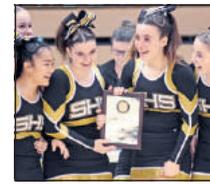




'Leadership, Equality and Diversity' seminar offers experiences worth sharing

Page 4



SHS athletes, marksman score a series of big wins

Page 15

Housing issues addressed at town hall, residential visits



Coast Guard Senior Chief Petty Officer Richard M. Whitney, senior enlisted adviser, AFRICOM J31 Joint Operations Center, asks about a housing issue during the information town hall in the Patch Barracks Chapel, Feb. 26.

Story and photos by John Reese
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Military services worldwide took a proactive stance to address the quality of life in barracks and post housing, and USAG Stuttgart got an early start with a hotline, visits to residents and a town hall, Feb. 26.

Garrison commander Col. Neal Corson made a brief presentation of why the Army was holding town halls and then, along with Command Sgt. Maj. Toese Tia, answered questions for more than two hours. Adding his support was Maj. Gen. John Gronski, U.S. Army Europe, the senior responsible officer for USAG Stuttgart. The town hall was attended by service members from all branches, many with children ranging in age from infants to teens, and Air Force Lt. Gen. James C. Vechery, U.S. Africa

Command's Deputy to the Commander for Military Operations. Residents unable to attend the town hall in person watched it streamed live by AFN Stuttgart; the recording is available for viewing on the garrison's Facebook page.

Questions that arrived online that weren't answered during the meeting were responded to afterwards.

Prior to the town hall, Gronski and Corson visited housing or barracks on Robinson and Patch Barracks and Panzer Kaserne.

Stuttgart now has two hotline phone numbers, one for day (0711-729-6200) and one for after business hours (0711-7228-6115). The hotline is now active on the garrison app. Calls will be logged, acted upon and reported to the garrison commander.



Service members from all branches who live in on-post housing listen as Col. Neal Corson, garrison commander, explains the reasons for the town hall during a brief slide presentation.



Maj. Gen. John Gronski, U.S. Army Europe, the senior responsible officer for USAG Stuttgart (right), asks Marine Corps embarkation specialist Sgt. Brian Martinez what he thinks about his Panzer Kaserne barracks. Gronski also visited Army barracks on Panzer.

Shovels of earth commence construction of new Patch Elementary School

Story and photos by Larry Reilly
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Weathering a drizzling of rain, a dozen people gripped ceremonial shovels, dug into a mound of dirt and heaved it into the air, officially starting the construction of a new elementary school on Patch Barracks, March 1.

The dirt heavers were members of the Department of Defense Education Activity, the garrison, the Army Corps of Engineers and the Bauamt Staatliches Hochbauamt Stuttgart.

"This project will not only benefit the school's students and faculty, but also the Stuttgart community both on and off post," Col. Neal Corson, USAG Stuttgart commander, said as he addressed the 50 people gathered on the site of the new school. "On post, the new (160-space) parking deck which is part of the project will provide much needed parking and



Garrison leaders, along with representatives of DoDEA, the Corps of Engineers and the Bauamt Staatliches Hochbauamt Stuttgart dig in on a rainy day to symbolically break ground for the new Patch Elementary School, March 1.

off-post; the nearly 50 million dollar project will bring an economic boost to local German construction companies."

During the past decade, the Stuttgart community saw the construction of new elementary and high

schools on Panzer Kaserne. Now this elementary school begins construction (and possibly a new middle school later).

"The Corps is involved in the construction of 26 schools totaling a billion dollars," said Col. John Baker,



From right, President Averil Johnson, and Vice President Ellamay Miranda, PES student council, address Stuttgart military community members at the ground-breaking ceremony for the new school, March 1.

commander, USACE Europe District. "For more than 70 years, the Europe District has worked hand in hand with the German government on all our construction projects, and it is a

Service members asked to participate in OHA survey

Public Affairs
USAG Stuttgart

The Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA) Utility and Move-In Expenses Survey is used to measure utility and recurring maintenance and move-in expenses incurred by service members stationed overseas who reside in private housing. It is conducted on behalf of the Department of Defense by the Allowances Branch of the Defense Travel Management Office.

Participation in this survey, which takes about 20 minutes, is voluntary. Failure to respond will not result in penalty to the respondent. However, maximum response is encouraged so that data will be representative of your country of assignment.

The Utility Survey is conducted annually, while the Move-In Expenses Survey is conducted once every three years as part of a combined survey. The survey is designed to collect utility/recurring maintenance and move-in expense data. It doesn't cover rental expenses. The data assists in determining the Utility/Recurring Maintenance and Move-In Housing Allowance collected will assist in the determination of OHA paid to Survey participants in the Stuttgart military community Survey participant's data paid to service members in the country surveyed.

If you receive OHA and meet the following qualifications, you should participate in the survey:

- Have been stationed in the country, where this survey is being conducted, for at least 3 months
- Reside in privately leased quarters (not a homeowner or sharer)
- Receive an Overseas Housing Allowance

If you have participated in previous OHA surveys, the questions will be similar in scope. You will be asked to report the average monthly cost of utilities and any routine maintenance expenses you incurred within the last 12 months for the utility portion of the survey. For the move-in portion of the survey, you will be asked to report actual expenses incurred when moving into your private residence.

To prepare for the Utility Expenses

portion of the survey, gather your actual bills or records of utility and recurring maintenance expenses for the last 12 months. For the Move-In Expenses portion of the survey, gather bills and any records of expenses associated with making your residence livable.

Incomplete surveys cannot be used as this might result in underreporting of utility/recurring maintenance and move-in expenses. Your response will be treated as confidential. Only group statistics will be reported.

Visit www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/ohaSurvey.cfm?ID=mar-utilmiha.

Editor's note: Information for this article came from the Defense Travel Management Office.

Garrison joins VVS employee discount program to encourage public transit use

By Holly DeCarlo-White
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

If there is one thing employees learn when commuting to and from work at U.S. installations in Stuttgart, it is how hard parking is to come by on post, not to mention the traffic.

To encourage an alternative solution to driving, following employee feedback, U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart joined the company employee discount program with Stuttgarter Straßenbahnen AG (SSB), the city's public transit service, encompassing the VVS network of U-bahn, S-bahn, buses and bike share. The program began registration for garrison employees Feb. 20, with rollout to other command

personnel to follow.

Program registration enables garrison employees, including the local national workforce, to receive an added five percent discount on public transit fares by zone. For U.S. personnel, this discount is also on top of the seven percent Value Added Tax savings for those who submit a VAT form upon registering, and every six months after for annual subscriptions.

Employees can find the online registration link and login to apply on the garrison websites as well as on the USAG Stuttgart mobile app and click "Transportation." Those who register by the fifth of each month, once validated, should receive their Polygo transit card to their German mailing address for

use by the first of the next month. For example, those registering for the new program between Feb. 20 and March 5 will receive a transit pass for travel valid April 1. Cards typically arrive a few days before the beginning of the month.

"Stuttgart is following the model of many large companies and installations located in cities across the U.S. and abroad. The transit program will be a benefit to both the employees who commute every day, as well as the environmental factor, providing an incentive to lessen the amount of traffic on-post and surrounding communities," said Dag Kregenow, garrison public transit program manager, Directorate of Public Works.

Register via the garrison employee



Graphic by SSB

online login. Visit the Stuttgart Citizen online for all of the links necessary. Registration is currently only available online in German. However, personnel can download the translated step-by-step guide to registration, here.

SHOVELS

continued from p. 1

partnership that will continue with this school and those schools in the future."

During the ceremony, Baker "deputized" Principal Beverly Erdmann, Patch Elementary School, and presented her with a hardhat engraved with her name and a reflective vest.

"This hat and vest will enable you

to visit the site during the construction process to ensure we are building the school to your satisfaction," Baker said.

Erdmann said it would be an honor to observe the construction of the school, then spoke about the six major themes that guide the design and construction of 21st Century DoDEA facilities. The themes address the ability to prepare students to be competitive after graduation.

The 113,427 square-foot school, scheduled to open in the fall of 2021, is designed for 551 pre-kindergarten to 5th grade students and will provide amenities such as learning studios and hubs, exploratory spaces and flex laboratories.

"The new school will have glass walls separating each classrooms. This might seem like a distraction to some, however; the layout of the new facility

will hopefully encourage assignments and activities that fully engage students," said Averi Johnson, PES student council president, who along with student council vice president, Ellamay Miranda addressed the group.

"I believe this new school will create an atmosphere where we are creating with our hands, sharing our ideas and building healthy relationships in a safe place," Miranda said.

The Citizen

UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON STUTTGART

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

Lighten your load and help the environment

By USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Save the environment and money by using the 405th Army Field Support Brigade's Hazardous Material Re-use Center on Panzer Kaserne.

The reuse center provides USAG Stuttgart installation logistics services to sustain unit readiness and improve quality of life. The center is a warehouse full of cleaning supplies, paint, and toner for printers, oil and similar products, free of charge to members of the Stuttgart military community. Many of the supplies are donated by people about to transfer out, and as they can't be shipped with household goods, the extra cleaning products are available for other people. Materials include cleaning spray, ink cartridges, oil and even plant food.

The center prevents environmental hazards. It has a sealed floor,

absorbent material for spills, an eye-wash station, safety equipment and fire extinguishers. It also provides a place where units and community members can drop off or pick up excess toner, lubricants, batteries, adhesives, fuel, paint or acid. Single items dropped off — such as a bottle of glass cleaner, wood spray, paint products — are easily accessible on a daily basis and can be taken by individuals.

Excess supplies ordered by tenant units can only be reused by other units. Those items are placed in a web based-tracking format in the worldwide Hazardous Material Management System.

Appointments for proper disposal aren't necessary at the Re-use Center. When community members leave their supplies at the center, expired or contaminated supplies are properly

disposed of at the Hazardous Waste Collection Point.

What about furniture?

"Yes, you can turn in furniture to the local Supply Support Activity (SSA) on Panzer Kaserne, following their guidance," said Francisco Arturo-Morales, Supply Asset Management, Logistics Readiness Center-Stuttgart.

Furniture can be turned in at the SSA located in Bldg. 2935, Arturo-Morales said. SSA is located on the opposite side of the building from the Exchange's Car Care repair bays and across from Vehicle Registration. If you need assistance transporting pieces of furniture, with or without manpower, help is available.

The Re-use Center is open weekdays, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call 431-2071 or 07031-15-2071, or call the Installation Supply

Officer at 431-3413 or 07031-15-3413.

Tips to lighten your load

For non-hazardous material donations such as household goods, toys, clothing and furniture, drop them off at the StuttgartCommunity Spouses' Club Patch Thrift Shop during its open hours or at its outdoor shed after hours (all donations must be placed inside the shed; items may not be left outside as they could be damaged due to inclement weather and other resource factors). Call 0711-680-5510.

Stuttgart Community Flea Markets

Swap meets are held on Saturdays and open to community members. Market times are 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. The next one is a children's themed flea market in conjunction with the Child Youth Services "For KidZ Only!" spring fest on Patch Barracks, April 27.

Even one completed suicide is one too many

By Capt. Traci L. Kaiser

Chief-Behavioral Health
Army Health Clinic Stuttgart

According to the Defense Suicide Prevention Office's Weekly Suicide Report, in 2018 the Department of Defense saw its highest number of suicides ever in its reporting history; 358



Photo by Mary Davis, U.S. Army Garrison Rheinland-Pfalz

Active Duty and Selected Reserve on Active Duty. At this time last year, we had lost 36 to suicide. The current year to date summary in 2019 for both suspected and confirmed suicides within the Department of Defense stands at 37. In the week of Feb. 4-10 2019, [the military] lost seven brothers and sisters in arms to [suspected] suicide.

The Army Health Clinic-Stuttgart's Department of Behavioral Health, in collaboration with ASAP's Suicide Prevention Program, will host an informal senior leader symposium on suicide and behavioral health. The symposium is an opportunity for senior leaders to gather for the unified purpose of supporting and learning from their peers. Three senior leaders will speak on their personal experiences with behavioral health. They've selflessly volunteered to foster a climate

of transparency, acceptance, and encouragement to contend with the significant stressors faced by seniors leaders. The intent focuses on peer-to-peer communication, fostering personal relationships, and avoiding isolation in an informal setting that is not intended for the troops they lead, but rather for the Senior Leaders themselves.

Leadership, and its necessity, is ingrained in the heart of every individual to ever wear a uniform. Service members are taught from day one that they will not only be given the opportunity to lead, but also that their respective service will be there along the way to help them lead via support from mentors, education, and a plethora of experiences.

USAG Stuttgart has no shortage of leaders. In fact, one of the ways that Stuttgart stands out from other

installations is by the amount of leadership experience held within the garrison walls. Peer-to-peer communication and understanding is a critical part of leadership development.

Behavioral health and suicide amongst senior leaders will be discussed at the symposium in the Swabian Special Events Center, Patch Barracks, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., April 12. The event is open to all services for ranks E-7 and above, O4 and above, and GS-12 and above. Attire is duty uniform or business casual. A catered buffet lunch for attendees will conclude the symposium. Participants are asked to RSVP as soon as possible, as attendance is capped at 100 personnel. Call 590-1615.

Please come support your fellow leaders as they demonstrate their own selfless service toward their peers.

Soldiers helping Soldiers: 2019 AER Campaign ongoing until May 15

By USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

The Army is currently conducting the 77th year of the annual Army Emergency Relief campaign. It began March 1 and continues until May 15.

AER is a private, non-profit organization that provides financial assistance to Soldiers, active and retired, and their families. Its purpose is twofold: To heighten awareness of the organization's programs and services, and give Soldiers an opportunity to help their fellow Soldiers through voluntary contributions. AER provides emergency financial assistance in the form of no-interest loans and, in certain circumstances where there is significant financial hardship, grants.

In 2018 alone, AER served 40,413 Soldiers and families for a total

assistance of \$67.2 million. And since 1942, \$2 billion in assistance was provided to nearly four million Soldiers, including more than \$1 billion since 9/11.

AER has assisted other service members of the Stuttgart military community, too. A reciprocal agreement allows AER offices to assist personnel from all branches of service (the other services all have their own version of AER). Assistance is based

on need, and while no two situations are alike, AER, which is managed locally, tries its best to find a way to say yes. Part of the Army team, AER approves 99 percent of all valid need requests. There is no limit to the amount of assistance, in most cases.

Financial help 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, according to the AER website. Smaller loans may be approved by company commanders and first sergeants.

AER also provides scholarships to children and spouses of active duty and retired Soldiers, as well as financial support to widows and wounded warriors. Visit to learn more.

Donating to AER is selfless - it's not only an investment in your future as an American Soldier, it's about supporting the whole army team during UNEXPECTED FINANCIAL HARDSHIP. To make a donation to Army Emergency Relief, see your unit AER representative; visit www.aerhq.org; speak to the AER officer at USAG Stuttgart Army Community Service in Bldg. 2915, Panzer Kaserne; or call 4312-3348.



Graphic by Army Emergency Relief

'Leadership, Equality and Diversity' seminar offers experiences worth sharing

Story and photo by
Holly DeCarlo-White
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Community members from all branches of service and professions came together to bridge communication gaps during the Leadership, Equality and Diversity seminar, at the Patch Community Club, Patch Barracks, Feb. 22.

U.S. European Command, organizers of the event, described it as a unique opportunity to say what is—and is not—being said in an open forum. The seminar encouraged plain communication to build joint cohesive leadership through diversity and increase understanding of how to make unique differences a tool for success, not an excuse for failure.

Moderators and panelists included leaders from EUCOM, U.S. Africa Command, Special Operations Command Africa and Europe, Naval Forces Europe-Africa, U.S. Air Forces Europe-Africa, Iowa National Guard, and U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart.

"The whole point is that you want to learn how to get from point A to point Z in the most efficient manner without wasting excess time and unnecessary man-hours,"

said panelist Staff Sgt. Aaron Moses, J1- Manpower and Personnel, Special Operations Command Africa. "If you can learn to be more efficient while doing that, then you save everybody's time, and the way you learn how to do that is by learning how the other branches work."

Panelist spoke to a variety of subjects in the full-day program which included open discussions on working in a joint atmosphere, mentorship, work-life balance and communication through the generations.

Personnel in Stuttgart have the unique opportunity to work with all different military branches from the U.S. and abroad as well as federal civilians, contractors and NATO partner countries.

"The more diverse a team is, the greater a pull of experiences that we have as leaders," said panelist Staff Sgt. Millie Gross, Personnel Support Services Noncommissioned Officer, SOCAFRICA. "That's what we want to do. Let's look across all the different generations, around mentorship, how we can work individually together, and also as a team."

Gen. Curtis M. Scaparrotti, commander, EUCOM, and Supreme Allied Commander Europe of NATO Allied Command Operations



Panelists at the LEAD seminar are introduced to the audience in the Patch Community Club, Feb. 22.

thanked all in attendance via video message.

"One of my enduring priorities is to develop resilient service members, Department of Defense civilians and their families. This is largely done by fostering a healthy command climate where people trust and demonstrate respect for

one another. This takes time and is a personal investment on your part to understand people's differences vices and service cultures so you can better communicate and ultimately inspire them," Scaparrotti said. "When you inspire people and you touch their soul, they will execute beyond your imagination."

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Ask a JAG: Taxes, SSA cards, phone numbers clarified

By USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Tax season is heating up, and the Stuttgart Tax Center wants to clarify outdated or incorrect information that may cause confusion and delays in getting your taxes done.

Last tax season, the Tax Center had to move to the Kelley Club due to construction at the Stuttgart Law Center. The current garrison phonebook has the wrong number listed for the Tax Center under the Law Office tab. It may be corrected by the time you read this. The number was changed to 421-1420 or 0711-729-4152.

Also, some information about Social Security cards is incorrect on the garrison website.

“It should read at the top that ‘All clients must bring valid identification, the Social Security card for everyone being claimed on a return,’” said Capt. Robert Duffie, officer in charge of this year’s Tax Center. “When you arrive to have your 2018 taxes done, in addition to bringing all of your W-2s, etc., please bring all of your family’s Social Security cards, not just the numbers.”

The tax preparers need to see the cards, Duffie said.

The tax preparation is free, although service are limited this year. Visit www.stuttgartcitizen.com and search "tax center" to learn more. If you have questions about the Tax Center, call the number above or email us-army.stuttgart.21-tsc.mbx.tax@mail.mil.

legal note from SLC Client Services: In May 2018, new protections for service members and veterans were signed into law. The Federal Trade Commission and the Bureau previously highlighted the new federal law that went into effect on September 21, 2018, requiring free security freezes and one-year fraud alerts at the three nationwide credit reporting agencies.

In addition, this law also addresses a number of key financial issues for the military, including:

- Holding lenders to more stringent requirements when they participate in VA’s refinance programs;
- Ensuring continued foreclosure protections for service members up to one year after they leave active duty;
- Prohibiting medical debt that should have been paid by the VA to be reported as part of a veteran’s credit history; and
- Providing free credit monitoring for active duty military, including the national guard

For more information, individuals should visit the Consumer Financial Protection

Bureau at <https://www.consumerfinance.gov/practitioner-resources/servicemembers/>.



Photo by USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Law online

The new Stuttgart Law Center website is up and running. It is not complete yet, but there are approximately 50 information papers available on the site. Members of the Stuttgart military community can access the information from the comfort of their home or office. Visit <https://home.army.mil/stuttgart/index.php/my-garrison/all-services/slc>.

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NEWS BRIEFS



Lay your SSA cards on the tax table

Tax season is heating up, and the Stuttgart Tax Center wants to clarify that when you arrive to have your 2018 taxes done at the Stuttgart, in addition to bringing all of your W-2s, etc., please bring all of your family's Social Security cards, not just the number. The tax preparers need to see the cards; a small price to pay for the free service. Contact the Stuttgart Tax Center at 421-421-1420 or 0711-729-1420, or email usarmy.stuttgart.21-tsc.mbx.tax@mail.mil.

CYS Recruitment Fair

Child and Youth Services will hold a recruiting fair for qualified, direct caregivers for age ranges from 6 weeks to 18 years old at ACS (Bldg. 2915, Panzer Kaserne), 3 p.m. - 6 p.m., March 12. Check the garrison's MWR website or call 593-7026 or 09641-70-5937026.

Talented management

Stuttgart will host a Senior Enterprise Talent Management/Enterprise Talent Management and Senior Executive Services Road Show for grades GS13-15, March 11-12, in the garrison headquarters (Bldg. 2949), Panzer Kaserne. Call 431-3152.

Where there's smoke ...

The garrison fire department notes there still seems

to be a lot of confusion still regarding fire extinguisher service in buildings. Since the start of fiscal year 2019, the USAG Stuttgart Fire Department is not funded to continue fire extinguisher service. All tenant units are responsible for the fire extinguishers in their buildings. For more information and to register for the next evacuation coordinator training, call 431-3830/3857.

Test it Tuesdays

The USAG Stuttgart Fire Department urges community members to test their smoke alarms on the first Tuesday of every month. While the majority of homes now have an alarm fitted, most people are not aware that the average alarm has a lifespan of only 10 years and then it needs to be replaced. The FD also encourages everyone to make sure they have enough smoke alarms in their home and that they work. It only takes a few seconds and can save lives. Smoke alarms can give someone the few extra seconds they need to escape in a fire.

Free child screening

Patch Elementary School offers developmental screenings for children ages 3-5 ongoing throughout the school year. Screening includes hearing and vision; motor, social, self-help, communication and learning skills. Call 431-4900 or 07031-15-4900.

Take a bite

All service members must maintain a standard of wellness and readiness. The Stuttgart Dental Clinic on Panzer Kaserne will be open during all training holidays. Pedodontic services

will be limited; a new hygienist is coming onboard which will increase available cleaning appointments in the near future. The clinic will continue seeing family members for exams and restorative procedures. For information and dental clinic appointments, call 590-2800 or 06371-9464-2800.

History in the making

The community is invited to observe Women's History Month, March 19, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., hosted by USAG Stuttgart's Equal Opportunity Office in partnership with Army Community Service, Bldg. 2915, Rm. 222, Panzer Kaserne.

Survey more, pay less

Service members are asked to take 20 minutes to participate in the 2019 Overseas Housing Allowance Utility and Move-In Expenses Survey. This survey is used to measure utility and recurring maintenance and move-in expenses incurred by service members living overseas in private housing. The data collected will assist in determining the Overseas Housing Allowance paid. Visit www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/ohaSurvey.cfm?ID=mar-utilmiha.

Ooh, baby-baby!

The American Red Cross, in cooperation with other garrison agencies, offers a Baby Expo, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., March 23, in the Patch Community Club. Important courses such as infant CPR will be offered. Meet local area hospital representatives and OBGYNs. The baby race and all of the baby giveaways alone are worth attending.

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Exercise in parking

The ongoing exercise on Patch Barracks will be concluded by mid-March. In addition to the exercise, the annual Spring Bazaar takes place March 22-24. Other construction on post, such as the new parking structure near the Patch Medical Clinic, have subtracted the number of parking spaces. Residents who work on Patch are encouraged to walk to work during March. Check the garrison SharePoint MAC calendar (CAC required) for an installation map of blocking areas.

That rings a bell

The Schönaich Handbell Choir GLOX is looking for experienced ringers to join the group. Visit www.glox-ev.de.

Bring the whole family

The new in-processing schedule for families is held Thursdays, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., and spouses and children are welcome to attend. Newcomers who have arrived recently and were previously unable to attend in-processing classes are also encouraged to attend. There is planning in progress to include child-care soon. Call 431-2599 or 07031-15-2599.



Photo courtesy of the Black Forest Quilt Guild

Creative quilting

Check out the Black Forest Quilt Guild to meet German and American quilters, and give back to both communities through creative donation projects. Create memories that will last a lifetime. For more information, email secretary@blackforestquilters.de

New meeting location for Civil Air Patrol

The Civil Air Patrol-Stuttgart Flight now meets at Stuttgart High School (Bldg. 3018), Panzer Kaserne, Tuesdays, 6-8 p.m. The CAP is for community members aged 12 and up who are interested in aviation and

service to the country. Call 0170 7027412 or visit www.stuttgart-CAP.com or www.gocivilairpatrol.com.

Volunteers needed for Retiree Services

Volunteers are needed to run the Retiree Services Office and to be on the retiree council. Call 431-2010 or 07031-15-2010.

FPCA now available

On Jan. 16, garrison voting assistance officers began distributing both electronic and paper voter registration/ballot requests, better known as the Federal Post Card Application. Submitting an FPCA to your state local election official will register eligible voters to vote, update their mailing address, and request an absentee ballot for all state and federal elections to include primary elections. US citizens overseas must register to vote via absentee ballot annually. Every service member and eligible family member should register and exercise their right to vote. Electronic versions of the application can be found online at fvap.gov.

Cold road warriors

IMCOM Europe road conditions, school closures, delays and weather warnings should be updated by the Installation Operations Center by 5:30 a.m. each morning. The webpage is linked under Road Conditions on the USAG Stuttgart mobile app and under Roads & Schools on the garrison website. The garrison does not track or report on off-post roads. Listen to AFN Radio in the morning, or check the state of Baden-Württemberg road advisories page at: SVZ-BW.DE, select: "Straßen - wetter" on the map key for local road conditions where you live. With the current weather conditions going from sunny to snowy, it might be a good time register for AtHoc. To sign up from your CAC-enabled computer, visit www.stuttgartcitizen.com and search AtHoc.

405th LRC forklift training returns

The next 405th Logistics Readiness Center-Stuttgart forklift training is scheduled April 25-26 on Panzer Kaserne. The training meets all OSHA standards for workplace safety. It's evaluated on

a go or no-go basis.

This two-day course consists of lecture/theory and a written evaluation for new forklift operators, as well as refresher training for those with a current forklift license. The classroom location for the first day is in Bldg. 2913, 3rd floor, DTTS classroom. The training starts promptly at 8 a.m. and ends at 3:30. Students are asked to arrive no later than 7:45 in order for the class to start on time.

The second day is hands-on, interactive, forklift driving certification. Students must know the basics of operating a forklift. The driving certification will be in the parking lot of the Installation Property Book Office/Central Receiving Point (Bldg. 2956, across the street from the Panzer Commissary).

Students are required to bring one passport size photo on the first day of training.

This April class is already beginning to fill up; more future forklift operators register with each training opportunity iteration. If you aren't able to get on the list for the 2-day course, you can be placed on the standby list. Supervisors without email addresses who wish to have employees take the course must provide their email, phone number, and be responsible for them attending the training.

For more details about eligibility to sign up for the course, call 431-3420.



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Top 10 reasons vehicles fail inspection

By 86th Vehicle Readiness Squadron

Part 2 of this story addresses auto decals, exhaust leaks, corrosion, plates and emergency gear.

6. Driver and front passenger door window tint and decals

After-market transparent or tinted material attached to the windshield must not exceed four inches or AS1 line located on the windshield. After-market tint located on the front driver-side window or front passenger-side window are prohibited. The use of decals and material attached to the personally owned vehicle that show connection with the United States (former base decals, military decals, flags, etc.) are prohibited on POVs with U.S. Forces-provided German license plates.

7. Exhaust leaks/noise level

The exhaust system must be secured tightly and free of leaks. Tailpipes must extend behind the rear wheels or beyond the side edge or rear of the vehicle body unless prevented by the manufacturer's specifications. Vehicles will be rejected if it emits excessive blue or black smoke. All exhaust line parts must be strong enough to resist normal hand pressure applied by the inspector. All repairs to exhaust systems must

be made by welding or component replacement. The use of exhaust bandages or putty is prohibited. All motorcycles and automobile exhaust systems will be inspected for noise levels. Noise level may not exceed 95 decibels.

8. Body and frame corrosion, ride height clearance, loose exterior components

Minimum body-ground clearance for flexible body parts, such as ground-effect spoilers or air dams, and metal parts, such as exhaust systems or frame and suspension components, must be at least nine cm. Vehicles with excessively corroded and damaged frame components will be rejected. Loose fenders, bumpers and any damage with sharp edges that present a safety hazard will be rejected.

9. Incorrectly mounted/license plate not installed

License plates will be attached horizontally to the front and rear of the POV at the location prescribed by the manufacturer and the law so that both plates are clearly visible. The rear plate will be centered under a light or placed between lights on either side. Motorcycles and trailers will display one plate attached horizontally to the rear. License plates will be attached



Photo by John Reese, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

firmly to the POV using bolts, screws, mounts or brackets directly on the front bumper. The use of string, wire, zip ties or double-sided tape to secure permanently-issued plates is prohibited.

10. Improper/missing first-aid kit and warning triangle

The first-aid kit cannot be expired and must meet or exceed the legal requirements and standards of the Deutsche Industrienorm (DIN 13164). You must also have a warning triangle

located in the vehicle during the inspection and at all times. Items are available at the Stuttgart Exchanges and the AAFES Car Care on Panzer Kaserne. Additionally, although not required for inspection and registration, German law requires one reflective vest per vehicle.

(Editor's note: Holly DeCarlo-White and John Reese, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs, contributed to this story.)

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Sign up for a 2019 CCVP tour

By USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Community Relations

The dates are set for the next four Capital City Visitation Program tours: March 13, May 23, Oct. 7 and Dec. 3. If you haven't already done so, the CCVP tour is a must during your tour of duty in Stuttgart.

Participants will learn about the German political system during a visit to the State Parliament in downtown Stuttgart, where they'll sit in the seats of Baden-Württemberg members of parliament. History buffs will learn from the U.S. Forces Liaison Office-Stuttgart about the "Restatement of Policy on Germany," better known as the "Speech of Hope," given by U.S. Secretary of State James F. Byrnes, Sept. 6, 1946. USFLO-Stuttgart will explain the importance of the U.S. Forces presence here.

The tour also includes a visit to Stuttgart's Rathaus (city hall) and other landmarks in the downtown area. While visiting the Rathaus, CCVP participants may take



Photo by John Reese, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs
Tour participants sit in the chairs of the Baden-Württemberg members of parliament.

a ride in the "paternoster," a vintage cross between an elevator and a Ferris Wheel. The name translates from Latin to "our father," with the door-less transport cabins reminiscent to a rosary. Passengers must time their entry and exit as the endless loop of continually moving wooden cabins pass their floor.

One of the many interesting stops is Market Hall Stuttgart, an art nouveau building containing a large hall packed with dozens of

vendors offering a wide array of specialty and gourmet foods and beverages, plus butchers, bakers and fishmongers.

A traditional Swabian lunch is included in the tour.

The CCVP tour is free and open to all ID card holders ages 14 years and older. Dress is business casual and good walking shoes are recommended. Participants will be picked up at 8:30 a.m. at the bus stop in front of the main Exchange on Panzer Kaserne. The tour lasts until 5 p.m.



Photo by John Reese, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs
One of the stops on the tour includes a visit to glass building with a panoramic view of the city.

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8:30 a.m.: Departure from the Panzer Exchange
9:20 a.m.: Arrive at Karlsplatz (Karl Square) behind the Old Castle, walk to the State Parliament of Baden-Württemberg (Landtag) in the Castle Gardens (Schlossgarten)
9:30 - 10:30 a.m.: Tour of the parliament building and hands-on experience of the Baden-Württemberg State Government
10:45 a.m. - noon: Presentation of the "Speech of Hope"
12 - 1:30 p.m.: Lunch at the Parliament Restaurant sponsored by the State Parliament of Baden-Württemberg
1:30 - 2:15 p.m.: Walk to and tour of the Neues Schloss
2:15 - 3:15 p.m.: Walking tour of the city center
3:15 - 3:45 p.m.: Mayor's welcome at the city hall and short "Welcome to Stuttgart" video
4 - 5 p.m.: Return to Panzer Kaserne
 To sign up, call 431-3463/3099 or use the online CCVP form at www.stuttgartcitizen.com.



Stuttgart to recognize volunteer contributions

By Jessica LaGasse-Simpson,
Coordinator
Army Community Service
USAG Stuttgart

April is right around the corner and that means it's time to celebrate our community volunteers.

National Volunteer Week is April 7-13. However, the USAG Stuttgart annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony will take place a little later in the month on Thursday, April 25. The event, to be held at the Patch Community Club, is open to the entire community. Registration begins at 2:30 p.m. and the official ceremony will commence at 3 p.m.

During the ceremony, volunteers will be recognized for their contributions in the 2018 calendar year. Col. Neil Corson, garrison commander, will present the Commander's Award of Excellence to volunteers with 1000 or more hours during this time period. He will also introduce the nominees for Volunteer of the Year in six different categories - Military, Spouse, Youth, Civilian, Senior, and the new addition to this year's line-up, Team. Volunteer organizations nominated their



Photo by ACS

Ceremony in 2018

outstanding volunteers in January and February, and a panel of judges voted for the nominees in March. The recipients of the awards will be announced during the ceremony.

Army Community Service is thrilled to reveal that this year's event theme is Hawaiian Aloha. After the official ceremony, guests are invited to join the command team in Patch Community Club's Backlot Bar for a mini luau. This is the perfect opportunity to mingle with the Stuttgart volunteers and thank them for their service throughout the year.

Volunteers are the backbone of our military community and many

programs would not be able to function without them. If you are interested in donating your time and skills, getting started is simple. Visit www.mymilitarysource.com, register for an account, and search for open volunteer positions in the Volunteer Management Information System (VMIS) by clicking on "Volunteer Tools." Once you find something that interests you, apply for the position in order to get connected with the appropriate organization. As an alternative, you can also stop by ACS to discuss volunteering opportunities on your desired installation. Once you've started volunteering, you will be able to use VMIS to track your hours, upload any training certificates you may receive and print out a record of your service

hours. In order to be considered for annual recognition by the garrison, volunteers must be registered in VMIS and all hours must be certified by an organization point of contact.

Become a volunteer

For more information about volunteering or assistance with VMIS, please call the ACS front desk at 431-3362 or 07031-15-3362, or stop by Bldg. 2915 on Panzer Kaserne.

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Colonoscopy offers the best prevention of colorectal cancer

Army Health Clinic Stuttgart
News Release

There is good news and bad news when it comes to colon cancer. The bad news is that colon cancer is the third leading cause of cancer death in the United States. The good news is that it is one of two types of cancer that can be prevented with screening (cervical cancer is the other preventable cancer).

March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, and according to the American Cancer Society, over half of all colon cancer fatalities in the United States could be prevented if every man and woman over 50 years of age chose to be screened for colon cancer.

More than any diet or exercise regimen, a colon screening offers the best prevention when it comes to colon cancer. The disease almost always begins with a polyp, a small cluster of cells in the lining of the colon or rectum. During a screening, a gastroenterologist is searching for polyps that are cancerous or may develop into cancer.

There are many screening methods available, but the colonoscopy is the most thorough screening procedure because it allows your doctor to see the entire length of your colon to examine for polyps, lesions

and abnormalities. Other screening methods like flexible sigmoidoscopy, virtual colonoscopy, double contrast barium enema, and fecal occult blood test are valuable, but they are incomplete in their conclusions and often result in further testing.

Know your risk

Another common myth about colon cancer is that it only affects the elderly. Regular colonoscopies should begin at age 50 for people with an average risk for developing colon cancer. However, if you have a family history of polyps or colon cancer, many physicians may recommend getting your first colonoscopy at age 40 or even earlier depending on your history. African-Americans should start getting screened at age 45. More frequent and earlier screening is recommended if you are at high risk for colon cancer or if you have a genetic disease such as Lynch syndrome or Familial Adenomatous Polyposis syndrome (FAP).

Know the warning signs

Even when a polyp develops into colon cancer, it is highly treatable in its early stages and has a five-year survival rate of 90 percent. However, only 39 percent of colon cancers

are detected in early stages. In recent years, we are seeing the trends shift in colon cancer diagnosis. The incidence of colon cancer among adults over 50 is decreasing because of increased screening rates. Unfortunately, the incidence of colon cancer among adults between the ages of 20 and 49 is increasing. This is due in part to genetic conditions, but factors such as unhealthy lifestyle, inadequate health care and lack of education are also responsible for this steady increase.

Therefore, prevention is not limited to older adults. Young-onset colon cancer is a growing concern, and it is important that everyone, regardless of age, is aware of the warning signs and risk factors of colon cancer. You are never too young for colon cancer, so education and awareness are essential components of colon cancer prevention.

Healthy choices are a good start

A healthy lifestyle is another great way to prevent colon cancer and other cancers. Eating nutritious foods and getting regular exercise are important components in preventing colon cancer. We know this because a high-fat diet and sedentary lifestyle are risk factors for colon cancer. A diet based

on fruits, vegetables, lean proteins and whole grains, along with consistent physical activity helps prevent the accumulation of toxins in the digestive tract and reduces inflammation in the colon. Other healthy lifestyle choices like avoiding smoking and alcohol can help prevent cancer cells from developing in the colon.

Stay current with doctor visits

Finally, staying in close communication with your doctor will help prevent colon cancer. If you are visiting your doctor regularly before your baseline colonoscopy, the chances are high that you will follow recommended screening guidelines. It is also more likely that you will feel more comfortable discussing any changes in digestive or bowel habits with your doctor.

If you knew that a screening could protect you from a deadly disease, you would choose to be tested, would you not? A colonoscopy may be the most important test you ever take. If you follow other preventative measures like making healthy lifestyle choices, knowing your risk, knowing the warning signs of colon cancer and keeping current with check-ups, you have the best opportunity to remain colon cancer free.

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Stuttgart CAP aerospace education takes off

One of the main components of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) is learning about aerospace and putting it into practice, and the cadets and senior members of the CAP-Stuttgart Flight recently worked on their aerospace education by building a scaled-down civilian airport and learning about its layout. Stuttgart Flight Senior Master Sgt. Armondo Carrion and Senior Member Amanda Sutter lead the discussion on what the airport signs and markers meant to pilots.

Additionally, as part of their aerospace education, Stuttgart Flight visited a local glider factory and learned an interesting fact—the glider wings have to be manufactured in the same room as the fuselage so there is no

temperature difference during construction. This differs from other airplanes where the wings can be constructed in two different places.



Photos by Staff Sgt. David Winter, Public Affairs Officer, Stuttgart Flight, Civil Air Patrol

Innovative Ideas Receive \$mart Money in DoDEA Europe's East District

Department of Defense Education Activity
News Release

The DoDEA Europe East District Superintendent's Office awarded more than \$73,000 to support innovative teaching and learning models. \$mart Money was conceived as a motivational agent to allow inspired educators to develop and implement innovative methods and practices for teaching and learning in their classrooms.

Steven Sanchez, DoDEA Europe East District Superintendent, earmarked funds to support the innovative goals of forward-thinking practitioners. The \$mart Money initiative received over 40 applications from educators throughout the district to fund innovative learning projects that will positively impact student achievement. The projects and resources embrace creative approaches to meeting the interests and learning needs of students through a blend of innovative

pedagogical approaches and 21st century resources. Twenty-three projects received the awards this year.

"I am happy to be able to continue the \$mart Money program this school year," Sanchez said. "It is an exciting way to support and encourage our forward thinking educators and schools as we continue our journey into 21st Century education, college and career ready standards, and DoDEA's blueprint for success."

DoDEA plans, directs, coordinates,

and manages pre-kindergarten through 12th grade education programs for school-age children of Department of Defense personnel who would otherwise not have access to high-quality public education. DoDEA schools are located in Europe, the Pacific, Western Asia, the Middle East, Cuba, the United States, Guam, and Puerto Rico. DoDEA also provides support and resources to Local Educational Agencies throughout the United States that serve children of military families.

Stuttgart's \$mart Money recipients are:

Jamie Whitney, Stuttgart ES: "Engineering and Coding: The Character Caterpillar" - Hands-on and project-based learning to inspire young engineers and coders through the use of the engineering design process.

George Roos, Stuttgart HS: "Bio-tech Engineering Investigations" - Using specialized equipment to conduct DNA manipulations and protein analysis.

Alan Landers and Andrew Held, Stuttgart HS: "Audio Recordings" - Improving student performances through increasing the quality and quantity of audio recording processes.

Mike Rubino and Drake Marbury, Stuttgart HS: "Tech in PE" - Integrating advanced wearable fitness devices into the classroom to provide a more personalized physical education experience for students.

Dawn MacFarland, Stuttgart HS: "Flex Seating" - Utilizing various nontraditional seating options in the classroom.

Herbert Silio, Stuttgart HS: "The Maker Space" - Extending STEM education experiences through a dedicated space for designing and building.

RBES students Read Across America

The Robinson Barracks Elementary School 2nd & 3rd grade students perform "A Year with Frog and Toad," March 1, as part of the "Read Me a Story" program. Two performances,

one in the morning for the RBES student body and an afternoon one for family members, kicked off the school's "Read Across America" month.



Photo by Sabrina Wilson, president, RBES PTSA



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USAG Stuttgart's Jewish community celebrates Purim

By Erick Posner
Stuttgart Jewish Community Lay Leader

Purim is one of Judaism's most jubilant holidays during the year. Celebrated this year on March 20, Purim commemorates how the Jewish people living in Persia were saved from extermination during 3rd century BCE. The story is chronicled in the Book of Esther, or as otherwise known as the Megillah.

The story focuses on a young Jewish woman, Esther, living in Persia with her cousin, Mordecai. Esther is eventually taken by King Ahasuerus as his queen, who was unaware that she was Jewish. Meanwhile, the king's viceroy, Haman, was furious that Mordecai, a member of the royal court, refused to bow down to him.

Haman discovered that Mordecai was Jewish and decided that all Jewish people must pay for this perceived insult. He convinced the king that the Jewish people refused to observe the King's laws and the King should not tolerate this. The king gave permission for Haman to resolve this as he pleased. Haman then set upon a plan to eradicate the entire Persian Jewish people. He even built gallows in preparation for the extermination.

Mordecai uncovered the plan and alerted Esther. After three days of praying and fasting, Esther informed the king of her Jewish identity. The fact did not bother the king, for he loved Esther so much. Feeling safer, Esther then broke the news of Haman's sinister plan. Enraged, the king ordered Haman and his ten sons hanged on

the same gallows that Haman had prepared, saving the Persian Jewish population. A new decree was issued ordering the Persian Jewish population be spared from such threat.

Jewish congregations throughout the world have traditionally celebrated the miracle by retelling the Story of Esther. Such celebration usually includes carnivals, which dressing up in costumes are highly encouraged. One could call this the "Jewish Mardi Gras."

The most popular traditional Purim food is the Hamantashen, filled-pocket folded triangular cookies with various sweet fillings.

One particular tradition is that during the retelling of the story, each time Haman's name is uttered, the congregation scream loudly, uses noisemakers, and other noise generating devices attempting to drown out Haman's name. Haman is like the ancient version of Harry Potter's "He Who Should Not Be Named" character (and no, we will not publish his name here).

This year is special as we will be having two Purim celebrations. The first event will be on evening of Purim, 6:30-7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 20, at Panzer Jewish Chapel (the small chapel around the corner from the main chapel). The Megillah will be read by a guest from



Painting by Jorge Glusberg

Esther and Mordecai writing the first letter of the Purim.

Chabad of Frankfurt.

The second event will be the traditional Purim Carnival at Patch Chapel on Sunday, March 24 12:30-4 p.m. Children are encouraged to dress in costumes. Prizes will be awarded.

As we say in Yiddish - "Ah Freylichen Purim" - A happy Purim to you!

For more information, please contact Stuttgart Jewish Community at info@stuttgartjewishcommunity.com

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SHS athletes, marksmen score a series of big wins

By John Reese and Holly DeCarlo-White
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

The Stuttgart High School Panthers roared with success in a variety of athletic competitions at USAG Wiesbaden's Clay Kaserne Fitness Center, Feb. 23, while the sharpshooters of the Rifle Team placed first and second All-Army at a competition in Ohio,

Panther wrestlers finished by winning the 2019 European Wrestling Championships for a 6th consecutive year.

"At the end of competition, the Panthers crowned five European champions and scored 327 team points," said wrestling coach Norman K. Matzke.

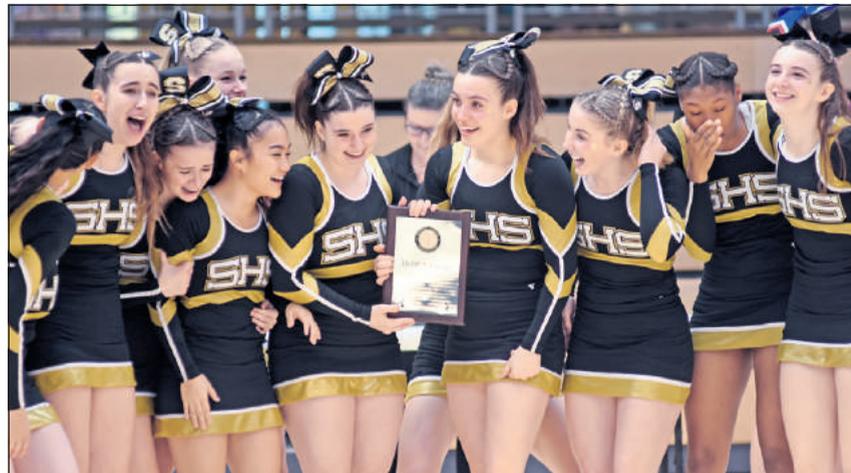
The Lady Panther Basketball team under coach Robin Hess scored



The Lady Panther Basketball team scores a 3-peat as Department of Education Activity Division I champions, Feb. 23.

a 3-peat as Department of Education Activity Division I champions.

"I think everyone will agree that the girls championship game was by far the best game of the tournament. Our team only had one loss through



Photos by Jennifer H. Svan, Stars and Stripes, used with permission.
Stuttgart cheerleaders celebrate their Division I win at the DODEA-Europe cheerleading championships on Saturday, Feb. 23, in Wiesbaden, Germany.

Rick Renninger.

The SHS Boys Basketball team coached by Rob Bowman took third place in DoDEA Division I.

"What a season our boys basketball team had this year," Renninger said. "Ups and downs, but we kept on fighting. Congratulations on a great finish as our boys took third place in the tournament. A special shout-out to Gavin Abney, who made the All-Europe team."

The Panther Cheerleaders, under the direction of Nicole King, took the Division I top honors out 19 competing cheer squads.

"I believe this is Stuttgart High Schools first cheerleading

championship in many years," Renninger said. "A special congratulations to Emma Lane for making the All Europe Cheer Team."

Col. Neal A Corson, commander, USAG Stuttgart, was present to see the SHS cheer squad kick, jump, shout and form pyramids for the win.

"Our great cheer team from SHS came in first place," Corson said. The last three years they came in second, so this year they stepped it up and came in first."

The Stuttgart Rifle Team returned from the Regional All Army Air Rifle Competition in Ohio after taking first and second All-Army.

"Maria Tortorelli took first place as an individual out 30 shooters," said Raul Pino, instructor, Varsity/JV Air Rifle Team. "The Rifle Team also had three of four shooters in the top eight and four in the top 10 of the match. So, a big congratulations go out to the rifle team for a job well done."

The team was invited to compete at the Annual All-Services Nationals Air Rifle Competition in Anniston Alabama, March 18-24, Pino said.

"The sports programs through our high school are great programs for kids to be involved in," Corson said. "Kudos to our young athletes. They represented Stuttgart well; congratulations."

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