



Basketball games bring unity

Story and photo by Emily Athens

The beginning phases of the partnership between the Schweinfurt and Bamberg communities continue to grow as Bamberg High School strives to bring activities to Schweinfurt's neck of the woods.

For the second time in Bamberg High School history, the Schweinfurt community hosted Bamberg High School's boys and girls basketballs games at Finney Fitness Center Saturday, giving the Schweinfurt residents a chance to enjoy the event without having to travel far.

"We've started this off as our transition to integrate the school as one student body. Organizing sporting events hosted in Schweinfurt bridges the gap between the two communities," said Damon McGibboney, school liaison officer.

"Eventually, we want to try to expand it into other sport events. Especially as a deployed community, this gives parents a choice to stay close to home," McGibboney added, noting that the efforts show good faith on Bamberg's willingness to host games here in Schweinfurt.

While providing an opportunity for parents, it also helps ease the transition for many high school students, especially during a time of change.



The Bamberg junior varsity (JV) Lady Barons play tough defense against the Ansbach Cougars in Saturday's game. JV boys and the varsity boys and girls teams also challenged the Cougars Saturday at Finney Fitness Center. Saturday's games marked the first phase of a partnership between the Bamberg and Schweinfurt community.

BASKETBALL, see page 5

Passport application changes begin Sunday

Story and photo by Mark Heeter

New rules and procedures for obtaining passports from overseas take effect Sunday and will largely eliminate passport processing in Frankfurt.

"All passports will be mailed to the United States, with the exception of report of births of brand new babies," said Nico Jones, customer service supervisor with



Dennis Randall discusses the Status of Forces Agreement card with Viola Krinsky. Most passport applications will no longer be processed in Frankfurt starting Sunday.

the military personnel division in the USAG Schweinfurt Directorate of Human Resources.

"No more of these last-minute, emergency flight plans," Jones said. "The only emergency passports that will ever happen is extreme, like a newborn, or a death in the family." The new procedures also require online creation for all applications, which will include a barcode containing the information being entered into the computer.

"The Web site creates the bar code, and that's all the data that's on the form," Jones said, urging applicants to be careful when entering data. The back navigation button will not allow people to correct mistakes, Jones said.

"As you continue to the next page, it's saving the data," he said.

After printing their completed – and bar-coded – applications, customers then report to the passport section in building 40

on Conn Barracks.

"It's going to get mailed straight from this office to Portsmouth, N.H. We're not dealing with the consulate anymore," said passport clerk Dennis Randall.

"They have something called mail in, mail out. In other words, if they receive today, they'll print it out and mail it the next day. That's what they say," Randall said.

Above all, prospective travelers must prepare early and ensure they submit their applications early.

When booking flights with a travel agency, travelers are required to acknowledge that they have the required documentation – including passports, according to Randall.

"There's no more, 'My passport expired, I'm flying in three days.' The State Department is cracking down," Jones said.

For more information about passport application procedures, visit http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html.



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

Tomorrow:

Fasching performance of the fasching club "Black Eleven" at the stadthalle in Schweinfurt at 8 p.m.



Fasching performance of the "Antöner Narrenelf" at the parish hall of St. Anton in Schweinfurt at 8 p.m.

Costume ball at the parish hall in Bergheinfeld, music by "Forever" at 8 p.m.



Fasching performance of the "Antöner Narrenelf" at the parish hall of St. Anton in Schweinfurt at 8 p.m.



Flea market – children's clothes and toys at Kindergarten Dreieinigkeits Kirche, Florian-Geyer-Strasse 3 in Schweinfurt, 1 – 4 p.m.

Costume ball (of the fire department of Bergheinfeld) at the parish hall in Bergheinfeld, music by "Forever" at 8 p.m.

Saturday:

Anniversary concert – 375th anniversary of the Celtis School and 20th anniversary of the Celtis Big Band at the city theater, Rosbrunnstrasse 2, 7:30 – 10:30 p.m. For tickets call 09721-51475.



Fasching performance of the fasching club "Black Eleven" at the stadthalle in Schweinfurt at 8 p.m.

Sunday:

Fasching performance including jester speeches and show dances, of the fasching club "Black Eleven" at the Stadthalle in Schweinfurt at 8 p.m.

Presentation of the "Garde"

(show dance group) of the ESKAGE fasching club at the ESKAGE Center, am Hainig, Alois-Türk-Strasse 32 in Schweinfurt at 3 p.m.



LOOKING AHEAD:

February 9:

The American Drama Group Europe Art promotion presents "Moon Palace", a musical (in English) adapted from Paul Auster's novel by Paul Stebbings and Phil Smith for TNT Theatre Britain and the American Drama Group Europe. For tickets, call 09721-51475 or visit theater@schweinfurt.de. Show begins at 7 p.m.



February 24:



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

March 6:

"The Return of the Shaolin" – a breathtaking Kung Fu Show telling the life of Shaolin monks performed at the stadthalle in Schweinfurt at 8 p.m. For tickets, call 01803-776842 or email www.proticket.de



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

Learn German language

Want to learn how to speak German? Sign up for Army Community Service's (ACS) free beginning conversational German language class starting Monday for 11 sessions. Class is held Mon, Wed, Fri from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call 09721-96-6933 or 354-6933.

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 Feb. 20 from 6:30 to 11:30 p.m. The cost is \$16 for children ages 6 weeks to fifth-grade. The program includes one meal. Deadline to sign up is Feb. 13. For more information, call central registration at 09721-96-6517.

High school basketball

The Bamberg versus Ansbach basketball game that was cancelled Jan. 23 has been rescheduled for Tuesday at Katterbach gym. Game begins at 5:15 p.m. No transportation for spectators is available.

Pre-Valentine card & video station

Come to Ledward Library Monday through Feb. 10 to make a Valentine gift for your deployed spouse. The library hosts a pre-Valentine card and personal video station for spouses and children to send downrange.

High school movie night Sunday

High school students are invited to join Club Beyond's movie night Sunday at Ledward Chapel from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Enjoy a night of popcorn and "Goonies." Rides are available. Call 0151-1052-5836.

Army Family Action Plan needs volunteers

Join the Army Family Action Plan conference Feb. 24-26 as a delegate to review issues brought forth in the community. Help make a difference by helping to make needed changes. Call Army Community Service to apply for a delegate position by Monday. Other volunteers are also needed to help with details of the conference. Call at 09721-96-6933 or 354-6933.

Schools in, out of session

Be advised that the Bamberg Middle High School will be in session tomorrow. Schweinfurt Elementary School and Schweinfurt Middle School will not have classes due to parent-teacher conferences. For more information, call the school liaison office at 09721-96-6090.

Orientation set for newcomers

Are you new to the community? Come to the Schweinfurt Newcomers Awareness Program, or SNAPS, to get acquainted with the military community as well as the German town of Schweinfurt. The five-day class runs Monday to Feb. 6. Free childcare is available. For more information or to sign up, call 354-6933 or 09721-96-6933.

Reminder of smoking prohibitions

Federal law and garrison policy states that smoking is prohibited within 50 feet of government buildings. Please be reminded and be courteous to community members.

Schweinfurt



Tonight-	7 p.m.	Transporter 3 (PG-13)
Tomorrow-	7 p.m.	Gran Torino (R)
Saturday-	4 p.m.	Transporter 3 (PG-13)
	7 p.m.	Notorious (R)
Sunday-	4 p.m.	Bolt (PG)
	7 p.m.	Notorious (R)
Monday-	closed	
Tuesday-	closed	
Wednesday-	7 p.m.	Gran Torino (R)

Schweinfurt three-day weather forecast

A.M.		P.M.	
	Friday Partly cloudy Lows -3 C / 27 F		Friday Partly cloudy Highs 2 C / 36 F
	Saturday Sunny Lows -2 C / 28 F		Saturday Partly cloudy Highs 2 C / 36 F
	Sunday Partly cloudy Lows -2 C / 28 F		Sunday Partly cloudy Highs 3 C / 37 F

Source: 21st Operational Weather Squadron



- 6 FEB --Deadline to sign up for Outdoor Rec ski trip to Dolomites, Italy Feb. 13-16. Call 354-8080.
- Deadline to sign up for B.O.S.S. trip to KisSalis Spa in Bad Kissingen Feb. 7. Call 353-8476.
- 9 FEB --Spring hunting course, 60 hours \$150. Sign up at Bamberg Outdoor Rec. Call 0951-300-8659.
- 10 FEB --Bulk trash pick-up from Askren, Yorktown, gov't-leased housing. Put items out before 7 a.m.
- 11 FEB --Birth 'n Babies I class, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Call Army Community Service at 09721-96-6933.
- 12 FEB --Equipment orientation class at the Auto Skills Center, 2 p.m. Call 353-8224 for information.
- Civilian Resume 101 class, 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. Call Army Community Service at 09721-96-6933.
- 13 FEB --Registration ends for spring soccer. Open to youth ages 3-15. Call 09721-82181.
- Deadline to sign up for Parent's Night Out child care Feb. 20, 6:30-11:30 p.m. Call 354-6414.
- High school all area lock-in, Ledward Teen Center, 8 p.m.-8 a.m. Call 09721-96-6732.
- 14 FEB --Valentine bake sale in front of PX from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. sponsored by C Btry, 1st Bn, 77th FA.
- Come "cover everything in chocolate" at Ledward Library from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. 354-1740.
- "Sweetheart Bowl" at Kessler Bowling Center. Call 354-6332 for more information.
- 17 FEB --Point of Contact (POC) training in the Yellow Ribbon Room 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Call 354-6933.
- 19 FEB --Black history month lunch time 11:30 to 1 p.m., Ledward Library. Community is invited.
- Federal Resume Writing 101 class, Ledward bldg. 206, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Call ACS 354-6933.
- Spouse Survival Skills class in the Yellow Ribbon Room 10 - 11 a.m. Call ACS 354-6933.
- 20 FEB --Deadline to sign up for B.O.S.S. trip to Dachau Feb. 28, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Call 09721-96-8476.
- Effective management of volunteers class 10 - 11 a.m. in the Yellow Ribbon Room. 354-6933.
- 21 FEB --Bucky Covington concert 7 p.m. at annual winter community event, Finney Fitness Center.
- 24 FEB --Watch fasching parade in downtown Schweinfurt, call to sign up for the noon bus at 354-1740.
- Bulk trash pick-up from Askren, Yorktown, gov't-leased housing. Put items out before 7 a.m.
- 25 FEB --Military Saves Campaign at the Conn Club 6 - 7 p.m. Call 354-6933 for information.
- 26 FEB --Vehicle passive restraint class, Conn Auto Skills Center, 2 p.m. Call 09721-96-8224.
- Lunch Bunch meets 11:00 a.m. at ACS to enjoy a cultural meal in Schweinfurt. Call 354-6933.
- FRG Roundtable discussion 6 - 8 p.m. in the Yellow Ribbon Room. Call ACS at 354-6933.
- 27 FEB --Asperger's and Autism support group 10 a.m. to noon at ACS. Call 354-6933 for information.
- 28 FEB --Jr. NBA/WNBA Triple Play youth basketball games, Ledward Gym, 9 a.m. Come support.
- 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.
- 5-7 MAR --"School House Rock Live!" performances, time TBA. To reserve tickets, call 354-6225.
- 6 MAR --Registration begins for unit level soccer. To sign up, call Finney Fitness Center at 353-8234.
- 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, time TBA. To reserve tickets, call 354-6225.

Community 6 week outlook calendar



Student council to raise funds for Fisher house

By Sandra Wilson

Next week, during the fun-filled “spirit” days at Schweinfurt Middle School (SMS), students will be taking time out to donate to a worthy cause—the Landstuhl Fisher Houses.

Landstuhl Regional Medical Facility has two Fisher Houses across the street from the hospital and they serve as a “home away from home.” Family members and relatives are referred for a room in one of the houses on a priority basis to allow them easier access to the hospital for care or visitation. Referrals are often based on residency of more than 40 miles from the hospital and financial need.



Zoque

“My parents didn’t have enough money for a hotel and these guys just took us in,” said eighth-grader Edgar Zoque from SMS. “Without the Fisher House, people would have to stay on the street or something because they don’t have any money ... it’s an awesome place.”

The medical facility is the largest

American hospital outside the United States and provides care for families in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East with many of them from Operation Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.



Hunt

Several families and Soldiers in Schweinfurt have used the Fisher House when medical care in Landstuhl was needed. Seventh-grader Jessica Hunt described her stay at the Fisher house when her father was admitted with injuries from downrange.

“I really liked it because it was really clean ... there were a lot of nice people who worked there and they had a lot of stuff to do like games, videos,” she said.

In addition to modes of recreation, the Fisher Houses provide necessary amenities for sleeping, washing clothes, cooking, and more.

“It’s just like being in your own home,” said Diane Schmidt, SMS information specialist. “They depend on donations to help keep these houses open.”

In the past, Schmidt has coordinated

efforts with the American Legion to donate money as well as food, vacuum cleaners, gift cards, and more to the Fisher Houses.

The SMS student council will begin collecting money donations Monday during lunch and hopes to raise \$1,000 towards the effort by the end of the week.

“You can help other people ... one day, you never know, you might be in the same situation, so it’s nice to always help someone in need, and maybe later on they will help you back,” said sixth-grader Jada Edelen, who supports the cause after her grandfather used the Fisher House during his visit to Germany.

Adriana Jackson, SMS food service worker, has also used the Fisher House in the past and encourages people to donate because of how the houses help the Soldiers.



Jackson

“The money’s going back to the troops. It makes the Soldiers more comfortable knowing their family has a place to stay. Anything for the wounded warriors,” she said.

BASKETBALL

“Obviously with Wuerzburg closing last year ... the transition was tough. Some students have gone to school there for years so whatever we could do to ease that transition and bring the two communities together as one, the better,” said Jim Davis, Bamberg High School’s athletic director.

About 100 students go to Bamberg High School with one-third of those students residing in Schweinfurt. Therefore, as a compromise, the school hopes to one day conduct one-third of its activities here in the Schweinfurt community, explained Dom Calabria, principal of Bamberg High School.

“We want to make an effort to get people to realize we are thinking of them,” Calabria said.

Part of the initiative also included the adoption of Bamberg High School by the 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment. The battalion helped set up for the games and will be involved in future school events as well.

“The efforts are even bigger than just basketball now that we’ve incorporated one of Schweinfurt’s rear detachments. We were never able to do this with Wuerzburg,” McGiboney said.

“This is a step in the right direction. The more we do these things, the closer and more together the communities will get,” Calabria said.

Chapel invites community

The Religious Support Office announces the following upcoming activities.

The Catholic education department sponsors a teen program called “Theology of the Body,” which will take place at the Ledward Chapel beginning Sunday from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Parents who would like their children to receive first Communion May 17 should register for the sacramental preparation now.

The Military Council of Catholic Women (MCCW) meets Thursday mornings from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and will begin meeting the first Friday of each month at 6 p.m. Both meetings are held in Ledward Chapel. For more information, call 0170-803-2939 or 354-6860.

Two new adult Protestant Sunday School classes will begin Sunday, one called “Discovering your identity, realizing who you are in Christ,” and the other called “NOOMA - A New Form of Worship.” Protestant Sunday school is held from 10:45 to 11:45 a.m. each week except holiday weekends.

For more information about religious activities, call 09721-96-6860 or 09721-96-1370.



German soldiers use local training area



A role-playing German soldier agitates a small unit which will soon deploy to Afghanistan. Bundeswehr's 1st Light Infantry Regiment used training "Area M" last week to prepare.

Story and photo by Mark Heeter

Before heading out into the snow-covered fields of "Area M," the training area just northwest of Schweinfurt, three soldiers of the German Army's Infantry School in Hammelburg wrapped their heads in turbans and headed out into the heavy snowfall to wreak a little mayhem.

About 30 minutes later, after the snow had quickly turned to freezing rain pushed along by whipping winds, the soldiers re-appeared from behind some bare trees to face their nemesis – soldiers from the Bundeswehr's 1st Light Infantry Regiment, who were using the training area Friday.

The unit is training for an upcoming mission as the quick reaction force (QRF) for the NATO International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan.

"All this is the good working relationship we have with the German infantry school," said Michael Cormier, partnership officer with the 172nd Infantry Brigade (Separate), who helped coordinate the Germans' use of Schweinfurt training area.

Sniper students from the school have been brought to Area M and Camp Robertson training area in the past to allow them to train in unfamiliar territory, one of the students' requirements.

"That's what we're here for. We support them and they support us," Cormier said.

Planners from the infantry school found something special in the Schweinfurt training areas.

"We got to Schweinfurt because it's a wide open area and we have to train our QRF," said Master Sgt. Mario Jungblut, one of the infantry school cadre involved in the training. "The area is great for a QRF."

Capt. Sven Kaestner, who was evaluating the unit during the training, agreed that the Schweinfurt training areas offer something that is difficult to find in heavily wooded areas.

"The terrain is completely different than throughout Bavaria, and I'm looking for something open," Kaestner said, in order to replicate – as much as possible – what the soldiers will see in Afghanistan.

Tax centers offer free tax preparation for those eligible

By Spc. Fabian Ortega
U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs Office

HEIDELBERG, Germany – Schweinfurt Tax Center opens Monday in the new location of room 216, second floor of building I, Conn Barracks.

Those eligible to use the tax centers are active duty, reserve component or retired military personnel and their family members, along with Department of Defense civilians and their family members. For eligible customers, tax centers will prepare and electronically file federal and state tax returns free of charge.

All tax centers are staffed with volunteers who are certified by the Internal Revenue Service Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program.

Customers who wish to have their taxes prepared at their local tax centers should bring their military ID cards, W-2 forms, any other documents related to income, and Social Security numbers for all dependents, said Capt. David Adamson, officer-in-charge of the Heidelberg tax center.

"The best thing the customer can do to prepare for visiting the tax center is having their documents in order," Adamson said. "Get a power of attorney if your spouse won't be with you, if you're filing jointly."

Adamson said customers with special tax circumstances, such as buying and selling stock, owning rental property or purchasing a new home, should also bring any necessary forms or documents

required to file.

The tax centers do not file business tax returns, he warned.

"We do, however, have a limited exception for family (child) care providers," he said.

Customers with foreign spouses are required to have an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) for their spouses, but a trip to the tax center could save customers from having to take that extra step themselves, the captain said.

"Just come to the tax center and the tax preparer will help you fill out a W-7. We'll submit that along with the other paperwork to the IRS, and they'll produce an ITIN for that spouse," said Adamson.

Tax assistance centers not only help save money, but also offer an opportunity for servicemembers and their families to learn about special tax laws that apply to military members.

"Servicemembers overseas automatically get a two-month extension (for filing taxes), pushing the popular April 15 deadline to June 15," said Adamson. "The one caveat is that only applies if you don't owe money."

Servicemembers returning from deployment in a combat zone get a 180-day deadline extension for filing tax returns, paying taxes and filing claims for a refund, he said.

Schweinfurt Tax Center is open 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Walk-ins are welcome between 1 and 3 p.m., but appointments are encouraged. Call 09721-96-8286.



Quilt a message of freedom, celebrate black history

Story and photo by Sandra Wilson

Beware of hunters and hounds. Pack provisions necessary for survival. Follow the direction of the flying geese.

These were all messages conveyed by quilt patterns in the 1800s when slavery plagued the United States. As part of the freedom movement, the quilts were hung outside as secret messages to slaves escaping to freedom up north.



Lawor

“This is a tradition in the south to make quilts year around. They attached certain meanings to certain designs,” said David

Haywood, crafts studio manager.

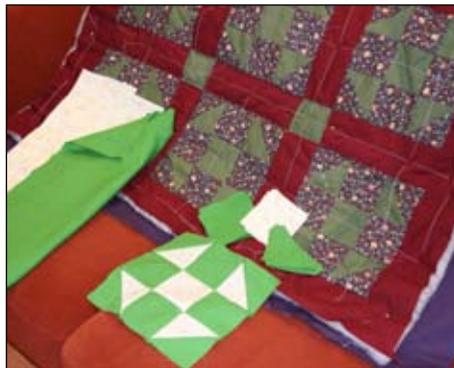
The crafts studio, in partnership with the Ledward library, invites the community to take part in creating a freedom quilt. Free materials and instruction are available at the studio and the library beginning Monday.

“The goal behind it is to celebrate Black History Month,” said library technician Jason Lawor, who came across the idea while browsing the Internet for events.

A variety of patterns and fabrics will be distributed to those who choose to

participate and pick up a kit. The kits can be taken home to work on alone or with the family. Gathering at the crafts studio or library with other participants of the project is also a possibility.

“This is going to be the first time we’re



Those interested in participating in the community-wide quilt project for Black History Month can pick up a kit of materials at the Ledward library or crafts studio during the month of February.

doing this,” said librarian Christine Willis, who hopes the project encourages people to find common interests with other crafters.

Although quilting experience will contribute to a quickly finished eight-inch block, beginners are also encouraged to

learn and participate.

“I’d be willing to show them each step,” Haywood said, explaining how he teaches hand-quilting, but that using a sewing machine is also an option.

If participants find they want to continue in the craft with more instruction, a six-session quilting class for \$35 begins Feb. 5 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Once participants finish their quilt block for the freedom quilt, they can return them to either location. Blocks will then be sewn together to complete the master quilt. The finished quilt will be displayed at the library with the historical meaning attached to it for all patrons to view.

“We’ll keep it around for a long time,” Haywood said, adding that the name of each participant will be preserved as part of the quilt.



Willis



Haywood

Keeping the faith: military chaplain ministers in combat

By Emily Athens

No Army battalion goes into a war zone without a chaplain. These chaplains provide support to Soldiers and maintain the spiritual and moral well-being of the force while downrange.

Chaplain (Capt.) Hermis Losbanes, of USAG Schweinfurt, deployed for his second time in September to Forward Operating Base (FOB) Salerno in Afghanistan attached to the 101st Airborne Division. Losbanes, a Catholic chaplain to the community, explained his experiences as



Losbanes

“very rewarding.”

Equipped with only a spiritual and emotional piece of mind, as military chaplains are always unarmed, Losbanes immediately began his mission upon arrival, navigating back and forth over hostile ground to reach as many Soldiers as he could.

“In the sixty days I was there, I traveled to many different FOBs. Overall, there were seventeen areas that I flew to in order to reach our Soldiers and celebrate Catholic Masses,” Losbanes said.

Helping Soldiers endure the danger and dreariness of a long

deployment, Losbanes utilized the “ministry of presence,” doing his best to provide a calm atmosphere.

“You want to make an impact on the Soldiers lives and later on you come to realize that just by being there makes a difference. Sometimes we think we’re not making any impact, but people acknowledge and recognize that the chaplain is there,” Losbanes said.

Losbanes’ tasks included daily Catholic Mass, personal counseling, and hospital visits. Despite such a busy schedule, Losbanes moved around the FOBs— going where he thought Soldiers would be— so he could make himself visible

to them. Interacting with many Soldiers throughout the short tour provided him a sense of fulfillment and purpose, he said.

Because of the scarcity of Catholic priests, Soldiers in FOB Salerno appreciated the presence of a Catholic chaplain, Losbanes said. With the pressures inherent in a place of war, that type of outlet is needed, he explained.

“We bring what we can bring to the Soldiers ... Whether the Soldiers receive it with an open heart or mind isn’t up to me. I really believe that the purpose is given by God himself ... it’s God that makes all these things happen,” Losbanes said.



German language offered for kids

By Sandra Wilson

"It's never too soon to start a second language," said Jasmin Warrick, the new German language teacher for Schools of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration & Skills Unlimited— better known as SKIES Unlimited.

SKIES now offers German language classes for children and teens in hopes of making their time in Germany a pleasant one.



Warrick

Beginning Monday, "Playground of the German Language" begins for 6- to 9-year-olds. The "German Language for Daily Use" class begins Wednesday for ages 10 to 13 and Thursday for ages 14 to 18.

"Children— especially at the teenage age— when they come to a foreign country, the language barrier is a big problem for them," Warrick said.

To tackle that problem, Warrick brings nearly 10 years of experience in private tutoring, translating, and interpreting, to the classroom of learning tools she will offer. Rather than being another "straight instruction" class like in a school classroom, kids will be actively involved in activities and games.

"(Classes are) more on the fun side ... they still get homework, though. You have to stick to it constantly, even small kids," Warrick said. "I think homework is a good thing in a normal quantity ... something that they feel 'hey, I can do this.'"

SKIES has also limited class sizes to 10 or less, giving the instructor an opportunity to "take care of each child individually," Warrick said.

The younger kids will

learn colors, animals, and German games and songs as well as how to introduce themselves. The teens are taught vocabulary as well as conversational skills. In the midst of learning the language, the students will be exposed to various parts of the German culture.

"I think it's important that the children here realize the culture around them," Warrick said.

According to Peter Potter, acting SKIES director, not only will the students learn valuable international skills, but they may also find Germany to be a much more enjoyable place if they can communicate— even in a limited capacity— with the locals.

"If you learn the language, and you live in the foreign country, you feel more secure about yourself," he said.

To sign up your child for a SKIES German language class, call 09721-96-6460.

Cade captures spelling bee win



Eighth-grader Kiersten Cade takes a moment to think before she spells the given word at Wednesday's Schweinfurt Middle School spelling bee. Fourteen students competed for qualification into the European Round in Wiesbaden March 14. Cade took first place and will represent Schweinfurt Middle School in the upcoming competition. Seventh-grader Michael Johnson-Gonzalez (back left) took second place and will serve as an alternate. (Photo by Emily Athens)

Sparky's
Safety Spot™

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7th Place: iTouch®
8th Place: iTouch®

Location: Ramon's Sports Bar Date: February 1
Time: 6 p.m. Cost: \$25

MWRPROMOTIONS.COM

Finney Recreation Center/
Ramon's Sports Bar & Grill
4444 Old Oaks Parkway

SUPER BOWL PARTY February 1

- *Party starts Sunday night
- *Kick-off at 12 a.m.
- *Pay as you go

YOUR TICKET TO THE GAME
Watch the game. Play football trivia. Just have fun.

XLIV Ramon's Sports Bar & Grill BOSS MWR

For more information, contact the Finney Rec Center for details at 09721-96-8476 or 0501-353-8476.



YEAR OF THE BULL
2009
START OF NEW YEAR!

GRAB LIFE BY THE HORNS

NEW CLASSES IN FEBRUARY.

Bootcamp Spinning

High-octane, high-intensity 30-minute session that gives your body a great cardio workout.

New Year 5k Training

Join this training to get your first 5K run under 30 minutes. A professional trainer will help you achieve that goal.

For more information, call CIV 09721-96-6735 or DSN 354-6735.

KESSLER FITNESS CENTER

Kessler Bowling Center

HOT SPOT WiFi

Sundays
Family Day, \$1.50 games and free shoes

Tuesdays
\$1 games

Thursdays
Mixed Bowling League, 6 p.m.

Friday & Saturdays
Cosmic Bowling, 8 p.m.

Saturdays
Young American Bowling Association (YABA) Bowling League for kids ages eight to 18, 10 a.m.

Join us on February 14
for a Sweetheart Bowl!
Your sweetheart bowls for free all day long.

For more information, call 09721-83391 or DSN 354-6332.

Live Music, Fun, Food and More
Our Annual Winter Community Event is here!

**FINNEY FITNESS CENTER
CONN BARRACKS**
www.buckycovington.com

**FEBRUARY 21
7 P.M.**

Bucky COVINGTON

WINTER 2009 TRIPS

OUTDOOR RECREATION CENTER
Conn Barracks, Bldg. 30
CIV. 09721-96-8080
DSN: 353-8080

February
Night Skiing
Wasserkuppe, Rhoen
ODR goes Night Skiing every Thursday depending on snow conditions.

February 13-16
Ski and Snowboard Trip
Dolomites, Italy

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

TRIP 'N' BOSS

March 14
Lego Land

March 28
Neuschwanstein

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

February 7
KisSalis Spa, Bad Kissingen

February 28
Dachau