

Baseball pros make time to mentor military youth

Lucky Baumholder youth were treated to a baseball clinic and then traded swings in a friendship game with members of Northern League baseball teams June 14 at Iron Soldiers Field.

Traveling with the players was a team of radio personalities from Kansas City who provided hometown interview opportunities to family members claiming Kansas City as their hometown.

Kansas City residents lined up at the Rheinlander June 14 to send a live or recorded radio message home.

Stepping up to the plate with Baumholder youth were Lyle Prempas, pitcher for the

Schaumburg Flyers; Rickie Morton, outfielder, Joliet Jackhammers; and Ian Church, outfielder, Lincoln Saltdogs, who is also a military brat, his father and grandfather both having served.

These professional players took time away from their teams in the middle of the season just to visit and mentor Army Europe youth in communities that have seen heavy deployments.

Two former major league players also joined the tour: Mike Marshall, Northern League Director of Baseball Operations, who played for the Dodgers, Mets and Red Sox, 1981-91; and Darryl Motley, Kansas City T-Bones coach,

who played for the Royals, 1981-86, and for the world champs in 1985 were on hand.

Northern League Youth Baseball Clinics were also scheduled for Schweinfurt, Butzbach and Hanau.

Their visit is just the beginning of the 2004 Army Europe MWR Summer Shout Out, a youth role model program that will extend into the fall. The Northern League tour was sponsored by Installation Management Agency - Europe MWR, in cooperation with Armed Forces Entertainment.

More information on the MWR Summer Shout program is available on the web site www.mwr-europe.com.



Photos by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Above, two members of the Northern League work with a Baumholder youth at Iron Soldiers Field. At right, a youth receives bating instruction from a member of the Northern League.



Youth trips

Baumholder Youth Services offers a variety of trips for youth this summer. Everything from swimming to go carting is offered. Members and nonmembers are welcome on all these tours. The trips are free for youth whose sponsor is or has been deployed to Iraq.

If more youth are interested than spaces allow, a fair system will be used to determine who goes. The following trips are scheduled.

- June 22, Azur Pool, Ramstein (6th-12th grade)
- June 24, Cascade Pool, Bitburg (6th-12th grade)
- June 25, Zoo, Saarbrücken (6th-8th grade and family)
- June 26, Go Carting, Kaiserslautern (9th-12th grade)
- June 29, Calypso Pool, Saarbrücken (6th-12th grade)
- July 1, Eifel Park, Bitburg (6th-12th grade)
- July 3, Freedom Fest, Ramstein (6th-12th grade)
- July 8, Auto Tech Museum,



- Speyer (6th-12th grade)
- July 10, Remagen (6th-12th grade)
- July 13, Bellamar Pool, Mannheim (6th-12th grade)
- July 17, Walibi Lorraine Park, France (6th-12th grade)
- July 20, Swimming Pool, Kusel (6th-12th grade)
- July 22, Warner Brothers, Bottrop (6th-12th grade)
- July 24, Ropes Climbing, Heidelberg (6th-12th grade)
- July 27, Cascade Pool, Bitburg (6th-12th grade)
- Aug. 3, Miramar Pool, Weinheim (6th-12th grade)
- Aug. 5, Zoo, Saarbrücken (6th-

- 12th grade and family)
 - Aug. 10, Azur Pool, Ramstein (6th-12th grade)
 - Aug. 14, Six Flags, Belgium (6th-12th grade)
 - Aug. 24, Pyramide Pool, Hambachtal (6th-12th grade)
 - Aug. 26, Holiday Park, Hassloch (6th-12th grade)
 - Aug. 28, Shopping, Heidelberg and Mannheim (6th-12th grade)
 - Sept. 4, Phantasia Land, Bruehl (6th-12th grade)
- For more information call the Teen Café at mil 485-6731; the Underground at mil 485-6937; or Youth Services at mil 485-7276.



Children invade food court, movie theater

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office.

The Baumholder Food Court was crawling with customers when students from Smith Elementary School showed up in force June 8 to celebrate the end of school with a meal and a movie. About 200 kindergarten through second grade children and several parents showed up to enjoy a special offer by the food court that included a meal followed by an afternoon viewing of "Brother Bear" at the Wagon Wheel Theater.

"We wanted to do something special for the children," said Tina Colon, food court manager. And special it was.

The food court was packed to capacity with children and parents. "We have 200 chairs in this food court, including Taco Bell, so we were full," said Colon.

"It went really well. We rang up 186 meals for the kids," said Colon. A special price was extended to the children for the movie, explained

Colon. A special toy was also provided with their meals.

"We're here for the community. We do special things for the community. They just need to come forward. The next project we're working on is for the after school CYS summer program," she said.

Colon what's the community to know the food court is here and available for the community. "All they need to do is call me, send me a message, or stop by and we can help," she said. Colon may be reached by calling civ (06783) 5025.

As the children dug into boxes of chicken and fries, Gloria Finch, Smith Elementary School teacher, said "This is a field trip to celebrate the end of the school year and the food court is helping us out. We also have several parents who brought other children along who are not from Smith Elementary," she said.

All children in the Baumholder community received a special treat this year as the official end of school was moved up one day from June 10 to June 9.



By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Gloria Finch, far left, enjoys a meal with about 200 children at the food court. Finch coordinated the end of the school year field trip with the food court manager, Tina Colon, who provided the children with a special reduced price that included a meal and a movie.

Something for everyone at 4th of July

Music, food and fun highlight Baumholder's traditional Fourth of July celebration. The entertainment, rides and food will be set up in the parking lot in front of the Hall of Champions.

The celebration opens at 11 a.m. and the entertainment begins at noon.

Featured music will include Reggae by the group All That Reggae; rock by Mallet; soul and blues by the Kim Greene Group; pop by the girl group Devotion; hip hop by Poetry "N" Motion; rap by The B Boy vocal group; and jazz by a group from Holland. There's also top 40 and country entertainment. There's virtually something for everyone, including the dance group Delicious.

Contests lined up include a pie

eating contest for adults and youth; jalapenos eating contest for adults; frozen t-shirt contest for adults and youth; and a fear factor contest for adults and youth.

Several activities are also planned for the younger crowd. They include: play dough fun, bubbles, fishing pond, ring toss, obstacle course, dunk tank, pie in the face and a petting zoo.

Of course, no Fourth of July would be complete without fireworks. The "ooohs" and "aaahs" of this year's aerial display begin at 11:30 p.m.

For more times and details of the day's activities go to the Baumholder web site at www.baumholder.army.mil. Contest description and rules are also available on the web site.



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Family members enjoy the entertainment during last year's Fourth of July celebration.

Neubrück gym renovation reaches milestone

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

A project to renovate the gym at

Neubrück reached a milestone when control of the facility was returned to Hoppstädten-Weiersbach city officials in a ceremony at the county

commissioner's office in Birkenfeld June 7.

Manfred Dreier, chairman of the Zweckverband Umweltcampus (environmental university) at Birkenfeld and Lt. Col. Todd A. Buchs, 222nd Base Support Battalion commander, signed a joint use agreement that will allow the facility to be open to the public once it has been renovated. Dreier is also the mayor of the district of Birkenfeld. The environmental university will be providing alternate gym facilities to the U.S. military and family members during renovation.

After undergoing a one-year renovation, the facility will reopen under the joint use agreement between the U.S. military, the German university at Neubrück and the community of Neubrück.

For the next three weeks, U.S. officials will continue to run the facility. After that, the university will take control and have bilingual

personnel operating the facility.

Once the facility closes for renovation, U.S. military and family members will continue to use the university gym and U.S. school children will be bussed to the school gym at Hoppstädten. The fitness center will then be relocated to another building in Neubrück.

After renovation "we will pay a fee to help offset the labor costs. They will then provide all the labor and run the operation," said Jeff Mielkus, BOD manager. "But instead of having an operation that is open just a few days a week we'll have an operation with extended hours," he said.

"It will be a brand new renovated facility and in the agreement we will get priority on most of the good workout times. It's absolutely a win-win situation for everybody," said Mielkes.

This project has been long in the making. "Our paperwork was first

submitted in August of 1998," said Klaus Hyde, a member of the 222nd Base Support Battalion directorate of public works.

The gym renovation project has involved numerous German agencies, of which all had representative present during the official signing at the county commissioner's office. Axel Redmer, county commissioner, hosted the event.

The mayor of Hoppstädten, Arnold Meiborg, along with representatives from IMA-E and the 104th Area Support Group were also on hand as well as representatives from the state ministry of interior, community council representatives of the promotion association.

Meiborg is the founder of the initiative to make the gym available to both German and American communities. The vice president of the environmental campus, Trier, Birkenfeld, Michael Bottlinger, also witnessed the signing.



Photo by Bernd "Bernie" Mai

Lt. Col. Todd A. Buchs, 222nd Base Support commander, signs the Neubrück gym joint use agreement in the presence of Mayor Manfred Dreier, mayor of the district of Birkenfeld; Axel Redmer, county commissioner from Birkenfeld; and Arnold Meiborg, mayor of Hoppstaedten-Weiersbach.

High school graduation beamed live to parents in Iraq

Baumholder American High School said good-bye to 37 students June 4 during the school's graduation ceremony. Of the 37 graduates, 20 have parents deployed to Iraq but those parents did not miss their child's graduation. As a family support initiative, The Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe partnered with United States Army Europe and a number of other military and civilian activities to broadcast high school graduations to the desert. This enabled deployed soldiers in Iraq to see the events in real time.

Some American military commu-

nities were more heavily impacted by deployments than others, particularly in 1st Infantry Division and 1st Armored Division Communities in Europe. A total of 14 DoD High Schools, all located in Germany, were involved in the initiative. The only other high school more affected by the deployment was Wuersburg with 44 of its 98 graduates having deployed parents. "This event is an example of how the U.S. Army in Europe and DoD Schools 'go the extra mile' to take care of soldiers and families. The result has been a wonderful partnership in the family support

arena that helps students better cope with deployments and family separations," said Frank X. O'Gara, DoDDS Europe public affairs officer. Arrangements were made for parents to gather down range for a dinner and to view the graduation. Immediately following the graduation there was a video teleconferencing session with each parent and student.

The graduation was also video taped and aired on AFN.

This year's graduates include: Tyrone L. Pryor, Danilo Marko Holzel, Kyle Vincent Harris

Michael Anthony Norwood, Desiderio V. Fierro, Devaughn Daniel Hall, Ricardo J. Estrada, Tetriana Nicole Grant, Whitney Rashawn Sims, Ricardo A. Reyna, Tiffany Elaine-Latoya McNeil, Ryan Cruz, Monica J. Reed, Alexandria M. Gilbert, Christina R. Olson, Cortney Chanel Parks, Ryan Scott Morton, Sylennia Renea Andrews, Julienn R. Sanchez, Megan Nicole Winger

Kellen C. Bloomer, Erinn Ashley Malone, Shaundeen C. Benally, Andrew T. Sanchez II, Rodalla Gonzalez, Daniel Morrison, Emmett M. Wilson, Patrick J. Villarreal, Regina S. Fierro, Cassandra Marie Moss, Katie A. Tyler, Katherine E. Otterstedt, Tiffany N. Brown, Erica D. Gibson, Michelle L. Bennett, Jill A. Cannizzo, Megan Madison

Shooters readies for grand opening

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

Shooters, the latest initiative to improve the quality of life for soldiers and families on Baumholder holds a grand opening bash and ribbon cutting ceremony June 25 beginning at 3 p.m. There will be free food and drinks and there's no cover charge. The live entertainment begins at 8 p.m. Shooters is on the site of the old Rod and Gun Club but there are no peanut shells or sawdust on the floor of this new high energy entertainment club that caters to families and single soldiers alike.

The country corral atmosphere has been ditched and a new atmosphere prevails.

"We have a whole new atmosphere, new music, lots of new fun in the ballroom, plus we still have our restaurant open for lunch and for dinner and we're still doing home deliveries," said Mary Jane Spreier, Shooters manager.

"We're also playing all kinds of

music, everything anybody wants, for everybody," said Spreier.

Shooters is not just a family restaurant. "We cater to the entire community," said Spreier. "We serve lunch as we always did and yes, we now offer dining with a family atmosphere, but Shooters is also about nightly entertainment, with music to please the entire community. Tell us what you want and we'll feature it," said Spreier.

Shooters is an entirely new facility built around the old Rod and Gun Club.

"Everything is new, new ceilings, new walls, new furniture, everything," said Spreier.

The new look includes glittering walls and ceiling, two brand new bars, one in the ballroom and the other in the restaurant. A fog machine pumps out steam onto the dance floor where pulsing neon lights reflect off the clouds of artificial smoke to create an atmosphere compatible with any type of entertainment Shooters has lined up. There are two smoking areas which together, are about half as large as



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

The Shooters sign prominently advertises dining and dancing but that's not all the new facility offers.

the ballroom. They are equipped with retrofit equipment that sucks out all the smoke and provides a smoke-free environment in the facility.

There is still no smoking in the restaurant and in the ballroom.

"The club opens at 9 p.m. but the lunch and dinner hours will vary

for the family restaurant, which is part of the new Shooters dining and dancing concept.

Lunch is offered Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Dinner is Mondays, Tuesdays Wednesdays and Thursdays from 4:30-9 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays

from 4:30-10 p.m.; and Sundays from 5-9 p.m.

Breakfast is from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

Home delivery is offered during the lunch and dinner hours.

For all the details about what Shooters has to offer call Spreier at mil485-6345.