



Schweinfurt Dispatch

Serving the Military Community of Schweinfurt

Oct. 9, 2008



Ambush hammers Troop B, forges heroes

Story and photo by Kimberly Gearhart

They came to do a village assessment and secure three bridges just three kilometers from Kamu, Afghanistan, July 27, 2007, but Troop B, 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry (Airborne) instead engaged in an all-day fire fight which claimed its troop commander, a non-commissioned officer, and wounded half of its remaining forces.

Capt. Alex Newsom, Capt. David Roller, and Capt. John Meyer, then all first lieutenants, had to take over and lead their troops without a commander in an all-day battle against a vastly larger enemy force. They would earn a Silver Star, Bronze Star with Valor, and a Bronze Star for their actions.

Staff Sgt. Robert Fortner, a sergeant and the platoon medic at the time, put himself at great personal risk to aid the wounded, saving lives in the middle of an intense battle. Staff Sgt. John Faulkenberry, with disregard for his own well-being, went out of the way to discover and secure a fallen comrade. Fortner earned a Silver Star; Faulkner a Bronze Star with Valor.

Roller arrived 24 hours earlier with a

10-man team, establishing an observation post position above the village.

"This was a part of a much larger squadron mission to securing bridges ... in the area. We were supposed to be there for seven days," Roller said. His team was to secure the area and relay information to the command in preparation for the village visit.

In the early morning of July 27, second platoon and a headquarters element, including Capt. Thomas Bostick, troop commander, arrived to meet with village elders before moving on to secure a bridge beyond Roller's line of sight.

"We came to a foot bridge where the Afghan National Army (ANA) had been fired upon before, and they sent some people to check it out," recalled Fortner, who was with the village assessment group.

The ANA soldiers began taking fire, light at first, then expanding.

"I couldn't tell you who was shot first. It was pretty fast. It went from a few pop shots to a full-blown fight," Fortner said.

A kilometer away, Roller's team on the high ground could see the fight unfold below them but had little time to respond to



Col. Charles Preysler, presented from left, Capt. Alex Newsom, Staff Sgt. Robert Fortner, Capt. David Roller, and Capt. John Meyer with valor and merit awards stemming from battle July 27, 2007 in Afghanistan.

help, as they too began receiving fire from enemy forces.

"This was a massive effort, to take us all on like that," Roller said. Both he and

AMBUSH, see page 5

CFC-Overseas 2008 underway in Schweinfurt

By Mark Heeter

The Combined Federal Campaign-Overseas (CFC-O) has begun and runs through Dec. 3, giving federal employees an opportunity to donate to the charity of their choice.

The USAG Schweinfurt collected enough donations in 2007 to earn second place in the CFC-O campaign in Europe, according to Deborah Lawson, administrative services branch chief with the USAG Schweinfurt Directorate of Human Resources.

"Last year we reached about 90 percent (participation), and we raised over \$84,000," Lawson said, adding that the goal for 2008

is 100 percent participation and \$100,000.

The CFC has given federal employees an opportunity to donate since the 1960s. Soldiers, civilians and contractors are eligible to make donations to any of hundreds of recipient organizations.

"The mission of the CFC is to support and to promote philanthropy through a voluntary program that is employee-focused, cost-efficient and effective in providing all Federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all," according to the CFC-Overseas home

page at <http://www.cfcoverseas.org/aboutCFCO>.

Most tenant units in Schweinfurt have representatives who have been trained and are prepared to offer assistance with donations, Lawson said, though anyone is welcome to stop and see Enilda Flores-Cabrera in room 104 of building 206 on Ledward Barracks to make a donation.

"We have unity representatives that we train. They work with their unit to administer the forms, and then they return back to us with the money that they collected," Lawson said.



COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN



SPRECHEN SIE FUN?

Events and activities in the local communities

Today:

World music night- Horizons meets Percussion. Hassfurt's city hall at 8 p.m.



Thanksgiving concert by music school Hambach at the baroque chapel in Dittelbrunn-Pfändhausen at 7:30 p.m.



Saturday:

Farmers' market on the market square from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. – enjoy fresh products, vegetables, fruit, juices, eggs, noodles, jams, honey, cake, bread, poultry, ham, homemade sausage, cheese and much more.

Local specialties, such as onion cake, Federweisser, potato soup, and more will be sold at various stands. A petting zoo with rabbits and guinea pigs will be available for the kids.

Ice Hockey- Schweinfurt Mighty Dogs versus EHC Bayreuth at the Ice Dome in Schweinfurt at 8 p.m.

Schweinfurt flea markets

Wirsingstrasse 13, 6 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Meyer's flea market at the TG Sportsclub (located on the bottom of the hill going to the Silvana Swimming Pool) begins at 7:15 a.m.



Children's clothes and toys at St. Lukas, Segnitzstrasse from 2 to 4 p.m.

Saturday:

Rhoener Sausage market in Ostheim von der Rhoen. Runs through Sunday.

Open house at the TG Sportsclub, located down the hill from Silvana. Try out Wave Style Dance Motion, 1 to 5 p.m.

Apple fest on the historical market square in Gerolzhofen, at 4 p.m. Get a variety of apple goodies, decorations, and preparation tips.



October 16 & 17

Puppet Theater

at the Schweinfurt Theater, Rossbrunn 2
Oct. 16, 7:30 p.m.
Oct. 17, 9 p.m.

For tickets, call 09721-51475 or 09721-510 or email theater@schweinfurt.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 354-1600/6381 or (09721) 961600/966381.



News Briefs

Harvest festival

Volunteers are needed for the annual harvest festival at Schweinfurt's Ledward gym Oct. 31. Food and games run from 6 to 8:30 p.m. and crews are needed to set up, tear down, and clean up the event. Volunteers are also needed to run games and tables. Please call 0162-270-4688 to learn how you can be a part of the fun.

Get informed

Come to the community update forum to find out what's happening in the Schweinfurt military community. The forum is held at Schweinfurt Elementary School on Askren Manor Tuesday at 6 p.m. Learn about what Schweinfurt has to offer and ask questions or express concerns.

Smooth move seminar

Leaving the community? Army Community Service wants to help "smooth" your transition. Attend a seminar at Ledward ACS Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. to get tips on packing, shipping, moving with pets and more. For additional information, call 354-6933.

Bulk trash

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

Volunteer portfolios

Not sure how to make your volunteer experience work for you? Let Army Community Service show you how in a class at Ledward Yellow Ribbon Room Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon. Bring any certificates, awards, job descriptions, and pictures from past volunteer experiences. Learn to put it all together in a book that highlights your strengths. For more information or to sign up, call 354-6933.

Open mic night

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

DOL divisions closed

Tomorrow, all divisions of the Directorate of Logistics will be closed for their annual training day. We apologize for any inconvenience. In case of an emergency, please contact the IOC at 354-6708 for further information.

Oktoberfest not over

The Schweinfurt Community and Spouses' Club and the German-American Club will host Oktoberfest Oct. 17 at 6 p.m. at the Schweinfurt Schutzenverein, down the street from the Kessler. The cost is 20 euro per person which includes food, one drink, and live entertainment. Please R.S.V.P. by tomorrow. For childcare, please call 354-6281. For more information or to R.S.V.P., email scsccmail@gmail.com.

Holiday mailing dates

Brighten up someone's holiday-- mail early! To ensure delivery of holiday cards and packages by Christmas, the 2008 holiday mailing dates to the U.S. are as follows: Space Available Mail parcels, Nov. 28; Priority Air Mail parcels, Dec. 4; Priority parcels, Dec. 11; First-Class letters, Dec. 11; and Express Mail, Dec. 20.



Tonight-	7 p.m.	Mama Mia (PG-13)
Tomorrow-	7 p.m.	Lakeview Terrace (PG-13)
Saturday-	4 p.m.	LakeView Terrace (PG-13)
Sunday-	7 p.m.	Step Brothers (R)
	4 p.m.	Lakeview Terrace (PG-13)
Monday-	7 p.m.	Step Brothers (R)
Tuesday-	closed	
Wednesday-	7 p.m.	Lakeview Terrace (PG-13)

Schweinfurt three-day weather forecast

A.M.		P.M.	
	Friday Mostly cloudy Lows 10 C / 50 F		Friday Partly cloudy Highs 15 C / 59 F
	Saturday Mostly cloudy Lows 8 C / 46 F		Saturday Mostly cloudy Highs 15 C / 59 F
	Sunday Sunny Lows 8 C / 46 F		Sunday Mostly cloudy Highs 16 C / 61 F

Source: 21st Operational Weather Squadron



- 16 OCT --BOSS This One's For You event, Finney gym, 1 p.m. Call 353-8476.
- 17 OCT --Parents' Night Out, childcare 6:30 to 11:30 p.m. Sign-ups open now. Call 354-6414.
- 18 OCT --Cancer awareness fun walk/run, 5 kilometers, begins at Kessler gym, 9 a.m. Call 354-6735.
--Community flea market, Schweinfurt Elementary, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tables open for those wishing to sell, e-mail lisaebanks@yahoo.com for more information.
- 20 OCT --Couples boot camp: commissary on a budget, 2-4 p.m. Call ACS 354-6933.
- 21 OCT --Pool tournament at Finney Recreation Center. Starts at 6 p.m. Play for prizes.
- 22 OCT --Pastries for Parents, Schweinfurt Elementary, 7:30 a.m. Breakfast with child in cafeteria.
--Sign-ups begin for Super Saturday child care on Nov. 22, 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Call 354-6517.
--Maximize your TSP, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. at ACS. Call 354-6933 to sign up.
--Beginner's spinning classes, Kessler Fitness Center, 6 to 6:45 p.m.
- 23 OCT --Commissary closed for an organizational/training day, reopens 10 a.m. the following day.
--Army Community Service Lunch Bunch meeting, meet at ACS, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. 354-6933.
- 23-31 OCT --Red Ribbon Week observance "Step it up: A call to action!"
- 24 OCT --Unit-level flag football championship game, Gold Field on Conn Barracks, 6 p.m.
- 25 OCT --BOSS adults-only trip to Frankenstein Castle. Cost is 24 euro, departs at 4:30 p.m., 353-8476.
- 26 OCT --End of daylight saving, turn clocks back one hour at 2 a.m.
--Family-friendly trip to Frankenstein Castle, departs 12:30 p.m. Cost 24 and 12 euro, 353-8476.
- 27 OCT --ADD and ADHD support group, ACS, 10 a.m. to noon. Call 354-6933.
- 28 OCT --Bulk trash pick-up at Askren Manor, Yorktown Village, and government-leased housing.
--Sign up deadline for community basketball. Call Finney Fitness Center 353-8234.
- 30 OCT --Ledward Library adult book club, 5:15 p.m. Coffee, tea, and treats served. Call 354-1740.
--FRG roundtable meeting, 6 to 8 p.m., Ledward Yellow Ribbon Room. Call 354-6933.
- 31 OCT --No school for students, teacher workday.
--Asperger's and Autism support group, ACS bldg., 10 a.m. to noon. Call 354-6933.
--Harvest Festival open to the community, Ledward gym from 6 to 8:30 p.m.
--Halloween night at Ledward Library, 5 to 10 p.m. Watch scary movies and play eerie games.
--Ice hockey game, Schweinfurt Mighty Dogs vs. ESV Buchloe, Schweinfurt Icedome, 8 p.m.
- 1 NOV --German holiday "All Saints Day," some stores may be closed.
- 6 NOV --Free single Soldier turkey dinner, Finney Recreation Center, 6 p.m.
- 8 NOV --BOSS trip to Mystery Castle and Knight's dinner in K-town, 120 euro. Call 353-8476.
- 11 NOV --Deadline to register for unit level basketball. Call Finney Fitness Center 353-8234.
--Veteran's Day, U.S. federal holiday.
- 21-23 NOV --BOSS ski/snowboard trip to Edelweiss; \$132 includes hotel, breakfast, dinner. Call 353-8476.

Community 6 week outlook calendar



AMBUSH

Newsom believe the attack was a planned ambush by the villagers themselves. "They at least knew what was going on."

Back in the thick of the battle, ANA and Cav Soldiers were down, and Fortner was tending the wounded. Running between stabilizing a Soldier with a gunshot wound and two with shrapnel wounds, Fortner himself was shot.

"(The enemy) knew I was important because I didn't drop my aid bag," he explained, noting that in Afghanistan, the insurgents often targeted those with bags and radio antennas.

Fortner continued aiding his wounded, and when Newsom's Quick Reaction Force (QRF) arrived to evacuate the wounded, Fortner refused to leave.

"If we weren't out, I wasn't going to go," he said.

After the fighting ended, Fortner's uniform was full of bullet holes, burns, and tears from attacks directed at him as he performed his duties as medic. A through-and-through hole in his sleeve and a groove in the sole of his boot—both from bullets—attested to just how close some of those shots came.

"It was just luck" that kept him alive, Fortner said.

Newsom's QRF made its first foray into the battle to evacuate the wounded, including the Soldiers under Fortner's care and Spc. Tommy Alford, who was wounded defending his position in the observation post with Roller.



"Everyone was calm, and most of the injured were walking. We set up a hasty landing zone for the helicopters," Newsom said.

The QRF came under light fire during its first run, but air cover provided by Apache attack helicopters created a lull.

"The enemy got really small for a little while," Fortner said.

"Then Dave gets on the radio and says 'Alex, we need you in here now' and I knew he meant NOW," Newsom said. The

fighting was hard and heavy on the ground. "It was ridiculous," he said.

Enemy machine gun fire peppered the helicopters as they attempted to evacuate the wounded. The Apaches took enough damage that one was forced to make an emergency landing before it could return to base at Naray and another was grounded.

"These are attack helicopters," Newsom said. "Their main threat in normal world combat is guided missiles, and these guys were being torn apart by machine gun fire. That's how much shooting was going on out there."

Because of the heavy opposition, it took nearly three hours to get Alford evacuated.

"I didn't comprehend at the time that everything I was hearing was not just the rotor blades on the helicopter. It was bullets," Roller said, recalling dirt flying around the feet of Soldiers attempting to stabilize Alford as he was airlifted.

On the ground, the troop lost radio contact with Bostick. Faulkenberry felt he knew where his commander was located and took off on his own to locate the captain. Faulkenberry was wounded after helping recover Bostick's body. He is still recovering from those wounds.

Less than 200 meters away from Bostick, Staff Sgt. William Fritsche, part of a sniper element scouting nearby, was killed.

"The enemy was closing in all around us, like a noose," Newsom said.

Roller, from his position on the high ground, dropped mortars and artillery all around Meyer and Newsom's positions, attempting to cover them from the increasingly deadly battle.

"Dave was calling in bombs 300 meters from us. We're not supposed to do that, but we were taking extreme measures," Newsom said.

With the ground forces at less than 50 percent strength, enemy forces closing in around them, and their commander dead, the three platoon leaders had some serious choices to make.

Working together, and assessing the situation, they decided to make a tactical retreat—without Fritsche's body.

The decision was difficult, and went against the very core of the Warrior Ethos, part of which is a promise: I will never leave a fallen comrade.

"We could have kept sending people

in small groups to get to Fritsche, but I honestly believe they would have continued to fall until there was no one left," Roller said.

Roller's post had eyes on Fritsche's location, and would stay in place both to cover the retreat and to keep secure the location of their fallen Soldier.

Running out of ammunition and water, with badly wounded Soldiers in tow, Meyer's foot patrol began to move out of the line of fire, using Newsom's trucks for cover.

Fighting intensified when the enemy realized Meyer and Newsom were pulling out. Roller believes they must have realized once the ground force made it past his observation position, there would be no chance of continuing the fight.

"I didn't think anyone was going to survive down there. It was a relief to hear them talking on the radio," Roller said.

That night, those same Soldiers who scraped their way out of the kill zone returned in an attempt to recover Fritsche.

"Two of my four trucks broke down, so we went back in with the other two ... We went back in, down that same road," Newsom said.

Ultimately, Troop B ran out of time. Ordered to pull out by command, with dawn on its way and air cover pulling back, the Sky Soldiers had to fall back again. Fritsche was recovered by reinforcements.

"Every guy that was there has stories about guys they saw do amazing things," said Roller.

But ask any of them if they're heroes, as their awards proclaim, and all will say "not me."

"What would make us heroes? We had to work together, had to do our jobs together. We were a few guys on patrol," Roller said. Newsom echoed him.

"We trained with these guys. We trained them for war. Everyone, down to the drivers, was a Soldier that day. Do I think they're heroes? Absolutely I think they're heroes," he said.





173rd marks Freedom Team Salute milestone

**Story and photo
by Mark Heeter**

In a process that lasted several days in three military communities in two countries, the first brigade-level Freedom Team Salute commendation officially came to a close when hundreds of Soldiers from the 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment (Airborne) recognized their spouses in a ceremony at Finney Fitness Center here Sept. 24.

The ceremony followed earlier ceremonies in Vicenza, Italy, home of the 173rd Infantry Brigade (Airborne) and Bamberg, Germany, which, like Schweinfurt, houses Sky Soldiers from the 173rd.

"This is an unprecedented ceremony for the Army," said Col. (Ret.) Richard Breen, the Freedom Team Salute European ambassador who was chief of the Army Community Relations and Outreach Division when

the program was created in May 2005. Breen presented the idea for a brigade-level recognition to Lisa Preysler, wife of then-commander Col. Charles Preysler.

"The program was designed specifically to recognize individual Soldiers' personal support system and to recognize those key individuals who are instrumental in the success of the Soldier and the Army Family," Breen said to the Airborne Cav Soldiers and families packing the center for the ceremony.

The brigade, which recently completed a 15-month tour in Afghanistan, submitted a mass nomination for Freedom Team Salute packets for approximately 1,600 spouses.

"We, as a brigade, took it upon ourselves to nominate every single spouse in the brigade and to recognize the sacrifices that they went through during the deployment," Lisa Preysler said.

"I think all the Soldiers should nominate someone who is dear to them. I think it's the best thing in the world. I don't think the rest of the world understands the sacrifices that military spouses make on a daily basis," she said.

Freedom Team Salute is a program for the entire Army Family, Breen said, before inviting single Soldiers to nominate someone in their support system – a parent, a friend, a veteran.

At the ceremony here, Soldiers presented their spouses with Freedom Team Salute commendation packets, which included a certificate signed by the The Honorable Pete Geren, Secretary of the Army, and Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. George. W. Casey, a lapel pin and an Army decal.

"It's nice. It's the first time I felt that the Army recognized the family behind the Soldier," said Hannah Fitz Gerald, after opening the packet she received



Master Sgt. Todd Shippy, 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment (Airborne), fills out a nomination for a Freedom Team Salute commendation packet at Finney Fitness Center Sept. 24.

from her husband, Maj. Darren Fitz Gerald.

"It wraps everything up and says thank you for 15 months of service," she said.

Nominate online at <http://www.freedomteamsalute.com> or write to freedomteamsalute@live.com.

Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations continue tonight



Pvt. Eric Green, left, and Spc. Antwon Dance enjoy classic Hispanic dishes at Ledward Library during its Hispanic heritage month observance.

The month-long cultural celebration has taken various forms around Schweinfurt, and continues tonight with free salsa dancing lessons at Ramon's Sports Bar and Grill from 6 to 8 p.m. (Photo by Lindsey Cole)



JUMPMASTERS



The 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team paratroopers descend toward Drop Zone Frida 1, Sept. 23, near Aviano Air Base in northeastern Italy. Jumpmasters from Schweinfurt, Bamberg, and Vicenza assembled to practice jumps, polishing skills unused for nearly two years. (Photo by Spc. Gregory Argentieri, 173rd Public Affairs).

Theater's got 'The Game' in one

By Emily Athens

The Schweinfurt Community Theater will compete in the Festival of One Act plays this weekend in Heidelberg. This competitive festival attracts countless community theaters around Europe and Korea, who bring their best short dramas, comedies, and musicals to perform over the weekend.

Performances will be judged by an independent adjudicator who critiques skills in a wide range of areas including directing, performing, and writing, explained the play's producer, Garland Travis.

Travis stressed the significances of the play's involvement in the Festival of One Act Plays, as well as the overall significance of the theater in military communities.

The Army produces a large number of theatrical plays worldwide, according to Travis, who believes the outlet is important for Soldiers and spouses.

This year's Schweinfurt entry, "The Game," will be performed for the community after competition is complete.

Shows will be held nightly at the Abrams Entertainment Center Oct. 16-18 at 7 p.m.

Written by Louise Bryant in the 1930s, "The Game" is a four-character morality piece portrayed in one act and focuses on a bet between Death and Life over the prosperity of a poet and a young woman.

"This play is an excellent example of the belief that people are the changemakers and not necessarily politicians or higher-ups," said director Derek Malaney, describing the play's symbolic representation of life.

Adults are traditionally cast for this allegory, but Malaney thought children, ages nine to sixteen, would prove more effective to the audience, in hopes to erase certain prejudices and impartial ideas.

"With children, it makes it easier for adults to trust. This way people will become open and the real meaning of the play will come through," Malaney said.

Support the local theater and its young actors in Heidelberg this weekend or next week at the Abrams Center. Tickets will be \$10 for adults or \$7 for children at the door.

Feedback needed from wounded, ill, and injured

WASHINGTON -- The Military Health System invites wounded, ill or injured service members and their families to respond to a new pair of questionnaires designed to help MHS leaders better understand the needs and expectations of warriors in their care.

The questionnaires—one for wounded, ill or injured service members and one for their family members—are available on the MHS web site for completion until Wednesday. Both questionnaires ask for feedback concerning a service member's experience and satisfaction with the care he or she has received since becoming wounded, ill or injured.

To encourage honest and specific answers that will lead to positive changes in how the MHS handles care for wounded, ill or injured service members, all questionnaire responses are anonymous. Questionnaire results and analysis should be available in November 2008 at www.health.mil.

These questionnaires are part of Defense Secretary Robert Gates' commitment to supporting wounded, ill and injured service members—ensuring that their care is DoD's top priority. This care is continually improving, but MHS leaders recognize that there is still more to be done. By listening to the opinions of wounded, ill or injured service members and their families, the MHS will be better able to meet their needs and expectations. The questionnaires are available at <http://www.health.mil/pages/page.aspx?ID=18>.

They sleep WHERE?

Prevention week ends with tour



Schweinfurt Elementary School students watch as a hidden bed, for use by the fire department telephone operator, was pulled from its secret compartment in the wall of the dispatch office. Students visited the USAG Schweinfurt Fire Department on Conn today as part of fire prevention week. The tour included viewing the rooms in the fire building, seeing the capabilities of a fire truck, and participating in hosing down a model house. (Photo by Sandra Wilson)



BOSS program offers fall adventure trips

By Sandra Wilson

Looking for weekend fun with your friends that is out of the ordinary? Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers has made adventures in Germany just a step onto a bus away. Whether it's a fright for Halloween that you desire or an evening in the life of a medieval knight, BOSS has the details figured out.

"All of the BOSS trips came about ... to show (single soldiers) a little bit of what Germany has to offer and just to afford them an opportunity to have fun," said Silvia Joiner, recreation specialist and Schweinfurt BOSS advisor.

For some scary Halloween fun, BOSS



Beggs

is now taking sign-ups for the nighttime Frankenstein Castle trip Oct. 25. Tickets are 24 euro from Sato Travel and include transportation and entry to the castle.

A family-friendly trip to Frankenstein's Castle is also offered, but during daylight hours Oct. 26. Tickets are reduced for children and the bus leaves at 12:30 p.m.

If Frankenstein is not your thing, the Nov. 8 trip offers an experience as a fearless knight while searching a castle for a lost tour mate and then feasting in a knight's hall complete with court jesters and other entertainment. The bus departs at 10 a.m. to begin the adventure in Kaiserslautern.

The slopes of the Bavarian Alps offer powdery heaven for avid ski or snowboarders Nov. 21-23. All skill levels are welcome, and \$132 covers rooms, breakfast, and dinner.

Participants can almost ski right off the slopes onto a bus to Berlin for a Thanksgiving trip Nov. 27-29. Vacationers can see the Berlin wall, visit Checkpoint Charlie, and discover Berlin's night life. The price of 229 euro covers transportation, two overnights with breakfast, three-course dinner, city tours, and entrance fees.

"BOSS is really important especially overseas like this because ... it provides that sense of feeling at home again,"



Daggett

said Pfc. Nathan Daggett of 1st Battalion, 77th Field Artillery and garrison BOSS representative.

Dec. 6 brings another trip for the whole family with a stream train ride, castle visit, and a ride on a horse-drawn wagon.

All trips must reach a minimum number of participants to go and sign-up deadlines are two weeks before the trips depart. Call 353-8476 for information or to sign up.

"I want to get out there and have as much fun as humanly possible in Germany," said Spc. Robert Beggs of 15th Engineer Battalion and battalion BOSS representative.

"Schweinfurt is the number one for the BOSS programs, and I will continue to keep that reputation up," he said.

Schweinfurt's newest star needs your votes

By Mark Heeter

A family member who works at the USAG Schweinfurt in-and-out processing center on Conn Barracks has been named the local winner of the Operation Rising Star competition, sponsored by the Army Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command.

Joyce Dodson, along with the other winners from Army installations around the world, will be pored to a field of 12 finalists, whose names are currently scheduled to be announced Tuesday, according

to Garland Travis, USAG Schweinfurt entertainment director.

"I was very excited because this year, they allowed family members to compete," Dodson said.

She sang four songs during the local competition, held Thursday and Friday evenings in September at Rohr's Diner on Ledward Barracks.

"My favorite was the one I won it with, which was 'And I'm telling you,' by Jennifer Holiday," said Dodson, who has been singing "since I was a little girl."

"It challenges you to be better, because they critique you ... they were honest," she said of the competition and the judges.

Once the 12 finalists have been announced, viewers around the world will have a chance to view and vote on the entries at www.oprisingstar.com, Travis said.

"We'll announce it when (viewers) are able to vote," he said.

"And I imagine if people check back on the web site, they'll know when it's time to vote."



Joyce Dodson is this year's Rising Star competitor from the Schweinfurt military community.



Community Showcase full of fun, info



Above, 4-year-old Sherylynn Edmon gets her face painted at last Friday's Community Showcase. Entertainers, top right, perform a series of tricks while the audience watches their skills juggling balls in precarious positions. Bottom right, Investigator Katherine Storlie, USAG Schweinfurt Directorate of Emergency Services, fingerprints 6-year-old Alex Garcia for fun at her information table in the gym. Below, Pvt. Ryan Hawkins and Pvt. Jonathan Machicek, both with the 15th Engineer Battalion, fill out the Army Community Service needs assessment survey while learning more about what ACS offers to the Schweinfurt community.



Event attendees were given the opportunity to browse information and ask questions about various installation agencies at last week's event at the Kessler gym and field. Children and adults were also entertained in the parking lot with games and rides. In the evening, Rob Ryan, Kojak, the Redskin Cheerleaders, and Schweinfurt's own Operation Rising Star winner performed on stage. (Photos by Mark Heeter and Sandra Wilson)






HELDENSTADT
BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

OCTOBER 18 9 A.M.

Kessler Fitness Center
 Yorktown Village
 Schweinfurt



Sign up in advance at your local fitness center or at Kessler
 On day of the event. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. For
 information, call 09721-96-4736 or 1207 484-4746.

COMMUNITY THEATRE



THE GAME
 by Louise Bryant

Directed by Derek Maloney

2008 INCOM-Europe Festival of One Act Plays Entry

October 16-18 at 7 p.m. In the Abrams Center
Tickets: 354-6225 / 09721 96 6225
 garland.travis@eur.army.mil

TRIP 'N BOSS

For info or to sign up, call 09721-963476 or DSN 353-8476.

Frankenstein Castle
 Oct. 25
 Adults Only
 Cost € 24



Mystery Castle and Knight's Dinner
 Nov. 8
 Sign up deadline - Oct. 29
 Cost € 120



Sküing in GARMISCH
 Nov. 21-23
 Base Cost \$109 per night



Thanksgiving in BERLIN
 Nov. 27-29



Sports & Fitness Events

Oct. 14-28
Community Basketball Registration
 Men's and women's teams are available. Teams play on weekends. Practice starts on on Nov. 17. Open to all ID cardholders 18 years of age and older and not in high school.

Oct. 19
Community Soccer: Schweinfurt vs. Ansbach
 1 p.m. at the German Sports Field near Askren Manor.

Oct. 20-23
Unit Level Flag-Football Championships
 Gold Sports Field, Conn Barracks
 Eight teams are in league play to advance to the IMCOM-E Flag Football Championships in Grafenwoehr (Oct. 30-Nov. 2). Awards for 1st and 2nd place.

For information, call 09721-96-8476 or DSN 353-8476.