

THE CITIZEN

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U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart

November 25, 2009

Serving the Greater Stuttgart Military Community

German Christmas markets usher in holiday season



www.stuttgart-marketing.de

The Stuttgarter Weihnachtsmarkt opens in downtown Stuttgart Nov. 25 at 6 p.m. and runs through Dec. 23. This market is considered to be one of the most beautiful Christmas markets in Europe. See pages 10-11 for story and photos.

Garrison ASAP named best in Army

By Brittany Carlson

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Community members can probably recite them by heart: "DUI... it's not worth it. Call a cab!" and "Choose your ride: Don't Drink and Drive."

These posters are located on every U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart installation. What may not be so well-known is the impact they, along with their creator, the garrison Army Substance Abuse Program, have on the community.

On Oct. 23, the Stuttgart garrison ASAP was awarded the 19th Annual Secretary of Defense Community Drug Awareness Award in the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes in Washington, D.C.

"We have been a model garrison" said Bala Fischer, alcohol and drug control officer for the USAG Stuttgart ASAP. "Now, this award is kind of an added feather [in our cap]."

This is the first time the garrison ASAP program (or any program within

See ASAP on page 3

H1N1 vaccine available for military, high-risk personnel Patients with influenza-like illness can visit triage nurse

By Brittany Carlson

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Since the H1N1 vaccine for uniformed service members and high-risk community members arrived at the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart in early November, demand for vaccinations has been high.

The clinic began issuing the vaccine to military units in Stuttgart at a fast pace: 1,600 service members were vaccinated in the first week, according to Spec. Daniel Rekow, immunizations noncommissioned of-

ficer in charge at the USAG Stuttgart Health Clinic.

The vaccine, manufactured by Novartis and approved for ages four years and older by the Food and Drug Administration, will also be available to military personnel and high-risk Department of Defense employees and family members at the following dates and locations:

- Dec. 1 at the Panzer Post Exchange on Panzer Kaserne from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Dec. 2 at the Patch Gym on Patch Barracks from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Dec. 3 at the Kelley Gym on Kelley Barracks

from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- Dec. 8 at the Panzer Post Exchange from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- Dec. 9 at the Patch Gym from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- Dec. 10 at the Kelley Gym from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Seasonal flu shots are also anticipated to be available at these times, Rekow added. This includes a fresh shipment of nasally-administered FluMIST vaccine.

High-risk beneficiaries who fall into one of the

See H1N1 on page 4

Page 5

Angel Trees bring holiday cheer to youth

There are eight Angel Trees in the Stuttgart community with hundreds of angel ornaments that when exchanged with a gift will bring holiday cheer to a child.



Page 9

Cowboys, Tigers named sports champs

The fight was tough, but the Bantam Cowboys football team and Junior Tigers soccer team clinched victories at the youth sports championships.



INSIDE
THIS
EDITION

Open your hearts: 'Make a World of Difference' with CFC-O

By Mike Walton
Special to The Citizen

With the onset of winter comes an annual rite. It is time once again to open your hearts and "Make a World of Difference" by giving to agencies and organizations through the Combined Federal Campaign-Overseas.

Newcomers to the Stuttgart military community may not know what CFC-O is, but may have heard of the United Way, Appeal, or Community Chest pro-

grams conducted each fall stateside.

The CFC-O is a safe, employee-focused, cost-efficient way for you and I to give funds toward our favorite agencies or organizations.

Whether we give to help provide citizenship and character programs for youth, develop cures for illnesses, work toward equality, or contribute toward the needy, our money is needed.

Our money is also needed locally. CFC-O also supports the Stuttgart military community's family support and youth programs, such as Boy and Girl Scout programs and Child Development Services.

Those like myself who remember the "old days" of CFC, really appreciate today's approach to giving.

As a young sergeant, and later as a young lieutenant, I stood in a formation held by the command sergeant major each fall. He told us some of the same things I am expressing to you concerning the importance of CFC — with a difference. Standing beside him were two of the more, "ahem," stockier members of our battalion. Their goal was to "assist" the command sergeant major with insuring that 100 percent of the members of his battalion contributed to the CFC.

We reached the goal, with some pain on the part of a few Soldiers.

Today's CFC does not use such "give or suffer" tactics. Giving is not required. Each office, unit and organization in our community has a CFC representative whose job it is to distribute the CFC campaign materials and accept and forward your pledge card or outright contributions. You can also make your contributions online.

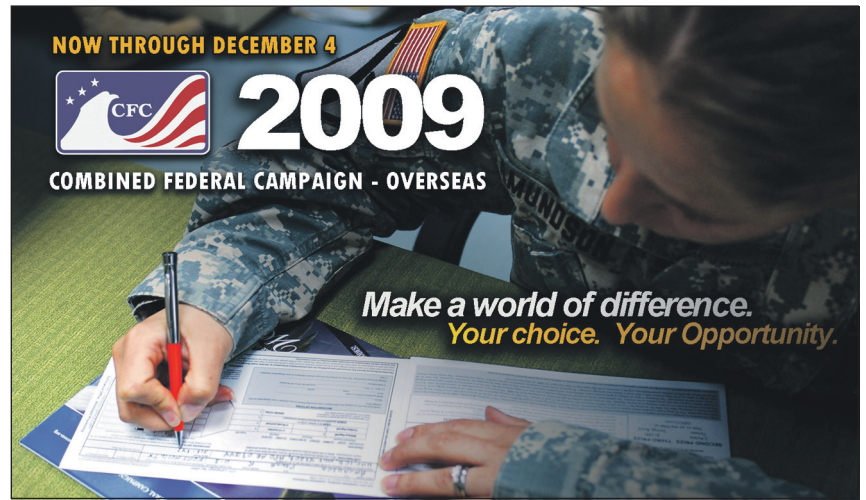
This year, more than 2,000 participating organizations are listed in the official charity listing, a newspaper-sized

booklet available from your CFC-O coordinator. These organizations, including the Bone Marrow National Registry, Rotary Foundation and Mercy Housing, all depend upon our combined contributions to keep their organizations functioning.

Our campaign ends this year on Dec. 15.

Open your heart and your wallet. Make a difference.

(Lt. Col. Mike Walton currently works for the United States European Command Public Affairs Office.)



CORRECTION

In the story "Traces of Remembrance" project trails across Europe" in the Nov. 12 issue of *The Citizen* (Page 11), we wrote that the purple, painted line marked the locations where thousands of handicapped persons were put to death during the Nazi regime. The story should have read "The line connected two locations where thousands of handicapped persons were put to death during the Nazi regime: Grafeneck and Stuttgart, Germany."

THE CITIZEN

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www.stuttgart@army.mil **AdvantiPro**

ON THE STREET

What are you most thankful for?



Rodney Johnson
(Civilian)

"Being alive."



Sgt. Justin Hensley
(U.S. Marine Corps)

"My wife and daughter."



Jacky Sims
(Civilian)

"Being on earth, waking up."



Staff Sgt. Nick Johnson
(U.S. Army)

"Cold beer."



Sgt. Jason Pruitt
(U.S. Army)

"My family."



Heather Brock
(Army spouse)

"Having the opportunity to live in Europe."



Private 1st Class
Darren Foote
(U.S. Army)

"Having a safe place to live for my family and I."



Tech Sgt. John Del-Valle
(U.S. Air Force)

"My family and my five-month-old son."

Garrison honors Veterans Nov. 11



Brittany Carlson

Jacob Urban, commander for the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10810 Stuttgart, lays a wreath for veterans from the VFW during the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Veterans Day ceremony Nov. 11, while Jakob Bedsole, 6, a Cub Scout with Stuttgart Pack 324, looks on. Other wreaths were laid by the American Legion Post 6, which hosted the ceremony, and the Stuttgart Clan Motorcycle Enthusiasts.

News & Notes

Kelley Gate Construction Nov. 26 - 28

The Kelley Barracks Main Installation Access Control Point will undergo major construction from Nov. 26 - 28.

The inbound vehicle traffic lane will be closed from 8 m. Nov. 26 to 8 a.m. Nov. 27 for re-surfacing of the lane.

All inbound vehicle traffic will be routed through the outbound vehicle traffic lane. All outbound vehicle traffic must exit through the rear gate.

The outbound vehicle traffic lane will be closed 8 a.m. Nov. 27 to 9 a.m. Nov. 28 for re-surfacing. All outbound vehicle traffic must exit through the rear gate.

The construction projects will not affect pedestrian use of the access gate.

Patch Gate Construction Nov. 26 to Dec 2

The Patch Barracks Main Installation Access Control Point will undergo major construction from Nov. 26 - Dec. 2.

The inbound vehicle traffic lane will be closed from 8 a.m. Nov. 26 until 8:30 a.m. Nov. 28 for re-surfacing of the lane. All inbound vehicle traffic will be routed through K & K Gate.

The Pedestrian walkway will be closed from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Nov. 27 for resurfacing. All pedestrians must enter through K& K Gate.

The outbound vehicle traffic lane will be closed 8:30 a.m. Nov. 28 to 6 a.m. Dec. 1 for lane re-surfacing. All outbound vehicle traffic must exit through K & K gate.

The Outbound traffic lane will be closed from 8:30 a.m. Dec. 1 until 6 p.m. Dec. 2 for sidewalk repairs. All outbound vehicle traffic will exit through K & K gate.

Winterfest to close Patch parking areas

The community's Winterfest and Christmas tree lighting ceremony on Dec. 4 will impact parking areas on Patch Barracks

The event takes place in the parking lot between Husky Field and the AAFES gas station.

In order to set up for the event, half of the parking lot will be closed off from Nov. 30 to Dec. 4. The remaining half of the parking lot will be closed off on Thursday and Friday, Dec. 3 & 4.

ASAP

Continued from page 1

Installation Management Command-Europe) received the award.

Thanks to the posters, the ASAP's involvement in the community and the full support of the garrison commander, Col. Richard M. Pastore, garrison DUI incidents were cut by 40 percent in fiscal year 2008.

In addition, the Stuttgart military community became first among its peers to bring to light the recent prescription drug abuse trend.

In fact, addressing the prescription drug issue was one of the reasons why USAG Stuttgart's ASAP was chosen for the drug awareness award over every other Army garrison ASAP, Fischer said.

"[Our] campaign against the use of prescription drugs was key," Fischer added. "That is the trend; more and more people are using."

The campaign, titled "Operation Smart Choice" and led by Tracy Herrera, former ASAP campaign and drug coordinator, emphasized that using drugs and alcohol are an individual's choice.

The campaign included the first-ever Prescription Drug Abuse Forum, and school presentations for children on the right way to take medications.

"The earlier you start, you get the message in and then they remember," said Herrera, now an ASAP counselor. "If you keep repeating it when they're older, it helps them not to make that decision [to abuse prescription drugs]. A parent who talks to his or her child about the dangers of prescription drugs cuts that child's chances of abusing prescription drugs by 50 percent."

Substance abuse education is not

only vital for the health of community members, Fischer added; it reduces the number of crimes committed against people and property.

"If you look at risk reduction data, it shows that most risky behaviors are committed under the influence of alcohol and drugs," Fischer said.

Besides community outreach programs, the garrison ASAP office also provides prevention education, substance abuse counseling, drug testing and the Employee Assistance Program, which provides short-term counseling on any kind of issue for civilians, retirees and family members.

Fischer added that receiving ASAP service has no effect on security clear-

ances, provided one successfully completes the recommendations.

"This is not a punitive program," he said. "We're here to help."

The ASAP, in conjunction with Adolescent Substance Abuse Counseling Service and the garrison's Department of Defense Dependent schools, also sponsors Red Ribbon Week each October, in which students submit banner ideas for promoting drug-free lifestyles.

"Now, we can cover the whole of Stuttgart with great slogan ideas against drug use from our school children; we have so many banners," Fischer said, joking.

If the poster results are any indication, that's not such a bad idea.



Army photo

Bala Fischer, USAG Stuttgart ASAP alcohol and drug control officer; Tracy Herrera, ASAP counselor and former campaign coordinator; Col. Richard M. Pastore, garrison commander, and Command Sgt. Major Anthony M. Bryant, garrison command sergeant major, receive the 19th Annual Secretary of Defense Community Drug Awareness Award in the Hall of Heroes in Washington, D.C. Oct. 23.

H1N1

Continued from page 1

categories below may visit the clinic on a walk-in basis for their H1N1 vaccine if they cannot make it to one of the off-site immunization clinics.

- Pregnancy
- Blood disorders
- Chronic pulmonary, including asthma
- Cardiovascular, except for hypertension
- Renal, cognitive, hepatic, neurologic/neuromuscular conditions
- Metabolic disorders, including diabetes
- Immunosuppression disorders, including those caused by medications or by human immunodeficiency virus

The USAG Stuttgart Health Clinic is open to walk-in immunization appointments, said Lt. Col. Van McCoy, chief of nursing at the clinic. However, walk-in patients may have to wait in line.

In addition, high-risk community members are being contacted by the public health nurse to receive the vaccination, he added.

As of *The Citizen's* publication date, the clinic is still waiting for the shipment of vaccinations for non high-risk DoD employees, contractors, family members and students in the community. This vaccine, manufactured by Sanofi-Pasteur, is FDA-approved for ages six months and older.

As soon as the vaccinations arrive, the clinic will notify the schools and

community at large.

"We'll go out to the schools as soon as we get it and as soon as possible," McCoy said.

For people who currently have influenza-like illnesses now, the clinic has set up a walk-in clinic specifically for them inside the Stuttgart Health Clinic. Any community members with influenza-like symptoms can be seen by the triage nurse and screened for factors that put them at a high risk for complications.

Patients are served on a first-come, first-serve basis. Influenza-like illness symptoms include fever, chills, cough, sneezing, congestion, headache, body aches, and sometimes nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.


"This is a fast-track way for people with influenza-like symptoms to be seen," McCoy said.

In fact, clinic officials advise community members with any questions or concerns about the H1N1 virus to stop by the clinic, instead of calling.

"We're just getting overburdened with the number of calls," said Capt. Rebecca Irwin, executive officer for the Stuttgart Health Clinic. "We have a limited staff in central appointments."

Those with excessive coughing or sneezing symptoms may be asked to wear a mask.


Not all community members who see the triage nurse for influenza-like symptoms will be tested for the H1N1 virus, McCoy said. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention now



For information, visit www.flu.gov, or call 1-800-CDC-INFO.

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VACCINATION CAN PROTECT YOU BOTH!



www.cdc.gov

recommend reserving viral testing and anti-viral drug treatment for patients with risk factors and complications.

Whatever the case, community members should take advantage of the clinic's triage nurse and walk-in clinic, McCoy

said. "If you feel the need to be seen in the clinic for influenza-like symptoms, don't call. Come in and be seen."

(Additional information provided by the Europe Regional Medical Command Public Affairs Office.)

Seasonal Religious Support events schedule: *December 2009 - January 2010*

Panzer Chapel

Dec. 12: Jewish Hanukkah Candle lighting and Potluck, 5:30 p.m.

Dec. 24: Christvesper Lutheran Service, 5:30 p.m.



www.wikipedia.de

Robinson Chapel

Dec. 24: Protestant Christmas Eve Service at 7 p.m.

Dec. 25: Catholic Christmas Day Mass at 11:30 a.m.

Patch Chapel

Dec. 8: Catholic Feast of the Immaculate Conception, 5:30 p.m.

Dec. 13: Protestant Children's Christmas Pageant, 11 a.m.

Dec. 14: Catholic Advent Reconciliation, 5 p.m.

Dec. 20: Protestant Christmas Music Service, 11 a.m.

Dec. 24: Catholic Christmas Eve Children's Mass, 5 p.m.

Dec. 24: Protestant Candlelight Service, 7 p.m.

Catholic Christmas Eve Mass, 10 p.m.

Dec. 25: Catholic Christmas Day Mass, 9 a.m.

Dec. 31: Watch Night Service, 9:30 p.m.

Jan. 1: Catholic Mass, 9 a.m.



www.hutschenreuter.de

Community members can become true "Angels" for youth

By Levi Smith
Special to the Citizen

Join the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Community in providing holiday cheer for our youth by supporting an "Angel" on the community Angel Trees.

Hundreds of angel ornaments

representing children in the community hang from trees in eight different locations in the Stuttgart community, just waiting for someone to bring holiday cheer.

"Local volunteers show their community spirit year round; this is another opportunity for everyone to make a difference in someone else's

life," said Laura Davis, USAG Stuttgart Army Volunteer Corps coordinator. "I encourage everyone to pick an angel, and drop off a gift."

This year's program started Nov. 16 and will continue through Dec. 16. Each ornament hanging on the tree includes the age of the child, helping those who participate have an idea of what gifts to buy. Once the gifts are purchased, they can be dropped off at the location of the tree where the angel was received or directly to the ACS office on Panzer Kaserne.

ACS asks that all gifts purchased be

left unwrapped when dropped off.

Once ACS receives the gifts, they organize them by unit request forms and then they give them directly to the units who nominated each family of the children.

Each family nominated also receives a \$50 commissary gift certificate, to help with a holiday meal.

"I would like to stress that this is not just an Army program," said Davis, "all branches of the military are able to participate; this is for the entire community."

If you would like to nominate a friend or neighbor for the program, last-minute nominations are welcome and can be picked up at the ACS office. Angel Trees can be found at the following locations:

- Army Community Service, Building 2915, Panzer Kaserne
- Army and Air Force Exchange Service, Panzer Kaserne
- Community Exchange, Robinson Barracks
- Kelley FMWR Theater Broadway Cafe, Building 3320, Kelley Barracks
- AAFES Theater, Patch Barracks
- FMWR Fitness Center Building 2337, Patch Barracks
- Service Credit Union branches, Panzer Kaserne and Patch Barracks

For more information call 431-3362 or Civ. 07031-15-3362.

Community Winterfest set for Dec. 4

The United States Army Garrison Stuttgart will celebrate its annual Winterfest in the parking lot adjacent to Husky Field at Patch Barracks on Friday, Dec. 4, from 4 p.m. Until 10 p.m., to welcome in the festive advent season.

The holiday tree lighting ceremony will be held at 6.30 p.m.

Patch Barracks will turn into a winter wonderland for an evening with a traditional German Christmas market with food, hot chocolate and Glühwein.

There will also be free rides for children, special entertainment, and picture taking with Santa at the Arts and Crafts Center starting at 7 p.m.



Brittany Carlson
Lujean Whitten selects an angel from one of the eight Angel Trees in the Stuttgart community.

USAG Stuttgart saves energy, money with new projects

USAG Stuttgart Department of Public Works

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 and the Executive Order 13423 require all federal facilities — including all military bases in Europe — to cut energy consumption by 20 percent (from 2003 usage) by 2015.

In order to meet these requirements, the U. S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Department of Public Works developed several energy-saving projects in fiscal year 2009 which contribute to high energy efficiency, water conservation, and the use of renewable energy and emerging energy technology.

These projects are:

- Boiler plant controls (Lean Six Sigma Project, \$425,000). The estimated annual savings from the controls is \$300,000, with a return of investment within two years.
- Replace boilers with gas-fired boilers (\$1,950,000) and repair heat distribution system (\$3,900,000). These

projects are for the conversion from steam to hot water in Panzer Kaserne, including the replacement of four steam boilers by two hot water boilers. The combined estimated annual savings is \$585,000, with a return of investment within ten years.

- Install waterless urinals (\$6,500). The estimated annual savings is \$2,685, with a return of investment within three years.

• Replace light fixtures in Building 2302, Patch Barracks (\$227,000). The estimated annual savings is \$76,000, with a return of investment within three years.

• Convert heating system from steam to hot water in several buildings in Panzer Kaserne (\$383,000). The estimated annual savings is \$76,600, with a return of investment within five years.

• Install solar panels on the roof of Building 3318, Kelley Barracks (\$350,000). The estimated annual savings is \$35,000, with a return of investment within ten years.

Community members can help the garrison continue to be more energy-efficient, said Werner Kienzle, DPW energy manager. "You can help save energy every day. Start in your home. Use energy only when you need it. Turn off lights, TVs, and stereos when you are not using them. Set your computer to "go to sleep" when you are away. Doing these easy things each day adds up and can really help our environment."

You can help save energy every day. Turn off lights, TVs, and stereos when you are not using them.

Werner Kienzle
DPW energy manager

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NAF office holds benefits open season

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Nonappropriated Funds Human Resources Office, in conjunction with the U.S. Army NAF Employee Benefits Program, will conduct a NAF Benefits Open Season Nov. 2-30.

NAF employees will be able to make benefit elections and changes in their current programs. NAF benefits programs available include the NAF Retirement Plan, NAF 401(k) and the latest addition, Flexible Spending Accounts.

For more information, visit www.nafbenefits.com or call 431-3119/civ. 07031-15-3119.

ICE training available for SPMs

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Plans, Analysis, and Integration Office will host four training sessions on the Interactive Customer Evaluation Web site for Service Provider Managers.

SPMs can sign up for one of four sessions, which include Nov. 30 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m., and Dec. 10 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m.

For more information, call Virginia Gouin at 431-2257/civ. 07031-15-2257.

Patch High students to present play

Students at Patch High School will perform in a student-directed and cast play Dec. 3-5 and Dec. 10-12.

The play, "The Complete Works of Shakespeare

Fall of Berlin Wall 20th anniversary celebrated



Martin Greeson

On behalf of the U.S. European Command Headquarters noncommissioned officers, EUCOM Headquarters Commandant Command Sgt. Major Delbert Hoskins presents Fleet Master Chief Roy M. Maddocks, representing the EUCOM Headquarters, with a plaque commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall Nov. 20 during a ceremony on Patch Barracks. The plaque contains a piece of razor wire that was part of the Berlin Wall while it still separated East and West Berlin.

Abridged," starts at 7 p.m. each night of the show. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$3 for students.

Health benefits season underway

The Health Benefits Open Season runs from Nov. 9 to Dec. 14. The following updated information is now available:

- The Flexible Spending Accounts for Federal Employees brochure at <https://www.fsa-feds.com/forms/OPM-FSA->

OVTF-10-031.pdf.

- The 2010 Federal Employees Health Benefits rates at <http://www.opm.gov/insure/health/rates/index.asp>.
- The Benefits Administration letter #09-405, which includes significant plan changes, located at <http://www.opm.gov/retire/pubs/bals/bal09.asp#404>.

For more information, call Adrienne Barber at the Stuttgart Civilian Personnel Advisory Center at 431-3152/civ. 07031-15-3152.

Some garrison offices closed Nov. 27
The following U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart offices will be closed Nov. 27 in recognition of the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

Garrison Stuttgart offices will be closed Nov. 27 in recognition of the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

- Vehicle Registration
- Vehicle Inspection
- Installation Access Control System Office
- Medical Clinic
- Education Center
- Stuttgart Law Center

Other offices may also be closed, please call in advance.

Classes offered for record-keepers

A class on the Freedom of Information Act, Personal Information Identifier and Privacy Act programs will be offered Dec. 4 in the American Red Cross conference room in Building 2915 on Panzer Kaserne.

Sign up for the class by calling Harminder Sehra at 431-3807/civ. 07031-15-3807, or e-mail harmindersehra2@eur.army.mil.

Honk! premieres at Kelley Theater

Be sure to see "Honk!," the musical comedy based on the tale of the Ugly Duckling, presented by the Family and

Morale, Welfare and Recreation Entertainment Branch.

Performances of the show are scheduled for Dec. 4, 5, 11 and 12 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 13 at 3 p.m. in the Kelley Theater on Kelley Barracks.

Additional performances of the show include Jan. 8, 9, 15 and 16 at 7:30 p.m. and Jan. 10 and 17 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$14 for adults and \$12 for students.

To reserve seats, or for more information, call the Kelley Theater box office at 421-2825/0711-729-2825.

PAGASA hosts Christmas party

The Philippine American German Association of the Stuttgart Area will host its annual Christmas party Dec. 12 in the Berlin Room at the SI Centrum, Stuttgart. The event includes a dinner buffet, entertainment lineup, DJ and dance floor.

The event will also raise funds to benefit the recent typhoon victims in the Philippines and various charities. Tickets are €40 per person.

For more information, call Charmaine Valmonte at 01511-554-1947 or Nat Benipayo at 0160-9340-3686.

Clinic has seasonal flu vaccine doses

The Stuttgart Health Clinic currently has about 1,800 doses of "Seasonal Influenza Vaccine" (FluMist type) available for community members 2 years to 49 years of age.

The expiration date for most of this vaccine is Dec. 10, 2009 and health officials are encouraging community members who have not received the "Seasonal Influenza Vaccine" to obtain this vaccine on a walk-in basis at the Stuttgart Health Clinic or at a scheduled community event in the near future.

Join Tuesday night bowling league

Come bowl with a friend, spouse or child in the new Tuesday night bowling league, beginning Jan. 5, 2010.

Bowling starts at 6:30 p.m. at the Galaxy Bowling Center, Building 2998 on Panzer Kaserne. Bowling will be done in two-person teams. Participants must be 12 years old or older.

For more information, call

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Pat Davis at 07031-20-48750, or call the Bowling Center at 431-2575/civ.07031-15-2575.

Audition for "Rabbit Hole" production

Auditions for the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Entertainment Branch's production of "Rabbit Hole" will be Jan. 11 and 12, 2010, at 7 p.m. in the Kelley Theater, Building 3320 on Kelley Barracks.

The cast calls for three women, one male, and one male to play a 17-year-old.

The show's director, Richard Roberts, will hold an "Acting in a Drama" pre-audition workshop Jan. 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the Kelley Theater.

For more information, call the Theater Center at 421-2315/civ. 0711-729-2315.

Jobs available for teenagers

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart youth ages 15-18 can now sign up for the third term of the Hired! Program through Child, Youth and School Services.

Teens can gain work experience by working as an apprentice in one of various Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation locations and receive course credit from Kansas State University.

Each participant must attend (6) Workforce Preparation Activities or a full-day Workforce Preparation Workshop.

Applications are now available at the Patch HUB or at <http://stuttgartmwr.com/>. Click on the Hired! icon under CYS Services.

Boy Scouts wreath sale Nov. 27-29

The Boy Scouts of America local Troop 44 will be selling holiday wreaths outside the Panzer Main Exchange Nov. 27-29 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Wreaths are 45 centimeters and accented with a choice of bows or other decorations.

Each wreath is \$28.

Walk Across Germany with CYS

The Walk Across Germany fitness program is offered to School Age Services and Middle School/Teen aged children through Child, Youth and School Services.

Participants will be given a pedometer to measure their steps throughout the day. When they reach "cities" by walking a certain number of steps, they receive a prize.

For more information, call 431-2616/civ. 07031-15-2616.

Free coffee house for teens now open

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart youth ministry recently opened "Common Grounds," a free coffee house for students in Junior High and High School, on the third floor of Building 2312 on Patch Barracks.

The coffee house is open every Monday after school for Junior High School students and Tuesdays after school for High School students.

It is also open on the following Friday nights: Dec. 4, 11 and 18 from 6-11 p.m.

For information, call Leah Vanderlaan, USAG Stuttgart Chapel Youth Leader, at 430-7237/civ. 0711-680-7237.

Patch, Panzer banks open part-day Nov. 26

On Thanksgiving Day Nov. 26, the Patch Barracks and Panzer Kaserne Community Banks will be open from 9 a.m. to noon.

The Robinson and Kelley Barracks Community Banks will be closed.

Teen Council Meeting set for Dec. 18

The Patch Youth Center Program will host a Teen Council Meeting Dec. 18 from 3:30-4:15 p.m. at the Patch HUB, next to the Patch Fitness Center, on Patch Barracks.

All interested teens in grades

6-12, who are registered with Child, Youth and School Services, are eligible to participate.

For more information, call 430-7147/civ. 0711-680-7147.

CYS hosts German Immersion camp

Teens in U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart who would like to experience German culture and Christmas traditions this winter can sign up for the German Immersion Winter Camp, hosted by Child, Youth and School Services.

The camp will run Dec. 21-23. Participants will meet outside the Patch HUB on Patch Barracks for activities, such as visits to the Stuttgart TV tower and Christmas Market. The camp runs from 12:30-2:30 Dec. 21, and from 12:30-4 p.m. Dec. 22-23.

Participants must be in grades 6-12 and enrolled in CYS to participate.

To register, visit CYS Central Enrollment in Building 2347 on Patch Barracks. For more information, call 430-7480/civ. 0711-680-7480.

Chorus to perform Christmas concert

The Stuttgart German-American Community Chorus will perform a Christmas Concert Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m. downtown in the Leonhardskirche, Leonhardsplatz 1, Stuttgart.

The concert will feature Benjamin Britten's "A Ceremony of Carols." The chorus is directed by Tom Carter, also the Patch Chapel Choir Director.

Tickets are €10 for adults and €8 for students, and will be available at the door one hour before the concert.

Bastogne walk to honor WWII Soldiers

The 32nd annual Bastogne Historic Perimeter Walk, hosted by the Bastogne Walk Committee, is scheduled for Dec. 12 in Bastogne, Belgium.

The walk honors American

"Defenders of the Bastogne" and the Third Army, and commemorates the Battle of the Bulge, which took place in 1944-'45.

The walk begins at 8 a.m. at the Centre Sportif "Porte de Treves." There is a €6 registration fee per walker, which can be paid Dec. 11 from 2-4 p.m. and Dec. 12 from 7-9:30 a.m. at the site.

For more information, call 06507-802616 or 06507-8292, or e-mail ed.germany@t-online.de.

Thanksgiving meals scheduled

The Black Stallion Dining Facility on Patch Barracks (Building 2386) will host a Thanksgiving Day meal on Nov. 26 from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

In addition, the 1/10th Dining Facility on Panzer Kaserne will host a Thanksgiving dinner Nov. 25 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

All service members, family members, Department of Defense civilians, other U.S.

ID cardholders and guests are invited to attend. All guests, to include local nationals, must be escorted by an ID card holder.

Black Stallion DFAC closed Nov. 25, 27

The Black Stallion Inn Dining Facility on Patch Barracks will be closed on Nov. 25 and 27 in order to prepare for and clean up after the Nov. 26 Thanksgiving meal.

The Black Stallion Inn will reopen on Saturday, Nov. 28.

For information, call 430-7104 or Civ. 0711-680-7104.

Boy Scouts Christmas tree sales set

The Boy Scouts of America local Troop 324 will be selling Christmas trees inside the tennis courts across from the BOSS lounge on Patch Barracks Saturdays Dec. 5 & 12 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sundays Dec. 6- & 13 from noon to 8 p.m.

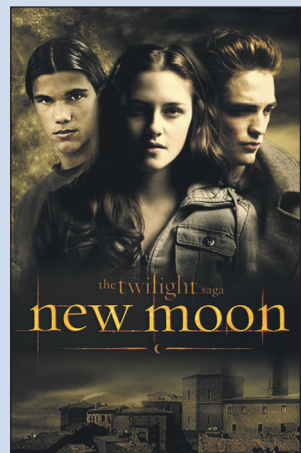
Thanksgiving weekend movie schedule Patch Movie Theater, Patch Barracks

Wednesday, Nov. 25:
6 p.m. Sorority Row (R)

Thursday, Nov. 26:
Happy Thanksgiving!
6 p.m. Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs (PG)
9 p.m. Twilight (Part 1) (PG-13)
12:01 a.m. Twilight Saga – New Moon (PG-13) 1st Run

Friday, Nov. 27:
6 p.m. Planet 51 (PG)
9 p.m. Twilight Saga – New Moon (PG-13) 1st Run

Saturday, Nov. 28:
4 p.m. Planet 51 (PG) 1st Run
7 p.m. All About Steve (PG-13)
9 p.m. The Twilight Saga –



<http://twilightguide.com>
New Moon (PG-13) 1st Run

Sunday, Nov. 29:
2 p.m. Planet 51 (PG) 1st Run
4 p.m. The Twilight Saga – New Moon (PG-13) 1st Run
7 p.m. Informant! (R)

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German, U.S. officials sign permanent fuel ration agreement

Gas privileges extended to more government personnel, vehicles

By Robert Szostek

U.S. Army Europe Office of the Provost Marshal Public Affairs Office

MANNHEIM, Germany — The final arrangement governing use of the fuel ration card for U.S. servicemembers and eligible civilian employees in Germany is now in effect, U.S. Army Europe Office of the Provost Marshal officials announced.

Col. David B. LeMauk of the U.S. Army Europe OPM, customs executive agent for U.S. forces in Germany, and Juergen Hartlich, chief of the Customs and Excise Department at the German Federal Finance Ministry, signed the agreement at Taylor Barracks in Mannheim, Germany, Oct. 30.

The finance ministry customs department agreed to expand the range of authorized customers to include U.S. embassy and consular personnel and U.S. Mission in Germany government vehicles; NATO International Military Headquarters personnel stationed in Germany and NATO IMH duty vehicles, and — in exceptional situations — other personnel not covered by the Status of Forces Agreement.

The final arrangement replaced the previous temporary agreements that

“The fuel card arrangement provides positive controls to protect the rights of U.S. forces members while tremendously reducing the opportunities for abuse.”

Col. David B. LeMauk
Customs Executive Agent for U.S. forces in Germany

had been in effect so far and contained only minor administrative changes over the earlier accords, OPM officials said. It places greater controls on fuel transactions at Army and Air Force Exchange Service and Esso stations. The system’s automated data collection also makes it easy for customs investigators to detect fuel ration abuse.

“Signing the permanent fuel card arrangement is a positive conclusion to many years of work on this important issue,” LeMauk said. “The fuel card



Mark Turney

Juergen Hartlich, chief of the Customs and Excise Department at the German Federal Finance Ministry, and Col. David B. LeMauk of the U.S. Army Europe Office of the Provost Marshal sign the final arrangement governing use of the fuel ration card available to eligible U.S. forces members during a ceremony at Taylor Barracks in Mannheim, Germany, Oct. 30.

arrangement provides positive controls to protect the rights of U.S. forces members while tremendously reducing the opportunities for abuse.”

The German government had asked the U.S. forces in Germany to change from fuel coupons to an automated gas ration card so better checks could be put in place to prevent potential abuse,

OPM officials said, adding that those safeguards help protect the overall benefit of being able to buy fuel at prices that are free of German duties and taxes.

For more information, visit the AAFES Web site at www.aafes.com/germanyfuelcard.

Soldiers, civilians must complete casualty forms by Dec. 31

USAG Stuttgart Military Personnel Division

The Department of the Army has required that all units and agencies have 100 percent accountability on casualty processing forms by Dec. 31.

The Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Operation Center now uses the Interactive Personnel Electronic Records Management System to view a Soldier’s DD Form 93 and Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance Election and Certificate for all casualty notification cases, to include Very Serious Injury and Serious Injury.

With the holiday season just around the corner, commanders should ensure that their personnel have updated their DD Form 93s and SGLV before going on leave or pass and no later than Dec. 31.

According to ALARACT 150/2009, dated May 2009, within hours of transmitting the updated and

verified DD Form 93 via the autosend feature, the document will be posted to the Soldier’s IPERMS.

Therefore, the preferred method for completing future updates to a Soldier’s DD Form 93 is via the enhanced DD Form 93 in AKO “My Forms”. This will also apply to working Retirees who can view their records under IPERMS.

“In my combined 20-year career as a Soldier and Department of the Army civilian, I believe this is the single most important document we have in our arsenal when a casualty or injury situation occurs,” said Tracee Quinn, U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Military Personnel Division chief.

“It’s critical to have a current DD Form 93 and their SGLV on file for the sake of the family. I have personally processed cases where an ex-wife or parent received the money instead of a new wife and children. Usually those cases end in court, which is not what the Soldier would have wanted,” she added.

Human Resource providers will ensure that Soldiers know how to both update their DD Form 93 and route it through AKO “My Forms.” Instructions are available on the CMAOC Web site at <https://www.hrc.army.mil/SITE/ACTIVE/TAGD/CMAOC/CMAOC.HTM>.

“It’s critical that our civilians and Soldiers update their documents and take into consideration their children, current family dynamics, relationships between loved ones, and where and how they want to be memorialized,” Quinn added.

In situations where AKO “My Forms” access is not available or Soldier access to computers via a Controlled Access Card is limited, commanders and HR providers can use the Electronic Military Per-

sonnel Office or other automated systems to process updates to the DD Form 93.

The AKO “My Forms” option only applies to the DD Form 93 and not when updating an SGLV. Soldiers can view their service records through IPERMS at <https://iperms.army.mil> to see if their DD Form 93 and SGLV are posted, as well as other official military personnel records.

Soldiers are responsible for reviewing and updating (if necessary) their DD Form 93 and SGLV when in-/out-processing due to a permanent change of station, their pre-separation process, during their personal record audit, in conjunction with the unit’s Soldiers Readiness Program and upon a change in a family member’s status.

The Soldier has the option to designate up to ten individuals for their Death Gratuity. The Army requires that the spouse is notified in writing when designated to receive less than 100 percent of the Death Gratuity.

Soldiers can also appoint a Person Authorized to Direct Disposition. This person is authorized to make funeral and memorial arrangements. By law, the PADD must be the spouse, a blood relative, or an adoptive relative; if none of the above exist, the Soldier can then name a person serving in *Loco Parentis*.

Soldiers updating their DD Form 93 via AKO should e-mail their update receipt confirmation to HR personnel for their information and unit/agency accountability.

For more information, call the USAG Stuttgart Military Personnel Division at 431-3382/2539/2553/civ. 07031-3382/2539/2553.

“I believe [DD Form 93] is the single most important document we have in our arsenal when a casualty or injury situation occurs.”

Teresa Quinn

USAG Stuttgart Military Personnel Division

Cowboys, Tigers take Youth Sports championships

Story and photos by Larry Reilly
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

The Bantam Cowboys football team and Junior Tigers Soccer team emerged from the Nov. 7 U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Child, Youth and School Services Flag Football and Soccer Championships victorious.

At Husky Field on Patch Barracks, the Cowboys fought a tough battle against the Falcons, the only team to beat the Cowboys during the regular season, but came out on top 12-6 and claimed their third straight championship.

"The kids on both teams played a tough game in some pretty cold weather," said Ken McDaniel, Cowboys coach. "We came into the tournament as the defending champions, but were seeded second behind the Falcons, and the players just wanted to prove to the Falcons and themselves that they were



Bantam Cowboys football players Gary Smith (number 12), and Christian Mansapit (10) reach out to receive the football thrown by Jason Adderty (QB) during the USAG Stuttgart CYS Services Flag Football Championship Nov. 7 on Husky Field, Patch Barracks. The Cowboys beat the Falcons 12-6, claiming their third straight championship title.



Reese Paxton (in white), a Tigers player, tries to avoid Pop Tarts players during the soccer championship.

the better team."

The Cowboys scored early after Brandon Frasier caught a pass from quarterback Jason Adderty and scrambled 30 yards into the end zone for six points.

The Falcons answered quickly with a touchdown, of their own to notch the game at 6-6.

The score remained tied into the final quarter as both teams were able to keep the other from scoring. That was until Frasier's fancy footwork again took him into the end zone and gave the Cowboys a 12-6 lead. However, the Falcons had one last chance.

"With about two minutes left on the clock, the Falcons mounted a comeback and were near the end zone when their quarterback threw up a pass, which Wesley Reynolds intercepted," said McDaniel. "It was a close game, but we were able to run the clock out and take the title."

Across town at the YS soccer field just outside of Panzer Kaserne, the Tigers edged out the Pop Tarts 1-0 to take the CYS Services Juniors Soccer Championship title.

"Both teams played a very close, defensive game," said Glenn Paxton, Tigers coach. "It was so close that it was going to come down to whatever team got lucky and scored, would win."

For the Tigers, that lucky shot came off the foot of Claudia Lockridge, who found the inside of the net near the end of the game.

"It was a real relief when Claudia scored the goal, because the Pop Tarts had been really limiting our scoring chances, especially in the first half," Paxton said.

"We were playing too conservative at first and our scorers were too far back," he added. "After bringing the scorers to the front more, we were able to spread out the Pop Tart's defense more."

The Tigers now move on to represent Stuttgart at the IMCOM-Europe championships, and regardless of the outcome, both they and the Bantam Cowboys' football team hold bragging rights in the Stuttgart military community until at least next year.

Stuttgart baseball clinic hosts college coaches from U.S.

Story & photo by Brittany Carlson
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Only one thing could make 40 teenage boys run bases, catch grounders and practice their swing during a cold, wet November weekend in Stuttgart, Germany: the love of the game.

And the yells of encouragement from five college baseball coaches from the United States.

The coaches, who hail from California State University San Bernardino and Ohio State University, traveled to U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart to host the fourth annual baseball clinic Nov. 12-15 on Husky Field, Patch Barracks.

"It's cool how they fly over here just to see us," said Justin Phelps, 17, a Patch High School student.

By "us," Phelps meant 13- to 18-year-old boys from Department of Defense Dependent schools in Belgium, Wiesbaden, Heidelberg, Ramstein, Vogelweh and Stuttgart, as well as local national students.

The clinic focuses on "excelled basics," said Larry Tannenbaum, USAG Stuttgart Patch High School baseball coach. "Bunting, pitching, running, hit-

ting — they bring it to a new level."

The coaches also teach the finer points of the game.

"I learned about keeping your glove fingers down," said Cavan Cohoes, 16, a new student to Patch High School from California.

"It's cool to be with the coaches because it's hard to get this kind of clinic over here," he added.

Besides refining their techniques, the boys learned a few life lessons, too.

"Everything in baseball is basically how you handle failure," said Pete Jenkins, Ohio State University assistant baseball coach. In basketball, three out of 10 free throws is a poor showing, but, in baseball, three out of 10 at-bats makes an All-Star," he added.

"You fail 70 percent of the time. You gotta keep going," Jenkins said.

By the end of the camp, Tannenbaum sees a difference in the students' skill level. "You can bat a 400 in high

school and that's pretty good," he said, "but, after working for five minutes with some of these guys, now you're hitting 500."

The coaches also conducted a smaller clinic Nov. 11 for girls and 10- to 12-year-old boys.

"We just love coming and helping these guys," Jenkins said. "We're thankful for what everyone does out here [in the military]. It's nice to come and give back to the kids."



A student from the SHAPE military installation in Belgium prepares to catch a ground ball during the baseball clinic Nov. 12, while listening to instructions from Gus Miller (far left), an Ohio State University coach.

It's Christmas time in Germany!

Local Christmas markets display seasonal treats with individual flair, charm

By Birgit Thompson

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

For one month every year, Germany and its bordering countries are transformed by the many Christmas markets that help light up the dark skies.

Many communities hold Christmas, Advent, Christkindl and Stern Markets during the holiday season, usually beginning around the American Thanksgiving holiday and ending between Christmas and New Year's Day.

All of these markets started out similar to bazaars, giving the patrons a chance to purchase all of the necessary supplies for the coming cold winter months in one place. As time went by, the markets became a part of Germany's Christmas traditions.

Today, the markets are less about supplying needs as they are about enjoying the Christmas season, with all of the decorations, treats and wares associated with the holiday.

The smells of fresh roasted almonds, Glühwein, fresh chestnuts and Lebkuchen (gingerbread) let visitors experience the scents

of Christmas before they even arrive at the market's food stalls.

A typical market will consist of many small, lavishly decorated huts around a special location in the town.

Glassblowers decorate their huts with hand-made ornaments, some of which can be specially made for patrons right at the stand. Other vendors sell the famous wood carvings from the Erzgebirge (Erz-Mountain) or display their candle-lit pyramids, nutcrackers, nativity scenes and smokers for purchase. Pottery stands round out the scene with ideas for some unique Christmas gifts.

Visitors can also buy traditional German Christmas sweets, such as Printen (ginger biscuits), Spekulatius (spiced cookies) and Christstollen, a bread-like cake covered in powdered sugar, which are popular "Mitbringsel" (small gifts). They can also try glass of Glühwein or Feuerzangenbowle, a hot beverage made from red wine and rum.

On Dec. 6, visitors to Christmas markets may encounter the German Santa Claus, Sankt Nikolaus. He will wander through the markets with his faithful servant, Rupprecht, asking children if they have been naughty or nice and handing out little chocolates to the latter.

There are several well-known Christmas markets located within half an hour of the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart installations.

Stuttgart

For more than 300 years, the Stuttgart Christmas market has enchanted visitors from near and far.

The Stuttgarter Weihnachtsmarkt is centered around the Alte Schloss and the Schillerplatz in downtown Stuttgart.

This year, the market runs from Nov. 25 to Dec. 23 from 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. (opening



www.ludwigsburg.de

The Baroque-style Christmas market in Ludwigsburg features illuminated angels, soft music, and homemade specialties, including honey wine, jams and wooden toys. The Ludwigsburg market runs from Nov. 24 to Dec 22 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

day begins at 6 p.m.)

The huts are decorated differently each year, each with its own theme, and are judged by a market committee. Stuttgart's Christmas market has been rated one of the most beautiful in Europe.

During the market, 24 of the town hall's square windows make up the world's largest advent calendar. Every day, a Türchen (small door) will be opened, displaying the 23 coats of arms of the city. What hides behind door number 24 is a surprise.

In this market, visitors can find the traditional holiday treats, Glühwein (mulled wine), bratwurst and waffle, along with hand-made crafts, Swiss children's clothing, socks and brushes.

A myriad of both useful and decorative items can be purchased while strolling through the alleys at the Marktplatz, the Schillerplatz and — new this year — an extension of the market in the Calver passage.

The Schlossplatz hosts the "winter dream" ice rink, a small train ride and an antique Ferris wheel.

On Dec. 16, the U.S. Air Force Europe brass quintet will perform their Christmas

program in the courtyard of the Alte Schloss during market hours.

For more information on the Stuttgarter Weihnachtsmarkt, visit www.stuttgarter-weihnachtsmarkt.de

Ludwigsburg

Ludwigsburg sets up its Christmas Market with illuminated angels displayed throughout town to guide visitors to the Baroque Christmas market in the center of town.

The market is not as large as its brothers in Stuttgart and Esslingen; however, the Christmas spirit is reflected in many other, smaller offerings here. Homemade honey wine, jams, wooden toys, Turkish honey and more spread cheer through the small alleys of the market.

The hustle and bustle of the busy shopping streets next to the market seem forgotten once visitors step into this traditional Christmas market.

This market runs from Nov. 24 to Dec. 22 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Esslingen am Neckar

Besides selling the traditional Christmas wares, the Esslingen am Neckar Christmas Market has a medieval theme.

Visitors will hear lutes, recorders, pipes and other medieval instruments being played as a travelling band makes its way through the streets during the market. The traveling minstrels are in costume, sometimes on stilts, and dressed as animal-like characters with flowing robes.

Market patrons can also buy medieval specialties, including instruments and old-time candies, or watch artisans, including a blacksmith, ply their craft.

The market also has some rides for children, and several locations for photo opportunities, including the giant-sized pyramid candle holder.

Be sure to try a Schneeball: waffle pieces with different fillings, including chocolate, cinnamon and pistachio.

This market runs from Nov. 24 to Dec. 22 from 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

(Additional information for this article was provided by Brittany Carlson, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office.)

For more Christmas market information, visit www.stuttgart.army.mil and click on the "Out & About" logo.

Make your own holiday treats

Glühwein Recipe

Ingredients:

- 0,75 l red wine
- 10 cubes of sugar
- 2 oranges
- 2 cinnamon sticks
- 20 cloves

Directions:

Combine wine and sugar in a pot to heat, but do not boil the wine.

Stick cloves into one half of the oranges (this way you will not have to fish out the cloves separately later). Add them to the heated wine. Next, add the cinnamon sticks and the rest of the oranges (sliced). Simmer for 10 minutes. Serves three.



Indoor advent wreath

You will need:

- Pine branches, cut to 10-15 cm
- Thuja branches (flat green pine), cut to 10-15 cm

One straw wreath, covered with green gardener's tape

One roll of florist wire

Directions:

Attach wire firmly to wreath; make sure the wire roll stays attached for easier binding.

One by one, attach the pine and thuja branches in bundles evenly, pointing in one direction. Select same-size branches and fan them over the wreath, making sure the top and sides are covered.

Keep going around the whole wreath until you reach the endpoint; you will have to fasten the last branches under the first set.

Attach candle holders to the wreath. These are available at any arts and crafts store. Attach a bow or other decorations as desired.

A picture guide on how to make your own wreath can be found at gaertnerblog.de/blog/2006/adventskranz-basteln.

The smells of freshly roasted almonds, Glühwein, fresh chestnuts and Lebkuchen (gingerbread) let visitors experience the scents of Christmas before they even arrive at the market's food stalls.



www.esslingen-marketing.de

A candymaker at the Esslingen am Neckar Christmas market displays a variety of medieval candies at her booth, such as ginger drops and licorice.

Pick your own Christmas tree

Several local tree farms allow patrons to select and cut their own Christmas tree:

Tannengrün Schaible

Herterstraße 7, 71254 Ditzingen
Phone: 0170-7720933
E-mail: Tannengruen-Schaible@gmx.de

Weihnachtsbäume Markus Silcher

Heckbachstr. 7, 71404 Korb-Kleinheppach
Phone: 07151-606758 or 0170-868-8901

Zabergäu-Tanne Bernhard Schmall

Nordhausener Str. 34, 74336 Brackenheim-Hausen
Phone: 07135-6468 or 0173-8712016
E-mail: kb.schmall@gmx.de

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in Kooperation / en coopération

The history of the nutcracker

by Petra Lessoing
86th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Strolling across Christmas markets in Germany, shoppers will find unique wooden items such as nutcrackers, Christmas pyramids, angels and other figures.

The origin of these holiday items goes back to the 17th century in the Erzgebirge, a mountain area near the Czech border. After ore became scarce, many miners were forced to do something else, so they began turning everyday items into little toy figures for their children, which eventually led to an entire new industry.

The miners created different figures as an artistic expression of their interests and political concerns. One of the first items created was a wooden figure of a miner smoking his pipe called "Räuchermännchen," or smoking man. To express their longing for daylight after working years in the mountain, they also produced light angels. With the creation of mean-looking nutcrackers, they intended to insult the magis-

tracy (government). Former miners also produced wooden policemen, foresters, soldiers and high authorities with scowling faces – that was their way of insulting the government and showing them that they were treating the miners unjustly. In 1699, a wood craftsman from the town of Seiffen, which is located in the Erzgebirge, transported his homemade products on a wheelbarrow to the fair in Leipzig.

Commercial relations were established, especially with the town of Nuremberg. That's how the manufacturing of these unique toys started. Since the standard of living was quite low in the Erzgebirge, the products were sold at cheap prices and thus faced little competition.

Eventually, the former ore-mining town of Seiffen turned into the European center of toy production with exports to the United States starting in 1784. The most popular item that was exported to the states was "Noah's ark." The little animals were made with a special technique – wheel turning.

Craftsmen prepared wood-

en wheels and cut the figures out, a technique still alive today in Seiffen, the town of toys. At the beginning of the 20th century, the production of miniature toy figures became more and more popular. By 1890, customs were charged according to weight and not to the value of the products in exporting to other countries.

This made it more expensive to export big toys. At the same

time, wood prices increased. Nowadays, the Erzgebirge region is well known for traditional Christmas symbols – miners carrying lights, angels, nutcrackers, nativity scenes, Christmas pyramids and wooden archs. The mining, longing for light, joy of celebrating Christmas and the love of the miners for their children were the predominant reasons for this specific type of toy production.



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When the Wall came down

Commentary by **Anemone Rueger**
U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden
Public Affairs Office

On my way home from work on Nov. 9, I bought a German newspaper to remember my experiences as an East German teenager and to celebrate the fall of the Berlin Wall some two decades ago.

I read the records of contemporaries, of an East German border policeman who struggled to make the right decision, of curious Berliners who were pulled along in the current of events with hundreds of Trabi cars heading for the other side of the separated city. I read of a reporter's fateful question and one of the most consequential and most glorious errors, or premature announcements, at a press conference ever: "As far as I know ... yes, starting immediately ... it is possible for them to go through the border."

Many have asked me where I was on that evening, 20 years ago, and what I felt. For the longest time I couldn't remember anything in particular, and then I recalled why. We

thought it was a trick of the communist regime. We were waiting it out in our little village in Southeast Germany, dreading the tanks that were standing by.

But then, a week later, my dad packed us four kids in the Trabi car and we hit the concrete Autobahn for Berlin. Emotions well up with the memories — standing in front of a shopping mall in the first snow, blinded by the thousands of Christmas stars that seemed to fill the cold dark sky.

I remember thinking, "So it is true, after all." Not long before that, I had stood in the kitchen with my dad and counted the years until I turned 18 so I could at least apply for a visa to check out if golden West Germany was just a fairy tale. Working in a factory in East Germany's retarded textile industry was not exactly my dream, but about the only outlook. I had grown up learning that you better keep your dreams of the big wide world to yourself.

Now I was there. I wasn't bitter about the years spent in the confinement of the Eastern Bloc. I wasn't



overwhelmed by the glittering of capitalism. I was just utterly pleased to find that even the faintest hope was rewarded with such wonderful reality. I remember us children with our fashionable East German plastic glasses standing at the counter that was supposed to present us with our "welcome money" from the West German government and had just closed down, and dad explaining what a long way we had come. We each walked out like Bill Gates with our DM100 bill. I also remember how some of us, under the wise investment counsel of dad, took our first real money and put it in the offering for orphans in Bethlehem at the church around the corner, with

the exhilarating joy of being able to make a difference somewhere.

I remember how we stopped at a gas station on the way and I, thrilled by the splendid choice, made my first Western purchase — a deodorant. Not until weeks later when it was almost empty did I realize it was a gentleman's fragrance. East Germany wasn't very good at fragrances.

I remember how hot and tasty the hot chocolate in the plastic cup was that the Salvation Army was passing out to the strangers in the street.

What a Thanksgiving.

I just opened a bottle of Rottkäppchen sparkling wine that had been waiting for the right moment, and I toasted to the god of history.

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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.
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 NEWS FOR NEWS MAKERS

Put yourself on Ice at the Zugspitze Igloo Hotel

By **Birgit Thompson**
Public Affairs Office

Christmas and New Year's have passed, it's really cold outside, the kids (no matter what age) are restless and mom and dad have trouble keeping everyone in the family entertained.

That's when one wonders, "What's there to do?" Here comes the insider tip of the new year: the Igloo Village Hotel and bar at the top of the Zugspitze!

Be one of the first in this new year to brave the chill, at 2,600 meters above sea level for a night in an igloo.

The Igloo Village in Garmisch-Partenkirchen opened its ice-cubed doors for the first time during the 2005/2006 winter season.

From Dec. 28 until April 2 you could stay in one of the igloo standard or romantic suites or maybe just have a drink at the igloo bar.

The village is located in the heart of Germany's most popular ski resort and presents visitors with the glorious scenery of the Zugspitze glacier.

These unique snow structures are cre-

ated via a balloon system, using 3,000 cubic meters (sometimes more) of snow that is blown into balloons, which later are deflated and removed, leaving the cold white domes in their place. The hotel is the only one in Germany. Austria and Switzerland are home to four more. Last year, more than 6,700 courageous souls stayed in these frosty accommodations. Up to six people fit in a standard igloo while the romantic suite is reserved for two (you may want to plan ahead for Valentine's Day.)

There are multiple activities available at the village during the day. You can learn to build your own classic igloo, go on a snow-shoe hike, have a Swiss cheese fondue with friends, or just enjoy the sun while hanging out in a hammock.

For the not so tough visitors, the village offers a 38 degree Celsius warm Jacuzzi which you may enjoy during the night while watching the stars through the open dome ceiling.

No matter what you do to pass the day you probably will have a great story to share when you get home.

For more information visit:
www.iglu-dorf.com



Sunbathing at 2,600 meters above sea level at the Austrian igloo village in Kühteil.



Visitors enjoy fondue in one of the 20 igloos on top of the Zugspitze (www.zugspitzbahn.de).



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New Horizons main aim is to provide their students with the relevant training to help them advance in their career and train them in all the latest and up-to-date programs such as Server 2008, SQL 2005/08, and the newest Microsoft Operating System, Windows 7, to name a few. There are three specific locations, which serve all Military communities within Germany,

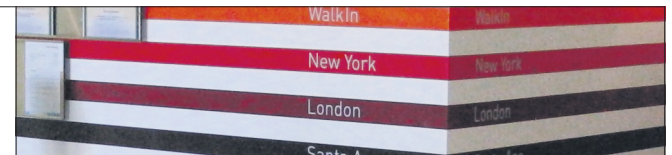
and Europe, namely Frankfurt, Stuttgart and the newly opened center in Wiesbaden (5 minutes from the Hainerberg housing complex). These centers have their dedicated Account Manager handling all DoD requests and advising personnel with their training.

Flexibility is key at New Horizons. All of their facilities have the capability to train an individual at their convenience, or train a group of 10 in 10 different subjects at the same time through their innovative training solution "Walkin™ - Mentored Learning", which has been recognized and awarded by Microsoft.

New Horizons are currently engaged in projects with many

DoD units here in Europe helping them to meet the requirements of directive 8570 by holding dedicated classes on installations across Europe in courses such as Security+, A+, and special customized courses that are created to fit individual units' needs. Many units are unaware of the fact that this directive has a deadline that is quickly approaching. Additionally, a lot of units are far from meeting the requirements needed in order to certify their individuals in their specialty.

The team at New Horizons recognizes that each DoD unit is different, with individual and specific needs and concerns, and works in cooperation to provide the best and most suitable train-



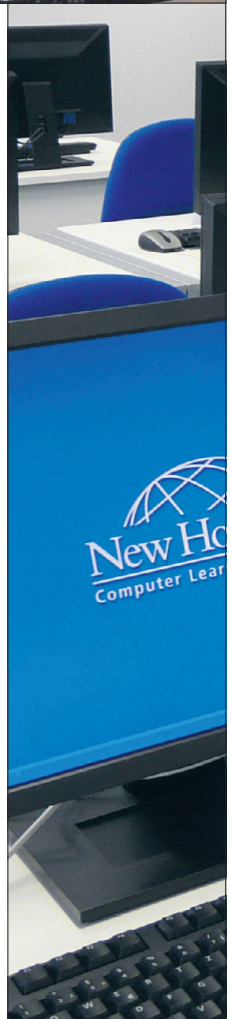
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ing solution to help the DoD unit realize its goal.

Contact New Horizons before the 18th of December and mention this article to be eligible for the 10% discount for readers of The Citizen.

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green, 5-speed manual, dark cloth interior, 115,000km (72K mi), pwr windows/locks & sunroof, no mechanical problems, 2nd owner, I've had it for 1 year, BMW mechanic maintained, Mobile 1 synthetic oil used, all-season tires, USAEUR insp. good till 7 Nov 09. Bike rack not incl. Car is located in the Heidelberg area. Email justin. lemire@eur.dtra. mil or call 0162-272-8101. \$6900 OBO, Will accept cash or cashier's check.

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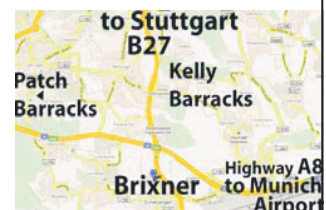
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dren and are interested in a long-time commitment (10 - 12 month) As an au pair you have to be between 18 - 24 years, you will get "pocket money" of approx 300 ? per month, will be insured and will get german classes. You are welcome to live with us together inhouse, but this is not a must!If you are interested, please don't hesitate to contact us: rosaca74@web.de

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