

New website
replaces AHRNAs of Jan. 1, a new website has
replaced the Automated Housing
Referral Network website.Photo contest
exposes talentLocal photographers display
their talents in annual photog-
raphy competition.9
12

British man recalls positive experiences with U.S. military, AFN, over the years

By George A. Smith

American Forces Network Europe

After reading an article on a U.S. military website about the American military's impact on European culture, a 78-year-old British man was so moved that he wrote down his thoughts in a five-page, single spaced letter, guessed at an address, stuck it in the mail and wondered if anyone would read it.

Two months later, someone did. But only after the bulky letter with the vague address was opened by customs, examined, put into a plastic bag, forwarded, then forwarded again to the American Forces Network Europe Headquarters in Ramstein.

Geoff Pollitt's carefully penned letter had one cross out, no misspellings and seven neatly trimmed copies of photos. While Pollitt has an email account, he decided to write because his one-finger computer "pecking" wasn't fast enough.

As a 10-year-old boy Pollitt recalls saluting American GIs leaving for World War II's D-Day landing. "I re-

member my teacher telling me some of the brave lads would be killed, leaving little boys like me in the States without a dad," said Pollitt. "Afterward, I went home and cried." It was weighty stuff for a small boy.

Years later, around 1950, Pollitt renewed his connection with the United States when he started pushing the side of his face against the speaker of his dad's radio with a cushion over his other ear to keep out stray sounds. He was tuning in a faint AFN radio signal drifting over the English Channel from Germany. "I liked listening to country," said Pollitt. "I really liked Hank Williams' 'Lovesick Blues.' I started mimicking his yodeling at school. They all thought I was crazy!"

When he turned 16, Pollitt set up a pirate radio station in his bedroom using walkie-talkies connected to a record player. The signal went two miles. "My call sign was the Golden Rocket," Pollitt said. "I played Hank Williams and Tennessee Ernie Ford records, and I spoke with an American accent."

Pollitt joined the British Army when he was 18. He was stationed in



Photo courtesy Geoff Pollitt

Geoff Pollitt was one of many British boys to grow up listening to AFN Radio in the 1950s.

northern Germany. "Back then nobody listened to the BBC," he said. "Nearly all of our radios were permanently tuned to AFN. We didn't turn the radio off when we went to bed. AFN would sign off the air at midnight, but around 6 [a.m.] the carrier signal woke us up, followed by the [U.S.] national

anthem."

Around that time, Pollitt had a small encounter that made a big impact. "My buddies and I wanted to go to the Frankfurt PX, but it was forbidden. Someone sent us to the U.S. Army Headquarters," Pollitt said. "We thought we were in big trouble when we were escorted in to see a major general. But he talked to us, then after a while called in a girl and told us to follow her, and she would get us PX passes. He shook our hands and wished us well. We could not believe a major general would give us the time of day like that."

Pollitt left the British Army and returned to life back in England, but his U.S. connection continued in a surprising way. After his father died, Pollitt's family researched and discovered that Pollitt's grandfather fought for the Union Army in the Civil War as a private with the 33rd Infantry Regiment of Pennsylvania. After the war, Pollitt's grandfather owned and operated a cotton mill in Pennsylvania before immigrating to England in 1887.

See *British Man* on page 4

DAZ Stuttgart: focus on friendship, exchange

By Carola Meusel

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

For those interested in attending lectures, experiencing art work, reading English language magazines and meeting Germans and Americans — all in one location — the Deutsch-Amerikanisches Zentrum/James-F.-Byrnes Institute might be worth a visit.

The DAZ opened its doors to the public in 1995

and succeeded the former Stuttgart Amerika Haus, which had closed the same year.

America Houses were founded by the U.S. military government throughout the American occupation zones in Germany following World War II. The facilities were critical to U.S. re-education politics and to communicate democratic values to the German people, according to Christiane Pyka,

director of the Deutsch-Amerikanisches Zentrum/James-F.-Byrnes Institute.

"Germans were truly appreciative of these institutions. They could borrow books, gramophone records, or attend concerts, exhibitions and lectures — all for free," Pyka said. "This was important, also for the younger generation, since a cultural and educational exchange between Germany and the U.S. happened here."

While the political meaning may have changed, the DAZ's mission today still is to foster German-American relationships by engaging in a cultural exchange, according to Pyka.

See *DAZ* on page 4



Join the Stuttgart military community on Jan. 16 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Patch Theater to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday

THE CITIZEN

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Col. John P. Stack
U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Commander

R. Slade Walters
Director of Public Affairs

S. J. Grady
Command Information Chief
Managing Editor

Carola Meusel
Culture Editor

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office
Building 2949, Panzer Kaserne

Telephone: +49 (0)7031-15-3105, DSN 431-3105
Fax: +49 (0)7031-15-3096, DSN 431-3096
Email: stuttgartmedia@eur.army.mil
Website: www.stuttgart.army.mil
Facebook: www.facebook.com/USAGarrisonStuttgart

Army Post Office Mailing Address:
Unit 30401, APO AE 09107

German Mailing Address:
Panzer Kaserne, Geb. 2949, 3rd Floor, Panzerstrasse, 71032 Böblingen

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Handelsregister: Zweibrücken, HRB 1824 Z Gerichtsstand Kaiserslautern
Ust-IdNr.: DE 229812354

John Thompson
Managing Director
Telephone: +49 (0) 631-3033-5530
Email: john@advantipro.de

Corinna Emser
Production Manager

Newspaper Layout/Designer
Alexander Pütz
Dipl. Designer (FH/University of applied sciences)

Display Advertising Contact
Jaqueline Samad
Telephone: +49 (0) 631-3033-5537
Email: ads@stuttgartcitizen.com

Classified Advertising Contact
Isabell Smith
Telephone: +49 (0) 631-3033-5531
Website: www.class-world.com

Mailing Address:
AdvantiPro GmbH
Europaallee 3
67657 Kaiserslautern

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Commander's Corner: Want a happier life? Taking the GAT is your first step

Commentary by Col. John P. Stack
USAG Stuttgart commander

With the start of a new year, most of us have hopes that this year will be better than last year in every possible way.

Whether we made resolutions or not, I think it's safe to say that we have higher hopes for 2014.

First and foremost, we want our lives and those of our family members to be richer and fuller. We want our happiness to be deeper and more real.

How does one begin to turn these hopes into reality?

You could browse the self-help section of any online bookseller for the hundreds of books touting the best way to obtain a happier life. Unfortunately, the vast majority of these books are based on little or no scientific theory.

Or you could take the Global Assessment Tool, or GAT, a self-appraisal tool developed by experts from the U.S. military, civilian universities, hospitals and industry professionals, and built upon a foundation of scientifically validated measures of health and resilience.

The GAT is a tool through which individuals are able to confidentially assess their physical and psychological health based on the five dimensions of strength: social, emotional, family, spiritual and physical fitness.

We have all heard a lot about of resilience of late, but what exactly does this word mean and why should it be important to us and our families?

Resiliency has been defined as the mental, physical, emotional and behavioral ability to face and cope with adversity, adapt to change, recover, learn and grow from setbacks all too common in day-to-day life.

In fact, resilience and happiness are closely related. Experts say that people who have close relationships and social supports that help them during times of adversity also experience much joy and satisfaction in these relationships during everyday life.

I have designated February as "Stuttgart Resiliency Month" to help improve the resiliency of service members, Defense Department civilians, and their family members, and to increase the awareness of resiliency-related programs offered throughout the garrison.

Family and MWR will kick the month off by hosting a Resiliency Carnival on Feb. 6 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Patch Fitness Center.

The carnival will focus on the five dimensions of strength and is designed to teach attendees about the keys to success for living a healthy lifestyle and familiarize them with the resources available in the community that promote health and resiliency.

Agencies and organizations will set up information booths and provide attendees with briefs on services available. Representatives will be on hand to answer questions on topics such as parenting, communication, stress reduction, and health and wellness issues.

Many of the booths will feature interactive, carnival-themed games where participants can earn

... Resilience and happiness are closely related. Experts say that people who have close relationships and social supports that help them during times of adversity also experience much joy and satisfaction in these relationships during everyday life.

tickets for prize drawings that will be held every 30 minutes. Prizes will include items such as tickets to Europapark, spa passes, theater tickets, free dinners, gift cards, sports equipment and more.

Community members who take the extra step and complete the GAT will be eligible for one of several grand prizes drawings. Just bring a copy of your GAT certificate to the Resiliency Carnival and you will be eligible to win a spa weekend at Edelweiss Lodge and Resort, one of two \$500 Exchange gift certificates, a round-trip ticket to the U.S. or a Mediterranean cruise.

The remainder of the month will include at least one resiliency-themed event each day. The calendar of events will be available on the Family and MWR website and during the Resiliency Carnival.

Clemson University psychology professor Thomas W. Britt had it right during a recent health promotion forum when he said, "Research has shown that if you can get folks to get treatment before symptoms become

severe, then that leads to the best outcome for all." This is what it's all about, and with some preparation and planning we can take active measures towards turning our hopes for a better future into a reality.



Col. John P. Stack

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

Soldier Fitness Tracker:

<https://www.sft.army.mil/>

Airman Fitness Tracker:

<https://www.sft.army.mil/AF/>

Marine Fitness Tracker:

<https://www.sft.army.mil/Marines/>

Sailor Fitness Tracker:

<https://www.sft.army.mil/Navy/>

DA Civilians:

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

Family Members:

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

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



Pfc. Briyanna Winslow

Col. Michael Doran (from left), Europe Regional Dental Command commander, Col. Craig Patterson, Landstuhl Dental Activity commander, Col. Michael Craddock, Stuttgart Dental Clinic commander, John Kearney, USAG Stuttgart director of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security, Lt. Col. Michael Elliott, U.S. Army Public Health Command District-North Europe commander, Spc. Hector Velasquez and Jasmin Hester, both of the Stuttgart Veterinary Clinic, cut the ribbon to officially open the Stuttgart Dental and Veterinary treatment facilities during a grand opening ceremony Dec. 11 on Panzer Kaserne.

Stuttgart dental, veterinary clinics officially celebrate new facilities

By Carola Meusel

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

The Stuttgart Dental Clinic and the Stuttgart Veterinary Clinic officially celebrated their new facilities on Panzer Kaserne with a ribbon cutting ceremony last month.

While both clinics have been open for the past several months, the ceremony signified that the facilities are completely staffed and fully operational, according to Army Capt. Joseph Anderson, officer-in-charge of the Stuttgart Veterinary Clinic.

The clinics are co-located in Building 2996, but each has its own separate entrance, reception area, treatment rooms, laboratories and support offices.

"What a great facility," said Lt. Col. Michael Elliott, commander of the U.S. Army Public Health Command District-North Europe, during the grand opening.

The 4,161 square-foot veterinary clinic invested \$200,000 in new equipment to bring the facility in compliance with the Veterinary Medical Standardization Board and to better serve Stuttgart military community members, Elliott said.

"Our mission is to provide medical, surgical and emergency care to military working dogs and privately owned animals, those beloved four-legged family members of our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and civilians serving in this great community," he said.

Upgrades include a fully equipped in-house laboratory, an ultrasound machine, a computed radiography system, two examination rooms and a pharmacy, all designed to provide a safe and sufficient environment for veterinary care.

"The pharmacy and lab are now tied in with the front desk to allow for a smooth patient checkout," Elliott said.

According to Anderson, the officer-in-charge

of the veterinary clinic, the laboratory increases the clinic's efficiency.

"We can now perform in-house testing. Before, we had to send blood samples to an external laboratory and had to wait days before receiving the results," he said.

The most common medical and surgical services conducted on a daily basis are vaccinations, health certificates, surgical spay and neuter, and dental cleanings, Anderson said.

The Stuttgart Dental Clinic is one of the most highly advanced facilities in the military, equipped with \$3 million of high-tech equipment, said Col. Michael Craddock, the dental clinic commander.

The 20-chair facility is filled with state-of-the-art equipment, including a cone-beam computed tomography system for 3D imagery and dental lab.

According to Sascha Kolanczyk, a dental lab technician, the process of making dental prostheses such as crowns and bridges is much faster thanks to the clinic's new digital scanners and computer-aided design and manufacturing equipment that eliminates the need to take physical impressions.

"With the new technical equipment, we can make a crown within a day, so the time-saving factor is substantial," Kolanczyk said.

The Stuttgart Veterinary Clinic is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m. The clinic is closed on U.S. federal holidays and the last business day of the month for inventory. To make an appointment, call, 431-2681/civ. 07031-15-2681.

The Stuttgart Dental Clinic is open Monday through Friday from 7:30-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-4:30 p.m. The clinic is closed on U.S. federal holidays.

Sick call is from 7:30-9:30 a.m. To make an appointment, call 590-2800/civ. 06371-9464-2800.

News & Notes

AUSA career fair set for Feb. 21-23 in Sindelfingen

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

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

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

Changes to Army Emergency Relief announced

Army Emergency Relief recently announced that as of Jan. 1, all officers, warrant officer and non-commissioned officers are authorized to submit requests for AER financial assistance directly through the installation AER office.

Soldiers E-1 through E-4 are required to complete the AER application and submit it to the unit company commander/first sergeant for their recommendation.

AER provides no-interest loans and grants to active duty and retired Soldiers, and their families, for emergency travel, initial rent deposits and vehicle repairs, household and appliance repair, dependent dental care and initial home furnishings.

Meds, vitamins, supplements can't be imported

Host nation custom regulations prohibit the importation of prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications, vitamins, minerals, and herbal and dietary supplements through the Military Postal Service, in unaccompanied baggage and household goods.

The rule also applies to alcoholic beverages, animals, plants, cheese and cheese products, cigarettes and other tobacco products, coffee and coffee products, meat and meat products, and milk and milk products.

All incoming and outgoing mail is subject to inspection by German customs officials, and violators may be subject to fines and penalties.

For more information, see Army Regulation 550-175, U.S. Forces Customs Controls in Germany, or call the Stuttgart Customs officer at 431-2731/civ. 07031-15-2731.

Applications for commissary scholarships due Feb. 28

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

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

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

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

Ask a JAG

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

By Jessica Lowy
Stuttgart Law Center

Q: What effect does the partial repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act have on same sex couples' eligibility to receive benefits?

A: On June 26, 2013, the Supreme Court declared Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act to be unconstitutional. Section 3 had been the legal basis for the federal government to deny recognition of marriages between same sex couples for the purpose of federal laws or programs, even if those couples are considered legally married by their home state.

The repeal of Section 3 means a number of federal marital benefits can now be provided to same sex couples. Examples include military family benefits, social security benefits, health care benefits, hospital visitation rights and multiple tax benefits.

Whether a federal agency will confer benefits to a same sex couple depends on what test that agency uses to determine eligibility. If an agency uses a "place of celebration" test, benefits will be granted so long as the couple married in a jurisdiction that legally recognized same sex marriage at the time the marriage took place. It does not matter if that jurisdiction was one of the 14 states that currently recognize same sex marriage, or a foreign country that does. On the other hand, if an agency uses a "place of residence" test, then same sex couples living in non-recognition states will be ineligible for benefits.

As for filing federal tax returns, the Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service declared it would be using a "place of celebration" standard. As a result, legally married same sex couples must file their 2013 federal income tax return using the filing status married filing jointly or married filing separately. They are also privy to federal tax provisions favorable to married persons, such as the personal and dependency exemptions, the increased standard deduction for married couples, the child tax credit and the earned income credit. Same sex couples may, but are not required to, file amended returns for one or more tax years still open under the statute of limitations.

As the Supreme Court did not overturn Section 2 of DOMA, states are not required to recognize a lawful marriage from another state. Therefore, legally married same sex couples who move to a state where their marriage is not recognized will have to file individually, unless that state responds to the new ruling by passing new tax legislation.

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

British Man

Continued from page 1

Pollitt said he believed his father never told him his grandfather was American because when his grandfather died in Southport, England, in 1915, he left a considerable amount of money, but none of it went to his dad or mother.

Today, Pollitt lives in Bolton England, happy to hear his wayward letter eventually found its way to the U.S. military. Now, his shared experiences are part of the story — a tale of how Americans repeatedly impacted the 78-year life of Geoff Pollitt.



Photo courtesy Geoff Pollitt
Pollitt joined the British Army when he was 18 and was stationed in northern Germany.

DAZ

Continued from page 1

"The DAZ provides a platform for Germans and Americans to meet and interact," Pyka said.

The DAZ is supported by the Baden-Württemberg state government and the city of Stuttgart, but also works closely with foundations, clubs and cultural centers to offer varied information on social, cultural, political and economical topics related to Germany and the U.S., Pyka said.

The center's cultural program mainly consists of lectures, concerts, movie showings, exhibitions, workshops and discussions in either German or English, or both.

"The DAZ also offers conversation and language courses, information about the U.S. and student exchange programs," Pyka said.

Another highlight is the DAZ library stocked with English language books ranging from history to fantasy, as well as magazines, newspapers and movies.

"We also have various groups with German and American members that are vital to our events calendar, such as the Transatlantic ArtConneXion, readers, writers and quilting groups and a transatlantic 'Stammtisch,'" Pyka said.

The DAZ also works with the United Service Organizations and the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart on co-hosted events such as the Super Bowl party on Panzer Kaserne or "backstage" tours that provide Germans the chance to see what life looks like on a U.S. military installation in Germany, Pyka said.

"With the U.S. military being here in Stuttgart, people don't need to fly to the U.S. to get in touch with Americans. The military installations are resources to learn about the American people, culture and everyday life. 'Little America' can be experienced in Stuttgart," Pyka said.

Many times, members of the U.S. forces officially participate or speak during DAZ events, she added.

The DAZ was named after the U.S. Secretary of State James F. Byrnes, who gave the Speech of Hope, or Stuttgart Speech, on Sept. 6, 1946, at the Stuttgart State Theater.

In his speech, Byrnes promised that Germany would be rebuilt and not divided economically, and that Germans would be allowed to govern themselves democratically. The speech set course for post-war engagements between the U.S. and Germany.

"This emphasizes the meaning of the DAZ, especially in Stuttgart, as a focal point between the two nations," Pyka said. "Therefore, it is a commitment and honor to be named after James F. Byrnes. The DAZ stands as a reminder about what this American politician did for Germany."

The Deutsch-Amerikanisches Zentrum is located at Charlottenplatz 17 (courtyard, entrance 3), 70173 Stuttgart. The DAZ is open Tuesday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2-5 p.m.

For more information, or to become a DAZ member, visit www.daz.org, or call civ. 0711-22818-0.



Carola Meusel
Christiane Pyka, director of the Deutsch-Amerikanisches Zentrum/James-F.-Byrnes Institute Stuttgart, looks at "The Smithsonian" magazine last month at the DAZ's library. The newly-renovated facility is stocked with English language books, as well as magazines, newspapers and movies.

Passport office to close Jan. 13-17

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart passport office will be closed Jan. 13-17 for Department of State Passport certification training. As a reminder, until further notice, U.S. citizens with SOFA status who need tourist passports must go through the U.S. Consulate in Frankfurt for assistance. Procedures are outlined at <http://germany.usembassy.gov/patch-barracks-passports>.

For Red Cross passport emergencies between Jan. 13-17, call 431-2886/civ. 07031-15-2886 or 0162-278-7659.

Fitness instructors, trainers wanted

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart is looking for fitness instructors and trainers for tennis, Spinning, Zumba, generalized group exercise, yoga, and personal training.

Applicants must have a current CPR/AED certification, personal liability insurance, fitness Instructor

certification and experience in fitness instruction. Deadline to apply is March 1.

For more information, call 430-5386/civ. 0711-680-5386.

CYS Services spring sports registration

Child, Youth and School Services will hold spring sports registration from Jan. 13 to Feb. 21. Sports include baseball, softball, soccer, and track and field. All participants must have a sports physical valid through June 7 at the time of registration.

The spring sports season will run from April 14 to June 7.

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

For more information, call Parent Central Services at 430-7480/civ. 0711-680-7480.

Work for CYS Services

Want to make a positive difference in the life of a child or youth in the Stuttgart community? Career opportunities are available with Family and MWR within Child, Youth and School Services at the Child Devel-

opment Centers, School Age Centers and Youth Centers.

Nonappropriated Fund positions are open to all qualified candidates eligible for appointment under U.S. employment conditions. Visit www.usajobs.gov to view vacancies and to apply.

Attend AWAG area conference Jan. 23

Americans Working Across the Globe, in partnership with the Stuttgart Community Spouses' Club, will hold an AWAG Schwaben Area Conference Jan. 23 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Swabian Special Events Center, Patch Barracks.

During this personal growth and professional development conference, participants will learn skills that will allow them to reach their fullest potential. A fee of \$20 includes continental breakfast, leadership classes and lunch.

Register by Jan. 20 by contacting sesc4reservations@yahoo.com. For more information, visit schwaben@awagonline.org.

Holiday schedule

Most organizations and facilities in U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart will be closed Jan. 20 in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. federal holiday.

Patrons are advised to call ahead before visiting any facility.

The Stuttgart Army Health Clinic will be closed Jan. 17 and 20. Contact the Military Police in case of an emergency at civ. 0711-680-116. For immediate health care needs, call the Nurse Advice Line at civ. 00800-4759-2330.

The 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Dining Facility on Panzer Kaserne will be closed Jan. 17 and 20.

Dr. King observance

A Martin Luther King Jr. observance will be held Jan. 16 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Patch Theater. For more information, call Sgt. 1st Class Juan Adorno at 430-7945/civ. 0162-297-5922.

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



Piranhas strike

Jordan Fay, 12, and her Stuttgart Piranha teammates take to the water Dec. 14 to compete in a special 'pentathlon' swim meet at the Ramstein Aquatic Center against five other teams from the European Forces Swim League. Each swimmer participated in five events: butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke, freestyle and the individual medley. Placing was based on lowest combined five-event time. Hayden Kasavicha (13-14 Boys) won first place in all five events and the overall pentathlon title for his age group. Lizzie Hodges (15-16 Girls) took the overall title for her age group. Eric Arrington (15-16 Boys) and Anthony LoGrande (17-19 Boys) each won second place overall in their respective age groups, while Trevor Clark took third place overall in the (15-16 Boys) division.

Jane Rathburn

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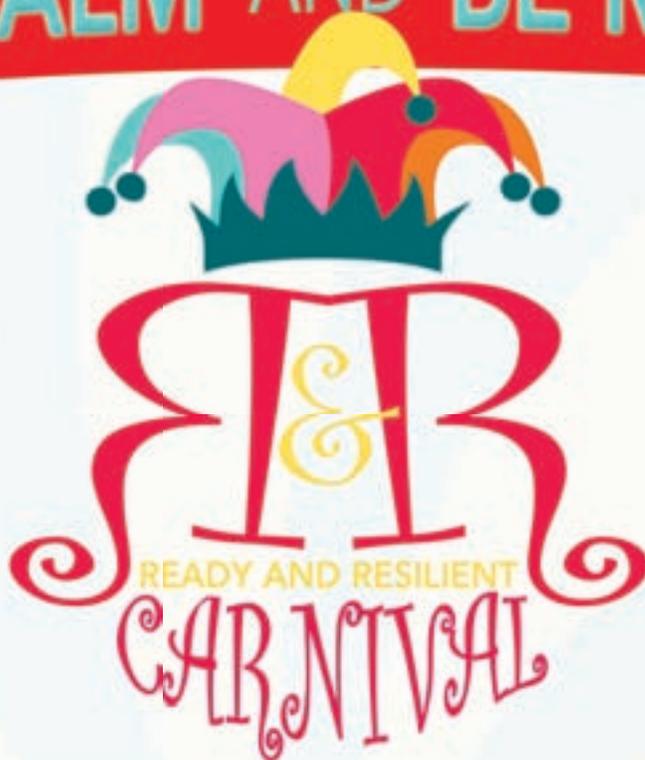
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KEEP CALM AND BE RESILIENT



6 FEBRUARY
PATCH FITNESS CENTER
10 AM - 3 PM



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- ONE WEEK CRUISE FOR 2 TO THE MEDITERRANEAN
- ONE ROUND TRIP TICKET TO THE US
- SPA RESORT GET-AWAY FOR 2
- \$500 GIFT CARDS TO THE EXCHANGE



This energetic and dynamic expo style event will include:

- Free promotional items
- Food & beverages for sale
- Interactive health & wellness demos
- \$100 in prizes given away every 30 min
- Fun games & activities
- Open to everyone



Repairs at vehicle inspection Jan. 15-16

The Base Support Operations Maintenance Division has announced that the Vehicle Inspection station in Building 2930 on Panzer Kaserne will have reduced services Jan. 15-16 while repairs are made to the facility.

For more information, call Juergen Nisi, the maintenance manager, at 475-7277/civ. 09641-83-7277.

USO Stuttgart news

The United Service Organizations mobile canteen will serve free hot dogs, chips and sodas at the Kelley Commissary Jan. 15 and at Patch Barracks' Husky Field Jan. 16. Service will start at 11 a.m. on both days, and will continue until supplies run out.

Free movie tickets for a Jan. 23 showing of "Frozen" can be picked up at the USO while supplies last.

Free movie tickets for a Jan. 23 showing of "Frozen" can be picked up at the USO Center while supplies last.

Single and unaccompanied service members are invited to the Black Forest on Feb. 16 for skiing or snow shoeing with the Stepping Out program. Registration starts Jan. 13.

Enjoy a free Korean-inspired lunch Jan. 29 at 11:30 a.m. in the USO lounge

in Building 2915 on Panzer Kaserne.

For more USO activities, visit www.uso.org/stuttgart.

Due to PCS soon?

For those who plan to relocate to a new duty station in the next several months, permanent change of station/preseparation briefings are scheduled for Jan. 15, Feb. 19, March 5 and 19 at 1 p.m. in Building 2913 on Panzer Kaserne.

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

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

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

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Esso fuel cards, like any other debit or credit card, have expiration dates.

Fuel cards are valid for three years, and the expiration dates are not related to your vehicle registration date.

To avoid card-use denials and the substantial costs of having to pay economy fuel purchase price, fuel card customers should ensure all cards for registered vehicles are renewed before their expiration dates.

For more information contact your local Exchange customer service desk.

Women's Leadership Forum

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Special Emphasis Program committee will host the fifth annual Women's Leadership Forum March 27 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Swabian Special Events Center on Patch Barracks.

Workshops will cover leadership skills, professional and personal development, strategic career planning and more.

During the forum, four local women in federal service who exemplify leadership will be honored.

The committee is seeking nominations of military and civilian women for the two awards that will be presented during the forum: the Leadership Achievement award and Emerging Leader award.

Nominations can be submitted Jan. 20 to Feb. 19. To learn more, visit <http://stuttgartwlf.eventbrite.com> and click on "Submit A Nomination Now!"

Registration for the free leadership forum begins Feb. 24.

For more information regarding this event, send an email to usagstuttgarteeo@eur.army.mil.

Missing something?

The lost and found box is overflowing at the Joint Central Processing Facility in Building 2913, Panzer Kaserne. If you've have recently attended an inprocessing session and are missing belongings such as reading glasses, jackets and electronic devices, stop by the office to claim your property or call Robert Quigley at 431-2599/07031-15-2599.

Submit volunteers hours online

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

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

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



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Feeding birds the right way

Usually bird-feeding stations are wooden boards, tables or small birdhouses. Sometimes people simply place birdseed on a window sill. For birds, this can be dangerous, since they can catch many diseases from other birds' droppings.

A better option is to hang cylindrical bird feeders or balls containing vegetable fat, seeds and unsalted nuts in nearby bushes or trees out of reach of cats.

It's a great way to view birds up close and will allow you to count the different species coming to your house.



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SOCOM leads development of 'Iron Man' suit

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

U.S. Special Operations Command is using unprecedented outreach and collaboration to develop what its commander hopes will be revolutionary capabilities: a suit that's been likened to the one worn by the "Iron Man" movies superhero that offers operators better protection, enhanced performance and improved situational awareness.

Exactly what capabilities the Tactical Assault Light Operator Suit, or TALOS, will deliver is not yet clear, explained Michael Fieldson, SOCOM's TALOS project manager. The goal is to provide operators lighter, more efficient full-body ballistics protection and super-human strength. Antennae and computers embedded into the suit will increase the wearer's situational awareness by providing user-friendly and real-time battlefield information.

Integrated heaters and coolers will regulate the temperature inside the suit. Embedded sensors will monitor the operator's core body temperature, skin temperature, heart rate, body position and hydration levels. In the event that the operator is wounded, the suit could feasibly start administering the first life-saving oxygen or hemorrhage controls.

Fieldson admitted that the analogy to the suit that the Tony Stark character wore in the "Iron Man" movies may be a bit of a stretch. The TALOS, for example, isn't expected to fly.

But beyond that, there's little that Fieldson — or anyone else at SOCOM — is ready to rule out.

In a departure from past practices of introducing new products piecemeal, adding bulk and weight to operators' kit, the TALOS will be a fully integrated "system of systems," Fieldson said. To offset the

weight of computers, sensors and armor that make up the suit, operators will have an exoskeleton — a mechanism that carries the brunt of the load.

"The intent is to have this fully integrated system so you can provide the most capability at the lowest impact to the Soldier," Fieldson said. "We think there is some efficiency to be gained if all the equipment is fully integrated as opposed to different components that are simply assembled on the human."

Keeping the systems and the exoskeleton powered will require more than today's batteries can deliver. So along with the TALOS technologies, SOCOM is calling on the scientific and technical community to come up with reliable and portable power sources.

"We are really looking at stretching the bounds of science and technology," Fieldson said.

That's led SOCOM to reach out to partners within DOD as well as industry and academia for help in pushing today's technological limits.

The command is working with the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, as well as U.S. Army Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center and the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, among other DOD organizations, to tap into projects already underway.

DARPA, for example, is making headway on its Warrior Web project, designed to boost troops' stamina and carrying capacity without sacrificing speed or agility. The concept includes a lightweight undersuit that would augment the efforts of the wearer's own muscles.

"Many of the individual technologies currently under development show real promise to reduce injury and fatigue and improve endurance," said Army Lt. Col. Joseph Hitt, DARPA's Warrior Web program manager. "Now we're aiming to combine them -- and hopefully some new ones, too -- into a single system that nearly every Soldier could wear and would provide decisive benefits under real-world conditions."

The Natick lab is busy identifying high-technology armor and mobility technologies with plans to integrate them into a first-generation TALOS system ready for demonstration by the end of June, reported Greg Kanagaki, project engineer for Natick's Unmanned Equipment and Human Augmentation Systems Team.

Natick personnel also are serving as subject-matter experts for the TALOS project, particularly in the areas of mobility, human performance and thermal management, Kanagaki said.

Meanwhile, officials at the U.S. Army



Marvel Entertainment

U.S. Special Operations Command wants to provide operators with lighter, more efficient full-body ballistics protection and super-human strength with the Tactical Assault Light Operator Suit: a suit that's been likened to those worn by the superheroes in the "Iron Man" movies that offers operators better protection, enhanced performance and improved situational awareness.

Research, Development and Engineering Command say their programs have a direct application to TALOS as well.

"[The] requirement is a comprehensive family of systems in a combat armor suit where we bring together an exoskeleton with innovative armor, displays for power monitoring, health monitoring, and integrating a weapon into that — a whole bunch of stuff that RDECOM is playing heavily in," said Army Lt. Col. Karl Borjes, the command's science adviser.

"RDECOM cuts across every aspect making up this combat armor suit," he said. "It's advanced armor. It's communications, antennas. It's cognitive performance. It's sensors, miniature-type circuits. That's all going to fit in here, too."

SOCOM has called on the private sector, too, inviting not just its traditional industry partners, but also those who have never before worked with the command, to participate in the TALOS program.

"There is no one industry that can build it," SOCOM's Senior Enlisted Advisor Army Command Sgt. Maj. Chris Faris said during a panel discussion at the command's MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., headquarters, as reported by the Defense Media Network.

The outreach has generated a lot of interest. SOCOM's TALOS planning session this past summer attracted representatives of 80 colleges, 10 universities and four national laboratories. At a demonstration in July, 80 companies demonstrated technologies ranging from advanced body armor, some using liquids that turn solid on impact, to power supplies to exoskeleton mechanisms.

SOCOM's goal, Fieldson said, is to have a TALOS prototype within the next year and to have the suit ready for full field testing within five years. That timetable is revolutionary for the military research, development and acquisition world, even for rapid-equipping programs.

Although the TALOS is initially intended for special operators involved in high-risk missions, it has implications for the conventional force as well, Fieldson said.

"We have a long history at SOCOM of developing things first and then the technology moving out to the broader force," he said. "We fully expect that to happen with this one as well. I think there will be a lot of spinoff technologies that the broader force will be able to use."

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New website assists with locating off-post housing, replaces AHRN

**Installation Management Command
Europe Public Affairs Office**

A new website has replaced the Automated Housing Referral Network (AHRN) website.

The new Off-Post Housing website will provide housing listings and pictures of available rental properties.

The website can be filtered for the available listings associated with any of the Army in Europe housing offices, according to Brian Jost, Installation Management Command Europe chief of housing.

“OPH permits service members and civilian employees stateside and in local temporary lodging the ability to make preliminary choices and decisions on off-post housing as they work with the housing offices,” said Jost. “OPH will not require a Common Access Card, and therefore allows the sponsor’s family members access to the system.”

The creation of the new site comes as a result of the expiration of the Department of Defense contract with AHRN on Dec. 31.

The company that operates the AHRN website recently announced that they will continue the site, but IMCOM Europe officials have noted that AHRN will no longer be an official DOD housing referral system and housing offices will no longer post available listings on AHRN.

“Army housing offices will assist you in finding adequate housing that meets your family’s needs,” said Jost. “OPH provides service members and their families an opportunity to continue locating houses online and reduces the number of trips to the local housing office, but customers are reminded to always contact the housing office prior to

signing a lease.”

The new Off-Post Housing website can be found at www.imcom-europe.army.mil/OPH.

The Army Online User Service at <https://www.housing.army.mil> is also a good source of information to check for housing information in Army communities.



Courtesy of IMCOM Europe Housing Office
Installation Management Command Europe recently launched a new website that replaces the Automated Housing Referral Network (AHRN) website.

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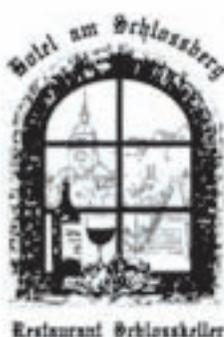


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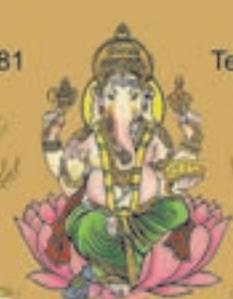
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Quality nutrition can serve as a key component in promoting health, preventing disease, and achieving or maintaining a healthy body weight.

This year, empower yourself to better health

By Carrie Kilby & Esther Dada
U.S. Army Public Health Command

There are many things people don't have control over when it comes to health care, such as the number of specialty doctors in a particular region, out-of-pocket expenses, proximity of medical treatment facilities, amount of time it takes to see a health-care provider, and more.

Luckily, health is more than just good health care. It's about the decisions and choices people make every day. Most health decisions do not happen in the doctor's office or hospital. Instead, they are made when people are at work or at home with their families. It is in this "life space" where the daily choices people make impact their health.

To make this year "your year" for empowering yourself, know that each day you can make a difference in your quality of life.

No matter who you are, how old you are or what you do, you need a balance of sleep, activity and nutrition to build and sustain great health.

This triad of sleep, activity and nutrition was initiated by the Army surgeon general in 2012 and is called the Performance Triad. In the spring and summer of 2014, installations Army-wide will deploy the Army Family Performance Triad Campaign. The campaign aims to bring Soldiers and retirees, their families and civilians the tools and resources needed to make better sleep, activity and nutrition choices to improve their health and performance.

To kick-start your own healthy habits, Army Medicine experts in sleep, activity and nutrition have provided some daily targets to start impacting performance and health. These daily targets for adults are:

- Get at least seven to eight hours of sleep each night.
- Remove all electronics from your bedroom.

- Take 10,000 steps during your everyday routine. Consider getting a pedometer, using your smart phone or using a personal fitness device to track your steps each day.

- Get at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity activity and two days of muscle-strengthening activity per week.

- Build your plate with whole grains, lean proteins, fruits, vegetables and low-fat dairy at each meal.

- Make half your plate a variety of brightly colored

fruits and vegetables.

- Refuel every four to five waking hours; don't skip meals.

- Make water your first choice for hydration.

If you don't know where to start, have an injury, or would like additional one-on-one support no matter your current fitness level, contact your primary care manager or visit the Army Wellness Center.

So, here's to a new year and a healthier you. You have the power to improve sleep, activity and nutrition and maintain or take back control of your health and future.

The Stuttgart Army Wellness Center is located in Building 2337, Patch Barracks, and offers blood pressure screening and education, Healthy Heart classes, Civilian Fitness Program, Core Four Weight Management, fitness assessments, nutritional counseling, meditation education classes, menopause education classes, tobacco cessation, unit briefings (upon request), metabolic testing (appointment only), and VO2 Max testing (appointment only). Free massage chair sessions are also available. The center is open Monday to Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday from 7:30 a.m. to noon.

For more information, call 430-4073/0711-680-4073.



What's happening in FMWR

Ski, snowboard with Outdoor Recreation

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

These include a day trip to Garmisch Jan. 11 and a Black Forest snowshoeing trip Jan. 25.

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

Friday night strikes

The Galaxy Bowling and Entertainment Center's Friday Night mixed league starts Jan. 17.

Sign up your four-person team and get information about the league Jan. 10 at 7 p.m. at the bowling center.

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

Volleyball tourney

The Patch Fitness Center will host a free four-on-four volleyball tournament Jan. 11 at 10 a.m.

The tournament is open to all U.S. and NATO ID cardholders, 18 years or older. Teens 16-17 may

participate, if a parent is on the same team. Register your team by Jan. 11.

For more information, call 421-2543/civ. 0711-729-2543.

Win an Xbox One

Spend \$5 on food or bowling at the Galaxy Bowling and Entertainment Center and you are eligible to enter to win an Xbox One gaming console. The drawing is open to all U.S. ID cardholders, 14 and older. The drawing will be held Jan. 15.

For more information, call 421-2809/civ. 0711-729-2809.

Canvas, Corkscrews coming to Patch

Learn step-by-step how to paint a beautiful masterpiece during a Canvas and Corkscrews class Jan. 11 from 7-10 p.m. at the Patch Community Club. The cost is \$45 and includes all materials.

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

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



Coming to Patch Theater

Jan. 9 — The Wolf of Wall Street (R) 6 p.m.

Jan. 10 — Thor: The Dark World in 3D (PG-13) 6 p.m., Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones (R) 9 p.m.

Jan. 11 — Walking with Dinosaurs in 3D (PG) 2 p.m., Thor: The Dark World (PG-13) 5 p.m., Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones (R) 8 p.m.

Jan. 12 — Walking with Dinosaurs (PG) 2 p.m., Gravity (PG-13) 5 p.m., Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones (R) 8 p.m.

Jan. 13 — Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones (R) 6 p.m.

Jan. 14 — Closed

Jan. 15 — Gravity (PG-13) 6 p.m.

Jan. 16 — Thor: The Dark World in 3D (PG-13) 6 p.m.

Jan. 17 — The Legend of Hercules in 3D (PG-13) 6 p.m., Lone Survivor (R) 9 p.m.

Jan. 18 — Thor: The Dark World in 3D (PG-13) 2 p.m., The Legend of Hercules in 3D (PG-13) 5 p.m., Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones (R) 8 p.m.

Jan. 19 — Thor: The Dark World*

(PG-13) 2 p.m., The Legend of Hercules (PG-13) 5 p.m., Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones (R) 8 p.m.

Jan. 20 — The Legend of Hercules in 3D (PG-13) 6 p.m.

Jan. 21 — Closed

Jan. 22 — Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones (R) 6 p.m.

Jan. 23 — Free Show (PG) 6 p.m.

Please e-mail for tickets: labaygar@uso.org



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The Wolf of Wall Street

A New York stockbroker refuses to cooperate in a large securities fraud case involving corruption on Wall Street, the corporate banking world and mob infiltration. Based on Jordan Belfort's autobiography.

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Jan. 18 • Starts at 1 p.m.

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STRENGTH CHALLENGE

"PULLING STUTTGART" COMPETITION

Jan. 25 • 9 a.m.

Patch Fitness Center

Arm-wrestling competition open to men and women 18 years or older. Divisions are Men's Novice, Men's Open, Women's Novice, Left and Right Handed. Must attend weigh-ins January 24 & 25 in order to compete.

DSN 421-2543 /CIV 0711-729-2543

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"Jannat," by Jared Lenz, won first place in the Active Duty Digital Darkroom category.



"Taking Flight," by Paul Smith, won first place in the Active Duty Monochrome category.



"Desperate Hope," by David Hachey, won first place in the Active Duty People category.



"Croatian Camouflage," by Cara Jill Smith, won second place in the Civilian Animals category.



"90 Years Young," by Laura Castro, won first place in the Civilian People category.



"Black and Steel," by David Hachey, won first place in the Active Duty Design Elements category.



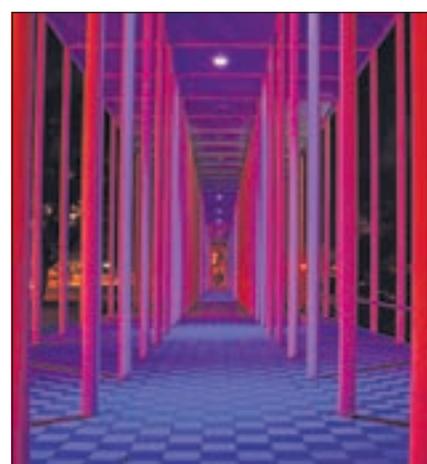
"Drive by 'Shooting,'" by Debi Spencer, received an Honorable Mention in the Civilian Nature and Landscapes category.



"Low Tide," by Joseph Ryan, won second place in the Civilian Monochrome category.



"Snow Dust," by David Tygart, won first place in the Civilian Military Life category.



"Midnight Walk," by Dean Stienkeoway, won third place in the Civilian Design Elements category.

Photo contest showcases local talent

A picture is worth a thousand words. The phrase is said so often it is considered trite. But for the 44 photographers who entered the 2013 U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Digital Photography Contest, the truth of the statement is not lessened. A good photograph can capture reality and evoke emotion unlike any words. One picture can tell a life's story in a moment. It can demand one's attention, prove a point, magnify a sentiment, and capture a slice of beauty forever—all in a single glance.



"The Two Generations Before Me," by Jason Rossi, won first place in the Active Duty Military Life category.



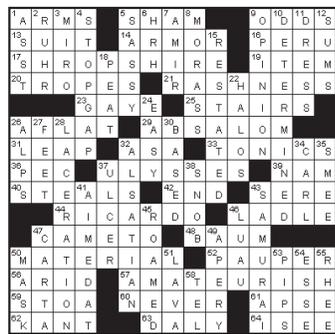
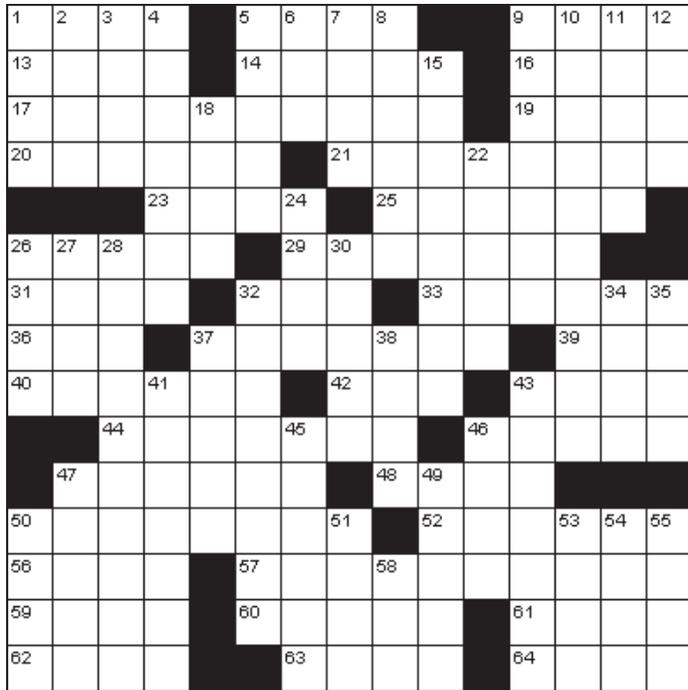
"Pinwheel," by Lee McCraw-Leavitt, won first place in the Civilian Design Elements category and Best of Show.



"Leap of Faith" by Paul Smith, won Director's Choice.

DIV	CATEGORY	PLACE	TITLE	PHOTOGRAPHER
Active Duty	People	1st Place	Desperate Hope	David Hachey
		2nd Place	Snow Bunny	Jason Rossi
		3rd Place	A Blissful Home	Jonathan Hornby
		Honorable Mention	Colosseum Dreamin'	Paul Smith
		Honorable Mention	Reflections of Afghanistan at Daybreak	Jared Lenz
Active Duty	Military Life	1st Place	The Two Generations Before Me	Jason Rossi
		2nd Place	Standing Guard	Paul Smith
		3rd Place	Robed in the Cloth of Our Nation	David Hachey
		Honorable Mention	MRAPs in the Setting Sun	Jared Lenz
		Honorable Mention	Irish Defense Forces	Jason Rossi
Active Duty	Nature and Landscapes	1st Place	The Perfect Moment	Juan Carlos Sousa
		2nd Place	Scottish Tree	Terence Wollert
		3rd Place	El Vaticano	Juan Carlos Sousa
		Honorable Mention	Triberg	Jason Rossi
		Honorable Mention	Trees	Terence Wollert
Active Duty	Animals	1st Place	Spiritual - Soaring with Enlightenment	Juan Carlos Sousa
		2nd Place	Captivity - The Eyes of Sadness	Juan Carlos Sousa
		3rd Place	Feeling Squirrely	Paul Smith
		Honorable Mention	Patience	Jason Rossi
		Honorable Mention	Striking a Pose	Paul Smith
Active Duty	Still Life	1st Place	Time Waits for No One	Juan Carlos Sousa
		2nd Place	Marionettes	Jared Lenz
		3rd Place	My Little Rocker	Scott Cook
		Honorable Mention	Hula Girl	Jared Lenz
		Honorable Mention	Antique Memories	Scott Cook
Active Duty	Design Elements	1st Place	Black and Steel	David Hachey
		2nd Place	Overboard	Paul Smith
		3rd Place	Bikes	Jared Lenz
		Honorable Mention	Contemplating	Juan Carlos Sousa
		Honorable Mention	Through the Wire	Jared Lenz
Active Duty	Digital Darkroom	1st Place	Jannat	Jared Lenz
		2nd Place	Intimate Prayer	Paul Smith
		3rd Place	Waiting for a Bird	Jared Lenz
		Honorable Mention	Waiting on Harvest	Juan Carlos Sousa
		Honorable Mention	Block Full of Color	Paul Smith
Active Duty	Monochrome	1st Place	Taking Flight	Paul Smith
		2nd Place	Life in Miniature	Jared Lenz
		3rd Place	Old Jewish Cemetery	Jared Lenz
		Honorable Mention	Hohenzollern	Brett Chatfield
		Honorable Mention	NYC from the Statue of Liberty	Jared Lenz
Civilian	People	1st Place	90 Years Young	Laura Castro
		2nd Place	St. Peter's Light	Cara Jill Smith
		3rd Place	Morning Doorway	Joseph Ryan
		Honorable Mention	Esslingen Man	David Tygart
		Honorable Mention	Sweet Dreams	Virginia Kozak
Civilian	Military Life	1st Place	Snow Dust	David Tygart
		2nd Place	The Heat of Winter	David Tygart
		3rd Place	Dredging Up the Past	Sarah Spahr
		Honorable Mention	Remembrance	Laura Castro
		Honorable Mention	Muscle Man	Laura Castro
Civilian	Nature and Landscapes	1st Place	Over Falls	David Tygart
		2nd Place	Magical Monbachtal	Lee McCraw-Leavitt
		3rd Place	Out of the Fog	David Tygart
		Honorable Mention	Drive by "Shooting"	Debi Spencer
		Honorable Mention	Peace	Edwige Dameron
Civilian	Animals	1st Place	Liquid	Lee McCraw-Leavitt
		2nd Place	Croatian Camouflage	Cara Jill Smith
		3rd Place	Swingin' Shrimp	Cara Jill Smith
		Honorable Mention	A Saltine Feast	Sarah Spahr
		Honorable Mention	Big Bird	Dean Stienkeoway
Civilian	Still Life	1st Place	Found	Lee McCraw-Leavitt
		2nd Place	Zeko's Stool	David Tygart
		3rd Place	Spaghetti Flower	Cara Jill Smith
		Honorable Mention	Unwind	Cara Jill Smith
		Honorable Mention	America's Favorite Cookie	Laura Castro
Civilian	Design Elements	1st Place	Pinwheel	Lee McCraw-Leavitt
		2nd Place	Bleu	Edwige Dameron
		3rd Place	Midnight Walk	Dean Stienkeoway
		Honorable Mention	Swirl	Lee McCraw-Leavitt
		Honorable Mention	San Clemente Palace	Leigh Stapels
Civilian	Digital Darkroom	1st Place	Who Ate My Banana	Laura Castro
		2nd Place	Winter Sun	Lee McCraw-Leavitt
		3rd Place	Fly Away	Laura Castro
		Honorable Mention	Firefly	Alison Barlow
		Honorable Mention	Halfway	Lee McCraw-Leavitt
Civilian	Monochrome	1st Place	Conformity	Lee McCraw-Leavitt
		2nd Place	Low Tide	Joseph Ryan
		3rd Place	Another Old Dude	David Tygart
		Honorable Mention	Power	Jeanine Mezei
		Honorable Mention	Dark Shadows	David Tygart

Crossword Puzzle



This is the solution to the crossword puzzle from December 12, 2013!

Courtesy of thinks.com

ACROSS

- 1 Sleep
- 5 Deities
- 9 Learning method
- 13 Genesis brother
- 14 Flightless birds
- 16 Daredevil Knieval
- 17 E.g.
- 19 Balkan native
- 20 Untidy one
- 21 Ornamental garden
- 23 Industrious insects
- 25 Plan of action
- 26 Dividing membranes
- 29 Pepper
- 31 Pointer
- 32 Alexander ingredient
- 33 Appraise
- 36 Plucked instrument
- 37 Honest-to-goodness
- 39 Anatomical pouch
- 40 "Moon River" lyricist
- 42 Posed for a portrait
- 43 Istanbul currency
- 44 Euclidean proposition
- 46 Gulf emirate
- 47 Actress Woodward
- 48 Transmission rate
- 50 Brazilian river
- 52 Tiny flies

- 56 Egyptian goddess
- 57 Element discovered in 1778
- 59 Chanel of fashion
- 60 Projecting window
- 61 Exceptional
- 62 Erelong
- 63 Aloha State bird
- 64 Put in the hold

DOWN

- 1 Galoots
- 2 Ancient Greek coin
- 3 Zilch
- 4 Exalt
- 5 Bestow
- 6 Bit of resistance
- 7 "Ed Wood" star
- 8 Obeisance
- 9 Feels bitter about
- 10 Is intemperate
- 11 ___ incognita
- 12 Hamburg's river
- 15 NCO
- 18 Lucy Lawless role
- 22 Keyed up
- 24 Quick trip
- 26 Pond dross
- 27 Sommer in the movies
- 28 San Juan is its capital

- 30 Not available
- 32 Brave leader
- 34 "Two Mules for Sister ___"
- 35 Cicatrix
- 37 Oscar winner Davis
- 38 Poet's foot
- 41 Song for Piaf
- 43 Fire truck equipment
- 45 Having new life
- 46 ___ pro quo
- 47 Fleece seeker
- 49 Easy gait
- 50 Type size
- 51 "I cannot tell ___"
- 53 Buzzing pest
- 54 Continental currency
- 55 Diving duck
- 58 Hankering

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Photo by Amy Rush

Jitterbug

5th grade Patch Elementary School students Mckenna, Sophia and Erin performed the jitterbug dance at the Patch Community Center during the community holiday party.

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

Youth Activities



Photo by Dan L'Esperance

The Judgment

For a fun class project the Blue Ribbon students in Mr. L'Esperance's 3rd grade GE class have been conducting research and studying the legal process in criminal cases. As the culminating project, the students took sides: Hansel and Gretel against the Bad Witch. The Bad Witch had been placed on trial for kidnapping and was being brought to court to receive her justice. After a lengthy trial in front of a dozen jurors (their parents), the witch was finally found innocent of all charges and set free! This was a big win for the defensive team of the Bad Witch, but the prosecuting team for the state says they're planning to appeal the case to a higher court.





Youth Activities

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



Photo by Ed Thornburg

Holiday Gift Shop

The BEMS Blue Ribbon PTA recently opened a "Holiday Gift Shop" for the students. There were many wonderful items on sale that made nice presents for moms and dads. The Gift Shop was open for a week, and all the students were given the opportunity to go shopping for those special gifts needed for friends and family. On closing day teachers were given their turn to browse through the Gift Shop and take advantage of last minute sale prices. In this photo Blue Ribbon students (from left to right) Jake Holder, Aidan Buchanan, Paula Giraldo and Sydney Nelson are checking out the displayed items. The market was a great success. Thanks to our wonderful PTA for sponsoring this festive event.



Photo by Ed Thornburg

Spanish conversation

The Blue Ribbon students in Mr. Garcia's Spanish I classes have been practicing for a conversational skit, which would combine all the vocabulary learned since the beginning of their class. Students were paired off and were asked to create and practice their own conversational skits. Ownership was important because the students had to own their conversation and practice it to the point where they could present without notes. The skits could fall into several categories to include: introducing themselves to one another, speaking of things they liked or didn't like to do, or speaking about their school schedules and their classes. On presentation day all the students rose to the occasion and did a great job. In this photo we see Sarah Tabet and Maria Lynch performing their skit to their classmates. Mr. Garcia, the Spanish instructor, stated: "As the school year progresses, the students will continue to do more skits using the grammar and vocabulary that they are learning. This will help to prepare them for similar situations in their future in expressing themselves in the Spanish language."



Photo by Ed Thornburg

Christmas Concert

The Böblingen Elementary Middle School Blue Ribbon Christmas Band conducted by Ms. Rebecca Brashier recently gave a holiday concert at the Panzer shopping mall. The holiday shoppers at the mall were treated to renditions of all the favorite holiday songs.



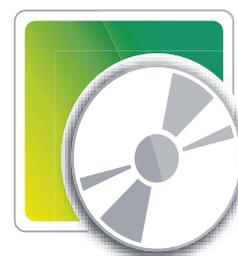
Photo by Ed Thornburg

Gingerbread houses

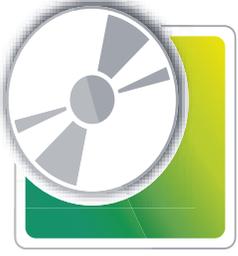
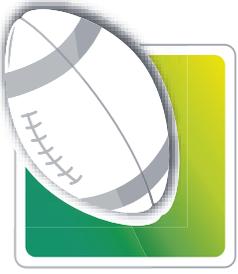
They looked so colorful, and the aroma from the little houses was like smoke coming from their tiny chimneys, and they could be eaten, reminding me of my favorite book "Hansel and Gretel." Except in Ms. Erickson's Blue Ribbon Kindergarten class there was no forest in which to get lost — just lots of beautiful gingerbread houses for everyone to admire. Celebrating the holidays is fun, especially when it is spent with Mom and Dad, and this was a family event. In this photo is Ms. Jessica Wiggins helping her daughter Alicia put the finishing touches on their new front door. It was a fun time, and of course educational in design. The students practiced their fine motor skills and developed their creativity and imagination. Thanks, Ms. Erickson, for adding so much fun to our holiday season.

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

Youth Activities



Youth Activities



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

German class

The German I and German II students from Boeblingen Elementary and Middle School enjoyed a study trip to the museum in Esslingen to learn about the life of a knight during the Middle Ages. The highlight of the trip was the lunch at the medieval Christ-mas market. The students created a comic strip of their experience in class. A big thanks to all the parent chapters for making this trip possible. In the picture from left to right: Koby Battema, Autumn Kearny, and Sophia Cummings. The comic strip was created by Carter Whiffen (not in the picture).



Photo by Ed Thornburg

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Are you my Mr. Right? Please write me to find out. I am a German woman with 40 years and 5'7". Are you 6'0" or taller, around my Age, doesn't matter if black or White as long you're honest, than write me with Picture. spielesinsel@web.de

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

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

I'm looking 4 u, are u a honest man 6,3 or taller, native American, dark Skin? I'm a German woman with 40 years & I wish to have a Baby. I don't need u Money, but u can c u child as often as u want. would you like to help me? Contact with photo & Information chinata1973@yahoo.de

Single German Man 49 yrs. With WArm Hearted, Humor. Seeks to A relationship for Single Women, mil only. r.grube5@gmail.com



WANTED

All ads and pics on class-world.com

Calling All Singers, Dancers, Instrumentalists, Poets, Comedians, Rappers, etc! Apollo Amateur Night will be Feb 22, 2013 at Armstrong's Club. I'm searching for talent for the show. Contact oo7dizzy77@gmail.com, \$500 Prize



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Yamato – The Drummers of Japan

Now – Sun, Jan 12
Stuttgart, Theaterhaus

Experience a unique mix of traditional drumming and exciting choreography at the new show “Rojyoh” by the world’s most successful Taiko ensemble in the Theaterhaus Stuttgart until January 12. “The Drummers of Japan” enthralled people in more than 50 countries with the combination of traditional and modern rhythms. For more info and tickets see www.eventim.de.

EVENTS

Mamma Mia!

Now – Sun, Jan 30

Stuttgart, Palladium Theater

The world’s most successful musical, Mamma Mia!, is back in Stuttgart now until March 30! Based on 22 of the biggest ABBA hits, the musical tells the story of a young girl who wants to find out who her father is before she gets married. For dates and tickets at the Palladium-Theater visit www.eventim.de

Holiday Fair

Sat, Jan 11 – Sun, Jan 19

Stuttgart, Landesmesse

Visit the “CMT Urlaubs-Messe” (holiday fair) the world’s biggest fair for tourism and leisure at the Landesmesse Stuttgart from January 11 to 19. More than 2,000 exhibitors from 100 countries will present new trends, hotels and foreign cultures. Discover new travel destinations from city and adventure trips to luxury beach holidays and experience the culture of this year’s partner countries the Dominican Republic and Serbia. For more info see www.messe-stuttgart.de.

Festival of Illusions

Sun, Jan 12

Sindelfingen, Stadthalle

The 17th Festival of Illusions in the Stadthalle Sindelfingen will take place on

January 12. National and international magicians will enchant the audience with exclusive shows by mentalists and illusionists. At the same time the Magic Circle Stuttgart will host the German championship in magic arts. Shows are at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., tickets are from €25. For more info in German see www.festival-der-illusionen.de.

Swabian Whisky Tasting

Fri, Jan 17

Stuttgart, Steigenberger Hotel

Take part in a special Swabian Whisky tasting at the Steigenberger Hotel Stuttgart on January 17 at 7 p.m. In the elegant Davidoff Lounge, a selected variety of regional whisky will be presented to the audience. Water and typical Swabian snacks will be provided to neutralize the taste buds for the special flavors of tobacco, honey and many more. For more info in German and tickets from €78 see www.stuttgart-tourist.de.

Shaolin Kung-Fu Show

Fri, Jan 17

Reutlingen, Stadthalle

Enjoy an exciting Kung-Fu show presented by Shaolin monks in the Stadthalle Reutlingen on January 17. Marvel at a special show where iron rods and tiles are destroyed only with body power and self-control. The focus of this martial art is totally on the life energy “Qi” which is, according to the

Zen-Buddhists, available in all living creatures. For more info in German see www.stadthallereutlingen.de.

Long Sauna Night

Sat, Jan 18

Filderstadt, Fildorado

Calm down at the long sauna night at the Fildorado swimming pool in Filderstadt on January 18 until 1 a.m. Special wellness treatments, delicious food, dimmed lights and calm music will provide a relaxed atmosphere. For more info in German see www.fildorado.de.

Boat Fair

Sat, Jan 18 – Sun, Jan 26

Düsseldorf, Messegelände

Don’t miss this year’s boat fair „boot“ at the Messegelände Düsseldorf from January 18 to 26. Discover new trends and accessories for all water sports and all types of boats from yachts to jet skis. During the fair raffles, a children’s program and different workshops will be available. Opening hours are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day. For more info see www.boot.de.

Afrika! Afrika!

Sat, Jan 18 – Tue, Jan 28

Stuttgart, Porsche Arena

Experience the wonderful show Afrika! Afrika! in the Porsche Arena Stuttgart from January 18 to 28. About four

million people have already been enchanted by André Heller’s magical program. For over 20 years it has ranked among the most successful shows in the international show-business. Acrobats, musicians and dancers from all over Africa present an exciting show. For more info and tickets see www.afrikaafrika.de.

Weekly Market

Tue, Jan 21

Stuttgart, Marktplatz

The weekly market offers fresh food like fruits, vegetables, fish, cheese, bakery goods etc. as well as international specialties and takeaways from 7 am to 1 pm (Saturday to 1.30 pm) at the market place in Stuttgart. For more information see www.stuttgarter-wochenmaerkte.de (in German only).

North American Film Festival

Thu, Jan 23 – Sun, Jan 26

Stuttgart, various locations

Once again the North American Film Festival will take place in Stuttgart, this year from January 23 to 26. At this year’s festival a variety of Native American movie projects will be presented under the motto “No more silence”. All movies will be shown in native language and you will have the chance to speak to some of the producers. For more info and a detailed program with times and locations see www.nordamerika-filmfestival.com.

More events on: www.militaryingermany.com

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