

The Citizen

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Lessons learned from kidnapping

Antiterrorism experts say the abduction of an Army general reinforces need for vigilance.

Packing your bags for a trip?

The State Department offers tips to make your holiday travels safe and incident free.

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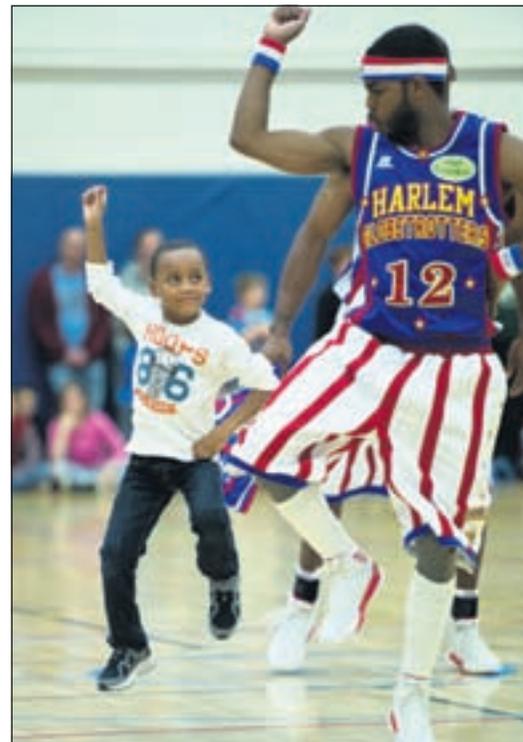
Globetrotters delight fans

The world famous Harlem Globetrotters delighted a full house of fans Dec. 6 in the Patch Fitness Center, thanks to Navy Entertainment and Armed Forces Entertainment. The Globetrotters conclude their 12th tour of U.S. military bases in the United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, Greece and Spain.

Photos by Laura Castro



Globie, the official Harlem Globetrotters mascot, takes a break with spectators.



Tyler Jackson, 7, dances with "Ant" Atkinson after helping the Globetrotter with a trick shot.

AFRICOM helps regional militaries fight HIV/AIDS

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

U.S. Africa Command is making headway in helping militaries across Africa confront the HIV/AIDS epidemic through a program focused on prevention, care and treatment, a senior command official reported last week.

"The whole focus is to reduce the incidence of HIV in foreign militaries," Mike Hrschchysn, chief of humanitarian and health activities for AFRICOM's Security Cooperation Programs directorate, said during a web chat commemorating World AIDS Day earlier this month.

The office oversees the strategic direction of the Defense Department's HIV/AIDS Prevention Program in Africa. Of more than 70 nations that participate in the DOD program, 45 are in AFRICOM's area of operations, Hrschchysn reported.

HIV and AIDS represent a potential threat to Africa's regional security and stability, he said. The disease weakens national governments and economies and erodes the readiness of their militaries.

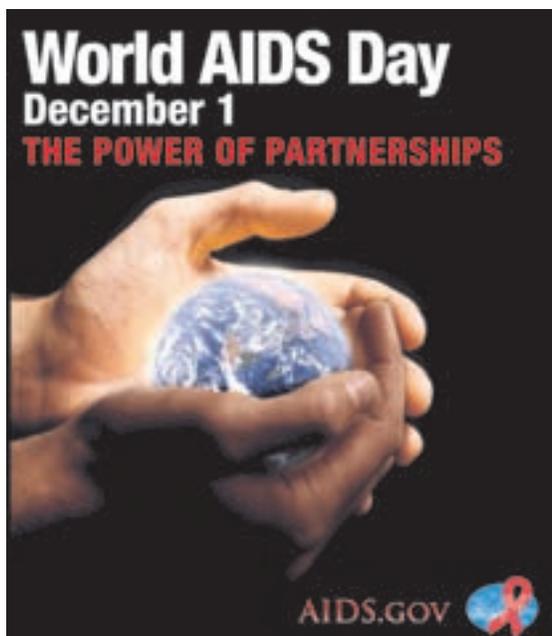
That degrades their effectiveness, not just within their own countries, but also in their ability to provide peacekeeping forces that support regional stability, he explained.

"Without militaries that are able to discharge their missions ... security starts to degrade," Hrschchysn said. "And not only does it have an impact on that specific country but also on a regional basis, beyond

their borders."

This vulnerability could provide opportunities for others to exploit in destabilizing ways, he said.

Since AFRICOM's standup five years ago, it has focused heavily on regional outreach through its Partner



Graphic courtesy of

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

World AIDS Day is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV. AFRICOM is helping militaries across Africa confront the HIV/AIDS epidemic through a program focused on prevention, care and treatment.

Military HIV/AIDS Program. The program's goal is to help regional militaries reduce the incidence of HIV and AIDS within their ranks.

The effort, provided with strong support from the Naval Health Research Center in San Diego working in lock-step with embassy country teams, has been highly successful in increasing awareness about HIV/AIDS and ways to prevent it, Hrschchysn reported.

The effort has reached nearly a half-million troops and their family members with educational programs about prevention and treatment, provided about 4,000 healthcare workers trained in HIV/AIDS care and treatment, and provided support to about 75,000 people living with the disease.

But Hrschchysn said the impact goes far deeper, with every person who receives education and training amplifying the message through their daily personal and professional interactions. "They become force multipliers in reducing the transmission of HIV/AIDS," he said.

Recognition of the consequences of the disease — and successes in confronting it — makes nations eager to work together to confront it, he noted. Partner nations share state-of-the-art developments regarding HIV and AIDS during biennial conferences sponsored by DOD's HIV/AIDS Prevention Program. The most recent one, hosted by Mozambique in 2012, attracted representatives of 70-plus militaries from around the world. "That reflects the large global interest," Hrschchysn said.

See *Fight HIV* on page 4

THE CITIZEN

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Freedom 6 Sends: Happy Holidays to Army's best

Commentary by **Lt. Gen. Donald M. Cambell Jr.**
U.S. Army Europe commander

Ann and I would like to wish the entire United States Army Europe Team a joyous and wonderful holiday season!

This time of year Americans, as well as many of our friends and allies around the world, reflect on and give thanks for the freedom and prosperity that we all enjoy. You – the Soldiers, civilians and family members of USAREUR – contribute to that freedom and prosperity on a daily basis.

This holiday season marks one year in command and I could not be more thankful to serve, what I truly believe to be, the best team in the Army. As I reflect back on this past year, on all of the communities, units, exercises and events I've had the privilege to visit, I could not be prouder of the accomplishments and professionalism of our force. Thank you for your unwavering service and dedication to

our vital mission here in Europe.

As you celebrate the holidays with your families, friends and loved ones, please remember our teammates deployed around the world; whether it's in the mountains of Afghanistan, the sands of Kuwait, the valleys of Kosovo, or on a cold mountain top in Turkey. May they be in your thoughts and prayers, as they will be in ours.

Although many of us are fortunate enough to have our families here with us to enjoy the holiday season, many in our communities do not. I encourage you all to consider opening your homes to our single service members and those geographically separated from their loved ones during the holidays.

I know that many of you will travel in the next few weeks, whether around Europe or back stateside, I ask that you please be vigilant in looking out for the safety of your family and your fellow service members. I want to see everyone back here to start off a great New Year in USAREUR.



Lt. Gen. Campbell



This is the final edition of The Citizen for 2013. We will return to print Jan. 9, 2013. Wishing all our readers and contributors a Happy New Year!

USAG Stuttgart Religious Support Office

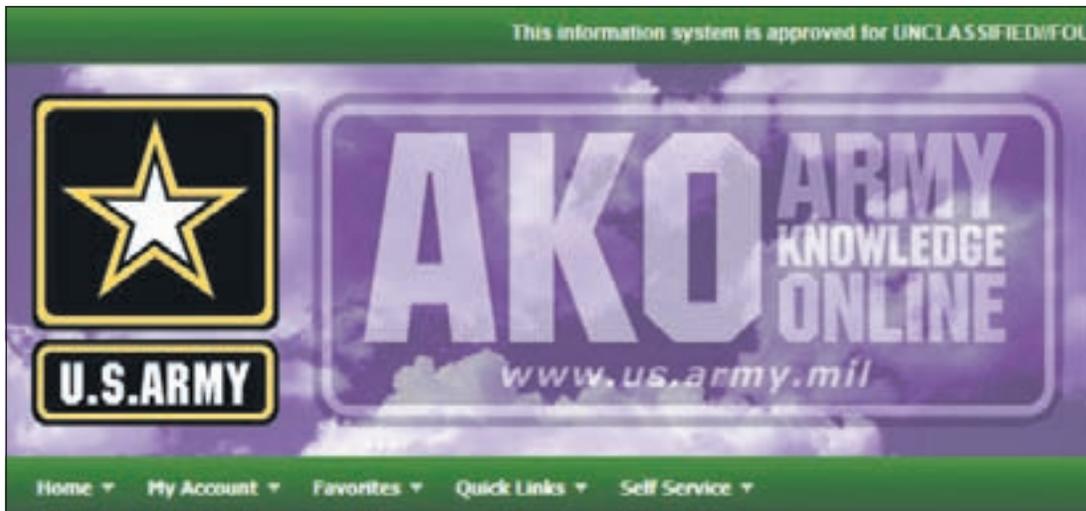
Holiday Service Schedule

*On behalf of the chaplains and staff of Stuttgart's religious community,
Season's Greetings, Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas!*

| | | |
|----------------|------------------|--|
| Dec. 24 | 5 p.m. | Liturgical Protestant Christmas Eve Service, Panzer Chapel |
| | 6 p.m. | Protestant Christmas Eve Service, Patch Chapel |
| | 6:30 p.m. | Catholic Christmas Eve Vigil, Panzer Chapel |
| | 7:30 p.m. | Protestant Christmas Eve Service, Robinson Barracks Chapel |
| | 10 p.m. | Catholic Christmas Eve Vigil, Patch Chapel |
| Dec. 25 | 11 a.m. | Catholic Christmas Day Mass, Robinson Barracks Chapel |
| Dec. 31 | 5 p.m. | Catholic New Year's Eve Mass, Panzer Chapel |
| | 6:30 p.m. | Liturgical Protestant New Year's Eve Service, Panzer Chapel |
| | 6:30 p.m. | Catholic New Year's Eve Vigil, Patch Chapel |
| Jan. 1 | 11 a.m. | Catholic New Year's Day Mass, Robinson Barracks Chapel |

Weekend services will continue as scheduled

For more information, call the USAG Stuttgart Religious Support Office
431-3079/civ. 07031-15-3079



U.S. Army graphic

Retirees and family members should activate the forwarding function in their Army Knowledge Online account profile before Dec. 31, 2013, when their email will no longer be accessible. The Army established AKO in the late 1990s to provide online information services for U.S. Army personnel, and then later extended some AKO services to retirees and family members. Services have included email, collaboration, discussion forums, a directory, and direct access to many DOD and VA websites.

Retirees, family members must enable AKO forwarding by Dec. 31

U.S. Army Office of the Chief Information Officer and Program Executive Office Enterprise Information Systems

Retirees and family members should activate the forwarding function in their Army Knowledge Online account profile before Dec. 31, 2013, when their email will no longer be accessible.

As of Jan. 1, 2014, they cannot log into their inboxes or reach information and messages archived in Army Knowledge Online, known as AKO, email folders.

As part of the Army's AKO transition to enterprise services, Army retirees and family members can have their AKO email automatically forwarded to a commercial email address until Dec. 31, 2014. In the past, users could only forward AKO email to a government email address.

Users may need to update business and billing accounts, such as utilities, credit card companies, banks and other financial institutions, mailing lists, etc., if AKO email was used for these accounts. Retirees may need to update their myPay email address to continue getting messages from the Defense and Accounting System.

Retirees and family members who use AKO email as their primary email should sign up for an alternate email account before Dec. 31, 2013, and have email forwarded.

Through DOD Self-Service Logon or DSLogon, retirees and family members continue to have access to personnel and benefits information on DOD and Veterans Administration, or VA, websites. During the transition, AKO email addresses can be used to logon to DOD and VA websites until Mar. 31, 2014. Starting in April, these websites can only be accessed through DSLogon or an alternate method.

All Soldiers (active duty, Guard/Reserve,

retirees, veterans) and eligible family members can obtain a DSLogon account, which allows access using a single username and password. DSLogon complies with federal security guidelines and provides a secure user experience. Users must be enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System to obtain an account.

For sites not currently using DSLogon, such as MyPay, users must establish an individual username and password.

The Army remains committed to virtually connect with all retirees and family members. The Army public website, www.army.mil, remains the source of official Army news, information, and social media. It is accessible from any location and on any device.

All Army business processes will move off the current AKO platform onto next-generation enterprise services over the course of several years; migration is expected by fiscal year 2017.

The Army is currently modernizing the AKO infrastructure and services to become more interoperable across DOD, to lower cost and to improve efficiency and security. The Army is moving toward enterprise services for collaboration, content management, and unified capabilities (including chat, voice and video over IP), which all draw on the identity service underpinning DOD Enterprise Email.

AKO and many official Army sites will only be accessible via the government-issued Common Access Card, known as a CAC. Because retirees and family members are not eligible for CACs, they will no longer have access to AKO.

The Army established AKO in the late 1990s to provide online information services for U.S. Army personnel, and then later extended some AKO services to retirees and family members. Services have included email, collaboration, discussion forums, a directory, and direct access to many DOD and VA websites.

News & Notes

Commissary scholarships for military children

Applications are now being accepted for the 2014 Defense Commissary Agency Scholarships for Military Children Program.

Applications must be turned in to a commissary by close of business Feb. 28.

Scholarship awards will be based on funds available, but the goal of the program is to award a minimum of one \$2,000 scholarship at each commissary location that receives applications from students who meet all of the eligibility requirements.

Applications are available in commissaries and online at www.militaryscholar.org.

To apply for a scholarship, the student must be a dependent, unmarried child of a service member on active duty, reservist, guardsman, retiree or survivor of a military member who died while on active duty or survivor of a retiree. Applicants must be younger than 21, or 23, if enrolled as a full-time student at a college or university.

Family and MWR offers winter motorcycle storage

The Automotive Skills Center on Panzer Kaserne will offer a new, fee-based winter motorcycle storage service from Dec. 16, 2013, to March 31, 2014.

The fee is \$30 per month. Fees for the month of December will be prorated. The cost for the entire storage period is \$105. All fees for the entire storage period must be paid in advance.

Starting at 9 a.m. on Dec. 16, the Panzer Auto Skills will hold a special opening to receive motorcycles for storage. Due to limited storage space, motorcycles will be stored on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Customers will be responsible for all services required to ensure their motorcycle is prepared for storage.

To help expedite the storage process, each customer will need to bring a copy of current, valid licensing and registration, a copy of proof of insurance showing coverage with liability through the entire storage period, and a completed storage agreement.

The storage agreement can be downloaded at www.stuttgart.armymwr.com.

For more information, call the Automotive Skills Center at 431-2555/civ. 07031-15-2555.

Mailroom backlog impedes processing of holiday mail

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart postal officials have asked that post office patrons pick up parcels as soon as possible in order to alleviate the current backlog of packages and to free up storage space for incoming mail and parcels.

In the midst of the holiday season, postal workers are processing a constant flow of packages. Patrons are asked to check boxes more frequently and collect parcels to facilitate faster processing of mail for the community.

Postal patrons are reminded that hours for the post offices and community mailrooms have been expanded during the holiday season.

On the Blotter

Nov. 16

- A family member was apprehended after stealing cosmetics from the Exchange on Panzer Kaserne.

- A civilian employee was questioned after he fueled his vehicle on Kelley Barracks and failed to pay for the gas.

Nov. 22

- A family member was charged in German court with aggravated assault for spraying a local national with pepper spray after the two argued about parking.

- Military Police removed expired USA-REUR license plates from a vehicle on Patch Barracks.

- Two non-appropriated fund employees were put in German custody after being arrested on suspicion of committing armed robbery.

Nov. 23

- A service member was involved in a fight with a local national in downtown Stuttgart, was arrested by German police, and assaulted the responding officers by scratching and pushing them.

- A service member is under investigation for wrongfully taking a government vehicle and driving it while intoxicated.

Nov. 27

- Military Police responded to three traffic accidents.

- A family member was apprehended for shoplifting from the Exchange on Panzer Kaserne.

Nov. 28

- A service member reported that military gear and personal property were stolen from the storage area in his on-post quarters

Dec. 2

- A service member was stopped and arrested on Autobahn A8 for driving under the influence of alcohol.

Dec. 3

- Military Police responded to three traffic accidents and received three complaints of damage to vehicles that were parked on post.

Dec. 4

- A family member was observed by a witness and then stopped by German police for driving under the influence of alcohol in Sindelfingen. The field breathalyzer revealed a BAC of 0.19 percent.

- A vendor reported that someone stole merchandise valued at \$325 from his stand at the Exchange on Panzer Kaserne.

Dec. 7

- Two family members were detained and questioned after they were caught shoplifting clothing from the Exchange on Panzer Kaserne.

- A service member was stopped for running a stop sign and required to leave the vehicle on Patch Barracks after Military Police discovered that his vehicle registration was expired.

On the Blotter is compiled by the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Directorate of Emergency Services and Stuttgart Law Center.

Fight HIV

Continued from page 1

That outreach is bearing fruit. “We have made considerable progress,” Hrshchysn said. He noted one country that was losing two to three soldiers a day to AIDS at the program’s inception. Today, that figure has dropped to about one loss every 10 days.

“That gives you an idea of how dramatic the impact [has been] in reducing mortality,” he said. “The impacts have been considerable, across the board.”

Although the extent of the problem may be diminishing, Hrshchysn said it’s too soon for AFRICOM to declare success. “This is an area of focus we won’t take our eyes off of,” he said. “It will take a while, but I think we are on a solid path.”

As the United States assists African partner na-

tions, its ultimate goal is “to build up the capacity and capability of our partners so they can take this issue on,” he said.

“They are best positioned in terms of sustainability,” he said. “So it is important that, whether it is on the military side or the civilian side, that they have been able to take the tools, the techniques, the technical assistance that we have provided [and] to mold that to their own cultural environment and then to ... effectively design services to their citizens.”

Those efforts will pay off through “ready, able, healthy and well-trained African militaries that can do their part on the continent to provide a safer and secure environment” to support peacekeeping efforts and to reduce the likelihood of conflict, he said.

General’s 1981 kidnapping a lesson in being vigilant for signs of terrorist threat

By Sgt. Daniel Cole

U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs Office

Terrorist tactics may have changed over the years, but U.S. Army Europe force protection experts say one thing will always stay the same — remaining vigilant for the signs of terrorist activity can help stop the bad guys in their tracks.

One example that happened within the Army in Europe is the kidnapping of Maj. Gen. James Dozier from his home in Verona, Italy, in December 1981.

Dozier, then deputy chief of staff for the Southern European Task Force, was abducted by the Red Brigade terror group and held captive for 42 days before being rescued. Three years earlier the group had kidnapped former Italian Prime Minister Aldo Moro and kept him captive 55 days before murdering him.

The Red Brigade had considered several U.S. general officers for abduction, but ultimately selected Dozier. Force protection officials say the factors influencing his selection included his status as a senior leader, lax personal security and predictable patterns of behavior that facilitated the terrorists’ attack.

The kidnapers conducted surveillance on Dozier’s apartment prior to the attack, a common tactic used to gather information for target selection and attack planning. Group members often stood at a nearby bus stop for long periods, staring at the general’s apartment. The watchers rarely got on a bus, or would sometimes ride the bus, but get off at the same stop in front of the apartment a short while later.

On two occasions, a pair of terrorists posed as utility meter readers to gain access to Dozier’s apartment. Force protection officials said this should have aroused suspicion, because in Italy it is unusual for a utility company to send two workers to perform this task.

Unfortunately, no one picked up on these signs of the suspicious behavior displayed by Dozier’s stalkers. After a month of being watched he was kidnapped and taken to an apartment in Padua.

Force protection officials said Dozier later



Historical photo courtesy of U.S. Army Africa
Brig. Gen. James L. Dozier was kidnapped by Red Brigade terrorists in December 1981. The high-profile kidnapping is a scenario known to many in and around the military and frequently the subject of antiterrorism training for most services.

admitted that he did not take the terrorist threat seriously and was lulled into an “it can’t happen here” mind-set.

While this incident is more than 30 years old, antiterrorism experts say it still provides valuable lessons and reminds Americans in Europe that there are real threats. They offered a few pointers that can help people avoid becoming targets: be vigilant for suspicious or abnormal behavior; become familiar with local culture and habits; vary travel times and routes to become less predictable to terrorist or criminal elements; and confirm the identities of workers or other visitors before granting them access to homes or workplaces.

Most of all, the experts advise members of the Army in Europe community to report suspicious activity using the iWatch and iReport links found on all Army home pages in the theater or go to the USAREUR reporting site at <http://www.eur.army.mil/eureport>.

Holiday closures

Most organizations and facilities in U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 in observance of the Christmas and New Year's federal holidays.

Because many facilities may have altered schedules during the holiday period, be sure to call ahead and verify a facility's hours of operation. The following is a partial listing of additional closures and changes to operational hours:

- Stuttgart commissaries will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.
- Vehicle Registration will be closed Dec. 24-26 for the Christmas holidays, Dec. 31 for a local national administrative day, and Jan. 6 for Epiphany, a German holiday. The Vehicle Registration Office will also close at noon Dec. 30 in order to conduct its monthly inventory.
- The Privately Owned Vehicle Inspection Station on Panzer Kaserne and the Base Support Operations Maintenance Division Customer Service Team Stuttgart will be closed Dec. 24-26, Dec. 31, and Jan. 1 and 6.
- Shuttle buses in U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart will not run Dec. 24-25. The service will resume Dec. 26.
- The Housing Office will be closed Dec. 24-26, Dec. 31, and Jan. 1 and 6.

- The 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Dining Facility on Panzer Kaserne will be closed Dec. 24-25, Dec. 31 and Jan. 1 for training and U.S. federal holidays.

During the holiday work schedule from Dec. 23 to Jan. 3 (Monday to Friday), the DFAC will offer limited meal service. A sandwich, salad and soup bar will be available from 9:30-11 a.m. for \$2.50 per person.

- All local Community Banks will be closed Dec. 24-26. On Dec. 31, the banks will be open from 9 a.m. to noon. They will also be closed Jan. 1 and Jan. 6.
- On Dec. 19, the Kelley Health Clinic will close at 11:30 a.m. for an organizational function, while the Patch Health Clinic will close at noon. The Patch clinic will be closed Dec. 25, 27-30 and Jan. 1-2. The Kelley clinic will be closed from Dec. 24 to Jan. 6.

Contact the Military Police in case of an emergency at civ. 0711-680-116. For immediate health care needs, call the Nurse Advice Line at civ. 00800-4759-2330.

- The dental clinic on Panzer Kaserne will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.
- The Stuttgart Law Center will be closed Dec. 25, 27, 30, and Jan. 1-2. The Legal Assistance Office will be open Dec. 23, 24, 26, 31 and Jan. 3

from 9 a.m. to noon and 1-4:30 p.m. Notaries and powers of attorneys will be available on a walk-in basis. American attorneys will see walk-in clients on Tuesdays. All other attorney services require an appointment.

- Most Army and Air Force Exchange Service facilities will close early on Dec. 24 and Dec. 31. The Exchange on Panzer Kaserne will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Dec. 24.

On Dec. 25, the Patch Shoppette will be open as normal; the Patch Theater will have a special showing of "The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug" at 6 p.m. all other facilities will be closed.

Seeking Santa?

Santa is very busy this time of year, but you can find him at the Panzer Exchange Mall Dec. 16-23 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 2:30-5 p.m. On Dec. 24, he will be available from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Santa will also be at the Patch Theater Dec. 21 and 22 from 1-5 p.m.

Bad weather?

Know the road conditions before you start your trip to work, and give yourself plenty of time to get there.

- For road conditions and

school closure information, call 431-3744/civ. 07031-15-3744;

- Community members can also visit www.stuttgart.army.mil and click on the "Weather" link or follow USAG Stuttgart on Facebook at www.facebook.com/USAGarrisonStuttgart;

- Listen to AFN (102.3 FM).

Remember that the road conditions apply only to installation streets and the main routes between U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart installations.

Those who cannot make it to work on time because of inclement weather are urged to call their supervisors and request unscheduled leave.

Submit volunteers hours online

In order to ensure all community volunteers receive the recognition they deserve, community volunteers should submit their volunteer hours through the Volunteer Management Information System by Jan. 31.

For more information, contact Army Community Service at 431-3362/civ. 07031-15-3362.

Send your announcements to stuttgart-media@eur.army.mil.

Go 'green' this holiday season with eco-friendly tips

This year's festivities don't have to negatively impact our environment. Here are some easy tips to "green" the holiday season.

- Create holiday decorations from old greeting cards or cookie dough, and garland from strung popcorn or cranberries.
- Turn off or unplug holiday lights during the day. Doing so will not only save energy, but will also help your lights last longer.
- Think "green" while shopping. Try to buy items with minimal packaging and/or made with recycled content.
- Look for gifts that embody the concept of reuse, such as swings made from used tires and wooden toys made from scrap wood.

- Wrap gifts in recycled or reused wrapping paper or newspapers. Also remember to save or recycle used wrapping paper.
- Bake cookies or other goodies for friends and loved ones and package them in reusable and/or recyclable containers as gifts.
- If you host a party, set the table with cloth

napkins and reusable dishes, glasses and silverware.

- Compost leftover food scraps and leaves.

After parties, fill your dishwasher to capacity before running it. You will run fewer cycles, which saves energy.

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



USAG Stuttgart
Directorate of Public Works
Environmental Division

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Prepare now for tax season, DOD official advises

By Terri Moon Cronk

American Forces Press Service

With a month left before the start of tax season, service members should begin gathering documentation to file their 2013 taxes, the director of the Pentagon's office of family policy and children and youth said.

Barbara Thompson suggested visiting the Military OneSource website for tax filing resources, and to learn what will be necessary to file, such as W2 forms, Social Security numbers and receipts for deductions such as child care, education, medical expenses and donations, among other write-offs.

And tax preparers at Military OneSource will do short-form tax filing free of charge for service members and their families, Thompson said.

Relocations and deployments have tax implications, Thompson noted. For example, deployed service members can receive an extension to file taxes after the normal April 15 filing date, she said. "It's very helpful to have someone who is experienced to help you through the cumbersome issue of taxes and tax returns," she added.

The tax preparers at Military OneSource are up to date on changes in tax laws, and can answer military-specific questions, Thompson said.

Installations also offer volunteer income tax as-

sistance to service members and their families, while certain banks and credit unions provide education and training on tax preparation, Thompson said. She advised that service members organize their taxes by starting a file beginning each Jan. 1 for the following year's tax papers, such as receipts and other write-offs.

"You don't want to wait until the last minute," she said.

Service members and families who prepare long-form taxes with deductions such as mortgages and rental properties might want to consider hiring a tax expert to file for them, Thompson said. "It's best to get advice to make sure you have everything covered," she added.

People who do their own taxes need to stay on top of current tax information, Thompson said. "Sometimes tax laws change, so you have to be really smart about doing your own taxes," she added. States' tax laws often vary, too, she said, and because of relocations, some service members have to file local taxes in more than one state.

"That's where [tax consultants] can really be of great value to make sure you know what the requirements are for states," Thompson said.

Filing federal and state tax returns usually results in either a tax refund or money owed back to the government. Expecting to receive a tax refund, but instead finding out that money is owed can be a

shock, Thompson said. Looking at W2s to determine how much money in taxes is being withheld is a good indicator of whether or not one will owe money, she suggested.

Service members who receive a tax refund face important decisions on what to do with the money, Thompson said.

"Do you use it to buy down debt, or put it in a savings account?" she asked, advising people to not blow their tax refunds in a spending frenzy of unnecessary purchases.

A tax refund also can be deposited into a retirement savings account, she added. "It's important to think about what you're going to do with that money," she advised, "and how you can best utilize it for your financial well-being."

Meeting with a financial planner to learn the "lay of the land," and what tax deductions might apply to a service member's finances is a good idea, Thompson said. "It's really important to be savvy about that."

Editor's Note: The Stuttgart Law Center's tax office will open Feb. 3. The Tax Center will offer tax preparation services with IRS-trained and certified tax preparers. The free service will be available to all service members, Defense Department civilian employees, dependents and retirees. The Tax Office is located in Building 3312, Kelley Barracks.

State Department offers tips to make holiday travels safe

U.S. Department of State

The holidays are a good time to explore Europe. The odds are you will have a safe trip. Travelers can, however, become victims of crime and violence, or experience unexpected difficulties.

No one is better able to tell you this than the U.S. consular officers who work in more than 250 U.S. embassies and consulates around the globe. Every day of the year, U.S. embassies and consulates receive calls from American citizens in distress.

The U.S. Department of State offers the following travel tips to help you avoid serious difficulties during your travels.

Safety on the Street

Use the same common sense traveling abroad that you would at home. Be especially cautious in (or avoid) areas where you may be more easily victimized. These include crowded subways, train stations, elevators, tourist sites, market places, festivals and crime-ridden neighborhoods.

- Don't use short cuts, narrow alleys or poorly lit streets.
- Try not to travel alone at night.
- Avoid public demonstrations and other civil disturbances.
- Keep a low profile and avoid loud conversations or arguments.
- Do not discuss travel plans or other personal matters with strangers.
- Avoid scam artists by being wary of strangers who approach you and offer to be your guide or sell you something at bargain prices.
- Beware of pickpockets. They often have an ac-

complice who will:

- jostle you,
- ask you for directions or the time,
- point to something spilled on your clothing,
- or distract you by creating a disturbance.
- Beware of groups of vagrant children who could create a distraction to pick your pocket.
- Wear the shoulder strap of your bag across your chest and walk with the bag away from the curb to avoid drive-by purse-snatchers.
- Try to seem purposeful when you move about. Even if you are lost, act as if you know where you are going. Try to ask for directions only from individuals in authority.
- Know how to use a pay telephone and have the proper change or token on hand.
- Learn a few phrases in the local language or have them handy in written form so that you can signal your need for police or medical help.
- Make a note of emergency telephone numbers you may need: police, fire, your hotel, and the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.
- If you are confronted, don't fight back — give up your valuables.

It is a good idea to sign up for the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program — think of it as checking in — so that you may be contacted if need be, whether because of a family emergency in the U.S., or because of a crisis in the area in which you are traveling. It is a free service provided by the State Department, and is easily accomplished online at <https://step.state.gov/step/>.

For more travel safety tips, visit <http://travel.state.gov>.



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Every day of the year, U.S. embassies and consulates receive calls from American citizens who are victims of crime. Use the same common sense traveling abroad that you would at home.

Negotiate your way through military life

Army Family Team Building provides the skills and tools to successfully maneuver through the military system, understand the military environment and way of life, and access the many resources and services available.

It may have "Army" in the title, but AFTB provides valuable insights for anyone connected with the military. Army Community Service will hold a two day course for family members and civilians from all branches of service covering military family themes and topics Jan. 28-29 from 8:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The class will meet at ACS, Building 2915, Panzer Kaserne. Free child care is available.

For more information and/or to register, call 431-3362/civ. 07031-15-3362.

Volunteer for EEO ethnic observances

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Equal Employment Opportunity Office seeks energetic volunteers to organize observances for Martin Luther King Jr. Day and African American History Month.

Those interested are invited to attend the planning meetings held every Tuesday from 1-2 p.m. in the Patch Chapel, or contact the Military Equal Opportunity Advisor at 430-7945/civ. 0711-680-7945.

Fitness centers to host Lose to Win

If weight loss, improved physical fitness and a healthy lifestyle are on your list of New Year's resolutions, sign up for the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Lose to Win program. The 16-week competition rewards the person who can lose the most weight/body fat in a healthy manner.

Participants must register during one of the orientation/initial weigh-in sessions on Jan. 8 from 7:30-9 a.m. in the Patch Fitness Center and from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Kelley Fitness Center.

Participants must be U.S. ID cardholders and at least 18 years old.

For more information, call 430-7136/civ. 0711-680-7136.

Invest 18 minutes to improve your life

Improve your life by learning how to cope with adversity.

With resilience training, Army family members and Department

of the Army civilians can gain the thinking skills and coping strategies needed to take care of themselves, their families and Soldiers.

The first step to improving resilience is the Global Assessment Tool, an online survey that will provide self-awareness in the five dimensions of strength, as defined by the World Health Organization: emotional, social, spiritual, family and physical.

Users receive scores based on their responses, followed by personalized, online self-development recommendations.

The GAT, developed by experts from the U.S. military, civilian universities, hospitals and industry professionals, takes an average of 18 minutes to complete.

To find out more, visit <http://csf2.army.mil/takethegat.html>.

Vet clinic announces holiday schedule

The Stuttgart Veterinary Treatment Facility on Panzer Kaserne will have reduced hours and limited appointment availability from Dec. 23 to Jan. 3.

Pet owners are encouraged to contact a German veterinary clinic if they need assistance during this

time. Visit the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart website and click "Pet News" at the bottom of the homepage to find a list of German clinics. For more information, stop by the vet clinic or call civ. 431-2681/civ. 07031-15-2681.

Join the USO for two holiday events

All single and unaccompanied military personnel are invited to join the United Service Organizations Stuttgart Dec. 19 at 6 p.m. for a home-cooked holiday meal and gifts.

Community members are also invited to participate in Operation Cookie Drop by donating baked goods or other sweet treats for the Pond guards, service members and civilian employees who will work Dec. 24 and 25. Drop off goodies Dec. 23 by noon at the USO on Panzer Kaserne.

For more information, call 431-3505/civ. 07031-15-3505 or visit <http://uso.org/stuttgart>.

Send your community-wide announcements to stuttgartmedia@eur.army.mil.

Tips for driving in fog

- As you enter fog, check your mirrors and slow down. If visibility is 50 meters and below, speed must be reduced to 50 km per hour or slower, depending on the density of the fog. This also applies on the Autobahn.
- Use your windscreen wipers and de-misters.
- Tap your foot brake lightly so that brake lights will warn drivers behind you.
- Drive with low beams and fog lights if visibility is reduced so you can be seen. High beams will reflect off the fog and actually impair visibility even more. Remember, it's an offense to use high-intensity rear fog lights if visibility is greater than 50 meters.
- Don't follow tail lights. Use the right edge of the road or painted road markings as a guide and enlarge the safety distance to the vehicle ahead. Quick braking and accelerating should be avoided.
- Listen for traffic that you cannot see. Turn off the radio and open the window a little.
- If you park your car on a road, try to get your vehicle completely off the road and move away from the vehicle to avoid injury. You could be rear-ended.



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People who drive after using alcohol can't react as quickly when they need to. Their vision is affected; it may be blurred or doubled. Alcohol also alters depth perception, making it hard to tell whether other vehicles, pedestrians or objects are close or far away.

3D Prevention Month raises awareness of drunk driving

By RaShonda Labrador
USAG Stuttgart Army
Substance Abuse Program

This time of year is filled with many celebrations, visits from loved ones and reflections of the year's most precious memories. However, quite often our holiday spirit is shat-

tered by the recklessness of a drunk driver.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 760 people died as a result of drunken driving-related crashes in America during December 2011. Furthermore, in the European Union, stud-

ies by the Global Burden of Disease of the World Health Organization state that more than one in three traffic fatalities are due to alcohol.

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Army Substance Abuse Program would like to encourage community members to take some extra steps to ensure that they remain healthy and happy through the holidays.

Planning to drink?

- **Choose a sober driver before you go out.** Have a plan that includes a responsible driver to get you home safely.

- **Be responsible.** Never consume more than one standard drink in an hour, and plan to have no more than three drinks at the event. One standard drink is 1.5 ounces of 80 proof liquor, five ounces of wine, or 12 ounces of beer.

- **Call a taxi.** If your designated driver fails at remaining sober, take alternate transportation. Anything is better than getting in the vehicle with a drunk or buzzed driver.

Social hosting?

- **Offer non-alcoholic beverages.** There are plenty of fancy "mocktails" that will serve the visual purpose without the spirited consequences. Start a new trend and set the example for others to follow. Not all parties need alcohol to be fun.



- **Serve plenty of food.** If there are alcoholic beverages served, remember that filling up on a great meal or plenty of appetizers will slow the rate of alcohol absorption.

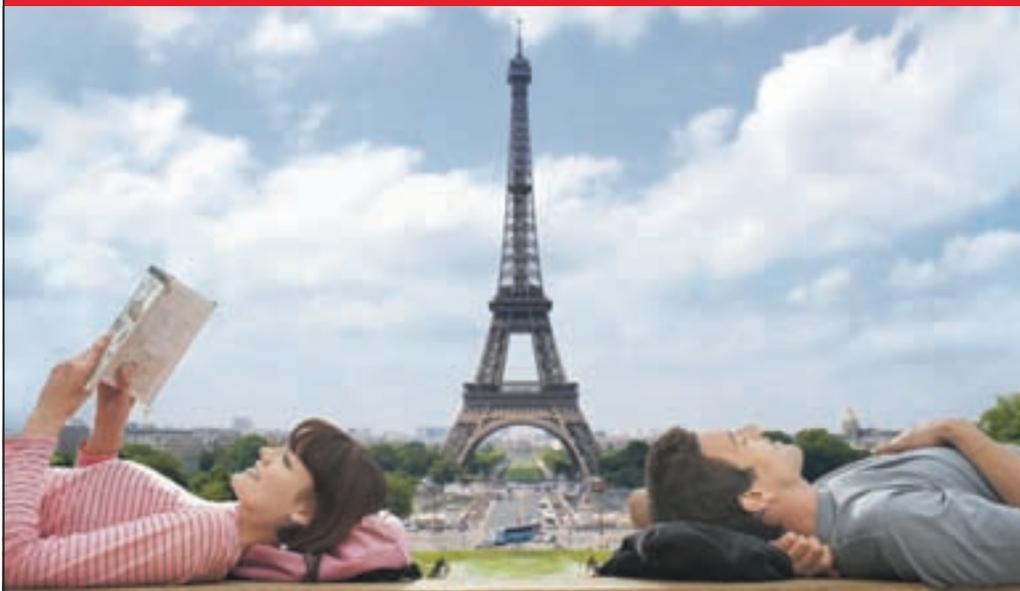
- **Stop serving alcohol before the party ends.** Give at least an hour and a half to two hours without alcohol before the guests start to leave.

- **Arrange alternate transportation or hide keys.** Pay attention to your guests. Be responsible and call a taxi, arrange for a sober driver, or allow them to sleep it off at your place.

- **Remember that "buzzed driving is drunk driving."** The holidays should be a time for celebration, not tragedy. Help to make Stuttgart's roadways safer by never driving after drinking.



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Service members who are away from their loved ones this holiday season need to be especially alert to signs of stress so they can seek help or get others to seek help.

Photo illustration by Pfc. William Hatton

Beat the holiday blues

By Jessica Rawlings

U.S. Army Public Health Command

It's that time of year again: Festive music fills the air, fireplaces crackle and holiday cheer abounds. It's the most wonderful time of the year, right?

Not necessarily. Many people can find themselves dealing with the holiday blues and can be sad, lonely or even depressed. There are many reasons that people might find themselves struggling with the holiday blues: pressure to feel merry, reminders of lost loved ones and financial hardships are just a few. Military families can add one more reason to that list: deployment. Coping with deployments can take a toll on one's emotional well-being, and this is only increased when a loved one's deployment spans the holidays.

Here are a few tips to help beat the holiday blues:

- Take it one day at a time. Try to avoid looking at this time of year as the "holiday season," instead try to break it down day by day. Think of it as Christmas Day or New Year's Day. Often, it is easier to think "I can get through this day" rather than thinking "I can get through this season."
- Get in touch with family members by writing

letters, visiting or making phone calls.

- Try to avoid retail therapy. Fight the temptation to spend extra money to make you feel better as this can lead to increased stress or depression when the credit card bills arrive.
- Give yourself permission to have fun. It is normal to be sociable during the holidays, even if your loved one is not available to attend events with you.
- Ask for help. You don't need to be a superman or superwoman; you do not need to wing it alone. Depend on close family and friends to help you through this time.
- Stay busy. Avoiding unstructured time may help to minimize difficult feelings. Try to fill your calendar with fun events, and give yourself something to look forward to.

It is also important to know when "the blues" are a sign of something more. Depression is common around the holidays, and recognizing the symptoms is a key step in getting the help you might need. Symptoms of depression include lack of sleep or over sleeping, over eating or not eating at all, crying for no reason or any reason, and loss of interest in activities. If you are experiencing these symptoms for an extended period of time and are concerned that you may be depressed, contact your primary care provider.

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Ralph Waldo Emerson



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Navy beats Army 15-13 in showdown

In preparation for the Dec. 15 Army-Navy football game, one of college football's most celebrated rivalries, Soldiers took on Sailors and Marines in Stuttgart's first official Army-Navy flag football game Dec. 7 on Husky Field. [Photo left] De'tavius Ross can't stop Brandon Thornhill, who catches a pass that leads to one of two touchdowns he scored for the Navy team. [Photo below] The Navy team celebrates their victory.

Photos by Laura Castro



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The “Königsbau Passage” shopping mall on Königsstrasse next to the Schlossplatz Square downtown Stuttgart is festively illuminated during the holiday season. Parts of the Stuttgart “Wintertraum Weihnachtsmarkt,” or Christmas market, booths can also be found selling hot winter punch, candied almonds, grilled sausages and more. Decorations, lights, Christmas markets and cherished holiday traditions cast a magical spell on the Advent season in Germany.

Enjoy local, cherished holiday traditions in Germany

By Carola Meusel

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

In Germany, Christmas casts a magical spell on cold and dark winter days. It’s a time to celebrate long-standing family traditions, regional customs and values.

During their every day routine, Germans pause and sit back to enjoy Christmas cookies, meet with family and friends at home or go to the many local Christmas markets for a mug of hot Glühwein (mulled wine) and Christmas punch.

The holiday season in Germany officially begins with Advent. Historically, Advent is the season in which Christians await the birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas day.

For Christiane Pyka, the director of the German-American Center/James-F.-Byrnes-Institute in Stuttgart, it’s the anticipation of Christmas that make the Advent season so very precious.

“Everything is beautifully illuminated, and I simply love Christmas decorations,” Pyka said. That is why her entire apartment “has to be decorated.”

“I like to have lots of candles to make for a warm atmosphere,” Pyka said.

One Advent tradition in Germany is the Advent wreath. The wreath typically is made out of fir tree branches and decorated with dried fruits, pine cones, glittering Christmas ball ornaments or stars. Four candles represent the light brought into the world by Jesus Christ. A candle is lit each Sunday until Christmas Eve.

Pyka cherishes the tradition of spending every Advent Sunday intentionally with family and friends. “Christmas to me means spending quality time with my loved ones. It’s the season to refocus

and take some time out,” she said.

Most people in Germany also begin to bake Christmas cookies during the Advent season.

“I like to bake cinnamon stars [Christmas cookies] with my sister and her children. After the baking session, we typically sit down and enjoy the cookies with holiday-flavored tea,” Pyka said.

During the 20th century, the Advent calendar was introduced in Germany to help count down the days before Christmas Eve (“Heilig Abend,” or holy evening). The typical Advent calendar is made out of paper and has 24 doors, one to open each day from Dec. 1-24. Children will find holiday season-inspired images or chocolate behind the paper doors. Some calendars also have boxes or small bags filled with presents to open each day.

Teresa Senna, a kindergarten teacher at Böblingen Elementary/Middle School, enjoys how Germans focus on traditions such as spending time with family and friends, or baking “Gutsle” (Swabian word for cut-out cookies) based on long-passed family recipes during the Advent season.

“It’s the sights, sounds, smells and the “Gemütlichkeit” (coziness) that make Advent and Christmas in Germany so enjoyable. Personally, I admire all the decorations and indulging in candied almonds at the local Christmas markets. It all makes for a magical atmosphere,” Senna said.

Dec. 6 marks the birthday of Nikolaus, Bishop of Myra (known today as Turkey), and is celebrated in Germany as St. Nikolaus’ (Santa Claus) Day. Legend has it that on his birthday, Nikolaus would don his precious bishop’s coat, fill a big sack with nuts, apples, tangerines and honey cake, and load it on the back of his donkey. He then picked up his staff and walked along the streets, giving away the food

to those he met.

Today, children place their boots outside their doors on the night of Dec. 5 in hopes that St. Nikolaus will leave some goodies in their shoes. Early on Dec. 6, most children find their boots filled with candy, gingerbread, toys, tangerines and nuts. In other cases, St. Nikolaus visits children during the day in kindergartens and schools, or makes a grand entrance during the evening hours at home.

He is often accompanied by his helper, Knecht (servant) Ruprecht. Knecht Ruprecht carries all the presents for the children in a big sack on his back and has a birch switch hanging from his belt for those children who misbehaved during the year. While St. Nikolaus typically has a long white beard and wears a red coat with a red Santa hat, Knecht Ruprecht wears a brown or black coat and has a long gray beard.

In Germany, Christmas Eve is celebrated with close family. Traditionally, the gift exchange takes place in the afternoon, followed by a festive meal. The choice of meal varies from goose with red cabbage, dumplings or potatoes, to fish, or, typical for Swabia, Saitenwürstle (sausages) with potato salad.

Many people in Germany visit extended family and friends on Dec. 25 and 26, also called the first and second Christmas days.

The exchanging of gifts takes place under the festively decorated Christmas tree. Mainly fir trees or silver spruces are used as Christmas trees and are typically put up during the Advent season or a few days prior to Christmas Eve. Germans typically take their Christmas trees down by Epiphany on Jan. 6.

In the words so many Germans will be saying to each other this month: “Fröhliche Weihnachten” (Merry Christmas)!

What's happening in FMWR

Play family bingo

The Patch Community Club is the place to be on the first Sunday of each month for family bingo and the chance to win valuable prizes for children and adults.

Card sales will start at 1 p.m.; the game starts at 3 p.m.

For more information, call 430-5433/civ. 0711-680-5433.

Ski, snowboard with Outdoor Rec

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation's Outdoor Recreation will host several upcoming ski and snowboard trips.

These include day trips to St. Anton, Austria, Dec. 14 and Flims-Laax, Switzerland, on Jan. 4.

Snowboarders can also learn how to tune their snowboards Dec. 18 from 6-8 p.m.

For more information, stop by Outdoor Recreation in Building 2953, Panzer Kaserne, or call 431-2774/civ. 07031-15-2774.

Free movies on RB

Brewed Awakenings will feature free movies on the first and third Friday of each month at 6:30

p.m. (except federal holidays).

For movie listings, call 420-6037/civ.0711-819-6037, or visit the MWR website.

Holiday bowling specials Dec. 17-28

From Dec. 17-28, the Galaxy Bowling and Entertainment Center on Panzer Kaserne offers bowling for \$1.50 per game with \$1 shoe rental.

You can also save \$1 on each large pizza, no coupon necessary.

For more information, call 431-2575/civ. 07031-15-2575.

Bowling lessons

Improve your game and learn new bowling techniques from a certified bowling coach every Thursday from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Galaxy Bowling and Entertainment Center.

To sign up, stop by the bowling center on Panzer Kaserne, or call 431-2575/civ. 07031-15-2575.

For more Family and MWR activities, visit their website at www.stuttgart.armymwr.com.



Coming to Patch Theater

Dec. 12 — Homefront (R) 6 p.m.

Dec. 13 — The Book Thief (PG-13) 6 p.m., The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug in 3D (PG-13) 9 p.m.

Dec. 14 — The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug in 3D (PG-13) 2 p.m. The Book Thief (PG-13) 5:30 p.m. Out Of The Furnace (R) 8:30 p.m.

Dec. 15 — The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug in 3D (PG-13) 2 p.m., The Book Thief (PG-13) 5:30 p.m., Out Of The Furnace (R) 8:30 p.m.

Dec. 16 — Out Of The Furnace (R) 6 p.m.

Dec. 17 — Closed

Dec. 18 — The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug in 3D (PG-13) 6 p.m.

Dec. 19 — The Book Thief (PG-13) 6 p.m. Dec. 20 — Tyler Perry's A Madea Christmas (PG-13) 6 p.m., Saving Mr. Banks (PG-13) 8:30 p.m.

Dec. 21 — Arthur Christmas (PG) 2 p.m., Tyler Perry's A Madea Christmas (PG-13) 6 p.m., Saving Mr. Banks (PG-13) 8:30 p.m.

Dec. 22 — Frozen in 3D (PG) 2 p.m. Tyler Perry's A Madea Christmas (PG-13) 1630, Saving Mr. Banks (PG-13) 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 23 — Tyler Perry's A Madea Christ-

mas (PG-13) 6 p.m.

Dec. 24 — Christmas Carol (PG) 2 p.m., Arthur Christmas (PG) 4 p.m. Nanny McPhee (PG) 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 25 — The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG-13) 6 p.m.

Dec. 26 — Saving Mr. Banks (PG-13) 6 p.m. Dec. 27 — Walking with Dinosaurs in 3D (PG) 6 p.m., Grudge Match (PG-13) 9 p.m.

Dec. 28 — Walking with Dinosaurs in 3D (PG) 2 p.m., Grudge Match (PG-13) 5 p.m. Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (NR) 8 p.m.

Dec. 29 — Walking with Dinosaurs in 3D (PG) 2 p.m., Grudge Match (PG-13) 5 p.m., Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (NR) 8 p.m.

Dec. 30 — Free Birds in 3D (PG) 4 p.m., Grudge Match (PG-13) 6 p.m.

Dec. 31 — Frozen in 3D (PG) 5 p.m., Thor: The Dark World in 3D (PG-13) 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 1 — Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (NR) 6 p.m.

Jan. 2 — Walking with Dinosaurs in 3D (PG) 6 p.m.

Family and MWR Advertisement

stuttgart.armymwr.com



FUN IN THE ALPS

ENGELBERG, SWITZERLAND TRIP
Dec. 21 • Departs at 4:30 a.m.
Outdoor Recreation

Join us on this amazing one day ski trip to the beautiful town of Engelberg, Switzerland. This is one of the largest ski & snowboard destinations in Switzerland.

DSN 431-2774/CIV 07031-15-2774



BINGO NYE PARTY

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY
Dec. 31 • 7 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.
RB Club, Robinson Barracks

Ring in the New Year! Enjoy music provided by DJ All Skool, finger foods, dessert items and a complementary drink at midnight. Multiple bingo games throughout the evening totaling \$2000 in prizes. Purchase your ticket by Dec. 15 at Brewed Awakenings for a chance to win a turkey.

DSN 420-6037/CIV 0711-819-6037



BOWL INTO THE NEW YEAR

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY
Dec. 31 • 8 p.m. - 2 a.m.
Galaxy Bowling Center

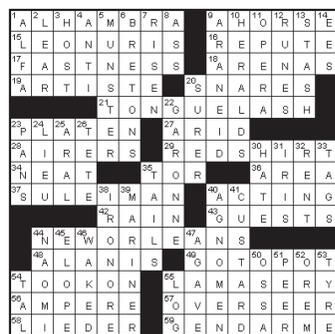
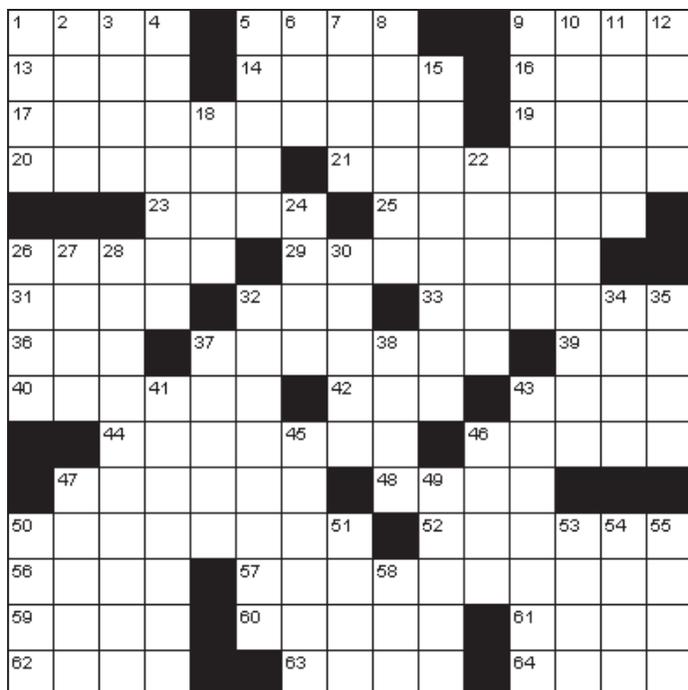
Fun for the whole family! Have a great time bowling and a chance to win prizes every 30 minutes! Prizes include bicycles, video games, DVDs, cameras, and gift certificates. Reservations required by Dec. 29.

DSN 431-2719/CIV 07031-15-2719

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Crossword Puzzle



This is the solution to the crossword puzzle from November 28, 2013!

Courtesy of thinks.com

ACROSS

- 1 "A Farewell to ___"
- 5 Bogus
- 9 "Against All ___"
- 13 Interview wear
- 14 Full metal jacket?
- 16 Land of the Incas
- 17 English county
- 19 Bit of news
- 20 Figures of speech
- 21 Impetuosity
- 23 Motown's Marvin
- 25 Domestic flights?
- 26 G-sharp equivalent
- 29 King David's wayward son
- 31 Bound
- 32 Dead ___ dodo
- 33 Bracers
- 36 Chest muscle
- 37 Joyce masterpiece
- 39 "Apocalypse Now" setting
- 40 Swipes
- 42 Conclusion
- 43 Desiccated
- 44 Actor Montalban
- 46 Dipper
- 47 Awoke
- 48 Oz creator

50 Fabric

- 52 Poor person
- 56 Dry, as a desert
- 57 Unskilled
- 59 Ancient colonnade
- 60 At no time
- 61 Church part
- 62 "Critique of Pure Reason" philosopher
- 63 Tyne of "Cagney & Lacey"
- 64 Comprehending phrase

DOWN

- 1 Aide: Abbr.
- 2 Essen basin
- 3 "Catalan Landscape" painter
- 4 Temporary solution
- 5 Impudent
- 6 Letters for a prince
- 7 Gulf VIP
- 8 Quagmire
- 9 Two cents worth
- 10 Resolute
- 11 Clothing
- 12 Addition problems
- 15 Paraphrased
- 18 Organic fuel
- 22 Circles overhead

- 24 "No problem!"
- 26 "The Sound of Music" setting
- 27 Altimeter units
- 28 Jagged wound
- 30 Stationed
- 32 German shepherd
- 34 Cosmologist Sagan
- 35 Hoskins role in "Hook"
- 37 Gastric woe
- 38 Hoity-toity type
- 41 Targeted
- 43 Japanese warrior caste
- 45 Was a wanderer
- 46 Hawaiian feast
- 47 Magna ___
- 49 Mimicking behavior
- 50 Lone Ranger's need
- 51 Volcanic discharge
- 53 Card spots
- 54 "In ___" (actually)
- 55 First president of South Korea
- 58 Address book no.

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Youth Activities

Take a look at what's going on in Stuttgart's schools.



Photo by Ed Thornburg

Heritage Street Fair

Böblingen Elementary Middle School Blue Ribbon 4th grade student Hannah Pederson is ready to discuss her Norwegian heritage during a recent Heritage Street Fair.



Photo by Dan L'Esperance

Bridge Testing

Dean Sherman and Chloe Williams from Mr. L'Esperance's Creative Thinking class show off their suspension bridge model. The entire class researched the four varieties of basic bridge design, including the strengths and faults of each design. The students were instructed to design and build original models to include integrating multiple designs. The students were encouraged to research their project and be prepared to discuss their results. On the last day of the unit, all bridges were put to the ultimate test when sixty-five pounds of barbells were stacked on top of their bridge. All but one of the bridges survived!

Take a look at what's going on in Stuttgart's schools.

Youth Activities



Photo by Valerie Krunich

Goalball

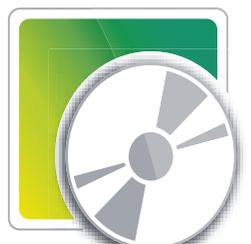
The BEMS Blue Ribbon AVID students led by Brian Pappas, the school liaison officer, recently learned to rely on their sense of hearing during a rousing game of goalball. Goalball is a team sport that was designed for athletes who are blind or visually impaired. The sport was invented in 1946 by Austrian Hanz Lorenzen and German Sett Reindle as a way to rehabilitate post-WWII blind veterans. In 1976 the sport was introduced as a medal event at the Paralympics Games in Toronto and is now played in all 112 countries of International Blind Sport Association (IBSA) regions. During the game the students try to roll a special ball that has bells embedded in it into the opponents' goal. Teams use the sound of the bell to judge the position and movement of the ball. Tactile markings on the court are used to determine their location on the court and the direction of play. Here we see Zachary Greer, intercepting a ball intended for Madeline Como. Both students are BEMS 8th graders.



Photo by Valerie Krunich

AVID Study Trip

The Wilhelma Zoological Botanical Gardens in Stuttgart is the only one of its kind in Europe. Recently, the BEMS Blue Ribbon 7th and 8th grade AVID classes were fortunate enough to enjoy a "day at the zoo," experiencing the combination of plants and animals, as well as the many historic buildings which help make the botanical gardens such a unique adventure for all ages. Of course, it's the animals that are the biggest attraction. Here we see Daniella Ratliff, a 7th grade AVID student, posing with the penguins. Her big smile gives us a pretty good idea that she is enjoying her "close and personal" visit with these amazing birds. The AVID class trip is sponsored by Ms. Valerie Krunich, AVID instructor. Thanks, Valerie, for all the hard work that went into making the trip a wonderful success.





Youth Activities

Take a look at what's going on in Stuttgart's schools.



Photo by Ed Thornburg

Distance Learning

Böblingen Elementary Middle School student Zep Ahmad takes part in the distance learning program in order to study Chinese. Zep is accompanied in the long distance learning program by Jay Idell who studies geometry and Andrew Price who studies Algebra II.

Jump Rope Extravaganza

Blue Ribbon students in Mrs. Merten's 6th grade Physical Education class held a Jump Rope Extravaganza on December 4th in the school's gym.



Photo by Ed Thornburg



Photo by Ed Thornburg

Red Ribbon Week

The Blue Ribbon students at BEMS recently celebrated National Red Ribbon Week. During the celebration student role models from the Middle School visited the lower grades to lead discussions about the importance of being drug free. In this photo we can see one of the MS Role Model Teams consisting of: (L-R) Koby Battema as the Bull Dog, Paula Giraldo, Dean Swickard, Autumn Kearny, Nina Gante, Rebecca Crow and Maddie Koning. They have just finished presenting a drug free skit and games to Ms. Maruffo's 3rd grade class. The sponsor of the program Ms. Jasmin Coty, the ASACS Counselor, and her student role models visited all the 1st through 5th grade classes. Thanks a lot Ms. Coty for helping our students learn to be successful.

Have fun with the locals



Dancing on Ice

Fri, Dec 13

Ludwigsburg, Kunsteisbahn

The Kunsteisbahn (artificial ice rink) Ludwigsburg will host an Ice Disco event on December 13 from 7 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. This disco is organized by the Soundlight Company who will ensure the best music to dance to on the ice. For more info in German and further dates see www.iceparty.tv.

EVENTS

Waldweihnacht

Now – Sun, Dec 29

Göppingen, Marktplatz

During the Waldweihnacht (forest Christmas) from now until December 29 Göppingen's Marktplatz will turn into a winter wonderland. Hundreds of fir trees and thousands of lights will let you forget the Christmas stress while enjoying this romantic Christmas market. Enjoy typical Christmas delicacies and find unique handmade decorations and small presents. A program for children is available as well. For more info in German see www.goeppinger-city.de.

Steiff toy exhibition

Now – Sat, Feb 9

Reutlingen, Heimatmuseum

In Reutlingen's Heimatmuseum (museum of local history) an exhibition for toys by the brand "Steiff" will be shown until February 9. For over than 100 years this brand has been very popular with children and collectors. See the first toy made of felt by Magarethe Steiff, a cute elephant, "Teddy" the most famous cuddly toy in the world and a huge caravan of life size toys. For more info in German see www.reutlingen.de.

Brueghel – Rubens – Ruisdael

Now – Sun, Feb 23

Stuttgart, Staatsgalerie

Until February 23 the Staatsgalerie Stutt-

gart hosts the special exhibition "Hohenbuchau Collection". Discover the most important pictures of this private collection, painted by the Dutch and Flemish artists Brueghel, Rubens and Ruisdael in the 17th century. Within the scope of the exhibition a huge variety of guided tours and workshops will be offered. For more info see www.staatsgalerie.de.

Art market

Now – Sun, Dec 15

Waiblingen, Schlosskeller

Discover the unique art market „ART-Verwandt“ in the Schlosskeller Waiblingen every day from noon to 8.30 p.m. Find little treasures amongst the exclusive repertoire and talk to the specially selected artists. The romantic ART-verwandt-Café invites all visitors to relax after shopping. For more info in German see www.art-verwandt-rems-murr.de.

Coca Cola Christmas truck

Sun, Dec 22

Schwetzingen, Schlossplatz

Come to Schwetzingen's Schlossplatz to see the famous Coca Cola Christmas truck on December 22 from 2.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. To entertain the visitors the 16.5 meter long truck brings a lot of activities for the whole family and a special photo session with Santa to Stuttgart. With each photo €1 will be donated to the children's aid organization "Ein Herz für Kinder" (a heart for kids).

For more info in German see www.xmas.coke.com.

Radau & Rabatz

Tue, Dec 24

Stuttgart, Keller Klub

The Keller Klub in Stuttgart will host one of the famous Radau & Rabatz parties organized by the local radio DasDing on December 24. Radaumeister AGE, the DJ for the evening, who normally presents his music at festivals, will ensure a radical music mix with genres from hip-hop and dub step to punk and indie. You'll be crazy to miss this fantastic night. Party on!

For more info in German see www.kellerklub.com.

CONCERTS

Parov Stelar

Fri, Dec 13

Stuttgart, Hanns-Martin-Schleyer-Halle

Experience the new music genre "electro swing" at a Parov Stelar concert in the Hanns-Martin-Schleyer-Halle in Stuttgart on December 13 from 8 p.m. Thanks to this band the music from the 20ies to the 40ies is popular once again in the clubbing scene.

For more info and tickets from €37.65 see www.eventim.de.

Stuttgart Electronic Music Festival

Sat, Dec 14

Stuttgart, Messe

Enjoy the SEMF (Stuttgart Electronic Music Festival), the biggest electronic music festival in Southern Germany on December 14. On the 1,000 sqm of the Messe Stutt-

gart several DJs and Live acts such as Klangkarussell, Oliver Koletzki and Lexy & K-Paul will perform.

For more info and tickets from €47 see www.festicket.com or www.sem.net.

SPORTS

Ice hockey

Fri, Dec 13

Stuttgart, Eiswelt

Join in the fun when local fans cheer on their clubs at the exciting ice hockey game between the Stuttgart Rebels and the EHC Zweibrücken on December 13 at 8 p.m. The game is part of the main round of the Regionalliga Südwest (Regional League South West).

For more info in German see www.stuttgarter-ec.de.

ADAC Supercross

Fri, Dec 20 – Sat, Dec 21

München, Olympiahalle

Don't miss the season finale of the ADAC Supercross 2013 in the Olympiahalle München on December 20 and 21. About 50 international motocross drivers will compete against each other to win the title "King von München." See exciting shows full of action and acrobatics, find out about the latest trends in the exhibition hall and meet your favorite driver at an autograph session. This is a must for all motocross fans!

For more info in German see www.supercrossmuenchen.de.

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2007 Grand Cherokee Limited. Leather, sunroof, loaded. 5.7 Hemi, Quadra-drive II. Nice condition inside and out. 73,000 miles \$18,500.00 OBO email for photos: john.l.fouch2.civ@mail.mil

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BMW X5 xdrive48i, BMW, BMW X5 xdrive48i, 2008, Fully loaded light alloy wheels, 261 KW , TV, DVD, CD, Bluetooth, glassroof, leather int. black, space grey metallic, low mileage, great condition, summer & wintertires 1 season , \$43.000 obo

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Bread Machine, 220v Fif Bread machine. Digital pictures available upon request; Email fritzj@kabelbw.de and use subject "Item for Sale", \$30.00

Canon cameras, Top condition Canon T70, T80 film camera bodies. Canon 277T flash and Canon Z135 Sureshot film camera with case. Call 063849988015 for details., \$250, vcwalters@msn.com

Egg Cooker, 220v egg cooker. Digital pictures available upon request; Email fritzj@kabelbw.de and use subject "Item for Sale", \$5.00

Computer Printer, HP OfficeJet 6110 all-in-one printer with scanner and fax machine. Includes extra printer cartridges and software. Digital pictures available upon request; Email fritzj@kabelbw.de and use subject "Item for Sale", \$40.00

Extension Cords, Various 220v extension cords and surge protectors. Digital pictures available upon request; Email fritzj@kabelbw.de and use subject "Item for Sale", \$25.00

GPS Navigation System, Navigon Mobile Navigator 5, PNA Transonic 5000, with European maps and a lot of accessories. Digital pictures available upon request; Email fritzj@kabelbw.de and use subject "Item for Sale", \$50.00, fritzj@kabelbw.de

Hand Mixer, One 220v Mia hand mixer. Only used once. Digital pictures available upon request; Email fritzj@kabelbw.de and use subject "Item for Sale", \$10.00

Hitachi 29 Color Multi System dual voltage Television Model C29-F300B, with Hitachi Stereo and Multi CD player dual voltage Model HAD-C50W and two speakers. Digital pictures available upon request; Email fritzj@kabelbw.de and use subject "Item for Sale".

Indoor BBQ Grill, 220v Petra indoor BBQ grill. Digital pictures available upon request; Email fritzj@kabelbw.de and use subject "Item for Sale", \$40.00

Kitchen Appliances, One toaster, one coffee maker, and one hot water cooker. Digital pictures available upon request; Email fritzj@kabelbw.de and use subject "Item for Sale", \$15.00

Multi Purpose Slicer, This 220v multipurpose slicer will cut bread and meats. It was never used. Digital pictures available upon request; Email fritzj@kabelbw.de and use subject "Item for Sale", \$15.00

PDA Battery Packs, Twelve two-in-one power packs and 16 instant power packs for HP Jornada 520 and 540 pocket PDAs. Digital pictures available upon request; Email fritzj@kabelbw.de and use subject "Item for Sale", \$10.00

Small Exquisit freezer, Height - 50cm, Width - 43.5cm, Depth - 46cm. Work very well. Enough storage for two people. Digital pictures available upon request; Email fritzj@kabelbw.de and use subject "Item for Sale".

Telephones and Modem, Two cordless, one standard telephone, and one DSL modem. Digital pictures available upon request; Email fritzj@kabelbw.de and use subject "Item for Sale", \$20.00

Transformers, Ten 220v to 110v electrical transformers of various sizes and wattages. Digital pictures available upon request; Email fritzj@kabelbw.de and use subject "Item for Sale", \$100.00

Vacuum Cleaner, Panasonic model MC-E862 vacuum cleaner with extra parts and six dust bags. Digital pictures available upon request; Email fritzj@kabelbw.de and use subject "Item for Sale", \$15.00, fritzj@kabelbw.de

Waffle Iron, 220v Elta waffle iron, only used once. Digital pictures available upon request; Email fritzj@kabelbw.de and use subject "Item for Sale", \$10.00

FOR SALE
All ads and pics on class-world.com

Caution: Some Classified ads have become a target for scams. Please be cautious if potential buyers offer you payment methods other than cash.

Beautiful hand-made felt shoulder bag in purple with flower design, medium size, perfect x-mas present. Check out www.class-world.com for pics, €25, jenniferwilking@hotmail.com

Beautiful hand-made purple/pink felt flower brooch, perfect stocking stuffer, can be pinned on jackets, scarves, bags and more. Absolutely wow! €12, jenniferwilking@hotmail.com

Books, 175 plus intelligence, espionage, terrorism related books & reference materials. Will only sell as a complete collection. A detailed list can be provided upon request; \$2,000; fritzj@kabelbw.de; use subject "Item for Sale"

Bread Box/Tin, bought from Tchibo, barely used. White., €7, isabell_1_98@yahoo.com

Custom-made children's kindergarten bag with name. Send me a message if you are interested in a unique bag for your child. Perfect present. All bags are made using wet-felting technique with sheep wool, soap and water only! € neg, depending on design, jenniferwilking@hotmail.com

Eco warrior shoulder bag, hand-made felt, environmentally friendly bag made using only wool, water and soap, €25, jenniferwilking@hotmail.com

Egg cooker for 7 eggs. 220 volt, \$9, isabell_1_98@yahoo.com

Felt bag, gorgeous grey hand-made felt bag with blue design, medium size, €30, jenniferwilking@hotmail.com

Fire Extinguishers, Two medium sized home fire extinguishers, one for the kitchen and one for the rest of the home. Digital pictures available upon request; Email fritzj@kabelbw.de and use subject "Item for Sale", \$15.00

Four alabaster Christmas plates from Studio Dante di Volterradici. Fine condition/Original boxes & Documents. Silent Night, Holy Night; Joy to the World; Hark the Herald Angels; We 3 Kings \$20ea/ \$75all4. tomcjones@t-online.de or 06209-797276

Foxy lady, small felt shoulder bag with fox design. Discover your wild side! All bags are completely environmentally friendly made with wool, soap and water only! €25, jenniferwilking@hotmail.com

Light Fixtures, Two new small 220v light fixtures. Digital pictures available upon request; Email fritzj@kabelbw.de and use subject "Item for Sale", \$5.00

Microwave Oven, 220v LG Intell-wave microwave oven. Digital pictures available upon request; Email fritzj@kabelbw.de and use subject "Item for Sale", \$30.00, fritzj@kabelbw.de

Propane Cooking Gas, Two propane cooking gas canisters. One bottle is full and the other is about three quarters full. Digital pictures available upon request; Email fritzj@kabelbw.de and use subject "Item for Sale", \$5.00

Red shoes/pumps, Size 41, worn once, too big., €10, isabell_1_98@yahoo.com

Red Wine Glasses, Big tumble red wine glasses. Set of 4. \$5, isabell_1_98@yahoo.com

Set of three pink vases, different shapes but matching in color, perfect for shabby-chic feature or to upcycle. €10, jenniferwilking@hotmail.com

Small grey felt shoulder bag with mushroom design, perfect gift, €20 jenniferwilking@hotmail.com

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FOR SALE

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Ski Equipment, Bike/ski rack \$20; Thule care top carrier \$200; Sauna heater 400V, 8 kw \$50; ski poles and boots call 063849988015 for sizes and details.

Snow sled. Only used once. Digital pictures available upon request; Email fritzj@kabelbw.de and use subject "Item for Sale", \$10.00

Striped hand-made felt shoulder bag, large, perfect fall trend colors, perfect gift, €30, jenniferwilling@hotmail.com

Vintage Style Cake Stands, Three-tier cake stands made from up-cycled china. Very shabby chic! Super Christmas Present Idea. Very English! \$25 each., \$25, michelle_purse@hotmail.com



FURNITURE

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Wooden cabinet with glass doors. Digital pictures available upon request; Email fritzj@kabelbw.de and use subject "Item for Sale", \$50.00



JOBS

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Cash Paid for Vinyl Records, Reel to Reel tapes, Laserdiscs, Want to get rid of your old record albums, reel to reel tapes, Laserdisc movies etc ? give me a call. Cash paid!, powersweep@yahoo.com or call Scott 0160 9753 8888



PERSONAL

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35yrs single black lady with a generous touch of friendship seek to find a happy relationship. gwendoline.mojoko@yahoo.de

Harley friends, Lookin for friends, female/male who likes harleys, works on them, who are into Rock music, good food, havin fun, BBQ, being outside and enjoying a good time together. Just email me and we will see when we can meet. 2wheelmechanic@web.de

I dare you, I dare you to go on 5 dates with me you think you can handle a SWF in her 40's, fun, attractive, spontaneous, romantic and much more? Then respond if you are a SWM with sincere interest, my age and in the greater Stuttgart area! mydare@web.de

Single women 50+ looking for an american male, for friendship or maybe relationship serious inquiries only 0151-11176180

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Winter Wonderland Bavaria

The beautiful state of Bavaria is probably the most well-known throughout the world, and with good reason. But it is perhaps during the winter that this enchanting state really glistens. From the snow topped Bavarian Alps in the south to the frozen lakes in the north the snow covered forests in the east. There is not a corner of Bavaria that isn't worth a visit whilst you are stationed overseas and you can expect a very warm and hearty Bavarian welcome wherever you go.

Here's our top ten trips that we recommend this winter in Bavaria.

- 1. Edelweiss Lodge & Resort, Garmisch-Partenkirchen**
Start the New Year living your life to the fullest! Make a New Years Resolution to spend more time with the family, learn to ski and have more fun in 2014.
- 2. Spend a Weekend in Munich**
You will certainly never forget a city weekend in Munich. Three days in Munich is the perfect amount of time to explore the capital of Bavaria.
- 3. Discover Regensburg Mediaeval Miracle**
Discover "Germany's mediaeval miracle" while strolling relaxed through the narrow streets with their tiny shops and over the broad squares with numerous pavement cafés and markets
- 4. Get Cosy in the Bavarian Alps**
The Explorer Hotel Oberstdorf and Explorer Hotel Neuschwanstein are new design budget hotels located in the Bavarian Alps. Both locations offer a beautiful weekend in the snow with the option to ski or just explore the surrounding mountains.
- 5. Middle Ages in Rothenburg**
Experience the old Imperial town of Rothenburg, often referred to as "Franconian Jerusalem" and rediscover the German Middle Ages.
- 6. Enjoy Beer-Tasting in Bamberg**
On the BierSchmecker beer-tasting trip you will explore the cultural heritage of Bamberg's beer. Enjoy a leisurely stroll from selected brewery to brewery, if you can manage it!
- 7. Relive King Ludwig's Winter Dream in Fuessen**
The most beautiful sight in the world: Neuschwanstein Palace set against a backdrop of snow covered Alpine peaks with usually a clear deep blue sky behind. Try a Winter taster package that combines winter hiking with sightseeing and health-boosting winter wellness.
- 8. Taste Hops & Malt in Nürnberg**
Nuremberg has been an important brewing city for centuries; whether it is pale ale, dark beer or a genuine red beer – there is something for everyone's taste.
- 9. Altoetting & Oberammergau in the Footsteps of Emperors, Kings and Popes**
Try a scenic tour in the footsteps of Emperors, Kings and Popes offers the best overview of the most famous religious sights in Southern Bavaria. This one is perfect for a small group travelling together.
- 10. Experience Bavaria's Best Christmas Markets**
Where to start – there are so many! The most famous would be Nuremberg, Munich and Würzburg. But the truth is that each town in Bavaria will host a wonderful Christmas market so wherever you go it will be truly magical.

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Professional Services are offered by registered businesses as well as private people. To ensure a satisfactory service experience, please always ask for credentials and deny payments up front. For cleaning services, arrange for payments after a final walk-through and inspection of the clean house.

Antique Armoire, Nice antique Armoire. Bought 2000 for 1585 EUR in a antique shop with certificate. To be picked up in Kaiserslautern. Now only 850 EUR, drdos331@gmail.com

PETS
All ads and pics on class-world.com

There have been reports of pets being sold from breeding facilities that are not managed at the highest professional standards. Please choose your pet carefully. Make sure you check the credentials of the people selling the pet, and get proper paperwork showing shots and/or other proof of healthy condition. For further advice, consult your Veterinarian.

Healthy female Leopard Gecko, approx 8 years old, never been bread. Purchased at Dehner or Koelle-Zoo will cost you at least 75,00 Euro each. Leopard Geckos can live about 20 years, although some have lived 30-40 years if kept healthy, fritzj@kabelbw.de

Small heathy Maltese puppies with papers. Available after Xmas. Please call for details. 06302 981850

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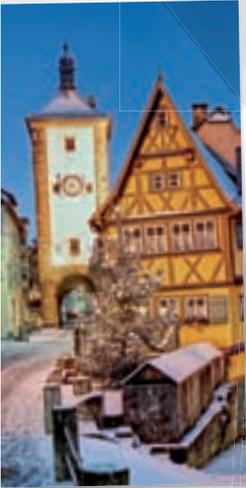


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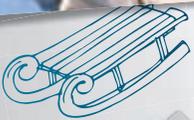




❄️ Winter Wonderland Bavaria



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See more information and top offers for your next winter break on
www.bavaria.us/discover-bavaria or scan the QR-Code!

