

## Humor emphasizes message of survival

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava  
U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder Public  
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Dave Roever walked into Baumholder's Hall of Champions where more than 800 Soldiers were waiting to hear him deliver a presentation about suicide prevention. As he entered the hall and mingled with some of the officials, Jose Blanco approached Roever, shook his hand and said "welcome home." Both men smiled, exchanged knowing glances and patted each other on the shoulder. When old friends meet such an exchange of greetings is understandable but these two men had never met before and Baumholder is not Roever's home.

Baumholder is, however the home of Champions and Roever is a champion. Roever is a Vietnam veteran who was seriously burned by a phosphorous grenade that exploded next to the right side of his head. Blanco, who is the director of Baumholder's Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security, is also a Vietnam veteran so this would explain their display of camaraderie as they met for the first time. But why did Blanco greet Roever by saying "welcome home?"

As Roever began his presentation the meaning of Blanco's greeting became clear. Vietnam veterans never received a welcome home after serving their country. There were no welcome home celebrations, no ticker parades, nothing. They were humiliated, degraded, spat upon and called everything from murderers to baby killers. They received no welcome home or thank you for the dangers they had faced and the sacrifices they had made.



Photo by Savannah Son

**Motivational speaker, Dave Roever, relays his personal experiences to Soldiers about hope and resilience. Roever, a Vietnam veteran seriously burned in combat traverses the world delivering a message of hope.**

Roever told his audience that returning Soldiers were even advised to remove their uniform and put on civilian clothes before leaving the airport.

As he continued with his motivational presentation, Roever talked about resilience, hope and love, weaving all of this together into a message of survival and of a strong desire to continue with life despite the serious injuries he received in combat.

He talked about never giving up hope and of the one moment that he did give up hope, which almost cost him his life. He talked about the love for his wife, who he had never betrayed or been unfaithful to.

Roever was shipped off to Vietnam shortly after his marriage, leaving his teenage bride behind only to return a different man, or so he imagined. Despite the extensiveness of his injuries, the love his wife had for him never faltered.

Roever also told the Soldiers to watch out for their battle buddies and to learn the tell tale signs that someone considering suicide may display. He related this message to having been in combat. After a while you develop a sense for your surrounding and you begin to feel and smell the danger in the air. "If something doesn't seem right, it probably isn't."

Roever peppered his message of love, survival and hope with a unique brand of humor, which served to fortify his message that if he could survive, anyone could. He added an excellent and tactful touch of humor as he talked about the moment he had lost all hope and had decided to take his life.

Lying in his hospital bed, he decided that he did not want to continue living and be a burden to his wife. He reached for the tube that was attached to the

bottle that was keeping him alive and disconnected it. He lay back on his bed and waited to die but nothing happened. "After a while I got hungry. I had pulled the wrong tube," he said.

He also added light to the moment when his wife first saw him in the hospital. He said that as his wife stood before him – him wearing nothing but gauze and bandages and she a mini skirt – she said to him, "Welcome home Davey. And I know that when she calls me 'Davey,' well, he, he he."

He added that he then asked his wife "How can you love me? I'm not handsome anymore. I'm so ugly." To this she responded, "You were never handsome in the first place."

For almost an hour Roever continued to relay his story of resilience and hope, intertwined with personal experiences and humor.

When it was over, Roever received an outstanding ovation from Baumholder Soldiers and a well deserved "welcome home."

*Note: Shortly after hearing Roever's presentation, a Soldier came forward to Army Community Service counselors and expressed his personal feelings about wanting to take his life. He told ACS counselors that Roever's speech gave him the hope that he needed not to give up. A life was saved.*



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

**Dave Roever mixes humor with fact and reality to get his message across to military audiences around the world.**

## Community joins wounded warriors in ride

Soldiers, family members, civilian employees and other military community members volunteered, rode, cheered and supported approximately 50 wounded warriors from the U.S., Germany, Romania, Norway, Poland, the U.K., Estonia and Latvia during Soldier Ride Germany community ride at Bostalsee, Germany Aug. 4.

“Our focus is to let the community know about the [Wounded Warrior Project] and the presence that wounded warriors have in Germany, whether they are American Soldiers or from coalition forces,” said Angela Hemmen, team leader for WWP’s Soldier Ride Texas. “The community can see who these warriors are, what they are doing and how much they accomplished, not just this week, but during their recovery in general. The [community ride] is a way to celebrate that and say thank you!”

Last year’s ride was the first European Soldier Ride sponsored by the WWP. Like last year’s, this ride is the culmination of the four-day WWP-hosted event held in Oberhambach. The event allows wounded warriors the opportunity to continue to rebuild their confidence and strength in a supportive environment.

“I have learned over the last two years, being here in Europe, the significant contribution that the Wounded Warrior Project makes to all the warriors,” said U.S. Army Europe Commanding General, Lt. Gen. Mark Hertling. “The logo of a warrior carrying another, we have all been through that. All of us



Photo by Julia Sullivan

**Approximately 50 wounded warriors from the U.S., Germany, Romania, Norway, Poland, the U.K., Estonia and Latvia participated in the second annual Soldier Ride at Bostalsee near Baumholder.**

have been where someone has carried us. I think what you will see today is a culmination of three days of riding and that the warriors are now prepared to carry others.”

The community ride also provides the wounded warriors the opportunity to promote their positive message of

recovery while encouraging community members to ride alongside, support from the route sidelines or volunteer to assist with the event.

“I think Germany has raised the standard for what we want Soldier ride to be. The partnership between the military commands and the WWP is incredible,”

said Hemmen on the unique relationship between the two organizations. “With the support of both the military and local communities, we have exceeded our expectation.”

For more photos on this year’s Soldier Ride Germany, visit the U.S. Army Europe Flickr page.



Photo by Julia Sullivan

**Supportive riders young and old joined the wounded warriors at Bostalsee.**



Photo by Julia Sullivan

**There was no shortage of spectators as wounded warriors and supporters made their way around the Bostalsee.**

## Local news transitions to Kaiserslautern American

By Ignacio "Iggly" Rubalcava

U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder Public Affairs Office

Baumholder news and information will transition from the Herald Union to the Kaiserslautern American newspaper in mid September.

The last Herald Union edition featuring Baumholder information will be delivered on Aug. 30.

Inclusion of Baumholder information in the Kaiserslautern American is expected to begin Sept. 14. At that time, distri-

bution of the Kaiserslautern American newspaper will begin in the Baumholder community. The Herald Union will continue to serve the Wiesbaden military community.

The Kaiserslautern American is a weekly newspaper so Baumholder residents can expect to see a new edition each Friday. "We see this as a win-win situation for the Baumholder community," said Lt. Col. Michael Sullivan, U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder commander. "Baumholder residents often utilize some

of the services within the Kaiserslautern community and the Kaiserslautern American advertises much of these services. Baumholder residents will also be able to stay more in tuned to what's happening in the Kaiserslautern community because the Kaiserslautern American will be delivered weekly to Baumholder," he said.

Transitioning to the Kaiserslautern American is a logical and practical transition for the USAG Baumholder Public Affairs staff, which

is responsible for publicizing news and information about the Baumholder community. "Our proximity to the Kaiserslautern community makes the Kaiserslautern American the right choice for us," said Madeleine Dwoiakowski, USAG Baumholder Public Affairs officer.

Transitioning to the Kaiserslautern American is another phase of the USAG Baumholder's realignment as an indirect reporting Garrison to USAG Kaiserslautern in October 2013. In a provisional

move, the USAG Baumholder transitioned as an indirect reporting garrison to USAG Baden-Württemberg July 1.

Currently, USAG Kaiserslautern is an indirect reporting garrison to USAG Baden-Württemberg.

USAG Baden-Württemberg is scheduled to close in the fall of 2013 and USAG Kaiserslautern will then become a direct reporting garrison.

At that time USAG Baumholder will realign as an indirect reporting garrison to USAG Kaiserslautern.

## Three youth garner wins at region, national competition

Baumholder students recently participated in the ImageMakers National Photography Contest and three Baumholder entrees went from regional to national competition and one took first place in its category. The winning student was Aisha Carter, age 8. Her photo "The Door" won first place nationally in the digital color category. The other two regional winners were Alexa McNabb, 12 years old and Jaime Rahmen, 12 years.

ImageMakers enables students to develop their creativity and cultural awareness through visual arts. The contest has five categories including color process, black and white process, alternative process, digital and photo essay.

The ImageMakers National Photography program encourages members to learn and practice various photography methods. The program includes a resource guide for local clubs, a national photography contest and a web site. The resource guide features eight sessions for three components: Beginner ImageMakers, Intermediate ImageMakers and Advanced ImageMakers.

The goal of each component is to teach the use of photography as an art and a vocation. Each component can stand on its own or members can graduate from one level to the next.



"The Door" by Aisha Carter



"The Tree" by Jaime Rahmen



"Half Pipe" by Alexa McNabb

## Around the rock...Around the rock

### Garrison closes for organizational day

The U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder holds its organizational day Sept. 7. All USAG Baumholder supporting facilities will be closed on that day. AAFES, commissary, medical clinic and dental clinic services and emergency services will remain open.

### Shock and rock challenge

Everyone is welcome to cheer on competitors during the Shock and Rock competition Aug. 16 at the U.S. airfield on the training area from noon to 4 p.m. then join in the celebration from 4-11 p.m. with live music by HSG – pure rock. Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation will be selling food and drinks. Unit teams should have five warriors of various ages.

### Lawn mower maintenance

Military housing residents who have lawn mowers issued to them from the U-Fix-It Store or the Directorate of Public Works can get maintenance or repair

work done on them at the DPW maintenance shop in Building 8420, located directly behind the vehicle inspection station.

If the repair is minor, such as replacing a cord or spark plug, the work can be done on the spot, providing the scheduled workload allows. Customers should call the DPW maintenance shop at mil 485-8420 first and explain the problem.

If the lawn mower is broken and beyond repair it needs to be returned to the U-Fix-It Store, Building 8665. For information about turning in a broken lawn mower call the U-Fix-It Store at mil 485-7375.

### Call before mailing packages

Post office customers who you have five or more packages to mail may call and make an appointment Monday through Friday. Call mil 485-8771/7551 or civ (06783) 6-8771/7551 to place your name and appointment time on the calendar.

### Save A Life Tour

The Save A Life Tour Is coming to Baumholder Aug. 27. There will be two shows at the Hall of Champions, one from 9 a.m. to noon and the second from 1-5 p.m. Soldiers, civilians and family members are invited to attend. Participating in this program meets annual Army Substance Abuse Prevention training requirements. For more information call mil 485-1710/7388.

### Influenza vaccine arrives in September

The influenza vaccine is coming to Baumholder in September. Service members can get the vaccine Sept. 4, 10 and 12 at the Hall of Champions. Family members can be vaccinated Sept. 8 from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Post Exchange. Students can be vaccinated at their school during September but the times have not been determined. Immunization Clinic hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information call Army Public Health Nursing at mil 485-7312.

## Around the rock...Around the rock

### Host nation events

#### Aug. 10-12

International Street Magician Competition at St. Wendel, more information at [www.strassenzauberei.de](http://www.strassenzauberei.de)

#### Aug. 17-19

Powwow Fest at Bostalsee

#### Aug. 18-19

Open House at the German Artillery School at Idar-Oberstein

#### Aug. 23-26

Deutschland Rally Trier and Baumholder world championship competition, entrance fee

#### Aug. 25

Deutschland Rally at the Baumholder Military Training Area, entrance fee

#### Aug. 24-26

Baumholder Old City Fest at downtown Baumholder, information at [www.altstadtfest-baumholder.de](http://www.altstadtfest-baumholder.de)

#### Aug. 25

Concert "The Armed Man," at Klotzbergkasern, entrance fee

#### Aug. 25-26

Community Fest at the Hoppstädten-Weiersbach community center, Hoppstädten

#### Aug. 31-Sept. 2

Knight tournament at St. Wendel, entrance fee

#### Aug. 31-Sept. 4

Kusel Fall Fair with many rides, big market, fireworks on Tuesday evening

#### Aug. 31-Sept. 4

BirkenfeldPrämienmarkt, Talweiher

### Equality run

A Women's Equality Run will be held Aug. 24 starting at the Hall of Champions. The categories are adult and youth 17 and under. Registration is at 7:30 a.m. and the start time is 9 a.m. T-shirts will be on sale at the Mountaineer Physical Fitness Center. Awards will be given to those who place first, second, and third.

### Commemorative run

A Commemorative run will be sponsored at the Hall of Champions Sept. 11. The categories are adult and youth 17 and under. Registration is at 7:30 a.m. and the start time is 9 a.m. T-shirts will be on sale at the Mountaineer. Awards will be given to those who place first, second, and third.

### Baumholder hosts football

Baumholder will host a flag football tournament Sept. 10-13 on Soldier Fields One and Two. Participants must be 18 or older. The games will be from 6-9 p.m. Sign up at the sports office in Building 8105.

### Visit Paris – the city of lights

Spend an exciting day in Paris as you travel with Baumholder Outdoor

Recreation to the City of Lights Sept. 29. After a short breakfast, you will be able to sight see in Paris for a full day on your own. There is no set schedule to follow on the express and you are free to explore the city by yourself. The cost is \$75 per person. If you are interested, contact Baumholder Outdoor Recreation at mil 485-7182.

### Let yourself go at Legoland

Join the Baumholder Recreation club on a trip to Legoland Aug. 19. The trip includes transportation and an entrance fee. The bus will depart from the Wagon Wheel Theater parking lot at 5 a.m. and the cost is \$75 for adults and \$55 for children. Persons interested may contact Baumholder Outdoor Recreation at mil 485-7182.

### Get wired for free

WiFi is available at the Baumholder Library. Just bring in your laptop and find out how to get online. Contact the library for more information at mil 485-8851.

### Post office changes hours

The Baumholder Post Office is now only open Monday through Friday. The central mail room is open from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The post office and official mail are open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and In and Out Processing services are open from 9 a.m.-noon and 1-5 p.m.

### Experience Europe with BOSS

The Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program offers trips to locations in Germany and surrounding European countries. To visit a variety of trip locations, travelers should obtain a tourist passport. Participants must be a single Soldier or a geographical bachelor to participate in activities. Persons interested in any of the upcoming trips may contact the BOSS office at mil 485-8251 or civ (06783) 6-8251. The BOSS office is located across the street from the PX in Building 8698.

### Off-base dinner for singles

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers offers a chance for single Soldiers to get out of the barracks, eat dinner, and socialize with other Soldiers every Wednesday from 6:30-9 p.m. A free shuttle service will pick up interested participants at the Chapel One parking lot at 6 p.m. Come to your home away from home and enjoy a lively discussion. Get out of the barracks, share dinner and good conversation, make friends and sign up for fun trips and excursions. To confirm dinner and learn more, call the BOSS presi-

dent at civ (0162) 270-8384.

### Aquatics training

Aquatics training for military units is available at the aquatics center. Types of training available are water survival, shallow water egress, and SKED training. Combat water survival testing and APFT swim testing is also available. There are also alternate PT activities from which to choose from such as water aerobics, inner tube water polo, and more. Experienced instructors available. Contact the aquatics manager for reservations at mil 485-7093 or civ (06783) 6-7093.

### SKIES Unlimited yoga

SKIES Unlimited is offering children 3-5 years old a chance to get fit through yoga classes every Thursday from 10:45 - 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$50 per session and you must sign up at the Child, Youth and Schools Services Parent Central Services. For more information please contact the SKIES Unlimited office at mil 485-6969 or mil 485-7003.

### Zumba classes for children

Children 3-5 years old are welcome to participate in a SKIES Unlimited zumba class every Tuesday from 10:45 - 11:30 a.m. Sign up for \$50 a session at the Children, Youth and School Services' Parent Central Services. For more information contact the SKIES Unlimited office at mil 485-6969/7003.

### Classical ballet for all

The Child, Youth and Schools Services SKIES Unlimited program is now offering classical ballet classes for \$50 per month. Classes for children 3-5 years old are held Tuesdays through Thursdays from 3-3:45 p.m. Beginner classes for children 6-9 years old are Wednesdays from 3-4 p.m. Beginner classes for 10- to 18-year-olds are every Wednesday from 4-5 p.m. Intermediate classes for ages 10-18 are every Tuesday and Thursday from 4-5 p.m. For more information contact the SKIES Unlimited office at mil 485-6969/7003.

### Spaces for after school care

Spaces are available for before and after school care. Before school care hours are 6-8 a.m. After school care

hours are 2:30-6 p.m. Contact Wetzel School Age Services for more information and reservations at civ (06783) 6-7475 or mil 485-7475.

### Aqua jogger

Kimberly Bailes and her staff are offering an aqua jogger program at the pool from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. on Fridays. This is a fun, safe and effective workout in the water. Contact the aquatics center at mil 485-7093 for more information.

### Story time in Spanish

"Esto es un programa para pequenos lectores con historias, juegos y actividades en espanol por aproximadamente 30 minutos. Vengan a leer."

Books are read in Spanish and in English. Interpretations are needed for this program.

Contact the library for more information at mil 485-1740.

### Your personal trainer

Would you like to build muscular strength, improve your health and clean up your diet? The Personal Training with Laurie program offers a variety of packages for you to get the results that you want. Come by the Mountaineer Fitness Center to fill out an information sheet today.

### Go for a free spin

Take a free spin class Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Mountaineer Fitness Center from 6:30-7:30 a.m. Beginners and experienced bikers will love this sweat-to-the-beat cardio workout.

### Meet Mickey at Euro Disney

Take a trip to meet Mickey Mouse Aug. 25 or Sept 1. The bus departs from the Wagon Wheel theater parking lot at 3 a.m. and returns around midnight. Spend the day at Euro Disney in France. The cost is \$155 per person ages 12 and older and \$147 for children ages 3-11. The cost is \$75 for children 2 and under. The price includes entrance into both parks. Bring euro for other expenses and a tourist passport. Sign up in advance at. For those who just want to go along for the ride, the cost is \$75 for transportation only.

Joe Satellite

Church of God