

The Citizen

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It's a long night for museums

Stuttgart's Long Night of the Museums on March 15 is worth staying up for.

10

Recovering from identity theft

If you become a victim of ID theft, here's how to clean up the mess the thieves leave behind.

12

Stuttgart community celebrates Black History Month

Story and photos by Greg Jones
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

On Feb. 27, 1964, a landmark civil rights bill was making its way to the senate for debate. This bill was a major victory in the struggle for civil rights for black Americans. Now, 50 years later, service members, civilians and their families in the Stuttgart military community gathered to celebrate Black History Month by commemorating this monumental achievement of the American people.

The Black History Month celebration held Feb. 27 in the Kelley Theater focused on the half-century anniversary of that bill, called for by President Kennedy just months before his assassination.

The celebration, hosted by the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart and U.S. Africa Command, featured a performance by the Stuttgart Gospel Choir, a spoken word performance by Sgt. Eric Wiley, assigned to the Headquarters Support Company, 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), and a keynote address by Army Brig. Gen. Bruce T. Crawford, U.S. European



Army Brig. Gen. Bruce T. Crawford delivers the keynote address during the Black History Month observance Feb. 27.

Command's J6 director, who focused on the significance of the anniversary of the historical event.

"In order to produce the Civil Rights Act of 1964, it took vision, it took perseverance, and it took the personal courage of many to stand up," Crawford said. "This courageous act became a pillar to the foundation of what we now



Raquel Sargent, backed by other members of the Stuttgart Gospel Choir, sings a solo during a rousing musical performance at the USAG Stuttgart/AFRICOM Black History Month celebration at Kelley Theater Feb. 27.

know and call the American Dream."

A cake cutting followed the musical performance and keynote address, and a "living" museum presentation by the Böblingen Elementary/Middle School drama class rounded out the activities.

The living museum featured a sampling of African-American cuisine coordinated with specific periods or

events in the struggle for equal rights for African Americans. Each period featured certain foods, and for each period, the BEMS drama class prepared a short performance by one or two students outlining significant events during that period.

See Black History on page 4

Arts, crafts director sews up DA Rec Employee of the Year award

Story & photo by S.J. Grady
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Running a profitable small business is a tough job. When that business is an overseas Army arts and crafts operation, it can be even more challenging.

No one knows this better than Kelly Sarles, the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Morale, Welfare and Recreation Arts and Crafts director. No one is better at it, it seems, as evidenced by Sarles' recent honor as the 2013 Department of the Army Recreation Employee of the Year.

The award is presented to an employee across the Family and MWR Command who best exemplifies superior achievement as an Army community recreation professional.

In Sarles' case, she has taken a community support program that is partially supported with appropriated funds and made it profitable without those funds ... in other words, without taxpayer dollars.

"It's not all about profitability, but being profitable means we can continue to provide the service, and the appropriated funds originally designated for Arts and Crafts can go to other programs that can't generate



Kelly Sarles, the Arts and Crafts director, assists Pam Macken in making a twister quilt during a quilting class Feb. 8 at the Arts and Crafts Center on Patch Barracks.

revenue, such as the fitness centers or libraries," said Greg Holzinger, the USAG Stuttgart Directorate of Family and MWR director.

"Kelly is the example for many other programs

in the Army that are challenged with budget cuts," he added.

For Sarles, a self-sufficient program is a matter of survival.

"I wanted to make sure that if the day came that there was no more [appropriated fund] money in support of arts and crafts programs, this one would be able to stand. I tell people all the time, I want to be the last one standing," said Sarles, who hails from Colorado City, Texas.

Sarles said the success of the program is based on teamwork.

"We work really, really hard. It's a huge combination of everything: it's the classes that we offer, our instructors, the products we sell in the store, the quality of the frame shop, the fantastic woodshop on Kelley ... everything goes into that," said Sarles, who has directed the operation since 2005.

Staying relevant means keeping a finger on the pulse of the do-it-yourself craft and hobby industry. Sarles and her staff are constantly conducting online research, listening to their customers and searching for instructors.

See Employee of the year on page 4

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Value a Soldier by practicing compassion

Commentary by Martha Makar
Special to The Citizen

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder is not reflective of what is wrong with a Soldier; it is instead reflective of what happened to him.

He was attacked at his very core — physically, emotionally, psychologically, spiritually and socially.

Because he personifies strength, he is sent to protect us and our way of life. He endures the brunt of the wrath of our enemies. He goes to war so that that war does not come to our homeland — for if it did, our women, children, elderly, poor and deprived would be the victims of PTSD and all the other atrocities that are currently endured by the strong men and women who choose to be our forerunners in battle.

No, PTSD is not reflective of what is wrong with our American men and women. It is instead the silent scar that many return with, ever vigilant to the sensitivity that they feel inside and that they feel they have to further protect us from until they can receive proper treatment via Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing Therapy in order to silence the battle that still wages on inside every facet of their being.

PTSD is reflective of everything that we seek from that human being we sent off to battle our war for us; to save us from having to endure the inhu-

... to silence the battle that still wages on inside ...

manity of man. That human being is still the strong and silent warrior that we need — only he now needs us; he needs our understanding, our compassion, and our appreciation for all he has been through, all he has seen. He needs treatment and he needs acceptance. He does not deserve to be labeled a loose cannon or a hopeless loss, not at all.

He needs time to take the fractured core, heal it, and reintegrate it and himself back into society — through love, understanding, compassion and appreciation. He needs and deserves to be valued. He served his time for our sake, and now we need to serve our Soldier returning from that hell by showing him that he has our support, he is in our hearts and we remember his personal sacrifice.

If you want to show a Soldier that you value him, practice compassion.

Martha Makar is a Navy spouse and a member of the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness Emotional Dimension working group.

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Percy Edwards (left), a retired service member and job seeker from the Stuttgart area, speaks with Donnie Hash, a human resources representative with Northrop Grumman about job opportunities in the information technology field during the sixth annual AUSA Job Fair Feb. 21.

AUSA/ACS-sponsored job fair targets transitioning military

Story & photo by Greg Jones
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

More than 200 job seekers throughout Germany gathered to network with potential employers at the sixth annual Association of the United States Army Job Fair at the Marriott Hotel in Sindelfingen Feb. 21-23.

The intent of the fair, sponsored by AUSA in coordination with U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart's Army Community Service Employment Readiness Program, was to link up job seekers directly with companies interested in hiring veterans, spouses and dependents of the U.S. military, according to Bill Campbell, AUSA Stuttgart's first vice president, and the organizer of the job fair.

"We provide the opportunity for the military and the military family to get to meet with the companies, and to provide the companies with the ability to access the talent that we have available," Campbell said.

This year, seven companies were represented at the fair. The companies included well-known Department of Defense contractors, volunteer organizations and The Exchange (formerly known as the Army and Air Force Exchange Service).

At job fairs, company representatives are able to provide general information about employment opportunities within their companies, but they can also answer questions on specific job openings. Being able to engage employers with very specific information is the most effective way to make use of these job fairs, according to Campbell.

"You have to remember, the company reps are here from the company headquarters and they deal with thousands of positions," he said. "If you go to them and ask 'What jobs have you got?' you won't get as good an answer as you will if you ask about

a specific opening. Research specific jobs."

To prepare for job fairs, resources for military job seekers include ACS employment services, and the Army Career and Alumni Program. Making use of resources such as their resume assistance services is another way for job seekers to maximize the effectiveness of job fairs.

"At ACS we strive to help everybody who is in the job search process. Whether they are transitioning military, family members or civilians, they are more than welcome to give me a call and take advantage of the many services ACS has to offer," said Janet Farley, the ACS Employment Readiness program manager.

The advance preparation can pay off.

"Any time you go to a job fair, it's a good idea to show up with a well-crafted resume," Farley said. "Be sure to research the employers that will be at the job fair. Research their opportunities, and get a feel for the outlook for that company."

In a job market that is much more competitive than in years past, job seekers such as Senior Master Sgt. Shawn Stringham, who is retiring and seeking post-military employment, are mainly looking to get a foot in the door, and get their name and face out there to potential employers.

"With today's job market, you can't expect to come to these fairs and get multiple job offers on the spot, but you have to take opportunities like this to network and see what's out there," said Stringham, who is currently assigned to the 86th Material Maintenance Squadron, and travelled from Ramstein.

More information for job seekers can be found on the USAG Stuttgart ACS Employment Readiness and ACAP links at www.stuttgart.army.mil/ATP/ATP.html.

News & Notes

Take OHA survey by March 31

The annual Overseas Housing Allowance Utility Expenses Survey for Germany will be conducted through March 31. The survey is intended to measure the amount of compensation that service members receive from Overseas Housing Allowances to live in privately leased or rented residential housing.

The Defense Travel Management Office conducts the survey to identify how much service members spent in the previous year for electricity, heating fuel, water, trash removal and sewer fees. All service members, regardless of service affiliation, who reside in off-post housing are requested to complete the survey in order to accurately gauge the amount of OHA required. The survey is critical for ensuring OHA rates are properly set at overseas locations, and directly affects the amount of housing allowance each service member will receive.

Spouses are authorized to take the survey if their sponsor is deployed or unavailable.

Those who take the survey are required to report the average monthly cost of utilities. To complete the OHA utilities expense survey, you should use actual bills or records of your utilities.

The survey can be accessed at www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/oha-util-mar.cfm.

U.S. Consulate supports tourist passport services

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Passport Office continues to suspend its tourist passport application services until staff is hired and receives mandatory Department of the State training.

Meanwhile, the garrison Passport Office will continue to handle official (no fee) passports and passport pick-up, Social Security applications, SOFA cards and Consular Reports of Birth Abroad.

During this suspension of services, the U.S. Consulate in Frankfurt will provide tourist passport services to personnel normally serviced by the garrison office.

For in-person service, the consulate requires that appointments be made online at <http://germany.usembassy.gov/acs/frankfurtacs/>.

Before the appointment, the passport application must be filled out and printed using the applicant's physical German postal address (no APO addresses will be accepted), and the applicant must provide a DHL Express Brief (Deutsche Post) envelope for delivery to the German address.

When visiting the consulate, keep in mind that no electronic devices, including cell telephones, may be brought into the consulate. Large backpacks, suitcases and glass containers are also not permitted. Because security personnel will not store items, it is suggested that all such items be left at home, in a locked car, or with a friend or relative who remains outside the premises.

Contact the U.S. Consulate if you have any questions on the application process.

For guidance on how to apply for a passport, visit the U.S. Embassy website at <http://frankfurt.usconsulate.gov> and follow the "U.S. Citizen Services" link.

On the Blotter

Feb. 20

A family member was stopped by German police for driving under the influence after she was observed driving at night without headlights and swerving between lanes. Her blood alcohol content was 0.17 percent.

Feb. 21

A civilian employee was stopped by German police and administered a breathalyzer reading .052 percent, which is a violation of German law. He was also driving without a valid license.

Military Police impounded an abandoned vehicle found on Panzer Kaserne.

Feb. 22

Military Police responded to a domestic disturbance on Patch Barracks.

Two family members were questioned after trying to send alcohol through the Army postal system, which is prohibited under Army in Europe regulations.

Feb. 23

A service member was questioned for allowing an unauthorized person to operate his U.S. Army Europe-plated vehicle, and stealing gasoline from a German gas station.

Feb. 25

Two family members were stopped and questioned for shoplifting after they conspired to steal a pair of shoes, hid the shoes in a backpack and left the store without paying. Further investigation revealed that they both had privileges suspended after an earlier theft, also stole a hooded sweatshirt and had planned to return to steal another pair of shoes.

Military Police apprehended a service member who was found naked and asleep in the bathroom of a fast-food restaurant, where the toilet seat and toilet-paper dispenser were also broken. The service member was drunk (.273 percent BAC) and had apparently been robbed, but does not remember.

A former civilian employee was flagged in the Installation Access Control System and stopped at the gate to Patch Barracks because he had falsified documents and continued receiving individual logistical support after his employment was terminated.

A family member was questioned for refund fraud after she bought discounted merchandise at another Exchange and returned it to the Exchange on Panzer for a full price refund.

A recently retired service member was stopped by German police because his inspection was expired. Further investigation revealed that his registration had lapsed and that he had wrongfully continued to buy tax-free gas.

Feb. 26

Military Police on Panzer Kaserne impounded an abandoned vehicle registered to a service member. Abandoning vehicles violates Army in Europe regulations.

March 2

A family member reported that her vehicle was keyed while parked on Patch Barracks.

On the Blotter is compiled by the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Directorate of Emergency Services and Stuttgart Law Center.

Black History

Continued from page 1

The food included fried chicken, ribs, cornbread and other contemporary African-American cuisine, but also featured more historical fare such as chicken, rice and beans; and rice dishes that trace back to the African subcontinent.

While the food, presentations and keynote address were all part of a great celebration, the real joy for some audience members was in the musical performance, which quite literally had people dancing in the aisles.

"It was all really good," said Army Capt. Des-

mond Gittens, of USAG Stuttgart. "There wasn't anything that wasn't well done, but what I really enjoyed was the singing."

Black History Month is celebrated across the nation throughout February and highlights the diverse culture of African Americans and their accomplishments throughout the years. This year marks 50 years since the historic Civil Rights Act of 1964, which was being passed by Congress in February and March of that year. Finally enacted July 2, the act served as a major victory in the struggle for equal rights of people of all races.



Audience members clap along during a rousing musical performance at USAG Stuttgart/AFRICOM Black History Month celebration at Kelley Theater Feb. 27. The celebration included musical and spoken word performances, a historically themed keynote address, and a sampling of African-American cuisine.

Greg Jones

Employee of the year

Continued from page 1

A good example of this is the Rainbow Loom, a plastic loom used to weave rubber bands into bracelets.

"People coming in from the States keep talking about it. Kids were showing us the bracelets they had made," Sarles said. "We started carrying that product and as soon as it came in, it was gone. We're already reordering."

Canvas and Corkscrews is another. The wine and paint party, based on a similar program in the States, took a couple of years to come to fruition while the arts and crafts staff searched for an instructor.

Last year, Marta Niemann approached Sarles about teaching painting. "She just has a gift," Sarles said.

The program started off small in the craft store. "We wanted to add the 'corkscrew' element, so we partnered with the Patch Community Club ... the program took off," Sarles said. Now, Canvas and Corkscrews classes can be found on all USAG Stuttgart installations.

In addition to fine arts, classes for adults and children are offered in sewing, quilting, fiber arts, glass, metal working and digital arts. Staff members and contracted instructors teach dozens of classes each month.

"We have a lot of people who want to share their passion," Sarles said. Class sizes are very flexible, many times only requiring a couple of students.

One exceptionally popular class, Tween Night

Out, targets 10-12 year olds. "We feed them pizza and drinks, and we work on a craft for three and a half hours. Every month we do something different. In January, we did Minecraft crafts. We made paper collages of the characters and framed them," Sarles said.

For those less inclined to take a class, craft parties are an option. "We do a lot of parties. Anything we teach, we can run as a party," Sarles said.

While there are plenty of successes, not everything Sarles touches turns to gold.

Sarles, a quilter and a seamstress, said she loves making her own clothes. "For me it is so rewarding to sit down and make a garment that you can then wear," she said.

Classes of this sort, however, never took off. "That was a big disappointment for me. It's something I'm passionate about and wanted to share, but I really couldn't get any traction," she said. "Not every class is a win."

But you can bet Sarles will be on the lookout for other "wins" this year by offering several new activities.

In April, Arts and Crafts will host its first crafter's flea market where people can sell craft supplies that they no longer want or need. In the fall, a Canvas and Corkscrews art exhibition of student works is planned. She also hopes to add an embroidery service by acquiring an embroidery machine from a closing installation.

For more information about Stuttgart Arts and Crafts program, visit www.stuttgart.armymwr.com.

Soccer refs needed for DODDS games

The Kaiserslautern Officials Association is looking for soccer officials for upcoming Department of Defense Dependents Schools matches.

Qualifications needed include soccer experience at the high school or college level, a desire to give back to the sport and the ability to travel to schools on game days.

KOA referees receive game pay, mileage and overnight lodging, when needed.

For more information, contact Commissioner Garrett Field at civ. 0151-464-11963 or send an email to garrett.d.field@gmail.com.

Husky Field to get badly needed TLC

The demand for sports fields has far exceeded U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart's supply, resulting in overuse problems at Husky Field on Patch Barracks.

As a result, USAG Stuttgart has closed the Husky Field grass sports field on Patch Barracks for maintenance.

The field will be off limits until approximately May 1, after the seed has germinated and the grass is well-

established within the soil.

The Department of Defense Dependents Schools and Child, Youth and School Services sports programs have already been alerted to the closure.

These organizations are currently working alternative solutions on and off base for their sports programs.

TARP briefings to be held this month

The 66th Military Intelligence Stuttgart Field Office will hold several Threat Awareness and Reporting Program briefings next month.

- March 11, Panzer Chapel
- March 12, Patch Chapel
- March 13, Kelley Theatre

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

The briefing is an annual requirement for all Defense Department employees, contractors and service members. Family members are not required, but highly encouraged to attend.

If your organization requires a brief in German, contact the Stuttgart Field Office at 431-3293.

Do you qualify for

WIC program?

Women who are pregnant, postpartum or breastfeeding, or who have a child up to the age of 5 may qualify to receive supplemental foods and nutrition education through the Women, Infants, and Children Overseas Program.

For more information, call 431-3351/civ. 07031-15-3351 or stop by the WIC Overseas office in Building 2915, Panzer Kaserne.

Donations needed for Pfennig Bazaar

The German American Women's Club of Stuttgart is preparing for its 46th annual Pfennig Bazaar flea market to be held in November in downtown Stuttgart.

The bazaar is the club's main fundraising activity. For the last several years, an average of €50,000 per year has been donated to German and American charitable causes, including local schools, athletic groups and youth clubs.

You can participate now by donating gently used, clean items (no 110-volt appliances or military-related items). Your donations may be dropped off at any time at collection bins located at the sorting room on Patch Barracks (next door to the Patch Thrift Shop in Building 2332) and on Kelley Barracks in Bay 3, next to the Kelley Theater.

For more information, visit www.gawc-stuttgart.org.

Speak with Vietnam vets March 29

The Vietnam War spanned 10 years and cost the U.S. the lives of more than 58,000 young men and women. To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War a display will be set up in the Exchange shopping center on Panzer Kaserne March 29 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Veterans of the Vietnam War will be present to discuss their service and the history of U.S. involvement in the war.

The display is a partnership between U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart, the Association of the United States Army Stuttgart Chapter and Veterans of Foreign Wars Stuttgart Post 10810.

Register for 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 5 p.m. in the Swabian Special Events Center on Patch Barracks.

Workshops will cover leadership skills, professional and personal de-

velopment, strategic career planning and more.

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

Registration for the free leadership forum closes March 21. Seating is limited.

Register at <http://stuttgartwlf.eventbrite.com>.

For more information, send an email to Stuttgart_wlf@yahoo.com.

Daylight saving time to begin March 30

While the U.S. transitions to daylight saving time on March 9, most of Europe (including Germany) will move its clocks forward by one hour when daylight saving time begins on Sunday, March 30.

In Germany, daylight saving time begins at 2 a.m. (set clocks to 3 a.m.).

March 14 is USAREUR training holiday

March 14 is a U.S. Army Europe training holiday. The Stuttgart Law Center will be closed, however the Stuttgart Tax Center will be open by appointment only.

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

EFMP activities for this month

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Exceptional Family Member Program will hold a one-day indoor soccer clinic for special needs children 5 years old and over March 19 from 4-5 p.m. in the Panzer Fitness Center, Building 2990, Panzer Kaserne. The event is free and open to all EFMP families.

EFMP will also conduct a quarterly focus group for spouses of all branches of service March 20 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Army Community Service, Building 2915, Panzer Kaserne.

Spouses are invited to provide feedback on how EPMP can improve its services to the special needs community.

Participants must register in advance.

For registration and more information on both events, call the ACS EPMP System Navigator at 431-3362/civ. 07031-15-3362.

Send your announcements to editorial@stuttgartcitizen.com.



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A safe workplace is everyone's business

We all have a responsibility to recognize and report safety hazards that we observe in our workplaces.

This includes reporting people who endanger themselves and their coworkers by engaging in unsafe acts and horseplay while on the job.

Good observation skills are necessary in identifying safety hazards in the workplace. This means taking the necessary time required to inspect electrical equipment such as outlets, switches, computers, printers, fans and power tools, equipment chargers before each use, and immediately reporting any damaged or faulty equipment so that it can be removed from service

until repairs are made.

Spills and debris left on the floor should be cleaned up or reported. Uneven floors, loose carpet seams, and broken sidewalks should also be reported.

For help in identifying and correcting safety and health hazards, call the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Safety Office at 431-3132/3133/3134.



Flea market season starts

Flea market Gärtringen – Schwarzwaldhalle
Sun, March 9, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Entrance adults €1,50

Flea market Herrenberg – Mehrzweckhalle
Sat, March 15, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Entrance adults €1,50

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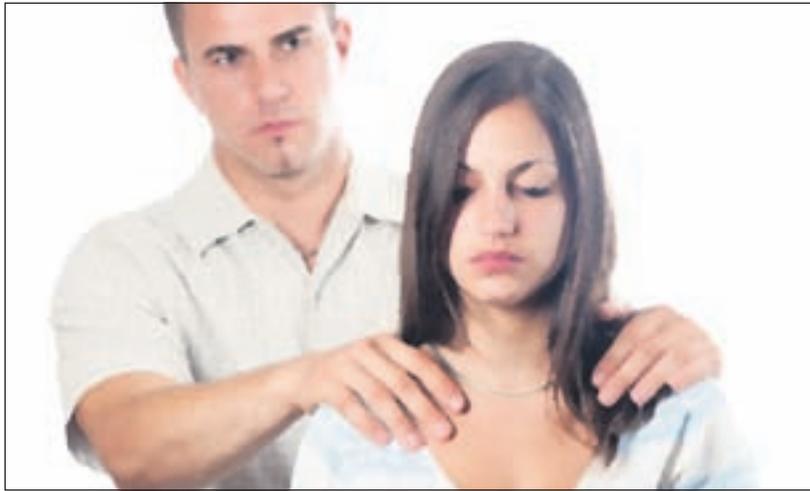
COLLEGES COMMITTED TO ATTENDING:

- United States Military Academy – West Point (NCAA Div I)
- United States Naval Academy (NCAA Div I)
- United States Merchant Marine Academy (NCAA Div III)
- University of Wisconsin (NCAA Div I)
- University of North Carolina – Charlotte (NCAA Div I)
- Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis (NCAA Div I)
- Yale University (NCAA Div I)
- University of Dubuque (NCAA Div III)
- Northern Kentucky University (NCAA Div I)
- Marquette University (NCAA Div I)
- Bowling Green State University (NCAA Div I)
- University of Central Florida (NCAA Div I)
- University of Texas – Pan America (NCAA Div I)

College coaches will run 6-8 sessions (field – classroom sessions), provide individual feedback to players and give a presentation about athletics at universities, leadership and being a student athlete. Additionally, the coaches will provide information about the registration process with the NCAA Eligibility Center.

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For additional information and registration please email collegesoccercamp@gmx.de



Dating violence can happen to any teen in a romantic, dating or sexual relationship, anytime, anywhere. Dating violence can have a negative effect on health throughout one's life.

Photos.com

Drama raises awareness of teen dating violence

By Lexi Pache
Special to the Citizen

Think your teenager will be unaffected by teen dating violence? Think again. About one in three American youths age 14-20 say they've been victims of dating violence, according to research presented at the 2013 American Psychological Association's annual convention.

It's a big problem. That's why Patch High School students performed "Don't U Luv Me?" a play by Linda Daugherty, for over 500 students, staff and the public earlier this month.

February is Teen Domestic Violence Awareness Month. While some schools may have approached the topic of teen dating violence with a pamphlet or a PowerPoint presentation, PHS and Army Community Service's Family Advocacy Program teamed up to bring the production, a realistic and powerful take on a touchy, but emotional and prevalent issue, to the Stuttgart military community.

Casting the part of the abusive boyfriend was difficult. Two students dropped out of the role because the subject made them feel uncomfortable.

In fact, the female lead of Angela, played by Gabrielle Gehler, said she felt the same way, however, she had a friend in an abusive relationship. "I thought that this could help her in some way," Gehler said.

With only 15 rehearsals, and a cast and crew of 12, the play showed how happy the couple appeared in the beginning of their relationship, how C.J., Angela's boyfriend, started to control and manipulate her, and how Angela's friends got involved and helped her to end the relationship.

For the director, senior Abigail Storey, it was an all too familiar situation.

"My freshman year I was in an abusive relationship and it's something that, if I had seen this [play], maybe it wouldn't have progressed as far as it did. It was really important to me to shine an accurate light on how those relationships really do go down, and I feel this play is a really accurate portrayal ... the warning signs are all dead on," Storey said.

Following the play, Sonia Greer, FAP specialist; Staff Sgt. Matthew Hoover, Military Police investigator; Wayne Holder, school liaison officer; James Hayden, FAP domestic violence victim advocate; and Jasmin Coty, counselor with Army Substance Abuse Counseling Service, facilitated a discussion with the high school students to engage them in realizing the patterns of an unhealthy relationship and how to get help for themselves or their friends.

The same discussion was held after a performance for the public, during which many of the parents in attendance took part in a heated discussion on who was at fault for the abuse.

"You could tell it was something the parents never thought about, that this could be something happening to [their] child that [they] wouldn't know about. We were hoping it would start a conversation, not just at school, but at home," Storey said.

Storey added that the point of the production was to raise awareness of teen dating violence, as it is not something people like to talk about and therefore isn't addressed as much as it should.

In Storey's case, she first sought help from her youth minister. "Sometimes it's not easy to go to your parents because you don't know what you're going to say necessarily, and it's nice to have someone else who you're close with to be like, OK, I need help to approach my parents about this," she said. "I think ultimately talking to your parents is important. You should always seek help from an adult.

The play has had an immediate effect on at least one student.

"I already know of someone who has gotten out of an abusive relationship as a direct result of this play, but that's just one that I know of and there could be several others. Over 500 kids saw this play, and you could tell they came in expecting another boring assembly, but they left completely blown away, and that's what the whole purpose was," Storey said.

Editor's Note: Lexi Pache is a Patch High School student intern who works in the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Public Affairs Office.

SCSC scholarship deadline nears

The Stuttgart Community Spouses Club offers scholarships to Patch High School seniors and continuing education students. The deadline to apply is March 18.

To start the application process, follow the scholarship link at www.stuttgartspousesclub.org.

For more information, write to scsc.scholarship@gmail.com.

Volunteer of the year nominations due

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart registered volunteer agencies are reminded that nominations are being accepted through March 15 for USAG Stuttgart Volunteers of the Year.

The annual USAG Stuttgart Volunteer Recognition Ceremony will be held April 24 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Patch Community Club.

To nominate a volunteer, call Army Community Service at 431-3362/civ. 07031-15-3362.

Shop til you drop at the Spring Bazaar

The annual Stuttgart Spring Bazaar is set for March 14-16 at Patch Barracks and includes more than 75 vendors with items from all over Europe.

Shop to your heart's content on March 14 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on March 15, and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on March 16.

For more information, visit the SCSC website at www.stuttgartspousesclub.org.

Spring Fling Run

The 2014 Spring Fling 5K fun run, hosted by Family and MWR Sports

and Fitness, will be held March 29 from 10 a.m. to noon on Husky Field, Patch Barracks. Early registration closes March 25. The first 300 people to register will receive a free T-shirt. Bibs can be picked up on March 29 from 7:30-9:30 a.m. at the Patch Fitness Center.

For more information, call the Patch Fitness Center at 430-7136/civ. 0711-680-7136.

Parking on Patch impacted by bazaar

In preparation for the Stuttgart Spring Bazaar that will be held March 14-16, some parking on Patch Barracks will be impacted.

On March 4 at midnight through March 20, the parking area that runs along the side of the Patch Community Club and the lot adjacent to the Hub (Building 2337) will be closed.

On March 12 at midnight through March 17, the parking area in front of the Patch Community Club and the parking lot in front of the Patch Fitness Center (Building 2337) will be closed.

On March 12 at midnight until March 13, the first row of parking in the parking lot on Pennsylvaniastrasse (across from the power plant) will be blocked to facilitate vendor set-up.

On March 12 at midnight until March 13, all street parking along Pennsylvania and California strasses will be blocked to facilitate vendor set-up.

Vehicles not moved from the above areas will be towed at owner's expense.

On March 13 and 14, shuttle buses will stop at the Swabian Special Events Center, Building 2505, as they arrive on post and just before they depart.

This allows people to park at the SSEC and reach other destinations on Patch via the bus. Commuters to Patch are encouraged to park at the SSEC and use the shuttle buses.

All parking areas will be available the morning of March 17, although available parking will be reduced through March 20 until the tents are removed.

Apply for AVID now

Advancement Via Individual Determination applications for the next school year (2014-2015) may be picked up from the Patch High School front office.

AVID is a college preparatory academic elective for above-average students who are not working to their full potential.

To qualify for AVID, a student must have a grade point average of 2.0-3.5; above average standardized test scores; a completed interview; a signed contract committing to preparation for college; teacher recommendations, and plans to take honors/advanced placement courses.

For more information, call the AVID coordinator at 430-7191/civ. 0711-680-7191 after 3 p.m.

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 April 2 and 16, and May 7 and 21 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.

Need EAP help?

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Employee Assistance Program assists supervisors, managers and their employees with problems that may affect work performance, conduct, attendance, the work environment and/or quality of life.

The EAP coordinator can provide free and confidential short-term counseling, community referrals, coordination with alcohol/drug treatment, management consultations and training.

For more information, call the EAP Coordinator at 431-2530/07031-15-2530.

AFRICOM celebrates Women's Day

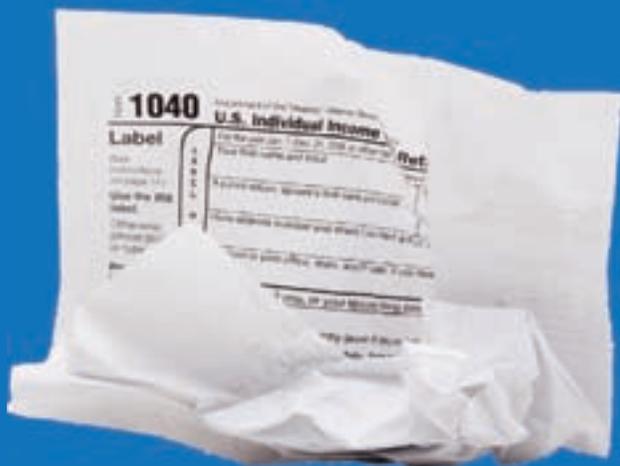
U.S. Africa Command invites the community to participate in an International Women's Day event March 10 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Kelley Theater. The theme of the event is "Inspiring Change: promoting peace and security through art, music and stories."

For more information, call 421-4954/civ. 0711-729-4954. For more information, call 421-4954/civ. 0711-729-4954.

Send your announcements to editorial@stuttgartcitizen.com.

The Stuttgart Tax Center offers free tax assistance

to service members, Defense Department civilian employees, military retirees and their family members



Open Monday – Friday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Closed on federal holidays

Room 231, Building 3312, Kelley Barracks

To make an appointment, call the Stuttgart Tax Center at 421-4588 or civ. 0711-729-4588

How green is your clean?

There are thousands of household cleaning products on the market that claim to be environmentally friendly, eco-friendly or biodegradable.

Unfortunately, there is no governing organization to substantiate such claims.

But there are eco-labels, and when you purchase household cleaners you should look for them. "Ecolabeling" is a voluntary method of environmental performance certification and labeling that is practiced around the world. An "eco-label" is a label which identifies overall, proven environmental preference of a product or service within a specific product/service category.

The greenest cleaning-product manufacturer, however, is you.

Eco-experts say that making your cleaning products at home is the best solution, and recipes can be found all over the Internet. Most are made from simple ingredients such as white vinegar, baking soda and lemon juice — stuff that's a lot friendlier than chlorine bleach.



USAG Stuttgart
Directorate of Public Works
Environmental Division

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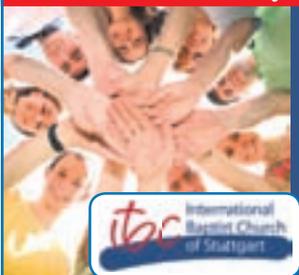
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Holding Forth the Word of Life Phil. 2:16



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A PLACE YOU CAN CALL HOME

AER campaign underway

By S.J. Grady

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Members of the Stuttgart military community gathered for a joint services aid society fundraising campaign kickoff March 5 following U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart's monthly installation staff meeting.

The aid societies are private, non-profit organizations that provide financial assistance to their respective service members and their families.

In the case of the Army, the annual Army Emergency Relief campaign runs through May 15.

Its purpose is two-fold: "to heighten awareness of the organization's benefits and programs that are available, and give Soldiers an opportunity to contribute to the welfare of their fellow Soldiers," said Winkie Hayes, the Army Emergency Relief officer for USAG Stuttgart.

Last year, members of the Stuttgart military community donated \$30,600, according to Hayes.

Donations such as this enabled Army Emergency Relief to provided \$74 million in assistance to more than 53,000 Soldiers and their families in 2013.

Since 9/11, almost \$800 million has been distributed to Soldiers and their families in the form of interest free loans, grants and scholarships, according to an AER press release.

Financial assistance is available for food, rent or utilities, emergency transportation and vehicle repair, funeral expenses, medical/dental expenses, and personal needs when pay is delayed or stolen.

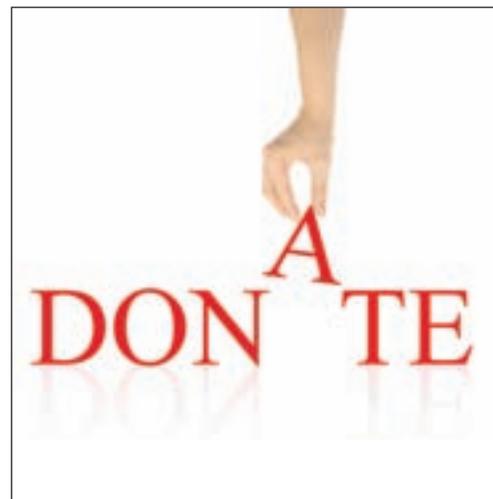
Over the last four years, AER has added nine new categories of assistance: dependent dental care; replacement vehicles; heating, ventilation, air conditioning and appliance repair; rental vehicles; relocation travel; cranial helmets and infant car seats, according to the press release.

AER also provides scholarships to children

and spouses of active duty and retired Soldiers, as well as financial support to widows and wounded warriors.

A recent policy now allows sergeants and above direct access to AER assistance without going through their chain of command.

To make a donation to Army Emergency Relief, see your unit key person or visit www.aerhq.org. To speak to the USAG Stuttgart AER Officer, call 431-3352/civ. 07031-15-3352, or stop by Army Community Service, Building 2915, Panzer Kaserne.



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Donate to other services Navy, Marines

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society assists eligible Sailors, Marines and their families. Donations can be made online at www.nmcrs.org.

Air Force

The Air Force Aid Society assists Airmen and eligible family members with emergency assistance through free grants and loans. Donate at www.afas.org.

Coast Guard

The Coast Guard Mutual Assistance offers grants and loans for Coast Guard personnel and eligible family members. To donate, visit the CGMA website at www.cgmahq.org.

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Patch Health Clinic to relocate during renovation

Army Health Clinic Stuttgart

The U.S. Army Health Clinic Stuttgart is about to undergo an \$11 million, 18-month renovation project in order to provide more efficient, quality care to patients.

When completed, the clinic's new layout will support the Army Medical Command's Patient-Centered Medical Home model and improve patient flow for medical care.

While the renovations are underway, the clinic on Patch Barracks will still be open. Medical care services, however, will be delivered in several places.

"During the renovation, the clinic will offer the same level of patient-centered medical care and medical services, just in different locations," said Col. Joanna Reagan, the health clinic commander. While the bulk of services will remain on Patch Barracks, Reagan said some providers may move to the Kelley Clinic.

Beginning March 11, the Red Primary Care Team, Exceptional Family Member Program, and the Nurse Case Manager will be located in the temporary building adjacent to the clinic.

After March 17, the Blue Primary Care Team, Laboratory, Radiology, Immunizations, Medical Readiness and Patient Administration sections will also be in the temporary buildings.

The clinic's main entrance will be open through March 13. On March 17, patients must use the main entrance of the temporary building labeled "Container # 1."

The clinic's waiting area, screening rooms and supporting services will relocate to the temporary buildings adjacent to the clinic. The new waiting room space will consist of two small areas on the first and second floor.

"This transition will be a challenge for the clinic staff as we begin moving and working within a smaller space. We ask for our patients to be understanding as we continue to refine the patient flow within the new and reduced working area," said Capt. Jesse Moncivais, the executive officer of the clinic.

Depending on which Primary Health Care Team they belong to, patients will either be seen in the clinic or in the temporary buildings.

The Blue Team will be predominately located on the second floor of the temporary building while the Red Team (mostly consisting of pediatric patients) will be located on the first floor.

The pharmacy and the PCMH Green Team will remain in Building 2300. Beneficiaries will access the building through the door on the eastside of the clinic, adjacent to the main entrance of the temporary buildings.

Behavioral Health, Optometry and Early Developmental Intervention Services, currently housed in the temporary buildings, will remain there.

The Tricare Service Center and clinic command offices will remain in the back portion of Building 2300.

Clinic officials advise that as the renovation



Beginning March 17, Laboratory, Radiology, Immunizations, Medical Readiness and Patient Administration sections will be located in the temporary buildings adjacent to the health clinic on Patch Barracks.

U.S. Army Health Clinic Stuttgart

project moves forward, some clinic sections may be required to conduct split operations between the temporary buildings and the clinic. There also may be some minor lags in moving patients efficiently in and out of the clinic.

During the move the renovation, the hours of operation will remain the same: Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to noon and 1-4:30 p.m.; Friday from 7:30 a.m. to noon.

For further questions, call 430-8618/2534 or civ. 0711-680-8618/2534.






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Stuttgart's 'Lange Nacht der Museen' long on art, entertainment

Story by Carola Meusel

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Art lovers, party-goers, museum enthusiasts, music buffs and night owls alike can explore Stuttgart's culture scene during the "Lange Nacht der Museen," or Long Night of the Museums, on March 15 from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m.

The evening features over 90 events located in and around downtown Stuttgart, such as exhibitions, concerts, performance art, boat trips on the Neckar River, theater performances, parties and more.

Besides exhibitions in Stuttgart's main museums, such as the "Kunstmuseum" (Art Museum), "Landesmuseum" (Württemberg State Museum), and the State Gallery, many smaller institutions, to include galleries, archives and art studios, will offer programs and entertainment during this long night out, according to Anette Taube, event organizer from "Lift" Stuttgart (city magazine).

"Lange Nacht der Museen is a one-of-a-kind opportunity to get to know Stuttgart and its cultural scene in only one evening," Taube said.

Every year, new cultural outlets are added to the program. This year, one of them includes Stuttgart's Neues Schloss, or New Castle (U-Bahn stop Schlossplatz). The castle was built between 1746 and 1807 by the dukes and kings of Württemberg and is one of the last city palaces in southern Germany. Located on Schlossplatz Square next to the Alte Schloss, or Old Castle, it marks Stuttgart's city center. Today, the castle is mainly used for receptions and events of the state government.

During "Lange Nacht der Museen," visitors can tour the historic building, to include the "Marmorsaal," or Marble Hall, and the "Runde Saal," where the council of ministers meets every week. The castle will be open from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m.

After touring Neues Schloss, car enthusiasts may want to sojourn at the castle's courtyard where 100 classic cars will be displayed as part of the "Rollende Museum," of the Württemberg Automobile Club. Visitors can also take a ride in the classic cars to get from Schlossplatz to the Mercedes-Benz and Porsche museums between 7 p.m. and midnight.

"The fact that every location will offer a unique program makes for a memorable atmosphere," Taube said. Many locations open their doors for the public exclusively during Lange Nacht der Museen and allow for a peek behind the scenes, she added.

One of these locations is the "Schick-Areal" in Feuerbach (U-Bahn stop Feuerbach Bahnhof, shuttle bus to Schick-Areal, Friedrich-Scholer-Str. 13). The former train depot now is home to more than 30 artists and their work-

Visitors look at paintings displayed at Stuttgart's Kunstmuseum, or Art Museum, during last year's "Lange Nacht der Museen," or Long Night of the Museums. This year's long night out will run March 15 from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. and features more than 90 events in and around Stuttgart. At the Kunstmuseum, art lovers can visit the current exhibitions or enjoy tapas at the museum's bar. A children's program with hands-on activities will be offered as well.

"Lift" Stuttgart



"Lift" Stuttgart

More than 100 classic cars are on display at the courtyard of Stuttgart's New Castle during "Lange Nacht der Museen," or Long Night of the Museums, held March 15. Visitors can also enjoy a ride in the historic automobiles from Schlossplatz Square to the Mercedes-Benz and Porsche museums. The New Castle can also be toured exclusively during the event from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m.

shops, photo and art studios, and a coffee roaster.

The artist Dagmar Feuerstein will present sculptures made of concrete and explain her works at "Atelier Dagmar Feuerstein." At "Atelier Neonow," visitors can learn all about screen-printing techniques and participate in hands-on activities. A piano concert and video art will be offered as well at "Kunsthalle Feuerbach."

For an artful adventure on the Neckar River, visitors should stop by the Stuttgart industrial harbor. A light show called "Metamorphosis" will illuminate the entire harbor.

Light show performances will run every 30 minutes from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. Boats will take off from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. from Mittelkai 5 (shuttle bus stop am Mittelkai, Stuttgart-Wangen).

After World War II, the bunker hotel below the

Marktplatz Square (shuttle bus stop Karlsplatz, Marktplatz, U-Bahn stop Rathaus) offered its guests heated rooms, bathrooms and a reading area. The bunker hotel closed in 1985. During "Lange Nacht der Museen," people can tour the bunker from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Lange Nacht der Museen also offers many events for children. At the "Stadtlabor," (U-Bahn stop Charlottenplatz, Kriegsbergstrasse 30), which is located at the "Wilhelmshaus," children can experiment with bamboo and build stars, towers, pyramids and a labyrinth with the plant from 3-7 p.m.

At the "Haus des Waldes," a nature and forest center, (U-Bahn stop Waldau, Königsträssle 74, Stuttgart-Degerloch) from 4-7 p.m. children can participate in hands-on-activities such as building a campfire, learning about trees or baking their own goodies at the baking hut.

According to Taube, the evening offers something for everyone's taste, from classic exhibitions for ambitious art lovers, children's activities, music, history and alternative art.

"Also, typically, people cannot tour a museum at night which makes for a different experience," Taube said.

The ticket price includes transportation and admission into every venue. Shuttle buses will run all night from the Karlsplatz and Schlossplatz bus stops.

Beside the buses, underground train U6 will transport patrons to various event locations until 2 a.m., allowing for more flexibility. All forms of public transportation within the Verkehrs-und Tariverbund Stuttgart (www.vvs.de) are included in the ticket price.

Tickets cost €17. Children 14 years old or younger cost €6. Children 5 years old or younger are free. An adult ticket is valid for an accompanying child 14 years old or younger.

To purchase tickets call civ. 0711-6015-444. Tickets can also be purchased the night of the event at all participating locations.

For more information, visit www.lange-nacht.de.



What's happening in FMWR

Volunteer for bazaar

The Spring Bazaar will be held March 14-16 on Patch Barracks.

Volunteers are needed from March 9-16. Both adults and youth (ages 13 and up) are eligible.

Opportunities are available in a number of capacities: checking ID cards, decorating or donating home-baked or store-bought food and beverages for the hospitality committee.

To volunteer, follow the volunteer link at www.stuttgartspouses-club.org.

VAT Office to close for computer upgrade

The VAT/UTAP Office on Panzer Kaserne will be closed March 11 from 1-5 p.m. for a computer system upgrade.

For more information, call 431-3453/civ.07031-15-3453.

Bowling Center news

The Galaxy Bowling and Entertainment Center will host a no tap bowling tournament March 8. Registration starts at 1 p.m. bowling at 2 p.m.

Women will bowl eight pins, men will bowl nine, on three game

sets. The payout will be based on the number of entries. Participants must be 18 years or older.

On St. Patrick's Day, March 15 from 6 p.m. to midnight, wear green and save on shoe rentals and Cosmic Bowling.

The Irish Pub will host a St. Patrick's Day party from 6 p.m. to midnight.

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

Free fitness classes

The Patch Fitness Center will offer free fitness classes (yoga, spinning, TRX, Zumba, step, etc.) March 8 from 9 a.m. to noon.

Special 30-minute sessions for children 6 years and older will be offered in partnership with Child, Youth and School Services.

Advance registration is not required.

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

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



Coming to Patch Theater

Mar. 6 — 3 Days To Kill (PG-13) 6 p.m.

Mar. 7 — Son of God (PG-13) 6 p.m., Non-Stop (PG-13) 8:30 p.m.

Mar. 8 — The Lego Movie (PG) 2:30 p.m., Son of God (PG-13) 5:30 p.m., Non-Stop (PG-13) 8:30 p.m.

Mar. 9 — The Lego Movie in 3D (PG) 2:30 p.m., Son of God (PG-13) 5:30 p.m., Non-Stop (PG-13) 8:30 p.m.

Mar. 10 — Son of God (PG-13) 6 p.m.

Mar. 11 — Closed

Mar. 12 — 3 Days To Kill (PG-13) 6 p.m.

Mar. 13 — Non-Stop (PG-13) 6 p.m.,

Mar. 14 — Mr. Peabody & Sherman in 3D (PG) 6 p.m., 300: Rise of an Empire in 3D (R) 8:30 p.m.

Mar. 15 — Mr. Peabody & Sherman in 3D (PG) 2:30 p.m., 300: Rise of an Empire in 3D (R) 5:30 p.m., The Monument Men (PG-13) 8:30 p.m.

Mar. 16 — Mr. Peabody & Sherman in 3D (PG) 2:30 p.m., 300: Rise of an Empire in 3D (R) 5:30 p.m., Son of God (PG-13) 8:30 p.m.

Mar. 17 — The Monument Men (PG-

13) 6 p.m.

Mar. 18 — Closed

Mar. 19 — That Awkward Moment (R) 6 p.m.



Sony Pictures, 20th Century Fox
The Monuments Men is an action-thriller focusing on an unlikely World War II platoon, tasked by FDR with going into Germany to rescue artistic masterpieces from Nazi thieves and returning them to their rightful owners. It would be an impossible mission: with the art trapped behind enemy lines, and with the German army under orders to destroy everything as the Reich fell, how could these guys - seven museum directors, curators, and art historians, all more familiar with Michelangelo than the M-1 - possibly hope to succeed?

Family and MWR Advertisement

stuttgart.armymwr.com



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Patch Arts & Crafts Center

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Outdoor Recreation

Trip includes transportation, lodging in a hostel, breakfasts, shuttles, sled run, cheese fondue dinner, and ski bus pass. Activities range from skiing, night sledding, snowshoeing, ice-skating and indoor swimming. Register by March 12.

DSN 431-2774 /CIV 07031-15-2774



GOLF SEASON

ANNUAL GREENS FEE MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Mar. 22 • 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Stuttgart Golf Course

Get informed on annual greens fee, the new event schedule, lesson information, club policies, and annual locker payments. All U.S. ID card holders that sign up are entered into the "lucky draw" for one of two free memberships.

CIV 07141-879-150

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Identity theft and debt col

By Jessica Lowy
Stuttgart Law Center

Identity theft is a serious crime, measured by both the amount of money that is taken fraudulently, and the amount of time and energy victims have to spend to clean up the mess caused by wrongdoers. ID theft victims may be denied credit, but they can also miss out on job opportunities because of adverse issues on their credit report or even find themselves indebted for purchases or transactions they did not make.

Victims of identity theft are not without options. There are several avenues to take in rectifying the situation, starting with detecting the crime. There are several signs one can look for in bank accounts or in credit reports that may indicate fraudulent activity. Those who notice signs of fraudulent activity (see sidebar) on a credit report should take action immediately.

If you spot fraudulent activity

File an online complaint with the Federal Trade Commission at www.ftc.gov/complaint. Take the completed complaint, also called an FTC Affidavit, to local



Photos.com

Clues That Someone Has Stolen Your Information

- >> You see withdrawals from your bank account that you can't explain.
- >> You don't get your bills or other mail.
- >> Merchants refuse your checks.
- >> Debt collectors call you about debts that aren't yours.
- >> You find unfamiliar accounts or charges on your credit report.
- >> Medical providers bill you for services you didn't use.
- >> Your health plan rejects your legitimate medical claim because the records show you've reached your benefits limit.
- >> A health plan won't cover you because your medical records show a condition you don't have.
- >> The IRS notifies you that more than one tax return was filed in your name, or that you have income from an employer you don't work for.
- >> You get notice that your information was compromised by a data breach at a company where you do business or have an account.

police or the police where the theft occurred and file a police report. Keep a copy of the police report for personal records. If the police are reluctant to take a report, check with your state attorney general's office, as state law may require the police to issue a report. Overseas service members, civilians and family members who are unsure which police agency they should report a crime can contact their local Military Police station for more information.

Victims should also report identity theft to at least one of the credit reporting agencies. The agency will put a fraud alert on the report and alert the other two agencies. An initial fraud report will last 90 days. Victims should also request credit reports from all three agencies.

Credit reporting agencies can report negative information such as late payments or accounts in default for seven years, and bankruptcy information for 10 years. Information about a lawsuit or unpaid judgment can be reported for seven years or until the statute of limitations runs out, whichever is longer. There is no time limit on reporting criminal convictions, information reported in response to applications for a job paying more than \$75,000 per year, and information reported because of applications for \$150,000 or more of credit or life insurance.

Know your rights

Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, consumers have the right to know what is in their credit file. Consumers are entitled to a free file disclosure if: an organization or business entity has taken adverse action against them because of information in a credit report; the consumer is the victim of identity theft and places a fraud alert in the file; the file contains inaccurate information as a result of fraud; the consumer is on public welfare assistance; or they are unemployed but expect to apply for employment within 60 days.

Consumers also have the right to request a credit score, a numerical summary of credit worthiness based on the information the three credit reporting agencies have. Most of the time there is a charge to obtain a credit score, unless it's a situation where a lender has obtained the score and shares that information.

What if I find inaccurate information in my credit file?

The Fair Credit Reporting Act allows reports of inaccurate information in a credit file. A person who finds inaccurate information on his or her credit report should write a letter to the credit reporting agency immediately. When possible, include copies of documents that support the claim. Provide a complete name and address, clearly specify what is being disputed, and request it be removed or corrected. Send the letter via certified mail, return receipt requested, to verify the date the agency received the dispute. The FTC website (www.consumer.ftc.gov) offers a sample letter for disputing errors.

The credit reporting agency is required to investigate claims and either correct or delete inaccurate, incomplete or unverifiable information within 30 days. It must forward all relevant information to the creditor organization. That creditor must then investigate and report the results back to the consumer reporting agency. If the creditor finds the disputed information is in fact inaccurate or simply cannot verify the information, it must notify all three consumer reporting agencies to correct the information.

Once the investigation is completed, the agency



must report the results to the requestor in writing and provide a free copy of a credit report if the dispute results in a change. If an item is changed or deleted, the agency cannot put the disputed information back on the report unless the creditor verifies the information is accurate.

Be aware that an investigation will not always result in a resolution of the dispute. In this situation, ask that a statement of the dispute be included with all future credit reports. To read more about disputing inaccurate information, visit the FTC website.

In addition, consumers can write a letter to the creditor responsible for the inaccurate information. Again, whenever possible, provide copies of documents that verify the claim. The creditor must then include a copy of the dispute in all future reports to consumer reporting agencies. In the case of a successful dispute, the creditor may not report the inaccurate information again.

Even those who do not suspect fraudulent activity on their credit reports should still check them at least once per year. The Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act allows consumers to get one free credit report from each of the credit reporting agencies once every 12 months. Log on to www.annualcreditreport.com to verify that information is accurate with all three consumer reporting agencies. Reports from all three agencies can be checked at the same time or at different times throughout the year to monitor the report over time.

Additional protections are available to help service members minimize risk of identity theft. When deploying, always place an active duty alert on all credit reports. The alert requires creditors to take extra steps to verify identity. Although active duty alerts expire after one year, the alert requires credit reporting companies to remove the consumer's name from their marketing lists for prescreened credit card offers for two years. Remember to keep track of the dates of any telephone

Collection: Know your rights!



Photos.com

ceives the letter, it may not contact the consumer again unless to notify them that the creditor intends to take some specific legal action, or to notify the consumer that there will be no further contact.

It is important to know this law does not erase any legitimate debt owed, but it does prevent certain unfair and deceptive practices some debt collection agencies use. For example, a collection agent may not call before 8 a.m. or after 9 p.m.; use obscene language; threaten physical violence or damage to property; or imply that nonpayment of the debt will result in arrest or the seizure, garnishment, or sale of property or wages, unless such action is lawful.

Consumers who believe they are not responsible for the debt a collection agency claims is owed can write the agency a letter requesting verification of the debt.

This letter is similar to a letter to a credit bureau to dispute errors: The consumer asks the entity that furnished the negative information to verify the accuracy of its information. That agency must cease contact with the consumer until it provides proof of the debt.

Victim of ID theft?

Notify a credit bureau and place a fraud alert on your credit report.

Equifax
 P.O. Box 740241, Atlanta GA 30374
www.equifax.com
 800-685-1111 (to request a free credit report)
 888-766-0008 (to put a fraud alert on a credit report)
 800-525-6285 (fraud assistance)

Experian
 P.O. Box 4500, Allen TX 75013
www.experian.com
 866-200-6020 (to request a free credit report)
 888-397-3742 (fraud assistance)

TransUnion
 P.O. Box 2000, Chester PA 19022
www.transunion.com
 877-322-8228 (to request a free credit report)
 800-916-8800 (credit disputes)
 800-680-7289 (fraud alerts and identify theft)

If the debt is legitimate and more than one debt is owed, the consumer must indicate to which debt that payments should be applied. The debt collector must follow these instructions. In addition, when a consumer makes payments on a legitimate debt, a debt collector may not apply those payments to a debt in dispute.

If a debt collector is suspected of violating these standards, report any problems to the state attorney general's office and the FTC, which enters complaints into a centralized database used by hundreds of civil and criminal law enforcement agencies. In addition to rights under federal law, state laws may offer additional protection.

Limits on Financial Losses from Identity Theft

You have limited liability for fraudulent debts caused by identity theft. For example:

- >> Under most state laws, you are not liable for any debt incurred on fraudulent new accounts opened in your name and without your permission.
- >> Your liability for unauthorized use of your credit card is limited to \$50. If you report the loss to the credit card company before your credit card is used, you are not responsible for any unauthorized use.
- >> If your ATM or debit card is lost or stolen, your liability for unauthorized transactions depends on how quickly you report the loss to your bank or credit union. If you report the loss within two business days after you realize the card is missing, you could be responsible for up to \$50. If you report the loss after two business days, you could be responsible for up to \$500. However, if you don't report the loss within 60 calendar days after the bank or credit union sends your statement showing unauthorized transactions, you could face unlimited liability.
- >> If unauthorized transactions are made from your bank or credit union account using your debit card number (not your card), you are not responsible if you report the problem to your bank or credit union within 60 days after they send your account statement showing the unauthorized transactions.
- >> Most state laws limit your liability for fraudulent checks issued on your bank or credit union account if you notify the bank or credit union promptly.

Source: Federal Trade Commission

calls or letters sent to the credit reporting agencies.

Some other useful information about the FCRA:

- ▶ Consumers must give consent, usually in writing, to employer or potential employer to be able to access credit reports.
- ▶ Consumers may opt out of "prescreened" offers of credit and insurance. Unsolicited prescreened offers of credit and insurance must include a toll-free telephone number to call if you choose to remove your name from the lists these offers come from. Consumers may also opt out with the credit reporting agencies by calling 1-888-567-8688.
- ▶ In some cases, if use of a credit report results in a violation of the FCRA, consumers may be able to sue for damages.

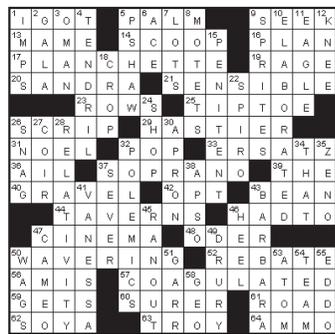
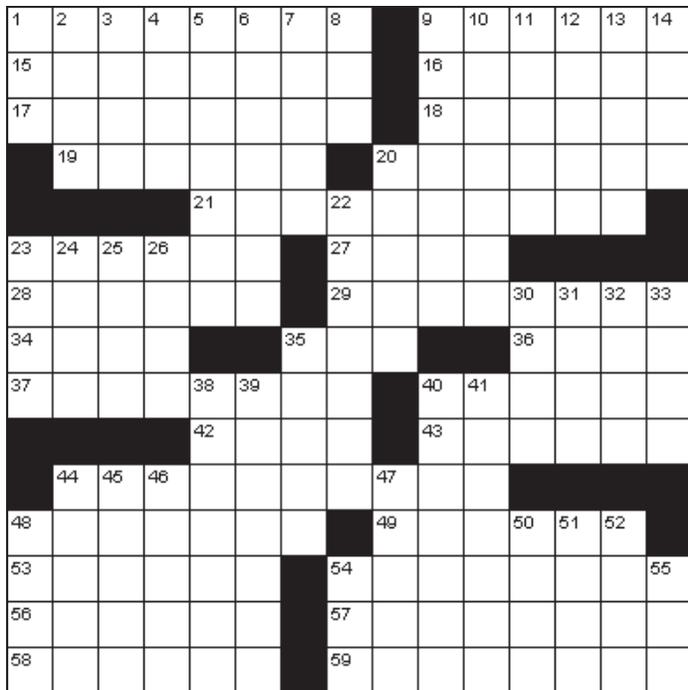
To minimize risk of future identity theft:

- ▶ Use websites that protect financial information with encryption. An encrypted website has "https" at the beginning of the address.
- ▶ When using a public Wi-Fi network, don't send information to any website that isn't fully encrypted.
- ▶ Install anti-virus and anti-spyware software, and a firewall on computers, and set the computer's operating system, web browser and security system to update automatically.

What if the debt collector is calling?

Whether a debt that is being collected is legitimate or not, consumers have rights under the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act. The FDCPA prohibits debt collectors from using harassing techniques, making false statements or engaging in unfair practices in attempting to collect a debt. Consumers can write a letter to the collection agency demanding them to stop contact. Once the agency re-

Crossword Puzzle



This is the solution to the crossword puzzle from February 20, 2014!
Courtesy of thinks.com

ACROSS

- 1 Broad-brimmed hat
- 9 Indifferent to questions of right and wrong
- 15 "Rosemary's Baby" author
- 16 Restore to life
- 17 Spanish Miss
- 18 Brings up
- 19 Break away
- 20 Etiquette
- 21 Dejected
- 23 Actor Brando
- 27 Current craze
- 28 Self-centered person
- 29 Weaken
- 34 Woeful words
- 35 Editorial submissions: Abbr.
- 36 Authentic
- 37 Father of Icarus
- 40 Sound system
- 42 Job for Holmes
- 43 Serving dish
- 44 Reconnaissance vehicle
- 48 Quakers
- 49 List of typos
- 53 Fruitlessly

- 54 Hyde, to Jekyll
- 56 Dolce far ___
- 57 Strained
- 58 More compact
- 59 Northern England area

DOWN

- 1 Family member
- 2 Metal containers?
- 3 Leonine locks
- 4 Political group
- 5 Church screen
- 6 Clear
- 7 Solemn ceremonies
- 8 ___ roll (doing well)
- 9 Place in order
- 10 Wander aimlessly
- 11 Just like ewe?
- 12 Up
- 13 Prevent
- 14 Not so much
- 20 Plaintive sounds
- 22 Squeezed
- 23 Fermented honey drink
- 24 Ottoman official
- 25 1960 Olympics venue
- 26 Schubert composition
- 30 Change course

- 31 Farmland unit
- 32 Old-fashioned pronoun
- 33 College founded by a king
- 35 Ruminates
- 38 Monkshood
- 39 Ring of fiction
- 40 Alarm
- 41 Castle features
- 44 PGA nickname
- 45 Rent
- 46 Resources
- 47 Whoopi, in "The Color Purple"
- 48 Discovery
- 50 Aphrodite's consort
- 51 Actress Garr
- 52 Elderly
- 54 Astern
- 55 Catullus composition

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Retro Classics

Thu, Mar 13 - Sun, Mar 16

Stuttgart, Retro Messen

Do you have a thing for old cars, hot engines, and a smooth finish? Then this is an event that you will not want to miss out on. All cars from American cars, contemporary cars and classics will be displayed. Opening time on Thursday is at 3 p.m. and on Friday at 10:00 a.m. Price for a day ticket is €16 and for a family ticket €35. For more information see www.retro-classics.de.

EVENTS

Teatro Colosseo

**Now – Sat, Apr 5
Rust, Europa Park**

Enjoy the great artistic show "Teatro Colosseo by Leonardo" in the Europa Park in Rust, running until April 5. This event will take place in the mirror tent of the hotel Colosseo. Enjoy a night of music and fantastic artists. In addition, you can book a 3 course dinner.

For more information see www.europapark.de

Zoo night

**Thur, Mar 6
Landau, Reptilium Terrarien**

On the 6th of March in Landau, the Reptilium Terrarien offers everyone who has an interest in reptiles to come see these animals being feed. The event will start at 18:00 and will go until 22:00. For more information on this event please visit www.reptilium.de

Apassionata – horse show

**Fri, Mar 14
Stuttgart, Hanns-Martin-Schleyer-Halle**
Don't miss the new Apassionata show "Zeit für Träume" (Time for dreams) at the Hanns-Martin-Schleyer-Halle on the 14th of March. More than 50 horses and artists present a special encounter between humans and animals.

Europe's most successful show with horses fascinates its audience with individual horsemanship and a light show accompanied by selected music. For more info, dates and tickets, see www.eventim.de

Bad Dürkheimer Weinbergnacht

**Fri, Mar 15 – Sat, Mar 16
Bad Dürkheim**

On the 14th of March the Weinbergnacht in Bad Dürkheim will host an open air wine tasting night. There will be 24 different winegrowers over a 6km long trail throughout the vineyards. Make sure to keep your winepass with you. Food and snacks will also be offered and for those who prefer other drinks, non-alcoholic drinks will also be available. Price for tickets range from €15 at advanced sale and €19 on the 14th. For more information see www.weinbergnacht.de

CeBIT information technology fair

**Mon, Mar 10 – Fri Mar 14
Hannover, Messegelände**

Visit the world's biggest fair for information technology from March 10 to 14 at the Messegelände Hannover. Since 1986, exhibitors from all over the world have been presenting the latest trends from the IT industry on an annual basis. This year, about 3,500 exhibitors are expected. Opening hours are everyday from

9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tickets in advance are €55, at the box office €60. For more info see www.cebit.de.

Almond blossom festival

**Sat, Mar 15 – Sun Mar 16
Bad Dürkheim**

This is the season for Cherry Blossoms. Between the 15 and 16th of March the German Weinstrasse will full of cherry blossoms. Enjoy a nice glass of wine while taking a romantic tour through the vineyards. For more information contact 06322-935140 or see www.bad-duerkheim.com

Disneys Musical Tarzan

**Thu, Mar 6
Stuttgart, Apollo Theater**

On the 6th of March, Tarzan will be swinging from vine to vine in the Apollo Theater in Stuttgart. Come see this great story with Jane and Tarzan. This musical will inspire you. Perfect for children to see their Disney star come to life. Ticket prices start at €57.79. For more information see www.eventim.de

ing against Schweriner SC on the 8th of March at 19:30 in the Scharrena in Stuttgart. This womens team is in the 1st National League. Grab a ticket and support this team. Ticket prices start at €7.

For more information see www.scharrena.de

Ice hockey

**Fri, Mar 14
Stuttgart, Stuttgarter Eishockeyclub**

On the 14th of March, the Stuttgart Rebels will be playing against the EHC Zweibrücken in the ice hockey ring Stuttgart at 20:00. For those who cant get enough of hockey and want to support the Stuttgart team, grab a ticket. Prices for tickets range from €8 to €12.

For more information see www.stuttgarter-ec.de

CONCERTS

Elton John

**Sun, Nov 30
Stuttgart, Hanns-Martin-Schleyer-Halle**

Hurry to get tickets soon to Elton John's concert on November 30 in Stuttgart. Elton will be sure to amaze the crowd with his many hits and fantastic show.

Get tickets from €61.80 and more info at www.eventim.de.

SPORTS

Volleyball

**Sat, Mar 8
Stuttgart, Scharrena**

The Allianz MTV Stuttgart will be play-

More events on: www.militaryingermany.com

military
IN GERMANY



Youth Activities

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



Photo by William Thone

World geography

Robinson Barracks parent volunteer Mrs. Rshanak Shahvari-Medina shares information about the culture and history of Iran in Mrs. Pat McGlown's 6th grade world geography class. She shared art, food, and answered student questions.



Photo by Ed Thornburg

Patriot's Pen

Each year the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) sponsors a nationwide youth essay competition giving students the opportunity to write essays expressing their views on democracy. This year's theme was, "What Patriotism Means to Me." The Stuttgart community had 184 entries, and the top 13 entries were forwarded to the next level of competition. BEMS had three students earning recognition in the local community. (Right to left) Mark Keller won 2nd place, Kyrianna Miller won 5th place, and Jacob Cilley's entry won 3rd place at the VFW District level. VFW Post 10810, Stuttgart Germany sponsored the local competition.



5



4

Robinson Barracks celebrates Read Across America Month

During March, there will be a variety of activities for all ages to celebrate Read Across America month. During the month students will attempt to read a total of 300,000 minutes. On March 3 AFRICOM and Stuttgart Garrison Command volunteers will help celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday by visiting classrooms and sharing their favorite readings with the students, and the Cat in the Hat will be making an appearance to cut the birthday cake.



1

1 - Robinson Barracks 2nd grader Ryan Boozer is recording himself using the RAZ Kids reading program. He selected a book appropriate to his reading level from the program then recorded himself reading. He then played back his recording, following along with the RAZ Kids reader. When students listen to themselves read, their reading becomes better!

2 - Robinson Barracks 2nd grader Chloe Cobb is using an iPod to listen to a story while she follows along. Doing this helps her see how the words on the page can come alive in a very expressive, fluent way. It also helps her focus on how words sound.



2



3

3 - Robinson Barracks 2nd graders Gracey Basgall and Chloe Cobb are reading aloud in pairs. Paired reading helps them become more self-sufficient and less reliant on adult intervention. The girls take turns reading. This increases reading involvement, attention, and collaboration. When they are finished they play a text analysis game.

4 - Robinson Barracks 2nd graders Linda Crawford, Erin Ross, Gerardo Pulido are reading aloud in a small group. This helps them become more self-sufficient and less reliant on adult intervention. They take turns reading. This increases reading involvement, attention, and collaboration. When they are finished they play a text analysis game.

5 - Robinson Barracks 2nd grader Quest Brown listens to a story on an iPod while reading along. This develops reading fluency and vocabulary.

Photos by Ms. Carlen Finch, 2nd grade teacher, RBEMS

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

Youth Activities



Photo by Holly Erickson

Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day was a very special occasion in Ms. Erickson's kindergarten class. The children used a "passport" to navigate through the room as they took part in heart activities based on math, art, and writing. The children created a Valentine mailbox at home to hold the cards they received from their kindergarten friends. In this photo we see a wonderful parent volunteer, LTC Patrick Alderman helping the children at his station. The students (from left) Magdalona Williams, Rayan Binebine, and Elisa Luipcho would like to say: "Thank You Very Much Mr. Alderman for helping us have a Happy Valentine's Day."



Photo by Holly Erickson

Down-range Valentines

The BEMS students in Mrs. Erickson's kindergarten class used their artistic skills to create Valentines for the very special people in their lives. Once the Valentines were finished, it was off to the US Post Office! Mrs. Fielder, one of the friendly postal employees, greeted the children at the door and gave them a big tour of the postal facility. The students were also given stamps to take back to the classroom to begin their very own stamp collections.



Photo by Kent Zelcs

Pink Shirt Day

National Pink Shirt Day was established to raise awareness of one of today's major problems in our schools, bullying. On Thursday February 26, the Blue Ribbon students in Ms. Nelson's 6th grade Language Arts class displayed a big variety of pink shirts displaying their commitment to anti-bullying. In this picture we see (from left) Caden Bass, Sean Rodenhamel, Liina Winborn, Sarah Brown, Ava Moore and Teresa Roark. On the bottom row: Alexa Stimpson and Scout Lease.



Photo by Mackenzie Coleman

Read Across America

On Monday, March 03, BEMS celebrated Read Across America and honored Dr. Seuss. Many parents and community members volunteered their time to read to our students. In this photo we see Col. Stack reading to a group of elementary students in the BEMS library. The BEMS's staff send a big thank you to all the volunteers for making Read Across American a great success for our young readers.



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Rayman Raving Rabbits, Wii game, perfect condition, like new! €10, coemser@gmail.com, €10, coemser@gmail.com

SmackDown vs. Raw 2010, Wii game, like new!, €12, coemser@gmail.com

Super Mario Galaxy, Wii game, perfect condition, like new! €15, coemser@gmail.com, €20, coemser@gmail.com

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Handbag "clutch style": Love to go out and dont want to use a big handbag? Dont miss out on this small, black bag. Perfect for going out at night!, €8, pics on class-world.com, coemser@gmail.com

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Small grey felt shoulder bag with mushroom design, perfect gift, €20 jenniferwilking@hotmail.com

Striped hand-made felt shoulder bag, large, trend colors, perfect gift, €30, jenniferwilking@hotmail.com

Sweatshirt von GAP, perfect condition, like new. Size small., €7, pics on class-world.com, coemser@gmail.com

The Notebook from Nicholas Sparks - wonderful book!, €3, pic on class-world.com, coemser@gmail.com

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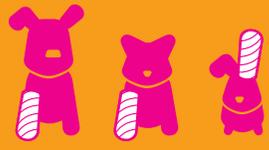
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GAZPROM World Cup of Rhythmic Gymnastics

Stuttgart, the German and the Swabian Gymnastics Federations are proud to welcome the best gymnasts of the world in Stuttgart – in the heart of Europe – for this high-level event.

The GAZPROM World Cup will be held in the Porsche-Arena Stuttgart which will be as well the competition venue for the World Championships in 2015.

To ensure the success of their operations, organizers have come up with an entirely new approach to Rhythmic Gymnastics: their goal is to create a connection between the discipline of Rhythmic Gymnastics and the people of Stuttgart, thereby growing interest in the competition.

“As a sort of kick-off event to connect the public with Rhythmic, we will be hosting the Gazprom Rhythmic Gymnastics World Cup at the Porsche Arena on March 21-23.
That will give the town its first taste

of Rhythmic and bring the motto ‘Enjoy your rhythm’ to life,” explained Wolfgang Drexler, president of the Swabian Gymnastics Federation.

The current DTB gymnasts of the national center in Fellbach- Schmidlen are also enthusiastic. Laura Jung said: “For us as Germany’s Rhythmic Gymnastics national team this is a big deal. It won’t happen again soon to have two international highlights succeeding each other in a relatively short time only a few kilometers away from our training hall. We are very motivated and hope for the support of many fans.”

From the U.S. there will be participating at the GAZPROM World Cup of Rhythmic Gymnastics the national team and two single-competitors.

If you want to get a taste of world class rhythmic gymnastics now you can try your luck here.

We have a **SPECIAL OFFER** for all our *The Citizen* readers:

Use the catchword **“USA rhythmic gymnastics”** to get a **10% discount** on ticket-orders via telephone (0711 28077 288) and email (service@stb.de).



Fri, March 21:
Podium training

Sat, March 22:
1:00 – 5:45 p.m. Qualifying Individuals and All-Around single
7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Qualifying Team and All-Around team

Sun, March 23:
12:00 – 3:00 p.m. Finals Individuals and Group
4:30 – 6:00 p.m. Winners-show “enjoy your rhythm”

For further information: www.gazprom-gymnastik-weltcup.de

RAFFLE

We raffle 5 x 2 tickets for the GAZPROM World Cup of Rhythmic Gymnastics for Saturday (7 – 9 p.m., Qualifying Team and All-Around team).

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Save € 30.00 on a Samsung Galaxy Tab 3 10.1 now only € 9.95* with an easyMobile voice or data plan. (regular price € 39.95)



Samsung Galaxy
Tab 3 10.1

€ 5 COUPON

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get your tablet for € 4.95* in your local TKSShop



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Sun: 11:00 - 17:00



Böblingen OFF-BASE

Stuttgarterstr. 72
Next to Lidl Supermarket
Tues - Fri: 11:00 - 19:00
Sat: 10:00 - 16:00

*In combination with an easyMobile 360 payment plan (€ 15.00 monthly). The offer is only valid 01st February – 28th February 2014, while supplies last.

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