

Endangered species benefit from LTA cleanup

Story & photos by Carola Meusel
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

The weapon of choice at the Panzer Local Training Area on Nov. 5 was not a semi-automatic rifle, but a pitchfork.

An army of volunteers converged on the LTA armed with lawn mowers, saws and pitchforks to clear the area from overgrown grass and shrubs, and fallen branches during “Operation Landscape Protection Day.”

Since 1997, U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart’s Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division, Federal Forestry Office and the Swabian Albverein (German nature and wandering club) have coordinated the event every two years.

This year, volunteers from various German conservation groups, as well as members of the Böblingen youth firefighter association, and Boy Scouts

from the Stuttgart military community, participated in the cleanup.

“The Panzer Local Training Area is home to a variety of endangered plants, animals and amphibians,” said Inga Gebhard, a geo-ecologist with DPW.

Yellow-bellied and natterjack toads were able to adapt in the LTA’s unique environment because up to 15 years ago, tanks frequently passed through the area, creating biotopes (shallow puddles) in their tracks, which is the perfect habitat for the species to settle, according to Gebhard.

Because fertilizer has never been used at the LTA, creatures such as tree frogs, sand lizards, dune tiger beetles and plants such as the maiden pink and the sheep’s bit, find the raw soil a conducive habitat.

More than 100 volunteers cut trees, branches and shrubs, and raked grass to



Matthew Cass (left), 14, and his brother Nathan, 16, both members of Boy Scout Troop 324, gather up mown grass and weeds at the Panzer LTA on Nov. 5 during Landscape Protection Day. The LTA is home to a variety of endangered plants, animals and amphibians, and the cleanup helps to preserve their habitats. The Boy Scouts joined about 100 other German volunteers from local conservation groups in the effort.

See LTA on page 4



Maj. Gen. Michael Repass (left), U.S. Special Operations Command Europe, commander and Spc. Tyler Johnson, 52nd Signal Battalion, render salutes after placing a wreath during the Veterans Day ceremony Nov. 11.



The Patch High School Junior ROTC color guard posts the colors at the beginning of the ceremony.

Saluting veterans

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart and American Legion Post 6 sponsored a Veterans Day observance Nov. 11 at Washington Square on Patch Barracks. Maj. Gen. Michael Repass, commander of U.S. Special Operations Command Europe, was the guest speaker.

Photos by Susan Huseman

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Marines assist with Turkish relief effort

When a 7.2 magnitude earthquake hit eastern Turkey Oct. 23, a team from MARFOREUR helped move more than 91,000 pounds of relief supplies within 24 hours.



Pages 10-11

Your Christmas market guide

Christmas markets are a treasured tradition in Germany. From Nov. 22 until Christmas Day, you can see, taste and hear holiday cheer — the German way!



INSIDE THIS EDITION

Commander's Column*Holiday season is all about giving, making a difference*

Commentary by Col. Carl D. Bird
USAG Stuttgart commander

With the holidays just around the corner, I want to remind everyone what the season is all about ... giving.

Today, we find people struggling at all levels, in all walks of life. In today's fragile environment, it's important to look inside ourselves and find a way to give ... to make a difference for the people of our community, at home and around the world.

Within the Stuttgart military community, there are two excellent ways to give.

You can share the spirit of the season with others in our community who are less fortunate through Army Community Service's Angel Tree program. It couldn't be more simple ... you select an angel ornament from one of the trees located in the Patch, Kelley and Robinson Barracks Commissaries, the Panzer Exchange or the ACS lobby, and purchase a gift for the age and gender of the child indicated on the ornament.

You can also make an impact year-round by participating in the Combined Federal Campaign-Overseas.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the program, which is the largest and most successful



Col. Carl D. Bird

In today's fragile environment, it's important to look inside ourselves and find a way to give ... to make a difference for the people of our community, at home and around the world.

philanthropic fundraiser in the world, due in part to the commitment and generosity of people like you.

The CFC-O has over 2,400 charities to choose from, covering almost every initiative you could possibly think of. Finding a cure for cancer, supporting the families of our deployed troops, protecting the environment, stopping animal abuse — whatever cause most touches your heart, CFC-O has a charity that supports it.

Overseas service members also have the opportunity to give back to their military community by donating to the Family and Youth Support Program. One hundred percent of the funds designated for FYSP come right back to the military communities of the donors to fund quality of life programs.

Last year, U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart received almost \$33,000 in FYSP donations, which were used to purchase equipment for the Stuttgart youth tackle football program, and refurbish the Hub and Panzer Youth Center. We were even able to offer free fan bus-

es to and from the World Cup soccer matches earlier this year. These are all initiatives that we would not have been able to do without your support to FYSP.

Last year, USAG Stuttgart and our tenant units collected over \$79,000, while the Stuttgart community as a whole, to include U.S. European and Africa Commands, came together to raise almost \$613,000 for CFC-O.

Overall, the five overseas combatant commands raised more than \$13.8 million in 2010 to reach out with life-saving and life-enriching services benefiting millions of people.

For the 2011 campaign, we have set a goal to top last year's total.

I encourage all of you to join me in making a contribution to the CFC-O this year. Your support will "make a world of difference."

For more information, visit www.cfcoverseas.org or talk to your unit's CFC representative.

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www.stuttgart.army.mil

ON THE STREET

What are you thankful for this Thanksgiving?



Grace Ann Trevillian
(Family member)

"My black lab named Shadow."



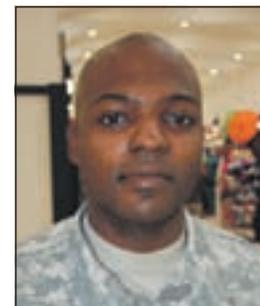
Cpl. Allen Umbenhower
(U.S. Army)

"After three deployments, I'm thankful to be alive."



Sara Nantz
(Spouse)

"My good health, and my wonderful friends and family."



Spc. Ramon Benton
(U.S. Army)

"Getting to go and visit my three little boys over the holidays."



Master Sgt. Steven Spears
(U.S. Army)

"Being here with my family — not downrange."



Candice O'Halloran
(Spouse)

"Surviving a brain tumor ... I was diagnosed in 1999."



Petty Officer 1st Class Brian Avent
(U.S. Navy)

"My newborn daughter ... she's one month old."



Staff Sgt. Jaclyn Potter
(U.S. Marine Corps)

"I'm thankful for the health of my friends and family."



Under Secretary of Defense, Personnel and Readiness, Dr. Clifford L. Stanley (from left), USAG Stuttgart Commander Col. Carl D. Bird III, ASAP's Bala Fischer and Howard Krout, Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony M. Bryant and Joseph Angello Jr., the Operational Readiness and Safety director, pose for a photo Oct. 20 during the 21st Annual Secretary of Defense Community Drug Awareness Award ceremony at the Pentagon.

ASAP program best in Army

By Susan Huseman

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart's Army Substance Abuse Program is the best in the Army.

Last month, the garrison was awarded the 21st Annual Secretary of Defense Community Drug Awareness Award for its outreach efforts during fiscal year 2010.

The award, presented Oct. 20 in the Hall of Heroes at the Pentagon, recognizes the top drug awareness programs in each of the services and National Guard that exemplify the Defense Department's best efforts to promote healthy, drug-free lifestyles.

This is the second time the garrison has earned the prestigious honor. The ASAP program also won for fiscal year 2008.

"Over the years, we have refined our program, incorporating best practices and the lessons we've learned," said Dr. Bala Fischer, USAG Stuttgart ASAP manager.

"Operation Care," Stuttgart ASAP's 2010 outreach campaign, focused on "caring for the community's well-being by promoting healthy lifestyles

and combating substance and alcohol abuse," said Dr. Howard Krout, the Employee Assistance Program coordinator who oversaw the outreach program.

The aim of the campaign was to not only change people's attitudes and behaviors about alcohol consumption and substance abuse, but to offer alcohol-free social activities and aggressively combat drunken driving, he said.

Krout, Leslie Sweeney, prevention coordinator, and volunteer Ann Pugh, campaign coordinator, took a hands-on approach, providing visibility to the campaign by handing out ice scrapers to motorists as they drove on to installations, participating in yoga classes during Suicide Awareness Month, promoting drug education and awareness at the annual newcomers information fair, and encouraging community members to turn in expired prescription drugs and over-the-counter medications to kick off Drug Awareness Month.

"We have to keep awareness up in the community and get people to think about alcohol, drugs and tobacco and the consequences of their use," Krout said.

From working closely with the Adolescent Substance Abuse Counseling Service counselors at the schools to providing training to units and organizations, to committing resources for Red Ribbon Week, ASAPs' efforts benefit active duty military, civilians and family members, according to Fischer, the ASAP manager.

"It's community outreach in the truest sense of the word," he said.

But it took more than ASAP to win the top Army award.

"We didn't do it alone," said Fischer, adding that ASAP collaborated with many other organizations, such as the Stuttgart Training Support Center; Safety Office; Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation; Army and Air Force Exchange Service; the health clinic; fitness centers and local schools.

"It was a team effort," Fischer said.

"We have to ... get people to think about alcohol, drugs and tobacco and the consequences of their use."

Dr. Howard Krout

USAG Stuttgart EAP coordinator

News & Notes

DFACs to host Thanksgiving meals for community

The 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) Dining Facility on Panzer Kaserne will serve a Thanksgiving meal on Nov. 23 from noon until 2 p.m.

The Black Stallion Inn Dining Facility on Patch Barracks will serve a traditional Thanksgiving meal Nov. 24 from noon to 4 p.m.

Both holiday meals are open to all Stuttgart military community members. The cost is \$7 per person; \$5.95 for dependents of service members in the ranks of E4 and below.

The Black Stallion Inn will be closed Nov. 23 and 25 for set up and break down, while the Panzer DFAC will be closed for breakfast on Nov. 23 in preparation for the holiday meal.

For more information, call 431-3422/07031-15-3422.

Local national employees may patronize fitness centers

Local national employees of the U.S. Government may now use U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation fitness centers on a space-available basis before, during and after their work day, as long as there no participation fees involved.

These employees may also take part in no-fee activities such as Winterfest and Armed Forces Entertainment performances, and may dine at Family and MWR food and beverage facilities.

For more information, call 421-1350/civ. 0711-729-1350.

Military life photos sought

The Department of Defense seeks photographs of U.S. military life overseas from current and former service members for use in "Serving Abroad ... Through Their Eyes," a photo exhibition planned in conjunction with the State Department.

Images that depict daily life, friendship, places, faces, loss or triumph may be used for display in the special photography exhibition planned for the Smithsonian American Art Museum, the Pentagon and other prominent venues, stateside and overseas. Submissions will be accepted through Feb. 20, 2012.

Rules, entry forms and submission guidelines are available at www.ourmilitary.mil/their-eyes/serving-abroad-through-their-eyes.

Soldier Show seeks performers

The 2012 U.S. Army Soldier Show is accepting nominations for technicians, performers, lighting, audio, video, costuming and stage technicians.

Nominees must have a minimum of 90 days time in service remaining after completion of the tour in November 2012, and must be deployable worldwide.

Video auditions and technical reviews will take place in January, and finalists will be notified by Army Entertainment.

The deadline to apply is Dec. 31.

Application and requirements can be found at www.armyentertainment.net.



Photos by Carola Meusel

Fatum Dizdai (from left), 11, and Sandra Maisch, 19, members of the Böblingen youth firefighters association, team up to saw off a branch of an alder tree in the Panzer LTA on Nov. 5 during Landscape Protection Day. The LTA is home to a variety of endangered plants, animals and amphibians, and the cleanup helps to preserve their habitats.



Inga Gebhard (far left), a geo-ecologist with U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart's DPW Environmental Division, explains the unique aspects of the Panzer LTA environment to LTA Protection Day volunteers Nov. 5. More than 100 volunteers helped to clear 14 acres to preserve the LTA's meadow environment.

LTA

Continued from page 1

clear several meadows of weeds and brushwood to make room for plants and animals, and preserve the low nutrient meadows.

"It is very important that we clear the area frequently," said Karl Stäbler, group leader for the Swabian Albverein Stuttgart-Echterdingen and the main organizer of the event.

Overall, the volunteers cleared five sites and about 14 acres of land that are all located in the "Rotes Steigle" area, according to Stäbler.

Fifteen Boy Scouts from Troop 324 and their Scoutmasters participated. The Scouts, equipped with pitchforks, worked alongside volunteers from German nature groups.

"We're helping to preserve the meadow environment by removing extra weeds," said 16-year-old Ted Kendrick, the senior patrol leader for Troop 324. "We're enjoying the cooperation with members of the German conservation groups in order to keep

the environment clean."

The Böblingen youth firefighters also helped to cut trees and branches after being instructed by their team leaders on how to use axes, saws and other equipment.

"It's so much fun for the children to work outdoors and learn about the environment," said Jürgen Ludwig, with the Böblingen firefighters, who participated along with 12 youngsters from the youth firefighters association.

To help educate Landscape Protection Day participants, DPW set up signs that explained the LTA's flora, fauna and their habitats. Gebhard made a pointed effort to engage the younger volunteers in discussions about the area's uniqueness.

Besides helping the environment, Landscape Protection Day provided a chance for Germans and Americans to interact.

"This day provided a wonderful opportunity to get together with our German friends," said Joe Hoeing, a Scoutmaster

The garrison's cooperation with host nation environmental protection groups and its contributions to preserve the biotopes is something that's not being done anywhere else in Europe.

Inga Gebhard

*USAG Stuttgart Directorate of Public Works
Environmental Division*

with Troop 324. "It's great that so many Germans support us in maintaining this unique environment out here."

Since it is the garrison's mission to protect the LTA environment, DPW works closely with the Federal Forestry Department and with the District Government of Stuttgart year-round. These agencies provide funding, subject matter experts and other authoritative guidance in managing and maintaining

the LTA's environment.

"The joint effort between the German and American stakeholders is the most important thing when trying to preserve the environment of these habitat sites," said geo-ecologist Gebhard. The "The garrison's cooperation with host nation environmental protection groups and its contributions to preserve the biotopes is something that's not being done anywhere else in Europe."



Know what the road conditions are before you start your trip to work, and give yourself plenty of time to get there.

- For road conditions and school closure information, call DSN 431-3744 or civ. 07031-15-3744
- For road conditions, school closures and weather forecast, visit www.stuttgart.army.mil and click on the "Weather" link or or follow USAG Stuttgart on Facebook at www.facebook.com/USAGarrisonStuttgart
- Listen to AFN (102.3 FM or 1143 AM)

Service members reminded of election-season rules

Editor's Note: This is the first installment in a two-part series addressing what service members and Defense Department civilian employees can and can't do in regards to political activities.

By Capt. Aaron Lancaster (U.S. Army)
Stuttgart Law Center

With the economy still struggling to recover, unemployment hovering around 9-10 percent, and the federal deficit continuing to grow, more and more Americans have begun to take an interest in the presidential and congressional elections next year.

Elections allow Americans to give a voice to their thoughts and beliefs, shape the future and show the elected officials whether they approve or disapprove of the choices the government has made.

Department of Defense employees, including military members and civilians, are often more involved in politics than the average American.

Many Defense Department employees though, are unaware that they must participate within specific guidelines and that non-compliance could get them fired. In addition, service members may be punished under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

While the Hatch Act governs political activities for federal employees, it does not apply to service members. Instead, DOD Directive 1344.10 governs political activities by military members.



Service members are prohibited from attending political functions while in uniform, as well as participating in political fundraising, rallies and conventions.

Photos.com

Before writing a check out to a favorite candidate or peppering the housing area with campaign fliers, military members should understand the laws and regulations that outline what constitutes appropriate participation in the political process.

According to Directive 1344.10, service members are allowed to register, vote and express their personal opinions on political candidates and issues. They are allowed to join a political party, attend political party meetings and encourage others to vote.

They can write and send letters to the editor of a newspaper expressing their personal views on public issues or political candidates, and make monetary contributions to a political organization, party, or committee favoring a particular candidate or political

party. They can also display a single (small) political bumper sticker on their car.

But service members are prohibited (either in or out of uniform) from participating in political fundraising activities, rallies, conventions (including making speeches), management of campaigns or debates. Participation includes any activity more than mere attendance as a spectator.

They are also prohibited from attending political functions while in uniform and cannot use their position or rank to influence anyone else, nor can they solicit votes for any particular candidate.

Participation is prohibited in any radio, television, group discussion or political gathering. Military members also cannot publish articles, letters, or endorsements that attempt to solicit support for a candidate or party or allow someone else to publish their letters.

They are not allowed to march or ride in political parades or display large political signs, banners or posters on their private vehicle. They are also not allowed to display political signs, posters, or banners, visible to the public, at one's residence on a military installation.

Failure to comply with DOD Directive 1344.10 can be punished under UCMJ Article 92 for failure to obey an order or regulation.

Keep in mind that the above is not an all-inclusive list of allowed and disallowed activities. For specific questions, contact the Stuttgart Law Center's Administrative Law section at 421-2817/civ. 0711-729-2817.

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MFE Marines respond to eastern Turkey earthquake

Story & photo by Sgt. Matt Lyman
U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Europe,
Public Affairs Office

On Oct. 23, a 7.2 magnitude quake leveled about 2,000 buildings in eastern Turkey, a longtime ally and NATO partner. More than 500 people were killed, 2,500 injured and thousands left homeless.

In support, a team of Marines and personnel assigned to U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Europe, grabbed their gear and flew to Trondheim, Norway, to link up with their Norwegian military counterparts.

Since 1988, the Marine Corps has partnered with the Norwegian military to operate and maintain the Marine Corps Pre-Positioning Program-Norway. MCPP-N provides the Marine Corps a responsive source of equipment and supplies to enable the rapid closure of Marines into the U.S. European Command area of responsibility and enables operations in Europe and throughout the globe.

Its location in the vicinity of Trondheim provides quick access to intra-theater lift via road, rail, air and sea ports of embarkation for the movement of approximately 1,200 pieces of rolling stock, in addition to supplies and ammunition.

“Our thoughts and prayers go out to the people of Turkey. In this time of need, our Marines responded magnificently, as did our Norwegian partners, assisting us with the withdraw of critical relief supplies from the caves in Norway,” said Brig. Gen. Charles Chiarotti, MARFOREUR deputy commander. “The ability to respond at a moment’s notice is a critical capability that we provide to the EUCOM commander and is inherent in our ethos and way of life.”

The team of five Marines and one civilian hit the ground on Oct. 30, assessed the situation at the MCPP-N caves, and with the assistance of their Norwegian counterparts, withdrew and manifested 369 10-man cold weather tents, space heaters with stands and fuel cans, to the tune of more than 91,000 pounds of gear within 24 hours.

The MCPP-N facilities, which consist of six different cave sites, provide 671,000 square feet of modern, climate-controlled storage for the Marine Corps and are managed by a Norwegian workforce.

Through a concerted effort by MARFOREUR, Blount Island Command, Headquarters Marine Corps,



Marines, Airmen and Norwegian soldiers work around the clock Oct. 30 to load emergency equipment on to C-17 U.S. Air Force Globemaster III to ship to eastern Turkey in response to a 7.2 magnitude quake last month.

the U.S. Embassy, the Government of Norway and the Norwegian military, the MARFOREUR team overcame the challenges of coordinating this rapid support over a weekend with no advanced notice. Working with MCPP-N’s Norwegian military personnel, they supervised and loaded the equipment onto tractor trailers for movement to the Vearnes International Airport in Trondheim.

With a pressing deadline to meet an early afternoon arrival of a U.S. Air Force C-17 bound for Turkey, the Marines pre-staged the gear at MCPP-N facilities at the Vaernes International Airport the following morning, where they built 16 standard Air Force pallets for embarkation and prepared load plans.

When the C-17 arrived, the pallets were neatly aligned, palletized, netted, weighed and ready to load for an on time and on target C-17 bound for Erzurum, Turkey, where these supplies would be distributed to those areas most impacted by the earthquake.

Due to changes in the global force posture, MarForeur is working with HQMC, Blount Island Command and the operational forces to evolve MCPP-N from a Marine expeditionary brigade -based construct into a more relevant prepositioning program that can support day-to-day operations in the EUCOM and AFRICOM

theaters, to include security cooperation activities, while also maintaining a mid-level crisis response capability.

“U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Europe, must continue to be ready to fulfill its role as the in-theater agent, tasked with responding to the geographic combatant commander’s requirements and operational intent in times when specific forces are not assigned to a mission that presents itself at a moment’s notice,” said Michael Harvey, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Europe, pre-positioning officer.

The earthquake in Turkey comes at a time when those left homeless are being subjected to the harshness of the impending Turkish winter.

“The Marine Corps is sending the same message to the world that’s been a part of our motto for the past 235 years and that’s ‘Semper Fidelis,’ meaning always faithful. The Marine Corps has always been true in coming the aid of our fellow brothers and sisters when they are in need and also dutiful in completing the mission, no matter what’s it is,” said Gunnery Sgt. Wesley Key, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Europe, Strategic Mobility chief. “The victims of this most recent earthquake in Turkey are in need and the Marine Corps will live up to its motto and answer their call.”

Did You Know?

Symptoms of Diabetes

If you notice one or more of the following symptoms, see a doctor immediately:

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- Frequent urination
- Drowsiness, lethargy
- Sugar in urine
- Sudden vision changes
- Increased appetite
- Sudden weight loss
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- Heavy, labored breathing
- Slurred, unconsciousness

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Town hall meeting set for Nov. 30

Find out what's happening in the community at the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart-hosted community town hall meeting Nov. 30 from 5-6 p.m. in the Patch Theater on Patch Barracks.

Thanksgiving facility closures

Some facilities will be closed Nov. 24-25 in observance of the upcoming federal and training holidays. Community members are advised to call ahead before visiting.

- **All Stuttgart commissaries** will be closed Nov. 24.
- U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart **Vehicle Registration** will be closed Nov. 24-25.
- The **Panzer Dining Facility** will be closed for breakfast Nov. 23 and all day Nov. 24-25.
- The **USO** will be closed Nov. 24-26.
- On Nov. 24 the **Community Banks** on Patch Barracks and Panzer Kaserne will be open from 9 a.m. to noon. The banks on Robinson and Kelley Barracks will be closed.
- The **U.S. Army Health Clinic Stuttgart** will close Nov. 24-25. In case of an emergency, contact the Military Police at civ. 0711-680-114. For



Birgit Thompson

Time to say 'no'

Patch Elementary School third-grade German Partial Immersion teacher Robin Tessereau hands out an Army Substance Abuse Program watch to Isabella Guzaldo as Jeffrey Opsitos patiently waits his turn Oct. 27 during Red Ribbon Week.

immediate health care needs, contact the Nurse Advice Line at 0800-4759-2330.

Free ice skating

The Stuttgart Community Spouses Club and Stuttgart Military Community Eishockey Club will sponsor a family ice skating night on Nov. 26 from 5:15-6:45 p.m. at Eisstadion Wernau, Stadionweg 12, 73249 Wernau. Admission is free, and skates can be rented.

For more information, contact smchockey@ymail.com or call civ. 0711-680-8304.

Resiliency training for high schoolers

The U.S. Army Garrison

Stuttgart Religious Support Office will sponsor a free resiliency training weekend for military family members in grades nine to 12.

The training will be held Jan. 13-15 at a conference facility near Panzer Kaserne. Twenty-five participants will be provided sleeping rooms and meals. Registration ends Jan. 6, but because space is limited, it is recommended that participants register early. For more information, call 431-3078/civ. 07031-15-3078, or e-mail james.e.sciegel.civ@mail.mil.

Child Find screening

Parents with concerns about their 3 to 5-year-old

child's development in the areas of language, speech, self-help skills, social skills, thinking skills or motor coordination may want to have the child screened for possible delays.

For more information about Child Find or to make an appointment, call the Patch Elementary School at 430-5200/civ. 0711-680-5200; Böblingen Elementary/Middle School at 431-2715/civ. 07031-15-2715, or Robinson Barracks Elementary/Middle School at 420-7112/civ. 0711-819-7112.

Have lots to mail?

Postal customers may make appointments for holiday mailings by calling their servicing Army Post Office.

Appointments can be made during normal hours or an hour before the post offices open.

To make your appointment, call the Kelley Post Office at 421-2542/civ. 0711-729-2542; Panzer Post

Office at 431-2563/07031-15-2563 and the Patch Post Office at 430-7226/civ. 0711-680-7226.

Overseas holiday mailing deadlines

There's still time to get your holiday gifts delivered.

- Space Available Mail (from OCONUS only) — Nov. 25
- Parcel Air Lift — Dec. 2
- Priority parcels, 1st class letters and cards — Dec. 9
- Express Mail — Dec. 16

Transition training

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Army Career and Alumni Program will host a class on applying for a federal job Nov. 21 from 9 a.m. to noon.

A **Veterans Administration benefits** brief will be held Nov. 29 from 8 a.m. to noon, followed by a **Disabled Transition Assistance Program** brief from 1-2 p.m.

To sign up, or for more information, call 431-2191/civ. 07031-15-2191, or stop by the ACAP office in Building 2915, Panzer Kaserne.

Wrestling referees needed

The Kaiserslautern Officials Association will hold a wrestling rules and certification clinic Nov. 19 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for officials who wish to call high school and Child, Youth and School Services matches.

Call Al Shaff at civ. 06371-946084 or send an e-mail to al.shaff@yahoo.com.

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

Help reduce automobile emissions

The burning of fuels releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and contributes to climate change, but these emissions can be reduced by environmentally-friendly driving.

- Have your car serviced regularly (according to the manufacturer's schedule) to maintain engine efficiency.
- Increase tire pressure to reduce rolling resistance.
- Minimize use of air conditioning, seat heating.
- Streamline and lose weight: Remove roof racks when not in use and take out any unnecessary items from the trunk of your car.
- Switch off the engine during traffic jams or at long traffic lights.
- Accelerate gradually and maintain the speed limit while on the highway.
- Drive less: Use car sharing, join a carpool, use public transportation, or walk or ride a bike for short distances.



USAG Stuttgart Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division

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Tea time manners

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority will host an etiquette tea for students in grades six through 12 Dec. 4 at 2 p.m. at the Hohenzollern Castle in Hechingen.

For more information, call civ. 0711-6569-2995 or send an e-mail to Tea@dstger.org.

Put a gift under the ACS Angel Tree

Help less fortunate Stuttgart families celebrate the holidays through the Army Community Service Angel Tree gift program.

Select an angel off one of the trees located in the Patch, Kelley and Robinson Barracks Commissaries, the Panzer Exchange or the ACS lobby, and purchase a gift for the age and gender of the child indicated on the ornament.

For more information, call 431-3362/07031-15-3362.

Get into the holiday spirit at USO

United Service Organizations Stuttgart will host photos with Santa along with Time 4 Tots reading Dec. 13 from 9 a.m. to noon. Children will receive a gift from the USO, listen to Santa tell a story and decorate cookies.

USO Stuttgart also invites all single and unaccompanied service members to join them for a special holiday meal

Dec. 15 at 6 p.m.

If service members a lift back to their barracks after the meal, the USO will provide transportation.

For more information, call the USO at 431-3505/07031-15-3505, or visit www.uso.org/stuttgart.

Winterfest

Kick off the holiday season with Winterfest Dec. 1 from 5-8:30 p.m. on Kelley Barracks. Winterfest, sponsored by U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart's Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, will include a tree lighting, holiday crafts sale, music, photos with Santa and other activities.

Family and MWR will also host holiday events Dec. 6 from 4-8 p.m. in the Patch Community Club, Dec. 10 from 4-8 p.m. at Brewed Awakenings on Robinson Barracks and on Dec. 14 from 4-8 p.m. in the Galaxy Bowling and Entertainment Center on Panzer Kaserne.

For more information, call 421-3151/civ. 0711-729-3151, or visit www.stuttgartmwr.com.

Need flu vaccination?

Service members and their dependents, Defense Department civilians, and retirees can still get the flu vaccination at the U.S. Army Health Clinic Stuttgart on Patch Barracks.

For more information, call 430-6383/0711-680-6383.

ASAP training

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Army Substance Abuse Program will conduct Prevention Leaders certification training Nov. 28 to Dec. 2 in Building 2948 on Panzer Kaserne. This training requires advance registration.

For more information, or to schedule on-site training, call ASAP at 431-2530.

Public speaking workshop

The University of Phoenix will host a free public speaking workshop Nov. 29 from 12:30-1:30 p.m. in the library on Patch Barracks.

For more information, call 431-3428/07031-15-3428.

Where to get road condition info

To get the latest weather, road conditions and school closure information:

- Visit the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart website, www.stuttgart.army.mil, and click on the "Weather" tab or the Facebook icon;
- Tune in to the American Forces Network radio (102.3 FM and 1143 AM);
- Call the Weather and Road Condition Hotline at 431-3744/civ. 07031-15-3744.

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



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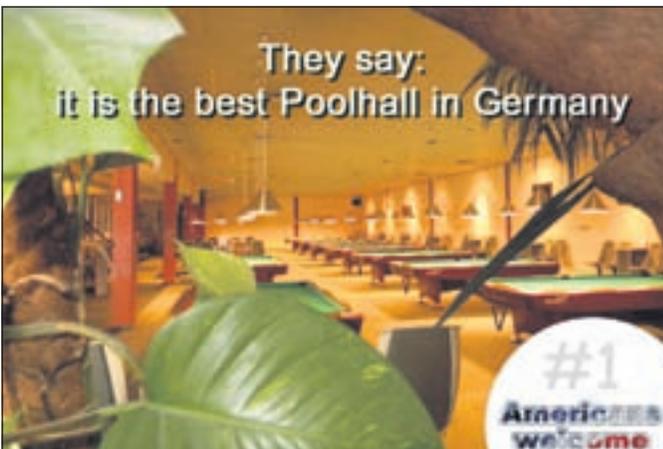


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Holiday food safety tips: talking turkey

Thawing

Place the frozen bird in its original wrapper in the refrigerator (40 °F). Place the turkey in a pan to prevent the juices from dripping onto other surfaces or foods in the refrigerator. Allow approximately 24 hours per five pounds of turkey. After thawing, keep turkey refrigerated only for one to two days.

If you don't have room in the refrigerator for thawing, don't worry. You can also defrost the turkey by submerging it in cold water and changing the water every 30 minutes. Allow about 30 minutes defrosting time per pound of turkey.

Preparation

Use a meat thermometer to check the internal temperature of the turkey. A good indication of the turkey being cooked thoroughly is when the temperature of the bird (as measured in the thigh) has reached 180 °F. The stuffing, whether cooked inside the bird or in a separate dish, should reach 165 °F.

When turkey is removed from the oven, let it stand 20 minutes. Remove stuffing and carve turkey.

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What's happening in FMWR

Jingle Bell Run

Burn some of those post-Thanksgiving calories in the Jingle Bell 5K Run Dec. 10 at 3 p.m. at Brewed Awakenings on Robinson Barracks.

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

Customers appreciated at Galaxy Bowling Center

The Galaxy Bowling and Entertainment Center on Panzer Kaserne will host a Customer Appreciation Day Nov. 19 from 1-4 p.m. Patrons will receive free bowling and shoe rental, and discounts on pizza, and prizes.

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

Theater for holidays

The Stuttgart Theatre Center will present holiday performances of Barbara Robinson's "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever," directed by Barb Heidt, in the Kelley Theatre Dec. 2, 3, 9, 10, 16 and 17 at 7:30 p.m. Matinee performances will be offered Dec. 4, 11 and 18

at 3 p.m.

To reserve tickets, go to www.stuttgartmwr.com or call the box office at 421-3055/0711-729-3055.

Arts, crafts sale

The Patch Arts and Crafts Center in Building 2329 on Patch Barracks will hold a Black Friday sale on Nov. 25 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Customers will save 15 percent off regular priced merchandise and 40 percent off clearance items.

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

Turkey relay

Win a Thanksgiving turkey in the second annual Turkey Relay scheduled for 10 a.m. Nov. 19 on Patch Barracks' Husky Field.

Register four-person teams by Nov. 17 at the Patch Fitness Center.

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

For more Family and MWR activities, visit www.stuttgartmwr.com. For e-mail updates, write mwrmarketing@eur.army.mil.

Coming to Patch Theater

Nov. 17 — Apollo 18 (PG-13) 6 p.m.
Nov. 18 — Jack And Jill (PG) 6 p.m., The Help (PG-13) 9 p.m.
Nov. 19 — The Smurfs (PG) 4 p.m., Jack And Jill (PG) 7 p.m., Colombianiana (PG-13) 9 p.m.
Nov. 20 — Jack and Jill (PG) 2 p.m., The Help (PG-13) 4 p.m., The Debt (R) 7 p.m.
Nov. 21 — Jack and Jill (PG) 6 p.m.
Nov. 22 — The Debt (R) 6 p.m.
Nov. 23 — The Help (PG-13) 6 p.m.
Nov. 24 — Twilight (PG-13) 4 p.m., The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG-13) 6:30 p.m., The Twilight Saga: Eclipse (PG-13), 9 p.m., The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG-13) midnight
Nov. 25 — Happy Feet Two (PG) 3 p.m., The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG-13) 6 and 9 p.m.
Nov. 26 — The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG-13) 4 and 9 p.m., Happy Feet Two (PG) 7 p.m.
Nov. 27 — Happy Feet Two (PG) 2 and 7 p.m., The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG-13) 4 p.m.



Summit Entertainment

"Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn, Part 1" opens at the Patch Theater Nov. 24 at midnight.

Nov. 28 — Happy Feet Two (PG) 6 p.m.
Nov. 29 — Contagion (PG-13) 6 p.m.
Nov. 30 — I Don't Know How She Does It 6 p.m.
Dec. 1 — Contagion (PG-13) 6 p.m.

Family & MWR Featured Events

www.stuttgartmwr.com



FEST

WINTERFEST

Highlights: Visit & Photos with Santa, Tree Lighting, Free Carriage & Train Rides, Holiday Crafts Sale, Free Games & Rides, Music & Entertainment, Seasonal Foods & Beverages, Lots of Great Prizes.

December 1 5 - 8³⁰ p.m.
 Kelley Barracks
 (Stuttgart Theatre Center)

For more info go to www.stuttgartmwr.com



SPORTS

THANKSGIVING WEEKEND SKI TRIP

Start skiing/snowboarding season with ODR in Mayrhofen, Austria.
 November 24 - 27 Depart 4³⁰ a.m.
 Outdoor Recreation, Panzer
 DSN 431 2774 CIV 07031 15 2774

TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT

Open to men and women. Register at Panzer Fitness Center by November 14.
 November 20 10 a.m.
 Panzer Fitness Center
 DSN 431 2724 CIV 07031 15 2724



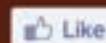
COMMUNITY

ANGEL TREE

Pick an angel from one of the Christmas Trees in the community and replace it with a gift.
 Thru December 9
 DSN 431 3362 CIV 07031 15 3362

FLEA MARKET

Buy, sell, trade and have fun!
 November 19 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 Patch Community Club
 DSN 430 2110 CIV 0711 680 2110





The tradition of the German Christmas market (*Christkindlmarkt* or *Weihnachtsmarkt*) dates back to the 15th century.

Today, thousands of Christmas markets all over Germany invite visitors to get into the festive mood with lights, decorations, music, and vendors selling gifts, local crafts, plenty of great food and that favorite Christmas market beverage, *Glühwein*.

Christmas markets are a treat for all the senses — a feast for your eyes, ears, taste buds and soul.

Local markets

Esslingen

Nov. 22 to Dec. 22: The medieval Christmas market in Esslingen features over 180 booths and huts in the city center. Costumed vendors offer arts and crafts, food and drink, plus there's plenty of entertainment, such as jugglers, fire eaters and jousting. The market will be open daily from 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

For more information, visit <http://tourist.esslingen.de>.

Böblingen

Nov. 23-27: The lake in Böblingen sets the stage for this traditional Christmas market with entertainment, shopping and food.

Stuttgart

Nov. 23 to Dec. 22: The Stuttgart Christmas market is located in the city center around the Marktplatz, Schillerplatz and the Schlossplatz. With more than festively decorated 200 huts, booths and attractions, it is considered one of Europe's biggest Christmas markets.

Children of all ages will enjoy an ice rink, small Ferris wheel and a mini railway. A Finnish Christmas village can be found on the Karlsplatz. The market will be open Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

For a complete listing of all Christmas markets in Baden-Württemberg and beyond, visit www.weihnachtsmarkt-deutschland.de.

Ludwigsburg

Nov. 24 to Dec. 22: This baroque Christmas market is located in the center of town. The decorations and handicrafts on display at the more than 160 festively illuminated stands make this an unforgettable market.

As an added treat, the market square is transformed into a winter paradise in the weeks before Christmas. Open daily from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Möhringen

Nov. 26: The Möhringen Weihnachtsmarkt located on Maierstrasse, next to the Martin church, will be open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Leonberg

Nov. 26-27: Booths, festive lights and live music make this market on the Marktplatz a treasure to visit. Open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Waiblingen

Nov. 25 to Dec. 18: St. Nikolaus will make an appearance on Dec. 6. Numerous stands will offer crafts, food and gifts to Christmas shoppers. The market will open daily from noon to 8:30 p.m.

Bad Cannstatt

Dec. 1-31: The Christmas market on Marktstrasse will be open Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Dec. 24 and 31 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. On Dec. 3, a Nikolausmarkt will be open for one day only, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Marktstrasse.

F

Dec. 1-21: D stores stay open la cal entertainment, ing rink are feature weekdays at noon

Her

Dec. 2-4: Mo booths will offer a crafts, food and m open Friday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. a.m. to 8 p.m.

Sin

Dec. 2-4: Thi city center will fe go-round, a live na and food. Opens Saturday from 1 Sunday from 11 a

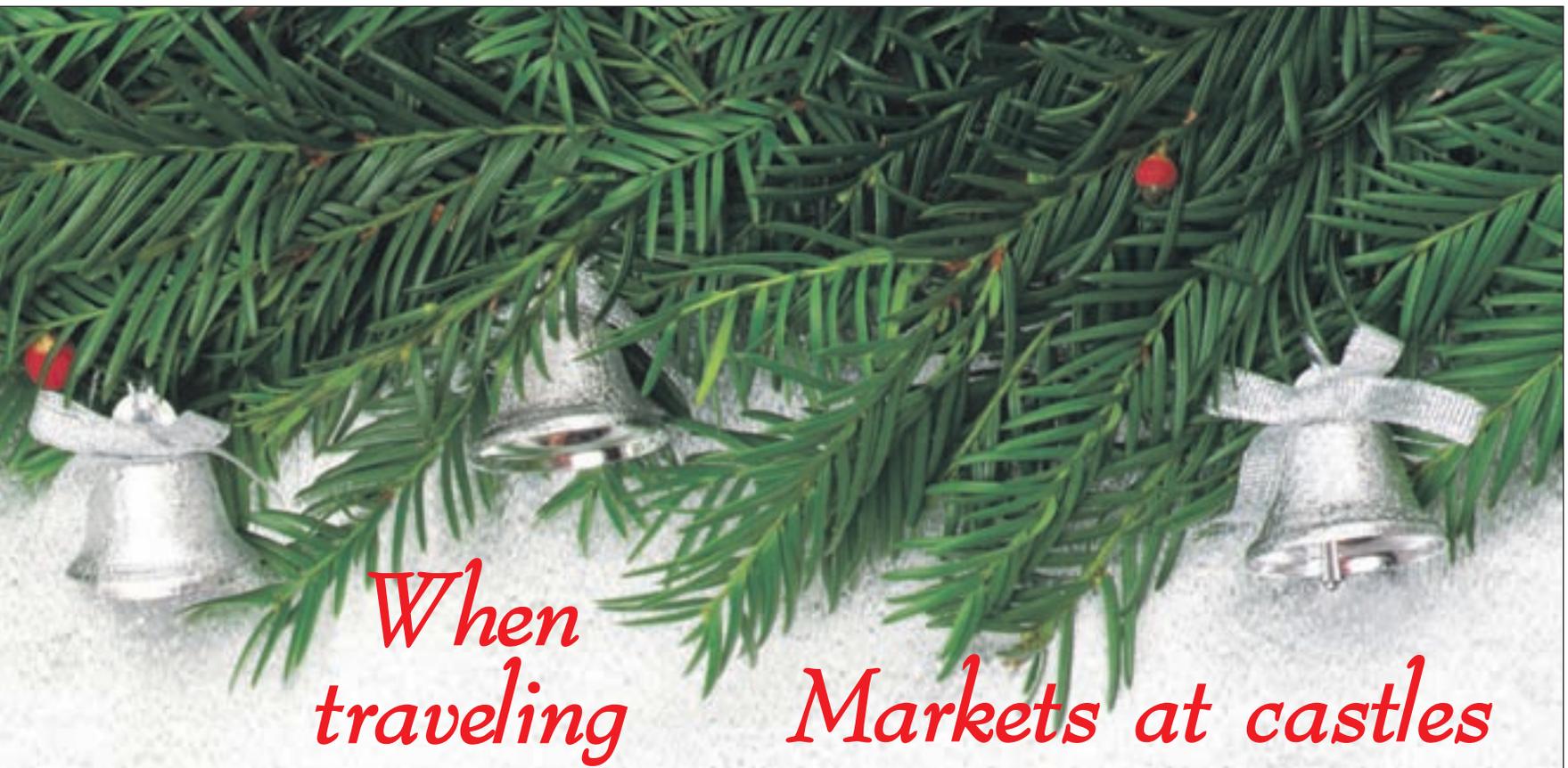
Tü

Dec. 9-11: The Marktplatz and fea rated huts and bo the city's beautifu

If you are look holiday gift, Tübi Most of the goods jam and honey, sl and plates, toys an Christmas tree de

The market wi urday from 10 a.m from 11 a.m. to 7

Christmas markets:



When traveling Markets at castles

Ellbach

During the market, the date on Saturdays. Musicians, vendors and an ice skating rink. The market will open on Nov. 11 a.m. on weekends.

Nürnberg

More than 50 decorated stalls offer a colorful array of gifts, food and more. The market will be open from 12-8 p.m., Saturday from 10-8 p.m. and on Sunday from 11

Heilbronn

The market is located in the center of the city and features a antique merry-go-round, arts, crafts and a variety of food. Open Friday from 6-10 p.m., Saturday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Heilbronn

The market is located at the castle and features hundreds of decorated stalls erected in front of the half-timbered houses. It is an extraordinary place. Heilbronn is the ideal place. Offered are handmade: shoes and gloves, cups and paintings, candles and decorations.

The market will open Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Augsburg

Nov. 21 through Dec. 24: Augsburg's Christmas market has nearly 150 stands, all located around a huge Christmas pyramid in the center of town. Open Sunday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Dec. 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Baden-Baden

Nov. 22 through Dec. 26: A trip to this traditional Christmas market is like strolling through a scene from a winter fairy tale. Open daily from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Nov. 22 from 5-9 p.m. and Dec. 24 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Nürnberg

Nov. 25 through Dec. 24: One of Germany's most well-known and famous Christmas markets is located around the Frauenkirche in the center of Nürnberg. Open Monday through Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Sunday from 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Dec. 24 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Rothenburg ob der Tauber

Nov. 25 through Dec. 23: While visitors to Rothenburg ob der Tauber, also known as "the Christmas Village," can enjoy Christmas all year long, a visit to this medieval village during the holiday season is especially festive. Open Sunday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Hechingen

Nov. 25-27: The Schloss Hohenzollern Royal Christmas market claims to be one of the most romantic German Christmas markets in a castle setting.

Visitors can enjoy the castle's atmosphere and history while shopping for family and friends in the courtyard of the castle and its ramparts.

There is an entry fee of €10 for visitors 16 and over and includes parking and shuttle bus service.

The market will be open Friday from 2-10 p.m., Saturday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

For more information, visit www.burg-hohenzollern.com.

Bruchsal

Nov. 25-27: Bruchsal's baroque castle serves as the backdrop for a romantic Fairytale Christmas market. Visitors can enjoy Glühwein, shop for gifts, try fresh Weihnachtsstollen (sweet Christmas bread) or simply enjoy the live music while keeping warm at the numerous gleaming tree stumps set throughout the market. The market will open daily at noon.

For more information, visit www.bruchsal.de.

Durlach

Nov. 26 to Dec. 22: This medieval Christmas market in Durlach, by Karlsruhe, features a mix of medieval traditions such as brewing mead, jousting, and storytellers, as well as modern glass

blowing, gift huts and more.

The market, located at the Schlossplatz in front of the castle, will open daily from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Heidelberg

Dec. 1-6: Colorful lights, the aroma of lebkuchen and the majestic atmosphere of the castle make this Christmas market simply magical. The market features an artisanal crafts market, tasty treats, classical music and costumed tour guides.

The market is open Thursday from 5-9 p.m.; Friday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; and Monday and Tuesday from 2-9 p.m.

The main Christmas market in the center of Heidelberg will be open Nov. 23 to Dec. 22 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

For more information, visit www.schloss-heidelberg.de or www.heidelberg.de.

Stettenfels~Heilbronn

Dec. 17-18: Castle Stettenfels in Untertgruppenbach, by Heilbronn, will hold a medieval Christmas market where visitors can stroll through the castle's dungeons, outer buildings and courtyard to shop and enjoy the season's offerings. Glühwein, gingerbread, stollen and more can be purchased at the many booths throughout the castle. Entrance to the castle is €3.50 for adults; children up to 12 years are free.

The market will be open on Saturday from 1-7 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

For more information, visit www.untergruppenbach.de.

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Schönaich

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WWW.ANTIQUITAETENHAUS-KRUG.DE

ANTIKRUG

BLACK FRIDAY ANTIQUE SALE

THANKSGIVING WEEKEND
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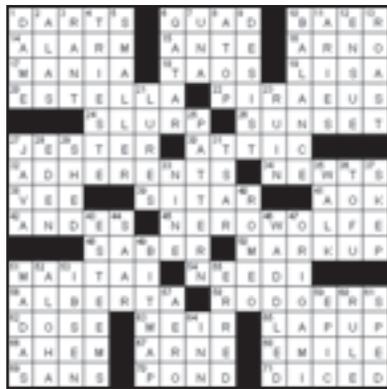
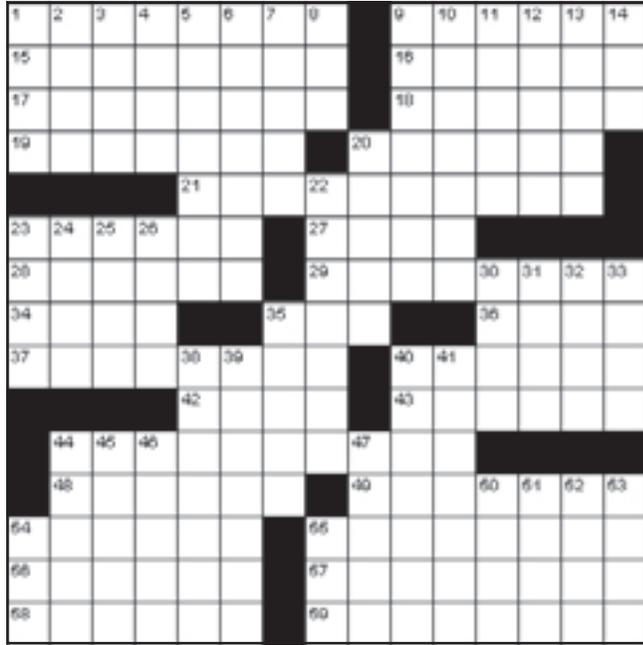
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Crossword Puzzle



This is the solution to the crossword puzzle from Nov. 10!

DOWN

1. Deprivation
2. Egg cell
3. A ___ technicality
4. Maverick of "Maverick"
5. Embassy worker
6. Catastrophic
7. Gloomy, to poets
8. Agreeable word
9. Drive away
10. Breathed out
11. Routine task
12. Piano fixer
13. Popular watch brand
14. Roulette bet
20. Bushed
22. Flaws
23. Possess
24. Raw materials
25. Emperor after Claudius
26. Item of data
30. Funeral stand
31. The Ponte Vecchio crosses it
32. Pay a visit
33. Things on rings
35. Book conclusion
38. Serial segment
39. Continued a subscription
40. Ruler of the sea before Poseidon
41. Series opener
44. "Have ___ day!"
45. "La ___ Vita"
46. Distance runner
47. Formative years
50. Company with cars
51. Scottish girl

52. Missouri River tribe

53. Look after
54. Buddy
55. Creek

ACROSS

1. Milan's region
9. University official
15. Orchestral piece
16. Disinter
17. Bonds
18. Called
19. "The Bartered Bride" composer
20. Berber nomads
21. Chain of mountains
23. Japan's largest island
27. Celtic language
28. Glacial ridges
29. Questionnaire response
34. Aloe ___
35. Served with a meal
36. "Dies ___"
37. Arcane
40. Without concealment
42. Confined
43. Seasonal songs
44. Dispense
48. Disturbing sounds
49. Gorge oneself
54. Headrest
55. Do over
56. Acquiesce
57. All together
58. Looked lasciviously
59. Sized up

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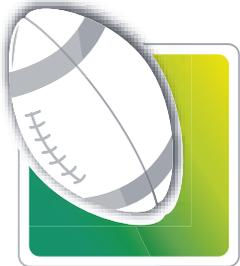
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Youth Activities

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



Photo by Teresa J. Senna

Pajama day

Böblingen Elementary Middle School fifth-grader Janis Zelcs and Maime Campbell and fourth-grader Laila Cooper, Reese and Sofia Ruiz support Red Ribbon Week by dressing in pajamas.



Photo by Teresa J. Senna

Crazy sock day

Böblingen Elementary Middle School sixth-grader Nina Gante and Patra Hills and seventh-grader Savannah Whitten support Red Ribbon Week by wearing crazy sock on Crazy Sock Day at school.



Photo by Amy Rush

St. Martin play

Patch Elementary School first grade German immersion students preform as a gaggle geese in the St. Martin play.



Photo by Michele Winter

Krispy Kreme tour

A group of Kindergarten to fifth-grade multi-cultural students from Patch Elementary School take a bite out of U.S. culture during a tour of "Krispy Kreme" Nov. 10. Top row (L-R): Bogdana Dennis, Esmerlyn Torres, Leonie Brown, Kristin Davis, Maja Kendic, Janez Orr. Middle row: Juan Garcia, Diego Moreno, Franchesca Torres, Inori Hayes, Simon Gudmonson, Andrey Dennis. Bottom row: Luka Webb, Benjamin Brauning, Johan Garcia, Emma Pritchard, Yamil Santana-Hernandez, Muhamed Selimi, Ethan Sarles, Panos Karoumpas, Sakura Carter, and Bereket McCall.



Photo by AmyRush

Ropes course

Patch Elementary School fifth-graders pose together for a photo on their study trip to the ropes course in Ruteshien. Ellen, Allie, Connor, Nate and Amiri finished their safety course and are ready to climb.



Photo by Ed Thornburg

Veterans Day

Böblingen Elementary Middle School student Lance Peltier, a member of the Boy Scout's Color Guard, holds "Old Glory" as the colors are retired at the end of a ceremony.

Youth Activities

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

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2008 Dodge Grand Caravan SE in excellent condition with only 36k miles. \$16000 conrep1@terra.es

2002 Elegance C200 75km - German specs, two owner, Auto/6 speed, V8, 4 door, summer and winter tire & rims, service Nov 3,11 no service again until 15km \$14500; 0152-57380171 or marytee66@yahoo.com

2005 Elegance E500 About 150k km - German specs, July US reg., Auto/6 speed, V8, 4 door, sun-roof, summer and winter tires & rims, 0170-2064452 \$14000 ro bert.nichol@us.army.mil

2006 Toyota Sienna XLE Lmtd 7yr / 70K Ext US warranty, <56K miles, Radar cruise cntrl, Camera, Pwr doors&rear folding seats, Nav, DVD, Wireless headsets \$18800 07117295072 / vodafone2000@gmail.com

2009 Dodge Caliber SXT Sport \$15K, 4Cyl, 2.0Liter, Auto CVT, "Limited" Surf Blue, Touch DVD, Chrome Trim. 19" Barracuda Chrome Rims, 13K Miles, Dealer Maintained. \$15500 0162-9426462i

99 Dodge Ram 15004x4 5.9 liter engine V8Single cab, power locks and windows, air cond., airbags, radio works but cd player does not. Good cond \$3750 marikabratkos@gmail.com



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DK-Donnakaran Cashmere Mist: 3.4 OZ Cashmere Mist perfume- \$502.5 OZ Body Cleansing Lotion - \$202.5 OZ Body Creme - \$30 \$100 angel_bunnies69@ya.hoo.com

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Hitachi 29" multi sys TV & stereo w/ multi CD changer & 2 speakers, both dual voltage; Email fritzj@kabelbw.de; Use subject line Classified World Ad \$50

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lady's fur coat, black lamb with silver fox trimming, Euro size 36, top condition €850 fuhrmannh@ya.hoo.com

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