



Need to  
destroy  
something?



Get away to  
Ireland

Page 5

Page 8 -9

# APOs to reduce number of operating days per week

Story by Larry Reilly and Kevin S. Abel  
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

The garrison's four Army Post Offices (APOs) will reduce the number of operational days per week from five to two, beginning Feb. 5.

The cutback in the number operating days is the result of the required reduction in the overall postal workforce, which not only operates the four post offices, but also provides services at the four community mail rooms and at the postal operation distribution center on the Stuttgart Army Airfield (SAAF).

"The reductions are part of the IMCOM manpower restructuring which required the reduction of a number of civilian authorizations in USAG Stuttgart," said Scott Palm, director, USAG-Stuttgart Human Resources. "We were previously authorized 50 postal personnel, but will have to reduce our workforce by 20 percent to meet the fiscal year 2019 authorizations of 40 personnel."

According to Palm, there will not be a mandatory reduction in the force.

"We will get to the reduced number through attrition," Palm said.

This is not the first time postal operations in the community were faced with a reduction in its workforce, and as it did previously, a plan was developed to reduce its post office operations but ensuring one post office in the community is open Monday through Friday.

"During the week, there will be at least one APO open at either Panzer, Patch, Kelley or Robinson Barracks, and two of those post offices will be



Photo by Larry Reilly, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

**U.S. Postal Service worker, Clifford Buckner assists Amy Franklin with the mailing of her packages. The Panzer Post Office, located in Bldg. 2915, has had its operating days reduced from five to two days per week.**

open Tuesday through Thursday," Palm said.

The official mail courier service is also effected as the service to Patch Barracks will stop. Agencies at Patch will have to be pick up their official mail at either the SAAF mail node or at the Panzer Official mail office in the basement of Bldg. 2915.

There are no planned changes to any of the community mail rooms; however, during the process to

identify ways to accommodate the community's postal requirements, reducing the hours of the community mail rooms was put on the table. That idea was quickly squashed when they compared the amount of mail coming into the community versus the amount of mail going out.

"With the increase in the number of people shopping on line, the amount of mail that is being delivered to the community has increased by

## What's changing?

Below are the new operating hours for the APOs:

Patch Barracks: Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Kelley Barracks: Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Panzer Kaserne: Monday and Wednesday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Robinson Barracks: Tuesday and Thursday, 1 – 3:30 p.m.

50 percent as compared to previous years," said Robert Rauschenplat, USAG-Stuttgart postmaster. "Of course during the holidays our CMRs are beyond full, but when we are getting large cargo trucks full of boxes and only a couple of large bags full of small letter size mail on a regular basis, our CMRs are always full of boxes and require more manpower than in the past to keep up."

Forty personnel may seem like a large number given there are only four mail rooms, four APOs and one distribution center. However, at least 10 people are needed at the distribution center at all times; at least six people are on the road delivering the mail to the four community mail rooms; three to four people are needed at each of the mail rooms long before the operating hours sorting the mail and two to three people are needed at the APOs. Only a small percentage of the postal workforce have the training and certification required to work at the APOs.

Taking into consideration leaves, training requirements and sick days, it does not take a mathematician wiz to figure out that a reduction in some area of the postal operations has to come from somewhere to offset the reduction in the number of authorized personnel.

"We ask the community to be patient as we work out the right combination of operating hours at our four post offices, and we really want to encourage people to check their mail boxes regularly, especially if they have made an online purchase," Rauschenplat said.

# Patch Barracks will undergo many construction projects in 2018/19



Story and photos by Larry Reilly  
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

During the next couple of years, Patch Barracks will undergo a number of construction projects that will repurpose, demolish or renovate many of its facilities, and simultaneously improve various components of its infrastructure and roadways.

The heating lines project which started in 2017 will continue in 2018 and extend to the Kurfurt and

Craig family housing buildings in 2019 as that project impacts all facilities on the installation. Another infrastructure required upgrade is an installation-wide sewer system replacement, which is subject to availability of funding.

Those projects will have an impact on the roads and the traffic flow. Other projects planned for 2018/19 that will impact traffic flow on the installation will include the

See Construction, p.3

# Votes only count if they are cast

**Provided by Debra Peake**  
USAG Stuttgart Voting Assistance Office

The Federal Voting Assistance Program works to ensure overseas citizens are aware of their right to vote and have the tools and resources to successfully do so from anywhere in the world.

**M**yth — I have heard that absentee ballots only count in close elections.

**R**eality — No. In fact, absentee ballots submitted in accordance with state laws are counted for every election. The difference is that in a close election, the media reports that the outcome cannot be announced until after the absentee ballots are counted. However, all ballots are counted in the final totals for every election — and every vote (absentee or in-person) counts the same.

**M**yth — I can vote in person at a local embassy/ consulate or

on a military installation.

**R**eality — No. Actually, U.S. elections are run at the state level and citizens must communicate directly with their election official to register, request a ballot and vote. Voting assistance is available at most embassies and consulates and in all military units to help in the completion of necessary forms. Be sure to account for submission and mail delivery time to ensure your forms are received by the state deadline.

**M**yth — States all have the same election rules and deadlines for military and overseas voters.

**R**eality — False. States have different rules in regard to how and when the forms are returned.

**M**yth — Military spouses and dependents cannot use military absentee voting forms.



Photo by John Reese, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

**Debra Peake, USAG Stuttgart VOA, assists a voter during the 2017 voting cycle.**

old by election day should use the

See Voting, p.12

## Tapping into Transition Assistance Program

**Provided by Debra Peake**  
USAG Stuttgart Voting Assistance Office

The Transition Assistance Program (TAP) provides information, tools and training to ensure service members, Department of Defense civilians and family members are prepared for the next step in civilian life, whether it be additional education, finding a job in the public sector or starting their own business.

Transition GPS (goals, plans, success) is TAP's outcome-based, modular curriculum with standardized learning objectives. It transforms the way the military prepares service members transitioning to civilian life to pursue their post-service career goals. Transition GPS includes a core curriculum and individually chosen modules on education, career technical training and

entrepreneurship. Ultimately, it is designed to build skills to allow service members to depart "career ready" and meet mandatory Career Readiness Standards (CRS), regardless of branch of service.

Transition GPS modules are delivered by the military services and partnering agencies at installations in a classroom setting. While the TAP at U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart is called the Soldier for Life TAP, it is open to all service members, DA civilians, and family members. In fact, all service members who are separating, retiring or being released from a period of at least 180 days of active duty must complete the following three requirements:

- ✓ Participate in pre-separation counseling to develop an individual transition plan and identify their career planning needs;
- ✓ Attend Veterans Affairs Benefits Briefings I and II, which explain what benefits the service member

has earned and how to obtain them;

- ✓ Attend the Department of Labor Employment Workshop (unless exempt per 10 U.S.C. 58, §1142-1144), which focuses on the mechanics of obtaining employment in today's job market and includes résumé preparation and interview skills practice.

Service members must also meet CRS before leaving active duty. DA civilians and family members are welcome to attend TAP classes and programs on a space-available basis.

All separating and retiring service members should make an appointment to see the local transition counselor for information on transition services and benefits; retiring and separating service members should begin the process 18 or 24 months prior to their anticipated retirement date, respectively.

The curriculum is evaluated and improved annually based on feedback to ensure overall effectiveness.

### Appointments, T-GPS and SFL-TAP

To make a TAP appointment, visit the SFL-TAP Offices on Panzer Kaserne in Bldg. 2915, Rm. 416, or by calling 431-3673/2191 or 07031-15-3673/2191. The SFL-TAP offices are open weekdays, 8:30 a.m. – noon and 1–4 (closed on all U.S. federal holidays).

The Army also provides Soldier for Life TAP services through a 24/7 virtual center. However, only individuals located at a geographically separated unit or with a short-notice separation can use the virtual curriculum modules for credit toward meeting their CRS during capstone verification. Visit [www.sfl-tap.mil](http://www.sfl-tap.mil).

(Editor's note: Information for this article came from the TAP website.)

## The Citizen

### UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON STUTTGART

**Commander**  
Col. Neal A. Corson

**Garrison Command Sgt. Maj.**  
Command Sgt. Maj.  
Mariano Z. Alvarez

**Public Affairs Officer**  
Larry Reilly

**Command Information Chief**  
Kevin S. Abel

**Editor**  
John Reese

### Contributors

Carola Meusel  
Holly DeCarlo-White

### USAG STUTTGART PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Building 2949, Panzer Kaserne

### Army Post Office Mailing Address

Unit 30401, APO AE 09107

### German Mailing Address

Panzer Kaserne Geb. 2949, 3rd Floor,  
Panzerstrasse, 70032 Böblingen

**Telephone:** +49 07031-15-3105

**DSN (314) 431-3105**

**Web:** [www.StuttgartCitizen.com](http://www.StuttgartCitizen.com)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/USAGarrisonStuttgart/](http://www.facebook.com/USAGarrisonStuttgart/)

### PUBLISHER

AdvantiPro GmbH  
Europallee 3  
67657 Kaiserslautern

**Telephone:** +49 (0) 631-30 3355 30

**Web:** [www.AdvantiPro.com](http://www.AdvantiPro.com)

### Managing Director

Bret Helenius

### ADVERTISING IN THE CITIZEN

**Display Advertising Contact**

Jaqueline Samad

**Telephone:** +49 (0) 631-30 3355 37

**Email:** [Ads@StuttgartCitizen.com](mailto:Ads@StuttgartCitizen.com)

The Stuttgart Citizen is an authorized newspaper, produced in the interest of the U.S. Army community in Stuttgart by the U.S. Army-Garrison Stuttgart Public Affairs Office. Contents of the Citizen are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government or the Department of the Army.

The Stuttgart Citizen is printed by AvantiPro, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Govt., under exclusive written agreement with U.S. Army Stuttgart. It is published monthly using the offset method of reproduction and has a printed circulation of 5,000 copies.

Everything advertised herein shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

The appearance of advertising herein, including inserts and supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Dept. of the Army, or AvantiPro, of the firms, products or services advertised.

Unless otherwise indicated, all six-digit phone numbers in The Stuttgart Citizen are DSN numbers and all longer numbers are civilian.

# Garrison firefighter honored

By USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

On Jan. 5, Michael Ambacher from the garrison's Directorate of Emergency Services, Fire Division, was selected as the Installation Management Command-Europe Fire Service Instructor of the Year. He now takes a spot in the Army-wide award consideration. Ambacher joined the DES Fire Division more than a year ago with 22 years of experience with the Canadian Fire Service. His contributions stretch from conducting routine community fire safety trainings to complex emergency operations and preparedness facilitation. He's best known for his ability to lead others and develop unique training that meets the demands of both the missions and the individual trainees.

Last year, Ambacher trained garrison firefighters in forced entry and search and rescue with limited resources; he improvised using the



**Ambacher**

vacant former Patch Elementary School to conduct this unique

training. Additionally, he arranged the 2017 DES Fire open house at the Panzer Main Exchange, and is planning another open house for June 9.

## Construction

*continued from p.1*

construction of two traffic circles; one at the intersection of Michigan Strasse and Washington Strasse and the other at the main entrance/exit gate.

Projects visibly underway include the heating line project along various Patch streets and the clearing and demolition of the former Patch Elementary School. That project in particular will have an impact on available parking area at the Patch Health Clinic.

"The parking area to the left of the health clinic will be closed off to accommodate the large number of construction vehicles and personnel working on the demolition of the school. Additional parking spaces have been created on the right side of the health clinic," said Steve Raymond, director, USAG-Stuttgart Directorate of Public Works. "Once the demolition of the school is complete, we will start the construction of a new 160 space parking unit. We will then start the construction of the new school."

While the three projects at the school and health clinic continue throughout 2018 and beyond, other Patch Barrack's facilities will undergo construction that could demolish, repurpose or renovate them.

Building 2342, currently the location of the base maintenance contractor, will be demolished. Building 2333, a former AAFES facility, will undergo renovations and become the temporary location for the maintenance contractor.

The Patch Community Center will transfer all its operations to the Swabian Special Events Center. Modifications will be made to the Swabian bar and grill area to

accommodate the transfer of the Backlot Bar and Grill, currently located in the Patch Community Center. The current community center, building 2345, will be renovated and then repurposed to serve as a child development center (CDC). The current child development center, bldg. 2347, will then be renovated and repurposed for either medical use, which it was originally designed for, or for much needed storage space.

"The transfer of the Patch Community Club operations to the Swabian Special Events Center will be a fairly smooth transition and in the future will serve as the center of focus for all community events and activities on Patch. The transfer of the Backlot Bar operations to the Swabian will take a little time as modifications will need to be made prior to its transfer," said Joseph Johnson, director, USAG-Stuttgart, Family and MWR director. "The renovation and repurposing of the current Patch Community Center into a CDC will help save the garrison tens of thousands of dollars over the cost of building a brand new facility. It will also enable the CDC to increase the number of children it is able to enroll in its various programs."

Improvements to the infrastructure and various community service facilities will help improve the quality of life for those who live on and visit Patch Barracks for the various services.

# Martin Luther King celebrated

By USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

The observance of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday took place in the Kelley Barracks Theater, Jan. 11, and was made all the more powerful by a re-enactment of King's "I have a Dream" speech by military policeman Sgt. Dennis Brown, U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Directorate of Emergency Services.

"To re-enact it is a big deal," Brown said of the speech, adding he hails from Linden, Alabama, the hometown of King's successor, Rev. Dr. Ralph D. Abernathy, and lived on Ralph Abernathy Circle. Brown brought King's words to life as his voice rose and fell with his soaring oratory.

"For me personally, 20 years in the service, that was one of the most impactful (MLK observations) because of Sgt. Brown's performance," said Air Force 1st Sgt.



Josh Lackey, U.S. Africa Command. "For a moment, it felt like Dr. King was here."

Attendees watched a film clip of King's last speech, April 3, 1968, in Memphis, Tenn. Further exemplifying the diversity of the purple Stuttgart military community, the program's invocation was a prayer, written by King and recited by Cmdr. Abuhena M. Saifulislam, AFRICOM chaplain. The recurring theme for MLK day is "Remember! Celebrate! Act! A day on, not a day off!"



**Improvements to the infrastructure and various community service facilities will help improve the quality of life for those who live on and visit Patch Barracks for the various services.**

the J-Mall to Washington Square will provide additional working space for the EUCOM team. The Patch Commissary will be renovated and repurposed for operational use after it relocates its operations to the new commissary on Panzer.

Some changes in the flow of traffic on the installation will occur as plans are in place to reverse the flow of traffic on New Jersey Strasse and convert California Strasse and Pennsylvania Strasse into two-way traffic use.

Some of the mid-range and

long-range construction projects slatted for Patch include the renovation of the Patch Fitness Center, the relocation of the car wash, an upgrade of the communication infrastructure throughout the installation and an upgrade to the Patch main gate area.

*Note: This is the second in a series of stories covering the various construction projects that will occur on the various installations in the greater Stuttgart area. Next month, we will address the upcoming projects for the Panzer Kaserne.*

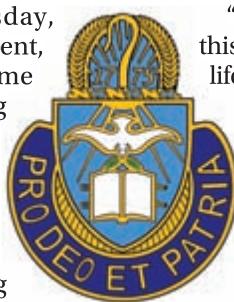
# Lent and Valentine's Day share an identity in love

By Ch. (Maj.) Kelly O'Lear  
Command Chaplain  
Special Operation Command-Africa

There is great irony in the Christian calendar this year: Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day are the same day. One, Ash Wednesday, marks the beginning of Lent, a season of giving up some familiar pleasures, seeking forgiveness, and setting things right. The other, Valentine's Day, has become a Western observation of expressing emotional love and sharing gifts.

Despite the clear differences, the two have an intertwined reality for those who seek to serve others. Considering both at the same time provides unique insights into a deeper understanding of love itself.

Real love, biblically defined, involves emotions but is anchored in service. Love at its most real and visceral expressions manifests itself when positive affection might be lacking, conducting the acts of love in the absence of the "that loving feeling."



This best exemplifies itself in sacrifice. Both Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day find a shared identity in love expressed as service.

If Valentine's Day is truly about love then the words of Jesus of Nazareth best exemplify this reality.

"Greater love has no one than this that someone lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13)

Love in its most superior expression requires sacrifice and service.

As you prepare your heart and intentions for Lent and Valentine's Day, take time to consider the way others have loved you through sacrifice. Remember the faithful who paid the last full measure in hopes of a better future for their family, community, and country. Look even closer. Consider love not solely from the perspective of emotions, however important. Consider the sacrifices of the service members, their families and those who support them. Those sacrifices are greater than changing emotions or material gifts – those sacrifices are love in action.

## Community worship services

### Protestant Services (Sundays)

8:30 a.m. – Panzer Liturgical bldg. #2940  
10:00 a.m. – RB General bldg. #115 & 116  
10:30 a.m. – Panzer Contemporary bldg. #2940  
11:00 a.m. – Patch Collective Protestant bldg. #2304  
12:30 p.m. – Panzer Gospel Service bldg #2940

### Catholic Weekly Mass

Monday	11:00 a.m. – Patch Chapel, Adoration
Tuesday	11:45 a.m. – Patch Chapel
Wednesday	11:45 a.m. – Patch Chapel
Thursday	11:45 a.m. – Kelley Hotel
Saturday	11:45 a.m. – Panzer Chapel
Sunday	4:15 p.m. – Panzer Chapel, Reconciliation 5:00 p.m. – Patch Chapel 9:00 a.m. – Patch Chapel 12:00 p.m. – RB Chapel 5:00 p.m. – Patch Chapel

### Jewish Service

1st and 3rd Friday of each month, 7:00 p.m. – Panzer bldg. #2940 (enter from the bowling alley side)

### Contact Information

Garrison Chaplain – 07031 15 3079/DSN 431-3079  
Director of Religious Education (DRE) – 07031 15 3071/DSN 431-3071  
Family Life Chaplain (Vacant) – 07031 15 3030/DSN 431-3030  
Catholic Chaplain – 07031 15 2029/DSN 431-2029

### Chapel Facility Coordinators Contact

- Patch Chapel – 07031 15 3074/DSN 431-3074
- Panzer Chapel – 07031 15 3079/DSN 431-3079
- Family Life Center – 07031 15 3030/DSN 431-3030
- RB Chapel – 07031 15 3074/DSN 431-3074

<http://www.stuttgart.army.mil/services-rso.html>



# MARCH 16-18

Patch Barracks

**Friday, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.**  
**Saturday, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.**  
**Sunday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

**Open to all military ID cardholders, NATO Forces, civilians and reservists with TDY orders.**

[stuttgart.armymwr.com](http://stuttgart.armymwr.com)

**OVER 60 VENDORS FROM ALL OVER EUROPE!**



EVENT SPONSORS



No Federal endorsement intended.

# Where to go when you need something totally destroyed



CDDF manager Curtis Burgess demonstrates how the hard drive shredder turns drives into scrap.

Story and photo by John Reese  
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

There comes a time when classified documents, hard drives

and discs have run their course. As they're classified, they need to be destroyed so they aren't reviewed by unauthorized eyes and ears. That's when you make an appointment to have the 405th Army Field Support Brigade, Army Material Command crosscut, crush, shred, degauss or pulverize them.

The 405th AFSB Logistics Readiness Center-Stuttgart Classified Document Destruction Facility (CDDF) is open to all units requiring assistance with the destruction of their official, classified documents and hard drives. The first thing one sees upon entering the facility is a pair of two-story high shredders, the biggest in Europe. (The facility is slated to upgrade soon to more efficient, environment-friendly shredders.)

"The CDDF has two large disintegrator paper shredder machines for shredding bulk quantities of classified information," said Curtis Burgess, facility manager.

"We serve any customer in Europe." "We've got people coming here from Munich, K-town, Baumholder and Wiesbaden to shred paper. We are the only unit allowing anyone outside of our command to use this destruction facility—other services, AAFES—you name it. Anyone with classified or PII can use it so long as they're in compliance with their SOP and the National Security Agency, which I follow."

All personally identifiable information (PII) and classified material is absolutely, positively, totally destroyed.

Burgess pointing to a dense mound of dust behind the building, all that remained after documents—including CDs and medical x-rays, were pulverized by the shredder. What went into the machine would be impossible to reconstruct. The powder is mixed with other recycled waste to become cylindrical fuel pellets. There's a separate CD shredder if needed.

"After hard drives are degaussed, they go through the hard drive shredder machine, for

## Need to destroy something?

The CDDF is open Monday afternoons, 12-3:30 p.m.; Tuesdays 8 a.m.- noon; and Thursdays 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. It's closed on Wednesdays, Fridays and holidays. Call 430-5500 to make an appointment.

media shredding," Burgess said. "Once we degauss a hard drive in accordance with NSA, all the customer has to do is take a sledge hammer and hit it a few times, and throw it into a scrap metal container."

However, customers won't need sledgehammers. After being degaussed to remove any information, hard drives go through a crusher that turns them into scrap metal for recycling.

The crusher also contains a powerful magnet to ensure hard drives are degaussed. The critical thing is to remove the classification stickers from the hard drives before crushing them, otherwise they're still considered classified.

Burgess himself doesn't do the shredding and crushing. That's left up to the customers under his supervision. Facility users must wear dust masks, hard hats, safety goggles and hearing protection.

The CDDF, located in Bldg. 2395 on Patch Barracks, can be difficult to find the first time, as the numbers on the ends of the long building are different. After passing the Java Café, you'll see a red and white boom barrier at Bldg. 2323, directly behind the car wash; park near the gate, walk to the CDDF, part of the same long building, and Burgess will direct you from there. The building is part of the U.S. European Command, but the facility belongs to the 405th AFSB.

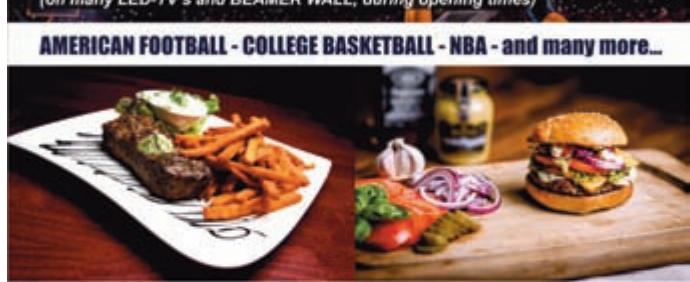
"The CDDF exists to provide service for the USAG-Stuttgart community for bulk destruction and shredding of classified, PII information and FOUO documents in accordance with NSA policy and guidelines," Burgess said.

**THE LARGEST AMERICAN SPORTSBAR  
IN STUTTGART**

27000 square feet  
AMEX & DOLLARS are accepted

DAILY LIVE SPORT EVENTS  
(on many LED-TV's and BEAMER WALL, during opening times)

AMERICAN FOOTBALL - COLLEGE BASKETBALL - NBA - and many more...



## HUGE DINING SELECTION

STEAKS - BURGERS - PRAWNS - PIZZA - PASTA...



PALM BEACH STUTTGART - Sportsbar & Restaurant  
Mercedes Str. 73b - 70372 Stuttgart  
Office & Reservation: +49 7 11 / 16 22 11 99  
**PALM BEACH**  
Opening hours  
Mon. - Thurs. at 11am, Fri. 11am-2am, Sat. 11.59am-2am, Sun. at 11.59am  
book a table at [www.OPENTABLE.de](http://www.OPENTABLE.de) or directly on [www.PALM-BEACH-STUTTGART.com](http://www.PALM-BEACH-STUTTGART.com)

**Deutsche Kantine**

Find our daily menu at Facebook: Deutsche Kantine

Serving Greek & German Food  
Breakfast Menus,  
Breakfast Buffets & Brunch  
Lunch & Dinner Buffets  
Private Parties

Directly on Patch Barracks! Bldg. 2386  
Mon-Fri 6:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.



Party and Catering-Service

**Kashmir**  
Indian Restaurant

Take away  
Lunch Special (Mo – Fri)

authentic  
indian cuisine

STUTTGART Pforzheimer Str. 309 • Phone 0711-88 94 306  
ECHTERDINGEN Esslinger Str. 11 • Phone 0711-99 76 38 16  
LEONBERG Leonberger Str. 97 • Phone 07152-90 32 32  
Hours: 12.00 – 14.30 and 17.30 – 23.00

[WWW.KASHMIR-RESTAURANT.DE](http://WWW.KASHMIR-RESTAURANT.DE)

# 'JOES' shows Stuttgart has best health clinic

Army Health Clinic Stuttgart

*News Release*

The community has been heard and Army Health Clinic Stuttgart is ranked above all other services for patient satisfaction in the Department of Defense's Joint Outpatient Experience Survey (JOES) for the past 12 months with an overall result of 95.5 percent.

"The entire team is beyond exceptional here and we could not be more proud of the work they do each and every day," said Maj. Cody Mead, medical director.

JOES is a unified outpatient survey system used at all military treatment facilities across all the services. It combines and standardizes long-standing methods used by the Army, Navy, Air Force and Defense Health Agency/National Capital Region to learn about beneficiary healthcare experiences with the goal of making them better. About 2.7 million JOES are distributed annually to about 10 percent of patients who have visited a military health facility in a random selection process. At first, only paper surveys were distributed, but recently a website was set up for taking the two-page survey.

Marcy Lindo, the clinic's group practice manager, said the health clinic looks very closely at the results each month and takes all the feedback very seriously.

"The feedback we receive from our patients is the key to making this clinic the best not only in the Army but in military medicine, and this is very important to us since we are a purple community," she said.

The survey doesn't ask for just feedback on the clinic's providers; it also looks at every department in the clinic and gauges the level of satisfaction for each visit.

"No matter if you are a provider, nurse, front desk staff or our ancillary services, we greatly appreciate the positive comments we receive from our patients," said Lt. Col. Lisa Dennis, clinic executive officer. "It helps us know we are doing the right thing for our patients and we are making a difference."

For the clinic, it's very important to receive the community feedback, both positive and negative.

"If only 20 percent of

our population is providing us with feedback, we are not getting a complete picture of how our community feels," Lindo said.

The clinic encourages community members to speak up by taking the time to complete a JOES when they receive them in the mail or through email.

"The feedback we receive not only provides us details on how the community feels about their provider, but it tells us about how they feel on our Access to Care, our ancillary services and our front desk staff," Lindo said.

Mead said he ensures the providers receive their feedback, and takes the time to talk through the results by highlighting great practices and improvements with all of the providers.

"We are proud to say that one of our providers, Dr. Robert Smith, pediatrician, was recognized as the



*Photo by Kevin S. Abel, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs*

**The JOES survey is the best way to give feedback about the clinic.**

MEDCOM Employee of the Year for 2017 and the feedback we received from patients helped contribute directly to his recognition," Mead said. "We are hoping to highlight another provider next year with the input from the community."

The JOES survey is the best way to give feedback about the clinic as it is tracked by the DoD, but it is not the only way to have your voice heard.

"We ask that all patients who feel they do not receive the

care and information they needed during their visit to please talk to one of our patient advocates prior to leaving the building," Dennis said. "Our team is here to provide high quality healthcare to improve readiness, health and wellness of all our beneficiaries, we strive to be the best in military medicine and provide the best and most compassionate care possible."

SI SI-Centrum Stuttgart Plieninger Straße 109 70567 Stuttgart

# SHS teacher receives award, PES celebrates Seuss

By John Reese  
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Stuttgart High School teacher Shana Blankenship received a "\$mart Money" award from the Department of Defense Education Activity, Europe East District Superintendent's Office, to support innovative teaching and learning models.

To get \$mart Money, educators sent applications to fund innovative learning projects that will positively impact student achievement. The projects and resources embrace creative approaches to meeting the interests and learning needs of students through a blend of innovative pedagogical approaches and 21st century resources.

Blankenship received awards for:

- **mCSquares:** Hand-held whiteboards that can be joined to create visual formats for sequencing stories, layout and design structures, complex coding structures, etc.
- **Breakout.edu:** Off-line computational thinking and collaborative learning experience for AP computer science students.

Blankenship is one of 29 awardees to share more than \$58,000 in earmarked funds.



*Photo by Holly DeCarlo-White, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs*

**One part of the project is National Read Across America Day, an observance in the United States held on the school day closest to March 2, the birthday of Dr. Seuss.**

The \$mart Money award program was conceived as motivational agent to allow inspired educators to develop and implement innovative methods and practices for teaching and learning in their classrooms.

## Read Across America

To mark the annual celebration of Read Across America Day, classroom educators at Patch Elementary School, in cooperation with school

management and the PES PTA, March 2, will be holding reading events throughout the day.

On March 8, the PES Education Association and the PES PTA will join forces to have a National Education Association Read Across America Night in the Patch Middle School Forum on Patch Barracks. Events taking place include: Storytime booths featuring diverse characters; Seussical Math Activities, Tales & Activities, face

painting & hair designing; dinner, giveaways, games and photo booths.

The night's activities are being funded in part by a grant obtained by the Patch American Teachers Association from the NEA and the Federal Education Association (the Patch American Teachers Association, which represents classroom educators Patch Elementary, is a local affiliate of the NEA and FEA).

NEA's Read Across America is an annual celebration of reading held each year on March 2, the birthday of Theodor "Ted" Geisel, aka "Dr. Seuss." For more information on NEA's Read Across America, go to [www.nea.org/readacross](http://www.nea.org/readacross)

## Patch Reflections

Applications are being accepted until Feb. 7 at Patch Middle School for the National PTA Reflections competition. The 2017-2018 theme is "Within Reach." The artistic categories are dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography and visual arts. Entries are reviewed by experienced artists for interpretation of theme, creativity and technique.

*(Editor's note: Information for this article came from DoDEA-Europe, and Patch Elementary and Middle schools.)*

## Drive away in the Mercedes-Benz CLA 4-Door Coupe

Unmatched power. With the looks to match.



**MAS**  
MILITARY AUTOSOURCE  
[militaryautosource.com/mb](http://militaryautosource.com/mb)

Contact Your Local Sales Representative:

### STUTTGART

Haupt Str 189B | 70563 Stuttgart | Tel: +49 (0) 711 6868 1083

48 hour delivery is available price vehicle to paid in full and on working business days. Valid in Germany for local delivery on stock vehicles only. Vehicle shown is for illustration only, and may contain optional equipment available at additional cost. Program and guarantees are subject to terms and conditions. Offered by Auto Exchange Kraftfahrzeug-Handels GmbH (AXK949).





*Photo by Kevin S. Abel, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs*

**For more than 200 years, Cabra Castle, a large and rambling manor house north of Dublin now used as a hotel and wedding venue.**



*Photo by Kevin S. Abel, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs*

**O'Brien's Castle, Innis Orr, offers stunning views to those willing to make the gentle climb.**

# Touring the Emerald Isle by automobile and boat

By John Reese  
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

There's something magical about Ireland that draws folks to it, regardless of whether or not they're of Irish descent. It is an island of green meadows, castles, giants, shamrocks, cliffs and caves, true, but it is the warm, welcoming nature of its people and "having the crack" (a good time) that make visiting the land of the 3-leaf clover special.

No matter where you go on the island, folks are friendly and genuinely seem to like meeting Americans. Expect to be asked about all manner of subjects.

Flying to Dublin, Cork or Shannon from Stuttgart is quick, easy and comparatively inexpensive, plus clearing customs was significantly faster than many other countries. For those visiting Dublin en route to the U.S., the long lines clearing customs state-side can be skipped by preclearing at Dublin International. (To learn more about preclearance, visit the U.S. Customs and Border Protection website at [www.cbp.gov](http://www.cbp.gov).)

Alternately, a daytime or overnight ferry from Cherbourg, France to Rosslare, Ireland, or a short sea

journey across the Irish Sea from the west coast of the U.K. to Northern Ireland, adds a neat little ship stamp to one's passport. Customs delays upon arrival are short to nonexistent.

Dublin is a must-see when visiting Ireland. First mentioned in writing by the Greco-Roman cartographer and mathematician Ptolemy around 140 AD, the Dublin area was settled by the Irish and later occupied by Vikings around 841. It is an easy city to get around via good public transportation, although the two newer, big and shiny tram lines don't connect, necessitating a short walk of a couple blocks. Ask a Dubliner about that and you'll get an explanation as colorful as the rainbow of front doors on row houses.

The famous Temple Bar is not a drinking establishment (although there are a number of bars around the world named so); rather, it is the cultural section of Dublin. From there, find the statue of the "Hags with the Bags" near the Ha'penny Bridge over the Liffy River. The Temple Bar is the touristiest section of town. From there, visit the massive Guinness Brewery, an interesting and refreshing tour that concludes at the top of a tower with a panoramic view an a



*Background photo by Tony Webster  
A view along the Ring of Kerry.*

# Travel by planes, trains, and automobiles is easy to do

refreshing sample of their product.

The southwestern point of Ireland is just warm enough to sustain palm trees. Touring the Ring of Kerry is an adventure in itself, passing through national parks and scenic villages frozen in time.

Get the gift of gab by kissing the Blarney Stone, a block of limestone that's been part of the Blarney Castle battlements since around 1446, so long as you're not afraid of hanging upside down near the top of the castle, 37 feet above the next level down.

Head into Northern Ireland to visit the places where the Titanic was built, then take a tour north of Belfast to see the Giant's Causeway, a geologic wonder of interlocking basalt columns that's a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Depending on one's budget and bravado, traveling from the port or airport to all other parts of the island can be done by air, rail, bus, car or boat. Flying anywhere within Ireland is a quick commute, although it can be the most expensive way to travel and you still have to deal with airport security; rail deals can be found if reserved early; and booking well in advance yielded a bus ticket from Dublin to Galway for one euro.

Renting a car means driving on the

left side of the road and using your left hand to shift; if this is the first time, it can be intimidating. Automatic transmission rentals were significantly more expensive. Some rentals come with a big sticker above the driver reminding foreign drivers to drive on the left. Ireland has beaucoup roundabouts that take getting used to going clockwise after driving counterclockwise in Germany. Another consideration is that country roads in Ireland can be very narrow. Exercise caution if you opt to drive.

Boat trips to the Aran Islands off the west coast depart from Galway. The three populated islands have their own unique cultures and most locals speak Irish. In good weather, the sea is smooth and the white Cliffs of Moher can be seen to the north. Boat tours just for seeing the cliffs are available.

No matter how you get there, Ireland is a worthwhile visit during your tour in Germany.

*(Editor's note: Readers of The Stuttgart Citizen are encouraged to submit their own travel stories for consideration. Stories should be 500-600 words in length with high resolution photos sent as individual jpgs. For more information, call 431-3105.)*

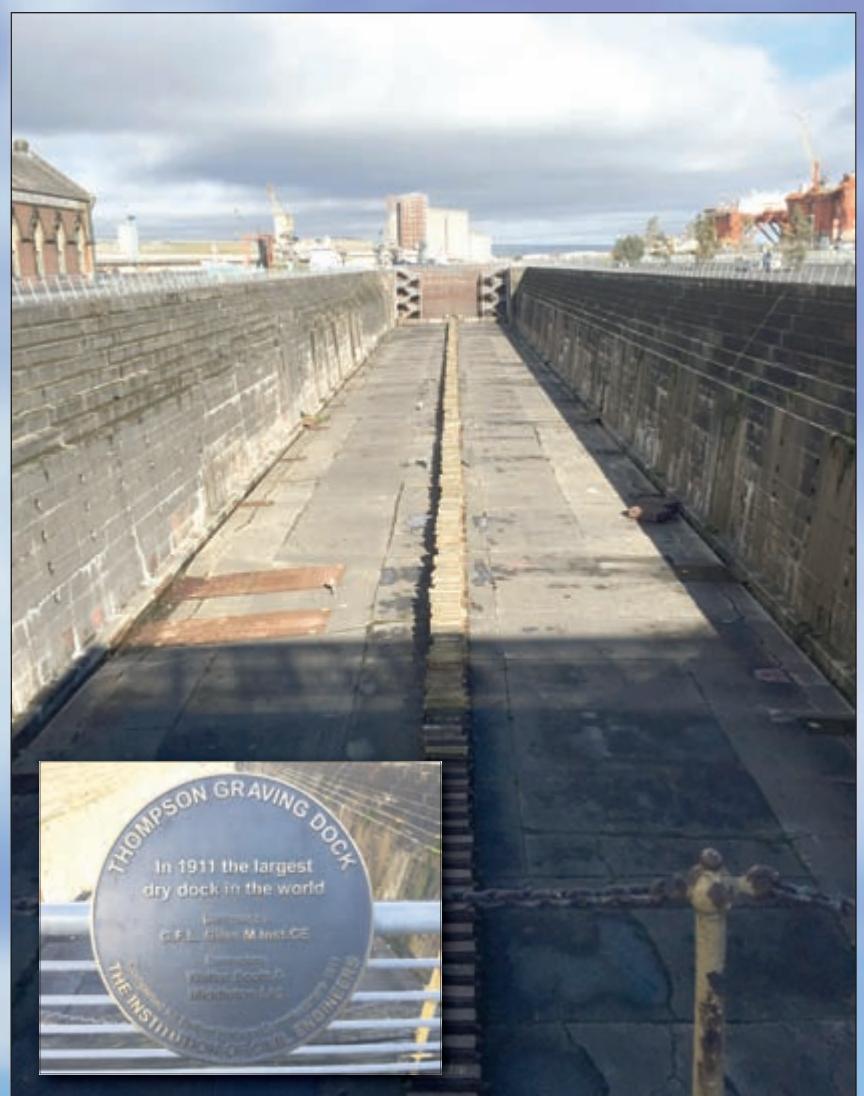


Photo by Kevin S. Abel, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

In Belfast, descend into the dry dock where the ill-fated RMS Titanic was fitted out shortly before her sea trials.



Photo by Kevin S. Abel, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

The basalt columns of the Giant's Causeway, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is a natural phenomenon caused by a volcanic eruption 50-60 million years ago, but the legend of the giant Finn MacCool building it as a route to Scotland is a great Irish tale.



Photo by Kevin S. Abel, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

The rusted, decaying hulk of the steam trawler MV Plassey, wrecked on Finnis Rock during a fierce storm in 1960 while transporting a cargo of stained glass, whisky and yarn, is now a tourist attraction.

**App Available**

Follow the garrison Facebook page and subscribe to email updates to stay informed, but to really be in the know, download the USAG Stuttgart mobile app for Android and Apple users that includes one-touch emergency contacts, quick appointment links, bus schedules, things to do and more. Search "USAG Stuttgart" in Google Play or iTunes to download the app.

**Big form only**

According to the garrison postmaster, the large customs form (PS2976A) is now required when mailing any parcel at the Army Post Office. Previously, postal patrons could use a smaller form. Read about other changes coming to the garrison APOs on p.1.

**Wi-Fi at fitness centers**

The Kelley Barracks Fitness Center, open 24/7 with unmanned enrollment access, now has Wi-Fi. The Patch center also has its Wi-Fi up and running. The side of the building that houses the spin room and the upstairs aerobics room will require a separate router that will be installed at a later date - Panzer's gym will be next.

**Construction continues**

New and finishing phases of various construction projects continue on Patch, Panzer and Kelley. Road construction outside

of Patch Barracks will continue through March, causing a change in traffic patterns, 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. The roadwork is mostly being completed at night to minimize the impact to traffic coming on and off post. Read part two of a series about construction in the community on p.1. The focus is on Patch Barracks this month. For the latest news, visit the construction announcements at [www.stuttgartcitizen.com](http://www.stuttgartcitizen.com).

**Badges? Badges!**

Effective Feb. 5, the security badge operations on Patch Barracks will relocate from Bldg. 2302 to Bldg. 2308, Rm 124. It is responsible for issuing community access badges and alarm pin numbers to all eligible EUCOM personnel and vetted visitors. Open weekdays, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. (closed for lunch 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.) Closed federal holidays. Call 430-5365 or email [eucom.stuttgart.ecj2.mbx.sso-persec@mail.mil](mailto:eucom.stuttgart.ecj2.mbx.sso-persec@mail.mil) for more.

**Watch the Olympics**

The U.S. military community can watch the upcoming Winter Olympics, Feb. 8-25, for free. Access it on the NBC Sports app and on NBCOlympics.com. All that is needed is an active shopmyexchange.com account. Visit [shopmyexchange.com/winter-olympics](http://shopmyexchange.com/winter-olympics) (honorably discharged veterans can verify Exchange online privileges at [shopmyexchange.com/veterans](http://shopmyexchange.com/veterans).)

**Transitioning?**

If you're active-duty and leaving the service, and want to join one of the 56 Regional Veteran Service Centers throughout the United States, Puerto Rico and the Philippines, then sign up for the VA's overseas Warrior Transition Advancement Course. WARTAC Along with certificates come well-earned job offers with the VA. Applicants must

be service members transitioning from the military no later than 180 days from the start of class. For more information about WARTAC and the USAJOBS application process, call 431-3673 or 07031-153673.

**CYS sports and fitness wants you!**

Hiring and training clinics for FMWR Child Youth Services (paid and volunteer) sports officials and adult fitness instructors take place for volleyball (Feb. 6-8), baseball/softball (Feb. 13-15), and soccer (Feb. 20-22). Also, youth SKIES Unlimited instructors are needed for piano, voice, dance, art, swimming, martial arts, speech therapy, foreign languages or other child/youth specialized programs. Applicants must be 18 years old or older. Email [stuttgartcys@googlemail.com](mailto:stuttgartcys@googlemail.com).

**Polar Bear Club**

Join this free incentive program designed to keep you motivated and active. Do 30 workouts at any garrison fitness center, participate in three fitness classes, and use one community recreation program through Feb. 28 at the Stuttgart Sports and Fitness Centers. Register at the Patch Fitness Center or email [pfcpolarbearclub@gmail.com](mailto:pfcpolarbearclub@gmail.com).

**Be Make my Valentine**

Community members have until Feb. 13 to order Valentine's Day balloon bouquets from Patch Arts and Crafts. Call 430-5270 or 0711-680-5270 for details.

**RSO is hiring**

The garrison's Religious Support Office is currently seeking applicants for a music leader, a worship instrumentalist and a childcare provider for chapel watch-care services (childcare provider applicants must have experience working with

infants and toddlers. Applicants must be willing to work flexible hours on weekdays, weekends and holidays. A background check is required. Positions are open for all religious services on Panzer, Patch and Robinson. Contact Sgt. 1st Class Tameka Dixon at the RSO.

**Volksmarch**

Go marching with the Stuttgart German-American Wandering Club's upcoming adventures: Maulbronn-Zaisenweiher, Feb. 10/11; Ludwigshafen, Feb. 17; Ramstein, Feb. 24; and Rothenburg ob der Tauber, Feb. 24-25. Visit [www.sgawc.org](http://www.sgawc.org).

**Learn to save lives**

The Red Cross is teaching classes in adult and pediatric first aid/CPR/AED, 9 a.m. - noon, Feb. 8 and 9, and 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Feb. 22. Babysitter's training is offered 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Feb. 10, and 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Feb. 24. All classes cost \$55. Call 07031-15-2812 to register.

Also, the Red Cross is always looking for community volunteers. No experience is necessary to volunteer. Call 431-2812 or 07031-15-2812 for the full list of opportunities.

**Got mail?**

A two-hour Official Mail Procedure Class will be held 9 - 11 a.m., Feb. 9, at Panzer Digital Training, Bldg. 2931, Rm. 1. This training is required by all newly appointed official mail room managers, clerks and orderlies. Learn how to inform unit mail managers of official mail regulation; how to differentiate between official and personal mail; how to provide information on the various classes of official mail; and to how to provide correct procedures for preparing and addressing classes of official mail. Call 421-2520 for more information.

**STUTTGART**  
realtors  
**HOMES FOR RENT**  
[www.stuttgartrealtors.com](http://www.stuttgartrealtors.com)  
Contact 0179- 39 36 835

**Monica Hansen**  
Attorney at Law  
**FAMILY LAW SERVICE**  
[mhansenlaw@gmail.com](mailto:mhansenlaw@gmail.com)  
0152-27 037 592

**notebook4all**  
Notebooks • Computer • Networks  
We repair notebooks and personal computers of all brands!  
VAT-forms welcome!  
Hauptstr. 91 70 563 Stuttgart-Vaihingen

**WATCH ALL THE BEST NEW RELEASES 30 DAYS FREE**  
**TeleUp**  
TV Leader Overseas  
[www.teleup.com/military](http://www.teleup.com/military)

**U.S. & GERMAN ATTORNEYS**

US & German Divorces • Support Issues  
Wills and Probate • Employment • EEO • MSPB  
Personal Injury • Contractor Issues • Tax

**CALL 069-299-2069-0**  
email: [maiss@up12legal.de](mailto:maiss@up12legal.de)

**H&R BLOCK®**

Results - Guaranteed. At H&R Block, we stand behind our work. If we make a mistake, we will pay any additional interest and penalties. Plus, if the IRS should call you in for an audit, we will explain your audit notice and the documentation you need to provide, at no extra cost. We have experts on hand year around to help you. All prior years can be done as well.

**Can your tax services give the same Guarantee?**

Kurmarkstr. 30 • 70569 Stuttgart-Vaihingen  
Tel: 0711-6 87 30 96 or 0711-120 76 24 • Email: [hblockstuttgart@hotmail.com](mailto:hblockstuttgart@hotmail.com)

9 single family homes for TLA  
300 apartments



Fully furnished with all amenities  
English speaking  
Credit cards accepted  
No deposit

Tel. 0711-912 55 913  
[mail@ptm-office.com](mailto:mail@ptm-office.com)  
[www.ptm-apartments.com](http://www.ptm-apartments.com)

**PTM**  
PREMIUM TEMPORARY  
MANAGED  
EXCLUSIVE APARTMENTS & HOUSES

**VAT**

# Where to go to celebrate Fasching

By USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Carnival celebrations in South-West Germany start as early as Nov. 11 and last until the beginning of Lent, on Ash Wednesday.

The following is a list of some of the larger events in and around Stuttgart.

## 2018 Key Dates

- Weiberfastnacht (Fat Thursday): Feb. 8
- Rosenmontag (Rose Monday): Feb. 12
- Fastnacht/Karneval (Shrove Tuesday): Feb. 13
- Aschermittwoch (Ash Wednesday): Feb. 14

## Stuttgart Activities

Children's Carnival, Feb. 7, 6 p.m., at the foyer of the



Photo by Kevin S. Abel, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Stuttgart Liederhalle. Also Feb. 12 at the Stuttgart Rathaus.

A free Guggen-Monster-Konzert (Monster Carnival Concert), Rose Monday, Feb. 12, 5:30 - 10:30 p.m., in front of the Stuttgart Rathaus.

Many clubs, restaurants, wineries and breweries will host ticketed or by-reservation indoor events as well.

Fasting Parade (Fasnetsumzug), Feb. 13, 2 - 5 p.m. Big parade and street party through the city center in the city center and on Königstraße. New this year: No confetti may be thrown.

## Bad Cannstatt Activities

Foolish Market in the Bad Cannstatt market square, Feb. 8, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. The weekly market will add a program to include live music. At 6 p.m., fools will storm the town hall tower, followed by games and activities through the old town until 2 a.m., to include obstacle courses and races with participants wearing wooden wine barrels.

Children's Carnival at the Kulturinsel Stuttgart Bad Cannstatt, Feb. 10, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The Cannstatter fools meet at the annual Küblerball, Stadtmitte Bad Cannstatt (Königsplatz 1), Feb. 10, 8 p.m. Various groups of the Kübelesmarkt entertain visitors with their performances. A party band plays dance music in the breaks and until the end of the event. Cost: €20

Enjoy a festival on the history of the Cannstatter Felbenköpfe (Cannstatter fools), Feb. 11, 4 - 7 p.m. Meet at Mühlgrün, afterwards a torchlight procession will take place at 6 p.m. to the city church in the market square.

## More Activities

*Leinfelden-Echterdingen:* Feb. 3, at 3 p.m., storm the town hall. A Children's Carnival takes place at 2 p.m. at the Filderhalle.

*Böblingen:* Women's Fasnet (Weiberfasnet) Feb. 8 at 7:30 p.m. at the Gansseestüble (Sudetenstraße 45), enjoy free entrance to music performances and dancing. Call 07031-234147. The Stadtbibliothek (library) will host cardboard mask crafts while telling Carnival jokes, Feb. 9, 4-5:30 p.m., then a Children's Carnival is set for Feb. 13 from 1-6 p.m. at the Kongresshalle.

*Degerloch:* Fasting on Ice, Feb. 11, 5 - 9:30 p.m. at the Eiswelt, Stuttgart. Specials for children dressed in costume.

*Leonberg:* Feb. 11, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., storm the town hall, followed by live music.

*Weil der Stadt:* Feb. 11, 2 p.m. "Grosser Fasnetsumzug" (big parade) is one of the largest and oldest in southern Germany. A children's parade is also set for Feb. 13, 2 p.m., through the city center marketplace.

## 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 7:15 p.m.  
Pastor Kai Hoess | cell: 0174-300-6632 | office: 0711-93388243  
Schockenriedstrasse 42 | 70565 Vaihingen  
pastor.kai@biblechurchofstuttgart.de | [www.biblechurchofstuttgart.de](http://www.biblechurchofstuttgart.de)



Find "your thing"!

Help end human trafficking.

- Hands-on outreach
- Offer support
- Donate gifts



info@Kainos-ev.com  
[www.Kainos-ev.com](http://www.Kainos-ev.com)

## Petra Antiques

FURNITURE  
RUGS  
JEWELRY  
LIGHTING  
PORCELAIN  
PERIOD MEMENTOS  
ARTWORKS  
WAR MEMORABILIA  
VINTAGE APPAREL  
AND SO MUCH MORE!

WE SPECIALIZE IN:  
ANTIQUE RE-UPHOLSTERY  
ANTIQUE RESTORATION  
  
COME AND VISIT US!  
ENJOY A ONE OF  
A KIND TOUR IN  
OUR VAST ANTIQUE  
SHOWROOM

71101 SCHÖNAICH  
WETTGASSE 12  
07031-651549 MOBIL 0178 77 700 76

# AER program steps explained

USAG Stuttgart Army Emergency Relief  
News Release

The Army Emergency Relief Company Commander and First Sergeant Quick Assist Program, formerly known as the AER Commander's Referral Program, serves as an expedient and valuable tool for leaders to help Soldiers resolve short-term cash flow issues.

Company commander's and/or 1st Sgts. can approve an interest-free loan up to \$2000.00 for single or married active duty Soldiers. Common categories of assistance include, but aren't limited to, rent or mortgage, utilities deposits, food, emergency travel, vehicle repair, non-receipt of pay or loss of funds, funeral expenses, and repair or replacement of major appliances.

The Soldier completes and submits AER Form 600, the program application. Next, the Soldier will be interviewed by company commander or 1st Sgt. for review to verify the financial need. After the form is signed, the Soldier visits the AER Office at Army Community Service with the signed form, ID card and his/her Leave



## Who to contact for AER

For Soldier's requiring loans of more than \$2000 or who choose not to use the Quick Assist Program, contact the USAG Stuttgart AER Office at 431-3362/3348 or 07031-15-3362/3348, or stop by ACS, Bldg. 2915, 2nd floor, Panzer Kaserne.

and Earnings Statement. The AER officer will confirm eligibility before issuing the funds.

"The intent of the Quick Assist Program is to allow leaders to directly respond to valid financial needs of their Soldiers. AER wants to deter Soldiers from using payday loans, pawn shops and title loan companies who are not looking out for their best interests," said Merilee Nevins, USAG Stuttgart AER officer. "Use of these type of businesses will only deepen the Soldiers' financial struggles. This program reinforces unit leader involvement in the resolution of their Soldiers' financial issues while making the process for the Soldier more convenient."

Dr. Petra Bagusche



### We are your specialists for:

- Cosmetic Dentistry - Prosthetics
- Implantology - Prophylaxis/Bleaching
- Periodontology

**Dr. Petra Bagusche** | TRICARE OCONUS Preferred Dentist  
Poststraße 44 | 71032 Böblingen  
Phone: 07031-49 88 11 | Fax: 07031- 49 88 49  
E-Mail: dentistry@dr-bagusche.de | www.dr-bagusche.de



## Modern Aesthetic Dentistry

- Aesthetic Dentistry
- TMJ/Facial Pain Treatment
- Certified Dental Hygienist
- Preventive Care and Periodontal Therapy
- Orthodontics/Invisalign
- Implants



**Dr. Charles A. Smith** DDS, LVIF is an American trained dentist providing expert dental care with the newest and most successful techniques to cover all your dental needs. Come see why patients travel from all over Europe to visit Dr. Smith for general dental care to smile makeovers. After many successful years in Heidelberg, Dr. Smith has now opened a second office in Stuttgart. Please call to schedule your appointment.

Charles-Lindbergh-Str. 11 • 71034 Böblingen  
Phone 07031-2056062 • www.boeblingendental.com



**NEW  
opening in  
Stuttgart**

## Voting

*continued from p.2*

same Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) and Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) that members of the Uniformed Services and overseas citizens do, even when voting absentee Stateside. Dependents attending college overseas should also use those forms.

**M**yth — I am a U.S. citizen who was born overseas and has never lived in the U.S. — I pay taxes but cannot exercise my right to vote.

**R**eality — It depends. A growing number of states now allow U.S. citizens who were born abroad but never resided in the U.S. to vote using the address where a parent or other relative is eligible to vote. Visit FVAP.gov to see a current list of States that allow these U.S. citizens to vote.

**M**yth — Voting will affect the tax status of overseas citizens.

**R**eality — It depends. Voting for Federal office candidates will not affect your Federal or State tax liability. Depending on the laws of your State, voting for State or local offices may affect your State income tax liability.

If you are concerned about your State tax status, consult legal counsel.

**M**yth — Absentee ballots are not secret.

**R**eality — Not true. State absentee ballots and the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot are designed with a "Secrecy Envelope" allowing for the separation of the voter's identity from the cast ballot. Voting Assistance Officers also ensure voters casting absentee ballots on Department of Defense (DoD) facilities are able to do so in a private and independent manner. Local election officials are professionals who go to great lengths in their ballot handling procedures to ensure your vote, and personal information, are kept private.

**M**yth — I can't vote if I'm deployed.

**R**eality — False. You absolutely can vote while deployed. If you're registered to vote while deployed and you don't get your State ballot in time to vote from your location, you can use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) found at FVAP.gov. Remember to submit the form at least 30 days before the scheduled election.



## Meet our Dentists and International Team

**OXIDIO**

Our dentists **Dr. Reinhard Winkelmann**, **Harvey Lum DDS**, **Paul Neuscheler** and our international, English-speaking team are looking forward to welcome you in our modern dental office in Gärtringen.

We meet the highest American standards and we are an official United Concordia provider.

Visit [www.oxidio.com](http://www.oxidio.com) to find out more or call us to make an appointment.

**Dental Office**  
**Dr. Reinhard Winkelmann**  
Blücherstr. 13  
71116 Gärtringen  
Email: [praxis@oxidio.com](mailto:praxis@oxidio.com)  
Phone: 07034-647729-66

Your bill will be generated in English using the US code for dental services. Your US insurance will understand it. We are an official United Concordia provider ([www.unitedconcordia.com](http://www.unitedconcordia.com)).



[www.oxidio.com](http://www.oxidio.com)

# Tax center opens

Story and photo by John Reese  
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

After weeks of preparation for the 2017 tax return season, the local team of IRS-trained tax preparers will see the grand opening of the Stuttgart Law Center's tax center at the Kelley Club, Kelley Barracks, Feb. 7, to assist the community with its returns.

In 2017, the center began serving only uniformed personnel. This year, it will serve all eligible ID cardholders in the Stuttgart military community.

"The tax center is going to be open to everyone in the garrison community," said Capt. Victoria Bell, Stuttgart Law Center. "We've decided, at this point, to not limit the scope, as it was last year."

The tax warriors for 2018 are a mixture of civilian volunteers and borrowed military manpower, trained by IRS senior tax consultant Juan M. Carrizales. Carrizales came from San Antonio, Texas, to train and certify the preparers.

"This is my first time preparing taxes and working outside of

my MOS (military occupational specialty)," said Spc. Ally K. Hendley, 554th Military Police Company and one of this year's tax preparers. "It is actually pretty exciting to learn something outside of what I normally do. It also opens up the horizons on helping other people with their taxes - helps me out as well."

The hours serving the community as a tax preparer are better than her usual job as an MP, she added.

During the 2016 tax season, the Stuttgart Law Center's tax center served 1,114 clients for \$3,229,961 in refunds, saving those served tax preparation fees totaling \$520,842.

Although the final day to file taxes is April 15, the tax season runs through early June for overseas military community members.

The tax center will be in rooms 203, 204, and 205 in the Kelley Club, open weekdays 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., except Wednesdays, when it will be open 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. For more information, call 421-1420 or 07117 29421-1420. Visit [www.stuttgartcitizen.com](http://www.stuttgartcitizen.com) for details on what paperwork to bring to your tax appointment.



# SCSC serves community

Stuttgart Community Spouses' Club  
*News Release*

Part of the overall Stuttgart Community Spouses' Club is the Welfare Committee.

The SCSC raises funds through its Thrift Store on Patch Barracks and its periodic Bazaars and the Welfare Committee reviews individual grants that are submitted and donates funds accordingly. The scholarship committee is separate and reviews applications to donate money for scholarships.

"The goal of the welfare committee is to make our community a better place: to help develop community leaders, to provide cultural/educational/enrichment opportunities and experiences," said Ruth Clark, SCSC Welfare Committee. "The groups we support demonstrate that they positively impact the Stuttgart community in these areas."

The title "welfare" refers to the fact that the committee provides funds through donations to support charitable, educational, recreational and social community events. The Welfare Committee's mission is to support community events as well as promote the groups that the SCSC donates money to. Last year, the SCSC donated more than \$325,000 to various organizations, including scholarships,

the PTA at the community schools, School & CYS Sports Teams, Boy & Girl Scouts, USO, the annual Army and Air Force balls, the Wounded Warrior Program, and lots more organizations that are listed on the welfare webpage on the SCSC website. It also provided funds to German charities such as the Filderstadt and Esslingen animal shelters and the Deutsch-Amerikanisches Zentrum (German-American cultural center) in Stuttgart.

"The SCSC is proud to support German organizations with the goal of fostering a positive relationship with our host nation and encouraging educational and cultural experiences for Americans living here," Clark said.

The Welfare Committee encourages community members to engage in SCSC-supported events. It is a volunteer-driven organization that is always looking for community members to participate in events, volunteer to help raise funds and be active within the organization. Donations of time and items to the Thrift Store and Bazaars are essential in order to continue to support so many important Community events. Groups interested in submitting a grant request can find the form and information on the SCSC Welfare website. Grants are due by the 15th of each month and April is the last submission date for the fiscal year.

# CLEARANCE EVENT



**Special offers on select 2017 models in stock\***



Speak to your Sales Representative for more details.

[militaryautosource.com/toyota](http://militaryautosource.com/toyota)

Contact Your Local Sales Representative:

**STUTTGART** | Hauptstrasse 189-B | Stuttgart D-70563 | (07 11) 65 69 39 68

\*Savings vary by model and 2017 Toyota vehicles in stock. 48 hour delivery is available once vehicle is paid in full and on working business days. Valid in Germany for local delivery on stock vehicles only. Vehicle shown is for illustration only, and may contain optional equipment available at additional cost. Program and guarantees are subject to terms and conditions. Offered by Auto Exchange Kraftfahrzeug-Handels GmbH. (AKH940)



**GET READY TO PLAY.**  
Soccer, Tennis, Basketball, Softball, Track & Field, Volleyball  
**SPRING SPORTS REGISTRATION**  
**JAN. 22 - FEB. 23**

- BASEBALL, AGES 9 - 18, \$45 (AGES 9 - 14, \$26)
- SOFTBALL, AGES 9 - 18, \$45
- TRACK, AGES 9 - 18, \$45
- TENNIS, AGES 7 - 18, \$125
- VOLLEYBALL, AGES 9 - 18, \$45

MWV

**MILITARY SALES STUTTGART**   
www.militarysales-stuttgart.com  
Military Sales Agent OPEN  
BMW Niederlassung Stuttgart  
Hauptstraße 189A  
70563 Stuttgart  
Phone: +49 (0) 711 1318-5399  
WE ARE LOCATED DOWN THE STREET FROM PATCH BARRACKS.

**VOLVO** **Auto-Pieper**  
Volvo Military Sales

**Order the new XC40 NOW!!!**

Hauptstr. 189 b • 70563 Stuttgart • Outside Patch Barracks  
Jason.lappin@t-online.de +49 (0) 711 - 6204885  
[www.autopieper.com](http://www.autopieper.com)  
Find us on Facebook: Auto Pieper Volvo Military Sales

**S-Automobile**  
**WE BUY ALL CARS & TOW YOUR CAR**  
DAMAGED OLD ACCIDENT NON OP JUNKCARS  
CASH PAYMENT & HELP WITH PAPERWORK  
 Phone: 01635563333

**DENT TEX**  
SMART REPAIR  
Ulmenstr. 20/1  
71069 Sindelfingen  
07031 - 7 89 29 42 or  
0152 - 58 07 56 35  
dent-tex@outlook.de  
[www.dent-tex.com](http://www.dent-tex.com)

- Paintless Dent Removal
- Smart Repair
- Detailing Service
- Detailing for PCS shipping
- All kinds of paint work

**VAT forms accepted**

**Bosch Car Service**

**AUTOHAUS MACK GmbH**  
Complete auto service center  
Selling and repairing all models  
Opel/Vauxhall GM Service station  
Steinenbronner Str.30 • 71101 Schönaich  
Tel. 07031/65 20 36 • Fax.07031/65 29 75  
E-mail: [info@autohausmack.com](mailto:info@autohausmack.com) [www.autohausmack.com](http://www.autohausmack.com)

**VAT** You can find us 5 minutes from the Panzerkasern in direction Steinenbronn

Shell shop & Shell petrol station

**- GRAND OPENING -**  
**CARS 4 ALL**

### Professional vehicle detailing Böblingen

**Exterior cleaning:** Including polishing, high gloss sealing with high Quality special wax  
**Engine wash:** Including wax sealing  
**Rim cleaning:** Including wheel housing  
**Window cleaning:** Inside & outside  
**Interior cleaning:** Carpet & cushion shampooing, leather care, ceiling cleaning and ozone treatment  
**Light package:** Up to 50% more light intensity after headlight polishing

**Complete vehicle detailing for shipping**

**SPECIAL OFFER**  
**€199.00**  
(usually €369.00)

71034 Böblingen  
Junkersstraße 10  
Tel: 070318189043  
Fax: 070314651555  
Mobil: 017682426230  
[carsforall@outlook.de](mailto:carsforall@outlook.de)

We also offer house/apartment cleaning

**Ford Kuga ST-Line**

Feel the difference

**Autohaus Bolz**  
Otto Lilienthal-Str. 23 | 71034 Böblingen  
Tel. 0 70 31/19 91 • [www.Autohaus-Bolz.de](http://www.Autohaus-Bolz.de)  
New & used car sales • Auto repair & service  
Auto paint & body • Tires & accessories

**VISIT YOUR LOCAL VW / AUDI STORE NEXT TO STUTTGART AIRPORT**

**\* Sell \* Buy \* Finance \* Trade \* Paintjob \* Tires \* Oil  
\* Water \* Glass \* Clean \* Repair \* Service**

**10% off!**

We sell new and used cars. We also sell and repair old US cars! We accept VAT / VISA.  
0711 / 93 49 50-60 | [service@audi-drechsler.de](mailto:service@audi-drechsler.de) | #teamdrechsler

Autohaus Drechsler GmbH & Co. KG · Marie-Curie Str. 6  
73770 Denkendorf · [www.autohaus-drechsler.de](http://www.autohaus-drechsler.de)

**Drechsler.**

### Our experience - Your advantage

New and used car sales / Auto repair and services



### Welcome to the world of Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep and Hyundai in Böblingen.

Benefit from our diverse range of brands and over 2 decades of experience. Our medium-sized, family-run company offers you a full range of services for cars, new vehicles and used cars as well as professional full service.

**Simply drop in and find out what we can do for you. We are looking forward to your visit!**

Check us out on



Autohaus Meiling GmbH  
Wolf-Hirth-Straße 29  
71034 Böblingen

Phone (07031) 22 40 57  
Fax (07031) 22 40 44  
[www.autohausmeiling.de](http://www.autohausmeiling.de)

# Where to ski in Baden-Württemberg

Compiled by Alisha Pabon  
Special to The Stuttgart Citizen

For skiers, the German region of Baden-Württemberg is a veritable winter wonderland. It is home to more than 300 ski lifts and 90 kilometers of slopes averaging 977 meters long.

## Black Forest and Swabian Alb

Most ski lifts in Baden-Württemberg are situated in the southern part of the Black Forest and the Swabian Alb. Visitors will find many different slopes that vary in length and difficulty, affording all types of skiers with a run that's right for their level of expertise.

## Feldberg

At the Feldberg, in the southern part of the Black Forest, slopes are even rated at the World Cup level. The mountain is normally open from November to April, and sometimes extends opening dates if temperatures remain favorable. The Feldberg ski area operates 28 lifts on 50 kilometers of slopes at an average of 100 days per year.

During peak snowfall, the snowboard fun park at the bottom of the Seebuck offers two tables with two kicks each, as well as a selection of rails, jumps and jibs.

Located near the Feldberg area, the Seebuck, Grafenmatt and Fahl Alpin resorts, home to 25 kilometers of slopes and 12 lifts, offer one all-access pass.

The Fahler ski lifts are the highest in the Black Forest. Here, the slopes play host to the Fédération Internationale de Ski and World Cup races.

In Altglashütten, Falkau and Neuglashütten villages around the Feldberg, family-friendly lifts service 3.9 kilometers of groomed slopes. The ski areas of Feldberg, Menzenschwand, Muggenbrunn and Todtnauberg (with an alpine station and 13 kilometers of sunny slopes) have joined together to provide a combined lift ticket.

A seated ski lift at Seebuck is available especially for snowboarders and, depending on the snow conditions, offers specific boarder slopes with two kickers and three rails.



*Wikipedia photo by Volatus*

An aerial view of the Feldberg in the Black Forest, host to World Cup races.

The snowboard school Schneebrett is on site to supply tips and tricks.

A shuttle bus service brings skiers and boarders from the Bahnhof Titisee and Bahnhof Bärenthal to the Feldberg. The shuttles run every 30 minutes from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily between December and April, including weekends, holidays and school vacations. From the Bahnhof Todtnau, the shuttles run every hour.

## Belchenland (Belchen region)

Perhaps Baden-Württemberg's best-kept secret is the Belchenland (Belchen region), which guarantees snow throughout the ski season. The Belchenland, located in the southern part of the Black Forest, is a scenic alternative to the hustle and bustle of the busy Feldberg region. Not far from the Feldberg and with an elevation only slightly below it, the Belchen offers a wide variety of winter sports.

## Belchen

The Belchen ski resort is located between the Belchen mountain (1,414 meters above sea level) and the Feldberg (1,493 meters).

This winter sport area with the highest likelihood for snow in the German Mittelgebirge (mid-range mountains) is a major attraction for snow enthusiasts.

Almost 30 kilometers of groomed slopes and 10 ski lifts invite visitors to take their pick of downhill or mogul runs. The Belchenlift (a cable cabin) bring skiers up to almost 1,400 meters. The Hornlift in Fröhnd, not far from the Belchenlift, is one of the longest lifts in the Black Forest.

From atop of the Belchen, visitors can enjoy a 360-degree panoramic view. While in the area, they can also try the ski jump ramp in Multen. The center of alpine sports in the northern part of the Black Forest is located along the Schwarzwald-Hochstrasse (Black Forest High Road).

At about 600 to 1,100 meters above sea level, skiers will find 20 ski lifts, most of them equipped with floodlights, since ski slopes are open until 10 p.m. Three of the favored slopes are the Ruhestein with two lifts, Grenzstüble and Unterstamm with three lifts and a t-bar lift for small children and infants.

Equipment, downhill skis, sleds, cross-country skis and snowboards can be rented at most ski lift stations

throughout the valley.

## Triberg

Triberg, Schonach, Schönwald, Furtwangen and St. Georgen sport 11 ski lifts in 15 kilometers, up to 750 meters of downhill slopes, floodlights and a combination lift card that allows skiers to use all ski lifts.

## Aalen

Situated just above the city of Aalen, at the north face of the Swabian Alb (close to the Limes-thermal springs), you will find the Ostalb lifts. A half-pipe for snowboarders, t-bar lifts and floodlights for night skiing are also available. Albstadt features multiple lifts in the suburbs of Ebingen, including a 630-meter lift and a children's practice lift.

Truchtfingen's lift is 250 meters, Lautlingen offers a 400-meter lift, Onstmettingen's lift measures 200 meters, and Pfeffingen's lift is 250 meters. Tailfingen's 400-meter "Skilift am Schlossberg" is the first and only International Ski Federation race course of the Swabian Alb.

All of these ski resorts offer varying difficulties of slopes, children's ski schools and more. For more information, visit [www.sport-boerse-aalen.de](http://www.sport-boerse-aalen.de).

**INDIA HOUSE**  
AUTHENTIC AND DELICIOUS FOOD  
WE DELIVER!!

Vaihinger Markt 28 • 70563 Stuttgart-Vaihingen • 0711-72246790

Catering available for parties and meetings  
Daily lunch buffet €8.50  
5 minutes from Patch Barracks  
Parking in Vaihinger Markt Parkhouse

[WWW.INDIAHOUSE28.DE](http://WWW.INDIAHOUSE28.DE)

Hours:  
Mon-Fri 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. & 5:30 - 11:00 p.m.  
Sat 5:30 - 11:00 p.m.  
Sun 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. & 6:00 - 10:00 p.m.





# UNITED FURNITURE

[www.unitedfurniture.today](http://www.unitedfurniture.today)  
*It's Worth the Journey*

## Chateau Diningroom Set

### Rustica Collection Special offer

Table \$455 and  
4 Chairs \$169



**\$1131**

or 54,26 per month\*

### Johnny

Johnny in bonded leather available in dark brown or black and white  
comes with Recliners and Cupholders



**\$1795** or 73,24 per month \*

\*Payment based On 36 Payments Including 16 % interest.

## Urban Chic Collection

Choose  
your  
colors



Over 400 Bedroom, Dining, Living Pieces to choose from



Over 40 years experience SERVING the American family Overseas



## Ramstein Area



United Furniture  
Bahnstrasse 8  
66849 Landstuhl  
06371 468846

Ramstein Area  
66849 Landstuhl,  
Bahnstraße 8,  
Tel. 06371-468846

Wiesbaden Area  
55252 Mainz – Kastel  
Boelckeestr. 60a  
Tel. 06134-62064

Grafenwöhr  
96255 grafenwöhr  
Alte-Amberger Str. 52  
Tel. 09641 923112

91623 Sachsen b.  
Ansbach,  
Neukirchnerstr. 4,  
Tel. 09827-240340

Warehouse and Office  
66989 Höhfröschen,  
Lessingstr. 15,  
Tel. 06334-98389411