



Educators' day gives teachers new ideas

Story and photo by Sandra Wilson

Teachers gathered at their schools for a day of Continuous School Progress professional development Monday. Schweinfurt Elementary School was no exception and parents were also invited.

"Education is not a static profession ...

educational techniques and methods are evolving every year to meet the needs of the students," said Margaret Ballinger, one of the coordinators of the educators' day.

"The general idea is that the teachers learn new techniques and activities that are already being successfully implemented in the classroom," she said.

Teachers, administrators, and parents joined for a short breakfast and introduction to start the morning off and then went straight into five mini sessions, each featuring a different topic.

Subjects focused on writing, reading, math, wellness, and technology.

Director of the Kessler Fitness Center, Paul Stubbs, offered tips on classroom exercise options and general nutrition during a wellness session.

"Kids are going to imitate the parents. If they see you eating high calorie food," they will too, he said. Stubbs and his assistant director demonstrated simple exercises that could be done with a classroom chair or against the wall.

Sure Start students shared early stages of writing through their story notebooks in a few of the writing sessions.

"They need to see, hear, and say the words that they will later write," said Joni Barker, Sure Start teacher, while showing off one of the student writer's notebooks.

Some of the reading sessions shared about an interactive computer reading program, <http://www.raz-kids.com>, and its benefits of providing developmentally appropriate books, lessons and other resources for educators and students.

"I see a lot of improvements in their reading because (RAZ-kids) is fun and

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Joni Barker (left), Sure Start teacher, helps Ashley Zapata explain the pictures in her writer's notebook during Monday's session of the early stages of writing.

Gates approves plan to end Army's involuntary extensions

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, March 18, 2009 - The Army will phase out use of the so-called "stop-loss" program between now and January 2010, Defense Secretary Robert Gates said today.

Since the beginning of his term as defense secretary, Gates has called on the services to eliminate their dependence on the controversial program that allows the involuntary extension of servicemembers' active duty past the scheduled end of their term of service.

The Army currently has 13,000 soldiers whose active duty status was extended through the program so they could deploy with their units. The Army is the only service using the program.

"We have the legal authority to do it," Gates said during a Pentagon news conference. "But I felt, particularly in these numbers, that it was breaking faith. It wasn't a violation of the enlistment contract. But I believe that when somebody's end date of service comes up, to hold them against their will, if you will, is just not the right thing to do."

The secretary said there will always be the need to hold a few people in the service, but it should be a small number.

"I would like to get it down to scores, not thousands," he said.

The secretary's decision will eliminate the use of stop-loss for deploying Soldiers.

"Effective this August, the U.S. Army Reserve will no longer mobilize units under stop-loss," Gates said. "The Army National Guard will stop doing so in September, and active Army units will cease employing stop-loss in January."

The goal is to cut the number of soldiers remaining in the Army under stop-loss by 50 percent by June 2010 and to near zero by March 2011. "We will retain the authority to use stop-loss under extraordinary circumstances," Gates said.

The Army will put in place a number of incentives to encourage Soldiers to voluntarily extend their enlistments to mitigate the impact the decision will have on unit cohesion and strength. Starting this month, the Army will pay stop-losses \$500 a month. The program is retroactive to Oct. 1, which was when Congress passed the law permitting the payments.

While there is some risk, Gates said, he wants to do everything to make sure "Soldiers are not unnecessarily forced to stay in the Army past their end of service date."





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

Now through July 12:

Exhibition of children books: a walk through six centuries at Museum Otto Schäfer, Judithstrasse 16 in Schweinfurt.

Tue – Sat: 2 – 5 p.m.
Sun: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Altes Rathaus, Bad Kissingen, Marktplatz 12 in Bad Kissingen:

Mon. – Fri: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sun: 2 – 5 p.m.



Today through Monday:

Fish Market at the Schweinfurt Market Square. Today and tomorrow's hours are:

10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday:
11 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Monday: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.



Tomorrow:

Symphony orchestra of Bamberg performs at the Schweinfurt theater, Rosbrunnstrasse 2 at 7:30 p.m. for tickets call 09721-51475 or 510.



"Best of Irish Dance" at the Scherenberghalle in Gemünden at 8 p.m. For tickets, call 01801-79-3793.

Saturday:

Flea markets in Schweinfurt: Wirsingstrasse 13, 7 a.m. – 4 p.m.
DJK Sportsclub, Josef-Reuss-Strasse, 7:15 a.m.



Bicycle market at the Protestant community center in Sennfeld, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.



Saturday and Sunday:

Easter Market in the Parish Hall of "Maria Hilf" Church, 3 p.m. – 6 p.m.



Sunday:

Stores in downtown Schweinfurt will be open Sunday.



Ice hockey game Schweinfurt Mighty Dogs vs. Peissenberg at the Ice Dome in Schweinfurt, 6 p.m.

Easter market in Castle Zeilitzheim, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sunday and Monday:

"Cinderella" by Tchaikovsky performed by the ensemble of the Ukrainian State opera of Kiev at the Schweinfurt theater, at 7 p.m. For tickets call 09721-51475.



March 26:

The Youth Music Corps of Bad Kissingen performs at Max-Littmann-Saal in Bad Kissingen at 7:30 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.

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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.



This week...

Youth baseball registration extended

The deadline to register for youth baseball is extended to March 30. Cost is \$25 for ages three to five and \$46 for ages six to 18. All participants must be registered with Child, Youth and School Services. For information, call 09721-96-6414.

Conn east gate closure

The Conn East gate will be closed Monday through March 30. Customers are requested to utilize the Conn main gate for 24 hour access. During this closure, the operating hours of the Conn Geldersheim gate will be extended and open from 5:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Teens for G.U.T.S.

Teens newcomers are invited to come to Army Community Service's class "G.U.T.S." at the Schweinfurt Middle School library Tuesday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Take a bus tour through town, learn basic German phrases, and more. Bring euro for lunch. To sign up, call 354-6933.

Register for classes

Registration for classes at the education center for the upcoming term ends tomorrow. Sign up at University of Maryland University College Europe for college math, concepts of biology, elementary German I, or laboratory biology. For more information, call 09721-96-6398. Central Texas College offers suspension and steering, math and science for early childhood, and child abuse prevention and investigation. Call 09721-96-6206. Classes meet at the Ledward Education Center.

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 "Seven steps to getting out of debt" class at Schweinfurt ACS Wednesday from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. For more information, or to sign up, call 09721-96-6933.

Bulk trash

Bulk trash will 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.

Soccer clinic

Participate in the Schweinfurt soccer clinic at Finney Fitness Center March 25-27 from 6-8:30 p.m. Clinic is open to all I.D. card holders age 18 and up but not in high school. A tournament will be held March 28 from 6-9 p.m. For more information, call Finney gym at 09721-96-8234.

Information job fair

Army Community Service (ACS) partners with other Schweinfurt agencies to host a community information job fair tomorrow at the Kessler Fitness Center from 9 a.m. to noon. Come prepared to shake hands and distribute resumes. Mock interviews, resume critiques, and career interest assessments and inventories will also be available to strengthen your job-seeking skills.

Join adult book club

The community is invited to attend the adult book club at Ledward Library on the last Thursday of each month. The next meeting is March 26 at 5:15 p.m. to discuss the book, "Zookeeper's Wife," by Diane Ackerman. A copy of the book can be picked up at the library's circulation desk. Coffee, tea, and treats will be served.



Tonight-	7 p.m.	Doubt (PG-13)
Tomorrow-	7 p.m.	Doubt (PG-13)
Saturday-	4 p.m.	Not Easily Broken (PG-13)
	7 p.m.	Street Fighter (R)
Sunday-	4 p.m.	Not Easily Broken (PG-13)
	7 p.m.	Street Fighter (R)
Monday-	closed	
Tuesday-	closed	
Wednesday-	7 p.m.	Benjamin Button (PG-13)

Schweinfurt three-day weather forecast

A.M.	P.M.
 Friday Partly cloudy Lows -3 C / 27 F	 Friday Partly cloudy Highs 4 C / 39 F
 Saturday Partly cloudy Lows -3 C / 27 F	 Saturday Partly cloudy Highs 4 C / 39 F
 Sunday Mostly cloudy Lows 1 C / 34 F	 Sunday Mostly cloudy, rain Highs 4 C / 39 F

Source: 21st Operational Weather Squadron



- 27 MAR --Asperger's and Autism support group at ACS 10 a.m. to noon. Call 09721-96-6933.
- 27-29 MAR --Annual spring bazaar by Schweinfurt Community and Spouses' Club, Finney Fitness Center. Visit www.schweinfurtspousesclub.com for opening and closing hours.
- 28 MAR --Spring festival outside Finney Fitness Center, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. for the whole family.
--Miss/Mister Schweinfurt pageant at Finney Fitness Center in conjunction with spring bazaar. For more information, call 0151-5161-2690.
- 30 MAR --Effective management of volunteers class 10 to 11 a.m., Yellow Ribbon Room. Call 354-6933.
- 31 MAR --Volunteer Management Information System (VMIS) training 10 a.m. to noon at ACS.
- 1 APR --Daddy Basic Training at ACS 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For information, call 09721-96-6933.
- 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 watch care on premises.
- 1-3 APR --Ledward Library hosts a bookmark contest to honor Month of the Military Child. 354-1740.
- 3 APR --Registration deadline for the teen babysitting class at the Abrams Entertainment Center. Class runs 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is open to teens 13 years and older. Call 354-6517.
- 3-5 APR --Fishing license class, Conn Outdoor Rec \$65. Call for details at 09721-96-8080.
- 4 APR --Easter breakfast at the elementary school starting at 7:30 a.m. \$4 for children, \$11 for adults.
- 7 APR --Bulk trash pick-up in Askren, Yorktown, gov't-leased housing. Put items out prior to 7 a.m.
--Sponsorship training at the Education Center 9 a.m. to noon. Call ACS to register at 354-6933.
- 9 APR --Automotive support spouse awareness program at the Auto Skills Center on Conn Barracks. Class begins at 6 p.m. with the topic of tires. For information, call 353-8224.
- 12 APR --Easter egg hunt at Ledward Andrus Garden, 2:15 p.m. Call 354-6186 for more details.
- 13-17 APR --Spring Community Enhancement. Information TBA.
- 15 APR --"Gourmet Night" at Finney Fitness Center, 6 p.m. For more information, call 09721-96-8476.
- 20-24 APR --Newcomers awareness program, SNAPS, child care available. Call ACS at 09721-96-6933.
- 21 APR --Bulk trash pick-up in Askren, Yorktown, gov't-leased housing. Put items out prior to 7 a.m.
- 22 APR --New PWOC small group Bible study begins, Ledward Chapel, 9 a.m. Call 0170-277-8980.
--Ledward Community Bank closes for cleaning. Normal hours will resume the following day.
- 25 APR --Kinderfest for Month of the Military Child, Askren Manor 1 p.m.
- 27 APR --ADD & ADHD support group, Army Community Service, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Call 354-6933.
- 30 APR --"Lunch Bunch" 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Meet at ACS. For more information, call 09721-96-6933.
--Job search strategies class at ACS 2 to 4 p.m. For more information, call 09721-96-6933.
--Library book club meets at the Ledward Library at 5:15 p.m. "In Defense of Food" by Michael Pollan will be discussed. To join, call 09721-96-1740.
--Child Development Center (CDC) parade through Askren Manor, 3:45 p.m. Call 354-6822.
- 2 MAY --Annual middle school spring flea market, rent a table at diane.schmidt@eu.dodea.edu.
- 6 MAY --Daybreak Quartet performs at the Schweinfurt Elementary School 6 p.m. Everyone welcome.

Community 6 week outlook calendar



Thrift store offers numerous benefits to community

By Emily Athens

The thrift store on Ledward Barracks, operated by the Schweinfurt Community and Spouse's Club (SCSC) continues to thrive and maintains its standing as a great



Thrift store manager Alex Stanard (left) and Katy Stafford, cashier, sort through recently received clothing in preparation for resale. (Photo by Emily Athens)

place for community members to shop, offering more than just great prices, according to thrift shop manager Alex Stanard.

"This is a really great time to get really good bargains. The

last full week of each month we're doing 50 percent off on tagged items," Stanard said.

In addition to the helpful money-saving bargains, community members can already expect to pay less. Items are priced based on quality or brand and shoppers should anticipate spending less than what they would anywhere else.

"One of the things I always say is don't ever go out and buy anything before coming (to the thrift shop) because by the time you end up buying it, it'll come here," Stanard said.

Items range from baby clothing, to adult men's and women's clothes, to household items, electronics and more.

"Come in and if what you're

looking for is not here, call us and keep checking because it will come in eventually," added Stanard.

All store profits go back into the community in the form of welfare grants. These welfare grants can assist agencies with certain costs, provide scholarships for high school students and spouses continuing their education, and can even provide assistance for individual needs if approved.

"I think the thrift shop is a great asset for the community because of what we give," said Katy Stafford, thrift store cashier.

Stafford explained that consignments serve as another great community benefit. Individuals can drop off items and consign them for a 75 percent profit, with 25 percent going to the store. The consigned party will receive a monthly check based off of their earnings from items sold. A list

of items that may be consigned can be found at the thrift store.

Furthermore, the thrift store poses a great place for community members to volunteer.

"Volunteers are always a good thing ... they're really good helpers. Anybody that just gets bored during the day can come volunteer here," Stanard said, adding that volunteer responsibilities include hanging clothes and organizing the shop.

Stop by the thrift store and take advantage of the countless benefits offered. Shopping time is limited as the store will close for an extended period of time in the summer. Hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, the first and third Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Thursday from noon to 5 p.m. Donations are always accepted.

For more information, call the thrift store at 09721-96-6723.

School House Rock performance sells out all six nights

Story and photo by Sandra Wilson

Cast members of the "School House Rock Live!" production sing "Three is a Magic Number" during one of their performances last week.

The stage was set at the Schweinfurt Abrams Entertainment Center March 5-7 and 12-14 for an evening of singing and fun directed by Jamie Morales, family member of 1st Battalion, 77th Field Artillery.

The musical performance with 19 cast members animated the stage for nearly two hours each night with a packed house.

Rehearsals began in January for the cast to memorize the 21 songs, perhaps familiar to those who watched the "School House Rock" cartoon shorts in the 1970s.

The production required the help of many volunteers and crew members for set construction, costume and makeup design, and more.





Swim class hopes to dash infant fear of water

Story and photo by Sandra Wilson

Some would never think to take a swim class with their infant barely out of the womb. But others believe it to be one of the best steps in getting your baby familiar with water and interested in swimming later on in life.

“It’s a good preparation if they want to swim later— it’s easier for them to swim,” said Andreas Gentner, baby swim instructor at the Schonungen indoor swimming pool.

School of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration, and Skills— better known as SKIES— offers a five-week baby swim class for parents and their infant between 4 and 18 months old at the indoor pool in Schonungen. The drive is only 15 minutes from Ledward, but carpooling from the Abrams Center is also possible.

“Infants, when they’re in the water they develop a trust with the water. When they are older,

they have a good feeling with the water,” Gentner said.

From 11 a.m. to noon, parents are given ideas and instruction with their babies in the pool with them. Not only do the infants get to splash around, but parents also see the benefit of time to bond. Having other parents there taking the class also supplies creative resources to draw upon.

The class is fun, said mother Christina Painter. But it also serves a functional purpose in development of comfort levels.

“Many adults don’t trust water and some adults never learn to swim. It’s very different if the infants learn early,” said Petter Potter, SKIES director.

The indoor pool is extra warm on Wednesday just for the baby swim classes and relaxing music plays in the background. Kick boards and toys are provided for each child while in the pool.

“I like how he has the music and the toys. The music makes a



Christina Painter pours water over her 10-month-old son, Nathan, in the SKIES baby swim class Wednesday.

difference,” said Holly Nichols, a mother participant in the class with her 14-month-old.

Gentner welcomes parents to try out the class at no charge for the last two sessions on March 25 and April 1. The next full five-week class begins May 6 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. for a fee of \$50.

Some parents enjoy it just

because it gives them something different to do with their child that is out of the daily routine. Regardless, Potter hopes parents choose to sign up to discover for themselves.

“Baby swim is an idea from America, but most Americans don’t know about it. In Germany, it’s very popular,” Gentner said.

Fire inspectors aim to snuff out barbecue hazards

Story and photo by Mark Heeter

While winter might still poke out its head one or two more times this year, the grill-and-barbecue season is on the spring horizon – which marks the time when the USAG Schweinfurt fire department offers its tips for safe barbecuing.

“In our garrison here, we are not allowed to do any charcoal or gas barbecues on balconies and patios,” said Ralph Metz,



fire inspector with the USAG Schweinfurt Directorate of Emergency Services.

“When they barbecue, they need to make sure that they’re at least— now this is a minimum— at least six feet away from any structure, building, cars, bushes, trees, anything like that,” he said.

Another message warns against the dangers of lighting or stoking the fire improperly.

“If the flames are not big enough or hot enough, (some) try to increase it with spraying lighter fluid into the fire. And that’s a dangerous, a very dangerous habit,” Metz said.

“Or they sometimes try to light it with gasoline,” said Frank Drexler another fire inspector, who warned of the possibility of a dangerous flash.

“The best is to use charcoal that is already soaked in lighter fluid,” he said.

And the grilling safety does not stop with the flames or the fluids, according to Metz.

“Before you start to grill with a gas grill, make sure that the pipelines between the grill and the bottle that there’s no leak in there,” he said, adding that one can smell leaking gas, even in open areas.

“After they finish, they have to disconnect the gas bottles from the actual grill and store the gas bottle outside of the building,” Metz said, noting that gas bottles should not be stored indoors at any time.

Finally, Metz offered a simple reminder that most people have heard since their early years.

“When I do the in-processing brief with the Soldiers, I tell them, when you have kids, treat your cigarette lighters and your matches like your weapon. Lock them up,” he said.



The Army continues to ‘take care of its own’

By Mark Heeter

A widow looking for help did not know where to turn. Her husband, a retired Army veteran, had just passed away. While she wanted more than anything to provide him the dignified burial he surely deserved, she was strapped financially.

The USAG Schweinfurt Army Emergency Relief (AER) office provided her a glimmer of hope.

“The week before, it was all uncertainty. She had no idea where she was going to get the money for a burial,” said Darryl Jones, USAG Schweinfurt

financial readiness program manager.

AER came through with the money and “put a smile on her face,” said Jones.

“This Soldier probably invested money (in AER) many, many years ago, and at the end the program took care of her,” Jones said.

True story about the Army taking care of its own, the motto of the AER, whose annual collection campaign runs through May 15.

“We’re still in the business of taking care of Soldiers and family members and retirees,”

said Tony Davis, AER manager for the USAG Schweinfurt, which ranked second worldwide in 2008, after receiving nearly \$70,000 in donations.

Meanwhile, the Schweinfurt program provided more than \$380,000 in loans or grants in 2008, more than five times what they took in, according to Davis.

“It’s instilled in us to try to find a way to say yes,” he said.

“The AER director’s guidance to us at the local level is find a way to say yes, and that’s our charter,” Jones said.

“If you have a bona fide

emergency, AER will provide assistance, even if we have to go to bat for you with your commander. And sometimes we have to do that,” Jones said.

Each unit has an AER representative who is available to accept donations and guide Soldiers and their families toward financial assistance when necessary.

“Army Emergency Relief adds value not just to the Schweinfurt community, but to the Army,” Jones said.

For information about donating, call your unit representative or 354-7071.

Middle school students showcase talents

Story and photo by Emily Athens

Four students showcased their talents March 13 in the Schweinfurt Middle School’s (SMS) presentation of Pride Idol. Based off the popular television show, American Idol, students auditioned for a chance to perform their talent in front of the entire school.

“Our school’s motto is pride, so we wanted to include that in the event title,” said Fred Conrad, counselor at SMS who helped the student council plan the event, emphasizing that the school is always encouraging students to build self-pride in all aspects of their lives.

“The students enjoy seeing their peers perform, they love that, so this event really was well-received,” said Conrad.



Eighth-grader T'Erra Felder demonstrates her talent and passion for singing during Schweinfurt Middle School's production of Pride Idol March 13.

According to Conrad, the student council played a significant role in putting the event together dedicating months to planning for the event. The students “learned quite a bit,” said Conrad, including organization, event planning, teamwork, public speaking skills, and performing.

While expressing talents is important, academics remained the most essential aspect, explained Troy Purdin, teacher at SMS who also helped put together the event.

“Students tried out, made it, and were expected to maintain their academics,” Purdin said, explaining that a grade point average standard was set to keep kids focused on their schoolwork despite the busyness of rehearsals.

Of the performers, Elaine Tagaloguin and T'Erra Felder, both eighth-graders, sang solos, Cailee Hill and Anissa Holland, both sixth-graders, sang a duet together, and Samantha Gray, a seventh-grade student, performed a gymnastics routine.

“I’ve been doing gymnastics since I was in preschool and so I wanted to show everyone what I could do,” said Gray about deciding to audition.

“It felt good performing. I had a lot of support. I was a little nervous, but you have to take a deep breath and just do it,” added Felder.

SES CSP

interactive ... they don’t have anyone who’s watching them,” and they don’t have to compete with the other kids, said SES teacher Linda Reisinger.

Guests from Garmisch Department of Defense Dependent Schools shared techniques to engage students in math through math labs with manipulatives.

“Since this is so hands-on, they really do remember it,” said Shandra Lankhurst, explaining how the manipulatives help to cement concepts into students’ heads.

“We don’t really have a problem with them staying on task,” she added.

Participants in the professional development day engaged in various other sessions as well before breaking for lunch. Following the break, teachers met with the next grade-level teachers to communicate information about their incoming classes in the fall.

Overall, the day was considered a success, said Beverly Erdmann, SES assistant principal.

“It was an exciting day of learning filled with a rich variety of information shared from teacher to teacher on ways to improve teaching and motivate students to learn,” said Wilma Holt, SES principal.



It's BUNGO TIME!

Gals ... and guys too!
Indulge yourselves in an evening of fun, food and friendly chatter!

Call to reserve your seat at the bunco table ... or just show up! Special drawing for advance reservations!

Win gift cards and other great prizes!

March 25 at 6 p.m.
CIV 09721-96-8476 or DSN 353-8476
Finney Recreation Center / Ramon's Sports Bar

No experience necessary to play! Participants must be 18 or older.

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March 28
Neuschwanstein
6 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Cost is €37 for transportation, plus €9 entry fee to castle.

BOSS/Finney Recreation Center Trips
Conn Barracks, Bldg. 64
CIV: 09721-96-8476
DSN: 353-8476

2009 SCSC

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MARCH 27 - 29

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