

THE CITIZEN

Vol. 39, No. 1

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart

January 14, 2010

Serving the Greater Stuttgart Military Community

Time to rewind: 2009

Take a look back at last year with our special section, pages 6-9



[1] Brittany Carlson



[2] Brittany Carlson



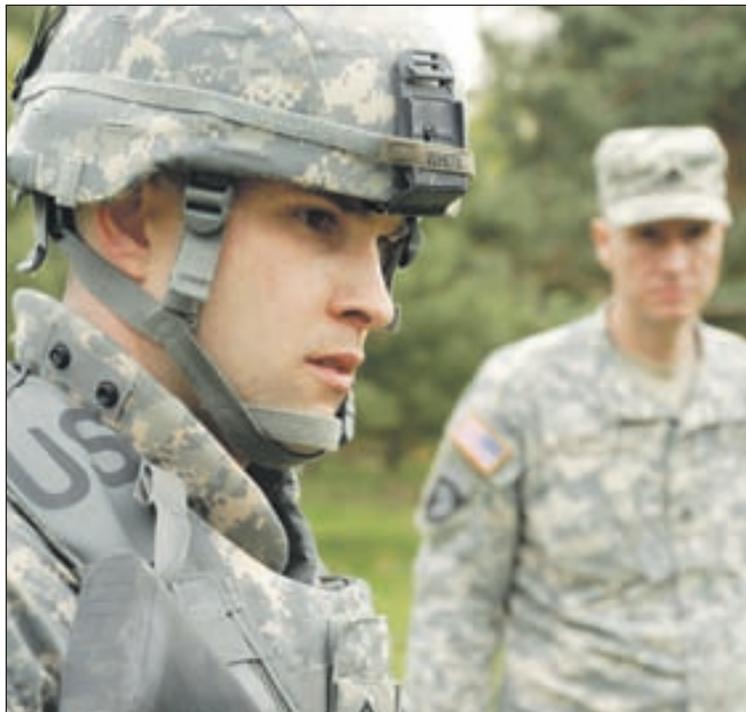
[3] Master Sgt. Donald Sparks



[4] Joyce Costello



[8] Brittany Carlson



[7] Jesse Granger



[5] Susan Huseman

Clockwise from top left: (1) The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Arts and Crafts program was named the best in the Army for the third year running. (2) Elmo and his friends showed children ways to deal with deployed parents as part of the Sesame Street USO Experience for Military Families. (3) Service members from 10 countries, including 100 assigned to U.S. Special Operations Command Europe, took part in the Jackal Stone multinational special operations exercise. (4) The USAG Stuttgart intramural soccer team finished third in the U.S. Forces Soccer Championship tournament Oct. 22-25. (5) The 554th Military Police Company deployed to Afghanistan in May. (6) The Stuttgart Theatre Center's production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" earned 13 IMCOM-E Tournament of Plays "Topper" awards. (7) Staff Sgt. Ronald White, a USAG Stuttgart Military Police noncommissioned officer, was named the top garrison, IMCOM, and IMCOM-E noncommissioned officer of the year. (8) Community children perform during the garrison Winterfest celebration.

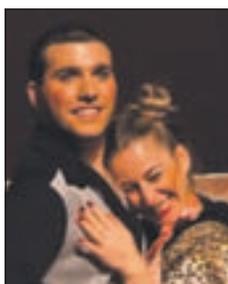


[6] Susan Huseman

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"Honk!" teaches it's OK to be different

The comedy, based on the story "The Ugly Duckling," is a mixture of fun and food for thought. The show is now playing in its last weekend at the Kelley Theatre.



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Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!

Baden-Württemberg is home to some of Germany's best ski slopes and resorts. Check out our guide to some of them, or take one of Outdoor Rec's many ski trips.



INSIDE
THIS
EDITION

ON THE STREET

What is your fitness routine for winter?



“Every morning at the gym, run, weights and cardio.”

Maj. Arthur Aghimien
(U.S. Air Force)



“Run when it’s snowing and cross-fit when it’s cold.”

Lt. Col. Jeff Carpenter
(U.S. Marine Corps)



“After work, every day I go to the Patch Gym.”

Spc. Megaun Mitchell
(U.S. Army)

2009 marks year of community service for Stuttgart Girl Scouts

Commentary by **Adriana Watkins**
Special to The Citizen

The Girl Scouts have been busy this past year. Our focus was to give back to our community through service projects.

In 2009, Girl Scout Troop 182 attended and was color guard for a memorial service on a farm right outside the town of Edelweiler, where two American planes crashed over a farmer’s field on Aug. 11, 1955. All on board were killed. The farmer that owns the field has not planted crops on it since the accident. Every year, a memorial service is held on this spot. It was an excellent opportunity for our troop to honor these men.

On the Make a Difference Day weekend in October, one ton of pet food was collected by the Girl Scouts and delivered to a local Teirheim, or animal shelter. After one van was unloaded, the staff was very grateful, and were surprised when more vans full of food pulled up. They received enough food to feed all of their animals for two weeks.

The Teirheim received a second visit after the Cadette Service Day. Twenty-four Girl Scouts gathered together to make dog tug toys and gourmet dog treats.

Also, many holiday and get-well cards were designed for active duty service members and wounded warriors. Salt cookie ornaments were colored for decorations for a hospital.

Finally, sewing kits were put together for African women in need of income. So many kits were made that not only did African women get them, but also women and orphans in Eastern Europe.

When you think of Girl Scouts, you think of cookies. The USO received 100 dozen cookies made by Girl Scout families. These were given out to single Soldiers for the Christmas season. So many were made that some were even sent downrange.

As you can see, a lot can be accomplished when the Girl Scout troops of the Stuttgart area work together. It was more than beneficial to do all of these service projects — we had a lot of fun in the process.

CORRECTION

In the story “Patch food court to become mini-mall in 2010” in the Dec. 17 issue of *The Citizen* (Page 13), we wrote that the \$2 million construction project was funded by U.S. European Command and the Army and Air Force Exchange Service. The story should have read “funded by the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart and the Army and Air Force Exchange Service.”

THE CITIZEN

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



Combined Federal Campaign for the Army in Europe

21 December 2009

1. Thank you for your generous contributions to this year’s Combined Federal Campaign - Overseas! Soldiers and civilian employees from among the widespread commands of the United States Army Europe and the United States Army Installation Management Command, Europe Region, have pledged more than \$2 million to worthy nonprofit charities. Notably, much of the money that you have contributed will remain right here in Europe—to help our Soldiers, civilian workforce, and Families in a variety of important ways.

2. We are especially proud that so many of you made the decision to contribute this year. This is truly significant at a time when many of our fellow citizens and host-nation counterparts have experienced great economic difficulties. Although many in the Army Family were also affected by this economic downturn, you still chose to unselfishly sacrifice your personal resources to aid others who need our help. You are the very best of America and have once again demonstrated that Soldiers, Army civilians, and our Families can and do make a world of difference to the quality of life of others less fortunate than ourselves.

3. Again, many thanks for your thoughtfulness, compassion, and outstanding generosity!

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General, USA
Commanding General,
United States Army Europe

DIANE M. DEVENS
Director, IMCOM-Europe

RALPH R. BEAM
Command Sergeant Major,
United States Army Europe

TRACEY E. ANBIYA
Command Sergeant Major,
IMCOM-Europe

Transition team helps students prepare for future

By **Brittany Carlson**

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Newcomers with children arrive in the Stuttgart military community with a variety of questions, such as “Where will my child go to school?,” “Will their classes transfer?” and “Can they still be in the band?”

To find the answers, they only need to call one office: School Transition Services Support. STSS was created to help citizens in U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart transition into, within and out of the community.

STSS also serves as the primary adviser to the garrison commander on all school-related matters.

“We’re bridging gaps for families moving into Stuttgart, or moving out, with services and the knowledge they need to make a smooth transition,” said Rena Hall, school liaison officer. “I like to think of us as a resource and referral bank.”

Besides helping families move in and out, Hall and her co-worker, Lorien Gustafson, also help students transition within the school system, from pre-school students moving on to kindergarten, to high school students preparing for college and the workforce.

“We can focus on individual family needs,” Gustafson said. “We are so specific.”

Beginning this month, high school students and their parents can find specific answers to questions in the free “R U Ready for Life After High School?” class taught by the SLOs. The class, which started Jan. 6 and continues



Levi Smith

School Liaison Officers Rena Hall (left) and Lorien Gustafson (center) give students pointers during the first “R U Ready for Life After High School” session Jan. 6.

through February, provides a tool kit for teens planning to attend college or find a job after graduation. It includes tips on dealing with roommates, managing an apartment and budget planning.

“We’re hoping to teach them the value of a dollar, how far it can go, [and] to set smart goals,” Gustafson said.

The class meets Monday and Wednesday at the Hub on Patch Barracks at 6 p.m. Parents are encouraged to attend.

Additionally, SLOs visit schools to talk with students about their future.

“We try to talk about making wise choices,” said Hall. For example, she talks with high school students about choosing a nutritious lunch venue when they leave school for lunch.

The best way to find a SLO, besides calling or e-mailing, is to attend

a School Advisory Council meeting, tenant meeting or town hall meeting. At these venues, SLOs take students’ and parents’ issues discussed directly to the commander.

“We’re the direct link from the command to school,” Gustafson said.

They also serve as communication agents between companies, schools and families. For example, they give each school’s required supply list to the Army and Air Force Exchange Service early, to ensure that the store is stocked with the right supplies in time for school.

STSS also helps form partnerships between schools and garrison tenant units with volunteer programs. Interested units should contact STSS.

For more information, call the STSS office at 430-7460/civ. 0711-680-7460.

Disobeying VAT rules has stiff consequences

IMCOM-Europe Region Public Affairs Office

Thinking of using a value-added tax relief form to buy a house or buy your host nation landlord a nice gift? Think again. VAT relief doesn’t work like that.

People need to be aware of how to use VAT forms in order to avoid negative repercussions, said Rafael Wunsch, program manager and business consultant for Installation Management Command-Europe Region.

Relief from host nation VAT is not an entitlement of U.S. Forces members stationed in Europe — it’s a privilege granted by the host nation, Wunsch said.

“VAT relief is intended to provide individual tax relief for personal purchases for authorized personnel. It is not intended to help you purchase real estate or help you avoid paying taxes on gifts for non-authorized personnel,” Wunsch said.

Tax relief forms are not discount

coupons, but important host nation tax documents, he added, and not following the rules will have consequences.

In addition to a loss of tax relief privileges, host nation authorities could file charges against individuals for tax evasion. Also, individuals could be required to pay unpaid taxes and fines.

Wunsch said the most common VAT misuse issues are:

- Splitting a purchase of more than €2,500 across multiple VAT forms instead of using the VAT form designed for purchases of more than €2,500 (NF-2)
- Conducting unauthorized repairs or replacements related to real estate
- Using VAT forms for telecommunication expenses or utilities
- Using a VAT form to buy a vehicle, then registering it in the German system
- Using VAT forms to make purchases for unauthorized personnel
- Following incorrect guidelines provided by vendors, or
- Placing an order with a vendor first, then coming to the VAT office for relief.

The solution to any potential con-

flict is to talk with the VAT Office or program management before the purchase, Wunsch said.

“Keep in mind that host nation rules require us to manage all VAT forms within a central database,” he added. “This database is designed to identify unusual buying behaviors and red-flag certain transactions for closer scrutiny.”

Individuals must turn in properly-filled-out white copies of VAT forms in a reasonable time after the purchase, Wunsch said. Also, individuals must turn in all VAT forms — used and unused — upon departure from Germany. Official guidelines for VAT use are found in Army Europe Regulation 215-6.

“Keep in mind that shoppers can use German VAT forms only with companies that report earnings in Germany,” said Wunsch, who added that vendors are not required to accept VAT forms.

In case German fiscal authorities deny a tax relief transaction, shoppers are responsible to pay the taxes.

For more information, visit your local VAT office.

News & Notes

Stuttgart airport shuttle now in operation

The Panzer Auto Skills Center Stuttgart Airport Shuttle now operates seven days a week.

Caserne pick-up locations include housing, gates and hotels. The cost is \$15 per person, with a 10 percent discount for a family of two or more. All fees must be paid 24 hours in advance.

For reservations or more information, call 431-2555/civ. 07031-15-2555.

Clinic reveals new improvements

The Stuttgart Health Clinic is receiving several renovations and employees in the new year. These include:

- New vital sign machines and diagnostic sets in exam rooms
- New exam tables in all rooms
- New painting, beginning in February, which will cause two to three rooms to close at a time
- New nursing reception station installed no later than April.
- New pediatrician expected Feb. 1
- New optometrist, who arrived Jan. 11

Mandatory SAEDA briefings scheduled

The Stuttgart Military Intelligence Detachment is scheduling the Subversion and Espionage Directed against the U.S. Army briefings, which are mandatory for Department of Defense civilians and military personnel.

Per U.S. Army Europe and Installation Management Command-Europe direction, all personnel must attend a SAEDA briefings by Feb. 1.

Patch Theatre briefings will take place on:

- Jan. 14 at 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m.
- Jan. 19 at 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Kelley Theatre briefings will take place on:

- Jan. 20 at 8 a.m. and 9 a.m.
- Jan. 21 at 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.
- Jan. 25 at 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.
- Jan. 26 at 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

For more information, call 430-4692/civ. 0711-680-4692.

'Honk!' production delivers laughs, food for thought

Review by **Brittany Carlson**

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Who knew life on the farm could be so complicated — or funny?

Parental squabbles, sibling rivalry and the struggle to be accepted are just a few of the issues explored in the Stuttgart Theatre Center's first production of "Honk! The Musical."

That's not to say watching the play was difficult, however. In fact, the show is three-hour treat for children and parents alike.

The talented cast brings animals to life in the witty, British version of the traditional "Ugly Duckling" story. Mother duck Ida's eggs hatch, but one is different. "Ugly" doesn't fit in with his goofy looks and

"I think people are surprised when they see it. They think it's a children's story, but there's sort of an adult level that goes on too."

Richard Roberts
Honk! Director

loud honking, so he is shunned on the farm — until he becomes a beautiful swan.

The plot allowed director Richard Roberts and choreographer Barb Heidt to get creative with the costuming and dancing. The plaid-wearing chickens delight audiences by pecking the air as they talk, and a troop of "froglets" in tuxedos perform a jazz number.

All of the characters, including the duck family — sporting yellow clogs and a Scottish brogue — are so well-played that the lines between being an audience member and becoming part of the story are blurred.

Stefano Mileci's portrayal of "The Cat," the barnyard fiend with a Latin flair and a passion for duck



Ron Paoletti

Ugly gets some perspective from a troop of jazz-loving frogs in "Honk!," the comedy about being different, now showing in its final weekend at the Kelley Theatre.

l'orange, is a comedy act in itself

"You forgot that you were watching people; you thought that you were watching animals," said Jan Lowry, a Patch Elementary School teacher during her second viewing of the show.

Director Roberts does an excellent job of bringing the audience into the scene, especially during the snowstorm, when a disco ball shines "snowflakes" around the entire theater.

While the moral of the story — "It's okay to be different" — is simple, the relationships between characters are more complex.

"I think people are surprised when they see it," said Roberts. "They think it's a children's [story], but there's sort of an adult level that goes on, too."

Lori Parsons' portrayal of Ida, the mother duck,

is top-notch. Adults will laugh when she tries to get Drake, her husband, to take a turn sitting on the eggs, and then cry with her, as she laments losing her son.

Evan Stevens, 16, is also a notable performer as "Ugly," the awkward "duck" who becomes a swan. Even as a pubescent ball of feathers, Stevens' singing is strong, and his acting reveals his understanding of the character and point of the show.

"I think it explains something that's very deep and emotional, but it explains it in a fun way," he said.

This weekend is the show's final run. Performances are Jan. 15-16 at 7:30 p.m. and Jan. 17 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$14 for adults and \$12 for students.

For more information, or to reserve tickets, call 421-3258/3055/civ. 0711-729-3258/3055.

Coffee shop offers free java, social venue for teens

Story and photo by **Levi Smith**
Special to *The Citizen*

As the colder months arrive in Germany this year, finding a warm place to hang out is something on the minds of many local high school students.

Teens in U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart don't need to look further than the new Common Grounds coffee shop, located on Patch Barracks.

"Common Grounds is a fun, friendly environment," said Kevin Perry, a freshman at Patch High School. "You can chillax with your friends, do homework and drink coffee."

The coffee shop, located on the third floor of Building 2312, underwent renovations during the summer and opened its doors this past October. It offers free drinks and snacks in a coffee-shop atmosphere.

The cafe is sponsored and run by volunteers working for the local chapel



The Common Grounds coffee house is a 'safe alternative' hang-out for teens.

youth group, Common Bond.

"This is something for the students. This is a place where students can come and belong," said Leah Vanderlaan, Common Bond youth leader and cafe sponsor. "We want to show love, without expecting anything in

return."

For students in the community, the cafe is also a safe alternative place to hang out, she added.

The coffee shop is open on Monday from 2:30-5:30 p.m. for junior high students, Tuesday from 2:30-5:30 p.m.,

and Friday from 6-10 p.m. for high school students.

Currently, Common Bond offers a variety of free hot and cold drinks, cakes and cookies.

"It's nice not having to pay for the coffee," said senior Brandon Cryzter. "You know that [the employees] are doing it out of love."

Common Grounds also provides opportunities for students to express themselves with open mike nights on the first and last Friday of every month. On these nights, students can perform music, sing or read poetry.

Common Bond volunteers are also planning to host karaoke and comedy nights in the coming months.

"The people there want the best for those students," said Army Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Rickey Moore, part of the garrison Religious Support Office, which helped fund the cafe. "It is a big asset to the youth culture in the area [and] there's a freedom to it."

NAF jobs available

DFMWR is hiring for the below Nonappropriated Fund positions:

- CYS Administrative Assistant, Kelley CDC
- Child and Youth Program Assistants at various CYS Services locations
- FMD Clerk, Kelley Barracks
- PRE-K Program Associate, Patch CDC
- Receptionist, Panzer Veterinary Treatment Facility
- Supervisory Program Lead, Kelley CDC.

For more information, contact the NAF Human Resources Office at 431-3126/civ. 07031-15-3126.

ACAP briefings scheduled

The Army Career and Alumni Program will host the following upcoming briefings and workshops:

- Interviewing Workshop, Jan. 21 from 1-3 p.m.
- VA Benefits Briefing, Feb. 10 from 8 a.m. to noon.
- VA DTAP Briefing, Feb. 10 from 1-3 p.m.
- Advanced Resume Writing, Feb. 11 from 1-4 p.m.
- Federal Resume Writing, Feb. 18 from 1-4 p.m.
- TAP Workshop, Feb. 23-25 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Susan Huseman

Snow gives new meaning to 'freeze tag'

A fresh layer of snow and frigid temperatures did not stop Böblingen Elementary/Middle School students from enjoying recess Jan. 8. While the snow wiped out the possibility of tetherball and basketball, it did not stop the students from an informal game of chase. After-school activities, however, were cancelled.

Register online at www.acapexpress.army.mil. For more information, call Andrea Rumpler at 431-2191/civ. 07031-15-2191, or e-mail andrea.rumpler@us.army.mil.

Red Cross CPR class scheduled

The American Red Cross will host a babysitter/CPR class Jan. 28 from 3-6 p.m. and Jan. 29 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in

the American Red Cross Office in Room 314, Building 2915, Panzer Kaserne. The cost is \$40, including materials. Class size is limited.

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

Start new year with 'Financial Peace'

Deployments, moves or just plain 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 USAG Stuttgart Chaplain's Office sponsors the class, which begins Jan. 19. The class meets every Tuesday for 13 weeks at Panzer Chapel Fellowship Hall from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Child care is available upon request.

For more information, call 430-5193/civ. 0711-680-5193 or e-mail FPUstuttgart@yahoo.com.

Stuttgart Teen council to meet Jan. 22

USAG Stuttgart Teen

Council meetings will take place Jan. 22, Feb. 19, and March 19 at the Patch HUB from 3:15-4:15 p.m.

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

Submit issues for AFAP conference

What idea do you have to make things better?

USAG Stuttgart's annual Army Family Action Plan conference is your chance to be heard.

Pick up an issue form around base or fill one out online at www.stuttgartmwr.com and let garrison leadership know about your idea for change.

All service members, family members, contractors, civilians and retirees can submit suggestions for improvements. All submissions will be seen by the garrison commander.

The deadline for submissions for the 2010 Stuttgart conference is Feb. 5.

The AFAP conference will be held Feb. 25-26 at the Swabian Special Event Center on Patch Barracks.

All community members and service members are in-

vited to attend. Registration closes Feb. 5. To register, e-mail lisa.ordukaya@eur.army.mil, or call 431-3643/civ. 07031-15-3643.

For more information about submitting issues, call 431-3643/civ. 07031-15-3362 for more information.

RB Club hosts grand opening Jan. 20

The Robinson Barracks Community Club will host a grand opening Jan. 20 with free food samples from 5-7 p.m.

The RB Club will offer a wide variety of German and American dishes, as well as a children's menu and play area. The menu is available online at www.stuttgartmwr.com or call 0172-790-9859 to make a dinner reservation.

Visit the community flea market

The next USAG Stuttgart Community Flea Market will be held Feb. 20 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Patch Community Club.

To sign up to sell your wares or for additional information, call 430-2110/civ. 0711-680-2110 or 0774-248-9940.

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Read **The Citizen** online at www.stuttgart.army.mil

New projects, leaders, people the stars of 2009

2009 brought the Stuttgart community new leadership, construction, projects and accolades.

By **Brittany Carlson**

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

2009 is over. 2010 has begun in U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart, with its own goals to be accomplished.

So, why look back? Why not put 2009 in the past and move forward into the future?

One reason could be this: to see how far this community can go.

Former Olympian Mark Spitz once said, "Past performance speaks a tremendous amount about one's ability and likelihood for success."

If Spitz is right, then USAG Stuttgart is in good shape.

In 2009, both programs and people in the Stuttgart military community earned praise for their hard work, high level of service to military families and exhibitions of bravery and honor.

Several Soldiers stationed in Stuttgart were honored for their work, not only at home, but throughout the

world.

2009 was the Year of the NCO, and USAG Stuttgart's own Staff Sgt. Ronald White won not only the garrison NCO of the Year Award, but Installation Management Command-Europe and IMCOM's top NCO award as well.

"On a day-to-day basis, NCOs are the driving force behind the Army," said White, after winning the IMCOM-Europe award. "My NCOs were behind me every step of the way."

Nine Soldiers in Company B, 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group, received valor awards for heroic acts facing enemy fire in Afghanistan in April. Additionally, 10 Soldiers in the 1/10th were awarded for their actions during a 2008 International Security Assistance Force-Afghanistan mission.

USAG Stuttgart civilian employees and agencies received many accolades as well. Susan Morris, a Böblingen Elementary/Middle School Social Studies teacher, was named the Department of Defense Education Activity's Teacher of the Year for 2010.

The garrison Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation walked out of 2009 with a pile of awards, including Outstanding Installation Recreation Program, and Outstanding Recreation Program for Arts and Crafts, Entertainment, and Sports

and Fitness in Installation Management Command-Europe.

The Arts and Crafts program was named best in the Army for third year running.

"It's our diversity," said Kelly Sarles, Arts and Crafts program director, after learning of the program win. "We keep up with the latest trends and we're always changing to meet the needs of our customers."

DFMWR also won the FMWR Command Exemplary Employee Development Award for 2009, also for the third time.

In addition, the FMWR Entertain-

ment Branch took 13 IMCOM-E Tournament of Plays "Topper" awards for its performance of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

The garrison Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program was awarded the 19th Annual Secretary of Defense Community Drug Awareness Award at the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes in Washington, D.C. This marked the first time that USAG Stuttgart — or even an IMCOM-E — ASAP program earned the award.

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

Throughout 2009, more than \$50 million in construction projects began, including a new CDC and shoppette on Kelley Barracks. Toward the end of the year, construction began on the Patch Food Court, which will become a mini-mall in 2010. The Robinson Barracks Community Club finished construction at end of year. The grand opening is set for Jan. 20.

In addition, the new Washington Square Parade Field on Patch Barracks opened with a historic flag-raising ceremony.

Last year, the Stuttgart military community saw many changes in leadership as well.

U.S. European Command received a new commander when Army Gen. John Craddock handed leadership to Navy Adm. James G. Stavridis June 30. Defense Information Systems Agency-Europe Commander, Army Col. Michelle Fraley, relinquished command to Army Col. Elizabeth Bierden Aug. 14, and the command of Special Operations Command Africa was passed from Brig. Gen. Patrick M. Higgins to Army Col. Christopher K. Haas Aug. 24.

U.S. Marine Corps Forces Europe and U.S. Marine Corps Forces Africa gained new leadership when Brig. Gen. Paul W. Brier assumed command from Maj. Gen. Tracy L. Garrett Sept. 10.

Now, the garrison looks to future. With the opening of the new hotel and CDC, the dawn of new leadership and new opportunities for success, the community has much to look forward to.

Past performance speaks a tremendous amount about one's ability and likelihood for success.

Mark Spitz
Former Olympian



A year of sports

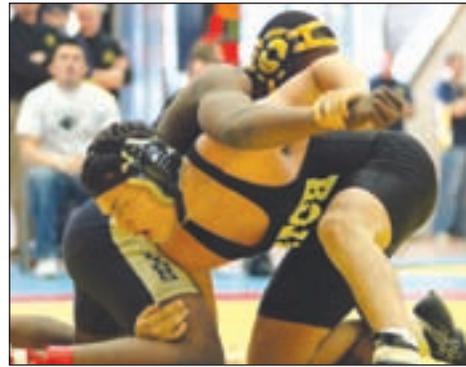
January 24



The Patch High School rifle team takes first place in a West Conference meet, scoring 1,409 out of 1,500 possible points.

Susan Huseman

January 24



Susan Huseman

The Patch High School wrestling team wins the Department of Defense Dependent Schools-Europe tournament.

February 21

The PHS cheer-leading squad takes second place at the DoDDS-Europe Division 1 Cheerleading competition.



Kelli Bland

February 7



Robert Moran

The Stuttgart Piranhas swim team leaves the European Forces League Championships with 37 medals.

January 31

USAG Stuttgart hosts the Installation Management Command-Europe's Army Strong Boxing Officials Clinic Tournament, following the clinic.



Larry Reilly

April 18

The Child, Youth and School Services soccer season opens, and more than 700 children played ball.



Larry Reilly

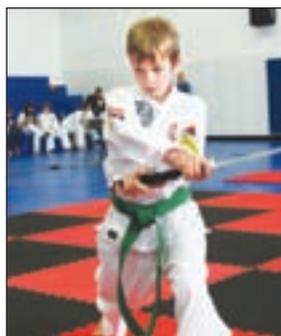
June 28



Susan Huseman

Eighteen men and women ages 18 to 40-plus display their tennis skills in the Stuttgart Open tournament.

May 9-10



Brittany Carlson

Forty-three young Stuttgart martial artists kick, jab and punch their way into qualifying for the World Games during the European Military World Qualifier.

July 17



Larry Tannenbaum

The Stuttgart Wolverines compete in the Junior League Baseball Championship game.

July

The Stuttgart Golf Course opens four new practice greens.



Susan Huseman

September



Brittany Carlson

Emma Murray joins the PHS football team as the first female in years.

October 30



Ben Bloker

Katherine Castro, PHS freshman, wins the European cross-country championship.

November 7

Child, Youth and School services hosted its Flag Football and Soccer Championships. The Bantam Cowboys took the football victory, and the Junior Tigers landed the win for soccer.



Larry Reilly

August 22

The garrison Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation hosts a bodybuilding and figure competition.



Susan Huseman

Timeline: A look back at 2009 in USAG Stuttgart

January 22



Larry Reilly

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart leaders and local officials break ground for the Panzer Hotel, a \$31.5 million construction project on Panzer Kaserne designed to ease the lodging burden in the Stuttgart military community. The Army Lodging hotel, scheduled to be completed this year, will house 218 rooms on seven floors.

March 4

The garrison's newest dining option, Pancho Villa's Western Restaurant, opens in the Kelley Club on Kelley Barracks with an array of Mexican and American-style foods.

Susan Huseman



Susan Huseman

April 11

Hundreds of children and adults scramble to gather eggs at the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation-sponsored egg hunt.

April 16

Taxis are authorized to operate on U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart installations. Community residents can now be picked up and dropped off at home or the office.

June 29

Garrison officials break ground on Kelley Barracks for two new construction projects: a \$5 million child development center and a shopette. When complete, the CDC will have a capacity for 100 children and provide full-day care.



Melissa Wolff

July 18-23

Staff Sgt. Ronald White, USAG Stuttgart Military Policeman, becomes Installation Management Command's top noncommissioned officer for 2009, following garrison and IMCOM-Europe victories. White became the top NCO during the Army's 2009 "Year of the NCO" campaign.



Brittany Carlson

August 26

The remodeled Washington Square parade field on Patch Barracks opens.

June 5



Susan Huseman

The Patch High School class of 2009 graduates. Ninety-five seniors accepted their diplomas during the ceremony, which included an address by Gen. William E. "Kip" Ward, U.S. Africa Command commander.

October/November



Brittany Carlson

Böblingen Elementary/Middle School teacher Susan Morris is named the Department of Defense Education Activity's Teacher of the Year for 2010. Morris went on to compete in the national competition.

December 15

The newly-renovated Robinson Barracks Community Club bar and lounge opens to offer a preview of the finished club, set to have a grand opening on Jan. 20, 2010. The Club also hosted its first party in the new community events area on New Year's Eve.

October 19-23



Eddie Eggleston

Patch High School celebrates Homecoming 2009 with a spirit week and sports competitions, including the annual powder puff football game, won by the senior class.



Birgit Thompson

November 17

USAG Stuttgart conducts its annual force protection exercise, Stallion Shake. In the training scenario, the post office at Stuttgart Army Air Field found "Anthrax" in a suspicious package.

February 11-12

The Stuttgart military community hosts its annual Army Family Action Plan conference. Service members from all branches and civilians discussed 260 quality of life issues in the community. About 120 community members discussed issues including Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder education and the ability to transfer G. I. Bill benefits.

February 7



Susan Huseman

Local area Scouts celebrate the 99th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America at the Greater Stuttgart Area Scout Show. They participated in Pinewood Derby races and demonstrated Scout skills.

May 8



Brittany Carlson

Miss America 2009, Katie Stam, visits the schools on Patch Barracks to speak to students about leadership and volunteering.

May 15



Susan Huseman

The 554th Military Police Company says goodbye to family and friends during a ceremony before deploying to Afghanistan for a year on May 31.



Brittany Carlson

July 4

Hundreds of community members gather on Patch Barracks' Husky Field for food, games, rides, music and fireworks to celebrate Independence Day.

July 29



Birgit Thompson

Seventeen Soldiers in 3rd Platoon, 566th Postal Company, return to USAG Stuttgart from a 15-month deployment to Iraq, where they delivered mail in the region of Baghdad.

September 11



Susan Huseman

USAG Stuttgart earns four Installation Management Command-Europe Recreation Awards for its FMWR Recreation, Arts and Crafts, Entertainment, and Sports and Fitness programs.

December 4



Brittany Carlson

The garrison holds its annual holiday celebration, Winterfest. The fest included German Christmas market treats and several performances by community children.

July 11



Brittany Carlson

The 1/10th Special Forces Group hosts a "Run to Remember" half-marathon and five-kilometer race. Community members ran in memory of service members who were killed during the War on Terror. More than 225 community members participated in the run.

October 16-17

The German-American Women's Club of Stuttgart raises €107,000 at its annual Pfennig Bazaar, setting a fundraising record. The money was later donated to various German and American community programs.

November 2



Brittany Carlson

Fourteen new noncommissioned officers were inducted into the NCO corps during a ceremony in Kelley Theater. Two of the Soldiers were promoted during the ceremony.

December

Stuttgart military community members enjoy their last meals in the old Patch Barracks food court, as it prepares to shut down for renovations. Construction crews arrived and began creating a new glass atrium for diners, which will be connected to a mini-mall, housing hair styling and car rental services, among others.

PCS briefing scheduled for Jan. 20

The next scheduled permanent change of station/pre-separation briefing will be held Jan. 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. Army personnel will receive briefings on personnel and finance issues.

All separating Army personnel must attend this briefing to receive pre-separation information. Pre-registration is required.

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

National Prayer Breakfast set

The National Prayer Breakfast Observance will be held Feb. 9 at 7 a.m. in the Swabian Special Events Center on Patch Barracks.

This year's guest speaker will be pastor, best-selling author, award-winning speaker and international business strategist Ron Archer.

Tickets will be available at chaplains' offices on Panzer Kaserne (431-3079/civ. 07031-15-3079), Patch Barracks (430-9213/civ. 0711-680-9213) and Robinson Barracks (420-6124/civ. 0711-819-6124).

Chapel to offer retreat for couples

The Religious Support Office will host a Couple's Enrichment Retreat at the Edelweiss Lodge in Garmisch Jan. 29 to Feb. 1.

For reservations, call the Family Life Center at 431-3514/civ. 07031-15-3514.

Patch Dining Facility open on Jan. 18

The Patch Dining Facility will be open on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Jan. 18, from 8:30-10 a.m. for breakfast, and from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for lunch.



Susan Huseman

Snow fun!

Max Torterelli, a third-grader at Böblingen Elementary/Middle School, patiently attempts to roll a snowball in order to build a snowman during recess Jan. 8. Try and try as he might, the snow did not cooperate — it wouldn't stick.

Health clinic to close Jan. 18 for holiday

The Stuttgart Army Health Clinic will close on Jan. 18 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Fitness centers to host 'Lose to Win'

Is weight loss and better health on your list of New Year's resolutions?

If so, sign up for the USAG Stuttgart Fitness Centers' "Lose to Win" program. The 12-week competition rewards the person who can lose the most weight/body fat in a healthy manner.

Participants will have five weigh-in/body fat measurements at the Patch Fitness Center.

There are male, female, two-person team and "office" categories. The office category is for groups of seven

or more.

Awards will include AAFES gift certificates. For more information, call 430-7136/civ. 0711-680-7136.

Join Tuesday night bowling league

The Tuesday Night Family Fun Bowling League is now open to two-person teams (ages 12 or older).

The league meets at the Galaxy Bowling Center on Panzer Kaserne each Tuesday night at 6:30 p.m.

The membership fee is \$18, and weekly bowling is \$10 per person. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

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

Donate blood at Jan. 19 drive

The Armed Services Blood Program will host a Stuttgart Community Blood Drive Jan.

19 in the Kelley Barracks Fitness Center from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The program only collects blood from the military community, including service members, retirees and civilians.

Now, 17-year-olds can donate as well.

To make an appointment, visit www.militarylifeforce.com, click on "Landstuhl" and search for the Stuttgart drive. Walk-ins are also welcome.

BEMS to host spelling bee semifinal

Böblingen Elementary/Middle School will hold its spelling bee semifinals on Jan. 25-26 from 1:45-2:45 p.m.

The final is slated for Jan. 28 at 1:20 p.m.

The top two finalists will be eligible to compete in the European spelling bee on March 13 at Ramstein Air Base.

For more information, contact Mrs. Woughter at bulldogp@stuttgart.army.mil



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For the latest announcements, visit www.stuttgart.army.mil



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Fax: +49 711 678 80 26
E-Mail: email@ibcstuttgart.de
Web: www.ibcstuttgart.de

ta@gmail.com. Put "spelling bee" in the subject line.

Visit 'The Beats' show at ARThaus

The ARThaus will present "The Beats" Jan. 21-22 from 4-8 p.m. and Jan. 23 from 1-5 p.m. on the second floor of the Swabian Special Event Center on Patch Barracks.

This is a retrospective exhibition that examines the social mindset and artistic expression of the 50s and 60s through art, film, music, spoken word and poetry.

For more information, call the Patch Multi-Crafts Center at 430-5270/civ. 0711-680-5270.

Visit international job fair

The Association of the United States Army Stuttgart Job Fair is scheduled for Jan. 15-17 at the Stuttgart Marriott Hotel in Sindelfingen from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Major defense contractors will be in attendance.

Guests can pre-register for the fair online at www.ausa.org/stuttgart.

Learn about Army Emergency Relief

Army Community Service will host a series of workshops on the Army Emergency Relief Commander's Referral Program.

Classes for commanders and first sergeants will be held in Building 2915 on Panzer Kaserne from 10-11:30 a.m. on Feb. 2, May 4 and Aug. 3.

For more information, call 431-2085/civ. 07031-15-2085.

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Civilian fitness program one way to keep 2010 resolutions

By Amy Cates
*USAG Stuttgart Health
 Promotion Office*

The New Year is here and that means New Year's resolutions are plentiful. The top New Year's resolutions always seem to include trying to lose weight or starting an exercise program. However, studies show that 97 percent of the people who make resolutions are not able to keep them.

One solution to keep from breaking a New Year's resolution is to refrain from making one. At least, not until the excitement of the holidays and getting back to work wears off. It is also important to realistically assess personal goals.

In U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart, February may be a much better time to make New Year's resolutions, especially those pertaining to weight loss and/or exercise, since the month marks the start of the Civilian Fitness Program.



File photo

Civilians who desire to lose weight or get in better physical shape can sign up for the "Get Fit with Civilian Fitness" program, which begins in February. The program allows supervisors to authorize exercise sessions during the workday.

This six-month program was created to help civilians keep their weight loss and/or exercise goals.

"Get Fit with Civilian Fitness" is designed to help civilians employed by the U.S. Army increase their overall health and well-being. The program

begins with an initial health assessment that includes blood pressure and resting heart rate checks; body fat percent, height, weight and body composition measurements, and cardio-respiratory recovery and flexibility.

A personal trainer will review the

fitness testing assessment results with each participant, and then map out an individualized fitness plan catered toward their goals.

Throughout the six month program, participants will receive weekly e-mails to educate and motivate them during their journey to optimal health. At the end of the program, they will receive a post-assessment, which is compared to the initial assessment, to see how much their health improved and to reassess their focus and goals.

To help fight excuses some civilians may have, such as not having enough time or not having a place to go, the program can be conducted during work hours at an installation fitness center.

Commanders and supervisors may authorize three one-hour exercise sessions per week for a total of 78 hours during the consecutive six-month period. Civilians can take the "Get Fit with Civilian Fitness" challenge and discuss options with their supervisor, such as flex time, that will give them more opportunities to meet their health goals.

Although active duty personnel may not participate in the Civilian Fitness Program, they may team up with a civilian. Working toward better health with a buddy can be more fun, and studies show that people are more successful in reaching their fitness goals when they team up with someone else.

For information on the program or for an application, visit www.chppmeur.healthcare.hqusareur.army.mil/sites/dhpw/civfit.aspx.

"Get Fit with Civilian Fitness" is designed to help civilians employed by the U.S. Army to increase their overall health and well-being.

Comparison shopping can reduce costs

TRICARE announces new pharmacy prices

Europe Regional Medical Command

The TRICARE Management Activity Uniform Business Office has announced several changes in Military Health System pharmacy charges, which took effect Jan. 3.

TMA's new pricing methodology sets charges for pharmaceuticals at the same level TRICARE would reimburse for similar drugs under its retail pharmacy program.

Beneficiaries may notice a price change in current prescriptions. Although some pharmaceuticals may be priced higher, the majority of prescription drugs will be available at the same or a lower price. Approximately 14 percent of the current prices will remain the same, and 55 percent will be less.

TMA UBO has added a \$2 dispensing fee consistent with the average allowable dispensing fee under TRICARE Retail Pharmacy.

Prices for most over-the-counter drugs will not change significantly.

TMA reminds beneficiaries that the military pharmacy may not always be the lowest cost option, and encourages patients to compare prices with other commercial pharmaceutical sources to ensure the lowest cost.

Although some pharmaceuticals may be priced higher, the majority of prescription drugs will be available at the same or a lower price. Approximately 14 percent ... will remain the same, and 55 percent will be less.

The Europe Regional Medical Command UBO will offer an updated Pharmacy Pricing Estimator Tool with the new military pharmacy rates upon TMA release through its Web site at www.eubo.healthcare.hqusareur.army.mil.

For questions on the changes and what they mean, contact the ERMC Uniform Business Office by e-mail at eubo@amedd.army.mil or by clicking on the "Contact Us" tab on the EUBO Web page.



File photo

Military members and their families may notice a price change in their prescriptions this month, according to TRICARE. The majority of the price changes will stay the same or decrease, however.

Get some air(time) on Baden-Württemberg's ski slopes

Editor's Note: This is part two of a two-part series on skiing venues in Baden-Württemberg.

By Birgit Thompson

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

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) brings skiers up to almost 1,400 meters. The Hornlift in Fröhnd, not far from the



photos.com

Baden-Württemberg offers a variety of ski resorts and hills in the Black Forest. The Belchen mountain is one of the most secure snow regions.

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 Ruhesteim with two lifts, Grenzstüble and Unterstmatt 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.

Truchelfingen's lift is 250 meters, Lautlingen offers a 400-meter lift, Onstemettingen'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.

The Aalen snow-phone is 073-65-5830. For more information, visit www.sport-boerse-aalen.de.

Outdoor Recreation offers variety of winter sport trips

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart's Outdoor Recreation center has planned not only ski and snowboard day trips, but several other outdoor adventure trips this winter season.

All of the trips visit a variety of destinations in Europe.

Upcoming ski and snowboard day trips are open to skiers and snowboarders of all skill levels. They include:

- Jan. 23: St. Anton, Austria
- Jan. 30: Lermoos, Austria
- Feb. 6: St. Anton, Austria
- Feb. 20: Lichtenstein
- March 6: Oberstdorf
- March 27: Lech-Zurs, Austria

"St. Anton is one of the biggest in Europe and it has 280 kilometers of runs on top of about 100 kilometers worth of cross country trails," said Gio Rosa, a recreation aid and ski instructor for Outdoor Recreation. "You can go down a different run all day and never go to the same one twice."

The cost of each trip is \$50 per person, which includes transportation and skiing tips. Lift tickets are additional. Equipment rental is available from Outdoor Recreation for \$10.

Signing up with the recreation center usually



photos.com

The USAG Stuttgart Outdoor Rec center has months planned of winter sport trips.

saves skiers and snowboarders \$10-15 on equipment per day, Rosa said.

Besides ski and snowboard trips, Outdoor Recreation will also host several alternative sport trips:

- Jan. 31 Paragliding in Kirchheim Ceck
- Feb. 7, 21, 28: Paragliding
- Feb. 9: Hunting Course
- Feb. 13-14: Snowshoeing in Oberammergau

- March 7, 14, 21: Paragliding

Paragliding costs €70 with free transportation. The hunting course is \$150, plus \$50 for a Rod and Gun club membership. The snowshoe trip costs \$100 for a double occupancy room and \$125 for a single occupancy room.

To sign up, or for more information, call 431-2774/civ. 07031-15-2774.

COMMISSARY OPENING HOURS

for Stuttgart Commissaries

Martin Luther King Day, January 18:
All facilities will be open.

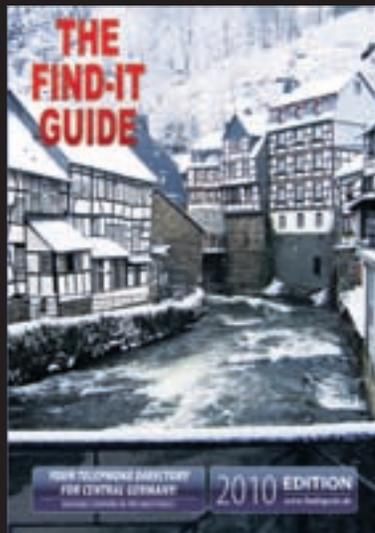
Thursday, January 21:
Kelley Commissary will be open.

Saturday, January 23:
Kelly Commissary will be closed.



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Baby and Toddler: Baby Bjorn Carrier (used few times) \$45. Baby bath tub \$3, Push-walker, plays music \$8. Wall Heater (goes above the changing table for fast heat) 220V \$25 (Paid EUR 50). Baby Gate \$8. Linens for crib - blue and white \$8 for each set. White crib bumper \$8. One crib waterproof mattress cover, \$5. Umbrella stroller Winnie the Pooh pattern with clip on umbrella-used once \$15. Baby bottle sterilizer (110V) never used- \$8. Baby bottle warmer (220V) used fre-

quently \$1. 3T Size Red rain jacket and pants, \$15 (paid 45 EURO). Red rain boots, German size 24 - about 8 American Size, \$5. Boopy pillow with 2 extra covers: \$15. One aircraft cabin approved dog carries for small dogs (flower pattern) \$15. Call 0711-553-6305

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Two unused black medium sized McDavid neoprene knee sleeves with upper and lower velcro strap \$10 each-One unused Microsoft XBOX 360 power supply (US

\$15 -One pair Dabello Aspire womens ski boots with comfort entry and ‘walk’ switch. Used three times last season. Size 38 euro; 7 US; UK 5.5. \$50 -Dell XPS M1210 with Vista Home Premium and MS Office 2007. 2GB RAM; 1.18GHz Intel Centrino; 120GB HD; 2 batteries; original packaging \$200-Dell Dimension 4600 with XP Home Edition SP3; 2GB RAM; 2.3GHz Intel; 37GB HD; USB keyboard, wireless and wired NICs; NVIDIA GeForce FX5200 with HDMI port; original DELL CDs; \$200 (Was home theatre entertainment system) Please email vahokie94@hotmail.com

Used household items for sale: Black & Decker 3/8” reversible electric drill 110v., \$20; Black & Decker toaster 110v., \$5; Black & Decker Smart Brew 12-cup programmable coffeemaker 110v. \$17; Braun Aromaster 8-cup coffeemaker 110v., \$10; Rival Freedom 70 Steam Iron 110v., \$5; Kenmore Whispertone power mate vacuum cleaner 12 Amps 110v., \$50; Goldstar microwave 110v., \$40; Toastmaster Platinum electric food slicer 110v., \$35; Brita Aquaview On Tap faucet filtration system, \$15; Labtec Spin-50 PC Stereo Speakers 110v.,

\$7; Fellowes FS5 paper shredder 110v., \$15; Toshiba FT-8930 Cordless Phone w/ digital answering machine 110v., \$20; Funai 9” TV/VCR Combo NTSC 110v., \$45; T’nB CD-Organizer Trays (x4), \$5 ea.; Vicks humidifier 110v., \$10; 2x Holmes 10” Fans 110v., \$10 ea.; Graco baby Rock ‘n Bounce, \$15. Phone: 07031-6816694, email: ellisina@hotmail.com

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beachboygreg@yahoo.com
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