

414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau

Christmas season happenings around the community

Outdoor Recreation

Rothenburg Christmas Market

Visit the Rothenburg Christmas Market with Hanau Outdoor Recreation on Dec. 13. Cost is \$15 per adult, \$10 per child age 3-12 and free for children under age 2. Price includes transportation.

Nürnberg Christmas market

Visit the Nürnberg Christmas Market with Hanau Outdoor Recreation on Dec. 20. from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Cost is \$20 per adult, \$15 per child and free for those under age 2.

Hanau Outdoor Recreation is located in Building 459 on Old Argonner Kaserne. Call civ (06181) 88-8891 or mil 322-8891.

Chapel holiday services

Dec. 24: 3 p.m. Childrens Mass at Fliegerhorst Chapel.

Dec. 24: Midnight Mass at Fliegerhorst Chapel.

Dec. 24: 7 p.m. Community Christmas Eve Service at Pioneer Chapel.

Dec. 25: 12:45 p.m. Bilingual Mass at Fliegerhorst Chapel.

Jan. 1: Noon Mass Holy Day of Obligation at Fliegerhorst Chapel, Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God.

BOSS Christmas Ball

Attend the BOSS Christmas Ball on Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. at the Community Activities Center on Fliegerhorst Kaserne. Cost is \$15 per person; \$25 per couple. For tickets and information call Sgt. Lamb at civ (0160) 2136986.

Büdingen Christmas events on Dec. 13

3-5 p.m.: Party at the Burgerhaus with music and entertainment for kids.



Photo by Karl Weisel

Visitors shop for Christmas goodies at the Frankfurt Christmas Market. Join the USO in a walking tour of Frankfurt and its Christmas Market Dec. 20. See below for details on that tour and other holiday events.

5:30-6 p.m.: St. Nicolas parade through town.

7-8:30 p.m. Tree lighting at Büdingen in front of the dining facility. Reception at gym afterwards.

Christmas tree lightings

Dec. 11: 5 p.m. on Fliegerhorst Kaserne by the Shoppette.

Dec. 13: 7 p.m. at Büdingen in front of the dining facility. Reception at gym afterwards.

Adopt an Angel

Army Community Service is sponsoring the holiday season Adopt an Angel Program. The program will run until Dec. 12. Referrals should be made to Family Readiness Group leaders and rear detachment commanders of children up to 18 years of age. Anyone interested in donating gifts may contact Adele Georges or Princetta Wright at the Hanau ACS office at civ (06181) 88-8963/8965 or mil 322-8965/8963. ACS is committed to mak-

ing this an enjoyable holiday season for all the children in this community, officials said.

Photos with Santa

The Hanau USO and American Red Cross will be offering photos with Santa on Saturday Dec. 13 at the Commissary from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and at the PX main entrance at the Wolfgang Shopping Center Sunday Dec. 14 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is \$5 for the first photo and \$8 for two. Photos include a frame.

Christmas trees

Cub Scout Pack 49 is selling Christmas trees from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Fridays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturdays and 1-6 p.m. on Sundays until all trees are sold across from the gas station at the Wolfgang Shopping Center. The trees are \$20 to \$35.

Santa suits

Santa suits can be rented from the American Red Cross through Dec. 23 for \$20. Come in and reserve a suit in advance. They have three suits to rent. One size fits all. For more information call Margaret Libowsky at mil 322-1760. The Red Cross is in Building 4, third floor, on Pioneer Kaserne.

Downrange mail

The holiday season has arrived. As many soldiers were deployed or sent TDY on short notice they were unable to give their family and friends the address where they're located. To decrease the delay in

mail travel time, remind downrange personnel to have their mail sent directly to their downrange address.

USO Frankfurt tour

A tour of Frankfurt will be held Dec. 20. Sign-up by Dec. 19. The tour departs from the USO on Pioneer Kaserne at 9 a.m. and returns at 5 p.m. Cost is \$25 per person. It is not recommended for children under age 8 or people with physical limitations as there is extensive walking. The tour group will ride the train to Frankfurt and visit the Alte Oper, the pedestrian zone between the Hauptwache and Konstabler Wache, the Paulskirche, Katharinenkirche, the Römer, the Frankfurter Rathaus with the Kaisersaal, the Kaiserdom, the Dom and stop for food at the Christmas Market. Participants will be able to shop, so bring euros. Transportation and the services of a tour guide are included. The USO is in Building 4 on Pioneer Kaserne. Call mil 322-8725, civ (06181) 56119 for details.

Gift wrapping

The brown wrapping program will continue through Dec. 20 in the old Class Six Store Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday from noon to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The gift wrapping program in the lobby of the PX continues through Dec. 24 Saturday and

Sunday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The service will also be featured Dec. 15 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Dec. 20 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Dec. 24 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Christmas dinners

Enjoy all the traditional Christmas foods, turkey, ham, dressing, potatoes, vegetables, salads, soup, dessert and drinks.

Dec. 18: Patriot Gardens Dining Facility on Underwood Kaserne from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cost is \$4.55 to \$5.25.

Dec. 23: Pioneer Dining Facility from noon to 4 p.m. Meal prices are \$4.55 to \$5.25.

Band and choir concert

The Hanau High School will host a combined band and choir concert Tuesday Dec. 9 at 6 p.m. in the cafeteria.

Christmas markets

Aschaffenburg: To Dec. 22, Monday to Saturday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Büdingen: Dec. 12-14

Frankfurt: To Dec. 22, daily 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Fulda: To Dec. 22, daily 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Giessen: To Dec. 21, daily 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Hanau: To Dec. 21, daily noon to 8 p.m.

Hanau/Grossauheim: Dec. 14, 1-8 p.m.

Heidelberg: To Dec. 22, daily 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Maintal-Doernigheim: Dec. 13-14, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Mainz: To Dec. 23, Monday to Friday, 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Nürnberg: To Dec 24, Monday to Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Thursday to Saturday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sunday 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Dec. 24, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Ortenberg: Dec. 13-14

Ronneburg Castle: Dec. 13-14, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Rothenburg ob der Tauber: To Dec. 21, Monday to Friday 12:30-7 p.m.; Saturday 10:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; Sunday 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Ruedesheim: To Dec. 21, Wednesday to Friday 2-8 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Wiesbaden: To Dec. 23, Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Sunday noon to 8 p.m.

Würzburg: To Dec. 23, Monday to Saturday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Community Information Channel

The Community Information Channel is coming to your TV. Look for it on AFN. It's one more new service from the 414th Base Support Battalion to provide the information you need to make your stay in Germany easier and more enjoyable. For everything to do in the area, pick up the Herald Union, Connection Magazine, listen to AFN and visit the 414th BSB website.





Bulletin board

At the movies Dec. 9-25

Baumholder, Wagon Wheel

- Dec. 11 — The Rundown (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 12 — The Matrix Revolutions (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 13 — Elf (PG) 4 p.m. The Matrix Revolutions (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 14 — Elf (PG) 4 p.m. The Underworld (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 18 — The Fighting Temptations (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 19 — Out Of Time (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 20 — Looney Tunes: Back In Action (G) 4 p.m. School Of Rock (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 21 — Looney Tunes: Back In Action (G) 4 p.m. Duplex (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Büdingen, Little

- Dec. 13 — Dickie Roberts: Former Child Star (PG) 3 p.m.

Dexheim, Rhein

- Dec. 12 — The Fighting Temptations (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 13 — The Underworld (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 14 — Looney Tunes: Back In Action (G) 3 p.m.
- Dec. 19 — School Of Rock (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 20 — Dr. Seuss' The Cat In The Hat (PG) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 21 — Duplex (PG-13) 3 p.m.

Friedberg, Old Ironsides

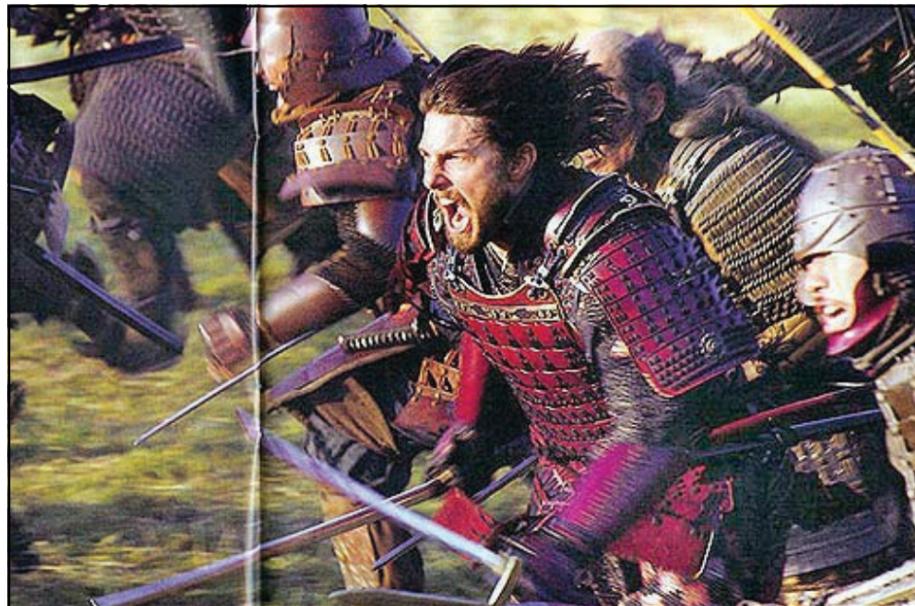
- Dec. 12 — Secondhand Lions (PG) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 13 — Once Upon A Time In Mexico (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 14 — The Order (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 16 — The Fighting Temptations (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 19 — The Rundown (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 20 — Underworld (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 21 — Duplex (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 23 — School Of Rock (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Giessen, Skyline

- Dec. 9-10 — Radio (PG) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 12 — The Fighting Temptations (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 13 — The Rundown (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 14 — Freaky Friday (PG) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 16 — Freddy Vs. Jason (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 17 — The Underworld (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 19 — School Of Rock (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 20 — Duplex (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 21 — Out Of Time (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 23-24 — Underworld (R) 7 p.m.

Hanau, Evening Star

- Dec. 9 — The Order (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 10 — Secondhand Lions (PG) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 11 — Once Upon A Time In Mexico



Capt. Nathan Algren (Tom Cruise), an American military officer, leads his troops into battle while training the Japanese army in "The Last Samurai."

- (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 12 — The Haunted Mansion (PG) 7 p.m. The Underworld (R) 9:30 p.m.
- Dec. 13 — The Haunted Mansion (PG) 7 p.m. The Fighting Temptations (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.
- Dec. 14 — The Haunted Mansion (PG) 4 p.m. The Rundown (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 15 — The Fighting Temptations (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 16 — The Underworld (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 17 — The Fighting Temptations (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 18 — The Underworld (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 19 — School Of Rock (PG-13) 7 p.m. The Last Samurai (R) 9:30 p.m.
- Dec. 20 — Duplex (PG-13) 7 p.m. The Last Samurai (R) 9:30 p.m.
- Dec. 21 — The Last Samurai (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 22 — Out Of Time (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 23 — School Of Rock (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 24 — Duplex (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Rhein Main, Gardens

- Dec. 10 — Dr. Seuss' The Cat In The Hat (PG) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 12 — The Underworld (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 13 — Elf (PG) 2 p.m. The Rundown (PG-13) 5 p.m. The Matrix Revolutions (R) 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 14 — The Fighting Temptations (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 17 — The Haunted Mansion (PG) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 19 — School Of Rock (PG-13) 7 p.m.

- Dec. 20 — Looney Tunes: Back In Action (G) 5 p.m. Duplex (PG-13) 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 21 — Out Of Time (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 24 — The Last Samurai (R) 7 p.m.

Wackernheim, McCully

- Dec. 11 — Once Upon A Time In Mexico (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 17 — The Under-

world (R) 7 p.m.

Wiesbaden, Flyers

- Dec. 11 — Dr. Seuss' The Cat In The Hat (PG) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 12 — The Fighting Temptations (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 13 — The Underworld (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 18 — The Haunted Mansion (PG) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 19 — Duplex (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 20 — School Of Rock (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Wiesbaden, Taunus

- Dec. 9 — Freddy Vs. Jason (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 10 — Matchstick Men (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 11 — Cold Creek Manor (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 12 — Dr. Seuss' The Cat In The Hat (PG) 7 p.m. The Underworld (R) 9:30 p.m.
- Dec. 13 — Dr. Seuss' The Cat In The Hat (PG) 4 and 7 p.m. The Fighting Temptations (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.
- Dec. 14 — Dr. Seuss' The Cat In The Hat (PG) 4 p.m. The Fighting Temptations (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 15 — Dr. Seuss' The Cat In The Hat (PG) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 16 — The Fighting Temptations (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 17 — The Underworld (R) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 18 — The Rundown (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 19 — The Haunted Mansion (PG) 7 p.m. School Of Rock (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.
- Dec. 20 — The Haunted Mansion (PG) 4 and 7 p.m. Duplex (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.
- Dec. 21 — The Haunted Mansion (PG) 4 p.m. Out Of Time (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 22 — The Haunted Mansion (PG) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 23 — School Of Rock (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 24 — Santa Clause 2 (PG) 7 p.m.
- Dec. 25 — Dr. Seuss' The Cat In The Hat (PG) 4 p.m. The Haunted Mansion (PG) 7 p.m.

Movies and times subject to change by local theaters. For the most up-to-date schedule visit the ASG's website (see address below).

Movie plots

The Last Samurai (R) — Capt. Nathan Algren (Tom Cruise), an American military officer, is hired by the Emperor of Japan to train the country's army in the art of modern warfare. As the government attempts to eradicate the ancient samurai warrior class, Algren finds himself affected by his encounters with the samurai, which places him at the center of a struggle between two eras and two worlds.

The Haunted Mansion (PG) — Workaholic real-estate agent Jim Evers (Eddie Murphy) drags his family to creepy Gracey Mansion in hopes of rebuilding it into a lavish condo development. When they get there the family finds they're not alone — not when ghosts come out to socialize. It's up to Jim to break the curse and rediscover a family that needs him.

School Of Rock (PG-13) — After being fired from his band, guitarist and singer Dewey Finn (Jack Black) gets a job as a fourth-grade substitute teacher at a private school. With his free living ways, attitude and quirky antics he starts to influence the students and at the same time prepares them for a battle of the bands.

Dr. Seuss' The Cat In The Hat (PG) — A little boy and girl sit around bored on a rainy day while their mother is out until the Cat in the Hat shows up. He proceeds to trash the house. But just in the nick of time he cleans up his fun and tips his hat and runs. Stars Mike Myers and Alec Baldwin.

Duplex (PG-13) — Set in the competitive world of New York City real estate, a couple (Drew Barrymore and Ben Stiller), whose dream home is a converted duplex apartment in the perfect neighborhood, decide to kill the old lady (Eileen Essell) who's living there, or else they'll never get it.

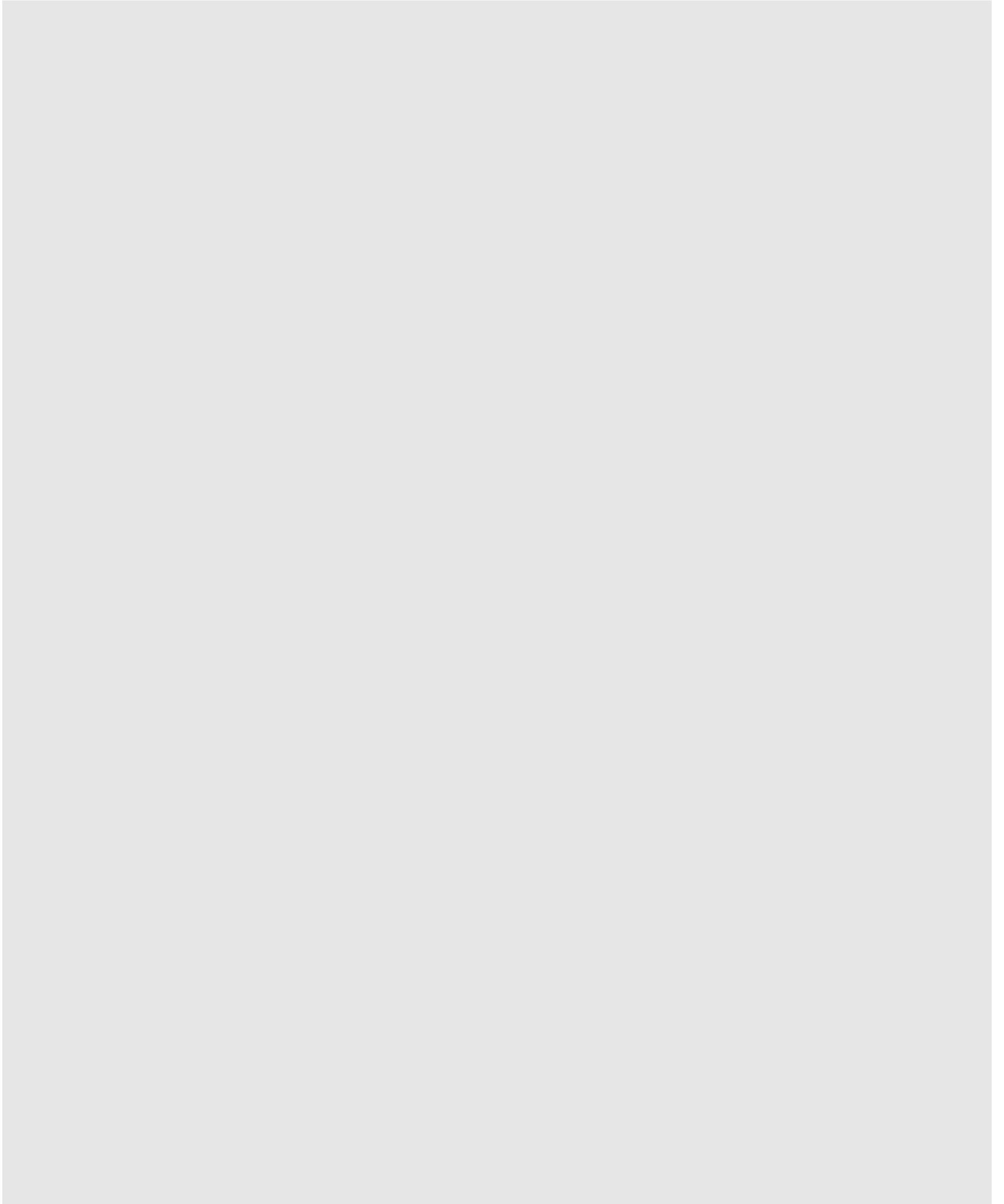
The Fighting Temptations (PG-13) — Hip-hop producer Darrin (Cuba Gooding Jr.) from Los Angeles is called back to his Alabama hometown when his wealthy aunt dies to collect a sizeable inheritance. The catch? He has to form a gospel choir and lead them to success to collect it. Also stars Mike Epps, Beyonce Knowles and Faith Evans.

Looney Tunes: Back In Action (PG) — Tired of playing second fiddle to Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck decides to leave Warner Brothers. The studio's vice president of comedy, Kate Houghton (Jenna Elfman), instructs security guard/aspiring stuntman DJ Drake (Brendan Fraser) to escort Daffy off the studio lot. DJ discovers his famous movie star father Damian Drake (Timothy Dalton), known for playing suave international spies onscreen, has been kidnapped by the nefarious Mr. Chairman (Steve Martin). With Daffy in tow, DJ hits the road in a desperate attempt to save his father and the world.



Eddie Murphy confronts a ghost in "The Haunted Mansion."

Herald Union classifieds



Winter Challenge motivates students

Hanau area youths raise funds to attend Berchtesgaden games

By Karl Weisel

104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

A self-help project at Hanau High School and community support is providing handicapped students with “real-world” skills while helping raise needed funds to pay for their lodging and food at the upcoming Winter Challenge.

Students in Larry Sentner’s daily living skills class at Hanau High and Middle School are looking forward to this year’s Winter Challenge to be held in January 2004 knowing their hard work and fund-raising efforts will help cover the expense of Hanau students participating at the annual winter games for moderately to severely handicapped youths in Berchtesgaden.

While the event is sponsored and funded by the Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe, this year local schools must pick up the tab for accommodations and meals of Winter Challenge competitors.

With four Hanau High School and two Hanau Middle School students slated to take part, that originally amounted to a total of about \$1,800 or roughly \$300 per student.

“I didn’t think we would make it,” said Sentner when he first found out the school would have to incur the cost of meals and lodging. “It just seemed so overwhelming. It was an enormous amount of money to fund raise.”

After brainstorming, Sentner said high school students began baking items to be sold to fellow students during morning break at the high school. “In our daily living class we bake brownies and make cookies,” said Sentner. “These kids are getting really good at it.”

Not only are the students doing something for themselves and gaining confidence in the kitchen, they are also learning more about handling money and dealing with customers — their fellow students and teachers — during the bake sales, he said. “All the little things that we just take for granted, they’re getting really good at. ... And they’ve just blossomed through the effort.”

A chart on the classroom wall tracks the progress



Photo by Karl Weisel

Dedicated aide Linda Heise helps Hanau High School student Desiree Baker prepare to bake a cake. Larry Sentner’s daily living skills class at Hanau High and Middle School baked and sold goods to raise money to enable them to attend the Winter Challenge to be held in January in Berchtesgaden.

students have made in their fund-raising effort. “The kids are excited about it. They’re seeing it happen. They’re also getting an idea of how much work is involved in making baked goods and raising money,” Sentner said. “We go over to the commissary to get the ingredients we need, clip coupons and they learn how to buy items such as the oil and brownie mixes.”

“I’m excited about going,” said Kimberly Gayheart as she was preparing a batch of brownies to be sold during a Hanau

High morning nutrition break. “We ski, sled and dance at the Winter Challenge. We also learn things.”

“I like making new friends there,” said fellow high school student Remy Washington as she displayed a fresh batch of muffins. “I really like tubing, and the hotel’s pretty cool.”

While the bake sales were bringing in about \$30 a week, Sentner said, they soon realized more money would be needed if they were going to have enough to send all six students.

After contacting the school’s Booster Club and spreading the word about the student’s self-help efforts, the Hanau Community Spouses Club and Army and Air Force Exchange Service volunteered to sponsor one student each. The Booster Club also helped arrange for the students to raise money by wrapping presents at the Post Exchange and Army Post Office.

“We spread the word around and a lot of people supported the effort,” said Bianca Moton, Hanau Community Spouses Club president. “It was amazing to see how the community responded.”

“About the same time we found that DoDDS officials had renegotiated with the Berchtesgaden hotel to lower the costs of accommodations and we would only need about \$200 per student,” said Sentner. With their chart showing that fund-raising efforts have surpassed the two-thirds mark, the students figure they should have no trouble meeting their goal.

Broadening perspectives

“It’s an absolutely marvelous community. As someone who is relatively new here, I was just deeply touched by the generosity of the Hanau community and the amount of help and support,” said Sentner. “It’s broadened my whole perspective about what goes on here and expanded my field of awareness of what can be done.”

Community members can help support the fund-raising effort by stopping by the school’s gift wrap table at the entrance of the Hanau PX Dec. 10 and 17.

For more information about the Hanau Community Spouses Club which annually raises about \$45,000 a year — 60 percent of which goes to local scholarships and the rest to support local organizations — call Bianca Moton at civ (0160)91052378.

School bits

Winter recess

Department of Defense Dependents Schools will close for winter holiday recess Dec. 22 to Jan. 3. Classes resume Jan. 5.

Accelerated withdrawal

Families about to PCS should bear in mind that children enrolled in DoDDS schools must attend classes through Dec. 10 to receive credit for academic activity in the fall semester. (Heidelberg District Superintendent’s Office Release)

Scholarship news

The 2004 Scholarships for Military Children program is under way. For details and applications go to their website at www.militaryscholar.org.

College bound call-in

American Forces Network radio will air a call-in show Dec. 17 beginning at 9 a.m. to address transition issues for high school seniors and their parents. Recent Depart-

ment of Defense Dependents Schools graduates will address call-in questions about moving on to college. (DoDDS Europe Release)

‘Sauerkraut meets Hamburger’

A cultural exchange program hosted by the Youth Work of the Federation of German-American Clubs will bring American and German youth, ages 14-18, together Feb. 20-23 at Kloster Benediktbeuren, south of Munich. The program includes discussions, sports and a field trip. Cost is 70 euros or the equivalent in dollars. The limited number of places available will be filled on a first come, first served basis. Call or email Barbara Klein at civ (0711) 2368 690 or bklein1003@aol.com for details.

SAT, ACT tests

The filing deadline for the Scholastic Aptitude Test to be administered Jan. 24 is Dec. 22. See your school guidance counselor for assistance. The ACT test will be administered Feb. 7. Registration must be complete by Jan. 23. Call Janice Martin at civ (06181) 9069939 in Hanau or Larry Nosel at civ (0611) 705-6319 for information.



Photo by Donald Seltzer

Give me one with everything on it

Wiesbaden American Middle School sixth-grader Scott O’Donnell buys the first personal pan pizza at the new Pizza Hut Express franchise located in Wiesbaden’s Army Community Service. Students can now purchase pizza for lunch, and residents of Crestview, Aukamm and Hainerberg can order pizzas at the first such AAFES franchise in Europe.

Sports and leisure

Sports shorts



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Matthew Jemmott races to win Giessen's 10-K Turkey Trot Nov. 22.

Turkey Trot winners

Eleven runners braved the elements to compete in the 284th Base Support Battalion's 10-Kilometer Turkey Trot race at Giessen's Schiffenberg Castle Nov. 22. Giessen's **Matthew Jemmott** was the fastest finisher in 44 minutes and 59 seconds. Hanau's **Gail Gilderoy** was the fastest woman runner finishing in 52:45. Other winners were: Giessen's **Teresa Shreve**, first place Female Youth; Friedberg's **Sabine Dutler-Schack**, first place Female Masters; Giessen's **Mark Pezel**, first place Male Seniors; and **Arnold Obey**, first place Male Masters.

Racquetball tourney

Giessen's Miller Hall holds a Holiday Racquetball Invitational Dec. 20-21. Cost to enter is \$20. Call mil 343-7201.

Shooting contests

The Heidelberg Rod and Gun Club holds a **Practical Shooting Confederation Pistol Competition** Dec. 13 at 10 a.m. The German Hunting Federation hosts a **Year Needle (pin) Shoot** at the Heidelberg Rod and Gun Club also Dec. 13 at 10 a.m. The club features a **Trap and Skeet Competition Shoot** Dec. 20 at 10 a.m. For more information and directions to the club in Oftersheim call civ (06202) 51193 or browse to www.hunterjager.com.

Getting fit

Giessen's Miller Hall Fitness Center features the following classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays: **spin classes** at 4:45 p.m., **ab-lab** 5:30 p.m., **power ab** 5:45 p.m., **ab-lab** 6:30 p.m.

Butzbach classes held at Butzbach Elementary School's multi-purpose room are: **step and stretch** Tuesdays at 7 p.m., **kick and cardio** Thursdays at 7 p.m.

Friedberg Fitness Center holds: **step** Mondays at 11:30 a.m., **interval** Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m. and **aerobic interval sessions** Fridays at 11:30 a.m.

Take a hike: Get out and go volksmarching

By Donald Seltzer
Special to the Herald
Union



Readers are asked to pick up an extra set of event brochures for this column and mail them via MPS to 104th ASG, *Herald Union* Volksmarch, Unit 20193 Box 0001, APO AE 09165-0001.

Weekend of Dec. 13-14

Daxweiler — This walk offers a chance to enjoy the Soonwald forest west of Bingen. From points east take Autobahns 60 and 61 west past Bingen. Exit at Stromberg to follow unnumbered roads and IVV signs through Warmsroth to Daxweiler.

Start: Hause der Gemeinde **Saturday and Sunday:** 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. (5 and 10 km) **Trail:** Hilly, mostly woods **Award:** IVV credit only.

Elsenfeld am Main — This walk is east of Darmstadt, south of Aschaffenburg and offers scenic trails in the Naturpark Spessart. From Darmstadt and Babenhausen follow B-26 to connect with B-45 south to Höchst, follow B-426 toward Obernburg, cross the Main River and take an unnumbered road a short distance to Elsenfeld. From Hanau take Autobahn 45 south to exit 46 at Mainhausen. Pick up B-469 south to Obernburg, cross the river and drive briefly north to the start.

Start: Bürgerzentrum **Saturday:** 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (6 and 12 km) **Sunday:** 8 a.m. to noon (6 and 12 km) **Trail:** Hilly, woods **Award:** From previous events. **Note:** Saturday torchwalk begins at 4 p.m.

Weekend of Dec. 20-21

Grossseelheim — This event is north east of Giessen and offers a scenic drive to the start. From Giessen take B-3 toward Marburg to pick up an unnumbered road toward Kirchain to the start. From Fulda take B-254 and B-62 toward Alsfeld and Kirchain to Grossseelheim.

Start: Bürgerhaus **Sunday:** 8 a.m. to noon (5 and 10 km) **Trail:** Hilly, woods **Award:** From previous events.

Weekend of Dec. 27-28

Wiesbaden-Delkenheim — This event is just off Autobahn 66 east of Wiesbaden; the Army airfield is directly west

of Delkenheim. It's a pleasant way to spend the year's final weekend with friends and family. An amusing and entertaining show is presented in the start hall each day after noon. Drivers should follow Autobahn 66 toward Wiesbaden and take the Wiesbaden-Nordenstadt exit. Head toward Delkenheim and follow IVV signs to the start and remote parking areas.

Start: Bürgerhaus **Saturday and Sunday:** 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (12 km) **Trail:** Mostly flat, stroller-friendly, fields **Award:** From previous events. **Note:** Designated parking lot is a distance from start.

Monday, Dec. 29

Hof/Westerwald — This event north of Limburg and west of Giessen offers wanderers the scenery of the Hoher Westerwald. Follow Autobahn 45 to the Herborn-West exit, then take B-255 and B-414 west to Hof.

Start: Mehrzweckhalle **Monday:** 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. (5, 10 and 15 km) **Trail:** Very hilly, woods **Award:** Model truck.

New Year's Day

Nieder-Wiesem — Ring in 2004 with a volksmarch.

This event is south-southeast of Bad Kreuznach and accessible via Autobahn 63 south of Mainz. Bring boots if the weather is or has been wet — trails in years past have been muddy. Drivers should pick up A-63 southbound from Mainz toward

Alzey. Exit at Erbes-Büdesheim to follow unnumbered roads through Erbes-Büdesheim and Nack to the start.

Start: Gemeindezentrum **Wednesday:** 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. (5 and 10 km) **Trails:** Fairly hilly, fields and woods **Award:** From previous events.

Weekend of Jan. 3-4

Bretzenheim/Nahe — This event is just north of Bad Kreuznach. I've taken wrong turns every time I've walked the trails here so be sure to pay attention to trail markings. Head to Bad Kreuznach and take B-48 north to Bretzenheim. From points east take Autobahn 60 toward Bingen, continuing at its end on the two-lane road to Gensingen. Follow IVV direction signs to

Langenlonsheim and Bretzenheim.

Start: Sportplatz Schlossgarten **Saturday and Sunday:** 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. (5 and 10 km) **Trail:** Somewhat hilly, vineyards **Award:** From previous events.

Weekend of Jan. 10-11

Dietkirchen — This walk brings volksmarchers north to the Limburg area. Take Autobahn 3 toward Köln and exit at Limburg-Süd. Take B-3 to Lindenhofshausen and pick up an unnumbered road to Eschhofen and Dietkirchen. Watch for IVV direction signs.

Start: Dorfgemeinschaftshaus **Saturday:** 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. (5 and 10 km) and 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (20 km) **Sunday:** 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (5, 10 and 20 km) **Trail:** Hilly, woods **Award:** Tablecloth.

Marpingen — This event is southwest of Neubrück, too far for readers from all but the westernmost communities of the 104th Area Support Group. From Idar-Oberstein follow B-41 to Neubrück, then continue south on B-41 to B-269 and Winterbach and Alsweiler. Follow an unnumbered road five kilometers to Marpingen. From Baumholder connect with Autobahn 62 at Freisen, exit at Birkenfeld to pick up B-41 at Neubrück, and follow the same directions to the start.

Start: Schulzentrum **Saturday and Sunday:** 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. (6 and 10 km) **Trail:** Expect hills and woods **Award:** Ceramic cartoon mouse figurine.

Weekend of Jan. 17-18

Dickenschied — This walk is in the Hunsrück region west of Bingen, roughly midway between Bad Kreuznach and Idar-Oberstein. The area is known for its scenic beauty and year-round series of walking trails. From points east take Autobahns 60 and 61 toward Bingen and Koblenz. Exit at Rheinböllen and follow B-50 and B-421 to Kirchberg and Dickenschied. From Idar-Oberstein follow B-41 toward Bad Kreuznach, then pick up B-421 northbound toward Kirchberg to reach Dickenschied.

Start: Bürgerhaus **Saturday and Sunday:** 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. (5, 10 and 15 km) **Trails:** Hilly, fields and woods **Award:** From previous events.



Biathlon



Photo by Dennis Johnson

Biathlon winner Benjamin Martinelli changes shoes between the bike and foot races.

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Military Police Company in Hanau was the fastest woman finisher with a time of 2:31:01.

"This is my first time for any sort of competition like this. It was fabulous, I loved it. It was very challenging; the mud was all over the place. I slid off my bike and had to stop and unclog the mud from my bike, from my shoes, from everything," said Vasquez.

Other first place winners were **Heath Drako** (MWR staff) and **Walter Johnston** Men's Seniors, **Gregory Duke** Men's Sub-Masters, **James R. Buerer** Men's Masters and **Nancy Drose** Women's Sub-Masters. (Editor's note: *Jessica Winter, a member of the Laufen Crew running club and the 104th ASG's Transportation Division, was first in the Women's Seniors category despite her 20-minute detour through the muddy vineyards outside Dexheim's Anderson Barracks*)

Sports and leisure

Dexheim Biathlon offers muddy challenge

By Jessica Winter
104th Area Support Group
transportation specialist

As competitors warmed up and made final adjustments to their bikes they barely realized what was in store for them on the course of the

Dexheim Biathlon Turkey Trot Nov. 22. All of their training — long hours of running, strength training in the gym and miles of pedaling — was poor preparation for what would be the real challenge of this 20K bike ride and 10K run.

At the starting gun, the competitors pedaled off along a reasonably hard-packed dirt trail. Lurking over the first hill lay the first adversary of the day. As the first two riders charged into the muddy valley and promptly wiped out, the rest

passed on the right to stay clear (and clean) of the bike-eating mud, but only with brief success.

As the bikers continued they gathered so much mud they literally ground to a stop. Mud jammed forks, piled up in brakes and even tore off bike pieces. This mud was so thick and sticky riders needed to stop every 30 yards to scoop it off their tires and spokes with their fingers.

The mucky battle went on for the entire first 10-K loop. The mud was more tiresome than the race itself and was reflected in competitors' times. On the second loop the riders tried a different strategy. They carried their bikes around the mud holes and re-mounted to ride when on firm ground.

Going sightseeing

But more surprises awaited. Halfway through the second loop, this racer took a wrong turn after misjudging the markers. After heading the wrong way for about 20 minutes and finally getting back on course it was time to park the mud-choked bike, peel off my crusty

gloves and jacket and start running.

Running the 10-K was a breeze compared to the biking, despite the mud-glued shoes. It began to drizzle and the wind picked up, but that's a normal November day in Germany.

At the awards ceremony, the muddy competitors were filled in on all the news of the race. After the first 10-K loop, it was apparent who had real mountain biking experience. Benjamin Martinelli was out in front and would stay in the lead to the end. Martinelli, a clarinet player with the U.S. Army Europe Band in Heidelberg won the Turkey Trot with a time of 1:32:06.

"It was a little tougher, more technical because of the mud, but it's fun to have a race in the off-season so I can train all year," said Martinelli. "I took a couple hard falls, but that's all part of the sport."

When asked if the lung control of playing a clarinet helped his biking, he said, "No, I don't think so. I think it's that I train every day."

Tristan Vasquez of the 127th
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Photo by Dennis Johnson

Competitors take off at the start of the Dexheim Biathlon Nov. 22. The event, run through the vineyards outside Anderson Barracks, featured a 20-kilometer bike race and a 10-K run.