

SABER E-HERALD

SPANGDAHLEM AB

NEWSLETTER OF THE 52ND FIGHTER WING

AUG. 23, 2012

HYT changes
take effect in 2013

Opening ceremonies
start Air Force Week

Bowling center
provides fun

Middle Mosel Wine Fest

The Middle Mosel wine festival takes place Aug. 30-Sept. 3 in Bernkastel-Keus. Among the highlights are a fireworks display and a parade.



BLOCK PARTY BOOSTS MORALE FOR UNACCOMPANIED AIRMEN

Airmen from the 52nd Fighter Wing, along with wing leadership, participate in a Polynesian dance during an unaccompanied Airman block party at the wing pavilion here Aug. 17. The event included a drunk goggles obstacle course, sumo wrestling, Polynesian dancers, dunk tank and a comedy performance. The first sergeants council and the Spangdahlem chiefs group hosted the event to help boost morale among unaccompanied Airmen. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Dillon Davis/Released)

Don't become 'just another safety statistic'

Staff Sgt. Ralph Pinkston
470th Air Base Squadron

One of my least favorite things to do in the Air Force is to sit and watch a PowerPoint presentation that is stuffed full of statistics, graphs, and facts that I feel rarely pertain to me or my job.

I used to think, "Who cares about how many dollars were saved by the reduction of traffic accidents or electrical fatalities in the Air Force?"

Sadly, this has been my view of safety briefs, and I know that it is the sentiment of many young Airmen across the service. I know this because I see the lack of attention paid during commander's calls and mass briefings. I hear the jokes being made and the laughter at the graphic pictures provided to create a "shock and awe" effect on all who watch and listen to the briefs. I know, because I have been

there and have done the same thing, over and over again.

The sad reality is that it usually takes your life being affected by a statistic before it becomes personal. I am writing this to hopefully affect change before another life is touched by tragedy and becomes a statistic.

I have been very privileged in my life to grow up in a minister's home. My father has been the pastor of a small church located in sunny California for the last 33 years. Over the years, the facilities have become somewhat dilapidated and run down. In order to save money my dad's best friend, Jerry, took it upon himself to try and fix some small electrical problems that the church had been experiencing.

Jerry was a very outgoing guy. I remember him visiting our house three to four ...

Read the entire article at <http://www.spangdahlem.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123315037>.



SUPER SABER PERFORMER

Senior Airman Maria Borges, 52nd Medical Support Squadron health service management journeyman, is the Super Saber Performer for the week of Aug. 23-29. Read the entire article and watch the video at <http://www.spangdahlem.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123315032>. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Gustavo Castillo/Released)



Staff Sgt. Henry Lux, left, 52nd Aerospace Medicine Squadron bioenvironmental engineering technician, and Senior Airman Ashley Charfauros, 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron emergency management technician, quarantine a simulated leaking container after a simulated explosion during a base exercise here Aug. 21. Exercises like this test the technical skills and efficiency of first responders and emergency management procedures base-wide to strengthen the development of common tactics and techniques in preparation for real-world events. View more photos at <http://www.spangdahlem.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123315051>. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Gustavo Castillo/Released)

Exercise tests Sabers' skills



Above: Emergency first responders analyze the blood pressure of Airman 1st Class Zane Zimmerman, 52nd Logistics Readiness Squadron fuels distribution operator, after a simulated explosion during a base exercise here Aug. 21.

Right: Matthias Huewels, 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron fire fighter, tends to a victim after a simulated explosion during a base exercise here Aug. 21.



The F-16 Whisperer

Spangdahlem's 52nd CMS legend retires after nearly 40 years of U.S. service

Staff Sgt. Daryl Knee
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

It was 1961, and Alois Schmitz was 13 years old when he saved his friend from drowning in the Mosel River.

The German magazine *Rasselbande* heard Schmitz' heroic tale and selected him and nine other German teens to visit Harrisburg, Pa., where they would spend four weeks in the area.

While in America, Schmitz turned 14 years old, visited many landmarks along the east coast and, through a bizarre chain of events, even shook hands with President John F. Kennedy. But it was the feeling he had when he was looking at a North American F-86 Sabre transonic jet fighter aircraft that he remembers most.

Schmitz participated in a tour of a local military installation. There, he laid eyes on what was to be his lifelong career. He touched the F-86 Sabre, and from that day on, he knew he wanted to be an aircraft mechanic.

"I made a decision right then," Schmitz said.

Read the entire article at <http://www.spangdahlem.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123315047>.



Alois Schmitz, 52nd Component Maintenance Squadron fuels systems repair shop, speaks to the attendees of his retirement ceremony Aug. 17 in Hangar 3 here.

Manderscheid Castles

Where past meets present, brilliant fire work display tops off annual castle festival

Iris Reiff
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The ruins of two fortresses, the upper and lower fortresses, will form a background for a medieval castle celebration Aug. 25-26 at the health resort of Manderscheid, located in the heart of the historical Eifel.

At the Turnierviese — jousting meadow or training grounds — at the foot of the Niederburg, or lower castle, a group of knights from Duesseldorf will create a jousting place where on the two days of the tournament, the knights on their horses will battle with lances, swords, bows and spears.

Minstrel singers and small singing groups will present songs and ballads from three centuries ago. They will accompany 15th and 16th centuries dances performed on historical instruments. A small village will be built on the jousting meadow to show what life was like in the Middle Ages.

A traditional handicraft market will be set up the same time and will remain open on both days.

The festival will officially kick off 11 a.m. Saturday with the opening of the market, followed by a variety of music and theater performances, including jugglers, stilt walkers and medieval singing performances.

Historical fighting scenes by the "Loewenritter" or Lion Knights, who will be dressed in their armor suits, are scheduled for 2:30 p.m. on the jousting



During the annual Manderscheid historical castle festival scheduled for Aug. 25 - 26 this year, knights on their horses will battle with lance, swords, bows and spears.

meadow. Entertainment by a street musician is scheduled for late afternoon. Games and plays will occur in the festival area throughout the afternoon. Concerts, belly dancing and singing performances occur in the early evening.

Additional fighting scenes are scheduled for 9 p.m. A giant fireworks display is scheduled to take place later on at night, about 10:30 p.m. over ...

Read the entire article at <http://www.spangdahlem.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123315030>.



Two visitors admire the Manderscheid Niederburg, or lower castle, Aug. 21. Manderscheid's two castle ruins can be visited daily throughout the year. (U.S. Air Force photos by Iris Reiff/Released)

What's happening?

Was ist los?

Bread and Circuses

Great Roman festival in Trier

Reserve your ticket now for the first Bread and Circuses Great Roman festival in Trier now until Sept. 8. Activities will take place around the Roman Basilica, the Imperial Palace, the Roman Kaiserthermen Baths and the Trier Amphitheater. The ticket prices for different events range from 8-25 Euros. For more information, visit http://www.ticket-regional.de/stage_1006.php?eventtimelD=156631.

Funfair in Luxembourg

The 672nd Schueberfouer, the largest funfair in Luxembourg, takes place now until Sept. 11 at Glacis-field in Luxembourg city. The fair includes 25 rides, more than 12 child rides, games, performers from many nations and more than 100 vendors. For more information, visit <http://www.fouer.lu/en/Schueberfouer.html>.

Sculpture art exhibition

A free sculpture art exhibition by international artists, with the motto "The Other Side," is open now until Sept. 16 in the new garden and gallery of the Bit-

burg Haus Beda cultural center. For more information visit <http://www.haus-beda.de>.

Bicycle tour

Happy Pruemtal Valley, a 28 kilometer bicycle tour, takes place Sept. 2 through the Pruem valley. For more information, visit <http://www.pruem.de/>.

Trier Play festival

A free play festival takes place in the streets of the Trier pedestrian zone under the motto "Trier plays games" Sept. 8. For more information, call 0651-4602638 or visit <http://www.trier.de>.

Trier museum night

Museums will remain open 6 a.m. to midnight Sept. 15 in Trier's Bishops museum, the Municipal Museum, the Karl Karz House and the Archaeological Museum. Entertainment and guided tours will be offered in various languages.

Wittlich October festival

The Wittlich October festival takes place Sept. 28-Oct. 31 in a large festival tent. For more information, visit <http://www.oktoberfest-wittlich.de>.

Blitz Comedy showcase

A free Blitz Comedy show takes place 6 p.m. Aug. 24 at the Brick House. This event is for people 18 or older. For more information, email stryfe227@yahoo.com.

Free bowling clinic

A free bowling clinic for ages 10-21 takes place 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Aug. 25 at the Eifel Lanes Bowling Center. For more information, call DSN 452-2695 or 06565-61-2695.

Beach Bunco

Beach Bunco takes place 6 p.m. Aug. 27 at the Brick House. The cost is \$10 and players must be 18 or older. For more information, call DSN 452-7260 or 06565-61-7260.

Family fun night

Back to School Family Fun Night takes place 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Aug. 28 at Club Eifel. The cost is \$3.95 for children and \$7.95 for adults. For more information, call DSN 452-4633 or 06565-61-4633.

JPAC recovery volunteer

Volunteer now for Joint Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Accounting Command recovery. Recoveries take place Sept. 1, 3, 10, 12 and 18 along the Belgian border. Recovery teams will meet 7:15 a.m. and return 5 p.m. at the Willkommen Center. For more information or to volunteer, call DSN 452-7438 or 06565-61-7438.

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