

# HeraldPOST

Serving the communities in U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg

**HP THURSDAY**  
Oct. 29, 2009

### Speed Read

#### 24-HOUR TUTORS

Through the new *Tutor.com* program, CYSS is offering students 24/7 access to live educational assistance. **3**

#### PUMPKIN PATROLS

Pumpkin Patrols consisting of the German Zivil-Polizei (civilian police) Air Force's security police and the Army's military police will patrol housing areas in the Kaiserslautern military community during trick-or-treating hours Saturday. **4**

#### ANGEL TREE PROJECT

Heidelberg is gearing up for its annual Angel Tree project to provide gifts to local children in need this holiday season. **6**

#### MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

More than 350 volunteers from the Heidelberg and Mannheim communities participated in various projects to make a difference inside and outside the community. **8**

#### NATURAL FIRE 10

Weeks of hard work have come to a head for the advance and torch parties of Natural Fire 10 as the main body moved from Entebbe, Uganda, to Kitgum and into their new home at Life Support Area Fist on Pajimo Barracks. **12**

#### H1N1 VACCINE ELIGIBILITY

The H1N1 influenza vaccine is set to arrive in Europe sometime next month. Find out if you and your family are eligible to receive it. **16**

### Defense Details

#### BOMBINGS IN IRAQ

Terrorist bombings that struck Baghdad yesterday demonstrate the security challenges that exist there, a senior Defense Department official said here today. News reports say more than 150 Iraqis died and hundreds more were injured yesterday as a result of two massive blasts that targeted the Iraqi justice and municipalities and public works ministries and a provincial headquarters building in downtown Baghdad.

Army news: [www.army.mil](http://www.army.mil)  
Defense news: [www.defenselink.mil](http://www.defenselink.mil)

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Christine June

The Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern wins the "most percentage of participants based on unit strength" category Saturday at the garrison's 2009 Red Ribbon Run on Rhine Ordnance Barracks. The garrison team had 28 participants out of 31 Soldiers assigned. In total, the event attracted more than 480 runners and walkers from the Kaiserslautern military community. See **Red Ribbon Run** on page 14 for the story.

## Event honors employees with disabilities

By Sgt. Daniel J. Nichols  
USAREUR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

"The strength of the Army workforce comes from its diversity, and persons with disabilities are another aspect of the diversity that makes our Army so great," said Gen. Carter F. Ham, U.S. Army Europe commanding general, during a luncheon event on Campbell Barracks in Heidelberg Oct. 20 in honor of National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

Harry Connors, government relations advisor for U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg, also spoke at the event, telling how he struggled to overcome injuries he received in Vietnam so he could continue to serve.

"If you are or become, quote – disabled – unquote, you do see **DISABILITIES** page 14

## From student to principal

*New PHES leader recalls life at school 40 years ago*

By Jonathan Ochart  
HERALD POST INTERN

Life has a curious way of bringing back fond memories, and for the new Patrick Henry Elementary School principal, they are from her childhood.

Allison Peltz may be new to her job as principal, but her face has graced the halls of PHES before – when she was a student 40 years ago.

After hearing she would lead a school she once attended, Peltz said she was excited, since she "has great



Jonathan Ochart

New Patrick Henry Elementary School Principal Allison Peltz helps Brandon, a PHES student, add numbers with blocks. Peltz attended PHES as a student 40 years ago.

memories of being here as a child."

Previously assistant-principal in Okinawa, Japan, Peltz believes she can create strong connections with parents and students in her new community.

"As someone who was an Army brat, who has relatives who have children in (the Department of Defense Education Activity), and having been a teacher," the principal hopes to see **PRINCIPAL** page 14

## DISABILITIES

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not have to accept the limitations it seems to impose on you," Connors said. "You can do everything in your power to overcome it and find ways around it. Society may say that you are disabled or handicapped, but you are only so if you believe them and agree with them."

The event recognized those with disabilities who are currently employed by the Army and encouraged continuing to employ the disabled. During his remarks, Ham cited examples of senior leaders and other members of the Army workforce who overcame disabilities and continued to serve and perform their duties successfully.

"These are single examples of individuals who refused to be deterred by their physical disability," Ham said. "They have not given in to the disability; in fact, they have answered the question for themselves ... 'What is it that I can do?' and they have pursued those goals."

Ham encouraged the Army in Europe community to give equal consideration to people with physical disabilities when filling job vacancies.

"Provide the opportunities, raise your expectations, and allow those with disabilities to fully participate in your organization," Ham said. "Our Army has a long tradition in leading the nation in changes such as this, and now it's our opportunity to lead the way for all of America to show that Americans with disabilities can and will exceed all expectations. Our job – all of our jobs – is to provide that opportunity."



Sgt. Daniel Nichols

Gen. Carter F. Ham, U.S. Army Europe commanding general, speaks to guests at the National Disability Employment Awareness Month recognition event on Campbell Barracks in Heidelberg Oct. 20.

## PRINCIPAL

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meet this goal.

"I also have a strong background in staff development and school improvement, so that's a real plus for me."

Peltz is sure to earn a 100 percent when it comes to understanding the obstacles military children often face, especially in today's Army with constant deployments.

"My dad went to Vietnam, so I know what it's like to have a deployed parent," she said.

From what her new staff

has seen so far, Peltz deserves a gold star when interacting with students. According to PHES teacher Karen Van Balen, 2007 DoDEA Teacher of the Year, Peltz is "very nice and supportive."

The principal is known for entering classrooms and "talking and getting involved with the kids," Van Balen added.

By working within the classroom-setting, Peltz sees what teaching methods are most successful.

She can be seen throughout the school helping students

add numbers with blocks and even dancing to the "Bean Bag" song, revealing her ability to have fun while maintaining a firm hand.

Since "the world has gotten so much smaller due to instant communication, we have to give our kids the ability to work with others, to research, and become aware of what is going on in the world," Peltz said.

She is certain the PHES staff provides these skills required by the modern world.

PHES "is a great school

with very dedicated teachers who help children meet their educational and social needs," the new principal said of her staff. "They are top notch."

Much of what makes Peltz herself was cultivated while attending PHES from fourth to sixth grade.

"One of the best teachers I had taught at this school, Myrtle Porter," Peltz remembered. "She gave me a love for reading, which I feel led to my interest in education. To this day, I would rather read a book than watch television."

It is no wonder why Peltz was eager to return to Heidelberg. Her greatest memories from 40 years back are "the lighting of the castle and going to see the Student Prince," the city's famous play.

Heidelberg has drawn Peltz into its heart as before. Although, she said, "the school is much bigger" and her building stairwell is painted a different color, the principal still feels a bond with her old home.

"It's good to be back," she said.

# Army wins Red Ribbon Run



Christine June

Sam Chism, a camp director and mentor with the Ramstein Drug Education for Youth, passes out information to spectators Saturday at the U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern's Red Ribbon Run on Rhine Ordnance Barracks. Many organizations and agencies had information booths as a way to show community support for a drug-free community. Drug Education For Youth is a self-esteem building program that provides kids with the tools they need to resist drugs, gangs and alcohol.

## More than 480 from the KMC participate in annual event

By Christine June

USAG KAISERSLAUTERN PUBLIC AFFAIRS

It's big – gigantic actually. Shiny, beautiful and now, it's green – Army green that is.

Soldiers, Army civilians and their family members grabbed the KMC (Kaiserslautern military community) Unit Strength Award – the huge trophy – Saturday at the U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern's 2009 Red Ribbon Run on Rhine Ordnance Barracks.

What started out and remained a friendly challenge, the Unit Strength Award made its debut at this year's event and was a competition between the three military services in the KMC – the Army, Air Force and Navy, said Heather Robinson, the garrison's Army Substance Abuse Program prevention coordinator.

"A challenge to see which service could get the most people to show up and stand up for being a drug-free community," said Robinson, who initiated this event in 2007 in support of the National Red Ribbon Week.

Red Ribbon Week is an alcohol, tobacco and other drug and vio-

lence prevention awareness campaign observed annually the second to last week in October throughout the United States and military installations worldwide.

"Just look how beautiful this trophy is," said Robinson to Alex Tremble, the 86th Airlift Wing's Demand Reduction Program manager, who actually came up with the idea of a friendly challenge between the services.

"Looks good," Tremble answered back, and then explained why he came up with the challenge. "Just to make sure that the word gets out about this community project. This event is something that brings us all together, and that is exactly what happened."

Out of the 339 runners and 147 walkers, the Air Force had 95 participants – a big jump from the two previous years when the event was a Red Ribbon Relay held at the track on Vogelweh.

Why the event changed from a relay to a 5-kilometer or 3.1-mile run was because of circles, said Tom Dennis, the garrison's Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation sports and fitness director. The garrison's FMWR co-sponsors

the event.

"Just too many people running in circles – people would get frustrated and stop. It was just too hard to tell where it started or stopped," he explained the reasons for the change. "So much better this year – there was a start and a finish, and runners knew their times."

For the second year in row, the 21st Theater Sustainment Command's 5th Quartermaster Company – "The Riggers" won for the unit with the most participants. Another new trophy was added to this year's event – the Most Percentage Based Unit Strength Award – that was won by the garrison's Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment.

Second place went to the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery of the 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery.

A total of 32 individual trophies for first and second place were given to the fastest male and female runners in each of the eight age groups.

"Next year, it will be the Air Force winning that big trophy," promised Tremble, making sure Robinson heard him.

"We'll see," she challenged back.