



Frank Schleehuber

## Fest season begins

**Wuerzburg's annual Fruhelingsfest (Springfest) began March 17 and runs through April 1 on the Talavera fest grounds near the Main River. More than 50 vendors and rides are on hand. The heated fest tent serves beer specialties and traditional Volksfest food and has a non-smoking section. Family day is Wednesday with 50 percent off all rides. Hours are Mon-Thu 2 p.m. to midnight, Fri-Sat 2 p.m. to 1 a.m., and Sun from 1 p.m. to midnight. Special this year is the boxing tournament on Sunday March 25 at 10 a.m. in the fest tent.**

## Briefs

### Easter egg hunt hatches fun

Visit the Easter Bunny and hunt eggs at USAG Schweinfurt's Easter Egg Hunt April 5 at the Leighton Community Activities Center at 6 p.m.

"This is the big community hunt. We didn't have a big one last year, but we are now," said Silvia Joiner, recreation specialist with the Morale, Welfare and Recreation division.

Festivities include a visit from the Easter Bunny and the search for hidden eggs, and free food, candy, and fun for the whole family.

### Clocks spring forward

European Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 25 at 1 a.m. Set clocks ahead one hour before retiring Saturday evening.

### 3 Bamberg Soldiers die

The Department of Defense announced the death of Sgt. Brandon A. Parr, 25, of West Valley, Utah, Sgt. Michael C. Peek, 23, of Chesapeake, Va. and Sgt. Ashly L. Moyer, 21, of Emmaus, Pa., who were supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. They died March 3 in Baghdad when an improvised explosive device detonated near their vehicle. They were assigned to the 630th Military Police Company, Bamberg.

### Training opportunities

The Civilian Human Resource Agency (CHRA) Europe, Human Resource Development Division has professional development and training opportunities in Europe. The courses are free and open to DA civilians, local nationals, and military members. To see training offered, course descriptions and schedule, go to <http://cpolrhp.belvoir.army.mil/eur/index.htm>, click on "Training & Development" then click on "HRDD Courses in Europe." The course schedule lists current courses in Europe and the course description lists potential courses for Europe.

### Writer donates royalties

Following the news that America's newest veterans are receiving substandard health care, California author Trish Edmisten has pledged to donate royalties from her new novel.

"As I read [about] the horrific health care stories of our combat veterans, I felt sick, not just to my stomach, but in my heart," Edmisten said. "I had to do whatever I could to make a difference."

She will donate 100 percent of the royalties from sales of her novel, "Letters from Linc," to improve conditions in the country's ailing military hospitals.

"I always hoped this story would help others, and now I've found the way," she said.

The book is about newlyweds Todd and Erica Lincoln who are separated by his deployment to Iraq and must find a way to stay emotionally connected. It's a no-holds-barred look at the effects of the war on this young veteran and how that influences his marriage.

# The Point

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(It's a keeper!)

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## Community responds to fire victims

### Military police rescue pets, agencies provide compassion

by Scott Rouch  
The Point

When you walk into the Mulligan quarters at the end of "Colonel's Row" on Leighton Barracks, it's hard to tell that anything out of the ordinary has occurred – unless you look at the roof first.

A malfunctioning ceiling fan in the upstairs bathroom sparked a fire the morning of March 6, sending smoke and flames billowing through the roof.

The upstairs bathroom, the attic and roof (which must be replaced) were the only damaged areas; the three upstairs bedrooms were untouched.

"When you think of all the bad things that could have happened, this is not really a bad story," said Lt. Col. Mike Mulligan, staff judge advocate.

Mulligan was impressed by everyone's response; from neighbors on his street to the fire responders and community agencies.

"The fire was in the morning, (and) by noon we had already been contacted by the housing office and been told we had reservations at the guest house," he said. "The lady from ACS (Christine Carruthers) tracked me down in the parking lot because she came to the house to be of assistance and we weren't here. She tracked me down to make sure we had everything we needed and that we were aware of what they could do for us. She was very compassionate."

After learning of the fire from USAG Schweinfurt Director of Community Activities Hal Snyder, Carruthers, the director Leighton ACS, jumped into action.

"We wanted to let them know that ACS was here to help," Carruthers said. "Now that we are a transformed community, it's important that service agencies rally together to support community members in times of need."

Mulligan's wife Nicki was the only one home when she spotted the fire in the ceiling fan. She had a neighbor call the fire department while she called the military police.

"They (fire department) showed up very quickly," Nicki said. "It seemed forever because it was happening to me, but if they hadn't shown up as quickly as they did, then who knows what could have

happened. Everyone responded quickly and that's what I attribute (to) nothing burning. None of our things got burned, no one was hurt."

After calling the military police, she called her husband, who didn't realize the extent of the fire and told her to go to the shed and get an extinguisher.

"I didn't see (the extinguisher) anywhere and then I saw smoke billowing out of the top of the house," she said.

Nicki had taken the dog outside, and when the MPs arrived she realized her children's bunny and guinea pig were still inside.

"I grew up a fireman's daughter. I know more than to go back into a burning house," she said. "After the MPs showed up and I told them we had a guinea pig and a rabbit upstairs and she (Spc. Priscilla Whitty) told us get way out front. She and another MP carried the bunny and the guinea pig out."

"They all did a great job," said Lt. Col. Nikos Phipps, Directorate of Emergency Services, who lives next door to the Mulligans. "First responders took charge of the situation immediately and made sure the area was secure," he said, singling out Whitty for her calm demeanor and the two fire inspectors.



Scott Rouch

"Colonel's Row" neighbors Sarah Seidler, left, and Tanja Homas come to Nicki Mulligan's assistance.

## Retirees to get red carpet treatment

USAG Bamberg is rolling out the red carpet for military retirees March 31.

European-wide military retirees (possessing a blue retired ID card) and their family members (possessing a retired dependent ID card) are invited to attend Retiree Appreciation Day at the Basics Building on Warner Barracks in Bamberg, beginning at 9 a.m.

A variety of garrison services catering specifically to retiree's benefits will be available under one roof. Learn how to obtain and maintain commissary and exchange privileges, and visit with representatives from the pass and ID Office, the Installation Access Control System (IACS) office, dental and health clinics, Veterans of Foreign Wars, legal assistance, post office, the garrison mail room, the American Red Cross, customs office, retirement services, public affairs office, Army Community Services and more. This is an opportunity to learn more about retiree services within the community.

- Assistance will be available for the following services:
- Updating ID cards and passports
- Installation Access Control (IACS) registration
- Obtaining and maintaining shopping privileges
- Benefits and claims from the VFW, retiree council and a Veterans Administration representative
- Legal assistance
- Assignment of a USAG mailbox
- Post office support
- Registering with the customs office and customs forms
- Red Cross information
- International Direct Deposit
- Retirement services
- myPay account
- Army Emergency Relief
- How to keep in touch with the military community

The Bamberg medical clinic will provide dental and optometry exams and blood pressure checks and records maintenance. A shuttle service will be available between the Basics Building and the health clinic.

For more information contact the Bamberg Directorate of Human Resources at 0951-300-7713/8651/7522 or 469-7713.

## Civilian referrals

The Army has expanded its \$2K Referral Bonus program to include civilian employees, making it possible for them to earn \$2,000 while helping the Army boost enlistments.

The bonus for referring a prospective applicant who has never served in the armed forces originated in January 2006 with a \$1,000 bonus. It was doubled in November 2006.

Under the newly expanded program, a Department of the Army civilian who refers a prospective recruit before the applicant meets with a recruiter is eligible for the award. Restrictions preclude the referral of an immediate family member (including an adopted or step-child). The referral must be made via the following websites, respectively, for active-duty Army prospective recruits and Army National Guard prospective recruits: <https://www.usarec.army.mil/smart/> or [www.1800goguard.com/esar](http://www.1800goguard.com/esar). Referrals for the regular Army and Army Reserve may also be made by calling U.S. Army Recruiting Command's toll-free number: 1-800-223-3735. Referrals to the National Guard may be made by calling the Guard's toll-free number: 1-866-566-2472.

For more information about the referral program, visit <https://www.usarec.army.mil/smart/> or call 1-800-223-3735, extension 6-0473.

## Celebrate the Month of the Military Child

USAG Schweinfurt kicks off the Month of the Military Child with a Kinderfest March 31 from 2 to 5 p.m. in the School Age Services parking lot on Askren Manor. Fun, games, face painting and a parade are planned.

This year's MOMC theme is "Promoting Healthy Families in Your Community." Other scheduled area events include:

- March 31 – Kinderfest information booth
- April 4 – Sexual Assault Awareness Booth at Leighton PX, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- April 9 – Sexual Assault Awareness Booth display at Ledward PX, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- April 11 – Autism panel discussion at Schweinfurt's Abrams Center from 1 to 3 p.m. Community members are encouraged to attend.

April 11 – MOMC information booth at Leighton PX, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

April 16 – Child Abuse Prevention Month, shaken baby display at Ledward PX, noon to 2 p.m.

April 18 – Safe dating tutorials begin at Wuerzburg American High School, continuing for three weeks in conjunction with Sexual Assault Prevention Month.

April 18 – Child Abuse Prevention Month, shaken baby display at Leighton PX, noon to 2 p.m.

April 20 – Family Game Night at Leighton Community Activity Center, 6 to 10 p.m.

April 30 – Take Back The Night Walk on Conn Barracks, 6 p.m. from the Finney Fitness Center parking lot, and at 6 p.m. from Victory Park on Leighton Barracks.