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Call 354-6517.
- 14 MAR** --Flea market, elementary school MPR, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sponsored by 9E Alpha Company. To reserve a table or for more information, e-mail nicholerp@hotmail.com.
- 16 MAR** --Visit Schweinfurt city's new mall 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Depart from ACS. Reserve a seat at 354-6933.
- 17 MAR** --Food handlers' training at Ledward chapel, 6 p.m. Child care available. Sign up at 354-6860.
- 19 MAR** --Women's History Month tea party with guest speakers, Conn Community Club, 2 p.m.
- 20 MAR** --Registration ends for unit level soccer season Apr. 8 through May 18. Call 353-8234.
--Deadline to sign up for B.O.S.S. trip to Neuschwanstein Mar. 28, 6 a.m.-10 p.m. Call 353-8476.
- 25-27 MAR** --Soccer clinic, Finney Fitness Center, 6-8:30 p.m. Tournament Mar. 28, 6 p.m. Call 353-8234.
- 27-29 MAR** --Annual spring bazaar by Schweinfurt Community and Spouses Club, Finney Fitness Center.
- 28 MAR** --Spring festival outside Finney Fitness Center, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. for the whole family.
--Miss/Mister Schweinfurt pageant hosted by spouses club. Details TBA.
- 1-2 APR** --"Christ in the Passover" Protestant Women of the Chapel special program, Ledward Chapel. Community is invited. Wed 9 a.m. & Thu 5:30 p.m. Free child care on premises.
- 12 APR** --Easter egg hunt at Ledward Andrus Garden, 2:15 p.m. Call 354-6186 for more details.

Community 6 week outlook calendar



Happy customers come back for more

Online survey seeks to improve services on the installation

Story and photo by Sandra Wilson

Who do you call when customer service is bad? ICE: Interactive Customer Evaluation, available for almost any department on the military installation, is available online for customers to give feedback about service.

“Without having surveys, comment cards, you don’t know if you’re doing the right thing,” said Waldy Schill-Rueckert, Bradley Inn manager.

According to Tim Tanis, strategic planner for the garrison, the Bradley Inn on Conn Barracks has the one of the highest response rates for customer comments.

“We’re more proactive in soliciting comments from customers,” said John Jourdan, front desk supervisor at the inn, explaining one of the reasons why that is so. Surveys are available in individual rooms and at the reception.

Because of the comment cards, the Bradley Inn has accommodated with many improvements. One of the most recent additions was the outside safe which allows for patrons to check in and get the key to their room when the reception is closed.

“Most of the time you can correct (problems) through some kind of action,” Schill-Rueckert said.

The sooner issues are brought to the attention of management, the quicker the resolution. But it’s up to the customers to say something.

“One very important thing is that the customer sees the changes,” she said, explaining that customers who see results are much more likely to recommend the facility in the future.

The Bradley Inn is only one of the numerous establishments that could benefit and better their services to customers through the ICE survey online at http://ice.disa.mil/index.cfm?fa=site&site_id=138. The ICE link can also be found on the USAG Schweinfurt Home page at www.schweinfurt.army.mil.

“The perception often is that ... when you put in a comment there’s a record or trail,” Tanis said, explaining that, in fact, the surveys remain completely anonymous when it comes to expressing dissatisfaction. The

survey does ask for contact information, but that is optional, he said, and only needed if the customer expects a response about the issue.

“What they can expect is that the comment will be investigated,” Tanis said, and if the issue can be resolved or rectified, it will be.



Maria Theresa Kemp (right) fills out a hard copy of the customer evaluation form at the Bradley Inn reception desk while Justin Miller, a front desk employee waits to receive it. Getting feedback from customers helps all establishments on the installation better their services to their patrons.

ODYSSEY

Since the start of January, the team has been practicing and preparing for the upcoming Odyssey of the Mind district competition in Hohenfels Saturday. Two components make up the competition: spontaneous problem-solving and long-term problem-solving.

The spontaneous problem scenario will be given to the team at the competition just before they are expected to solve it in front of the panel of judges.

The long-term problem scenario was selected, out of three choices, by the team in January. Their chosen problem requires the team to design and build a small vehicle that will visit four hypothetical locations.

“I can’t give them ideas— I can’t tell them anything,” said Odyssey of the Mind coach, Gina Feldt.

With an eight-minute skit, the team must creatively explain to the judges the

solution to their long-term problem while incorporating their vehicle: a hover board.

“I think the vehicle will be the most fun part about it— being able to build it and think of different ways it can float,” Gray said.

The judges will award points based on the uniqueness of the solution and the style, which includes costumes, backdrops, and voices.

“I expect some scripts to be better than ours but us being top five. Some of us have been working together since last year and we know our strengths and weaknesses,” Rivera said.

The coach echoed that sentiment and expects a top finish by the SMS team.

“I see them doing really well. We have from very shy to the most outgoing ... together they make a really strong group. I think they’re really going to entice the judges with their energy level,” Feldt said.





Military Saves campaign pushes building wealth

Story and photo by Emily Athens

Military Saves is a campaign to persuade, motivate, and inspire military families to set goals to build their savings. The Department of Defense (DoD) uses this annual opportunity to encourage service members and their families to establish saving habits and make efforts to reduce debt. This year, the nationwide campaign runs Sunday through Mar. 1, teaching the community how to capitalize on hard-earned pay that will benefit them later in life, explained Darryl Jones, Army Community Service (ACS) financial readiness program manager.



Darryl Jones, ACS financial readiness program manager, puts together savings kits for children for the Military Saves seminar Wednesday.

Nationally, the campaign is always held the last week of February while locally, each military community picks a day to recognize the campaign. For Schweinfurt, a savings and investing seminar highlights the campaign Wednesday at the Comm

Community Club from 6 to 7 p.m.

“This is going to be a partnership between the financial readiness program, Community Bank, and Andrews Federal Credit Union ... to provide financial awareness to the community and make them aware of all the resources that are available to them so they can maximize their money,” Jones said, explaining that the campaign helps families set aside money for possible emergencies and future wants and needs.

Jones explained that he will brief the participants on setting financial goals to build wealth. Community Bank and Andrews Federal Credit Union will also conduct briefings about the no-risk investment options members have to increase their savings, such as Certificate of Deposits and savings bonds.

“These no risk investments are especially good if people are fearful of the climate of the current market,” Jones said.

The seminar not only educates adults about financial management but also equips children with the knowledge that saving now will benefit their future well-being. To emphasize this, kids will receive savings packs and a small piggy bank with the first penny already inside to get them started.

“The Community Bank would like customers to make a pledge towards savings through making a budget, identify savings goals and needs, and balancing your budget and goals. Our presentation will be covering this,” said Andrea Chang, chief customer service representative at Community Bank.

For more information about the seminar or to schedule private financial counseling, call Jones at 09721-96-6933.

Dental screenings check kids for proper mouth care

Victor Zoque, a first-grade student at Schweinfurt Elementary School (SES), opens wide so Dr. Clint Rau can examine his teeth.

Dental screenings took place Feb. 17 through today at SES to assess each student’s health and mouth care.

“We’ve seen 50% less decay than last year, so we’ve achieved a significant decrease,” Rau said.

The dental screenings emphasize the importance of proper mouth care at home and many kids know why it’s important.

“You don’t want all your teeth to fall out everyday,” said first-grader Christiana Garduno. (Photo by Emily Athens)





Demo recording lifts Dodson's gospel to new heights

Story and photo by Tim Hippias
FMWRC Public Affairs

PASADENA, Calif. – Operation Rising Star lifted USAG Schweinfurt employee Joyce Dodson's singing career to new heights during a whirlwind week in Southern California.

Dodson celebrated her victory in the Army Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command-sponsored singing contest Feb. 5-12 by recording a three-song gospel CD at DMI Studios in Old Pasadena, attending the 51st Grammy Awards at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, and singing in a Black History Month concert at a church in Santa Barbara.

"I never knew how much work goes into each song on each CD," Dodson said. "A lot of work and a lot of love went into this demo, most definitely."

Dodson said she felt blessed to work with some of the best in the recording business.

"The musicians, my vocal coach, the engineers and technicians all worked very hard and long. They put their heart and soul into everything they do – just awesome, awesome



Operation Rising Star winner Joyce Dodson sings "Faith and Hope" at DMI Music's Firehouse Recording Studios in Pasadena, Calif.

professionals," Dodson said. "She doesn't need any help," said vocals coach/

producer Terry Wood, a studio background singer. "She's got a beautifully developed sense of herself and her instrument is gorgeous. She's got a great feel. She has no pitch problems that I can hear of at all."

Wood was amazed with Dodson's poise as a novice in the recording studio.

"You don't sound the same to yourself in the headphones," Wood explained. "It can be scary because you can hear flaws and pitch and things that you don't hear live because you feel it more than you hear it, but that was not the case with her at all."

"I never even considered her not being a studio singer. I talked to her just like I would talk to one of my peers in trying to accomplish something."

"I think she just might have a future."

Engineer Les Cooper, who mixed Dodson's vocals with the music, agreed.

"Absolutely wonderful,"

he assessed. "You see a little shyness out of her, but once she started singing the leads, she was absolutely wonderful. As long as she knew where she was in the song – because the songs were rearranged and it was a little difficult for her in the beginning – but once she got the hang of it, man, I'll tell you, that girl can sing. She doesn't need much help."

U.S. Army Soldier Show director Victor Hurtado, a voting member of the association and co-host of the televised Operation Rising Star production, hopes her journey will inspire more Soldiers and family members to compete to become the Army's next singing star.

"Joyce Dodson has the potential of being a force to reckon within the gospel genre," he said. "The work she did here will do more than validate her as an artist – it validated the work done by the folks at Operation Rising Star."

Middle school MathCounts team takes top win for third year



Schweinfurt Middle School seventh-grader Michael Johnson-Gonzalez works on the team math problems during the Bavaria District Chapter MathCounts competition Feb. 4 in Ansbach.

Seven Department of Defense Dependent Schools (DoDDS) competed with their teams and individuals in the competition and Schweinfurt took home the first place team trophy for the third consecutive year.

First and second place trophies were also brought home for the individual rounds when students were required to work alone.

The team of four SMS students will travel with their coach to the "state" competition in Wiesbaden Mar. 25 to compete against all the leading schools in DoDDS for a chance at the final national competition in May. (Photo by Steve Richman)



172nd IN claims wins in Iraq ruck race

Story and photo by Sgt. Michael Taylor, 172nd SIB

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq—“One mile, no sweat. Two miles, better yet,” are the words of a well-known cadence that ten Soldiers from the 172nd Infantry ‘Blackhawk’ Brigade (Separate) brought to life as their teams claimed first and second place in the 10th Mountain Division’s Ten-mile Combat Ruck Relay held here Feb. 15.

The gold trophy team from the 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment and silver trophy team from the 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment defeated 65 other teams to claim their victories during the combat relay.

The ten-mile relay race required members of five-person teams, from various units within the Multi-National Division-Center, to navigate two miles each around Lost Lake here with a 30-pound rucksack strapped on the back and a rifle in hand.

1st Bn, 2nd IN and 2nd Bn, 28th IN teams provided the audience a breathtaking finish as they fought till the very end to claim the gold, finishing more than seven minutes ahead of their nearest opponents.

“Our Soldiers trained hard and were very motivated for this event,” said 1st Sgt. Kurt D. Hopson, of Bravo 1st Bn, 2nd IN.

“It feels great to win,” said 1st Lt. Seann Kim, last runner and leader of the 1st Bn, 2nd IN team.

1st Bn, 2nd IN and 2nd Bn, 28th IN were not the only teams from 172nd SIB that took part in the relay race. A total of six teams made the trip to Baghdad and represented the Blackhawk Brigade. A second 2nd Bn, 28th IN team finished seventh and the 9th Engineer team finished tenth which allowed the 172nd SIB to sweep the relay with a total of four teams finishing in the top ten finals.

An all women’s team from 172nd Support Battalion was the only all female gender team that competed in the race. Their 34th



1st Lt. Seann Kim from the 172nd Infantry Brigade’s 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, crosses the finish line in first place for his team during the 10th Mountain Division’s Ten-mile Combat Ruck Relay.

place beat out more than half of the opposing teams, which were made up of all males or mixed genders.

“The relay was open to all service members, civilians and even other country’s armies such as Ghana and Great Britain,” said Sgt. Major Donald Spicer, one of the event coordinators.

“The idea of the Ten-Mile Combat Ruck Relay was ultimately to give the competitors something that was very challenging,” he added. “But the guys from the 172nd Infantry Brigade really made it look easy.”

“Our battalion constantly strives to be the best,” said Kim. “Whether it is a ten-mile race or patrols in our sector, everyone does the best job they can every time.”

Spouses club to award college scholarships

By Emily Athens

Each year, the Schweinfurt Community and Spouses Club (SCSC) sponsors the awarding of several scholarships to qualified high school seniors who apply.



This year, the club raised their budget to ten thousand dollars total in scholarships to be awarded to select students from the community. The amounts of the individual awards will depend on the number of applicants, explained Stephanie Baker, welfare coordinator for SCSC.

“This is an opportunity for seniors who live in our community and have a desire to continue their education to attend college. Whether students stay in Schweinfurt and attend college online or move to the states to attend a traditional university, we are here to help them,” Baker said.

To be eligible, students must be a dependent of an active duty or retired active duty servicemember, reside in Schweinfurt, and possess at least a 3.0 grade point average.

According to Baker, scholarships are

awarded on the basis of academic merit and community involvement. Judges will review the student’s completeness of application, quality of essay, grades, and a recommendation letter. Transcripts must accompany the application and be sent by the school directly to the SCSC scholarship committee.

Applications can be picked up at Bamberg High School (BHS) from Myra Taylor, a counselor at BHS, or from the spouse’s club Web site at www.schweinfurtspousesclub.com.

“I encourage all seniors who meet the GPA requirement to fill out an application,” Baker said.

The deadline for submission of applications and transcripts is Mar. 1. For more information, send an e-mail to SCSCinfo@yahoo.com.



Black Scarves connect with loved ones

By Mark Heeter

More than 150 spouses and children of Soldiers deployed with the 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment enjoyed a special Valentine's Day party at the Community Club on Conn Barracks Saturday.

"Each of the ladies in our battalion did such tremendous work in planning, decorating, and making this event such a worthwhile experience on Valentine's Day," Capt. Joshua Buchanan, commander of Company D, 1st Bn, 2nd IN, wrote in an email describing the event.

"Each of the spouses was presented with a Valentine's day card or letter from her deployed Soldier—cards or letters that were mailed to us from Iraq the week before," Buchanan wrote.

The spouses

contributed a dish or assisted in decorating for the special evening, according to Buchanan, who read a special Valentine message to the group from Lt. Col. Steven Miska, commander of Task Force 1st Bn, 2nd IN.

"Thank you for your service and sacrifice. Our Spartan ladies continue to stoically bear the burdens of this war with grace and compassion. My fellow Black Scarves and I recognize that we all got



lucky and married up in the world.

"Be comforted knowing that we are with you in spirit, and we celebrate this evening with you in our hearts," Miska wrote, adding that he and his Soldiers all look forward to the day when they can enjoy a dinner together again.



Above, from left, Melissa Feathers, Janina Garcia and Jillian Elliott read their Valentine's Day cards. Left, spouses help themselves to the meal at the celebration. (Courtesy photos)



'Building 40' to shut down one morning monthly for training

By Mark Heeter

Effective immediately, most of the offices in building 40 on Conn Barracks – the central point in the USAG Schweinfurt for personnel-related matters – will close the first Thursday morning of each month to allow staff training and development.

In- and out-processing never stops, Rhonda Hawes, military personnel division (MPD) chief with the USAG Schweinfurt Directorate of Human Resources, was quick to note, explaining that one employee will remain available to assist with central processing on training mornings. The affected sections will open at 1 p.m. the first Thursday of the month. The move is designed to allow staff in the MPD, finance, housing, and central processing to gather for meetings and cross-train each other, according to Hawes.

"It's very difficult to have a staff meeting where we can get

everyone together," Hawes said. "We have these little meetings, section-by-section, which is not very good, because it's always good to get everybody together at one time."

In addition to allowing more than 20 staffers to meet on a monthly basis, the closures will also allow them to learn about each other's work.

"It's cross-training. Everybody should be able to cover down when the other ones aren't there," said Nico Jones, chief of customer service with the MPD.

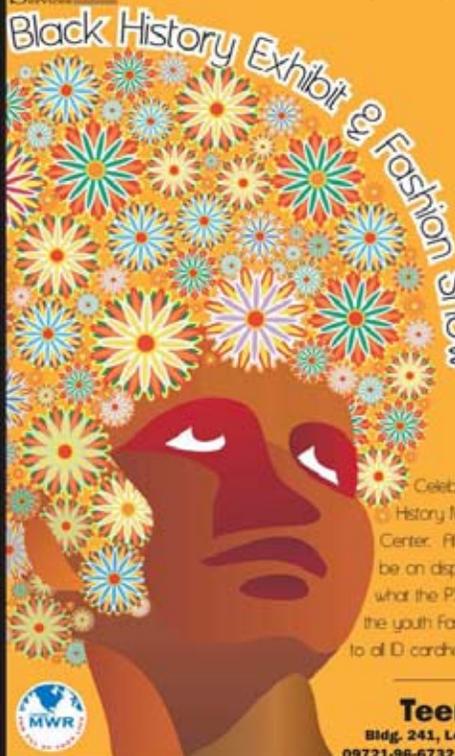
"A lot of our employees are cross-trained in other areas. I told them it's good to learn what they don't know," Hawes said. Crossing over into other sections is also best for the customer, she said.

"This is allowing us to improve, maintain, sustain, and take the organization to the next level," Jones said.



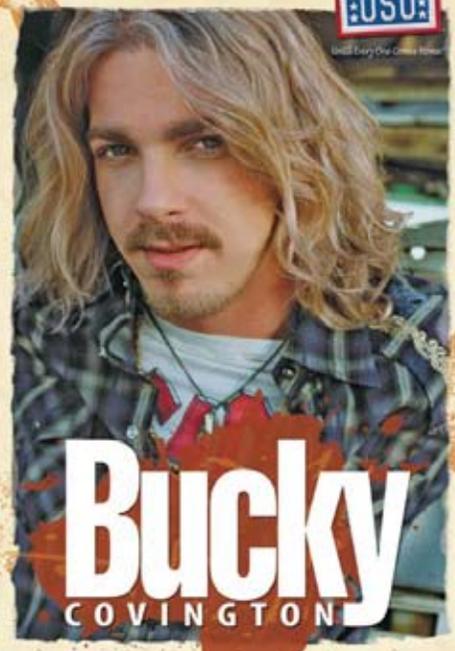
February 27 | 6 p.m.

Black History Exhibit & Fashion Show



Celebrate Black History Month at the Teen Center. African fashions will be on display. Check out what the PX has to offer at the youth Fashion Show. Free to all ID cardholders.

Teen Center
Bldg. 241, Ledward Barracks
09721-96-6732 or DSN 354-6732

Bucky COVINGTON

Date: February 21 Time: 7 p.m. Place: **Finney Fitness Center**

USO Worldwide Strategic Partners



A S S A P
Automotive Support Special Awareness Program

AUTO SKILLS CLASSES

Tuesday-Friday: 1-9 p.m. Bldg. 49, Conn Barracks
Saturday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. CIV, 09721-96-8224
Closed Sundays and Mondays DSN: 353-8224

Passive Restraints
February 26, 2 p.m.

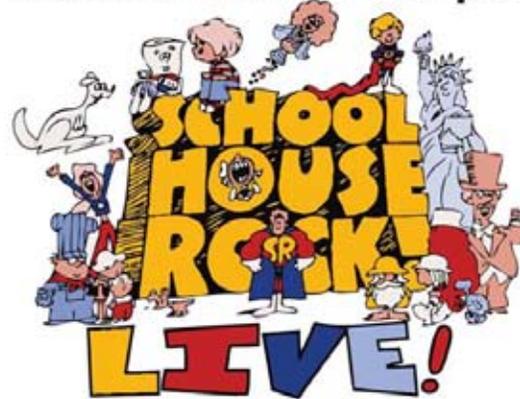


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Performances:
March 5-7 & 12-14 at 7 p.m.



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