

The Citizen

Vol. 42, No. 14 www.stuttgart.army.mil

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DOD to expand benefits to all military spouses

American Forces Press Service

Defense Department officials will move forward in making benefits available to all military spouses, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said in a statement issued after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the Defense of Marriage Act June 26.

The law had prevented federal agencies from offering all of the same benefits to spouses in same-sex marriages that they provide to other spouses.

Here is the secretary's statement:

"The Department of Defense welcomes the Supreme Court's decision today on the Defense of Marriage Act. The department will immediately begin the process of implementing the Supreme Court's decision in consultation with the Department of Justice and other executive branch agencies. The Department of Defense intends to make the same benefits available to all military spouses — regardless of sexual orientation — as soon as possible. That is now the law, and it is the right thing to do.

"Every person who serves our na-



tion in uniform stepped forward with courage and commitment. All that matters is their patriotism, their willingness to serve their country and their qualifications to do so. Today's ruling helps ensure that all men and women who serve this country can be treated fairly and equally, with the full dignity and respect they so richly deserve."

A Defense Department spokesman issued a statement detailing some of the steps the department is taking:

- DOD will immediately begin to update the identification card issuance infrastructure and update the applicable implementing guidance. Officials estimate that this process will take about six to 12 weeks. For civilian employees,

the department will look to the Office of Personnel Management for guidance.

For civilian employees who are eligible for ID card-related benefits, DOD intends that ID cards will be made available to same-sex spouses of civilian employees at the same time as same-sex spouses of military members.

- The Supreme Court's ruling means that the Defense Department will extend all benefits to same-sex spouses of military personnel that are currently extended to opposite-sex spouses, including medical, dental, interment at Arlington National Cemetery, Va., and with-dependent Basic Allowance for Housing. DOD will implement these benefit changes as soon as possible for same-sex spouses.

- The policies governing burial at Arlington National Cemetery will apply equally to same-sex and opposite-sex spouses.

- DOD is carefully reviewing command sponsorship for overseas tours, and all applicable Status of Forces agreements.

- DOD will assess costs as it moves forward with implementation.

IMCOM commander visits Stuttgart

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Lt. Gen. Michael Ferriter, commander of the U.S. Army Installation Management Command and the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management, visited U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart June 26 during a five-day tour of Army installations in Germany.

The general, who commands the organization that manages 184 Army installations, was accompanied by IMCOM Command Sgt. Maj. Earl Rice and IMCOM-Europe Region Director Kathleen Marin.

Ferriter and Rice addressed civilian employees and Soldiers during a garrison workforce town hall meeting, discussing the impact of sequestration, sustainment challenges with reduced funding, improvements in the sponsorship and transition programs, and the Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention Program.

The general, who oversees more than 100,000 employees on four continents, emphasized the importance of doing what is right.

"Doing what's right sets us free to focus on



Lt. Gen. Michael Ferriter, commander of the U.S. Army Installation Management Command, addresses U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart employees during a workforce town hall meeting held June 26 in the Patch Chapel. Ferriter and his senior enlisted advisor, Command Sgt. Maj. Earl Rice, visited the Army communities of Stuttgart, Wiesbaden, Baumholder and Kaiserslautern to discuss the impact of sequestration, suicide prevention, Army sponsorship and SHARP.

S.J. Grady

innovation, creativity and delivering services to our families and our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines," he said.

Both leaders discussed the value of team work in delivering services.

"Together we accomplish more, and not one of us can do it by ourselves," Rice said.

The IMCOM commander thanked the staff for their dedicated service and professionalism and then took several questions from the audience regarding furloughs, hiring, training and SHARP.

Ferriter concluded the town hall by recognizing four USAG Stuttgart Soldiers and four employees with IMCOM commander coins.

The secret to being 'lucky': taking responsibility

Commentary by

Lt. Col. Mickey Evans

55th Communications Squadron commander

“She’s so lucky! He has all the luck!” Just like you, I hear these phrases thrown around from time to time.

I’ve often been taken somewhat by surprise when I hear one of these comments. Don’t get me wrong, I think there are times when truly random events of good fortune happen.

Take for instance the lady who recently won \$590 million in the Powerball lottery. That’s got to be luck, right?

However, I’ve watched some “lucky” people and noticed a few common traits and characteristics.

Lucky people are prepared. They show up for work ready to fulfill their role in the mission. If there was research to be done to prepare for a task, they’ve done it. If there’s a pertinent Air Force instruction, they’ve read it. They know when their physical fitness assessment and their performance report is due and what ancillary training

they have to complete.

Lucky people don’t procrastinate. They complete their career development courses. They sign up for primary military education correspondence courses as early as possible. They square away their service dress uniforms in advance of a scheduled event.

The fact is, the pace of our daily mission is so fast, we usually don’t know what curve ball is going to be sent our way tomorrow. Lucky people understand this and take care of what they can today.

Lucky people seem to have a plan.

Those people with whom I work closely often hear me say, ‘Hope is not a plan.’ For me, hope is four-letter word. Most of the time when I hear this word, it tells me the person talking really has no idea what they’re talking about.

Perhaps unbeknownst to them, lucky people seem to have the same philosophy.

They know how many pages of the professional development guide they have to study each week to be ready for their promotion tests; they don’t ‘hope’ to get through it.

They know what they want to score on the next physical fitness assessment and have a plan to get there; they don’t ‘hope’ to do well. They have a plan with definite goals and milestones, and they stick to it.

Lucky people take personal responsibility for their own success.

They don’t wait for their supervisors to tell them what to do or wait until the squadron sends out a roster of overdue ancillary training. They are aware of what is required and take care of it. If they fail, they take responsibility for it and perhaps most importantly, learn from it, and move on.

Lucky people are disciplined and balanced.

It’s very easy to let one facet of our lives overwhelm the others. Most of us have many titles such as spouse, parent, supervisor and/or student. By capitalizing on those traits, lucky people self-regulate their time to ensure each facet of their lives gets the attention it requires.

Finally, I think lucky people have a heightened sense of situational awareness and take full advantage of it by being fully engaged and armed

with information.

They listen to their peers and mentors and follow their advice. They know where to find information and stay on top of the latest news and opportunities. Because they are informed, they often seem one step ahead of everyone else.

Lucky people get those choice opportunities or assignments because when the eye of the Air Force looks around for qualifying candidates, these people have taken personal responsibility for their successes and taken care of everything in their control.

Lucky people don’t need to get ready when an opportunity presents itself; they are ready because they took care of business as early as possible.

It boils down to this: Good fortune, or luck, is usually the result of focused hard work and dedication that resulted in a level of ability that was available when an opportunity presented itself.

Editor’s Note: Lt. Col. Mickey Evans is assigned to Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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www.stuttgart.army.mil

The Citizen will take a short publication break during July and will return to print Aug. 8. We wish all our readers a safe, sunny summer!

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www.preventsexualassault.army.mil

Sexual Assault Support for the DOD Community

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Fred Greaves

During a Sesame Street/USO Experience for Military Families performance at Scott Air Force Base in 2012, Katie (center) tells Grover (from left) Elmo, Cookie Monster, Honker and Rosita that she has to move away from Sesame Street. The show comes to USAG Stuttgart July 19 with two performances.

Elmo, Muppets coming to Stuttgart

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Sesame Street, the United Services Organization, and Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation will bring the Muppets to U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart July 19.

Performances take place on July 19 at 2 and 5 p.m. in the Patch Fitness Center, Building 2337. Doors will open 30 minutes before each show. The show is for ID cardholders and their dependents, and is free.

This year's tour showcases the power of friendship when Elmo and his Sesame Street pals help Katie, a military child, open up about her fears and excitement as she deals with moving to a new place and making new friends.

The Sesame Street/USO Experience for Military Families — the USO's longest running, free traveling tour based on Sesame Street's military

family initiative — is currently traveling to 42 installations in eight countries in the Europe and Pacific regions.

Organizers said the show comprises a fun-filled character performance with special giveaways and outreach materials for those who attend.

Since its debut in July 2008, the Sesame Street/USO Experience for Military Families has taken its message to more than 368,000 troops and military families, and performed 631 shows on 145 military installations in 33 states and 11 countries.

To learn more about the Sesame Street/USO Experience for Military Families, visit www.USO.org/Sesame.

For more information, contact USAG Stuttgart Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation at 421-3151/civ. 0711-729-3151.

Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits transfer policy to take effect Aug. 1

By C. Todd Lopez
Army News Service

Beginning Aug. 1, every Soldier who elects to transfer his or her Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to a family member will incur an additional four years in the Army, without regard to their time in service.

The rule largely affects senior officers and enlisted Soldiers who are retirement-eligible. As of now, these Soldiers may be able to transfer benefits to their loved ones with anywhere from zero to three years of additional service.

This is in contrast to Soldiers who are not retirement eligible, who must re-up for an additional four years.

"Soldiers are entitled to the benefit for their own use, but to transfer to dependents: that is used as a recruiting and retention tool," said Lt. Col. Mark Viney, chief of the Enlisted Professional Development Branch, Army G-1.

Veterans Affairs also has eligibility requirements

for transferability. Soldiers must have six years of active duty in order to transfer their GI Bill benefits.

In some cases, if a Soldier has incurred additional time in service in order to transfer GI Bill benefits to a family member, and is afterward unable to serve that additional time in service, he or she may be required to pay back those benefits.

Viney said that as the Army draws down, some Soldiers will be involuntarily separated under force-shaping initiatives. Soldiers who are separated early under such circumstances and who had previously transferred their Post-9/11 GI Bill education benefits to their dependents may retain the transferred benefits, without needing to repay them to the VA.

Soldiers who were retirement eligible after Aug. 1, 2009, and before Aug. 1, 2012, and who are considering transferring their benefits to their dependents should review their service obligation before doing so.

Soldiers with questions about transferring their Post-9/11 GI Bill education benefits to their dependents should contact their approving official.

News & Notes

SOCEUR to hold change of command ceremony, impacts parking on Patch

U.S. Special Operations Command Europe will host a change of command ceremony July 16 at 10 a.m. in the Patch Fitness Center.

Army Maj. Gen. Michael S. Repass will relinquish command to Air Force Maj. Gen. Marshall B. Webb.

Webb is currently serving as the director of Plans, Programs, Requirements and Assessments for Air Force Special Operations Command, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

After his departure, Repass will retire to Orlando, Fla., after more than 33 years of active service almost exclusively in Special Operations.

In support of the ceremony, the Patch Fitness Center gymnasium will be closed from 1 p.m. July 12 through 5 p.m. July 16.

Parking on Patch Barracks will also be impacted. The Patch Community Club parking lot, all parking areas that are adjacent to the Patch Fitness Center/Hub (Building 2337), and parking areas for the Swabian Special events center will be blocked at 9 p.m. on July 15.

Community members should ensure that their cars are moved from these areas. Cars that remain will be towed at the owners' expense.

Tech expo comes to Stuttgart July 23

The Stuttgart Chapter of Armed Forces Communications and Electronics, and the Defense Information Systems Agency will host a technology exposition July 23 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Patch Fitness Center.

Technologies on display will include smart boards, data security, exploitation capabilities, digital imaging and more.

The expo is open to all ID cardholders.

For more information or to pre-register visit www.ncsi.com and click on "Event Calendar."

Garrison services to close on 'Furlough Fridays'

Several U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart activities will be closed on Fridays from July 12 to Sept. 27 as a result of sequestration and an 11-day administrative furlough for U.S. appropriated fund employees.

These activities are:

- Community Mail Rooms
- Army Post Offices
- Housing Office
- Passport Office
- Military Personnel Services
- Security Office
- ID Card Office
- Army Community Service (SHARP and family victim advocates will be available)
- Equal Employment Opportunity Office

For more information on the impact of the furlough, visit www.stuttgart.army.mil.

Ask a JAG

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

By Capt. Faisal Akhter (U.S. Army)
Stuttgart Law Center

Q: What happens to my assets after I die? Do I need a will?

A: A last will and testament is a legal document which controls the disposition of your property at death. As long as you are living, your will has no effect. After your death, the "executor" who you name in your will must have the will probated, or enforced, in a probate court in your state of legal residence.

As you can imagine, not everyone has a will upon their death. And that's perfectly fine. Most people don't need a will. There's something called dying "intestate," which basically means dying without a will. If you die intestate, your property goes first or in major part to your spouse, then to your children and their descendants.

If there are no descendants, your property goes back up your family tree to your parents, your siblings, your siblings' descendants, your grandparents, etc. How that exactly works depends on your state of legal residence. Chances are this method is precisely how you want to distribute your estate upon your death.

If you have any minor children, you can create a document listing your desire for guardianship of the children. However, your desire is not necessarily what the court will do.

The court will always do what's in the child's best interest. If the court finds your appointed guardian to be a poor choice, it will search for a better candidate. That said, as long as your choice is a competent one, the court will likely accept your selection.

Some people want their will to establish a trust. A trust sounds rich and fancy but you probably don't need one. They're also rather expensive, requiring payment to create one and ongoing maintenance fees. That's money that could be given to your children instead of paid to lawyers and bankers.

Without establishing a trust, you can still direct your executor to control gifts to beneficiaries until age 18 or 21. The executor can nevertheless use the child's inheritance for the benefit of the child, making this option less complicated and less expensive.

However, if you feel your 21-year-old will be irresponsible with the money, you can create a trust to safeguard their inheritance money. But really, how rash could a 21-year-old be with money?

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.



Soldiers of the 10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command in Kaiserslautern listen as Sgt. 1st Class Stanley Quin, the Sexual Assault Response coordinator for 10th AAMDC, discusses how to prevent sexual harassment and sexual assault June 21.

Staff Sgt. John Zumer

USAREUR Soldiers, civilians educated during SHARP week

U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs

U.S. Army Europe conducted a week-long event, June 17-21, which focused on response to and prevention of sexual harassment and assault.

"Sexual harassment and assault is an 'insider threat.' It is destroying our Army and breaking down the trust and confidence of the American people in our institution," said Lt. Gen. Donald M. Campbell Jr., commanding general of USAREUR. "The prevention of sexual assault is critical to maintaining an effective fighting force."

"We must live the Army core values because it is our code of conduct, and I expect all USAREUR personnel to live by this code on and off duty," he added.

During the event, Soldiers and civilians across Europe conducted small-group, leader led discussions that gave them the opportunity to talk about the issue of sexual assault and harassment in the Army today. The group also discussed how to prevent harassment and assaults, what to do when it happens, and how the Army core values apply to preventing the 'insider threat.'

"You have to counsel. If you want to develop trust, don't let the first time you talk to a Soldier be when he's standing in front of you after he's already in trouble," said Command Sgt. Maj. Sean J. Rice, USAREUR Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion command sergeant major.

According to the operation order directing the training, the goal of the week-long event was to prevent any further assaults, improve the health and discipline of the force, enhance awareness and utilization of available SHARP resources and promote immediate intervention to prevent sexual assault.

"My plan is to address new Soldiers, whether it's officers or enlisted, and really educate them on a change of culture," said Lt. Col. Aaron C. Barta, who became the new commander of USAREUR's Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion June 20. "I will do my best to get Soldiers in the resiliency training because it is an investment in Soldiers."

For information and resources in the fight against sexual harassment and assault, visit the U.S. Army Europe website at www.eur.army.mil/SHARP/.

Traveling Around Europe?

You must carry a passport...

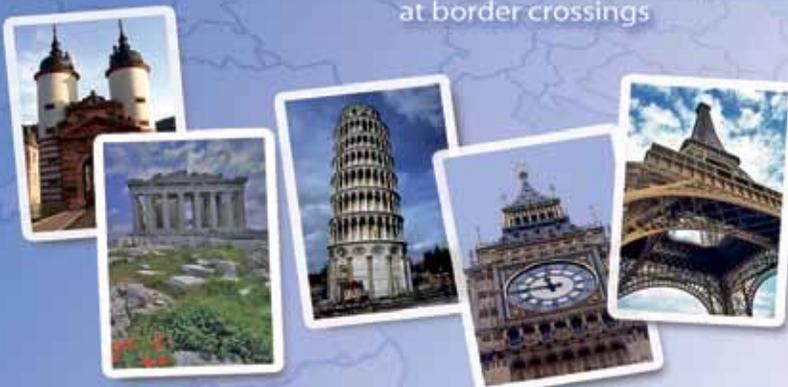
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Even when there are no checkpoints at border crossings



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Contact your local passport office for more information

A military I.D. is not a substitute for a passport



Green Boot program

Is your unit signed up for the Green Boot program? Help the Army save by sharing ideas on ways to conserve and use energy more efficiently.

For more information, contact Truett Sanchez, the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart energy manager, at 421-6242/0711-7228-6242.

New PPE policy for motorcyclists

U.S. Army Europe now requires motorcyclists to wear clothing that incorporates fluorescent and highly reflective materials.

Service members are required to wear proper personal protective equipment while riding on and off installations.

Civilians and family members must wear PPE while riding on post, but are encouraged to wear the equipment off post, as well.

To read the policy, visit www.stuttgart.army.mil and click on "Hot Topics."

Yoga for all

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Army Substance Abuse Program will sponsor a series of yoga workshops during July. A session on self-awareness and introspection will be held July 13 from 10-11 a.m. at the Patch Fitness Center.

A session that focuses on building confidence and openness will be held July 22 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Army Community Service, Room 222, Building 2915, Panzer Kaserne.

A third session, called Restore and Refresh, is scheduled for July 29 from 10-11 a.m. at the Patch Fit-

ness Center. These free workshops are open to everyone.

For more information, call the USAG Stuttgart Army Substance Abuse Program at 431-2530/civ. 07031-15-2530.

Wandering Club hosts 38th annual walk July 27-28

The Stuttgart German-American Wandering Club invites the public to participate in its 38th annual "Wandertag," or hosted walk.

The Wandertag will be held July 27-28 with the start and finish at the Heinz-Glaunyer Halle, TSV Heumaden, Kemnater Strasse 50, 70619 Stuttgart-Heumaden, GPS 8.735634/9.222652. The trails are 6k, 12k and 22k in length.

Volunteers are also needed.

For more information, contact the Stuttgart German-American Wandering Club by email at council@sgawc.org or visit their website at www.sgawc.org.

Support diversity

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Equal Employment Opportunity Office seeks energetic volunteers to enhance diversity awareness by serving on various Special Emphasis Program committees.

For more information, stop by the USAG Stuttgart EEO Office in Room 205, Building 2307, Patch Barracks, or call 430-5312/civ. 0711-680-5312.

Construction could impact train travel

An ongoing construction project at the Stuttgart main train station means that trains could be cancelled

or delayed during July and August.

Travelers should visit the Deutsche Bahn website at www.bahn.com for further information.

Get certified as a soccer official

A soccer official's clinic for new and experienced officials will be held July 16-18 from 6-9 p.m. at the Patch Fitness Center.

Attendees will learn field mechanics, current rules and points of emphasis. The clinic will culminate with a written test and practical exam.

This clinic will certify participants to officiate military, Child, Youth and School Services, and high school soccer matches. Officials will get paid for their services after they have received contracts.

No advance registration is necessary for this free clinic.

For more information, call 431-2616/civ. 07031-15-2616 or email Thomas.E.Hlavacek2.NAF@mail.com.

Discover local area with Culture College

Enroll in U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart's Culture College for an introduction to German customs, culture, public transportation and Stuttgart landmarks.

Army Community Service will hold free two-day class sessions throughout the summer. Upcoming classes are scheduled for July 23 and 25, Aug. 6 and 8, Aug. 20 and 22, Aug. 27 and 29, and Sept. 3 and 5.

Culture College consists of a classroom session (Tuesday from 8:15 a.m. to 4 p.m.) and a Stuttgart

city tour (Thursday from 8:45 a.m. to 5 p.m.). Child care is available.

For more information or to register, stop by ACS, Building 2915, Panzer Kaserne, or call 431-3362/3436 or civ. 07031-15-3362/3436.

Borrow basics from ACS Lending Closet

If you have just relocated to the Stuttgart military community, the Army Community Service lending closet will let you borrow basic household goods such as pots and pans, dishes, high chairs and car safety seats.

For more information, stop by ACS, Building 2915, Panzer Kaserne, or call the Relocation Manager at 431-3436/3362 or civ. 07031-15-3436/3362.

Free activities with Warrior Pride

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart's Warrior Pride Challenge provides alcohol-free events to promote healthy habits, foster wellness and reduce risky behaviors.

SWPC offers trips and events free or at a low cost to service members O-5 and below.

Upcoming trips include a canyoning and white water rafting trip July 13-14, an overnight camping trip July 27-28, and an introduction to paragliding on Aug. 18.

For more information, call 431-2530/civ. 07031-15-2530 or visit the Warrior Pride Challenge Facebook page at www.facebook.com/USAGStuttgartWPC.

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

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Night noise affects well-being

Environmental noise can have negative effects on human health and well-being. The World Health Organization, concerned about the health effects of the exposure to night-time noise, publishes guidelines for night noise for European countries.

According to the WHO website, "... annual average night exposure should not exceed 40 decibels (dB), corresponding to the sound from a quiet street in a residential area. Persons exposed to higher levels over the year can suffer mild health effects such as sleep disturbance and insomnia. Long-term average exposure to levels above 55 dB, similar to the noise from a busy street, can trigger elevated blood pressure and heart attacks."

WHO researchers estimate that one in five Europeans is regularly exposed to sound exceeding 55dB at night.



Going Green

USAG Stuttgart
Directorate of Public Works
Environmental Division

Dental clinic 'goes first class,' streamlines appointments

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

The U.S. Army Dental Command will roll out the Go First Class program across the Army this month. Go First Class is designed to streamline a Soldier's path toward overall dental wellness and readiness.

"The number one dental complaint Soldiers have with going to the dentist is they can't get their teeth cleaned the same day as their exam," said Col. Bryan Kalish, director of Healthcare Delivery for DENCOM. "Starting in July, Army dentistry will address this concern once and for all with Going First Class."

When possible, Soldiers going through the GFC process will receive their cleaning, annual dental exam, and initiate or complete treatment of their dental cavities — all in a single visit.

The intent of GFC is to help more Soldiers achieve the goal of Dental Readiness Classification 1. GFC will also renew focus on existing DRC 2 and 3 treatment needs.

According to data gathered by U.S. Army Dental Command over the past year, over 50 percent of Soldiers have cavities. In addition, 33 percent of Soldiers who were cavity free the prior year were diagnosed with cavities this year. Officials say prevention is the key to stop the cycle and that GFC will focus on prevention, as well as readiness and wellness.

The Stuttgart Dental Clinic will roll out the pro-

gram for all service members.

In order to do so, clinic officials will discontinue walk-in exams. Appointments will be necessary, and exams for active duty service members will be combined with dental cleanings.

Active duty service members needing emergency care will be seen during sick call, triaged and assessed for their dental needs.

With the mandated changes, routine care for family members will be temporarily suspended.

"Unfortunately with readiness extremely low, coupled with our short staffing, we are unable to perform routine family member care," said Sgt. 1st Class Sean Arnold, the dental clinic detachment sergeant.

Family members who are receiving treatment for orthodontics will continue to be seen, as well as those who need emergency care and service-mandatory permanent change of station exams.

Arnold said clinic officials are working diligently to reinstate routine care to family members on a space available basis, although the exact date for this has not yet been determined.

One thing families can count on, however, is an increase in dental care for children after a pediatric dentist arrives in September. Until then, families are encouraged to use the Tricare Dental Insurance Program.

"We encourage all family members to take advantage of the excellent benefits," said Arnold.



S.J. Grady

Dr. (Maj.) Jayanthi Kondamani (right) and Dental Specialist Pfc. Michael McKiver perform a dental restoration on a service member July 2 at the Stuttgart Dental Clinic.

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Sign up for Run to Remember by July 18

The Run to Remember half marathon and 5K race will be held July 20 at Panzer Kaserne and honors military heroes who have fallen since 9/11.

Sign up at the Patch and Panzer fitness centers by June 14 to avoid paying late registration fees. Late registration starts July 15 and ends July 18 at 2 p.m.

Opening ceremonies will begin at 8:30 a.m., and the half marathon and 5k will start at 9 a.m. A barbecue will follow after the race.

T-shirts and race numbers can be picked up July 19 at the Patch Fitness Center, or at Panzer Kaserne on the day of race from 7:30-9:30 a.m.

For application or more information, visit www.stuttgart.armymwr.com, or call 430-7136/civ. 0711-680-7136.

There is such a thing as a free lunch

United Services Organization Stuttgart invites the community to its free monthly lunch on July 31 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Building 2915 on Panzer Kaserne. Pulled pork and chicken will be served until supplies run out.

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

Want coupons?

Army Community Service receives thousands of grocery and general item coupons from various social organizations such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Women's Auxiliaries, church groups and individuals. Coupons are valid up to six months after the expiration date and accepted at the commissary and exchange.

Pick up these free coupons at Army Community Service in Building 2915, Panzer Kaserne. For more information, call 431-3362/civ. 07031-15-3362.

Commissary hours

During the furlough period (July 8 to Sept. 30) the Patch Commissary will be open Monday through Sunday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The Panzer and Kelley commissaries will be open Tuesday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The Robinson Barracks Commissary will be open from noon to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

For more information about your local commissary, visit www.commissaries.com.

Register for fall sports through Aug. 2

Registration for Child, Youth and School Services fall sports will run through Aug. 2.

Sports include tackle football, flag football, soccer, cheerleading and developmental sports.

Participants must have physicals valid through November. Discounts are available to families with more than one child.

To register, visit Parent Central Services, Building 2347, Patch Barracks or call 430-7480/civ. 0711-680-7480.

Appointments needed for sports physicals

The Stuttgart Army Health Clinic will offer school and sports physicals for children and teens Aug. 2 and Aug. 16 from 7:40 a.m. to 3:40 p.m. Appointments are necessary.

To schedule an appointment, call the Europe Regional Medical

Command Call Center at 371-2622/civ. 0622-117-2622.

Outdoor Rec rents party equipment

Outdoor Recreation offers party rentals, such as fest tables, grills, canoes and bikes for outdoor events and activities.

For more information, visit www.stuttgart.armymwr.com, or call 431-2774/civ. 07031-15-2774.

Sign up for Post 6 golf tournament

American Legion Stuttgart Post 6 will host its eighth annual golf tournament Aug. 10 at the Stuttgart Golf Course in Kornwestheim.

The cost for the four-person scramble is \$50 for members, \$60 for non-members. The tournament is limited to the first 72 golfers. Advance registration will be accepted until Aug. 7.

To sign up, or for more information, call 430-6158 or 421-4541.

USO/Red Cross golf tournament

The Stuttgart American Red Cross and United Services Organizations Stuttgart will team up to sponsor a golf tournament Aug. 3 at Golf Club Hammetweil in Neckartenzlingen. Registration closes July 19. Registration forms are available at www.uso.org/stuttgart.

For more information, call the Red Cross at civ. 07031-15-2812 or the USO at civ. 07031-15-3505.

New number for Transportation Office

The Stuttgart Transportation Office has a new telephone number. For assistance with your transportation needs, call 431-3338/civ. 07031-15-3338.

The Transportation Office, in Room 310, Building 2913, is open Monday through Wednesday and Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Thursday from 1-4 p.m.

Due to PCS soon?

Service members and civilians who will relocate in the next several months should plan to attend one of the permanent change of station/pre-separation briefings to be held Aug. 21, Sept. 18, Oct. 16 and Nov. 20 at 1 p.m. in Building 2913 on Panzer Kaserne.

Agency representatives from transportation, customs, health and dental clinics, Tricare, vehicle registration, housing and Army Community Service will provide valuable PCS information.

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

Advance registration is required. To sign up, call 431-2599/civ. 07031-15-2599.

CID offers reward

The Stuttgart Criminal Investigation Division Office is offering a \$750 reward for information leading to the apprehension and conviction of those responsible for the content and delivery of two separate letters that contained racial slurs to a resident living in on-post quarters at Panzer Kaserne.

If you have information concerning this or any crime, contact the Stuttgart CID Office at 430-2973/2976 civ. 0711-680-2973/2976, or the MP Desk at 430-5262/civ. 0711-680-5262.

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

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The sun, your eyes: what you need to know

By Michael D. Pattison
U.S. Army Public Health Command

July is Ultraviolet Light Safety Month, and anyone who has been sunburned in the past knows the effects of too much sun and UV light exposure.

Most are aware that prolonged UV exposure can cause skin cancer and speed up the aging process of skin. Some are aware that UV light is needed by our bodies to produce vitamin D, which helps strengthen bones, muscles and the immune system and helps improve our mood.

Yet many are not aware that prolonged UV exposure damages the tissues of the eye and can lead to cataracts and other eye conditions such as the loss of central vision due to macular degeneration.

In fact, most do not recognize the importance of UV protection for their eyes to prevent visual impairment. A recent study by the American Optometric Association stated that only 47 percent of Americans thought that UV protection was the most important factor when selecting sunglasses.

So what is UV light? UV is that invisible part of the light spectrum below blues and violets. While the primary source of UV light is the sun, other sources include welder's flash, fluorescent lighting, high-intensity mercury vapor lamps, xenon arc lamps, and UV lamps and devices used in certain occupations.

Those who spend a lot of time or work outdoors or spend prolonged hours working with UV-emitting



Sunglasses are a great fashion accessory, but their most important job is to protect your eyes from the sun's ultraviolet rays. When purchasing sunglasses, look for ones that block out 99 to 100 percent of both UVA and UVB radiation.

Photos.com

light sources, and children are at greatest risk. While the Occupational Safety and Health Administration does not have a standard for exposure to UV light, other agencies have established thresholds for exposure.

Most types of UV lighting result in exposure levels well within acceptable exposure thresholds, However, if you are at all concerned, protect your skin and eyes.

For the eyes, use eyewear that provides as close to 100 percent eye protection from UV exposure as possible.

Be aware that the tint of the lens has nothing to do with the UV protection of the lenses. A clear lens with 100 percent protection is better for your eyes than a

dark, tinted pair without UV protection.

In fact, dark lenses without UV protection can be even worse for your eyes because they allow more UV light to get into your eyes due to your pupils being larger.

There are many safety glasses on the market that protect eyes from UV exposure, and all Military Combat Eye Protection, even with the clear lenses in place, block 99.9 percent of all UVA and UVB light.

Preserve your sight to fight — wear proper UV protection whenever exposed for prolonged levels of ultraviolet light.

Editor's Note: Michael D. Pattison is an occupational vision optometrist.

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Festivals

Schorndorf will host **SchoWo**, the city's summer street festival, from July 12-16.

Events will kick off July 12 at 4 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. On July 13, the fest will run from 11 a.m. to 12:30 a.m., and July 14-16 from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

The festival will span from Marktplatz and Spitalhof to am Ochsenberg, Schloss and throughout the historic downtown area.

Concerts, dance performances, entertainment and children's activities will be offered.

Local restaurants will provide regional and international food and beverages.

For more information, visit www.schowo.de.



in Stuttgart

A 30-minute fireworks show will be the highlight of this year's "Lichterfest" festival of lights July 13. The event will be held throughout the Killesberg park and leisure area in Stuttgart.

Stuttgart will host the **Lichterfest**, or festival of lights, July 13 from 4 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the "Höhenpark" Killesberg park and leisure area.

The event will feature a 30-minute fireworks display set to music at 10:15 p.m., and the entire park area will be "magically" illuminated.

Bands will also entertain the

crowds with pop, rock, soul, blues and electro tunes.

Patrons can indulge in Swabian, and international foods and beverages. Trampolines, a hands-on circus, bouncing castles and various playgrounds throughout the Killesberg park area will offer child-friendly activities.

Entrance tickets will cost €14. Family tickets (two adults and two children 15 years old or younger) will cost €32 when purchased early. At the door, expect to pay €17 for single admission, €36 for a family.

Tickets can be purchased by calling civ. 0711-25555-55 or online at info@easyticket.de.

The Höhenpark Killesberg is located at Am Kochenhof 1, 70192 Stuttgart.

For more information, visit www.lichterfest-stuttgart.de.



Solitude Revival e.v.

A Porsche Formula 1 racing car from the 60s will participate in this year's "Solitude Revival" international old-timer and motorcycle racing festival July 19-21 at the "Solitude Ring" in Leonberg.

The **Solitude Revival** international old-timer and motorcycle racing festival will be held at the "Solitude-Ring" racing ring in Leonberg July 19-21.

The event will run July 19 from 2-6 p.m. and July 20 and 21 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Classic racing cars, such as the Alfa Romeo 33/2 Le Mans from 1968, motorcycles and sidecars will participate in various races throughout the three-day festival.

The first racing at the Solitude racing ring took place in 1903.

A "Paddock Party" featuring popular rock 'n' roll songs from the

50s and 60s will be held July 19 and from 6-10 p.m. on July 20.

Tickets cost €13 when purchased in advance, or €18 at the event. On July 19, the event is free.

To purchase tickets, call civ. 0711-2082-495, or visit www.eventbuero.com.

Solitude Ring is located between Leonberg and Stuttgart. Races and main events will take place at the ADAC (German Automobile Club) training site at Mahdentalstrasse, 71229 Leonberg.

For more information, visit www.solitude-revival.org.

Sindelfingen will celebrate its **750th city anniversary** with a historic fest weekend July 20-21 in downtown Sindelfingen, the Sommerhofenpark and the Mercedes-Benz factory.

Events will be offered July 20 from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. and July 21 from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

The fest weekend will start with the "Kuchenritt," a historic parade, July 20.

Patrons can go on a "Zeitspaziergang," or time walk, that will illustrate Sindelfingen's history from past to present with theater performances and information booths July 20 and 21.

The Mercedes-Benz factory in Sindelfingen will also open its doors to the public throughout the weekend.

A light and sound show will be held the evening of July 20 and 21.

Bands will entertain the crowds with live music. Food and beverages will be offered, as well.

For more information, visit www.750jahre.sindelfingen.de.

Historic city tours of Sindelfingen in English will be offered July 13 and Sept. 14 from 3-4:30 p.m.

Tours will start in front of Sindelfingen's i-Punkt (tourist information). The tour costs €3. Reservations are not required. i-Punkt is located at Am Marktplatz 1, 71063 Sindelfingen.

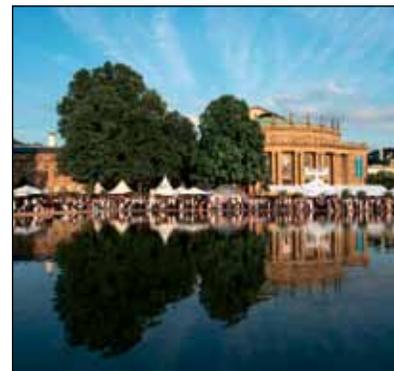
For more information, call civ. 07031-94-325.

The **Henkersfest** will run July 24-27 at the "Wilhelmsplatz" in downtown Stuttgart.

The fest will be open July 24 and 25 from 4 p.m. to 1 a.m., July 26 from 3 p.m. to 1 a.m., and July 27 from 2 p.m. to 1 a.m.

The outdoor event will feature international foods, cocktail bar and live bands.

For more information, visit www.henkersfest.de or www.cafe-stella.de.



Martin Stollberg

Enjoy summer in the city during the "Stuttgarter Sommerfest" Aug. 1-4.

The **Stuttgarter Sommerfest**, or summer fest, will run Aug. 1-4.

The fest will span from Schlossplatz and the Neues Schloss to the State Opera, and will be open Aug. 1 from 11 a.m. until midnight, Aug. 2 and 3 from 11 a.m. to 2 a.m., and Aug. 4 from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

The event will feature live bands summer cocktails, Swabian cuisine and seafood.

For more information, visit www.sommerfest-stuttgart.de.

The **Konstanzer Seenachtfest**, or Lake Constance Festival, will be held Aug. 10 from 1 p.m. to 2 a.m. all along Konstanz' boardwalk area.

The fest will feature a fireworks display set to music at 10:15 p.m.

In addition to the fireworks, visitors can indulge in food, enjoy salsa bands, zumba, samba and capoeira (Brazilian martial arts combining dance with acrobatics and music) performances.

Tickets cost €14 when purchased in advance or €18 at the event.

For more information, visit www.seenachtfest.de.

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What's happening in FMWR

Speedy Lube grand opening

Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation celebrates the grand opening of the Speedy Lube and motorcycle repair shops July 19 from noon to 2 p.m. with hamburgers, hot dogs and prizes at the Automotive Skills Center, Building 2926, Panzer Kaserne.

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

Outdoor adventure

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart's Outdoor Recreation has a summer program to fit most outdoor enthusiasts' tastes. The schedule includes a white water rafting trip July 20; a camping trip to Plansee, Austria, July 27-28; and on Aug. 3, an introductory scuba class or a Black Forest adventure.

For complete details, call Outdoor Recreation at 431-2774/civ. 07031-15-2774.

Texas barbecue

An all-you-can-eat Texas-style buffet with ribs, barbecue and chicken will be served July 26 from

4:30-8 p.m. at the Kelley Club, Building 3300.

For more information, call 421-4660/civ. 0711-729-4660.

Parents' Night Out

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Child, Youth and School Services will host a Parents' Night Out Aug. 2 at the Panzer Child Development/School Age Center from 6:30-11:30 p.m. Sign up at Parent Central Services by July 31.

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

Fall bowling leagues

Sign up for a fall bowling league at the Galaxy Bowling and Entertainment Center on Panzer Kaserne from Aug. 1 to Sept. 6.

The league line-up includes Tuesday night, Thursday morning ladies only, Friday night mixed or Saturday morning youth.

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

For more activities, visit www.stuttgart.armymwr.com.



Coming to Patch Theater

July 11 — Man Of Steel 3D (PG-13) 6 p.m.

July 12 — Despicable Me 2 3D (G) 6 p.m., The Lone Ranger (PG-13) 8 p.m.

July 13 — Despicable Me 2 3D (G) 2 p.m., Man Of Steel 3D (PG-13) 4:30 p.m. The Lone Ranger (PG-13) 8 p.m.

July 14 — Despicable Me 2 3D (G) 2 p.m., Iron Man 3 3D (PG-13) 4:30 p.m., The Lone Ranger (PG-13) 8 p.m.

July 15 — The Lone Ranger (PG-13) 6 p.m.

July 16 — closed

July 17 — Star Trek Into Darkness (PG-13) 6 p.m.

July 18 — Iron Man 3 3D (PG-13) 6 p.m.

July 19 — Turbo 3D (G) 3:30 p.m., Grown Ups 2 (PG-13) 6 p.m., Pacific Rim (PG-13) 9 p.m.

July 20, 21 — Turbo 3D (G) 2 p.m., Grown Ups 2 (PG-13) 4:30 p.m., Pacific Rim 3D (PG-13) 8 p.m.

July 22 — Grown Ups 2 (PG-

13) 6 p.m.

July 23 — closed

July 24 — Fast & Furious 6 (PG-13) 6 p.m.

July 25 — Pacific Rim 3D (PG-13) 6 p.m.

July 26 — R.I.P.D. 3D (PG-13) 3 p.m., The Conjuring (R) 6 p.m., Red 2 (R) 8 p.m.

July 27, 28 — R.I.P.D. 3D (PG-13) 2 p.m., The Conjuring (R) 5 p.m., Red 2 (R) 8 p.m.

July 29 — Red 2 (R) 6 p.m.

July 30 — closed

July 31 — The Hangover Part III (R) 6 p.m.



Warner Bros. Pictures

Sci-fi film "Pacific Rim" comes to the Patch Theater July 19.

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For more information on any of these events, visit stuttgart.armymwr.com

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Soldiers earn berths in 2013 Wrestling World Championships

Story & photo by **Tim Hips**
Installation Command Public Affairs Office

Three wrestlers in the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program earned spots on Team USA for the World Championships at the 2013 U.S. World Team Trials, June 21-22.

Sgt. Spenser Mango, Spc. Justin Lester and Spc. Caylor Williams will compete Sept. 16-22, at the 2013 International Federation of Associated Wrestling Styles Wrestling World Championships in Budapest, Hungary.

An unprecedented eight Soldiers reached the finals of the U.S. World Team Trials, including four in two weight classes, ensuring that at least two Army wrestlers would make Team USA.

Mango, a two-time Olympian who will be making his fourth appearance at the World Championships, won two straight matches against WCAP teammate Sgt. Nate Engel in the best-of-three finals of the Greco-Roman 55-kilogram/121-pound division.

Lester, a 2012 Olympian who earned his sixth trip to the World Championships, defeated WCAP teammate Pfc. Ellis Coleman in two consecutive matches in the 66-kilogram/145.5-pound Greco-Roman division.

"I've just been feeling good," Lester said. "I'm having fun again, and that's what it's all about. When I'm having fun, I'm wrestling well. Still got awhile to go — got to get my offense clicking. Obviously my lungs are back. Just get my moves clicking and I'm

going to be ready to go by Budapest." Lester welcomed Coleman's move into his weight class and onto the Army WCAP squad.

"He's somebody else I have to beat," Lester said. "It's great for him because he's a 'tweener' like me, but he's young, so he made the right move in going up. Just [unfortunate] that I'm there, too. We're going to be battling until these shoes are off, but until then, I expect him to push me, and I'm going to push him to make him a better wrestler."

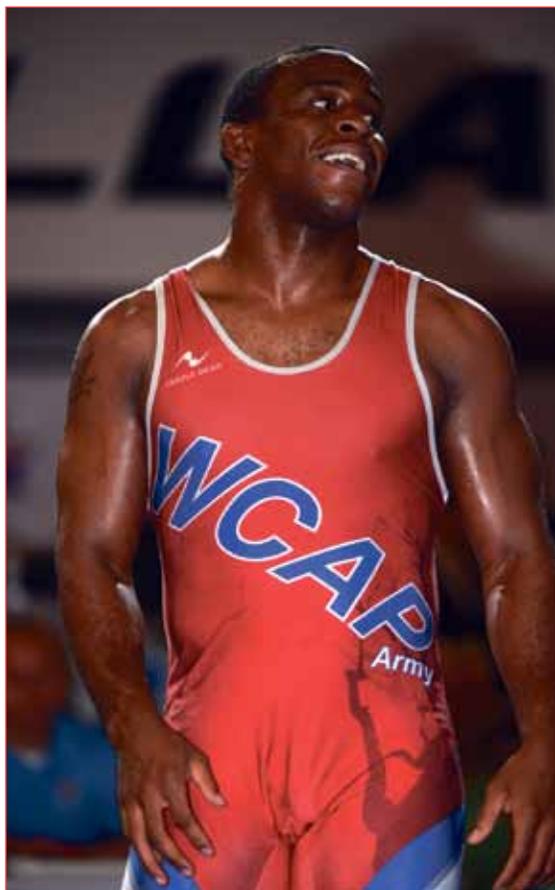
Williams, 22, a 2013 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, prevailed in two matches against New York Athletic Club's Marcus Finau in the Greco-Roman 96-kilogram/211.5 pound class.

"The same way I came into this tournament — nobody knew who I was, I wasn't a favorite — that's the same way I feel about the Worlds," Williams said. "The number one guys from Russia, Cuba, Hungary — I'm ready to wrestle all of them. I've wanted to make the national team and the world team for a long time."

WCAP head wrestling coach Shon Lewis is glad to have Williams on his squad.

"He's so explosive," Lewis said. "He's one of our new guns, and we're happy to have him. He's working hard, and he's hungry. As long as he stays hungry, and he stays humble, I think he's going to do great things."

Three other Soldiers reached the finals and will serve as alternates for the World Championships: Capt. Jon Anderson, Spc. Peter Hicks and Pfc. Whitney Conder.



Spc. Justin Lester smiles after earning his sixth berth in the World Championships by defeating WCAP and 2012 U.S. Olympic teammate Pfc. Ellis Coleman in the finals of the Greco-Roman 66-kilogram/145.5-pound division of the 2013 U.S. World Team Trials June 21 in Stillwater, Okla.

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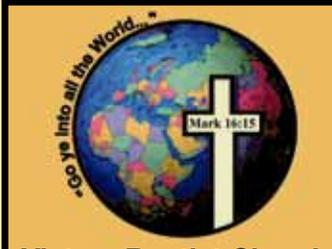
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Sand Worlds

by Amanda Hayward
Contributing writer

On May 1, "Sandwelt," or Sand World 2013, introduced itself to Ludwigsburg for the first time, and the display will continue until Sept. 31.

Sand World was an idea that started small and grew large. Now, thousands of people visit Ludwigsburg to see 17 amazing sand sculptures created by 17 famous artists from all around the world.

People come to Sand World not only to admire famous works of art. They come to relax, eat and enjoy some of Sand World's live musical entertainment, hands-on workshops and tours. These are just some qualities that make Sand World 2013 stand out from other sand sculpture exhibits, and it's a perfect place for everyone, said Michael Benz, managing director of Seven City Event and Entertainment GmbH.

"People really like it from young to old to families and singles," Benz said. "People really feel like they are in a vacation atmosphere and not just in their front yard."

Entering Sand World, visitors will be surrounded by a unique ambiance and "beach feeling" with palms and sun chairs, Benz said. Guests then have a chance to relax at the beach bar or take a tour and attend a workshop led by one of Sand World's skilled artists, who will explain step-by-step how they created these magnificent exhibits. They will even hand the special tools over to you for one-hour, allowing you to create your very own sand masterpiece. Children from ages 3 and up also have a chance to show off their creativity in a workshop designed just for them, only the tools are smaller and made of plastic, of course. Parents can drop off their children for one-hour and take some time to relax, enjoy a cup of coffee or listen to live music while the artist takes over the rest.

"What is so special about it (the workshop) is they (the children) get to know the sand, the work and the art," Benz said.

The mastermind behind Sand World is managing director Peter Streibel, who

knew some famous sand sculptors who knew other artists. Streibel managed a similar exhibition three years ago on 1,000 square feet compared to this year's exhibit on 8,000 square feet. Streibel, a friend of Benz, shared his idea and together they made it happen. After carefully hunting for the perfect location, they decided Ludwigsburg was the right place because "it's a really good city and very nice for the families," Benz said.

Located right in front of the largest preserved residency in Germany, Ludwigsburg Castle and Palace, Sand World been a great success. So far, more than 50,000 visitors have come to Sand World, and about 7,000 of those people came on opening day. They anticipate around 200,000 visitors by the end of the first season.

"I think we are doing well so far," Benz said.

Some of the best artists include Michel De Kok from the Netherlands, a European champion last year at a sand sculpture festival, and Rich Varano, a Florida native, who previously worked at Disney World Orlando and is now "one of the most famous sand sculptors in the world," sand sculpting for the past 40 years and winning several world championships.

Given a Baroque-style theme and various tools, the artists use their imaginations and run with it, creating anything from hunting scenes with dogs and horses to characters with gigantic hats. It takes about two weeks for a single artist to transform the sand into a work of art with the size averaging about 5 meters high and 4 to 6 meters wide. The largest sculpture is 10 meters high.

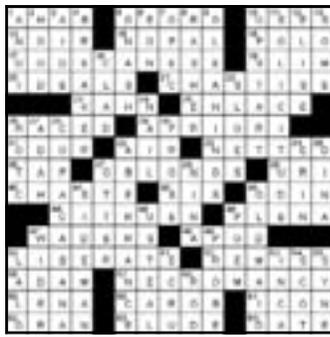
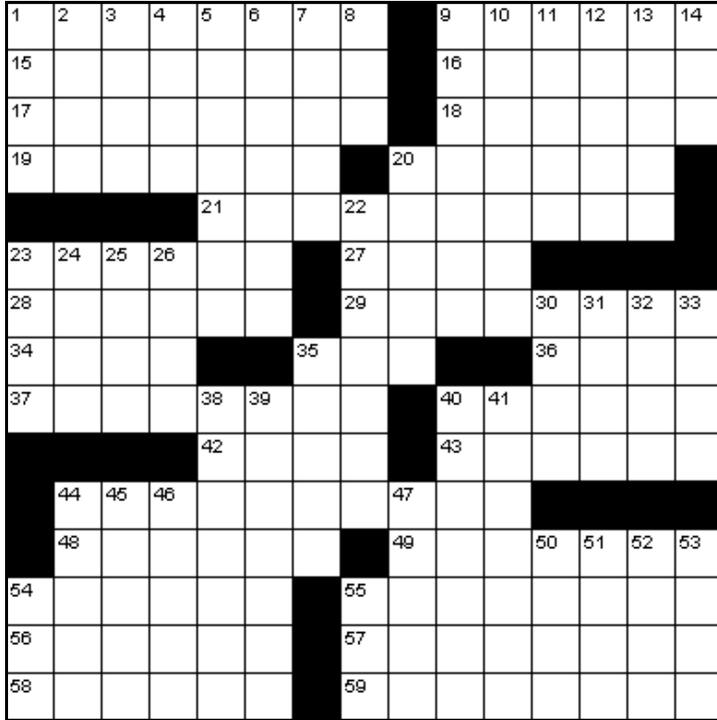
Sand World 2013 is looking forward to more seasons, and there is already talk about holding another exhibit next year in a different location, Benz said.

In the next five weeks or so, Sand World is planning a special event, "Sandwelt at Night," where the sculptures will be illuminated at night.

For more information on Sand World's upcoming events and ticket pricing, visit their website at www.sandwelt.de.

All photos provided by Michael Benz, managing director of Seven City Event and Entertainment GmbH.

Crossword Puzzle



This is the solution to the crossword puzzle from June 27, 2013!

Courtesy of thinks.com

ACROSS

- 1. Out carousing
- 9. Frightened
- 15. Faithful wife
- 16. "The Bridges At ___" (Michener novel)
- 17. Lands on the Persian Gulf
- 18. Eugene's state
- 19. "Gigi" author
- 20. Combined
- 21. Make a mosaic
- 23. Field manager?
- 27. Kite stabilizer
- 28. Judge and jury?
- 29. Intro
- 34. Act dumb?
- 35. Ottoman Empire governor
- 36. Met highlight
- 37. Ogled
- 40. Nosegays
- 42. Be fond of
- 43. Aim
- 44. Affirm
- 48. Got frothy

- 49. Fast time
- 54. Hunters' weapons
- 55. Rude
- 56. Set straight
- 57. Weak brew
- 58. Animals
- 59. Authenticated

DOWN

- 1. Fuel cartel
- 2. Jules Verne captain
- 3. Blue dye
- 4. Desiccated
- 5. Serving dish
- 6. Cads
- 7. Slender blades
- 8. Some MIT grads
- 9. Cop's contact
- 10. Plant part
- 11. Cub Scout leader
- 12. Thesaurus compiler
- 13. Destroy by degrees
- 14. Racket
- 20. Arctic explorer
- 22. Biblical fisherman
- 23. Web language
- 24. Great Lakes port
- 25. Frost
- 26. Forest foragers
- 30. Crow's-nest site
- 31. Soft cheese
- 32. Claim on property
- 33. Rising sun setting
- 35. Made like bricks
- 38. Periodic table entry
- 39. Sheds
- 40. Heartbeat sound
- 41. Another
- 44. Burning
- 45. Balkan capital
- 46. Bargain events
- 47. Medieval helmet
- 50. Linen vestments
- 51. Intake program
- 52. Suit to ___
- 53. Geek
- 54. Hold up
- 55. "All ___ day's work"

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Satellite dish 27in. Please contact JC. \$35 jc93474@gmail.com

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Stat 200 (45\$), Nutr 200 (30\$), Phys 111 (35\$), Hist 142 (35\$), Artt 110 (7\$), Socy 100 (35\$) - All great condition. Can mps if necessary. \$7 - 40\$ obo 01791524433, olga.zasztowt@hotmail.com

The Swarovski Pierrot measures 8". This is the first edition of "Masquerade" series. Retired in 1999. isabell_1_98@yahoo.com

Transformer 1600 watt. Contact JC. \$85 jc93474@gmail.com

Various handbags for sale, prices ranging from \$5-\$10. isabell_1_98@yahoo.com

Wanted. Singer for Heavy Metal Band. No experience needed. Stage presence needed. email jo se.l.rodriguez-1@ou.edu 06221-6486156

Wedding dress & matching veil - Gorgeous snow-white, sleeveless, classy. Size 6-8-10 (36-38-40). sergelana@gmail.com \$250 0176-69350-983 in Wiesbaden



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 Tired of being alone. misses.me@gmail.com

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Have fun with the locals

Festival of Lights

Sat, Jul 13

Stuttgart, Höhenpark Killesberg

The biggest festival of lights in Stuttgart, the Volkswagen Lichterfest, will take place on July 13 starting at 4 pm with a range of culinary specialties, live bands and more at the Höhenpark Killesberg. The festival takes place annually since 1939 and attracts about 40,000 people of all ages to relax in the park while enjoying light shows. For more info in German see www.stuttgart-tourist.de.

EVENTS

French days

Sat, Jul 13 – Mon, Jul 15

Waiblingen, Marktplatz

Visit Waiblingen's Marktplatz (market place) to experience the French days from July 13 to 15. Enjoy specialties from the French cuisine made by local restaurants, bakers, butchers and others. A huge variety of selected wines and champagnes can be tasted as well. For more information in German see www.wtm-waiblingen.de.

International children's festival

Sat, Jul 13 – Sun, Jul 14

Leonberg, Stadtpark

Bring your family to the international children festival in Leonberg's Stadtpark (city park) on July 13 and 14. While your kids will be busy with games, stage plays and much more you can enjoy a variety of food, drinks and live bands. The event will take place from 2 pm to 10 pm on Saturday and from 11 am to 8 pm on Sunday. For more info in German see www.leonberg.de.

Cultural summer festival

Tue, Jul 16 – Sun, Jul 21

Stuttgart, Marktplatz

This year's 'Sommer Festival der Kulturen' (cultural summer festival) will take place from July 16 to 21 at the Marktplatz (market place). Enjoy music acts and culinary delights from all over the world organized by local migrant associations. Experience markets, movies, lectures and more dealing with in-

teresting international topics. Admission is free! For more info in German see www.forum-der-kulturen.de.

Bohnenviertelfest

Thu, Jul 18 – Sat, Jul 20

Stuttgart, Bohnenviertel

One of Stuttgart's festival highlights is the annual Bohnenviertelfest (bean district festival), this year from July 18 to 20. Between the Wilhelmsplatz and the Charlottenplatz the citizens of Stuttgart will meet to enjoy international specialties, cocktails, live music and the great atmosphere in the only part of the city which has been historically preserved. For more information in German see www.das-bohnenviertelfest.net.

Children and youth festival

Sat, Jul 20 – Sun, Jul 21

Stuttgart, Schlossplatz

The 11th Kinder & Jugend Festival (children and youth festival) will take place in the area surrounding Stuttgart's Schlossplatz on July 20 and 21, each day from 11 am to 6 pm. A huge variety of games and activities regarding topics such as health care, career, sport and many more will keep visitors of all ages busy. After all the action you can relax with delicious food or a drink while watching a sport or dance show. Admission is free! For more info in German see www.kinder-jugendfestival.de.

Shepherd's run

Sun, Jul 21

Bad Urach, Festplatz

On July 21 the traditional Schäferlauf

(shepherds run) will take place in the health resort Bad Urach at 11.45 am at the Festplatz Zittelstatt after a pageant starting at 11 am. The folk festival has its origins in 1723 and the program has been kept very similar since then. Besides the shepherds run, the election of a new 'royal shepherd's couple' and a huge fireworks display are the highlights. For more info in German see www.badurach-tourismus.de.

SPORTS

Mercedes Cup – tennis matches

Sat, Jul 6 – Sun, Jul 14

Stuttgart, Tennisclub Weissenhof

Every year the world's best tennis players meet for the Mercedes Cup in Stuttgart at the Tennisclub Weissenhof, this year from July 6 to 14. Besides the exciting matches this event is famous for the variety of culinary delights, shopping possibilities and much more. For more info and tickets from €21 see www.eventim.de.

CONCERTS

Musical lake festival

Sun, Jul 7 – Thu, Jul 11

Ludwigsburg, Seeschloss Monrepos

A special concert will be held by the band 'Suttgarter Saloniker' at the Seefestspiele (lake festival) at the Seeschloss (lake castle) Monrepos from July 7 to 11 each day at 7 pm. Listen to operatic arias and other musical pieces in Venetian style while you have a romantic picnic in one of the boats or at

the bank of the lake. For more info in German and tickets see www.seefestspiele-monrepos.de.

Mamma Mia! Musical

Mon, Jul 8 – Sat, Aug 31

Stuttgart, Palladium

The world's most successful musical, Mamma Mia!, is back in Stuttgart now until August 31! 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

Mixery HipHop Open

Sat, Jul 20

Stuttgart, Reitstadion

The Mixery HipHop Open at Stuttgart's Reitstadion at the Cannstatter Wasen, will present Hip Hop from all over the world from 11 am on July 20. International artists like Tyga from the States, Iggy Azalea from Australia as well as famous German acts such as Marteria or Beginner will be playing. More info and tickets for €68.15 are available at www.eventim.de.

Foreigner

Tue, Jul 23

Winterbach, Festivalgelände

See the rock band Foreigner live at the Festivalgelände in Winterbach on July 23 at 8 pm. The band had their biggest successes in the 70s and 80s and will be on their 'Greatest Hits Tour' this year. Find tickets from €45 and more information in German on www.eventim.de.