

Shopping for a cause at bazaar

Every purchase you make at the Spring Bazaar benefits the Stuttgart military community.

Don't pay high fees to file taxes

The Stuttgart Tax Center's free tax preparation service makes filing tax returns less painless.

**6
12**

Garrison holds leader summit for sexual assault prevention

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart
Public Affairs Office

More than 30 leaders representing all branches of service from military units operating across the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart footprint gathered Jan. 22 in the Swabian Special Events Center at Patch Barracks for a garrison-sponsored Sexual Harassment and Assault Response and Prevention Program Leader Summit.

Sessions included presentations and

lectures on sexual assault investigations, the Special Victims Unit, legal processes forensics, evidence collection, bystander intervention and leader emphasis.

In his opening remarks, the garrison commander, Col. John P. Stack, spoke about the importance of leadership and commitment to combat sexual assault in the professional military workplace.

"Part of the price of leadership is figuring out how to solve this problem," Stack said.

See Leader summit on page 4



S. J. Grady

'Arms race'

More than 80 competitors from across Europe met Jan. 25 in the Patch Fitness Center for Family and MWR-sponsored Pulling Stuttgart arm wrestling tournament. [Photo top] Anna Byrnes (left), a contractor with AFRICOM, competes against Joanne Berberich of Frankfurt in the women's category. [Photo above] Alec Ross, assigned to Special Operations Command Africa, gives it everything he's got during a match in the Men's Novice 177-198 pound left-handed class.



Construction cranes and heavy equipment dominate the landscape surrounding the construction site of the future Stuttgart Elementary School and Stuttgart High School in Böblingen. DODEA launched a military construction initiative in October 2010 that is expected to run through fiscal year 2019. Europe's portion includes more than 40 projects, worth \$1.8 billion in Germany, Belgium, the United Kingdom and Turkey.

Gunner Saunders

USACE, DODDS take aim at aging schools in Europe

By Vince Little
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe
District Public Affairs

Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Europe District are engaged in a robust military construction program designed to revitalize dilapidated schoolhouses, some of which were built in the post-World War II era.

It's part of a multibillion-dollar effort by the Department of Defense Education Activity, or DODEA, to replace or renovate more than 130 schools worldwide based on age or failing conditions. The vision is to align 21st-century instruction and learning concepts with state-of-the-art facilities that maximize energy and sustainability features while giving military children the best possible opportunities during their intellectual growth, officials say.

Units, agencies and organizations

throughout the DOD face rapidly changing strategic and fiscal realities. However, the need for new schools at a time of budget uncertainty boils down to upkeep, said Jose Tovar, the Defense Dependents Schools, or DODDS-Europe facilities manager.

"Maintenance requires a lot of investment — many of our assets date to the 1940s and '50s. The infrastructure has deteriorated, and costs are high," he said. "Broken walls, chipped paint, aging classrooms, and old heating and cooling systems are not conducive to good learning environments. It's more cost effective to replace it than fix it."

In 2008, DODEA submitted a report to Congress on the condition of its facilities worldwide. Tovar said DODEA now conducts those assessments every three years, and they serve as the basis for what's being done to refurbish old schools or build new ones.

See Aging schools on page 4

THE CITIZEN

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U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Commander

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Why you and your family should take the Global Assessment Tool

Commentary by Col. John P. Stack
USAG Stuttgart commander

The Army's Global Assessment Tool, or GAT, has been around for several years. The other services all have similar tools (see below for details).

Until recently, the GAT allowed Soldiers to assess their inner strengths in the emotional, social, spiritual, mental and familial areas.

An improved GAT, called GAT 2.0, now allows individuals to confidentially assess their physical and psychological health based on the five dimensions of strength: social, emotional, spiritual, family and physical fitness.

With the addition of the physical dimension, the GAT is now a true holistic self-assessment tool.

GAT 2.0 now gives you an improved graphical display of your results in all five dimensions of strength, and two new measures, your "real age" and the Warrior Performance Score.

"RealAge" is a metric that looks at all five dimensions of strength and tells you your biological age compared to your calendar age.

It is based on your predicted mortality date as determined by your lifestyle choices and behaviors.

The Warrior Performance Score looks specifically at the three main areas that affect mental and physical performance: sleep, activity and nutrition. You will get a score and detailed report on how your answers affect your ability to perform in the office, at home or on the battlefield.

As a service member and a leader, I'm sold. This is definitely of great value to everyone, no matter what branch of service you are in.

But why should I encourage my spouse and teenagers to take the GAT?

There are two major reasons why encouraging

This deeper and more meaningful family "conversation" supports family team-building that can put families on a solid road to mental and physical success.

your family to take the GAT is time well spent and a great return on your time investment.

The GAT is a tool that leads to greater self-awareness. It allows one to reflect on important questions that relate to each of the five dimensions of comprehensive fitness.

The GAT asks questions that require one to assess patterns of thought and behavior relating to one's emotional state, physical condition, family relationships, spirituality and social networking outlook.

All of these are essential aspects of anyone's lifestyle and well-being, and they require constant attention and development.

The second and perhaps most important reason is that the survey provides a family with a common

frame of reference to discuss existing strengths and weaknesses in overall fitness and allows for a deeper discussion of active and productive measures that need to be taken to build greater levels of resiliency.

This deeper and more meaningful family "conversation" supports family team-building that can put families on a solid road to mental and physical success.

So do your family a favor ... take the GAT and chart a healthier and more productive future!



Col. John P. Stack

The GAT is available for service members of all branches of the military, their dependents, as well as Department of the Army civilians. To take the GAT, follow the appropriate link:

Soldier Fitness Tracker: <https://www.sft.army.mil/>

Airman Fitness Tracker: <https://www.sft.army.mil/AF/>

Marine Fitness Tracker: <https://www.sft.army.mil/Marines/>

Sailor Fitness Tracker: <https://www.sft.army.mil/Navy/>

DA Civilians: <https://www.sft.army.mil/Civilian/>

Family Members: <https://www.sft.army.mil/sftfamily/>

For more information about the GAT and the Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness, visit <http://csf2.army.mil>.



The senior U.S. Air Force service members in U.S. Special Operations Command Europe, Col. Ben McMullen and Master Sgt. Jeffery Jordan, ceremonially cut the cake using an old airplane prop during the 59th SOCEUR Establishment Day ceremony. Establishment Day is an annual event hosted by SOCEUR to celebrate its inception and history.

SOCEUR Public Affairs

SOCEUR celebrates 59th Establishment Day

Special Operations Command Europe
Public Affairs Office

U.S. Special Operations Command Europe service members joined together with family and friends during an Establishment Day Ceremony honoring the 59th anniversary of SOCEUR, Jan. 22 at the Patch Barracks movie theater.

Hosted by SOCEUR Commander Maj. Gen. Brad Webb, more than 250 people attended the ceremony in celebration of SOCEUR's origins in 1955 to today and beyond in support of U.S. European Command and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

"There is a little bit of a theme about this thing this morning," said Webb. "It's about the past; it's about the present; and it's about the future."

Split into three parts, the ceremony began by recognizing the past through a presentation highlighting key events in SOCEUR's history and progressing to the unveiling of the dedication and renaming of the three main SOCEUR conference rooms.

"Something about SOF is we move at the speed of SOF, by and large, and very rarely do we take time to pause and reflect," Webb explained about the renaming. "Certainly we have lineage, but we also have heritage. With those two things in mind I wanted to contribute to the heritage."

The conference rooms previously referred to by generic acronyms were renamed the Jedburgh, Valentine and Carpetbagger rooms as chosen by the Army, Navy and Air Force components under SOCEUR.

The Jedburgh Room was named after the Jedburgh Operation, a clandestine operation during World War II and a precursor to modern U.S. Army Special Operations Forces. The Valentine Room was named after Senior Chief Petty Officer Thomas E. Valentine, a highly decorated Navy SEAL who served multiple combat tours and received the Sil-

ver Star. The Carpetbagger Room was named after Operation Carpetbagger, a World War II operation to deliver supplies to resistance fighters in enemy-occupied European countries and the ancestor to today's U.S. Air Force Special Operations.

In honoring the present day, Webb was joined by SOCEUR Senior Enlisted Leader Command Chief Master Sgt. Gregory Smith, who presented awards and certificates to 12 service members and civilians to recognize them for their contributions to the current mission.

Webb spoke about the impact each individual brings in supporting the current mission, and how SOCEUR as a theater Special Operations command -- because of its strong history and location -- is making major contributions to mission accomplishment of both the EUCOM and U.S. Special Operations Command commander's priorities, making it a model for other TSOC's to emulate moving forward.

"Significant, significant contributions by SOCEUR," he said. "As the TSOCs go, this was kind of the model. This is by far the most mature. I think we are uniquely positioned as we move forward with Gen. (Phillip) Breedlove's priorities for EUCOM and Adm. (William) McRaven's vision of the global SOF network. SOCEUR, because of geography, because of the TSOC lineage and heritage, is absolutely rightly positioned to be really a swing component to enabling the fulfillment of our commanders' visions; so for that I think we are absolutely special."

"I think it's appropriate we pause and reflect on the 59th birthday of SOCEUR. It has a very, very storied past; it's got a robust present; and it's got a bright future in front of us," he concluded.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Webb and Smith took part in a cake-cutting along with the senior officer and noncommissioned officer from each of the four services that comprise the headquarters' staff. Each used cutting implements that best commemorated the spirit of the service they represent and wished SOCEUR a happy birthday.

News & Notes

National Prayer Breakfast

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart's Religious Support Office will host a National Prayer Breakfast Observance Feb. 20 at 7:30 a.m. in the Swabian Special Events Center on Patch Barracks.

This year's guest speaker will be retired Maj. Gen. Berthold Schenk Graf von Stauffenberg.

Tickets are available from your unit's ministry team. The suggested donation for each ticket is \$5.

Scholarships for children of wounded service members

The Folds of Honor Foundation provides educational scholarships for children and spouses of military service men and women killed or disabled while serving.

The scholarships can be applied to schooling now or held by the foundation on behalf of young children until needed at the time of post-secondary enrollment. The scholarship can be used for educational purposes such as private school tuition, tutoring, summer classes, books, educational fees, school uniforms and approved educational camps.

For complete eligibility requirements and more information, visit www.foldsof Honor.org.

TARP briefings next month

The 66th Military Intelligence Stuttgart Field Office will hold several Threat Awareness and Reporting Program briefings next month.

- March 11, Panzer Chapel
- March 12, Patch Chapel
- March 13, Kelley Theatre

Briefings in English will be offered at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. on each day, and should last approximately one hour.

The briefing is an annual requirement for all Defense Department employees, contractors and service members. Family members are not required, but highly encouraged to attend.

If your organization requires a brief in German, contact the Stuttgart Field Office at 431-3293.

Submit your coin design

The 2014 Combined Federal Campaign-Overseas annual Coin Design Contest is underway.

The contest is open to all Defense Department employees and their family members to create a coin design that embodies the spirit of the campaign. The chosen design will be distributed to select contributors during the 2014 CFC-O this fall. Entries will be accepted through March 15.

Since 2011, the CFC-O has presented contributors who meet eligibility criteria with a commemorative coin as a token of appreciation. Tech. Sgt. Eric T. Fritz, stationed at Ramstein Air Base, was the winner of the 2013 Coin Design Contest.

Coin design submissions for the 2014 campaign will be accepted from eligible participants (ID card required for verification) electronically in .jpg or .pdf formats. Artwork will be judged on originality, depiction of the CFC-O theme, "Give Because You Care," and suitability for printing on the coin.

For more information, visit <http://cfcoverseas.org>.

Ask a JAG

If you have a legal question you would like to see answered in *The Citizen*, write "Ask a JAG" at ines.k.liefers2.ln@mail.mil.

By **Capt. Chip Ladd (U.S. Army)**
Stuttgart Law Center

Q: I am a sergeant and just divorced my local national husband. I moved back into the barracks, but he refuses to leave our base housing unit! Is that my problem?

A. Yes. You and your ex-husband may be held financially liable for over \$3,400 per month. He is no longer eligible to live in government quarters. He may also be held criminally liable for trespassing on a military installation and customs violations. You may be charged under Article 92 and 134 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice for theft of housing services and disobeying regulations.

You must ask for help from the housing office, notify your chain-of-command, and update your information in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System immediately after you divorce or separate.

If you cannot persuade your husband to move out of government quarters voluntarily, the housing office and your unit can help. Generally, only married service members whose spouses are present in U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart are authorized to live in family housing pursuant to Army Regulation 420-1 and AR 600-8-14.

Unauthorized personnel who reside in family housing cost the taxpayer millions of dollars per year. For every unit that an unauthorized person occupies, an eligible family must move off-post. The taxpayer must pay overseas housing allowance and utilities to house this eligible family in a unit off-post. The family suffers because they often must deal with unethical landlords or long commutes to the installations.

If your ex-husband is having problems finding an apartment off-post, he can visit Agentur für Arbeit Stuttgart to apply for subsidized housing at Nordbahnhofstrasse 30-34 Stuttgart. The phone number is 0800 4555500. The website is www.arbeitsagentur.de (look for the English tab). Army Community Service can also help with financial management issues.

If you are aware of any other unauthorized personnel who reside in family housing, such as single Soldiers whose spouses have returned to the U.S., or occupants who are not Defense Department dependents, call the Stuttgart Housing Office immediately at 431-2118/civ. 07031-15-2118.

In the current environment of fiscal austerity, you can help the DOD save money and prevent further budget cuts by reporting unauthorized recipients of government resources.

This column is not intended as individual or specific legal advice. If you have specific issues or concerns, you should consult a judge advocate at 421-4152/civ. 0711-729-4152.

Aging schools

Continued from page 1

The DODEA military construction initiative began in October 2010, and is expected to run through fiscal year 2019. Europe's portion includes more than 40 projects worth \$1.8 billion in Germany, Belgium, the United Kingdom and Turkey, according to Lisa Bobotas, the DODDS program manager for USACE-Europe District.

In November, ground was broken on a new elementary and high school complex at Panzer Local Training Area near Stuttgart, as well as a project that will expand the middle and high schools in Ansbach. Work is scheduled to begin this spring on an addition to Netzaberg Middle School in Grafenwöhr.

The centerpiece event in 2014 will be the unveiling of three DODDS-Europe schools on the NATO base at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe in Belgium. The American elementary and middle schools are expected to open by the start of next school year, while the high school should be finished by sometime the following winter.

"The SHAPE schools have traditional designs," Tovar said, "but every bit of those buildings will be used for learning. We don't have any wasted space."

All future DODDS-Europe projects are subject to shifting priorities, so funding levels could fluctuate, he added. The Office of the Secretary of Defense is set to release its European Infrastructure Consolidation, or EIC, study, in March.

According to DODDS-Europe officials, the U.S. student population sat at about 40,000 in 2008. Today, that figure is down to 30,000.

"The EIC will give us some clarity," Facilities Manager Tovar said. "It looks at where our assets can be consolidated. We'll know where the troops are going to be, and in turn, where our students need to be. We're in a tight budget environment. Our focus will remain on enduring locations that have been identified in Europe."

Other projects already funded in fiscal year 2014 include Hainerberg Elementary, Wiesbaden Middle

School, Kaiserslautern Elementary and Ramstein High School in Germany, along with Lakenheath High School in England.

"These communities will be getting some quality schools for minimal investment," USACE's Bobotas said. "These buildings are ideally suited for a life span of 50 years. They're also conducive to the presidentially mandated STEM [science, technology, engineering and math] program. [But] doing this right and economically are the most important things."

DODEA's construction and renovation program will ultimately result in the replacement or overhaul of more than 70 percent of its 194 schools. Major projects normally require five years to complete as the steps encompass proposal, approval, funding, planning, design and construction.

Tovar said the organization also is moving toward a "21st Century Teaching and Learning" model that is more than just facility design. Current schools don't inhibit this transition from happening, but new facilities will significantly simplify and ease the change in focus from teacher-centered to student-centered education.

With the exception of SHAPE and the two Stuttgart facilities, all the replacement projects in Europe are being engineered around the "21st-century" concepts, he added. Planners will maximize resources and look toward the future of teaching and learning to determine how the buildings can accommodate the technology, refined curriculum and innovation that will occur in classrooms.

DODDS-Europe and USACE officials say the new schools incorporate many energy-saving and sustainability features aimed at increasing durability and reducing taxpayer expense. Among them is the use of natural lighting, solar panels, "green" roofs, rainwater harvesting, low-flow faucets and fixtures, and sophisticated heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems.

"Our repair costs will go down," Tovar said. "In the long run, the energy savings should be significant."

Leader summit

Continued from page 1

Army Capt. Andrew Rouchka, trial counsel from the Stuttgart Law Center, informed the audience about how founded cases of sexual assault are prosecuted under the provisions of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Rouchka explained how special prosecutors are brought in to assist local prosecutors, helping to ensure prosecutors with experience and training are effectively prosecuting sexual assaults.

Jenny Caruso, USAG Stuttgart SHARP program manager, spoke about the importance of creating a cultural change through leadership and teamwork to stamp out sexual harassment and assault in the military.

"It's all about good leadership and working together," Caruso said.

Air Force Capt. Brandon Alford from the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade in Ansbach, gave a leader overview of the bystander intervention

training he provides for U.S. military units and organizations across Europe.

Alford conducted a few interactive exercises to illustrate how even seemingly harmless individual actions and attitudes can impact the culture of a workplace.

The exercises demonstrated that to truly bring about a cultural change, every member of the military team must adhere to the highest professional standards of conduct and intervene when someone fails to meet those standards, both on and off duty.

Special Agent Nathan Grundy, a sexual assault investigator from the U.S. Army's 5th Military Police Battalion Criminal Investigation Division, explained the role of CID and the sexual assault investigator in the process of determining the facts of a sexual assault case.

Grundy also stressed the importance of prevention education and explained how a unit can contact CID to request a sexual assault prevention briefing.

Apply for SCSC scholarships

The Stuttgart Community Spouses Club offers scholarships to Patch High School seniors and continuing education students. The deadline to apply is March 18.

To start the application process, follow the scholarship link at www.stuttgartspousesclub.org.

For more information, write to scsc.scholarship@gmail.com.

Celebrate Black History Month

February is Black History Month and several events are planned.

- A civil rights art exhibit, with artwork by local Boy and Girl Scouts, will be on display in the Patch Library Feb. 8-10.

Enjoy two free films during the month: "Red Tails" Feb. 18, 3-6 p.m., Patch Theater; "Iron Ladies of Liberia," Feb. 25, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Kelley Theatre.

- A community-wide Black History Month observance will be held Feb. 27 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Kelley Theatre. Teams or units are needed to participate; no experience is required.

To volunteer, contact Susan

Kellett-Forsyth or Daisy Kone at blackhistorymonthvolunteers@gmail.com.

Play seated volleyball, wheelchair basketball

The Warrior Transition Unit-Stuttgart will sponsor a wheelchair basketball and seated volleyball tournament Feb. 28 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Patch Fitness Center. Teams or Units are needed to participate; no experience is required. Entry is free, and wheelchairs will be provided. Advance registration is required.

For more information or to register, send an email to Linda.A.Steil.CTR@mail.mil.

Holiday schedule for Feb. 14, 17

Most organizations and facilities in U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart will be closed Feb. 17 in observance of the Presidents Day federal holiday. A few agencies will also be closed Feb. 14 for a U.S. Army Europe training holiday.

Patrons are advised to call ahead before visiting any facility.

The shuttle buses will run according to the weekend schedule on

Feb. 17.

The Stuttgart Law Center will be closed Feb. 14 and 17, however the Stuttgart Tax Center will be open on the training holiday by appointment only.

The Stuttgart Army Health Clinic will be closed Feb. 14 and 17.

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

Volunteers sought for Spring Bazaar

The annual Stuttgart Community Spouses Club Spring Bazaar is set for March 14-16 at Patch Barracks and includes international vendors selling everything from furniture to cheese and wine.

The SCSC is looking for volunteers to assist with the setup of the Spring Bazaar on March 9-13, and during the bazaar, March 14-16.

Volunteering opportunities are available in a number of capacities, such as setting up tents and tables, checking ID cards, assisting in the finance office and selling raffle tickets.

Most positions are open to adults over 18, but teens can volunteer by

making home-baked goods or assisting volunteers and vendors.

All volunteers will be entered in a volunteer-only raffle and will receive early VIP shopping privileges.

To find out more information on how to become a bazaar volunteer, log on to www.stuttgartspousesclub.org, and click on the Volunteer Spot link.

For more information, email scsc.bazaarvolunteer@gmail.com.

Free women's self-defense seminar

Armed Forces Entertainment, along with Family and MWR, sponsor Linda Vu's Women's Self-Defense Tour Feb. 10 from 1-3 p.m. in the Panzer Fitness Center.

Participants will learn the basic principles of self defense, how to reduce risks and will take part in physical drills and scenarios.

The women-only seminar is for ID cardholders, 18 and over.

For more information, call 430-2110/civ. 0711-680-2110.

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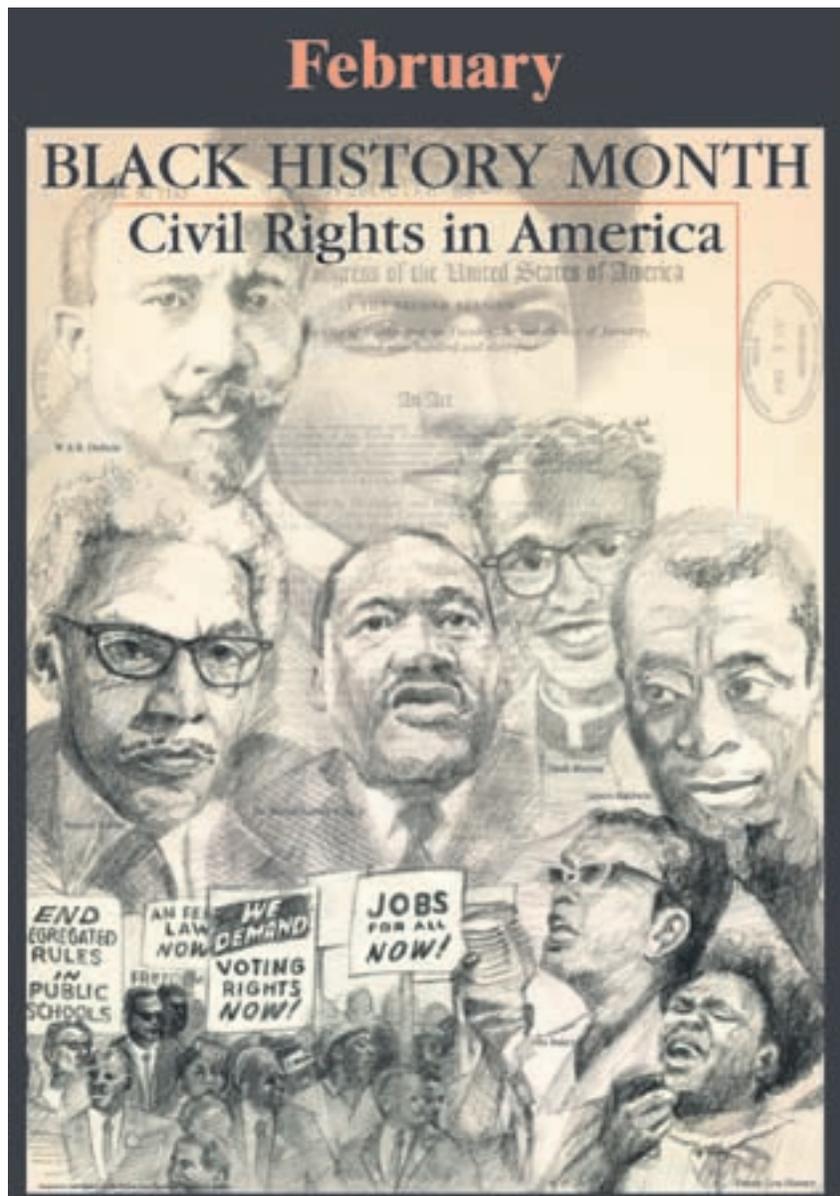
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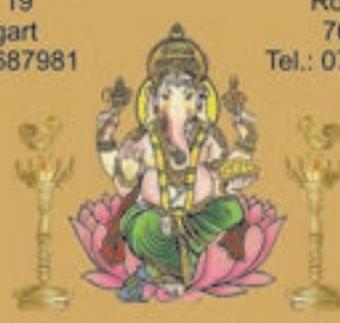


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S.J. Grady

Shoppers at the Spring Bazaar will find the world at their doorstep with more than 75 vendors from across Europe offering specialties and distinctive finds at the three day bazaar. The bazaar will be held in the Patch Fitness Center, Patch Community Club and in tents located in the surrounding parking lots March 14 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., March 15 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and March 16 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Spring Bazaar brings European goods to Patch March 14-16

USAG Stuttgart Family and MWR Marketing Office

After a one year hiatus, Stuttgart's Family and MWR will host the Spring Bazaar March 14-16 on Patch Barracks. The bazaar will be open Friday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

More than 75 vendors will offer antiques, home decor, jewelry, artwork, cheese, wine, ceramics and more in the Patch Community Club, Patch Fitness Center and across every available inch of the surrounding parking lots. Several new vendors will add to the mix, bringing Bavarian-style painted furniture, traditional German ceramic houses, Himalayan free-trade jewelry, decorative metal sculptures and Belgian cookware.

This year, the Stuttgart Community Spouses Club was chosen as the contractor to handle the day-to-day operations and event planning, so the community benefits in a number of ways.

For shoppers, the Spring Bazaar is all about getting those coveted collectibles from across Europe without ever having to leave Patch Barracks. The Stuttgart community also benefits directly from the bazaar, as the proceeds are returned in the form of scholarships, donations and grants to clubs, organizations and schools. In 2012, the SCSC gifted more than \$230,000 in bazaar and thrift shop proceeds to the community.

"We are so pleased to bring the Spring Bazaar back to Stuttgart," said Sherry Snider, the SCSC bazaar chairwoman. "Our vendors are really excited to be back, and we hope the entire community will support the bazaar by volunteering and, of course, by shopping. Many

people in the military community benefit from the bazaar proceeds, so we invite everyone to be part of the fun."

More than 600 volunteers are needed to make this event happen," said Marcie Stuewe, the SCSC volunteer chairwoman. "Prior to the bazaar grand opening, there are tents to construct, vendor areas to mark off, and tables and benches to be placed. Volunteers are needed from March 14-16 to work as finance runners, credit card machine operators, ID card checkers and hospitality volunteers. Volunteers receive early VIP shopping privileges and an invitation to the bazaar's grand opening on March 13.

A raffle will include prizes that represent the variety of products found at the bazaar. Raffle tickets may be purchased in the SCSC thrift shops before March 14 or during the bazaar in the Patch Community Club. Raffle tickets purchased before the event include the opportunity to win one of five \$100 bazaar gift certificates.

The bazaar also features private organizations offering an assortment of cuisines, in addition to food offered by Family and MWR.

To volunteer, log on to www.StuttgartSpousesClub.org and click on the Volunteer Spot link. For more information, email scsc.bazaarvolunteer@gmail.com.

The bazaar is open to all valid U.S. ID card-holders, NATO Forces, civilians and reservists with TDY orders. Shoppers may bring guests, but guests are not allowed to make purchases. Visa, Mastercard, cash, and personal checks will be accepted. No pets will be allowed.

Learn more about the vendors and their products on the Stuttgart Community Spring Bazaar –SCSC & MWR Facebook page.

Learn how to live and love 'ScreamFree'

Army Community Service will host Hal Runkel, author of the "ScreamFree Parenting" series, as he leads several workshops for the Stuttgart military community.

Runkel will teach a ScreamFree parenting workshop March 3 and a ScreamFree marriage workshop March 6. Both will be held from 6-8 p.m. in the Patch Community Club, Building 2345.

Free child care will be provided to those who register before Feb. 27. Children must be registered with Child Youth and School Services.

To register, or for more information, call ACS at 431-3362/07031-15-3362.

AUSA career fair Feb. 21-23 in Sindelfingen

The Association of the U.S. Army Stuttgart Chapter will host a career fair Feb. 21-23 from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Marriott Hotel in Sindelfingen.

The career fair is open to all members of the Stuttgart military community, to include service members, wounded warriors, spouses and civilian employees.

For more information, visit www.ausea.org/Stuttgart.

Due to PCS soon?

For those who plan to relocate to a new duty station in the next several months, permanent change of station/preparation briefings are scheduled for Feb. 19, March 5 and 19, and

April 2 and 16, at 1 p.m. in Building 2913 on Panzer Kaserne.

All service members and civilians departing within the next four to five months should attend. Information will be provided from agencies such as transportation, customs, health and dental clinic, Tricare, vehicle registration, housing and Army Community Service. Army personnel will also receive a briefing on finance issues.

All separating Army personnel must attend this briefing to receive preparation information. Advance registration is required.

For more information and to sign up, call 431-2599/civ. 07031-15-2599.

Libraries end print magazine services

This month, U.S. Army garrison libraries in Europe will replace their print magazine service with e-magazines. The move will save approximately \$30,000 in annual costs.

For more information, visit www.library.eur.army.mil.

One act play tackles teen dating violence

The Patch High School Drama Club will present "Don't U Luv Me," a play by Linda Daugherty that depicts teen dating violence while encouraging teens to make healthy choices for positive relationships.

The performance will be held Feb. 13 at 7 p.m. in the Patch High School Forum. Tickets are \$3.

Vehicle Reg closure

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Vehicle Registration Office will close at noon Feb. 28 to conduct its monthly inventory.

For more information, call 431-2833/07031-15-2833 or visit www.stuttgart.army.mil and click on "Directorates" then "Emergency Services."

Red Cross to offer baby sitter training

The American Red Cross Stuttgart will offer baby sitter training and pediatric first aid/CPR Feb. 17 from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

For more information, call 431-2812/civ. 07031-15-2812.

ACAP hosts virtual career fair Feb. 25

The Army Career and Alumni Program will host the first ever European Virtual Career Fair Feb. 25 from 4-6 p.m.

This career fair is for all active duty service members stationed in Europe who are separating from the military and military spouses seeking employment.

Currently more than 40 stateside employers, including XEROX, Aetna, Capital One and the Transportation Security Administration, are scheduled to attend the fair.

Register for the career fair at www.veteranrecruiting.com.

For more information, contact U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart's ACAP Center, Building 2915, Panzer

Kaserne, or call 431-2191/civ. 07031-15-2191.

TLA (M&IE) process changes

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Housing Services Office has announced a change to the Temporary Lodging Allowance (Meals and Incidental Expenses) authorization process for active duty Soldiers.

As of Feb. 1, active duty Soldiers on TLA will need to submit a claim for meals and incidentals using a Claim for Temporary Lodging Allowance form.

The form is available at the Panzer and Kelly hotels, and should be submitted to your unit finance office. TLA for lodging will continue to be processed through the Housing Office.

For more information, call the Housing Services Office at 431-2230/civ. 07031-15-2230 or the Panzer Hotel at civ. 07031-41-040.

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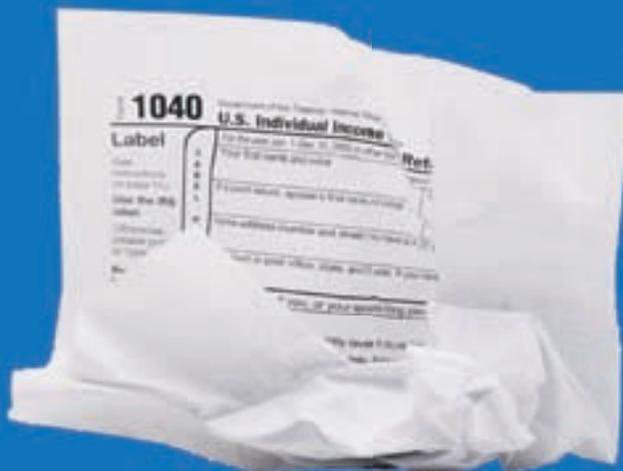
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The Find-It Guide App is available for iPhone, Android or BlackBerry

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www.advantipro.de

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to service members, Defense Department civilian employees, military retirees and their family members



Open Monday – Friday
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Closed on federal holidays
Room 231
Building 3312
Kelley Barracks

To make an appointment, call the Stuttgart Tax Center at 421-4588 or civ. 0711-729-4588

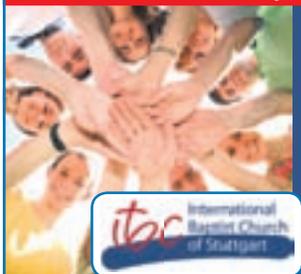
Bible Church of Stuttgart

Holding Forth the Word of Life Phil. 2:16



Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
 Fellowship Coffee 10:30 a.m. Thursday Prayer Meeting 7:00 p.m.
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www.bible-church-of-stuttgart.com

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 Saturday - 1800 (starting 8 March 2014)
 AWANA: Sunday 1700
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 Wednesday 1900

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 Men's, Women's & Young
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*Please contact us for times and locations

Pastors Alex & Evelyn Morales
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 Call us: 0152-5954-5304, 0152-3872-8324, or 0174-361-2396

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 SUNDAY EVENINGS 2:00PM



A PLACE YOU CAN CALL HOME





Department of the Army graphic

Three key components of health — sleep, activity and nutrition — are key in optimizing a service member's health, performance and resilience, according to Army Medicine.

How to avoid office weight gain

By Lt. Col. Twyla Leigh

U.S. Army Public Health Command

It's been a long day at the office. Caffeine and sugar are calling your name. Before you head for a vending machine, consider that the additional 140 calories from a 12-ounce can of soda and 220 calories from a candy bar, if consumed on most work days, will create a weight gain of 25 pounds per year. Even if you choose a diet soda to wash down the candy bar, expect an extra 15 pounds per year. And how many added calories do you consume when someone brings in donuts?

These office hazards add to inevitable weight gain that most of us blame on aging, heredity and/or metabolism.

To top it off, technology has created an environment that promotes sedentary behaviors at home and at work. Studies have shown that sitting too much is detrimental to one's health and may increase the risk of cardiovascular disease and other chronic diseases. It also contributes to weight gain.

Healthy nutrition and activity are two of the three key components of health defined in the Army surgeon general's Performance Triad (the third is quality sleep). Quality nutrition promotes health, prevents disease and contributes to achieving and maintaining a healthy body weight. People think better, feel better and perform better when their bodies are well nourished.

Here is a list of strategies to consider for a healthier work environment:

Eat breakfast. Breakfast skippers start the day at a disadvantage and may start grazing

early and feel they have no will power or resistance to sugary and fatty foods that they might otherwise avoid.

Bring healthy, portion-controlled lunches and snacks. You will have complete control over the size of your meals and what goes in your body, and you save money too.

Eat mindfully. No matter what you are eating, focus on the smell, taste and crunch. Avoid eating while you are working at the computer — it doesn't allow you to realize that you are satisfied with your snack or meal, and you may be tempted to keep "grazing." Try eating away from your desk.

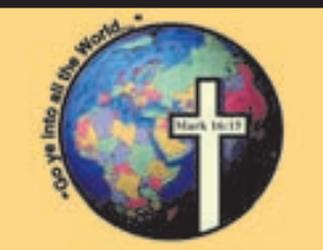
Think thirsty, not hungry. Have lots of cool water on hand to drink throughout the day. Many times we think we are hungry and overeat when we have not had enough fluids.

Sit less and move more. Stand up and stretch, take a 10-minute walk break and get some steps in to reach the recommended goal of 10,000 steps daily. Take the stairs instead of the elevator. Park your car at the farthest point in the parking lot. Limit phone calls to co-workers and walk over instead.

Identify supportive co-workers. Share recipe ideas for healthy snacks. Encourage one another to eat healthy and exercise more.

Change the office culture by modeling good eating. If you bring in a snack to share, make it healthy: fresh fruit, whole grains and lower-fat recipes. Suggest non-food rewards and celebrations.

For more information about the Army's Performance Triad and tips to empower yourself to better health, visit <http://armymedicine.mil>.



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<http://victorybaptistchurchstuttgart.org>



The Stuttgart Military Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints announces their annual Ward Conference to be held on Sun. 9 Feb. at 0900. The theme of the conference will be "Joy and Sorrow" The public is invited.

Deidesheimer Str. 39
 70499 Stuttgart



Photos.com

Army in Europe Form 190-1Y is a one-page form that lists step-by-step instructions describing what a driver should do if involved in car accident in Germany.

Know what to do in case of an auto accident

By Robert Szostek

U.S. Army Europe Office of the Provost Marshal

Getting into an accident on the road anywhere is a stressful event. Having an accident in Germany and not knowing what drivers are expected to do under German law can add to that stress and possibly lead to criminal charges.

That's why the U.S. Army Europe Office of the Provost Marshal offers help that fits easily in a glove compartment.

Army in Europe Form 190-1Y (What to do if you have an accident) is a one-page form that lists step-by-step instructions describing what drivers should do if they are involved in car accidents in Germany. The form also offers a place for drivers to note contact information they'll need in an accident, such as insurance company and local police telephone numbers. Provost Marshal officials recommend that USAREUR-licensed drivers fill out the form and keep a copy in each of their vehicles.

Provost Marshal and USAREUR Registry of Motor Vehicles officials stressed that the most important thing to know is that a driver should never leave the scene of an accident.

"Drivers who are involved in an accident must stay at the scene for a reasonable period and wait for the police," said Tom Lorenzini, registrar at the USAREUR Registry of Motor Vehicles. Leaving the scene of an accident without waiting a reasonable time for the police, without announcing your involvement in the accident, without providing your personal identification and that of your vehicle may be considered fleeing the scene of an accident. This is a serious criminal offense under German and military

law and could also lead to loss of insurance coverage.

He advised drivers to follow these steps after an accident:

- Turn on the vehicle's emergency flashers and set up a warning triangle. Place the triangle 200 meters behind the vehicle on autobahns and 100 meters behind on other roads.
- Provide first aid to the injured, but do not move any seriously injured persons. Have someone call for medical help.
- Call the Military Police or security forces for on-post accidents and both the German police and MPs or security forces for off-post accidents. German police may take longer to respond if no one is injured and damage is minor.
- Drivers who damage property in a single-car accident must stay at the scene for a reasonable time and try to contact the property owner. If the owner cannot be found, the driver should leave a note with name, address, telephone number and insurance company information. Report the accident immediately to local MPs or security forces. Call German police if there appears to be more than €1,500 in damage.
- Move the cars involved to avoid blocking traffic, if no one is hurt and damage is slight. Take photos of the scene or mark the positions of the vehicles on the ground with chalk for police before you move the cars.
- Exchange information such as name, address, license number, insurance company and policy number with involved parties. Note the time and place of the accident and names and addresses of any witnesses.
- Drivers should not sign any document unless they know exactly what it says. Avoid people who appear at accidents and try to get drivers to sign powers of attorney, loan applications or car rental agreements

in the confusion.

Lorenzini added that it is a good idea to take photographs of the scene. Photographs can be more reliable than accident reports and are acceptable in court. If a camera is not available, he suggested that a driver sketch the scene, showing the positions of the vehicles, traffic signals and other key items.

He also explained German police may assess a fine called Verwarnungsgeld immediately at the accident scene. Drivers may refuse to pay, but risk a more serious fine (Bussgeldbescheid) later. A Verwarnungsgeld does not influence the settlement of an insurance claim. Paying a Bussgeldbescheid could be used as evidence that you were at fault.

Drivers must give the German police personal information to establish their identity and must sign a related form, but drivers involved in accidents and the people related to them are not required to make statements.

Lorenzini recommended that drivers complete accident reports promptly. He said they should send in forms from their insurance companies within one week of an accident.

He also noted that the U.S. forces certificate of license has a block that indicates if the bearer is an organ donor or not. If someone is killed in an accident and has "yes" indicated in the organ donor block, Lorenzini said, someone should call the telephone number below the block to alert officials at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

AE Form 190-1Y can be found online at the Army in Europe Library & Publishing System website at <https://aepubs.army.mil/ae/public/index.aspx> (available from computers on the .mil domain only).

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Hall of flame: museum charts history of firefighting

Story & photos by Carola Meusel
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Most children love the sight and sounds of a fire truck. For an up close and personal look, the “Feuerwehr-Museum,” or fire fighter museum, in Stuttgart-Münster offers a chance to see, touch and experience all there is to know about the Stuttgart Fire Department.

The museum aims to depict the evolution of the Stuttgart Fire Department, as well as the history of the firefighting profession, according to Bernd Jung, chairman of the Feuerwehrverein Stuttgart, an association that founded the museum in 2001.

“By showcasing the development of firefighting from past to present, we can educate visitors and Stuttgart residents, as well as our firefighter trainees so that they can learn from history and apply this knowledge to their present job,” Jung said.

The Feuerwehr-Museum is located in a historic building from 1906 that formerly housed a machine factory. Today, in an area of 2,500 square meters, visitors can view fire extinguisher equipment that was used between 1480 and 1850; past and present fire alarm systems; extendable, portable and aerial ladders; hoses; nozzles; pike poles; as well as uniforms and patches, helmets, and respiratory protection equipment to include self-contained breathing apparatuses and resuscitation equipment. Manually-operated fire carriages from the early 1800s are also a highlight of the exhibition, according to Jung.

The ground floor displays feature 25 fire trucks from the 1940s up to the 1980s to include fire engines, aerial ladders, a heavy rescue hydraulic crane, a snorkel (articulated platform), and a heavy rescue truck specifically for use on railways. All vehicles were used by the Stuttgart Fire Department.

According to Jung, the history of firefighting dates back to the Roman Emperor Augustus who utilized his Soldiers to extinguish fires. The exhibition at the museum, however, begins in the Middle Ages when fire fighting was a rather unstructured and sometimes chaotic endeavor, according to Jung.

Some may be surprised to find wooden buckets (Bütten) that were typically used by winemakers to collect grapes. Many times the buckets were filled with water and used to combat fires. It also was common practice that married couples received a “Feuerlöscheimer” (fire bucket) from the town hall. Depending on the couples’ status,



A historic fire hydrant guides visitors to the “Feuerwehr-Museum,” or fire fighter museum, in Stuttgart-Münster. The museum opened its doors to the public in 2001 and aims to depict the history of firefighting and the Stuttgart Fire Department.

the buckets were made out of leather, fiber or willow tree branches, Jung said. Back then, bucket brigades were used to combat fires.

Stuttgart’s first fire extinguishing procedures were formulated by Count Eberhard im Bart of Württemberg in 1492, and described methods to combat fires in the city, Jung said.

During the 19th century, firefighting became a more organized and military structured task with the

foundation of tactical units, squads, companies, battalions and fire captains and adjutants giving orders to effectively protect live and property.

The pioneers were Conrad Dietrich Magirus, a businessman and inventor from Ulm, and Carl Metz, a mechanical engineer from Heidelberg. Metz manufactured manual-pump apparatuses that were revolutionary for combating fire. Metz also was the founder of volunteer fire brigades.

The Magirus Company started to produce fire fighting vehicles in 1866. At his fire apparatus company, Magirus also invented the turntable ladder (aerial apparatus), which became essential firefighting equipment.

Stuttgart’s professional fire brigade was founded Nov. 2, 1891. Its first fire chief, Bruno Jacoby, who served from 1891 to 1918, was known as “Brand Jacob,” or Fire Jacob.

Some of Stuttgart’s historic fires, such as the fire at the Old Castle on Dec. 21, 1932, are also illustrated. It took the fire department 10 days to finally control the fire, and three fire fighters lost their lives in the flames.

Photos of Stuttgart’s fire prevention week from 1947 at Schlossplatz are also displayed.

In 1970, Stuttgart’s Fire Department received an emergency physician’s vehicle. Two of them are on display at the museum.

“Emergency medical service also

is a major task for fire departments, since the fire fighters often are the first ones on site,” said Karl Doersam, U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart’s fire chief.

Historical automobile enthusiasts will enjoy the “GM 26-1,” the first snorkel operated by a German municipal fire department in 1966, as well as the “KW16,” a heavy rescue hydraulic crane manufactured by Magirus Deutz, also a first with Stuttgart in 1957.

“The museum gives a broad overview from the beginnings of fire fighting to technical improvements. With all the exhibits, people can not only visually trace back that history, but also touch it,” Doersam said.

While all information displays are in German, fear not, the exhibits of trucks and equipment don’t require translation.

The Feuerwehr-Museum is located at Murgtalstrasse 60, 70376 Stuttgart.

The museum is open every first Saturday and every third Sunday of the month from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., or upon appointment.

For English guided tours, call civ. 0711-50660 (Integrierte Leitstelle Stuttgart/Stuttgart Fire Department Control Center).

Tickets cost €2. Children 10 years old or younger are free. Children age 11-18 are €1.

For more information, visit www.stuttgarter-feuerwehrmuseum.de.



Bernd Jung, chairman of the Feuerwehrverein Stuttgart, explains features of a manually-operated fire pump from 1835 to Karl Doersam, USAG Stuttgart’s fire chief, at the “Feuerwehr-Museum” Stuttgart, Jan. 27. The museum features firefighting equipment through the ages, as well as 25 fire trucks from the 1940s up to the 1980s.

What's happening in FMWR

Snowshoeing in the Black Forest

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart's Outdoor Recreation hosts a Black Forest snowshoeing trip Feb. 15. The cost is \$39 and includes transportation, guide and snow shoes. Register by Feb. 12.

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

Find bargains at flea market Feb. 8

Load up on bargains at the community flea market Feb. 8 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Patch Community Club.

For more information, call 430-2110/civ. 0711-680-2110.

Bowling Center hosts doubles tourney

The Galaxy Bowling and Entertainment Center will host a Scotch doubles bowling tournament Feb. 8 from 1-3 p.m. Teams must consist of an adult and a youth under 18. The entry fee is \$20 per team.

At the pro shop, purchase any bowling ball through Feb. 14 and

receive a coupon for five free games of bowling.

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

Canvas, Corkscrews class coming to RB

Patch Arts and Crafts will host a Canvas and Corkscrews class Feb. 20 from 7-10 p.m. at Brewed Awakenings on Robinson Barracks. Learn step-by-step how to paint a beautiful masterpiece. The cost is \$45 and includes all materials.

For more information, call 430-5270/civ. 0711-680-5270.

Meet, greet at RB

Save 10 percent on everything during Brewed Awakenings' Robinson Barracks Meet and Greet Feb. 11 from 3-5 p.m. Share your ideas for RB programming and discuss the future of RB. Children can watch a movie and enjoy a free ice cream.

For more information, call 420-6037/civ. 0711-819-6037.

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



Coming to Patch Theater

Feb. 6 — American Hustle (R) 6 p.m.

Feb. 7 — Labor Day (PG-13) 6 p.m., Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (PG-13) 8:30 p.m.

Feb. 8 — The Nut Job in 3D (PG) 2 p.m., Labor Day (PG-13) 4:30 p.m. The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG-13) 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 9 — The Nut Job (PG) 2 p.m., Labor Day (PG-13) 4:30 p.m, Ride Along (PG-13) 7:30 p.m

Feb. 10 — Devil's Due (R) 6 p.m.

Feb. 11 — Closed

Feb. 12 — Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (PG-13) 6 p.m.

Feb. 13 — Labor Day (PG-13) 6 p.m.

Feb. 14 — The Lego Movie in 3D (PG) 6 p.m., The Monuments Men (PG-13) 8 p.m.

Feb. 15 — The Lego Movie (PG) 2 p.m., The Monuments Men (PG-13) 4:30 p.m, The Wolf of Wall Street (R) 7:30 p.m

Feb. 16 — The Lego Movie in 3D (PG) 2 p.m., The Nut Job in 3D

(PG) 4:30 p.m., The Monuments Men (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Feb. 17 — The Monuments Men (PG-13) 6 p.m.

Feb. 18 — Closed

Feb. 19 — The Lego Movie (PG) 6 p.m.



Warner Bros. Pictures

The Lego Movie - The original 3D computer animated story follows Emmet, an ordinary, rules-following, perfectly average Lego minifigure who is mistakenly identified as the most extraordinary person and the key to saving the world. He is drafted into a fellowship of strangers on an epic quest to stop an evil tyrant, a journey for which Emmet is hopelessly and hilariously underprepared.

Family and MWR Advertisement

stuttgart.armymwr.com



SPORTS COMPETITION

TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS
Feb 14 - 17
Stuttgart Fitness Centers

This 4 day community level competition is the largest IMCOM-E basketball event featuring over 20 teams throughout the IMCOM-E region. Men's and women's divisions. Sign a team up or just come watch. Food and beverages on sale throughout the tournament. \$250 per team. Register at the Patch Fitness Center by February 10. Must be 18 or older.

DSN 430-2354 /CIV 0711-680-2354



THEATER

84, CHARING CROSS ROAD
Feb 21, 22, 28 - 7:30 p.m.
Stuttgart Theatre Center

A charming "staged reading" of letters between a New York writer and an "Antiquarian" book seller in London that blossoms into a long-distance friendship that spans two decades.

DSN 421-3055 /CIV 0711-729-3055



OUTDOOR RECREATION

WEEKEND ADVENTURE IN INTERLAKEN, SWITZERLAND
Feb 22 - 23 - departs at 7 a.m.
Outdoor Recreation, Panzer Kaserne

This fun filled trip includes transportation, lodging in a hostel, breakfasts, shuttles, sled run, cheese fondue dinner, and ski bus pass. Activities range from skiing, snowboarding, night sledding, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, ice-climbing, ice-skating and indoor swimming. Register by February 19.

DSN 431-2774/CIV 07031-15-2774

To follow us on Facebook go to www.facebook.com/familyandmwr and



Tax season gets underway

The Stuttgart Tax Center opened its doors Feb. 3 and offers free tax assistance from IRS-certified volunteers who prepare and electronically file state and federal tax returns for service members, Defense Department civilian employees, military retirees and their family members.

Last year the Stuttgart Tax Center assisted with 1,815 federal and 781 state tax returns, saving community members more than \$500,000 in preparation and filing fees, and generating just shy of \$5 million in refunds.

The tax center, located in Room 231,

Building 3312, Kelley Barracks, will be open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Before visiting the tax center, be sure to download and fill out IRS intake sheet 13614-C, available online at www.stuttgart.army.mil/Legal/Legal.html

Tax center officials request that community members make appointments to avoid waiting to be seen. Call 421-4588/civ. 0711-729-4588 to make yours.

Remember to bring the following documents:

DOD-issued ID card and official documentation of Social Security Num-

ber / Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN)

All W-2 Forms received from employers / Lohnsteuerbescheinigungen.

A voided check that shows your bank account and bank routing number

In addition, bring appropriate documentation for relevant individual tax issues:

- Form 1099 INT (interest statement)
- Form 1099 DIV (dividend statement)
- Form 1099R (pension/IRA distribution)
- Original power of attorney, if filing for a spouse
- Documentation of child care expenses

paid last year

- Documentation of Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs)
- Documentation supporting charitable contributions
- Statements of interest expenses (mortgage, student loans)
- Alimony information (copy of divorce or separation agreement)
- Other relevant financial information (e.g., investment statements, rental reports, medical expenses, charitable contributions, or others)
- Any documentation of any other income (U.S. or foreign)

Frequently Asked Questions for Tax Year 2013 Tax Returns

Source: U.S. Army Europe Office of the Judge Advocate

What are the major tax law changes for 2013?

a. The standard filing deadline is April 15. However, overseas filers receive an automatic filing extension until June 15, and since this year it happens to fall on a Sunday, the filing deadline for overseas filers is June 16. The extension to file is not an extension to pay. Soldiers deployed to a qualified hazardous duty area during tax season receive additional time to file, pay any tax due or receive their refund. The automatic six month extension to file your tax return is not completely automatic. You must request it by 15 April using Form 4868, Application for Automatic Extension of Time To File U.S. Individual Income Tax Return.

b. Change in tax rates. The highest tax rate for ordinary income is 39.6%. The maximum tax rate of 15% on net capital gain and qualified dividends has increased to 20% for some taxpayers.

c. Additional Medicare Tax. Beginning in 2013, a 0.9% Additional Medicare Tax applies to Medicare wages, railroad retirement (RRTA) compensation, and self-employment income that are more than:
\$125,000 if married filing separately,
\$250,000 if married filing jointly, or
\$200,000 for any other filing status.

d. Personal exemption amount increased for certain taxpayers. Your personal exemption is increased to \$3,900. But the amount is reduced if your adjusted gross income is more than:
\$150,000 if married filing separately,
\$250,000 if single,
\$275,000 if head of household, or
\$300,000 if any other filing status.

e. Same-sex marriages. If you have a same-sex spouse whom you legally married in a state (or foreign country) that recognizes same-sex marriage, you and your spouse generally must use the married filing jointly or married filing separately filing status on your 2013 return, even if you and your spouse now live in a state (or foreign country) that does not recognize same-sex marriage. "Same

Sex Unions" or "Same Sex Registered Partnerships" are not treated as same-sex marriages. Show your documents to the local legal assistance office for a determination, whether your union qualifies as a "marriage."

f. Standard mileage rates. The 2013 rate for business use of your car is increased to 56½ cents a mile. The 2013 rate for use of your car to get medical care is increased to 24 cents a mile. The 2013 rate for use of your car to move is increased to 24 cents a mile. See Publication 521, Moving Expenses.

What's the difference between a tax deduction and a tax credit?

A tax deduction is an amount which reduces the income used to compute tax. A tax deduction only saves you the percentage of the deduction equal to the tax rate. For example, if you are taxed at a rate of 20 percent and you have a deduction of \$100 then you save \$20. While deductions reduce tax liability, they are not directly refundable. A tax credit reduces tax liability after it has already been computed. One dollar of tax credit actually saves you one dollar. Nonrefundable tax credits can only reduce your tax liability to zero. Refundable tax credits can result in payment to the taxpayer from the federal government.

Which tax credits might I be eligible for?

a. Earned Income Credit – a refundable credit for taxpayers below an adjusted gross income threshold. For 2013, earned income and Adjusted Gross Income must be less than:
\$46,227 (\$51,567 married filing jointly) with 3 or more qualifying children
\$43,038 (\$48,378 married filing jointly) with 2 qualifying children
\$37,870 (\$43,210 married filing jointly) with 1 qualifying child
\$14,340 (\$19,680 married filing jointly) with no qualifying children
Beyond these limitations, a number of other requirements exist to qualify – ask your tax center!

b. Child Tax Credit – Up to \$1,000 per child - but may not be applicable to all taxpayers. For those filing jointly, the tax credit begins to phase out at \$110,000 of

modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) and at \$75,000 for taxpayers completing a single, head of household, or married filing separate tax return.

c. Additional Child Tax Credit – refundable tax credit for individuals unable to utilize the full benefit of their nonrefundable child tax credit.

d. Child and Dependent Care Credit – nonrefundable tax credit for working parents which reduces tax liability by a portion of child and dependent care expenses.

e. Lifetime Learning Tax Credit – nonrefundable tax credit up to \$2,000 per tax return for 20 percent of the first \$10,000 of eligible education expenses paid by the taxpayer for him/herself, a spouse or a dependent.

f. Retirement Savings Contributions Credit – nonrefundable credit for taxpayers with modified AGI below



certain thresholds (depending on filing status) who make a contribution to a qualified retirement plan.

Should I itemize my deductions?

a. The standard deduction rates were adjusted again for all filing statuses this year. To derive a benefit from itemizing deductions, the taxpayer must have significant expenses in the categories eligible for itemized deductions. Generally speaking, without significant out-of-pocket medical expenses, interest payments on an eligible home mortgage or very large contributions to eligible charities, taxpayers are better off taking the standard deduction.

b. The 2013 standard deductions are:
\$6,100 for unmarried taxpayers or married taxpayers filing separately
\$12,200 for married taxpayers filing jointly
\$8,950 for taxpayers filing as head of household

c. The additional standard deduction allowed for blind taxpayers and taxpayers age 65 or older at the end of the tax year will be \$1,200 if married filing jointly and \$1,500 if filing single. These deductions are cumulative.

d. You may not be able to deduct all of your itemized deductions if your adjusted gross income is more than:
\$150,000 if married filing separately,
\$250,000 if single,
\$275,000 if head of household, or
\$300,000 if any other filing status.

Can service members and employees of the U.S. government stationed in Europe avail themselves of the Foreign Earned Income Exclusion?

No, that exclusion does not apply to U.S. service members and other employees of the U.S. government. They must pay U.S. income tax, even if stationed overseas.

Do I need to pay state income tax if I live in Europe?

Maybe. States can require their legal residents (domiciliaries) to pay income tax. A state has the authority to tax domiciliaries of that state, even if the domicili-

ary does not currently live in that state any longer due to extended overseas assignments, be they military or civilian. Each state's law is different, so to be sure you are complying with applicable state law, stop by your tax assistance center and check the rules for your state of domicile.

My spouse works on the local economy and pays taxes to the host nation. Do I need to report my spouse's income on our return?

a. If your spouse is a U.S. citizen or resident and you are filing a joint return, you must report your spouse's income on your tax return. If you are filing separately, the spouse will only need to file if earned income is more than \$3,800. If the spouse must file, you then may be able to exclude up to \$97,600 of that income from your taxable income under the Foreign Earned Income Exclusion.

b. Spouses who are not U.S. citizens or residents do not need to report their income.

It may be to your advantage, however, to elect to treat your spouse as a U.S. resident so you can file a joint return. Consult your tax center for an individual discussion of these issues.

Do I need to report any money I have in my foreign bank account?

Possibly. Any United States person who has a financial interest in, or signature or other authority over any financial account in a foreign country, if the aggregate value of these accounts exceeds \$10,000 at any time during the calendar year, must report it. This report is called an FBAR, and stands for a Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts. The form number is TD F 90-22.1. If you had more than \$10,000 in any foreign bank account during 2013 you must report this to the Treasury Department.

Why do I need to fill out the same paperwork (tax preparation info sheet, taxpayer info sheet, intake/quality review sheet) at my tax center every year if my info has not changed?

Your tax assistance center needs the intake sheet filled out each year to ensure the accuracy of your tax return. Tax law changes every year, and you may not be aware of all the changes. The forms help determine the tax you owe and the refund you may receive.

What do I do if my spouse is not available to sign the tax return?

Generally, you must sign your tax return. There are a few narrowly drawn circumstances in which you can authorize another person to sign on your behalf. If you are overseas or incapacitated, you can grant a Power of Attorney to an agent to file and sign your return. These forms are available at your nearest legal assistance office. You may also use Form 2848 – the Power of Attorney provided by the IRS. Generally, joint returns must be signed by both spouses. However, when a spouse is overseas, in a combat zone, in a missing status, or incapacitated, a power of attorney may be needed to file a joint return. You can download the IRS Power of Attorney at www.irs.gov.

Soldiers who are deployed during the tax season may want to take advantage of the liberal extensions to file afforded them, make sure they have all necessary documents, corrected W-2s, etc. In this case deployment orders should be attached and the return should be paper-filed. For more information regarding deployed spouses and extensions of filing deadlines, consult your tax assistance center.

Tax Tips



- Secure your tax records from identity theft. Identity theft occurs when someone uses your personal information, such as your name, Social Security Number, or other identifying information, without your permission, to commit fraud or other crimes. An identity thief may use your SSN to get a job or may file a tax return using your SSN to receive a refund.

- Taxpayer identification numbers. You must provide the taxpayer identification number for each person for whom you claim certain tax benefits. Generally, this number is the person's social security number. This applies even if the person was born in 2013. To apply for a Social Security Number for your U.S. citizen child, you can download a fillable application (Form SS5) at www.socialsecurity.gov. If you got married to a non-resident alien in 2013, you must apply for a Taxpayer Identification Number for your foreign spouse. This is true whether you file jointly, separately, or head of household with a qualifying U.S. citizen child. Filing single is not an option if you were married on the last day of the tax year.

- Foreign source income. If you are a U.S. citizen with income from sources outside the United States (foreign income), you must report all such income on your tax return unless it is exempt by U.S. law. This is true whether you live inside or outside the U.S. and whether or not you receive a Form W-2 or Form 1099 from the foreign payer. This applies to earned income (such as wages, sick pay in lieu of wages and tips) as well as unearned income (such as interest, dividends, capital gains, pensions, rents, foreign unemployment compensation and royalties, etc). If you live outside the U.S., you may be able to exclude part or all of your foreign source earned income. For details, see Publication 54, Tax Guide for U.S. Citizens and Resident Aliens Abroad.

- Foreign financial assets. If you had foreign financial assets in 2013, you may have to file Form 8938 with your return.

- Payment of taxes. You can pay your taxes online, by phone, or by check or money order. You can make a direct transfer from your bank account or use a credit or debit card. If you e-file, you can schedule an electronic payment.

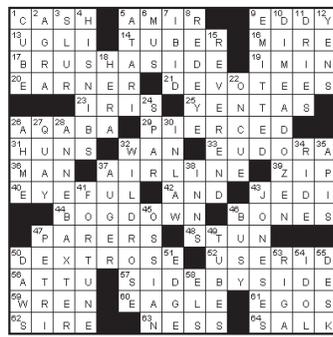
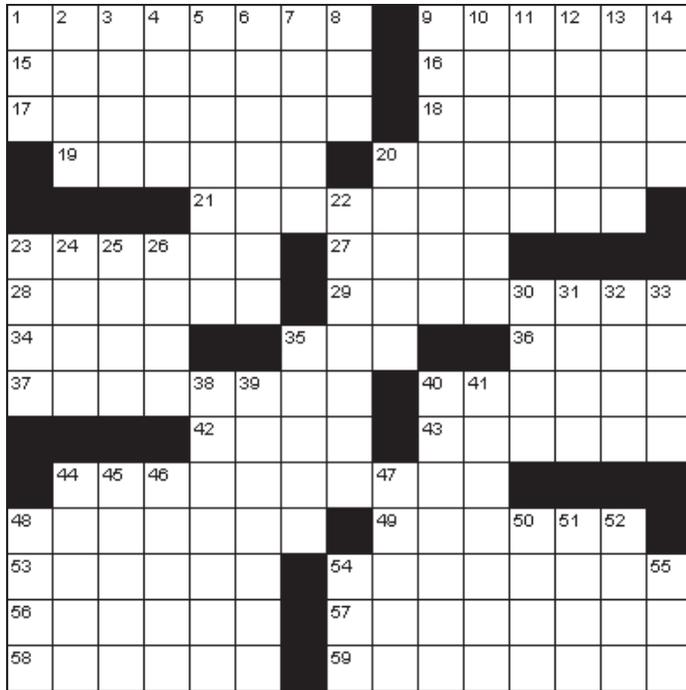
- Refund on a late filed return. If you were due a refund but you did not file a return, you generally must file your return within 3 years from the date the return was due (including extensions) to get that refund.

- Frivolous tax returns. The IRS has published a list of positions that are identified as frivolous. The penalty for filing a frivolous tax return is \$5,000.

- Filing an erroneous claim for a refund or credit. You may have to pay a penalty if you file an erroneous claim for refund or credit.



Crossword Puzzle



This is the solution to the crossword puzzle from January 23, 2014!

Courtesy of thinks.com

ACROSS

- 1 Himalayan monastery
- 9 Film producer?
- 15 Saint in Hollywood
- 16 Toadstool type
- 17 Assiduous
- 18 Most uncommon
- 19 Source of strength
- 20 Royal issue
- 21 Holst orchestral suite
- 23 Italian artist
Modigliani
- 27 Affectation
- 28 "Back to ___"
(John Wayne film)
- 29 Fix on again
- 34 Foggy image
- 35 ___ Mehta, Indian
writer
- 36 Hawaiian port
- 37 Restrained
- 40 Old manuscript mark
- 42 Hold up
- 43 Stops
- 44 Part of the Arctic
Ocean

- 48 1940 Hitchcock movie
- 49 Dental calculus
- 53 Highly wrought
- 54 Lute-like instrument
- 56 Be about to fall
- 57 Turn off
- 58 Fine violins
- 59 Made numb

DOWN

- 1 Preceded
- 2 Hertz rival
- 3 French Sudan, today
- 4 Notorious Idi
- 5 Herbal drink
- 6 Utopian novel of 1872
- 7 Washer cycle
- 8 Thus far
- 9 Italian marble
- 10 Anti
- 11 Seine tributary
- 12 Standing
- 13 "The Sun Also ___"
- 14 Gospels follower
- 20 Worked
- 22 Mom and Pop
- 23 Shortened form
(shortened form)
- 24 Tom, Dick or Harry?
- 25 A case of pins
and needles
- 26 Use a needle
- 30 "Take ___ Train"
- 31 Feels unwell
- 32 Crossword item
- 33 "Bonanza" brother
- 35 Scenic view
- 38 Voted in
- 39 Popular Degas
subject
- 40 South Seas islands
- 41 Bewhiskered
- 44 Basque topper
- 45 Daisy Mae's mate
- 46 Cowboy's rope
- 47 No longer novel
- 48 Decays
- 50 Inflection
- 51 Shepard in space
- 52 Ceremony
- 54 Crazy
- 55 Actor Beatty

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Have fun with the locals



Traditional Horse Market

Fri, Feb 7 – Tue, Feb 11
Leonberg, City center

Participate in the tradition-steeped Leonberger Pferdemarkt (horse market) from February 7 to 11. Since 1684 the market combines traditional trading, equestrian sports, seminars, parties and shows. Highlights include a merchant market and the “Guggenmusiktreffen”, which is a huge carnival parade on February 9 starting at 11:11 a.m. from the Marktplatz. Guggenmusik is played by a Swiss brass and percussion band.

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

EVENTS

Brueghel – Rubens – Ruisdael:

Now – Sun, Feb 23
Stuttgart, Staatsgalerie
Art exhibition

Until February 23 the Staatsgalerie Stuttgart 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.

Disney's Musical Tarzan

Now through September 2014
Stuttgart, Apollo Theater

Join Tarzan on his great adventure on stage at the Stage Apollo Theater in Stuttgart, through September 30. Enjoy this dynamic and exciting show with breathtaking aerial acrobatics, fascinating lights, sound effects and costumes. This is not just a musical; it's an adventure! For more information and tickets see www.eventim.de.

ABBA – The Show

Thu, Feb 6
Stuttgart, Porsche Arena
 Enjoy a great tribute concert during

“ABBA – The Show” in the Porsche Arena Stuttgart on February 6 at 8 p.m. The show tells the story of the band's breakthrough in 1974 until their break-up in the 80's with the help of their most famous hits like “Dancing Queen,” “Money, Money, Money,” and many more. Musical support is provided by the National Symphony Orchestra of London. For more info, see www.eventim.de.

Tour through Ludwigsburg Castle

Fri, Feb 7
Ludwigsburg, Residenzschloss
 Experience the Residenzschloss (residential castle) Ludwigsburg (just north of Stuttgart) during an English tour everyday at 1:30 p.m. Ludwigsburg's castle is one of the biggest baroque castles in Germany, which is still preserved in its original form. The magnificently decorated rooms can only be visited with a tour guide who will inform you about all important facts about the castle. The castle doesn't have to be boring for the little visitors at all. With costumes and antique games, children can experience the daily life of princes in the 18th century. For more info, see www.schloss-ludwigsburg.de.

Apres Ski Party

Sun, Feb 9
Stuttgart, Eisbahn (Ice Rink)
 The Eiswelt Stuttgart will host an Apres

Ski Party on February 9 from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Starting with famous party hits and German Schlager songs (traditional German pop music), the ice rink turns for some hours into a disco with a special atmosphere. For more info in German, see www.iceparty.tv.

SIRO-A: A visual show

Wed, Feb 12
Stuttgart, Theaterhaus
 Experience a “Technodelic Visual Show” performed by the Japanese group SIRO-A at the Theaterhaus Stuttgart on February 12 from 8 p.m. The show combines elements of technology, electronic beats and visual effects and is deemed to be the Japanese answer to the “Blue man group.” For more info and tickets from €33.85, see www.eventim.de.

Carnival Parade

Sun, Feb 16
Tübingen, City center
 Discover Germany's “Fünfte Jahreszeit” (5th season of the year): Carnival (or Fasching, in German)! Enjoy Tübingen's annual carnival parade on February 16 starting at 1:30 p.m. from the Marktplatz. Several streets will be closed for about 3,000 costumed carnivalists, making their way across the city. For more info in German, see www.stuttgart-tourist.de.

CONCERTS

Drake

Wed, Feb 19
Frankfurt, Festhalle
 See a live concert by the rapper and R&B singer Drake in the Festhalle Frankfurt on February 19 from 8 p.m. During his tour the Canadian musician will present his latest album “Nothing Was the Same”. For more info and tickets from €54.50, see www.eventim.de.

30 Seconds to Mars

Wed, Feb 19
Stuttgart, Hanns-Martin-Schleyer-Halle
 See 30 Seconds to Mars live in Stuttgart on February 19, starting at 8 p.m. They will present their latest album ‘Love Lust Faith + Dreams’ which was released in 2013. For more info and tickets from €45.90, see www.eventim.de.

SPORTS

Ice Hockey

Fri, Feb 14
Stuttgart, Eiswelt
 See an exciting Ice Hockey game between the Stuttgart Rebels and the ESC Hügelsheim 09 on February 14 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.

More events on: www.militaryingermany.com

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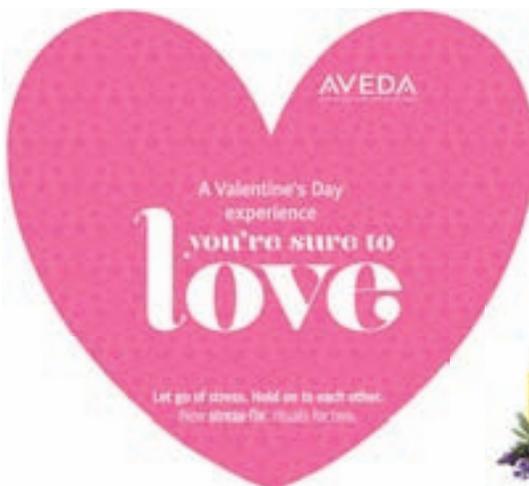


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Photo by Tracy Abruzere

Spelling Bee Champions

Patch Elementary School's 2014 Spelling Bee Champion Alexis Acheampong (left) and runner-up, Kathryn Chong (right) proudly present their awards! Alexis will present PES at the European Spelling Bee at Ramstein Air Force Base in March!

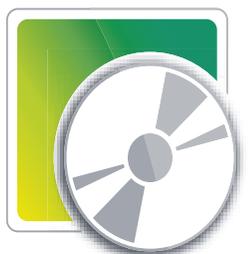


Photo by Mr. James Lloyd

Böblingen Elementary Middle School Blue Ribbon student Ella Espiritu won the 2013/2014 PTA sponsored Spelling Bee! Ella is in Mr. Ron Moore's 5th grade language arts class. The competition was fierce, because Ella was competing against a group of fifteen other BEMS students representing grade levels 3 through 8. This year's runner-up was Sasha Ortiz, a BEMS 8th grader. The BEMS faculty, staff, students and PTA would like to congratulate both of you for such a wonderful achievement.

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

Youth Activities



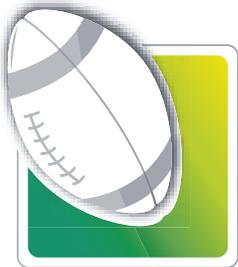


Photo by Dan L'Esperance

Kids Teaching Kids

Mr. L'Esperance's 6th grade Study Skills class recently wrote their own original puppet plays. Their aim was to share the valuable lessons they earned in class with the younger kids coming up to middle school. The sixth grade puppeteers had the audience in stitches as they presented topics, such as: The Value of Turning your Work in on Time, How to Talk to Teachers, How to Deal with Distracting Classmates, and Procrastination.



Photo by Dan L'Esperance

Puppet Show

The students in Mr. L'Esperance's sixth grade Creative Thinking class performed five meaningful full-length plays for the fourth graders at Böblingen Elementary Middle School. The topics shared were presented by the BEMS Puppet Team, Kids on the Block, to help younger students deal with real world issues such as divorce, understanding autism, volunteering, bullying and peer pressure. In this photo we see Ariel Stasiukiewicz giving her presentation.



Photo by Stephanie Nelson

BEMS pharaohs

Mrs. Traunsteiner's 6th grade Language Arts students took a journey through Ancient Egypt by reading the historical selection "Egypt" found in their Reading Street textbooks. Böblingen Elementary Middle School Pharaohs captured in this photo are (L-R); Back: Kjersti Strong, Celine Liptrot, Kylie Songer, and Caitlyn Slater; Middle: Teagan Walters, Lauren Berg, Kayleigh Cullivan, Jourdin Thompson, and Anja Meier; Front: Emily Webb, Susannah Cloud and Sammy Stacy.

Youth Activities

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

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

Youth Activities



Photo by Dan L'Esperance

Debate club

Mr. L'Esperance's 7th and 8th grade Research class selected and extensively researched the question: "Should minors be tried as adults in cases involving murder?" The sometimes intensive exchanges made for lively and well thought out arguments! In this photo we see 8th grader Mackenzie Coleman stating her case to 7th grader Jessica Williams (R-L).



Photo by: Ed Thornburg

Wounded Warrior Program: The BEMS JLS, Junior Leadership Students, is a student public service organization. The advisor of this student organization is the school's middle school counselor, Ms. Supik. In addition to keeping high academic standards, the students must plan activities and projects during their own time. It's for this reason we see in this photo the Junior Leadership students conducting a business meeting during their lunch period. The main topic of discussion was the financial result of the Holiday Gram fund raiser held in December. The results were outstanding. The students raised \$350, which will be donated to the Wounded Warrior Program. Seen in this photo during their lunch time meeting are (L-R): Kayris Baggett, Sophia Cummings, Anna Bustamante, Dean Sherman, Madeline Koning, and Ms. Supik. These Blue Ribbon Students are a wonderful asset to our school and deserve credit for a job well done. Also, thanks go to Ms. Supik for volunteering her time and lunch period to guide and lead this wonderful organization.



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