

The Citizen

Vol. 42, No. 3 www.stuttgart.army.mil

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cometh**

Make sure you're prepared with the Stuttgart Tax Center's free tax assistance services.

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Seeing is believing? Not at two restaurants specializing in dining-in-the-dark events.

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Army to complete analysis before opening jobs to women

By C. Todd Lopez
Army News Service

Last month, the Secretary of Defense announced an end to the Direct Ground Combat Exclusion Rule for female Soldiers. But the Army wants commanders in the field to know that it will be some time before they'll be able to make any changes in their units.

"There will be no immediate changes," said Col. Linda Sheimo, chief of the Command Programs and Policy Division at the Human Resources Policy Directorate, Army G-1. "In order to open any position that is closed, whether it is due to the military occupational specialty, or the unit's mission, all the services have to submit a detailed request outlining the MOS, the unit, the numbers, and also a legal analysis, that has to go through the Army leadership to the Secretary of Defense."

The Secretary of Defense then has to notify Congress of the intent to open those positions, and Congress has a specific amount of time to consider the issue before anything in the services can change, Sheimo said.

"The very soonest that anything could happen would be this summer," Sheimo said.

The Army now has more than 450 military occupational specialties, about 20 of which are currently closed to female Soldiers. Additionally, there



Wallace McBride

Pvt. Cicely Verstein practices marksmanship on a Fort Jackson rifle range. Verstein will be the first female 91M Bradley Fighting Vehicle System maintainer, one of six military occupational specialties previously restricted to men.

are units in the Army that are closed to women, based on the mission of those units. So, within those units, even if there are jobs with MOSs that women are allowed to do elsewhere in the Army, women would not be allowed to serve in those MOSs within those specific units.

See Female Soldiers on page 4

Mentor program trains, rewards employees

By Mark J. Howell
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

With the current cloud of fiscal uncertainty looming over the Department of Defense, some agencies are finding it difficult to retain and train their workforce due in part to decreased funding and resources.

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation non-appropriated fund employees, however, have created one way to cultivate and reward talent within their organization.

The Stuttgart Civilian Personnel Advisory Center NAF Human Resource Office partnered with Family and MWR to create a competitive one-year mentoring program that helps employees plan, develop and manage their career while encouraging the development of leadership competencies.

The concept came from a discussion between CPAC and Family and MWR about a similar program for appropriated fund employees," said Christine Charles, Stuttgart CPAC NAF Human Resources Officer, and creator of the program. "We wanted to find another way to recruit, retain and recognize our stellar non-appropriated fund employees."

The mentoring program, which started during fiscal year 2012, included three mentors and three mentees. Employees in various grades throughout Family and MWR were considered for both mentor and mentee positions.

See Mentor program on page 4



Gentlemen, start your engines

Cub Scout den leader Robert Post fires up Scouts of Troop 44 Wolf Den 2 before a heat as they race their handmade, gravity-powered wooden cars during the annual Pinewood Derby, held Feb. 2 inside the Panzer Exchange. Almost 200 Scouts from Stuttgart Cub Scout Packs 44, 119, 324, 154 and 113 participated, according to Pat Brady, the derby coordinator. This year's derby was dedicated to the memory of former Stuttgart military community members David Decareaux and sons, Dominic, 10, and Grant, 8, who died last month while hiking in Missouri. Decareaux and his sons were members of Troop 113.

Susan Huseman

Commander's Column

Training, individual responsibility keys to sexual assault prevention

Commentary by Col. John Stack
USAG Stuttgart commander

In 2011, the Defense Department received a total of 3,192 reports of sexual assaults. This was an increase over the previous year.

Despite the fact that the Defense Department continues to put more and more resources and attention to the problem, sexual assault cases continue to climb.



Col. Stack

Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has charged commanders and leaders at every level to “fully understand the destructive nature of these acts, lead our focused efforts to prevent them, and promote positive command climates and environments that reinforce mutual respect, trust and confidence.”

In an effort to meet the Chairman's intent, the garrison invited

leaders in the Stuttgart military community last month to a viewing of the Oscar-nominated documentary, “The Invisible War,” followed by an expert panel discussion.

The film, created by people not associated with DOD, features interviews with veterans from multiple branches of the U.S. Armed Forces who recount the events surrounding their assaults.

It was shown in an effort to heighten awareness of sexual assaults within DOD from the perspective of the victims and their families, and to provide important varying perspectives on the issue.

The panel of subject matter experts provided important background context and answered questions pertaining to our military community.

Several hundred personnel from various units attended and raised important comments and questions.

I believe that this day of dialogue, along with sexual assault prevention training, is vital to ensuring all DOD

service members and employees understand what is and is not acceptable behavior.

This is especially important because there often is diversity of thought when it comes to what some folks consider acceptable behavior — a “joke” may in fact be sexual harassment according to DOD standards, and what some may believe is fair game with respect to intimate relations, may in fact be criminal.

DOD's sexual assault prevention training leaves no room for ambiguity and puts everyone on notice when it comes to harassment and unacceptable behavior.

In terms of individual responsibility, clearly sexual assault would never happen in an environment where individuals maintain strict adherence to our professional code of conduct.

It's vital that we all understand the importance of personal discipline and professional behavior — on and off duty.

Our responsibility as co-workers,

battle buddies and supervisors demands that we stamp out any signs of demeaning or harassing behavior.

The end state for this event and all sexual assault prevention training is to work to execute the Chairman's priorities regarding the Joint Force on Sexual Assault Prevention and Response.

As the Chairman stated, “Sexual assault among service members is a problem we face together, one that can only be solved together.

“In doing so, we will keep faith with our military family — they should expect nothing less, and renew our commitment to the profession of arms — we should demand nothing less.”

Editor's note: The views, opinions and statements expressed in “The Invisible War” are those of the individual participants or producers and did not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Department of Defense.

THE CITIZEN

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Thorns and Roses



Roses to:

- James Keyser, for jumping out of his parents' car and running right over to me to carry a heavy box into the Exchange for the Health and Wellness Fair last month. Also to his dad Jeff, who also grabbed a box after parking the family car. What a great family!

- The outstanding Soldiers who man Patch Barracks' K and K gate during the morning rush hour. These Soldiers stand in the dark, rain, sleet and snow without the benefit of spotlights, heaters or an overhead shelter. In four years, I've never heard a single complaint. This morning was an excellent example, the only comment I received about the rain from the soaked Soldier checking my ID was, “Hooah!” Hooah, indeed!

- Yesterday we had to make the tough decision to put our airdale terrier, Rocky, to sleep after 14 years. I would like to praise the veterinary clinic for their professionalism, support, understanding, and excellent guidance during this emotional procedure. They really made it as endurable as possible. I couldn't have asked for a better team.

Thorns to:

- Those who run the garrison facilities. Last month I was stuck in the elevator in Building 2915 (Panzer Kaserne) for an hour. There was no emergency contact phone number posted in the elevator nor did the bell button work. Fortunately, my co-worker (who gets a rose) saw me locked in the elevator and immediately called the military police and the fire department.

Thorns and Roses is about recognizing those who do a good job or make life a little easier. It's also about people who need to be a little more considerate of others.

This column is not about institutions, units or agencies. It's not about situations that could result in legal action under military or German law. Nor is it a place to air management-employee problems or slander anyone. While we are happy to identify stellar service providers, we can't and won't identify under-performers by name.

Submissions must be brief and emailed to stuttgartmedia@eur.army.mil with the subject line: Thorns and Roses. The author's name and valid telephone number must be included for verification. No anonymous submissions will be accepted.

We reserve the right to select submissions and edit for publication. Reader feedback in Army newspapers is authorized by Army Regulation 360-1.

EFMP helps families navigate through military life

By Gloria Colon-Buzatu and Susan Huseman
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Military life can be demanding, even under the best of circumstances. But for families with special medical and educational needs, the additional challenges they face can be overwhelming.

The Exceptional Family Member Program is designed to make sure these families receive community support, as well as housing, medical, educational and personnel services.

Families in the Stuttgart military community will now have the additional assistance of an EFMP Systems Navigator — an Army Community Service EFMP staff member who will navigate families with special needs through the available systems of care.

“This [navigator] will be the face of EFMP out in the community — meeting with family members and assisting service members during transition,” said Marisa Willis, the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart ACS EFMP manager.

EFMP’s objective is to support families and to strengthen the link between the family and the services that are available to assist them.

While the program is a component of the Army Family Covenant, in Stuttgart, the commitment to provide service members and families with quality care programs extends to all branches of military service.

The goal, said Willis, is to bridge the gap among services regardless of their branch.

Her vision for 2013 includes partnering with all agencies in the garrison. “I want to link every single organization in the community,” she said.

She is already partnering with Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation to provide entertainment, activities and events for EFMP enrollees.

This year, to celebrate the Month of the Military Child in April, Willis has plans to co-sponsor a talent show for school-aged children with Child, Youth and School Services.

Some EFMP partnerships have been in existence for several years. One of the best known and loved may be the Stuttgart Theatre Center’s holiday performances held exclusively for EFMP enrollees.

Last December, the thespians sponsored a performance of Rodgers and Hammerstein’s “Cinderella,” followed by a holiday party that featured a visit by Santa.



Photo courtesy MWR Brand Central
Command Sgt. Maj. Carel Tate and wife Tina go for a walk with their son, Alex, last year. The Tates are enrolled in the Fort Campbell, Ky., EFMP.

“I really enjoyed ‘Cinderella.’ I felt special being there,” said Hendrix Diaz-Veale, a 10-year-old fourth grader at Patch Elementary School.

Parents also appreciated the program.

“I think it’s a wonderful opportunity for families to get out and enjoy an event where they don’t have to worry about their kids being shy about their disabilities,” said Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Wilson, following the performance.

“It’s good for our daughter to see that she isn’t the only one [who’s] different,” added his spouse, Camille Wilson.

If you have a family member enrolled in the EFMP, check on the enrollment to make sure records are up to date. The Exceptional Family Member Program office is located in Army Community Service, Building 2915, Panzer Kaserne. For more information, visit www.stuttgartmwr.com/acs/efmp/ or call 431-3326/civ. 07031-15-3326.

News & Notes

Logistics awards ceremony scheduled for March 19

The U.S. Army Europe Combined Logistics Excellence Awards ceremony is scheduled for March 19 at 12:30 p.m. in the Fitness Center (Building 1631) on Clay Kaserne in Wiesbaden.

The annual awards, the USAREUR level of an Army chief of staff initiative, honor units and organizations across Europe for their excellence in supply, maintenance and deployment operations.

For more information, call DSN 370-5410/5436.

Army launches ‘Ready and Resilient’ survey

How can the Army become more ready and resilient? Army Knowledge Online users can take a survey to provide their feedback.

The results of the survey will help the Office of Chief of Public Affairs improve how the Army communicates about readiness and resiliency.

For AKO users, the survey is available at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/667030>.

Tillman scholarship applications due Feb. 15

Service members, veterans and their spouses have until Feb. 15 to apply for financial aid through the Tillman Military Scholars program.

The Tillman Military Scholars program covers direct study-related expenses such as tuition and fees, in addition to other needs such as housing and child care.

The Tillman Military Scholars Foundation also provides access to transition assistance tools, career guidance, entrepreneurial and service-related workshops, and unique job opportunities following school.

To apply to the program or to learn more about the criteria and application process, the benefits and expectations of the program or the Tillman Community visit www.pattillmanfoundation.org.

Army extends 75-day leave carryover

The policy allowing service members to carryover up to 75 days of leave from one training year to another has been extended until Sept. 30, 2015.

The leave carryover policy was set to revert back to only 60 days on Sept. 30 of this year, but the 2013 National Defense Authorization Act passed last month extends the 75-day carryover.

Leave balances exceeding 60 days will be lost on Oct. 1, 2015, unless coded as “special leave” accrued in theater. Soldiers can actually accrue up to 120 days of leave and carry it over while serving in a combat theater of operations. Soldiers have up to four years to use that special leave.

How can an EFMP Systems Navigator help your family?



- Identify your EFM, and family strengths and needs.
- Help identify and prioritize your EFM and family goals.
- Develop a Family Service Plan to reach your goals.
- Make referrals to required services.
- Provide information about disabilities or medical conditions of concern.
- Find transportation to appointments related to the Family Service Plan.
- Identify support groups and social activities.
- Strengthen your ability to advocate for your EFM.

For more information, call 431-3326/civ. 07031-15-3326

Ask a JAG

Do you have a legal question you would like to see answered in a future edition of The Citizen? If so, contact "Ask a JAG" at andrew.j.rouchka.mil@mail.mil.

By Capt. Andrew J. Rouchka (U.S. Army)
Stuttgart Law Center

Q: I am a civilian, married to a service member. My husband is a legal resident of Texas. We met when we were both living in North Carolina. I've been working on post while stationed here in Germany. Do I need to file an income tax return in North Carolina?

A: You need to file a tax return in North Carolina as long as you remain a legal resident there.

The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act ("SCRA") protects a service member's military pay from income taxation by a state where the service member resides or is assigned pursuant to military duties, unless that state is also the service member's state of permanent residence or domicile. The Military Spouses Residency Relief Act of 2009 ("MSRRA") amended the SCRA to allow some spouses of service members to retain or regain a state of domicile for tax purposes. Under MSSRA, the spouse of a service member "shall neither lose nor acquire a residence or domicile for purposes of taxation . . . by reason of being absent or present in any tax jurisdiction of the United States solely to be with the service member in compliance with the service member's military orders" if the service member and spouse share the same legal residence.

The MSRRA does not permit a spouse to pick just any state of residence. The spouse must have at one time met requirements of physical presence in the state and be able to show indicia or proof of intent to make or keep the state their permanent home. You can show your intent to make a new permanent home by registering to vote, buying property, registering vehicles, or making other significant connections to the state. Once you've established those connections your husband's state of legal residence, the MSSRA allows you to keep that legal residence despite moving to other jurisdictions to be with your spouse who is on military orders.

State tax authorities are likely to scrutinize claims of changed legal residence because they stand to lose revenue. Changes in residency with no basis in fact may be viewed as fraudulent by the authorities and subject the family to significant additional tax penalties and interest.

In your case, consider how you would respond if you received a letter from the State of North Carolina demanding tax payment. Do you have significant enough connections with Texas to convince North Carolina that you are no longer a resident? For more information, contact the Stuttgart Tax Center.

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.

Mentor program

Continued from page 1

"In the application process, employees state their professional goals, then we match them with a suitable mentor that will help them meet their goals," Charles said.

All selected applicants had to attend an initial orientation and regular meetings, participate in a shadow week and complete a group project.

As their project, the group created another pilot project called "Leaders for Tomorrow", which shares some of the same principals of the mentoring program.

"Leaders for Tomorrow will give employees an opportunity to cross-train in another department to broaden their knowledge of other career fields," said Charles. "Employees who have an understanding of multiple positions and departments benefit the

organization as a whole."

In addition to the creation of the new program, one of the mentees also received a promotion as a result of their participation in the program, according to Charles.

Due to the success of the program, the garrison was also awarded the Installation Management Academy's Family and MWR Exemplary Workforce Development Award for 2012. The program is also being looked at for future implementation across Europe.

For fiscal year 2013, the number of participants tripled; nine mentors and nine mentees, and two senior mentors were also added to this year's program.

NAF employees wishing to participate in next year's program should discuss it with their supervisor. Information on applying for FY 2014 program will go out to all Family and MWR employees in August.



Richard Herman

Members of the 2012 Family and MWR mentoring program are awarded for their participation during the USAG Stuttgart quarterly awards ceremony held Jan. 25 in the Patch Community Club. From left to right: Col. John Stack, garrison commander, mentees Adriana Velazquez, Financial Management; Robert Donaldson, Financial Management; Hamdo Hurtic, Patch Child Development Center; mentors Stacy Perez, Financial Management; Joe Podles, Business Operations; Caitlin Smith, Community Recreation; and Command Sgt. Maj. Bernard Smalls, the garrison senior enlisted advisor.

Female Soldiers

Continued from page 1

The SECDEF's announcement is expected to change the current policy, and could open up new opportunities for women in the Army and in the other services, Sheimo said.

"The intent of the policy change is to make every position open, by Jan. 1, 2016, regardless of gender, unless we get an approved exception to policy to keep it closed." Such exceptions, Sheimo said, must be approved by the SECDEF and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The announcement by the SECDEF amounts to a "reversal" of the current policy, Sheimo said. Where today, women are excluded from some jobs and units and a special exception must be approved in order to get women into those particular jobs; in the future, the policy will be that all jobs are open to women and if the services want to exclude women they must get a special approved exception that explains why they should be excluded.

"The Army is pursuing a very careful and deliberate approach," she said. "As we move forward we will open units and/or MOSs as we complete the appropriate assessments, and we will submit those requests to Congress to open those positions."

When the Army does eventually open units and MOSs to women, the service will focus not only on recruiting from the outside — but will also look for volunteers from inside the Army in order to fill important leadership roles in those units and MOSs, Sheimo said, for both enlisted Soldiers and officers.

"Leadership is a key element of success in this effort," Sheimo said. "It's very important to have a leadership cadre in place. Initially it will have to come from other MOSs and specialties."

But for now, Sheimo said, commanders in the field should know that no new positions are open to women. "The Army will not open any position before Congressional notification has been done and the notification period is complete."

Start new year with 'Financial Peace'

Deployments, moves and crazy economic times can create stress, worries and debt. Learn to refocus on savings and investments, and bring back peace into your life and relationships with Financial Peace University, a financial education series that promotes sound financial planning principles.

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Religious Support Office sponsors the class, which begins March 21 and meets every Wednesday from 6:30-8:30 p.m. for 13 weeks at Robinson Barracks Chapel Annex.

For more information, email FPUstuttgart@yahoo.com.

AUSA career fair set for Feb. 17-18

The Association of the U.S. Army Stuttgart Chapter will host a career fair Feb. 14-16 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.ausa.org/Stuttgart.

Holiday schedule for Presidents Day

Most organizations and facilities in U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart will be closed Feb. 18 for the Presidents Day federal holiday.

The Stuttgart Army Health Clinic will be closed Feb. 15 and 18. 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 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Dining Facility on Panzer Kaserne will also be closed Feb. 15 and 18.

Due to PCS soon?

For those who plan to relocate, permanent change of station/pre-separation briefings will be held Feb. 20 and March 20 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.

Agency representatives from Transportation, Customs, the health and dental clinics, Tricare, Vehicle Registration, Housing and Army Community Service will provide PCS information.

Army personnel will also receive a briefing on finance issues. All separating Army personnel must attend this briefing to receive pre-separation information. Advance registration is required.

For more information and to sign up, call 431-2599/civ. 07031-15-1599.

Play bunco with SCSC Feb. 26

The Stuttgart Community Spouses' Club will hold a "Cowboy Bunco" event Feb. 21 at 6 p.m. in the Swabian Special Events Center on Patch Barracks.

Prizes include antiques and a gift certificate to the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort.

To register, email sesc4reservations@yahoo.com or visit www.stuttgartspousesclub.org.

Postage goes up

Last month the cost of a first class stamp increased from 45 to 46 cents. Priority flat rates also increased. The new rates are:

- Small flat rate box — \$5.80
- Medium flat rate box — \$12.35
- Large flat rate box — \$16.85
- Flat rate envelope — \$5.60

To see all postal increases, go to www.usps.com.

For more information, call the USAG Stuttgart Postmaster at 431-2874/civ. 07031-15-2874.

School meal menus posted online

Looking for the school meal menu? Visit the Exchange's website at www.shopmyexchange.com/Community/Schoollunch.

CYS Services spring sports registration

Child, Youth and School Services spring sports registration for 3- to 15-year-olds runs through Feb. 15. Team sports include baseball, softball and soccer. Individual sports include track and field, and tennis.

All participants must have a sports physical valid through June 10 at the time of registration.

The spring sports season will run from April 15 to June 1, with the Europe junior-level baseball and softball championship tournaments scheduled for June 8-9.

Registration forms can be downloaded at www.stuttgartmwr.com.

Register for Praxis testing by Feb. 22

Praxis Series tests measure teacher candidates' knowledge and skills. The tests are used for licensing and certification processes.

The next Praxis Series test will be administered on April 11 at the Panzer Education Center.

Testing candidates must submit their applications to the education center no later than Feb. 22. Only paper-based exams can be ordered (testing fees are payable the day of the exam).

Information on the Praxis Series is available at www.ets.org/praxis.

For more information, contact Kimberly Gonzales at 431-2417/civ. 07031-15-2417, or email kimberly.a.gonzales19.ctr@mail.mil.

High school financial aid workshop

Financial aid will be the main topic of a free Delta Sigma Theta Sorority-sponsored workshop for high school seniors Feb. 24 from 3-5 p.m. in the Patch High School Forum.

The workshop will de-mystify the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, while scholarship coaches will provide advice on ways to secure funding.

Portfolio assistance will also be available for 7th- to 11th-grade students from 4:15-5 p.m.

For more information, send an email to: RealWorld@dstger.

Send your announcements to stuttgartmedia@eur.army.mil.

Food additives — a chemical cuisine?

Food additives have been used for centuries to enhance the appearance and flavor of food and prolong shelf life. But do these food additives really "add" any value to your food?

Most food additives have little or no nutritional value.

The Center for Science in the Public Interest, a U.S.-based advocate for nutrition and health, food safety, alcohol policy and sound science, recommends that people avoid sodium nitrite, saccharin, aspartame, acesulfame-K, caffeine, olestra and food dyes.

A summary of the safety of all additives is available at www.cspinet.org.

A list of food additives approved by the European Union is available online at www.efsa.europa.eu.

For more information, call the Environmental Division at 421-6288/6135 or civ. 0711-729-6288/6135.



USAG Stuttgart Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division

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Incoming pet owners must pay new fee

U.S. Army Europe
Public Affairs Office

Members of the U.S. forces community who bring their pets along when they arrive in Germany for assignment will be charged a fee by German authorities beginning Feb. 1.

The fee will be charged during arrivals at Ramstein Air Base and Frankfurt International Airport.

At Ramstein an examination fee of €55 per pet owner will be charged for all pets imported into Germany from outside the European Union.

Kaiserslautern County officials said the fee is being levied in accordance with European Union regulations designed to prevent the introduction and dissemination of rabies.

Upon arrival at Ramstein, pets will be examined by veterinary officials near the passenger terminal's baggage claim area.

Owners may pay the fee by credit card only.

Owners arriving with their pets at Frankfurt International Airport will also pay a fee.

That fee is €35 per accompanied pet

or €55 for an unaccompanied pet, and increases by 50 percent for pets that arrive on a weekend or holiday.

Payment of the fee is the responsibility of the pet owner, and cannot be claimed for reimbursement on an official travel voucher, according to officials with the U.S. Army Europe Office of the Judge Advocate.

However, while OJA experts said the fee is prohibited from reimbursement under the provisions of the Department of Defense Joint Travel Regulations, pet owners may be able to claim the fee as a deductible moving expense on their federal income tax returns.

While Ramstein and Frankfurt are the only locations currently slated to begin imposing the fee Feb. 1, because it is based on EU regulation, other European Union ports of entry could enact similar fees in the future.

For more information on relocating with pets, visit the Europe Regional Veterinary Command website at <http://ervc.amedd.army.mil>. For information on making a permanent change of station move to Stuttgart, follow the Relocation link at www.stuttgart.army.mil.



Anticipating an upcoming PCS, Lia Kirch and son, Konner, bring their dog Snyder and cat Nattie to the Vilseck Veterinary Treatment Facility for shots. Community members moving to Germany may now be required to pay an examination fee when bringing their pets into the country.

Chelsea Bissell



STAGECOACH WORKSHOPS

Just one week of your vacation and you'll never want to stop ...

Death on the Thames

Based on the well known novel "Death on the Nile" by Agatha Christie our workshop is about a cruise along the Thames, an unexpected death, a freaky detective and several strange suspects. This workshop is intended for children from 4 – 16 years and in the English language. **Place: Kupferstraße 36, Stuttgart-Vaihingen, from the 10th to the 14th of April 2013.**

Places are still available – please call!

STAGECOACH Theatre Arts Stuttgart-Süd
Tel. 0 711-7825 1931
stuttgartstued@stagecoach.de
www.stagecoach.de/stuttgartstued



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German Kantine on Patch now open

The German Kantine in Building 2386 on Patch Barracks, is now open under new management. The kantine, open Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., will serve breakfast and lunch.

TARP briefings offered this month

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart, in conjunction with the Stuttgart Field Office, will hold several Threat Awareness and Reporting Program briefings this month.

- Feb. 20, Panzer Chapel
- Feb. 21, Kelley Theatre
- Feb. 22, Patch Theater

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

All military and civilian personnel, regardless of branch of service, are required to receive a TARP briefing at least once a year. Family members are also encouraged to attend.

For more information, contact your unit's security manager.

Scholarships available

The Germany Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority offers several scholarships for Department of Defense Dependent Schools' seniors based upon academics, extracurricular activities, honors, financial need, and written essay.

Apply by March 15. Applications may be downloaded at www.dstger.org.

Nominations due for volunteers of the year

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart will recognize its volunteers during National Volunteer Week, April 21-27, in a ceremony scheduled for April 25 in the Patch Community Club.

Special nominations for Youth Volunteer of the Year, Civilian Volunteer of the Year, Military Volunteer of the Year and Volunteer Family of the Year must be submitted to Army Community Service by Feb. 25.

Download the volunteer nomination packet from www.stuttgart-mwr.com/acs/avc.

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

Ed center offers more than classes

The Panzer Education Center provides testing services, guidance on local college programs, as well as spouse tuition assistance, Veterans Affairs education benefits, the GI Bill, and Troops to Teachers.

The education center is located in Building 2915 on Panzer Kaserne, and is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information, call 431-2714/2684 or civ. 07031-15-2714/2684.

Community banks to close for training

Due to mandatory training on Feb. 27, the Community Banks on Patch and Kelley Barracks, and Panzer Kaserne will be open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

New hours at RB Post Office/CMR

The Robinson Barracks Army Post Office and Consolidated Mail Room will change its hours and days of operation effective Feb. 12.

The APO will be open on Tuesday and Thursday from 1-4 p.m.

The CMR will be open Monday through Friday from 2:30-6 p.m.

For more information, call the USAG Stuttgart Postmaster at 431-2874/07031-15-2874.

Join the Stuttgart retiree council

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Retiree Support Center is scheduled to hold the year's first quarterly meeting for military retirees March 21 from 1:15-3:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Panzer Chapel, Building 2940.

If you would like to serve as a member of the retiree council or volunteer at the center, call civ. 0711-680-2509 or send an email to david.t.gouin.civ@mail.mil.

CYS Services wants parent feedback

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart's Child, Youth and School Services leadership wants parent feedback as they work to develop program goals and objectives for 2013 that better meet the needs of the Stuttgart military community.

Take a few moments to complete the survey and receive \$4 off the Parents' Night Out scheduled for April.

To complete the Stuttgart CYS Services annual survey, visit: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/cyss_annualsurvey.

USO hosts cooking classes

United Service Organizations Stuttgart offers cooking classes.

On Feb. 19, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., learn pie and cake basics, followed by decorating techniques. The cost is €40.

Discover the Indian kitchen Feb. 20 from 4-8 p.m. and learn how to make vegetarian spring rolls and chick pea curry. The cost is €25.

Tackle German torts on March 2, and Maultaschen on March 23. Each class will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will cost €25.

For more information, call 431-3505/civ. 07031-15-3505.

Send your announcements to stuttgartmedia@eur.army.mil.

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DOD, VA improve online access to benefits resources, information

Department of Veterans Affairs

The Defense and Veterans Affairs departments have released improvements to the functionality of eBenefits, a joint, self-service Web portal that provides registered users with secure online information and access to a variety of benefits resources for service members and veterans.

"The increasing capabilities of eBenefits give veterans and service members greater flexibility in securing the information they are looking for," said Allison A. Hickey, the undersecretary of veterans affairs for benefits.

The latest release, eBenefits 4.3, allows for easy navigation of the online disability compensation claim submission process using interview-style questions and drop-down menus similar to tax-preparation software, instead of a traditional fill-in-the-blank form.

The latest release also pre-populates the application with information from a veteran's record in VA's secure database.

Veterans also can view processing times for each phase of their claim.

Other site improvements include a tool to help in determining if a veteran is eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment

benefits, a calculator for military reservists to determine retirement benefits, and a search function that identifies a claimant's appointed veterans service representative, with links to Google Maps indicating the location of their nearest representative's office.

Service members and veterans also can access records such as Post-9/11 GI Bill enrollment status, VA payment history and DOD Tricare health insurance status.

To access eBenefits, veterans and service members must obtain a DOD self-service logon, which provides access to several benefits resources using a single user name and password.

The service is free and may be obtained in person at a VA Regional Office, DOD ID Card station or online at www.ebenefits.va.gov.

Editor's Note: The President's Commission on Care for America's Returning Wounded Warriors was established by Executive Order 13426 in March 2007.

The commission recommended the creation of a "My eBenefits" (aka eBenefits) web portal that would provide service members, veterans, their families and authorized caregivers with a single sign-on, central access point to clinical and benefit data.

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If you have not yet been vaccinated against the flu, it's not too late. The Stuttgart Army Health Clinic offers flu vaccinations on a walk-in basis.

photos.com

It's not too late to get flu vaccination

U.S. Army Health Clinic Stuttgart

This year, the flu season is turning out to be a rather harsh one. Perhaps the best way to prevent the flu is to get a flu vaccine each season. The Stuttgart Army Health Clinic on Patch Barracks offers flu vaccinations on a walk-in basis Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and on Friday from 7:30-11 a.m.

There are a few practices that can also help prevent the spread of viruses:

- Wash your hands;
- Cover your cough;

- Avoid people that are sick;
- Stay home if you are sick.

People who have the flu often show symptoms of fever, chills, cough, sore throat, runny nose, body aches, tiredness, vomiting and/or diarrhea. Keep in mind that not all symptoms may occur.

The immunization clinic is located in the Stuttgart Army Health Clinic, Room 119, Building 2300, Patch Barracks. For more information about seasonal influenza, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov.



Tricare help at Kelley Clinic

The Kelley Health Clinic Annex offers an on-site beneficiary counseling and assistance coordinator for Tricare benefits advice and host-nation appointment coordination. The coordinator is available Monday to Thursday from 8 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m.

Off-post referral process

Active duty service members and their family members can receive cashless/claimless medical care on the economy through International SOS, the contractor responsible for issuing authorizations, if Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System information is up-to-date.

Beneficiaries may contact ISOS directly to inquire about authorizations. ISOS will forward the authorization to the beneficiary's email address, and will assist with scheduling a host nation appointment, if requested.

For more information, call civ. 0800-589-1599 (toll-free) or civ. 0044-20-8762 8384, Option 3.

Health care hot line

The Tricare Nurse Advice Line makes health care advice available around the clock, either by speaking with a Tricare nurse or accessing the Audio Health Library with more than 400 recorded messages about a variety of health topics.

In Germany, call DSN 99-0800-825-1600, or civ. (toll-free) 0800-825-1600 or 00800-4759-2330.

Dependent parents not covered

Dependent parents and parents-in-law do not have Tricare benefits eligibility under their children's sponsorship. They are required to have their own health insurance and must pay up front when seen at a host-nation facility.

However, they can be seen as pay patients on a space-available basis at the Stuttgart Army Health Clinic. Call after 9 a.m. for an appointment.

Payment for care on economy

In many cases, host-nation health care providers off-post require an up-front deposit from Defense Department civilians, retirees and their family members before care will be administered. Patients may pay in cash or with a credit card. The deposit for routine care is €250 and €1,000 for inpatient care.

This requirement does not affect Tricare Prime beneficiaries.

Editor's Note: Information for this column was provided by the Stuttgart Army Health Clinic. For updates and upcoming events, like Stuttgart Health Clinic at www.facebook.com/StuttgartHealthClinic.

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CSF2 targets family members with improved resilience training

By Brian Feeney

Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness

The Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness program provides Soldiers, family members, and Army civilians with the resources and skills necessary to cope with adversity and thrive throughout their lives.

The program, known as CSF2, is broadening its training efforts to specifically focus on Army families, with programs focused on training Army spouses in the same resilience skills taught to Soldiers.

The program now provides a new feature for family members and Army civilians. Starting this month, they receive recommended training modules based on their score when they take the Global Assessment Tool, or GAT.

"It used to be that when I took the Global Assessment Tool all I got was the entire list of training videos that Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness makes available. I didn't know which ones I should take and felt kind of lost," said Erica Gantt, an Army spouse. "Now when I take it, I get three videos recommended to me based on my scores, so it makes more sense to me," she added.

These modules, also known as comprehensive resilience modules, or CRMs, provide training in the areas of social, emotional, spiritual and family fitness, and provide ways to enhance one's resilience skills.

Family members and Army civilians have been able to take the GAT for the past few years, but they did not receive customized suggestions for these skill-building training videos until now.

The GAT and viewing follow-on CRMs are



The Army's Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness program is broadening its training efforts to specifically target Army families, with programs focused on training Army spouses in the same resilience skills taught to Soldiers. The program helps family members build resilience to cope with common military stressors such as deployment, permanent change of station moves, combat injury and operational stress.

Sgt. Scott Raymond

encouraged, but not mandatory for family members and Army civilians. However, every Soldier in the U.S. Army is required to take the GAT at least once a year so that they can track their personal resilience skills development over the course of their career. They also automatically receive follow-on training modules suggested to them based on their individual assessment scores.

CSF2 currently has 42 CRMs available to Soldiers, family members and Army civilians on its website, and plans to add another 21 by late summer.

The training modules provide practical exercises and activities that improve one's resilience when coping with the stresses of Army life. They are typically around 15 minutes, but that varies with the user, as many are scenario-based and self-paced.

Topics range from "blended families" and "building your teen's resilience," to "effective communica-

tion" and "goal setting."

"I especially liked Building Your Teen's Resilience," Gantt said. "I have an 18 year old and an almost 13-year-old, and it was so realistic that it almost made me cry. It gave me a real-life scenario, the parents break the news of a permanent change of station to their 15-year-old daughter who becomes very upset and won't come out of her bedroom. It was really good; I'd recommend it to anybody with teenagers."

For more information on CSF2 and to view any of the comprehensive resilience modules, go to: <http://csf2.army.mil>.

Army Community Service will offer face-to-face resilience training to Army spouses Feb. 13 and 27 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Building 2915, Panzer Kaserne. To sign up, call 431-3362/07031-15-3362.

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It's time to file 2012 ta

The Stuttgart Tax Center offers free tax assistance from IRS-certified volunteers, preparation and electronic filing of state and federal tax returns for service members, Defense Department civilian employees, military retirees and their family members.

The Stuttgart Tax Center, in Room 231, Building 3312, Kelley Barracks, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Tax assistance is available on a walk-in basis.

For more information, call 421-4588 or civilian 0711-729-4588.

FAQS

What paperwork do I have to bring to the tax center?

- Bring your Defense Department-issued ID card and official documentation of your Social Security number
- All W-2 Forms received from employers
- A voided check or bank account number that shows the bank routing number
- In addition, bring appropriate documentation for relevant individual tax issues:
 - Form 1099-INT, Form 1099-DIV (interest statements)
 - Original powers 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 from the tax year (e.g., investment statements, rental reports, medical expenses, charitable contributions, or others)
 - Any documentation of any other income (U.S. or foreign).

What services are available at the community tax centers?

- Community tax centers will electronically file (e-file) taxes for eligible community members. The tax centers are also a resource for people who prepare their own taxes. E-filers and legal assistance attorneys can provide personal income tax advice, publications and other reference materials, and review prepared returns.
- Community tax centers are staffed by personnel trained and certified under the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. These personnel are supervised by a legal assistance attorney and paralegal.

What resources are available for people who want to prepare their own tax returns?

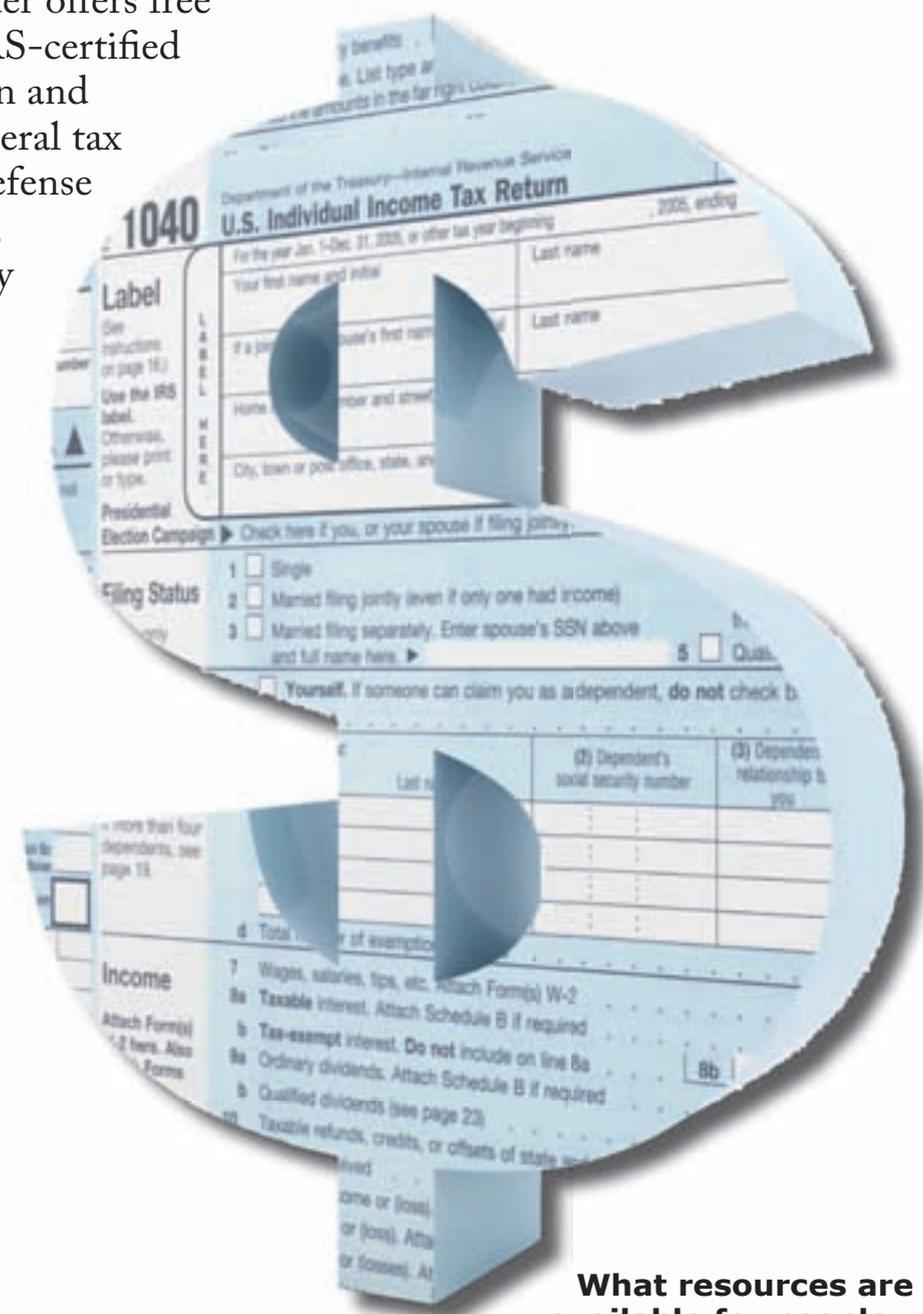
- The IRS offers taxpayers free help on federal tax questions and with filing a return. Assistance is available at any time on the IRS website at www.irs.gov. Help is also available by telephone and in person.
 - A few publications that are especially useful are:
 - Publication 17: "Your Federal Income Tax;"
 - Publication 3: "Armed Forces' Guide;"
 - Publication 54: "Tax Guide for U.S. Citizens and Resident Aliens Abroad."
- Eligible taxpayers who prepare their own taxes and need additional assistance can contact their community tax center. In addition to assisting with filing taxes, community tax centers can provide tax advice and help understanding the tax code.

What are the changes for 2013?

- A few of the changes for 2013 are:
- The start of tax returns for 2012 is delayed until Jan. 30, 2013. Due to late passage of the Tax Relief and Economic Stimulus Act of 2009, known as the "fiscal cliff," the start of the 2013 tax season has been delayed. This means that the preparation and filing of 2012 tax returns may be delayed and tax returns accepted from taxpayers until the end of January 2013.
 - Some taxpayers claiming green energy credits, or depreciating assets, will not be able to claim them for 2012 returns from this season. The IRS estimates that returns for these late February and early March returns will be delayed until April 15. Last year, the deadline for filing was April 15 because April 15 was a Saturday. This year, April 16 was the Emancipation Day holiday in the District of Columbia. Since April 15 is on a Monday, so the calendar reverts to its normal schedule. Overseas filers receiving an automatic extension until June 15 will not receive an extension to file is not available. Soldiers deployed overseas will receive additional time to file.
 - Home Buyer Tax Credit for 2012 for members and veterans purchasing a home until 2012 for this credit elapsed. The credit is not available for 2013.
 - Adoption credit is no longer available: For 2010 and 2011, the Adoption Expense Credit was no longer the case. However, the credit that exceeds total tax liability may be carried over to 2013.

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

A tax deduction reduces the income on which you pay tax. A tax deduction is a percentage of the deduction that reduces the tax rate. For example, a deduction at a rate of 30 percent would reduce a \$100 tax liability to \$70. While deductions reduce tax liability, they are not directly refunded. A tax credit reduces tax liability and is directly refunded. One dollar of tax credit actually saves you one dollar. Tax credits can reduce tax liability to zero. Refunds can result in payments from the federal government.



Xes

Last year, the Stuttgart Tax Center assisted 2,797 tax filers at no charge, saving them over \$458,000 in preparation and filing fees, and generating more than \$5.1 million in refunds. And, they're ready to help again this year.

major tax law 012?

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Which tax credits might I be eligible for?

a. Earned Income Credit — a refundable credit for taxpayers below an adjusted gross income threshold. For 2012, earned income and AGI must be less than:

- \$45,060 (\$50,270 married filing jointly) with 3 or more qualifying children
- \$41,952 (\$47,162 married filing jointly) with 2 qualifying children
- \$36,920 (\$42,130 married filing jointly) with 1 qualifying child
- \$13,980 (\$19,190 married filing jointly) with no qualifying children

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 (AGI) and at \$75,000 for taxpayers completing a single 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 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 for the taxpayer, spouse or dependent.

f. Government Retiree Credit — refundable credit of \$250 per taxpayer (\$500 if both taxpayer and spouse are eligible government retirees) for certain federal, state, and local government retirees who receive a government pension or annuity from work not covered by Social Security.

g. 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 raised for all filing statuses this year. To reap the benefits of 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. Consult your community tax assistance center if you have questions about whether it is to your advantage to itemize.

b. The 2012 standard deductions are:
— \$5,950 for unmarried taxpayers or married taxpayers filing separately

— \$11,900 for married taxpayers filing jointly
— \$8,700 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 \$1,150 if married filing jointly and \$1,450 if single.

Does the Foreign Earned Income Exclusion apply to service members and employees of the U.S. government stationed in Europe?

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?

States can require their residents and/or domiciliaries to pay income tax. A state has the authority to tax domiciliaries of that state, even if the domiciliary does not currently live in that state any longer due to military assignment. Each state's law is different, so to be sure you are complying with applicable state law, stop by your community tax 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 \$95,100 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 maybe 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?

Maybe. Any United States taxpayer 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 2012 you must report this to the IRS.

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 community tax 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?

If you are married and filing a joint return but your spouse is unavailable to sign the return, you need to get a power of attorney which explicitly grants authority for tax filing. IRS Form 2848 can be found at <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f2848.pdf>. This power of attorney must have the notarized signature of your spouse. If your spouse is deployed, the IRS grants an extension of 180 days from the spouse's return from deployment to file taxes. For more information regarding deployed spouses and extensions on filing deadlines, consult your community tax center.

'Dinner in the Dark:' a feast for senses

Story by Carola Meusel

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

For most people their sight is the sense most often used when eating dinner. But what happens if one can't see the food?

Diners with a healthy sense of adventure can dive into darkness for a dinner in the dark at "aus:sicht Dunkelrestaurant," where they will taste, touch and smell their food without seeing it — or knowing in advance what they are eating.

Events are held at "Rosenau Lokalität & Bühne" in Stuttgart and at "Ristorante Reichsstadt" in Esslingen.

The dining rooms are pitch-black, and visitors typically will feel as though they are blindfolded — there's no way to adjust to the darkness, according to Barbara Antonin, spokeswoman and chairwoman of the "aus:sicht e.V. Dunkelrestaurant," a association that aims to integrate blind and visually-impaired people into society.

"Most visitors are used to seeing their food and therefore know what's being served on their plate," Antonin said. "If people can't see what they're eating, it makes for a different and more intense perception."

For the aus:sicht association, dinner in the dark is more than a trendy and entertaining outing.

The organization's goal is to generate conversation between blind and sighted people, according to Antonin. Blind and visually-impaired staff members accompany diners throughout the evening by welcoming them to the restaurant, guiding them to their tables, and serving food and beverages.

"The roles are being switched since visitors have to rely on a blind person and not the other way around," Antonin said. "This gives our visitors the chance to experience what everyday life is like for the visually impaired. It also motivates our staff because they can help, and their support is appreciated."

Diners also "become more sensitized and learn to use their other senses: hearing, taste, touch and smell," Antonin said.

Lena Gschwind of Esslingen, who recently attended a dinner in the dark, can relate.

"The event was an extraordinary experience. In the beginning, it was strange if not scary to only 'see' darkness," Gschwind said. "I started to focus on listening to my friends' voices for orientation. I was also surprised that I was unable to identify most of the food I was eating," she added.

During the meal, waiters will ask the diners to describe the flavors and textures they are eating. For many, identifying the food becomes a game. After dessert and coffee, diners can see how successful they were at guessing, because the menu will be posted at the restaurant entrance.

At Rosenau, visitors can indulge in a three-course menu consisting of hearty regional meals.

"Our chef is very creative with the menu choices. He always adds spices or combines food in ways that people probably wouldn't prepare at home," Antonin said.

The Ristorante Reichsstadt offers a Mediterranean-inspired four-course menu.

Both restaurants also boast entertainment programs featuring spoken theater, music and rap performances mainly in German.

Before an event begins, diners at both locations receive €15 in €50 and €2 coins to pay for alcoholic



Photo courtesy of aus:sicht e.V.

Visitors to a "aus:sicht Dunkelrestaurant" dinner in the dark event at "Rosenau Lokalität & Bühne" in Stuttgart line up to be guided into the pitch-black restaurant by their host. During the three-course dinner, visitors taste, touch and smell their food, but they do not see it.

beverages and coffee. They must activate their sense of touch in order to identify the differences in shape and size of the coins as they pay.

"The event made me realize how much I normally focus on my sight," Gschwind said. "Personally, the dinner was an adventurous and interesting outing. It was fascinating and challenging at the same time to concentrate on hearing, tasting, touching and smelling things."

How to dine in the dark

Reservations for the restaurants go fast, and dinner must be paid in advance. Each diner will pay an additional €15 for alcoholic beverages and coffee. Patrons will receive this money back the night of the event in order to pay for drinks.

Reservations can be made Monday and Thursday

from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. by calling civ. 0711-60148581 or online at www.aus-sicht.de/dunkelrestaurant-stuttgart/termine-und-reservierung.html.

Visitors are reminded not to bring bulky handbags, cell phones, flashing watches or jewelry. English speaking personnel will be on site. Doors open at 6:10 p.m., and the event starts at 7 p.m.

Rosenau Lokalität & Bühne is located at Rotenbühlstrasse 109b, 70178 Stuttgart. The three-course meal costs €64 and includes water and sodas. Seats are still available for March 18, 19 and 20; April 16, 17 and 18; May 22, 23 and 24.

Ristorante Reichsstadt is located at Rathausplatz 5, 73728 Esslingen. The four-course "Gourmand Mediterrane" meal costs €75 and includes water and sodas. Seats are available for Feb. 28.

For more information, visit www.aus-sicht.de.

This weekend

Leonberg will host the **Pferdemarkt**, or horse market, Feb. 8-12 in and around downtown Leonberg. Events kick off Feb. 8 at 3 p.m. at "Reiterzentrum Tilgshäusle," located between Leonberg and Ditzingen (B295, look for signs, 71229 Leonberg). Horse enthusiasts can watch dressage and show jumping.

Ponies and miniature horses will be shown at the historic market square Feb. 10 starting at noon.

This year's highlights will be the "Guggenmusiktreffen," or carnival music festival, and "Rathaussturm," where Fasching fools will storm Leonberg's town hall Feb. 9 from 11:11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Marktplatz.

All stores in the downtown area will open Feb. 10 from 1-6 p.m.

The traditional Pferdemarkt parade will be held Feb. 12 from 2-4 p.m.

The event will also feature a "Vergnügung-

spark," or fun park, offering rides, family entertainment and food. The park will be open Feb. 8 and 9 from 2-8 p.m., Feb. 10 from 11:15 a.m. to 8 p.m., Feb. 11 from 1-8 p.m. and Feb. 12 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Visitors will have to purchase a badge for €2.50, which will serve as a ticket to the Pferdemarkt.

For more information, visit www.leonberg.de.



What's happening in FMWR

New date and time for adult bingo

The Patch Community Club adult bingo program will move to Friday evenings starting Feb. 8. Card sales will start at 5 p.m.; play will start at 7 p.m. Food and beverages will be available for purchase.

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

Flea market

The next USAG Stuttgart community flea market will be held Feb. 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Patch Community Club.

Request a space to sell your wares at www.stuttgartmwr.com.

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

Ski with ODR

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation's Outdoor Recreation will host several upcoming ski trips. These include trips to Garmisch, Germany, on Feb. 9 and a weekend trip to Interlaken, Switzerland, Feb. 16-18.

Participants must sign up in advance. For more information, call 431-2774/civ. 07031-15-2774.

Play Texas Hold 'Em like the pros

Play Texas Hold 'Em Feb. 14 and 28 at 7 p.m. in the Patch Community Club. Registration opens at 5 p.m. Participants must be at least 18 years old.

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

Basketball tourney

The community-level Tournament of Champions basketball tourney, sponsored by Installation Management Command-Europe, will be held in U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Feb. 15-18.

The tourney is limited to 20 teams. Players must be 18 and older. The deadline to register is Feb. 11.

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

For more Family and MWR activities, go to the FMWR website at www.stuttgartmwr.com.



Coming to Patch Theater

Feb. 8 — Warm Bodies (PG-13) 6 p.m., Bullet To The Head (R) 8 p.m.

Feb. 9 — Ice Age: Continental Drift (PG) 3 p.m., Bullet To The Head (R) 5 p.m., Stand Up Guys (R) 8 p.m.

Feb. 10 — Hotel Transylvania (PG) 4 p.m., Stand Up Guys (R) 6 p.m.

Feb. 11 — Killing Them Softly (R) 6 p.m.

Feb. 12 — closed

Feb. 13 — Hotel Transylvania (PG) 6 p.m.

Feb. 14 — Life Of Pi (PG) 6 p.m.

Feb. 15 — Identity Thief (R) 6 p.m., Skyfall (PG-13) 8:30 p.m.

Feb. 16 — The Odd Life Of Timothy Green (PG) 2 p.m., Red Dawn (PG-13) 5 p.m., Identity Thief (R) 8 p.m.

Feb. 17 — The Odd Life Of Timothy Green (PG) 2 p.m., Red Dawn (PG-13) 5 p.m., The Cold Light Of Day (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Feb. 18 — Identity Thief (R) 6 p.m.

Feb. 19 — closed

Feb. 20 — The Cold Light Of Day (PG-13) 6 p.m.

Feb. 21 — Red Dawn (PG-13) 6 p.m.



Hitman Sylvester Stallone tortures a ruthless lawyer played by Christian Slater in "Bullet to the Head," a film adaptation of Alexis Nolent's graphic novel "Du Plomb Dans La Tete."

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Stuttgart Theatre Center - Kelley Barracks



AUDITIONS

THE WOMEN

Cast of roughly 20 women (with double roles) and one girl (approx. 12 years).

Pre-Auditions workshop
February 17, 3 p.m.

Auditions
February 19 & 20, 7 p.m.

Stuttgart Theatre Center - Kelley Barracks



FUN TIMES

COSMIC COUNTRY NIGHT

Wear your cowboy duds and receive free shoe rentals, 6 p.m. - midnight. Save \$2 on any large pizza.

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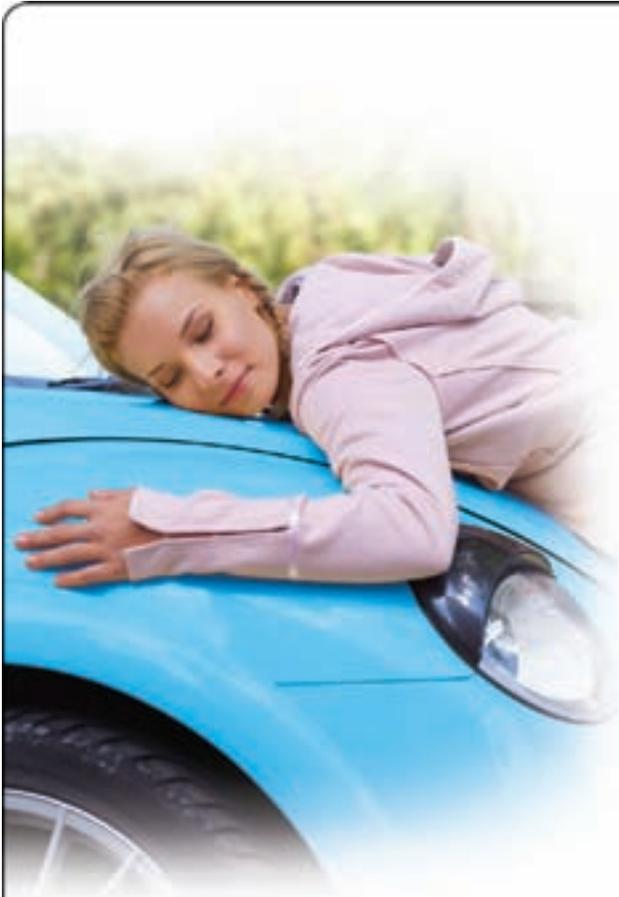
For more information call:
DSN 431 2575, CIV 07031 15 275

To book tickets and for more information call: DSN 421 3055, CIV 0711 729 3055

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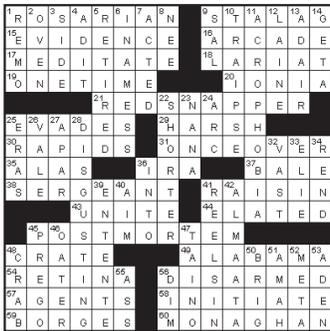
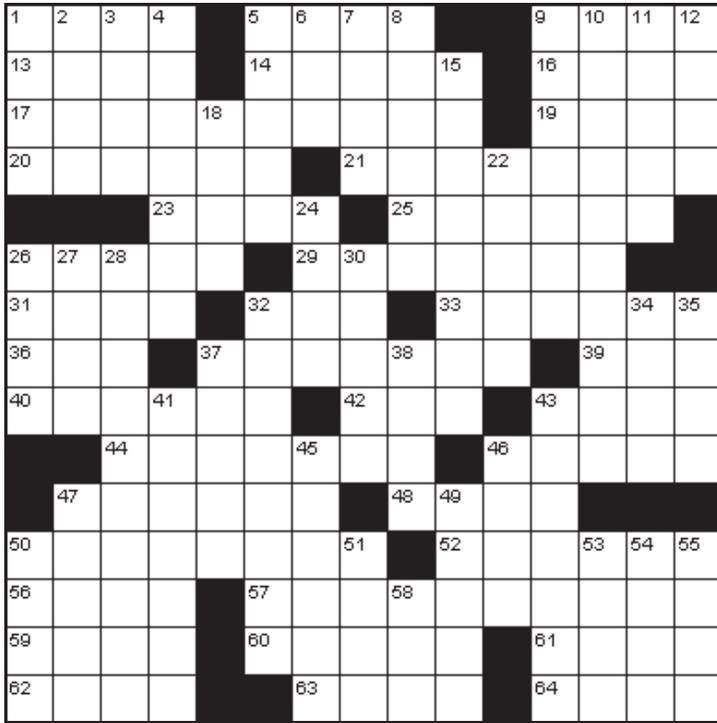
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Crossword Puzzle



This is the solution to the crossword puzzle from January 24, 2013!

Courtesy of thinks.com

ACROSS

- 1. Pastoral sounds
- 5. Fortuneteller's opening
- 13. Trouble spots?
- 14. Day in Hollywood
- 16. Caper
- 17. Irish club
- 19. "Rigoletto" solo
- 20. Greece
- 21. Dostoyevsky novel
- 23. "___, Brute!"
- 25. Painfully sensitive
- 26. 1991 Wimbledon champion
- 29. Astringent
- 31. Sound the horn
- 32. Pressure measure
- 33. Strip
- 36. Neither Dem. nor Rep.
- 37. Sunshade
- 39. Disencumbered
- 40. Nursery rhyme vendor
- 42. Horse and buggy
- 43. Lerner and Loewe musical
- 44. Cloak

- 46. French seaport

- 47. Up-to-date
- 48. Garr or Hatcher
- 50. Lax
- 52. Old World finch
- 56. Old Testament book
- 57. Seller of lots
- 59. Drawn tight
- 60. Burns the surface
- 61. First name in courtroom fiction
- 62. ___ buco
- 63. Eye sore
- 64. Medicinal amount

- 12. 32-card card game
- 15. Collie
- 18. Builder's backing
- 22. Pentium producer
- 24. Stalin's domain
- 26. Deliver
- 27. Grammy-winner Braxton
- 28. Unseemly
- 30. Beauty queen's crown
- 32. Insulin producer
- 34. Archaeological sites
- 35. Change copy
- 37. Discussion group
- 38. Delta deposit

DOWN

- 1. Lively party
- 2. Liniment target
- 3. Indigo dye
- 4. Magnum portrayer on TV
- 5. That is
- 6. Costa del ___
- 7. E in QED
- 8. Score less than a hundred
- 9. "Arabian Nights" hero
- 10. Radium discoverer
- 11. Earlier
- 41. City in central California
- 43. Showed delight
- 45. Follows
- 46. Panache
- 47. Half a pop quartet
- 49. "Fur ___" (Beethoven piece)
- 50. Stoic philosopher
- 51. "Shoo!"
- 53. Stout's Wolfe
- 54. Congers and kin
- 55. Apple source
- 58. Give it a go

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Youth Activities

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



Photo by Ed Thornburg

Sign Club

The BEMS speech pathologist, Ms. Karen Bennett, sponsors an after school sign language club. Here we see Ms. Bennett showing Ella Gizinski a third grader in her first year with the club how to make the letter "G." Observing from the left is Emily Webb a fifth grader and Clare who have been with the club for three years.



Photo by Krystin Idell

Winter Wonderland

When Sandy Hook's elementary students came to school, they found their school decorated as a "Winter Wonderland." These colorful "snowflakes" are a sampling of those contributed by students at Böblingen Elementary and Middle School.



Photo by Ed Thornburg

BEMS Choir

The BEMS Choir is an after school activity sponsored by Mr. Duane Vigue, the elementary music instructor. The big event for the Choir is performing for the Sonnenhalde Altenheim located in Böblingen on Landhausstrasse.

German Immersion

The students in Mrs. Stueve's 4/5 German Immersion class made edible plant and animal cell cakes out of cake and candy!



Photo by Amy Rush

Students from left to right: Brianna, Isabella, Aiden



Photo by Amy Rush

Students from left to right: Cameron, Hailey, Sophie, Sophia



Photo by Amy Rush

Students from left to right: Noor, Jafari, Keifer, Emily

Gerry Lawrence, LTC(Ret)

Director, Adult Ministries at John Hagee Ministries



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Looking for a FLHTCU or Sportster in every condition and parts. Maybe you have something in the basement/garage you don't need any longer. Pay cash. \$WTB: Harley-Davidson or parts/gear 0162 6409 207 / gonzo1958@web.de

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THE FIND-IT GUIDE
www.finditguide.de

MOTORCYCLES
All ads & pics can be viewed @
www.class-world.eu

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS
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Braving the Alone, Together is a program for kids of deployed parents. Trained mentors help care for the kids over the year. Visit the ACS on Panzer! \$Donations appreciated gabrielle.young23@hotmail.com

ELECTRONICS
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2x AFN PowerVu receiver, remotes, includes sat. dish and hardware. 0711 3057 4942 \$200 0711 3057 4942 / clemsonjf@yahoo.com

Barely used Blue Ray player. Also available is a portable DVD player for \$10, \$50 015158215958 / clburden@comcast.net

Nokia Cell phone White N97 Mini \$25.00 +4917684658955

Portable DVD player. Also available is a barely used Blue Ray player for 50, \$10 015158215958 / clburden@comcast.net

Telephone Siemens Gigaset A265 Duo. Handsfree, Answering machine. \$25.00, 017684658955

Transformer 1600 watt \$85 jc93474@gmail.com



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ELECTRONICS

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Transformer 2000 watt \$100
jc93474@gmail.com

7500w microwave. The toaster, hot water boiler, coffee maker, and rice cooker (120v) are also available for \$10 each, 0151-58215958

Coffee maker, hot water boiler. Rice cooker (120V), toaster. The microwave is also available for \$25. 015158215958 / clburden@comcast.net

Have many paperback books to give away (SF, Western, War, etc). You must pick them up by me at home. orstanley@aol.com

Leather Coat, excellent Quality, size med. was 450.00 dollars from Macys in Chicago, never worn, moving, need to sell, call for details or more pic \$150.00 06331-1495135 or imagine_peace@t-online.de

Like New Chaffing Dish. Used once includes 3 pans for food. \$30.00 017684658955 email spvendor@gmail.com

Nice Mantel Clock from the 1960 era. Measures 24 inch long x 9 inch Height. It is key wind and chimes on the 1/2 and full hour. \$100.00, 0176-84658955

Satellite dish 22" (56cm) \$25 Contact: JC jc93474@gmail.com

Original Star Wars Figures, Vehicles, everything (almost) to do with the original 1970's film. Liquidation of my Son's Collection. E-Mail me. orstanley@aol.com

Standing floor fans \$10 015158215958 / clburden@comcast.net

The full set MASH DVDs NTSC + Black & Decker 3/8 drill unused. 110v + Heat & massage seat attachment for car also 12v & 110v unused Try Tel more times €135 0176-96776870

Various Golf items Includes Shoes Size 11, worn 1 time, Nike Air Glove size XL, Towels and small carrying bag. 1 case of 30 each New Golf Balls \$50,00 017684658955 email spvendor@gmail.com

FURNITURE

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3-Leaf Table. Can be expanded or collapsed. Can be used as a desk or kitchen table. \$45 015158215958 / clburden@comcast.net

Want to stay in Europe?

Careers in financial planning available, your choice of location. US Broker/Dealer in Heidelberg seeking sales representatives. www.ifpsonline.com Tel. 06221-23597

7 seater leather corner couch, used, good condition, color aubergine, see photo. €700 zaftartur@web.de

Bureau, Mahogany inlay, brass handles and dress plate, self-collecting, Height: 97cm Width : 87cm Depth: 40cm €120 +496302 981905

Designer Dining room Table with glas and 6 chairs, handmade €850 sammlerstuebchen20@yahoo.de

Dining room set kitchen, beech inlay, Table extendible, 2 chairs and corner seat / bench with cushion, L:110cm, extendible to 170cm, self-collecting €250 +496302 981905

Love Seat. Practically brand new. Used as my living room furniture. \$125 015158215958 / clburden@comcast.net

Pendulum clock, oak, folk-art Battery operated. Height: 57cm Width: 26cm self-collecting €60 +496302 981905

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5 shelf dvd/cd organizer dvd organizer \$10, 0151-58215958

6 months old german front load Washer, moving must sell fast, was 250,00 euros, excellent condition, and so many other items, please call €170,00 06331-1495135 or imagine_peace@t-online.de

Babyphat Boots, 8 1/2. Brand new super cool \$80.00 06331-1495135 or imagine_peace@t-online.de

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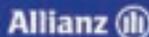
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deep

FURNITURE

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Small desk and chair. Good for children or general pc/laptop use \$30 015158215958 / clburden@comcast.net

Table lamps, leather lamp shade, self-collecting Height lamp 1: 67cm Height lamp 2: 47cm €15 each, set 25€ +496302 981905

Two end tables and a coffee table. Brown wood. The lamps are also for sale for \$30 for both. \$125 015158215958 / clburden@comcast.net

Wicker chair / basket chair Nice handmade wicker chair with yellow cushion. Self-collecting €50 +496302 981905

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PERSONAL

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Attractive 35yrs single black lady is seeking to find a happy relationship. bahaulinelinda@yahoo.com bahaulineline@yahoo.com

Attractive, intelligent, sincere SWF in her 40's looking for SWM for a long term relationship. Miss ses.Me@gmail.com

German Lady, 47 looking for nice Americans (caucasian, F/M) my age who can speak German (my English is not so great). For friendship. Please Text message! 0160/6737687

SWF/42 looking for SWM to start a relationship. I am intelligent, attractive and in good phys. shape. Tired of being alone. Moonchld99@yahoo.com

Warm-hearted, great humor 34yrs single black lady with a generous touch of friendship seeks to find a happy relationship. rosemariyadolf@yahoo.com

Women around 50 looking for a free American male the same age to build nice friendship Call: 0152/38792688

Young, educated female looking for life partner. I need mature, kind, strong man next to me. I'm family oriented. contact me: zemfrita@gmail.com

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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.

8 month male black/brown yorkie for adoption to good home. Friendly & good with kids. Kennel/house trained. Included ppwk, shots, chip, kennel, etc. \$500 keyaka_trottermorris@yahoo.com

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Double bass drums preferable but not necessary. No experience needed. Must love Heavy Metal. \$Drummer for Heavy Metal Band jose.l.rodriguez-1@ou.edu

Lead guitar for a Heavy Metal Band. No experience needed. Must love all genres of Heavy Metal. Email jose.l.rodriguez-1@ou.edu \$n/a 06221-6486156

Singer for a Heavy Metal Band. No experience needed. Must love all genres of Heavy Metal. Email jose.l.rodriguez-1@ou.edu \$n/a 06221-6486156

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