

HeraldPOST

Serving the communities in U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg

Heidelberg to ring in the season with Holiday Magic

By Jonathan Ochart
HERALD POST INTERN

With hot chocolate, appetizing food and the spirit of community, Holiday Magic has the power to warm the souls of Heidelberg community members this cold winter season.

Happiness and cheer will radiate from 4-9 p.m. Friday on the Patrick Henry Village triangle, located in front of the movie theater.

In addition to the tree-lighting ceremony, Holiday Magic has a Christmas market where the community can enjoy food, beverages, crafts and even Santa Claus, said Gia Oney, Heidelberg FMWR marketing specialist.

With 25 private organizations selling a variety of food items and crafts, the event can please several tastes, said Heidelberg Special Events Coordinator Les Green.

Although not as large as typical German Christmas markets, the annual event will offer exciting activities, like Christmas Card Lane, which will display oversized plywood Christmas cards made by members of the community. Those present can vote for their favorite card.

"There will be a three-hour musical show featuring groups from the schools and chapel," Green added.

A children's carousel as well as carriage rides for the whole family also will be available.

The community also has the chance to win one of many giveaways, including a 56-inch flat screen, high definition LCD television, according to Green.

Oney said the joyful event will "give Soldiers and family members the chance to spend time with one another, while doing something American."

Visitors can expect a true winter wonderland from Holiday Magic, which Green believes will "bring the entire community together at a special time of the year."

Culinary creations



5 local Soldiers join USAREUR team

By Jeremy Buddemeier
USAG GRAFENWÖHR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

GRAFENWÖHR, Germany
fter more than a week of slicing, dicing, simmering and sautéing, 12 Soldier-chefs emerged as the cream of the U.S. Army Europe Culinary Arts crop Nov. 19.

In February, the team, which includes five troops from the Heidelberg and Mannheim communities, will compete in the 34th Annual U.S. Army Culinary Arts Competition at Fort Lee, Va.

More than 30 competitors from six major garrisons vied for the coveted 12 slots, but the competitions were see **CULINARY ARTS** page 6

Jeremy Buddemeier

Sgt. Levy Robinson, Team Grafenwöhr, touches up a dough replica of the Grafenwöhr Water Tower in preparation for the static display portion of the U.S. Army Europe Culinary Arts Competition Nov. 13. Robinson was one of 12 chefs who made the USAREUR team.

The road from truck driver to chaplain

By Ina Stiewitz
USAG BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG PUBLIC AFFAIRS

For Spc. Andrey West, the Lord has worked in mysterious ways.

At the age of 40, he found himself enlisting in the Army, something he previously had no intention of doing. After serving two years as a motor transport operator, he is now on the path to becoming an Army chaplain.

When West returned from a 15-month see **CHAPLAIN** page 6



Ina Stiewitz

Spc. Andrey West assembles a drum set for the praise and worship team at PHV Chapel.

HP THURSDAY
Dec. 3, 2009

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Instead of Santa Claus, the Germans have Sankt Nikolaus who delivers presents on Dec. 6. Find out more about this German tradition. 12

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The Heidelberg Lions gear up for the start of the 2009/2010 basketball season with several returning players and high hopes for a European Championship. 15

Defense Details

30,000 TO AFGHANISTAN

It is in America's vital national interests to send another 30,000 U.S. troops to Afghanistan, President Barack Obama said Tuesday night during a speech at West Point, N.Y. Obama said that this surge of U.S. forces into Afghanistan will begin to ebb in July 2011 – when U.S. and NATO forces and allies begin turning over security responsibility to Afghan security forces. The 30,000 service members and their equipment will flow in to Afghanistan in the first half of 2010, Obama said. White House officials said this will entail at least two or three Army brigade combat teams, and many Soldiers and Marines to train the Afghan security forces.

BATTLE OF THE BULGE

Sixty-five years after World War II's landmark Battle of the Bulge, U.S. and Belgian troops will again march side by side in Bastogne Dec. 12 and 13. Veterans and service members from both nations are scheduled to join thousands of well-wishers, including town officials, dignitaries and local residents, in commemorating the Allied forces' victory in the famous World War II battle.

Army news: www.army.mil
Defense news: www.defenselink.mil

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LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Naturalization of military spouses

Patton Legal Assistance Office

The Immigration and Nationality Act has been amended twice in recent years to benefit military spouses.

One change allowed for military spouses to become naturalized U.S. citizens expeditiously in the United States.

Another change allowed for military spouses to become naturalized U.S. citizens overseas.

Under current law, military spouses who are lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the U.S. (lawful permanent resident status) have the option of immediate naturalization in the United States. The spouse must go to the United States for an interview and the natz oath ceremony.

Under the INA, military spouses may naturalize overseas if they can show they have at least three years status as a lawful permanent resident and three years of marriage to a U.S. citizen military spouse.

The USCIS military Web site at www.uscis.gov/military contains a wealth of information for service members and their spouses, including the forms and information needed to apply under each section of the INA.

Additionally, there is a stateside Military Help Line at 1-877-247-4645 that has live assistance available 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (CST) Monday through Friday and a public e-mail address at militaryinfo.nsc@dhs.gov.

The USCIS office at the U.S. Consulate in Frankfurt also can provide expert advice and assistance: civ. 069-7535-2233, uscis.frankfurt@dhs.gov.

COMMENTARY

Safeguard your card

Protect your military ID from theft, loss, abuse

By Sgt. Maj. Cameron Porter
21ST TSC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Being a member of the U.S. military is an honorable profession.

Whether you are an active-duty service member, reservist, civilian employee or family member, you should be very proud of your contributions to our nation and the American way of life.

But with this comes responsibility.

Safeguarding your military identification card is a responsibility that cannot be taken for granted.

Proper procedures for strict accountability and security shall be maintained to prevent your military ID card from getting lost or stolen.

Every time a military ID card is lost or stolen, operational security and ultimately American lives are placed in danger.

When a military ID card cannot be accounted for by the issuing organization, a report is sent to the unit commander responsible. This report indicates the circumstances involved, corrective action taken and, if war-

It is a very serious matter, and everyone must know what their responsibilities are when it comes to maintaining accountability and control of this small but highly critical item.

ranted, disciplinary action.

The individual with the missing military ID card is obligated to report its loss or theft promptly.

Too many service members, DoD civilians and family members do not understand the severities associated with losing their military ID cards.

It is a very serious matter, and everyone must know what their responsibilities are when it comes to maintaining accountability and control of this small but highly critical item.

Losing your military ID card is a form of dereliction of duty and is punishable under the Uniformed Code of Military Justice. You may also be punished for abuse.

Any person willfully altering, damaging, lending, counterfeiting or using their military ID card in any unauthorized man-

ner is committing abuse and is subject to fine or imprisonment or both.

In addition, unauthorized or fraudulent use of a military ID card exists if the person uses the card in a manner that would enable him to obtain benefits and privileges to which he is not entitled.

It is illegal to give your military ID card to someone else or to take someone else's military ID card and use it as your own.

While the idea of safeguarding your military ID card from loss or theft, fraudulent use or abuse is a simple concept — it continues to occur.

Take responsibility, be proud of who you are and what you do and don't be the one who falls short.

Your military ID card is extremely important, and abusing or losing it can be costly.



Join the virtual community today
<http://myBWnow.ning.com>

BLOG ROLL

Find out what your garrison commanders and members of your community are saying in the BWnow virtual community

I like the idea of speed cams on-post. Just the idea of having the presence of enforceable speed control devices would deter many from speeding. We have this problem on Alamo Circle especially just before PT. It sounds like a drag strip back here on some mornings. If I'm not mistaken, the UCMJ has provisions for assimilating local laws.

The kids going to school in the morning are at risk mostly because they are kids from 5 to 10 years old

walking to school or wherever on their own. They haven't been trained to cross at the crosswalks. They can't possibly know when a car is close enough to the crosswalk that they have to wait for it to pass. Most of them cross where ever they want without looking.

Hell, most of the middle school kids don't even look before crossing the street and don't bother to use the crosswalks.

I'm sure that parents realize cars can't stop on a dime even at 20 MPH (30 KPH). That is why, when cars are within a certain distance of a crosswalk, cars have the right of way not pedestrians.

Many of the things in this forum can be remedied by respecting your neighbors and watching your own kids. God knows, I don't have the inclination to look out for kids.

-SSG Gould, BWnow member



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Army to separate Soldiers who don't extend to deploy

Army News Service

WASHINGTON – Soldiers who don't agree to extend their enlistments in units slated to deploy on or after Jan. 1 may be involuntarily separated up to three months early.

The new Enlisted Involuntary Early Separation Program will affect active-duty Soldiers scheduled to separate during the first six months of their unit's deployment. These Soldiers will be asked to re-enlist or extend so they can stay with their unit through its full deployment and two months after returning.

Soldiers who participate in the Deployment Extension Incentive Program will receive an extra \$350 or \$500 for every month extended. (Those who extend at least six months before deploying will receive the full \$500 per month.)

Those who don't re-enlist or extend will not deploy and will be separated up to three months prior to their contractual separation date, according to Maj. Jennifer Walkawicz, personnel policy integrator, G1.

The involuntary separation program applies only to regular Army enlisted Soldiers with more than 36 months of active service and less than 71 months of total service, Walkawicz said, when they have an ending term-of-service date during their unit's first six months of deployment.

Soldiers with an ETS date occurring during the last six months of their unit's deployment will still deploy and simply return early to out-process if they choose not to re-enlist or extend, she said.

Walkawicz estimated that EIESP will result in 1,350 to 1,450 Soldiers being separated early with an annual cost savings of about \$8.5 million.

"The Army is implementing this program now as part of the Stop Loss Reduction plan," she said, explaining that the Stop Loss program will be phased out beginning Jan. 1, in favor of voluntary extensions or early separation.

"This program allows the Army to identify Soldiers preparing to ETS who will not deploy with the unit, then provide replacements for those Soldiers prior to the unit's deployment date," Walkawicz said.

She said the new guidance will ensure ample time for newly reporting Soldiers to train on individual and collective tasks and settle in their families. She said those Soldiers who have decided to leave the Army are generally first-term enlistees and will not lose any entitlements.

She also said Soldiers who choose not to re-enlist or extend for the deployment duration and are separated will retain all rights, privileges and benefits such as the Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits. However, EIESP Soldiers will not be entitled to pay and allowances for the period not served.

Service with a smile



U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern Commander Lt. Col. Kevin Hutchison and Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Jessup serve up Thanksgiving meals Nov. 26 at the Patriot Garden Dining Facility on Rhine Ordnance Barracks.



U.S. Army Garrison Mannheim Command Sgt. Maj. Alberto Delgado and Commander Lt. Col. Elizabeth Ryan Griffin offer service with a smile as Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Tim Bonner looks on during the Thanksgiving meal at the Sullivan Dining Facility. More than 500 meals were served to Soldiers and families on this special occasion when the facility was opened for one day only, since its usual diners are not currently in Mannheim. The 7th Signal Brigade is deployed and 44th Signal Battalion has moved to Schweinfurt as part of the Army transformation process.

American, German troops march together to remember the fall of the Berlin Wall

By Sgt. 1st Class Osvaldo Sanchez
7TH CSC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

American and German troops joined forces for a 10-kilometer road march Nov. 15 to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Soldiers from various units within the 7th Civil Support Command along with German airmen marched together along the rolling hills and unpaved roads at the Kaiserslautern Army Depot.

Before the march, Col. Friedbert J. Humphrey, the commander of the 361st Civil Affairs Brigade, said he was pleased to take part in the event.

"Today's celebration demonstrates a partnership that German and American units have enjoyed for many years," Humphrey said.

The march ended back at the parade field in Daenner Kaserne where the German airmen were presented military unit coins and U.S. Army skullcaps from Humphrey and 7th CSC Command Sgt. Maj. David Stading.

After the march, the Americans invited the German airmen to take part in a barbecue featuring American burgers and hot dogs.

"I congratulate you on your dedication to our partnership," Humphrey told the international gathering of troops. "I look forward to partnering more in the future."

During the Cold War, the Berlin Wall was a concrete barrier with guard towers erected to stop people from fleeing communist rule. It was the most memorable piece of the Iron Curtain, a divide between Western Europe and the Eastern Bloc, which symbolized the Cold War.

In 1989, the Soviet Union collapsed. As a result, the Berlin Wall was taken down and the reunification of Germany began.

Soldiers visit U.S. cemetery in England

By Sgt. Daniel Friedberg
7TH CSC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

BROOKWOOD, England – Under the blustery skies of England, the commander of the 7th Civil Support Command, Brig. Gen. Jimmie Jaye Wells, paid recognition during a Veterans Day observance to honor 468 American service members who gave their lives defending freedom against European tyranny in the First World War.

The memories of 561 more Soldiers, Sailors and Marines missing in action, or lost at sea with names inscribed on the Brookwood chapel wall, were also eulogized.

Proudly representing the Army to the mainly British audience was the 7th CSC honor guard of four Soldiers under the direction of Master Sgt. Kabaka Teague. Under her charge were Master Sgt. Michael Stewart, Staff Sgt. Jose Ruberte and Staff Sgt. David Arnold.

The memorial ceremony was also supported by a colorful cast of veterans and re-enactors of U.S. wars past. Enthusiasts in uniforms dating from the Civil War to the khaki campaign hats and puttees of Gen. John J. Pershing's American Expeditionary Force helped to give the attendees a feeling for the long history of the U.S. military's record of combat and determination.

As the volley fire of the doughboys'



Staff Sgt. Valerie Resciniti

Enthusiasts of the American Doughboys attend a Veterans Day observance to fire blank rounds during a ceremony held in honor of the fallen at the Brookwood American Military Cemetery Nov. 8. The re-enactors were in uniforms dating back to the U.S. Civil War who fired their rifles before the playing of Taps.

Springfield rifles echoed through the trees before the playing of Taps, they heralded the courage of those American Soldiers and Marines sent by President Woodrow Wilson to support a war-weary French and British army in their fight for liberty against the German army of Kaiser Wilhelm II.

The United States entered World War I April 6, 1917 in reaction to repeated

attacks on American ships and naval transports by German submarines. In less than two years, the American Army ballooned from an approximate 200,000 regular, reserve and guardsmen force to more than two million Soldiers.

It was in World War I that the redoubtable American 1st, 2nd and 3rd Infantry divisions along with a great number of National Guard divisions were made famous in the far and bloody crucible of Verdun, Belleau Wood, The Marne, Argonne, Soissons and St. Mihiel to name but a few.

The war ended with the armistice of Nov. 11, 1918. The United States suffered more than 300,000 casualties with more than 100,000 combat and non-combat deaths.

A dignitary from the American Legion, Roy Cochran, summarized the importance of Brookwood, and eight other U.S. cemeteries for the fallen of World War I saying that "the cemetery provides a venue to quietly consider the ultimate sacrifice given by Soldiers for our freedom in time's past."

Brookwood American Cemetery is located on four and a half acres of wooded land about 28 miles southwest of London.

The cemetery is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. excluding Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. Visitors may be guided to relative's graves upon request.

Celebrating American Indian heritage



Sgt. Fay Conroy

Lt. Col. Kevin Hutchison, commander of U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern, USAG Kaiserslautern Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Jessup and members of the Kaiserslautern military community dance to a Native American song along with Sandra Muller (left) of the group Native Song and Dance during an observance held at the Kaiserslautern Community Activity Center Nov. 25 in honor of National American Indian Heritage Month.

CULINARY ARTS

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no cakewalk.

For example, in the Senior Chef of the Year category, participants were given a mystery basket of ingredients and had four hours to prepare a four-course meal for 10 people.

In the Nutritional Hot Food Challenge, two-person teams had 90 minutes to create a healthy two-course meal from a mystery basket of two proteins.

During the static display portion, competitors began at midnight and had until 6 a.m. "to get it all on the table," according to Sgt. Maj. Mark Warren, USAREUR chief of food management, who helped judge the competition.

But it wasn't just about the food.

Sgt. Willie Coleman and his team from U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt built a static display centerpiece called "Remembrance," which was dedicated to the 13 people recently killed at Fort Hood, Texas. The two-foot cubed centerpiece contained a Soldier's helmet and U.S. flag with dog tags hanging from the flagpole – all made from soft dough.

"(Our team) is a lot of first timers," Coleman said, "so hopefully I can bring them back next year and build on this."

Coleman's team of first-time competitors was no anomaly for this year's competition. In fact, nine of the 12 chefs who made the USAREUR team had no

prior experience in the competition.

However, this obviously wasn't their first time in a kitchen.

First-time competitor Pfc. William Pelkey joined the Army in April. But with more than 23 years cooking experience, four of those as a cook in the Coast Guard, he can do more than just boil water.

"I take some things (from training events) and distill it into things I've done in the past. Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't," said Pelkey, who was the runner up in the Junior Chef of the Year competition and one of the 12 chefs selected for the USAREUR team.

Another first-time competitor, Staff Sgt. Levy Robinson, made the USAREUR team by scoring the highest in the live cooking and static display categories, earning 37.5 out of a possible 40 points. Last year he was an infantryman.

Participants like Robinson and Pelkey drew from their own experience but also picked up ideas from other chefs in the competition – including one of the judges.

Kelly Conwell, the U.S. National Student Chef of the Year, took a break from her studies at a culinary exchange program near Erfurt, Germany, to help judge the competition.

In addition to judging, Conwell was able to "practice a little," she said, before she leaves in January to compete internationally at the Hans Bueschgens World Junior Chefs' Challenge in Santiago, Chile.

USAREUR Culinary Arts Team

Staff Sgt. Stevie Bronson, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, Vilseck
Pfc. Antonette Davison, 214th Aviation Regiment, Mannheim
Sgt. Joseph Dinuzzo, 54th Engineers, Bamberg
Pfc. Matthew Hendriks, 515th Transportation Company, Mannheim
Pfc. William Krull, 51st Transportation Company, Mannheim
Spc. Holly Moss, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, Vilseck
Spc. Calvin Parker, 214th Aviation Regiment, Mannheim
Sgt. Jesse Parker, Headquarters USAREUR, Heidelberg
Pfc. William Pelkey, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, Vilseck
Staff Sgt. Levy Robinson, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, Vilseck
Daniel Trawick, USAG Hohenfels
Sgt. Ken Truman, Southern European Task Force, Vicenza, Italy

"The Soldiers are reaping the benefit by having (Conwell) here because they see things she's doing and want to mimic them," Warren said.

For now, the 12 members of the USAREUR team will return to their units and begin individual preparation for the competition.

As team leaders, Warren and Sgt. 1st Class Leonardo Alvarez, dining facility noncommissioned officer in charge, will develop requirements for the competition and assign Soldiers to individual and team categories for which they are best suited.

"We have a young team, however, they all exhibit the ability to adapt to the training to be successful at the (Department of the Army) level," Warren said. "I think with proper training and practice, we'll be tough to beat."

CHAPLAIN

continued from page 1

deployment to Iraq with a unit based in Mannheim, he was reassigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Europe and given special duty as a chaplain assistant for the Heidelberg garrison.

This, however, was not West's first encounter with the ministry.

One of the things West and his wife, Judy, shared when they met in Chattanooga, Tenn., was a heart and a desire for a relationship with God. After marrying in 1987, they moved to Oklahoma, where they attended a Bible training center.

"Andy decided that he was going to focus on youth ministry, because that's where he came to know the Lord," said Judy, now the chapel coordinator at Patrick Henry Village Chapel. "I graduated in the teacher's area, and we stayed there for 14 years, learned a lot about ministry, the church, and how to serve."

With their shared passion, the Wests never stopped thinking about working in a church or maybe starting their own church one day.

After 9/11, the Wests' personal business – offering maintenance services for printers, copy and fax machines – felt the shock economically. Andy felt he needed to do something with his Bible school degree.

"Things were breaking apart, we got kicked out of our nest, and it was time to do what we have been trying to do and what was in our hearts to do," his wife said. "We packed up everything with our four kids and moved to Maryland – to the unknown world."

The Wests tried hard to get a foot in the door in their new home in Annapolis.

"The doors just kept closing and closing," Judy said. "We were really fascinated, though, with the military there in Annapolis. We just loved to go out there and watch the Blue Angels fly. We loved to hear them marching and doing other things."

Lots of local churches ministered to the Soldiers there, and Andrey and his wife tried to get involved in one of those churches. By checking into other opportunities, he found out that the U.S. Army was accepting recruits up to 42 years old at that time.

"I thought 'Lord if I can do ministry, even as enlisted, I'll just do that,'" he said.

In 2007, he enlisted in the Army. Both Wests come from families with military backgrounds, and Judy had been to Germany as a child when her father was stationed in Giessen and Baumholder.

"She always wanted to come back to Germany," West said. "It's just how the Lord worked it out: I enlisted in the Army,

we came to Germany, I got assigned in Mannheim, and then we ended up living in Heidelberg."

After almost one year on active duty, West deployed to Camp Liberty, Iraq, for 15 months. While he served downrange, his wife took a position as the PHV Chapel coordinator and got to know Chaplain (Capt.) Michael Griffith, Heidelberg protestant chaplain, and USAG Baden-Württemberg Chaplain (Col.) Jerry Jones. They guided her in the right direction for her husband to become a chaplain.

"West was downrange, and his wife Judy approached me at the candle light service a year ago at the PHV chapel," Jones said. "She told me that her husband was interested in becoming a chaplain."

When he got back from downrange, stacks of paperwork and a list of steps awaited him, Andrey said.

"I was able to get reassigned to Heidelberg, and the (company) commander was willing to assign me to special duty," he said. "Between everybody being so supportive and everybody working together, kind of made it happen for me."

Andrey now is preparing himself to become a chaplain candidate. In order to do so he must have a bachelor's degree, then he can apply to be commissioned as a second lieutenant and then proceed to the

Chaplain Officer Basic Course, where he will be considered a chaplain candidate.

It is only after all the requirements are met – a 72-hour master's program, ordination in a recognized faith group by the chief of chaplains office, and the Chaplain Officer Basic Course – that he can become an official Army chaplain.

He now has 96 hours toward a Bachelor of Arts in religion and ministry and is scheduled to complete his degree in May.

Currently, West works at Mark Twain Village Chapel and volunteers at PHV Chapel. He supports memorial services or services that happen during the week, supports the chaplain, learns administrative duties, and helps with community relations events.

At PHV Chapel he teaches Sunday school and serves on the parish council as the services coordinator. Sometimes he is an usher or plays music as well, wherever help is needed.

"Working in the chapel gives me an opportunity to learn how the Army chapel works, because we volunteered in civilian churches all of our lives," Andrey said. "There are similarities and there are differences, and it's good to see those."

The advantage Andrey has by serving as a chaplain assistant, according to Jones, is that he will be ahead of the game when he goes to the chaplain course.

"He'll already have that exposure to what supervising a chaplain assistant is all about, because he'll know everything a chaplain assistant is supposed to do," Jones said.

According to Andrey's ideal plan, he will apply for his ecclesiastical endorsement as well as his chaplain candidacy in the process of finishing his bachelor's degree.

"I think being a chaplain will be a lot of work, but at the same time, it will be fulfilling, because it has always been my desire since I gave my heart to the Lord," he said.

"I expect deployments in the Army, and I watched the chaplains in the deployed and in the garrison arenas. I have been around Soldiers that needed help, and I helped the guys from my unit coming to me for counsel."

Andrey's story, according to Jones, represents what chaplains believe to be a good number of enlisted Soldiers and officers in other branches who may feel the call of God to come into the ministry.

"If you are a person of faith and you're paying attention, God will put sign posts along the way in your life – could be people, could be circumstances, could be any number of things – and to pay attention to those could direct you into another career," Jones said. "And for the West family, it is going to be the chaplaincy."



U.S. Army Photo

Afghan Minister of the Interior H.E. Minister Atmar addresses more than 400 coalition Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Department of Defense civilian employees and contractors, and partner nation representatives attending the change of command and the official activation of the NATO Training Mission - Afghanistan at Camp Eggers in Kabul Nov. 21. During the ceremony, Lt. Gen. William B. Caldwell IV, assumed command from Maj. Gen. Richard P. Formica, prior to the activation of the new NTM-A that creates a unified command in charge of building capability and capacity within the Afghan Ministries of Defense and Interior.



U.S. Army Photo

Operation Rising Star co-host GeNienne Samuels (left) announces Army spouse Lisa Pratt (third from left) of Fort Carson, Colo., as the winner of the singing contest Nov. 20 at Wallace Theater on Fort Belvoir, Va. Runner-up Capt. Donald Williamson (second from left) moves to give Pratt a congratulatory hug.

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U.S. Army Photo

With the "million dollar view" of the Hudson River at West Point, N.Y., as their background, cadets, staff and faculty followed a circuit around the campus on Veterans Day to raise money for veteran activities supported by the Combined Federal Campaign.



Nominated as one of the five most appealing Christmas markets in Germany

Photos by Tourist-Information Deidesheim

Deidesheim Christmas market offers a traditional and cozy atmosphere

By Ina Stiewitz
USAG BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG PUBLIC AFFAIRS

For 35 years, more than 100 vendors have come together at the "Deidesheim Advent" to present their handcrafted items and regional food during one of the most romantic Christmas markets in the Rhineland-Palatinate.

The village of Deidesheim is famous for its wine culture and offers many wine-related events throughout the year.

Its historical atmosphere with half-timbered houses, a baroque town hall, and all the old idyllic yards of the vintners, invite people to spend joyful hours in the village.

At this year's Christmas market, a few new booths are available for visitors.

International vendors complete the usual offering with their country-typical specialties.

Italian representatives sell region-typical food, and vendors from Switzerland will

offer coffee and cheese at their booth.

The main offer is focused on handcrafted items, which is usual for German Christmas markets. Jewel polishers, goldsmiths, leather tailors, wood carvers, bakers, and potters can be found along with many other handcrafters and artists.

Plenty of booths with food and drink are available along the alleys as well.

The famous "Glühwein," a heated red wine spiced with cinnamon sticks and cloves, is made of the town's own wine. By conducting undercover tastings of the hot drink, the town guarantees a good quality.

Deidesheim Advent also offers all kinds of entertainment for its little visitors.

Children are invited to listen to fairy tales or bake their own Christmas cookies in the children's bakery.

They can join two small fairground rides, and beginning Friday, the historic Ferris

wheel provides a view over the illuminated area.

Visitors who are interested in art and culture can go for walk on the artist's route, which combines 10 studios, galleries and museums in the historic center of Deidesheim. Artists exhibit their work at the respective locations.

The Deidesheim Advent runs through Dec. 20 with opening days from Fridays-Sundays only: 5-9 p.m. Fridays, 2-9 p.m. Saturdays, and 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sundays.

Opening hours for children's activities

Fairy tale reading: Dec. 5 and Dec. 6, 5 p.m. at the Stadtplatz. Children's bakery: 5-8 p.m. Friday, 2-8 p.m. Saturday, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday.

For more information visit www.deidesheim.de/en/the-winstreet-and-the-palatinate.html.



The Marktplatz is one of the main squares for various performances, or children activities during the Deidesheim Advent.



GERMAN CULTURE

Sunday is Nikolaustag

By Ina Stiewitz
USAG BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The meaning of St. Nikolaus day goes back to a long tradition. The figure of Sankt Nikolaus is based on a legend, which tells the story of the holy Nikolaus existing in the 6th century.

The figure is a combination of two people: Bishop Nikolaus of Myra, who probably lived during the 4th century, and Bishop Nikolaus of Pinora, who died Dec. 10, 564.

From those two historic people the fictive Sankt Nikolaus developed as the miracle-doing, overwhelming bishop of Myra. The legend says he rescued and helped people who suffered from pain.

Since the 16th century, Nikolaus has been the person who brings gifts to children during the period of Advent.

The period four weeks before Christmas is meant to be the season when Christians are waiting and preparing for the nativity of Jesus.

People light one candle of their Advent wreath each Sunday in the four weeks before Christmas to symbolize the time waiting for Christmas Eve.

Nikolaus day celebrated Dec. 6 is a major event during the time of Advent, and it is seen as a precursor to Christmas. Children place their shoes or boots on window sills in front doors, hoping for Nikolaus to come. He then leaves a gift along with nuts, gingerbread, Christmas cookies or tangerines.

Some families organize a Nikolaus visit. A volunteer, who is not well-known by the children, dresses with a long grey beard, a red coat, a red cap and black boots. He also carries a brown linen bag and his golden book. The bag is used for the gifts, whereas the book contains information on the child's behavior shown throughout the year.

After the Nikolaus reads his advice to the children, they recite a Christmas poem or sing a Nikolaus song.

The Nikolaus then rewards the child for all his good behavior and the performance with small gifts, chocolate, nuts and fruits.

Most children, depending on their age, and the Nikolaus chosen by their parents, respect his presence. The golden book especially has a scary meaning to children.

The Nikolaus is not only the gift-bringing good old Santa Claus – as he is shown a lot of times in advertisements – he also teaches a lesson.



Vicki Johnson is a military spouse and clinical social worker with more than 12 years experience working with families in crisis. To contact Ms. Vicki, e-mail her at dearmsvicki@yahoo.com.

Dear Ms. Vicki,

Let me start out by saying that military kids are the worst kids ever. I've been teaching for 15 years. I worked in the local community elementary and middle schools. My friends were always encouraging me to try and work on post because the pay is better and there is more structure and discipline.

I applied and was offered a position. Accepting this position is the worst thing I could have ever done. The kids are terrible!

They have no discipline, they talk back and are very disrespectful, they fight and keep trouble stirred up, and there is drug use by students that teachers and administrators don't want to handle for fear others will know there is a drug problem.

Not only are the children awful, but the parents are the main culprits. They walk in the school like they own the place when they have out-of-control children.

The parents are the main reasons their children behave the way they do. They are getting these behaviors from their parents.

I never knew about rank or its privileges, but let me tell you, teachers are told not to say anything to certain children because of their parents' rank. This is not fair.

So what are they saying? They

are saying that if you are private so and so or E-5, etc., then no one cares about how your children are treated, but if you are a colonel, etc., then teachers can make sure they have the best of everything.

Teaching on post has been a big disappointment to me. Yes, I make about \$6,000 more, but it's not worth it. Before the Christmas break I'm resigning, and hopefully I can soon return to the nice and quiet school I left.

Can you tell me what's wrong with military kids and their crazy parents?

From: A Teacher Who Can't Take It Any Longer

Dear Teacher,

You are talking about military children in a very condescending manner. My children are military kids, too. Yes, their father and I would get phone calls from teachers and summoned to meetings, too.

I know my children caused a few teachers to gray prematurely. Did I ever think they were awful? No I didn't.

I surmise that if a teacher has students for 6-7 hours a day, then it's up to them to establish a classroom discipline policy to handle unruly behavior; one that is effective, efficient and equitable to everyone. This way you won't have to feel like you have to placate people with certain ranks.

You can't expect all children to come in a classroom, sit quietly and not say a word. It's unrealistic. I was never a teacher, but I worked as a school social worker with the special education department. Yes, there were children from all races, ethnicities and many socioeconomic incomes. That never stopped me from trying my hardest to love every child and make a difference in their lives.

Military children are also coping with much stress due to deployments and other family and social problems that they may not feel comfortable discussing with anyone.

In your defense, I know that teachers have a lot to cope with and sometimes parents can be unsupportive.

However, I think you are placing all military children in a category that is unwarranted. I hope you do resign from the post school and return to the community school where the children are angels.

Responses to previous columns:

Dear Ms. Vicki,

I consider myself a professional Soldier, and I am a female. How dare this woman make false statements against us, and I can't believe the newspaper would even print something like this.

This writer is accusing female Soldiers of prostitution. This is outlandish, and you and the military newspaper should be ashamed. Consider this: you have lost a fan and a reader.

Dear Ms. Vicki,

The writer not only needs to keep all the credit and debit cards in her possession while her husband is deployed, but she also needs to kick him to the curb.

The real truth is a cheater will always be a cheater. Why should she put up with a headache like him?

Dear Ms. Vicki,

If this woman is accusing female Soldiers of prostitution, then what does that say about her and her husband?

Stop bashing female Soldiers who are professional and are serious about their jobs.

Here's the problem. There are so many lazy wives who sit at home with no life and nothing to do. They bore their husbands to death and then wonder why he cheats and even pays for it when he can. That should tell them something.

If a man will pay for it and cheat whenever he can, then obviously his wife or his girlfriend is doing something wrong.

Take some responsibility wives, and start pleasing your man!

Road rage, rude gestures can lead to big fines in Germany

By Robert Szostek
USAREUR PROVOST MARSHAL PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Inconsiderate or even dangerous moves made by other drivers can really get on your nerves. But on the road in Germany, it's best to keep your cool, as the German legal system frowns on road rage, insults and rude gestures in traffic.

German courts can issue fines and even prison sentences of up to one year to drivers who shout insults or make offensive gestures while driving, the German automobile association ADAC reported in its latest magazine.

The maximum prison term goes up to two years if the dispute gets physical, the ADAC article said.

"German authorities take a particularly hard line on motorists who insult police officers or traffic wardens," said Lt. Col. Shawn J. Kelley, chief of law enforcement at the U.S. Army Europe Office of the Provost Marshal.

This is because the motorist is not only insulting the person as such; he is also offending a representative of the state.

ADAC printed a list of fines issued for various insults directed at German traffic cops. The fines ranged from €250 to €2,500.

Rude gestures toward a police officer are also a bad idea. ADAC reported that sticking your tongue out at a German police officer has resulted in fines between €150 and €300. More obscene gestures

were punished with fines ranging from €600 to €4,000.

ADAC reported that one driver made a rude hand gesture to a video camera measuring the distance between vehicles. A German court judged that he was showing disrespect to the officers monitoring traffic – even though they were not present – and fined him €1,200.

The wide range of penalties reported is due to the German fine system, which takes into account both the offender's degree of guilt and income.

ADAC reports a German court normally assesses 10 to 30 "daily units" for slander, depending on the circumstances. A daily unit is one 30th of monthly salary after taxes.

GET OUT!

area events

More events online at <http://myBWnow.ning.com>

December 3

"Our Country's Good" – The ESOC Theatre Group presents a play by Timberlake Wertenbaker at the Hoffart Theatre in Darmstadt through Dec. 5. "Our Country's Good" (performed in English) is set in the late 1780s and tells the heart-rending story of British convicts and Royal Marines "transported" to Australia to establish the first penal colony. The performance is suitable for mature audiences due to strong language and themes. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for the 7:30 p.m. show. Tickets are €10 online or at the door. <http://ocg.eventbrite.com>.

December 4

"OLIVER!" – Based on the beloved Charles Dickens novel, this Tony Award-winning musical tale is full of pathos, drama and wonderful musical numbers. Young Oliver is an orphan in the streets of Victorian London. His ongoing adventures include meeting up with the Artful Dodger and the dastardly criminal, Fagin. It's a holiday tale for the whole family. Performances will be held Dec. 4, 5, 11, 12, 18 and 19 and Jan. 8, 9, 15, 16, 22 and 23 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 6 and 13 and Jan. 10 and 17 at 3 p.m. at the Roadside Theater on Patton Barracks in Heidelberg. DSN 373-5020, www.roadsideheater.com.

Comedy Show – At 9 p.m., the Kazabra Club in Kaiserslautern will host a comedy show featuring Jesse Taylor and Meechie. The show will be followed by a Christmas After-Party, hosted by DJ Big Money with raffles and prize giveaways. Advance tickets can be purchased for \$20 at Kazabra Club, Armstrong's Club or FMWR One Stop. DSN 489-6000, www.mwgermany.com.

After Work Christmas Market – Head to Trier with Kaiserslautern Army Outdoor Recreation. DSN 493-4117, civ. 0631-3406-4117.

"The Sound of Music" – The hills are alive at KMC Onstage Dec. 4-6, 11-13, 18-19 and Jan. 8-10, 14-17. All shows will be performed at 7:30 p.m. excluding Sundays at 3 p.m. Tickets are now on sale and can be purchased through the theater box office (Kleber, Bldg. 3232 – DSN 483-6626, civ. 0631-411-6626) or the FMWR One Stop Landstuhl, Bldg. 3810 – DSN 486-8146, civ. 06371-86-8146.

December 5

Handel's Messiah Concert – The Heidelberg chapel community will present Handel's Messiah at 7 p.m. in the MTV Chapel. Admission is free for all, and doors open at 6:30 p.m. Civ. 06221-301269, ed.matthiesen@kabelbw.de.

Bernkastel-Kues Christmas Market – Kaiserslautern Army Outdoor Recreation. DSN 493-4117, civ. 0631-3406-4117.

Ski Express – Heidelberg Outdoor Recreation. Also available Dec. 12, 25 and 26. DSN 388-9282, www.mwgermany.com.

December 6

A Christmas Carol – The USO is hosting the American Drama Group Europe's performance of the classic tale, "A Christmas Carol" at 5 p.m. at the Village Pavilion in Heidelberg. Tickets are €15 for adults and €10 for students 6-18. Tickets: Mannheim civ. 0621-730-3195, Heidelberg civ. 06221-57-7924, <http://affiliates.uso.org/rheinneckar>.

Colmar and Riquewihl Christmas Markets – Head to France with Kaiserslautern Army Outdoor Recreation. DSN 493-4117, civ. 0631-3406-4117.

Blue Sunday – DJ Big Money hosts Blue Sunday at the Top Hat Club in Mannheim 5-9 p.m. The event includes R&B Oldies, card/ dominoes games and free food. www.mwgermany.com.

St. Nikolaus Concert – The Mannheim German-American Women's Club and the Mannheim Philharmonic Brass Orchestra invite military community members to attend the fourth annual St. Nikolaus Concert held at the Mozartsaal of the Rosengarten Convention Center in Mannheim at 5 p.m. The concert features works of Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov, Jean Sibelius, Edward Grieg, Peter I. Tchaikovsky, Alfred Reed, Mikola D. Leontowitsch, Johan de Meij, Richard Eilenberg and Darroll Barry. Tickets are €18 for adults and €8 for children/students. A limited number of tickets are available at the Mannheim USO. Tickets: Civ. 0621-717-65978, erswansiger@tks-net.com.

December 10

Bluegrass Open Mic Night – Head to the Heidelberg Rod and Gun Club in Offersheim at 7 p.m. for a down home good time at Shooter's Bar and Grill. Listen to the classical sounds of the Bluegrass Valley and satisfy your taste buds at the same time. Feel free to bring your instrument and join the band. www.mwgermany.com.

December 11

Gospel Concert – The USO and Volvo will host Randall Taylor and the Revelation Gospel Singers at the Village Pavilion in Heidelberg at 2 p.m. Civ. 0621-730-2082.

Holiday Bingo – Play holiday bingo at the Kazabra Club in Kaiserslautern 3-7 p.m. Four guaranteed \$1,000 games will be played. Free food and Christmas goodies will be available. Visit with Santa and much more. An early bird bonanza game will be played at 2 p.m. Doors open at 1 p.m. www.mwgermany.com.

Innsbruck Ski Weekend – Head to Austria with Heidelberg Outdoor Recreation

through Dec. 13. DSN 388-9282, www.mwgermany.com.

December 12

Strasbourg and Christmas Market – Visit the famous Gothic cathedral in Strasbourg, France, and marvel at the astrological clock built in 1350. After a leisurely boat ride through the old district, plan to shop the wonderful Christmas Market (French style) surrounding the cathedral. <http://affiliates.uso.org/rheinneckar>.

December 13

Caracalla Spa Day, Baden-Baden and Christmas Market – Heidelberg Outdoor Recreation. DSN 388-9282, www.mwgermany.com.

December 18

Luge Racing – Head to Berchtesgaden with Heidelberg Outdoor Recreation through Dec. 20. DSN 388-9282, www.mwgermany.com.

December 19

Rüdesheim and Christmas Rhein Cruise – The romantic Rhein sparkles and shines for the holidays. Enjoy the festive Christmas atmosphere both on board and in town. The first stop, Rüdesheim, is one of Germany's most popular tourist destinations. There will be time to shop at the Christmas market, sample the wines and have lunch before boarding the boat. The ship will be decorated for the season and alive with music. <http://affiliates.uso.org/rheinneckar>.

Köln Christmas Market – Köln has three different markets to visit by shuttle train or foot. Start off with one of the nicest, and then move on to the world famous cathedral. <http://affiliates.uso.org/rheinneckar>.

December 24

Garmisch Christmas Ski Weekend – Through Dec. 27 with Heidelberg Outdoor Recreation. DSN 388-9282, www.mwgermany.com.

Ski and Christmas Party Weekend – Head to Interlaken, Switzerland, through Dec. 27 with Heidelberg Outdoor Recreation. DSN 388-9282, www.mwgermany.com.

December 31

New Year's Ski and Party Weekend – Head to Interlaken, Switzerland through Jan. 3 with Heidelberg Outdoor Recreation. DSN 388-9282, www.mwgermany.com.

New Year's in Prague Weekend – Head to the Czech Republic through Jan. 3 with Heidelberg Outdoor Recreation. DSN 388-9282, www.mwgermany.com.

coming to THEATERS

Love Happens

(Jennifer Aniston, Aaron Eckhart) Dr. Burke Ryan is on the precipice of a major multimedia deal, but the therapist who asks his patients to openly confront their pain is secretly unable to take his own advice. Eloise Chandler has sworn off men and decided to focus on her floral business. However, when she meets Burke at the hotel where he's speaking, there is an instant attraction. But will two people who have met the right person at exactly the wrong time be able to give love another chance? As each struggles with the hurt of love and loss, they realize that in order to move forward, they need to let go of the past. And if they can, they'll find that, sometimes, love happens when you least expect it. Rated PG-13 (some language including sexual references) 109 minutes

PLAYING THIS WEEK

Heidelberg, Patrick Henry Village

Dec. 3 - THE TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Dec. 4 - OLD DOGS (PG) 7 p.m.; THE BLIND SIDE (PG-13) 9 p.m.
Dec. 5 - OLD DOGS (PG) 4 p.m.; THE BLIND SIDE (PG-13) 7 p.m.; LOVE HAPPENS (PG-13) 9 p.m.
Dec. 6 - THE BLIND SIDE (PG-13) 4 p.m.; LOVE HAPPENS (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Dec. 7 - SURROGATES (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Dec. 8 - THE BLIND SIDE (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Dec. 9 - OLD DOGS (PG) 7 p.m.
Dec. 10 - THE BLIND SIDE (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Mannheim, Schuh

Dec. 3 - HALLOWEEN 2 (R) 7 p.m.
Dec. 4 - THE TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Dec. 5 - PLANET 51 (PG) 4 p.m.; SURROGATES (PG-13) 7 p.m.; THE TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON (PG-13) 9 p.m.
Dec. 6 - PLANET 51 (PG) 4 p.m.; THE TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Dec. 7 - ZOMBIELAND (R) 7 p.m.
Dec. 9 - PLANET 51 (PG) 3 p.m.
Dec. 10 - THE TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Vogelweh, Galaxy

Dec. 3 - THE INFORMANT! (R) 7 p.m.
Dec. 4 - THE TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Dec. 5 and 6 - PLANET 51 (PG) 3 p.m.; THE TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Dec. 10 - LOVE HAPPENS (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Ramstein, Gateway Movieplex

Dec. 3 - PLANET 51 (PG) 11 a.m., 3:45 p.m., 6 p.m.; THE TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON (PG-13) 11:15 a.m., 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m.; THE INFORMANT! (R) 12 p.m., 3 p.m.; HALLOWEEN 2 (R) 7 p.m.
Dec. 4 - OLD DOGS (PG) 11 a.m., 3:45 p.m., 6 p.m., 8:30 p.m.; THE BLIND SIDE (PG-13) 12 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 7 p.m., 9:30 p.m.; LOVE HAPPENS (PG-13) 11:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 7 p.m., 9:30 p.m.; ZOMBIELAND (R) 8:45 p.m.; HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3 (PG) 12:15 p.m., 4 p.m., 6:15 p.m.
Dec. 5 - OLD DOGS (PG) 11 a.m., 3:45 p.m., 6 p.m., 8:30 p.m.; THE BLIND SIDE (PG-13) 12 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 7 p.m., 9:30 p.m.; LOVE HAPPENS (PG-13) 11:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 9 p.m.; ZOMBIELAND (R) 8:45 p.m.; HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3 (PG) 12:15 p.m., 4 p.m., 6:15 p.m.
Dec. 6 - OLD DOGS (PG) 11 a.m., 3:45 p.m., 6 p.m.; THE BLIND SIDE (PG-13) 12 p.m., 3:30 p.m.; LOVE HAPPENS (PG-13) 11:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m.; HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3 (PG) 12:15 p.m., 4 p.m.
Dec. 7 and 8 - OLD DOGS (PG) 11 a.m., 3:45 p.m., 6 p.m.; THE BLIND SIDE (PG-13) 12 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 7 p.m.; LOVE HAPPENS (PG-13) 11:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m.; ZOMBIELAND (R) 8:45 p.m.; HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3 (PG) 12:15 p.m., 4 p.m.
Dec. 9 - OLD DOGS (PG) 11 a.m., 3:45 p.m., 6 p.m.; THE BLIND SIDE (PG-13) 12 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 7 p.m.; LOVE HAPPENS (PG-13) 6:30 p.m.; HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3 (PG) 12:15 p.m., 4 p.m.
Dec. 10 - OLD DOGS (PG) 12 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 7 p.m.; ZOMBIELAND (R) 11 a.m., 3:45 p.m., 6 p.m.; HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3 (PG) 12:15 p.m., 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m.

THEATER INFORMATION

Patrick Henry Village, Heidelberg, 06221-27-238
Schuh Theater, Mannheim, 0621-730-1790
Galaxy Theater, Vogelweh, 0631-50017
Gateway Cineplex, Ramstein, 06371-47-5550
Visit www.aafes.com for updated listings and more movie descriptions

HIGHLIGHTS

Social Networking Briefing

U.S. Army Europe will host training on social networking systems (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) for all Soldiers, family members and DA employees 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Schuh Theater in Mannheim Dec. 9 and at Galaxy Theater in Kaiserslautern Dec. 16. The training will discuss social networking systems, their features, and how to use these sites safely to protect against identity theft and ways to secure your online user accounts. DSN 379-5551, civ. 06202-80-6217.

TRICARE Online Maintenance

The TRICARE Online maintenance upgrade has been scheduled to begin at 8 p.m. Dec. 4. The upgrade will entail a system-wide outage from the evening of Dec. 4 through Dec. 6, followed by a system degradation of services Dec. 7-8 during the final system checkouts. Full system restoration is expected no later than Dec. 9. TRICARE Online users may contact their assigned military treatment facility for their appointing and scheduling needs.

Field Study in Paris and Florence

University of Maryland University College Europe has two three-credit undergraduate field study courses, Impressionism and Post-Impressionism held in Paris, France, and Renaissance Art held in Florence, Italy. The registration deadline for these courses is Dec. 18 with classes running Jan. 9-16. DSN 370-6762, civ. 06221-378367, www.ed.umuc.edu/fieldstudy.

Holiday Mail Deadlines

To ensure your packages make it in time for the holidays, note the following mailing deadlines: PAL parcels - Dec. 4; Priority Parcels and First Class letters - Dec. 11; Express Mail - Dec. 18.

AER Scholarships and Assistance

Various scholarships and educational assistance programs are available through the Army Emergency Relief program. The deadline for most 2010-2011 applications is March 1. www.aerhq.org.

CMR Package Notification

CMR customers can now be notified via e-mail when they receive packages at the CMR. Visit your local CMR to provide your name, box number and e-mail address to begin the service.

EMPLOYMENT

Career Fair

Looking for employees? Recruit them at the Heidelberg ACS Career Fair Jan. 30. Register online: www.mwrgermany.com/hd/acs and click the "Employment Readiness" link.

Mannheim Elementary School

MES seeks front office support clerk, education techs (teacher/classroom aides) and substitute teachers. DSN 380-4705, civ. 0621-730-4705, matthew.bush@eu.dodea.edu.

Arts and Culture

The Heidelberg Arts and Cultural Center is looking for contractors in the following fields: jewelry making, you and your camera photography classes, various arts classes, pottery, singing, performing arts and sculpture. DSN 388-9418, civ. 06221-338-9418.

KAISERSLAUTERN

Education

• **CSB Briefing** – The Kaiserslautern Transition Center hosts a briefing on Career Status Bonus Dec. 16 in Bldg. 3245 on Kleber Kaserne. Register: DSN 483-7071, civ. 0631-411-7071.

Community

• **Toy Shop 2009 Toy Drive** – Army Community Service is hosting a community-wide toy drive through Dec. 15. Donate a new, unwrapped gift for a child in the KMC. DSN 493-4062, www.mwrgermany.com.

• **Holiday Lights** – Army Community Service will host Holiday Lights at 5 p.m. Dec. 8 at Java Café. Enjoy tree trimming, games, refreshments and a visit with Santa. DSN 493-4062, civ. 0631-3406-4062.

• Immaculate Conception Services

– Catholic services at Landstuhl Chapel, Bldg. 3773 on Landstuhl Regional Medical Center at noon Dec. 8 and at Daenner Chapel, Bldg. 3150 on Daenner Kaserne at 11:45 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Dec. 8. DSN 493-4098, civ. 0631-3406-4098.

• **Holiday Hours at APOs** – The Army post offices on Landstuhl Regional Medical Center and Daenner Kaserne have started holiday customer service hours 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The APO on Miesau Army Depot will be open 10 a.m.-3 p.m. These holiday hours are in effect until Dec. 28. The Pulaski mail room is open noon-3 p.m. Saturdays until Jan. 2.

• **Winter Extravaganza** – The Landstuhl SAS will host its Winter Extravaganza 5-8 p.m. Dec. 14 at the Landstuhl Elementary and Middle School cafeteria. The program will include children's musical performances, art and photography exhibit, costumes, decorations and refreshments. DSN 486-7281, civ. 06371-86-7281.

• **Kids' Zone Closure** – The Kids' Zone on Pulaski Barracks will be closed for renovations through March.

• **Independent and Foreign Films** – The library at Landstuhl and the Landstuhl Community Club team up for independent and foreign films. All shows start at 6 p.m. Upcoming shows: "Her Name is Sabine" (French with English subtitles) Dec. 16. DSN 486-7322, civ. 06371-86-7322.

• **Teen Apprenticeship Program** – Child, Youth and School Services and the HIRED! Program are now accepting applications for Term 2 apprenticeships. DSN 486-8658, civ. 06371-86-8658.

HEIDELBERG

Education

• **ACS Classes and Events** – EFMP Teen Social, 7-9 p.m. Dec. 4 at PHV Panther's Place; Healthy Relationships, 3-5 p.m. Dec. 3; Intro to MS Word, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Dec. 7 and 9; Intro to Computers, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Dec.

8; EFMP Support Group, 9:30 a.m. Dec. 9 at Java Café; Smooth Move, 10-11 a.m. Dec. 9; Managing Debt, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Dec. 9; Checkbook Management, 9-11:30 a.m. Dec. 10; ACS Family Outing at the Heidelberg Christmas Market, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Dec. 10. DSN 370-6883, www.mwrgermany.com/hd/acs.

• **Red Cross Classes** – CPR/AED and Standard First Aid, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Dec. 5, cost \$40; Babysitters Course, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Dec. 7-9, cost: \$35. DSN 370-1760, civ. 06221-57-1760.

• **German Language Classes** – Eight-week classes 5:45-7:30 p.m. Jan. 19-March 15: German 1 and 2, Tuesdays and Thursdays; German 3, Mondays and Wednesdays. German 4 morning classes will be held Feb. 9-March 14 Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Cost: €80 for German 1, €100 for higher levels. Register: germanatpatton@vks-heidelberg.com.

• **Traffic Pattern Change** – Three traffic lanes on Patton Barracks have been painted at the north-west corner of the car wash area to enhance safety. The three lanes are: southbound, northbound and a car wash lane. Keep the north bound lane free by lining up on the extreme right, in the event the car wash waiting area is occupied.

• **Village Grille No Longer Open for Lunch** – The Village Grille on PHV now is closed for lunch Monday-Friday. Lunch will still be served on the weekends. Java Café offers a salad bar, soup of the day, subs and wraps 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday, and the Strike Zone at the Bowling Center also has lunch options.

• **Free Kindling** – The MWR Woodshop in Bldg. 108 on Patton Barracks has free fire wood and kindling available during regular hours 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturdays, Sundays and training holidays. Scrap wood is divided into untreated and treated wood. Untreated wood can be used for kindling. Treated wood cannot be burned because the chemicals in the varnish would become toxic air pollutants during incineration. If you have a fireplace, make sure to get a chimneysweep inspection each year as required by German law.

• **Reduced Banking Hours** – Due to mandatory staff training, the Community Bank on the Community Support Center will have reduced hours Dec. 9.

• **Customs Office Closure** – The Customs field office will be closed 10 a.m. onward Dec. 11. DSN 370-7142, civ. 06221-57-8998.

• **Volksmarching** – Join the Heidelberg International Wandering Club at the following volksmarches: Dec. 5-6, Höfen (Winnenden). The next open trip is a two-night trip to Verona, Italy. www.hwv.de.

• **KONTAKT Club Events** – Bowling

on PHV, noon Dec. 6, 13 and 20; Christmas markets, Dec. 6, 12 and 19; Membership meeting, 6 p.m. Dec. 8; Christmas Party, 6 p.m. Dec. 15. Civ. 0171-537-8380, www.heidelberg-kontakt.viviti.com.

• **Welfare Grant Applications** – Heidelberg Community and Spouses' Club is accepting applications for Block 2 (January-April). Deadline is Dec. 31. Applications, guidelines and additional grant information: www.hcsc-heidelberg.com.

• **Toastmasters** – Toastmasters will meet at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 3 at Casa Sorrento Italian Restaurant, Rohrbacher Strasse 176. Meetings are the first and third Thursday of every month. <http://heidelberg.freetoasthost.net>.

• **Christmas Chaos** – Middle school students are invited to participate in fun games, eat festive food, win prizes, and try to catch Santa Claus 3-6 p.m. Dec. 4 at the HMS multi-purpose room. www.mwrgermany.com.

• **DES Closures** – The following Directorate of Emergency Services offices will close at 10:30 a.m. Dec. 11 and will be closed all day Dec. 24-25 and Dec. 31-Jan. 1. IACS Offices in Bldgs. 3962 and 3850; Vehicle Registration Offices in Bldg. 3850 and on the DPW compound.

• **MTES PTA Holiday Market** – Students of Mark Twain Elementary School will host a holiday market 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Dec. 9-11.

• **Holiday Gift Wrapping** – The Red Cross will wrap gifts 2-7 p.m. Dec. 18 and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Dec. 24 at the Main PX. Volunteers are needed. DSN 370-1760, civ. 06221-57-1760.

• **Holiday Shuttle Bus Schedule** – The holiday shuttle bus schedule goes in effect Dec. 21-Jan. 1 and will be posted at all shuttle bus stops. DSN 373-1800, civ. 06221-17-1800.

• **Shooter's Winter Hours** – Shooter's Bar and Grill at the Rod and Gun Club is under new management. New hours of operation: 4-9 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, 9:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday and on American and training holidays. DSN 388-9429.

MANNHEIM

Education

• **ACS Classes** – Anger/Conflict Management, 1-2:30 p.m. Dec. 4; Levy and Out-processing Briefing, 1-2:45 p.m. Dec. 7; FRG Leader 101, 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 5:30-7:30 p.m. Dec. 8; Parent and Me Play Group, 10 a.m.-noon Dec. 9; FRG Key Caller and POC Training, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Dec. 9; Stress Management, 1-2:30 p.m. Dec. 10. DSN 385-3101, civ. 0621-730-3101.

Community

• **Central Enrollment's New Office** – The CYSS Central Enrollment Office has moved to Benjamin Franklin Village, Bldg. 742. Hours: Appointment times - 8 a.m.-noon Monday,

Wednesday and Friday, noon-4 p.m. Tuesday and 1-4 p.m. Thursday; Walk-in times - 1-4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and 8-11:45 a.m. Tuesday. DSN 380-9135, civ. 0621-730-9132.

• **Early Identification of Developmental Delays** – Mannheim Elementary School offers Child Find monthly to identify children ages 3-5 who may have developmental delays or educational disabilities and who are in need of special education or related services. Appointments: DSN 380-9201, civ. 0621-730-9201.

• **Blood Drive** – There will be an Armed Services Blood Program Blood Drive 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Dec. 4 at the Coleman Barracks Fitness Center. Appointments: www.militarylifeforce.com, click on "Landstuhl." Walk-ins are welcome.

• **Sullivan Library** – Homeschoolers Tour, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Dec. 8; Story Hour, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Dec. 10 and 17; Scrapbook Club, noon-3 p.m. Dec. 12; Free Movie, 4-5:30 p.m. Dec. 12. DSN 380-1740, civ. 0621-730-1740.

• **Santa's Workshop** – Santa is moving a bit of the North Pole to BFV 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Dec. 5. Santa's village may be visited at Youth Services (Bldg. 696). Santa will be there to help CYSS provide games, fun activities, cake and hot chocolate. DSN 385-4887, civ. 0621-730-4887, george.robinson@us.army.mil.

• **Community Tree Lighting Ceremony** – Held at the main chapel on Benjamin Franklin Village at 6 p.m. Dec. 7.

• **Auditions for "Chicago"** – FMWR is seeking 10 female and nine male roles for an upcoming performance featuring the music of the Broadway hit "Chicago," which will take place at the Top Hat Club Feb. 13. Auditions will be held 5-7 p.m. Dec. 7 and 14 and 2-4 p.m. Dec. 12. Costumers, hair/make-up techs/light and sound techs are also needed. DSN 385-2342.

• **Holiday Office Closures** – Limited Service at Army Community Service 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Dec. 10; Directorate of Logistics, including Food Service Branch, Installation Transportation Office, Transportation Motor Pool, POV Storage and Installation Property Book will be closed starting at noon Dec. 11, with the exceptions of mission essential activities (i.e. shuttle bus and dining facilities); Customs Office within the In- and Out-processing Center on Sullivan Barracks will be closed 10 a.m.-noon Dec. 10 and from 10 a.m. onward Dec. 11.

• **Law Center Closure** – The Law Center will be closed Dec. 10-11 because office personnel will be attending a conference. Personnel requiring immediate assistance can contact the Heidelberg office: Legal Assistance, DSN 373-5058; Claims, DSN 373-5263.

HHS gears up for Friday's start of basketball season

By Krista Bye-Nagel
HERALD POST INTERN

The Heidelberg Lions basketball program starts off the 2009-2010 season Friday evening at Black Forest Academy.

"The boys program has been in the championship game seven out of the past nine years," boys' coach Brad Shahan said when asked about the chances of a championship game this year.

The Heidelberg boys' team came off the regular season last year to compete in the championship game as favorites to win — only to be dethroned by the Ramstein Royals.

With only three varsity players returning — Eugene Jones, Chris Cuthbert and Sean Niland — the runner-up Heidelberg Lions will have to rekindle the chemistry the boys' team had last year.

"I have heard that Devin Jackson is a good player, but I have not seen him play yet," Shahan said.

The Lions lost senior captain, repeat All-Europe first teamer and the MVP of the 2008 championship game, Chris Frazier as well as senior All-Europe first teamer J.C. Sharer.

The only returning starter for this

year's boys' basketball team is Chris Cuthbert, who will be sitting out until January due to an injury received during the beginning of this year's football season.

The Lady Lions are also looking for a return to the championship game this year.

"I'm very excited to be part of such a great team playing for a great school," said Coach Jon Mittenzwey, head girls' coach.

The returning European champion Lady Lions include Courtney Milton, Debbie Roberts, Rebecca Luna and Asya Tucker.

The 2008-2009 season brought home a 20-3 record.

"I feel very positive about our team's chances of being in yet another championship game this year," Roberts said.

The championship game last year was played against Patch, after a nail-biting defeat of Kaiserslautern in the semi-finals.

After losing All-Europe first teamers Ashley Hicks and Fallon Puppolo, this year's girls' varsity is hopeful that returning starters, including Milton, Roberts and All-Tournament Luna, will be able to carry the team to another victorious season.

staying ACTIVE

Skiing and Snowboarding

Instructors — Mannheim Outdoor Recreation is looking for ski and snowboard instructors to conduct beginner courses for the upcoming season. DSN 381-7215.

Tune-up Clinic — Learn how to maintain ski and snowboard equipment, including edge sharpening, base repair and waxing, Dec. 12 in Mannheim. Pre-registration required. DSN 381-7215.

One-Day Trip — Hit the slopes for a day in Engelberg, Switzerland, Dec. 19 or 26. DSN 381-7215.

Youth Sports and Fitness

Kaiserslautern — Sign up for Youth Winter Sports through Jan. 3 at Central Enrollment. Open to ages 5-15. DSN 493-4516, civ. 0631-3406-4122.

Combatives Tournament

The Rhine Ordnance Barracks Gym in Kaiserslautern will host the 2009 Combatives Tournament beginning at 9 a.m. Dec. 4. Register: DSN 493-2755, civ. 0631-3406-2755, www.mwgermany.com.

Winter Fishing Course

Get your German fishing license at the Heidelberg Rod and Gun Club 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Dec. 5-6. Open to ID card holders ages 10+. \$65 course fee per person, or \$100 family fee for two or more family members. DSN 375-5022, www.mwgermany.com.

Dodgeball Tournament

Sign your eight-man team up for this extreme dodgeball tournament at the Patton Fitness

Center at 6 p.m. Dec. 10 and 11. Coaches meeting starts at 6 p.m. Open to U.S. and NATO ID card holders ages 18+. No entry fee. DSN 373-6110.

14th Annual Jingle Bell Jog

This fun 5-kilometer run will take place at Sullivan Gym in Mannheim starting at 9 a.m. Dec. 12. This event is open to all ages; runners will receive T-shirts and jingle bells. Trophies will be awarded. Registration begins at 8 a.m. \$5 entry fee.

1000-Pound Club

If you can bench press, squat and dead lift a combined total weight of 1,000 pounds, you can join the 1,000-Pound Club. Receive a free T-shirt and your name will appear in all Heidelberg fitness facilities with the total amount of weight lifted. Get certified by any Sports and Fitness staff member. DSN 373-5006, www.mwgermany.com.

Basketball Tournaments

Mannheim — The Fifth Annual Mannheim Mustangs Invitational Basketball Tournament will be 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Dec. 18-20 at the BFV Sports Arena and Sullivan Gym with male and female teams from throughout Europe. Free for spectators. DSN 385-3164, civ. 0621-730-3164.

Heidelberg — The 2010 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Basketball Invitational will be held Jan. 15-18 at the Patton Fitness Center. Competition is open to the first 12 men's and first eight women's community teams that sign up. Entry fee is \$250 per team. www.mwgermany.com.

Where do you turn when

Severe Weather

hits?

| For road condition information call: | DSN | Civilian |
|--------------------------------------|----------|----------------|
| USAG Heidelberg: | 388-2223 | 06221-678-2223 |
| USAG Kaiserslautern: | 480-2653 | 06371-47-2653 |
| USAG Mannheim: | 385-2589 | 0621-730-2589 |

Road, weather conditions, school closure information online:
<http://g3operations.hqsareur.army.mil/Divisions/OPS/ASGConditions/default.asp>

** A link can be found under the safety menu on the USAG Baden-Württemberg homepage: www.bw.eur.army.mil.

| Listen to AFN for updates: | Frequency | Time |
|----------------------------|-----------|---------|
| Heidelberg: | 104.6 FM | AM 1143 |
| Kaiserslautern: | 100.2 FM | AM 1107 |
| Mannheim: | 107.3 FM | AM 1143 |

Via AFN decoders: FM signal is Channel 152. The AM signal is Channel 153.

** For duty schedule variations contact your chain of command