

HeraldPOST

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

HP THURSDAY
Dec. 9, 2010

Speed Read

VEHICLE INSPECTION MOVES

A new, consolidated vehicle inspection station for the Heidelberg and Mannheim communities will open for business at Spinnelli Barracks in Mannheim Jan. 18. 4

SOLDIERS SPORTS BADGE

Soldiers from the 95th Military Police Battalion participated in a German Armed Forces Efficiency Badge qualification event Nov. 24 in Mannheim. 4

CHILD CARE

Parents who need child care have the option of hourly care, also offered in the home of Family Child Care providers, a home-away-from-home care service. 6

TALK RADIO

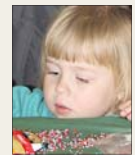
Talk radio fans can tune in to AFN PowerTalk, a 24/7 political talk show service now featuring back-to-back three-hour shows by well-known radio hosts on channel 43 of the AFN decoder. 6

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Mannheim's Christmas tree lighting ceremony Dec. 1 and Heidelberg's Holiday Magic event Friday spread holiday cheer. 13



Dijon Rolle

Spc. Corey Chambers, a human resources specialist with USAG BW Headquarters and Headquarters Company, moves a mail cart full of holiday packages in Community Mail Room 419 on Patton Barracks in Heidelberg Monday, helping to handle the onslaught of holiday mail.

Reservists help postal workers with season's big rush

By Dijon Rolle
USAG BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG PUBLIC AFFAIRS

It's a long way from the sunny skies of Los Angeles to the wintry wonderland of Heidelberg just ask any Soldier from the 376th Human Resources Company. The 18 Army Reservists from the golden state recently made the 14-hour trek to conduct their annual unit training.

The group of postal Soldiers is deployed here for two weeks to learn the ins and outs of postal service operations. And

despite having to deal with jet lag, frosty temperatures and a bit of a language barrier, the reservists said they're ready to begin their mission.

"We had a couple of confusing moments when we landed but we're all really excited to be here," said Spc Mayra Ortega. "I don't think we really believed we were coming until we got here. That's when it really hit us."

After the long flight Ortega said the group was happy to enjoy a familiar favorite – McDonalds.

see MAIL page 12

Rabbit hunting to begin

Staff Report

The German Federal Forestry Agency is scheduled to begin its annual controlled rabbit hunt on Patrick Henry Village Dec. 13 beginning at noon. The hunts will continue through Feb 28.

Rabbits fall under the German federal hunting law, and population control is managed by the Federal Forestry Agency. Because PHV is fenced, rabbits are more protected from natural enemies such as martens, ferrets and foxes, and as a result, the area becomes overpopulated.

Overpopulation not only causes see RABBITS page 12

Army family of the year



U.S. Army photo

Sgt. Joe Campbell, an Army flight medic serving in Afghanistan, observes a patient during a recent medical evacuation in Afghanistan. He, wife Tawny Campbell and daughters, Ceilidha and Rhylin manage three charities that support troops, an effort that won them the title Army Family of the Year by the National Military Family Association. See story on page 3.

Defense Details

PEARL HARBOR DAY

Navy Adm. Jonathan Greenert, vice chief of Naval Operations, spoke to a crowd of about 100 veterans, troops and families, gathered in Washington Tuesday at the National World War II Memorial to remember the Dec. 7, 1941, Japanese attacks on the United States. on that early Sunday morning, the U.S. naval base on the island of Oahu, Hawaii, was attacked in what is recognized as one of the greatest military surprises in the history of warfare. In less than two hours, the U.S. Pacific Fleet was devastated, with more than 3,500 Americans killed or wounded. The next day, President Franklin D. Roosevelt called it "a date which will live in infamy."

Army news: www.army.mil
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COMMENTARY

Spread cheer, say it the way you like

Holiday wishes can include the word 'Christmas'

By Jacqui Haggerty
BWNOW FACEBOOK FAN

Armed with my incredibly nutritious breakfast of Brown Sugar Pop Tarts and Coca Cola (You get your caffeine fix your way – I'll get it mine), I fired-up my trusty laptop and checked Facebook for the latest updates.

Low and behold, BWnow had a question of the week: What's the first thing you or your family do to begin preparing for the holiday season?

My response: Drag all the holiday decorations out of the basement, decide on a color scheme and then untangle the entire mess.

The holiday season! Turkey, ham, pumpkin and apple pie, glühwein and eggnog (although I do not recommend drinking them together, tinsel, trees, snowflakes and ice skating. Families gathered 'round the fireplace, all dressed in matching reindeer sweaters, drinking homemade cocoa from hand-crafted mugs made by the children, the dog and the cat sleeping in front of the blazing hearth with their little paws wrapped around each other. In the words of that timeless Christmas classic, "It's the most wonderful time of the year."

Oh no! She didn't! Did she just say the "c" word? Quick! Somebody call the PC police and get that woman into rehab!

While each of us has our own traditions and ways of celebrating "The Holiday Season" (Am I allowed to capitalize that? Could someone please check?), I just want to know one thing: When did it become a criminal offense to write, say, utter or mutter the word "Christmas" in public?

Now, I'm not here to give a dissertation on the

origins of the word, or to tout my own, personal belief structure. I am here to say that I think it's time. It is time to stop acting like a bunch of neurotic, irrational, anxiety-ridden adolescents before an exam and start acting like the (sometimes) mature adults we claim to be!

I'm not Jewish, Wiccan or Episcopalian – but I have several friends who are. Neither am I Korean, African, Pilipino, Japanese, British, Irish (despite the last name), Scottish, Dutch, French, German, Native American, Cuban, Portuguese, Swedish or Canadian.

But guess what? Bingo! I have several friends who are. Even more shocking – we all respect each other's traditions to include religious beliefs or lack thereof, and we all think the hoopla over the "C" word is insane.

The majority of my friends are American. We celebrate American holidays, and we celebrate them without insisting that everyone else who calls our country "home" do the same. I'm still going to call Easter "Easter," Independence Day "Independence Day," Halloween, "Halloween," Thanksgiving "Thanksgiving" and Christmas "Christmas."

Explain it to me, please: What's so wrong with saying "Merry Christmas" to people passing by? If someone wishes me "Happy Hanukah" or Happy Kwanzaa, I'm not offended at all. What is it we're constantly teaching – "Strength is Diversity?"

I mean, if you really want to get into it, why haven't we abolished Easter? How in the world do we manage to say, "Happy Easter" to people passing by without someone throwing melted chocolate on us, screaming, "Bunny killers!"

Right now, I can envision you as you're reading this: Half of you are shaking your head and mutter-

Start spreading Christmas cheer early by ... (wishing) friends, family and coworkers a "Merry Christmas."

ing to yourself about how insensitive I am to even suggest such a thing as saying "Merry Christmas," while the other half of you are choking on your coffee and thinking, "You know, she's got a point."

And another thing: Why is it only the time between Nov. 1 and Jan. 2 that's referred to as "The Holiday Season" (Has anybody checked with the capitalization police on that yet?)? Shouldn't the entire year be "The Holiday Season" with possible reprieves given in June and August? (I'm pretty sure those are the only two non-holiday months, but I could be wrong.)

I want to change my answer, BWnow. May I have a do-over?

BWnow question of the week: What's the first thing you or your family do to begin preparing for the holiday season?

My response: Start spreading Christmas cheer early by reminding myself that, as an American, it is perfectly acceptable (not mention protected by the First Amendment) to wish friends, family and coworkers a "Merry Christmas" ... and then start doing it!

Correction

A story in the Dec. 2 issue of the Herald Post incorrectly identified the unit of soldiers who assisted in a highway 'good Samaritan' act. The correct unit is 30th MEDCOM (deployment support). The Herald Post regrets the error.



www.facebook.com/BWnow
<http://myBWnow.ning.com>

DISCUSSION BOARD

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

Question: How do you plan to maintain your sanity during the busy and often chaotic holiday season? Tips?

I don't understand why people complain about hectic and stress during Christmas time. My holiday shopping is done, everything wrapped. I started cards in November and they are stamped and waiting for being thrown in the mailbox. Decoration was a

family effort, cookie baking I do every week 2 nights from now on.

– Bettina Corter, BWnow Facebook fan

Do my shopping early, utilize the gift wrapping service at the PX and give gift cards to family back home in the states!

– Saunya ODwyer, BWnow Facebook fan

I try to get to the stores downtown Heidelberg or

the PX as soon as they open at 10 a.m. on Saturdays – most people are still at home, getting out of bed or having breakfast. The stores are still quite empty that time of the day and shopping is easy. I ... make a shopping list for groceries, buying non-perishables now and the fresh produce/meat on the 23rd or 24th of December.

–Brigitte O'Preska, BWnow Facebook fan



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Submissions are welcome, including letters to the editor, but we reserve the right to edit for style, space, libel, clarity, security and good taste. To be considered for publication in a particular issue, they must be in our hands by noon the preceding Thursday.

National award recognizes Army family's service

One family's idea touches many

By Rick Scavetta
USAG KAISERSLAUTERN PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The first morning light creeps through Tawny Campbell's window as she turns her bedroom light on, keeping her eyes closed in prayer.

Her thoughts for the Almighty mesh into a silent conversation with her husband, Sgt. Joe Campbell, an Army flight medic serving in Afghanistan – his second combat tour. She clings to her necklace pendant – a Scottish thistle that reminds her of Joe and their traditional Scottish wedding 10 years earlier.

"Who can I serve today? How can I make a difference in someone's life? What can I do for you, Joe?" Tawny whispers. "Something to make it easier, something I can do here."

Her daughters, Ceilidha and Rhyndi, are waking up. She reminds them they are stuffing gift bags for deployed Soldiers with Project Rudolph – one of three charities that the Campbell family manages.

Operation Angel gifts bring cheer to the wounded, sick and injured troops at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Kaiserslautern.

Project Portrait offers military families portraits prior to deployments and baby photos for mothers who deliver while their spouse is deployed.

For their efforts, the National Military Family Association recently named the Campbell family as the Army Family of the Year. On Tuesday, they were stateside to accept the award. Even Joe got a break from his tour in Afghanistan to attend.

"We're just the figurehead of a larger group of people who support us and support Soldiers," Tawny said. "It's

not our name, it's our volunteering. For those who volunteer, this recognition is just as much for them as it for us."

The award program recognizes "strong military families who embrace their service to the nation, are role models in their community, and understand that together they are stronger," according to the association Web site.

A friend from Fort Benning, Ga., nominated the Campbells, whose commitment to serving the military goes back several years.

Joe and Tawny, both from small towns in Idaho, met in high school. In 2001, after the 9-11 terrorist attacks, Joe's National Guard unit was protecting a Utah chemical depot.

That Christmas, while Joe voluntarily took guard duty for a friend, a first sergeant in a Santa suit delivered Joe his first Red Cross package. Inside was a letter from a boy, Nathan, thanking him for serving.

"Joe kept that letter. It meant a lot to him," Tawny said. "We know the power of a hand-written letter at Christmas."

By 2006, Joe was on active duty in Landstuhl. It was their first Christmas overseas, away from family, Tawny said.

One early winter afternoon, while driving past the Burger King on Ramstein Air Base, the spirit of giving crept into their car. Tawny blurted out an idea.

"Let's hand out gift bags at the air terminal," she said.

"How will we do that?" Joe asked, shooting her a puzzled look.

"We'll figure it out," she said.

That year they passed out a hundred bags to troops at the Ramstein passenger terminal. Now, Project Rudolph is a full-scale operation, with the power of family bridging the Atlantic to support the effort.

Tawny's brother Ian, back home in Idaho, made it his Eagle Scout project. Her parents, Ray and Cheri Ar-



Rick Scavetta

Tawny Campbell and her daughters, Ceilidha and Rhyndi, stuff gift bags for deployed Soldiers with Project Rudolph – one of three charities that the Campbell family manages. Tawny's husband, Sgt. Joe Campbell, is an Army flight medic serving in Afghanistan. For their efforts, the National Military Family Association recently named the Campbell family as the Army Family of the Year.

chibald, now run the state-side operation.

This year, her parents will oversee the preparation of 7,000 bags for troops.

Even while deployed, Joe helps to pass out bags in Afghanistan as he did during a previous 15-month tour in Iraq.

Days are often very busy for Soldiers serving with Company C, 1st Battalion, 214th Aviation Regiment, a U.S. Army helicopter unit that provides medical evacuation for coalition forces.

Joe's mornings also begin in prayer. He'll look over scriptures while snacking from a care package Tawny sent.

One morning, Joe's stocking medical supplies. On another, he's helping to rescue wounded comrades from the battlefield. To troops, the Joe's unit is known as "Dustoff" – a nickname that goes back to the early days of Vietnam.

When medical evacuations missions arise, rotors on the UH-60 Blackhawk pound through the air with an urgency that can mean life or death.

On one recent mission, Joe's crew was off to Marjah, where patrolling Marines came across a young boy injured in a motorcycle accident. Joe helped open the boy's airway while en route in a helicopter to the hospital.

After quick re-supply, his air ambulance was once again aloft – back to Marjah to pick up an Afghan inter-

"Who can I serve today? How can I make a difference in someone's life? What can I do for you, Joe? Something to make it easier, something I can do here."

–Tawny Campbell, Army Family of the Year

preter with an infected gunshot wound.

Three thousand miles away, back at the Ramstein Air Base food court, Tawny oversees volunteers stuffing Project Rudolph gift bags. Nearby, kids color Christmas scenes onto brown lunch bags.

Each decorated bag then gets a handwritten note, a little bit of candy and a handmade ornament. When the bag-stuffing morning is over, 700 bags are ready to ship.

By Christmas, 15,000 bags will be in the hands of troops as far away as Kyrgyzstan. Others will go to military bases in Kuwait, Iraq, Djibouti, Diego Garcia, Kosovo and Afghanistan.

As Project Rudolph gift bags make their way to deployed troops, Operation Angel gifts bring cheer to the wounded, sick and injured undergoing treatment in Landstuhl.

More than once, Tawny and her daughters met someone who was evacuated from an Afghan battlefield by Sgt. Joe Campbell.

"It shows the power of a family," Tawny said. "He helps to heal them, physically. We help by healing their hearts. He gives them bandages. We give them smiles."

In September, Ceilidha spent time cheering up a Soldier who was shot in Iraq. Afterward, he gave Ceilidha his Purple Heart medal. Tawny insisted he take it back.

"No, it's just a medal," the Soldier told Tawny. "Every time I close my eyes I think about being shot. I spent a time with you and your daughter and I haven't thought about it once. That means more."

Interactions like that motivate Tawny and her girls to continue.

Ceilidha might break out a deck of cards or read from her favorite book, Shel Silverstein's "Where The Sidewalk Ends."

A Marine once gave her his rank, but she's glad to just see troops smile, she said.

"I like to do service," Ceilidha said. "It gives me a warm feeling inside."

Raised among charity projects, the girls don't know the holidays any other way, a fact that Tawny loves.

Christmas is spent at the hospital, visiting patients. So is every Thanksgiving, Easter and Veterans Day, Tawny said.

"As a family, you can go out and do these things," Tawny said. "Serve as a family."

Vehicle inspections consolidate on Spinelli Jan. 18

Staff Report

A new, consolidated vehicle inspection station for the Heidelberg and Mannheim communities will open for business on Spinelli Barracks in Mannheim Jan. 18.

The new station will replace the vehicle inspection stations at Heidelberg's DPW compound and Taylor Barracks in Mannheim at which time

those operations will cease.

The Spinelli Barracks operation will be the single-service location for all customers requiring vehicle inspections in Heidelberg and Mannheim.

Also, as of Dec 18 Spinelli Barracks will be the only remaining location in the Heidelberg and Mannheim communities to ship and to receive vehicles.

Spinelli Barracks has been identified

a long-term consolidation location for U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg services during the drawdown process.

For minimal disruption to service for USAG BW customers, the consolidation will take place Jan. 14-17, a four-day weekend.

The GPS address for Spinelli is: Spinelli Barracks 1587, 68259 Mannheim-Freudenheim.

Soldiers work for German sports badge

By Spc. Alan Graziano
95TH MILITARY POLICE BATTALION

The event gave Soldiers the opportunity to earn the *Deutsches Leistungsabzeichen*, a badge worn on the German military uniform.

The event required the supervision of a host nation soldier to ensure that events were graded to the proper standard. German army Sgt. 1st Class Per Griebler from 3rd Company, 251st Feldjaegerbataillon, was there to make that happen.

This was not Griebler's first time assisting American Soldiers with earning their GAFEBs.

"I really love to do these events, and I think since 2005 when we did the first event, I have helped about 350 to 400 American Soldiers earn their GAFEB or *Schuetzenshnr*," Griebler said.

The first portion of the events was at the high school track in Benjamin Franklin Village. Soldiers participated in the 100-meter sprint, the 3,000-meter run, the long jump and stone throwing. Each event had a standard which had to be met or a medal would not be earned at the end of the day.

The test then moved on to the Lamerpertheim swimming pool where the requirement to swim 200 meters in less than six minutes proved a difficult task for untrained swimmers and forced some out of the competition.

Spc. Drake Bistrow from the 92nd MP Company went above and beyond by swimming the 1,000-meter event rather than the 200-meter and finished in 18 minutes and 56 seconds, well below the allotted time.

The final event was a 12-kilometer ruck march that Soldiers had to complete in less than two hours.



U.S. Army photo

Spc. Terry Gasser from the 529th Military Police Company, 95th MP Battalion, checks in at the halfway point of the 12-kilometer ruck march, an event of the German Armed Forces Efficiency Badge Nov. 24 in Mannheim.

In previous years, the ruck march varied in length from 12-30 kilometers. Receiving silver or bronze was based on how fast Soldiers completed their marches.

Today Soldiers can lower the total distance of the march and, by doing so, their medals are downgraded to silver or bronze. They receive silver for completing the 9-kilometer march and bronze for the 6-kilometer march.

But for this group, no one chose to strive for less than gold.

Pfc. Bryan Willis from the 230th MP Company finished the march in one hour and 15 minutes, well before his battle buddies.

Upon completion of the physical endurance events required for the GAFEB, one requirement remains to fulfill the criteria for the badge.

It is called the *Schuetzen-*

shnr, a weapons qualification event that can take a full day. Battalion Soldiers will complete that training another time. But many said they enjoyed the challenge.

"The swimming part had to be the hardest because we haven't done that, so it was something new. I liked it. I think we should actually put that into our PT program more often if we can," said Sgt. Joe Rodriguez from the 230th Military Police Company.

Earning the GAFEB is not a requirement for German soldiers. "No soldier must earn the GAFEB, but they must make an attempt. Everyone wants to wear the badge on their uniform jackets," Griebler said. In fact, German soldiers are not guaranteed to earn the GAFEB, even if they fulfill all of the physical and marksmanship requirements.

"The soldier's commander has to decide if the soldier's behavior is worth the decoration," says Griebler.

"Before I started doing this training with Americans, I only knew about them from TV and from vacations, like most Germans know about them," he said.

"Today, I think it's a good thing to get closer together, to learn from each other – not only as comrades, but also as friends. In the end we stand together in international missions like in Afghanistan or the Balkans. In my opinion, getting to know each other back home makes it easier to work together on a mission," Griebler added.

NOTE: Members of U.S. Army Europe Office of the Provost Marshal and members of the U.S. Army Garrison Mannheim are also in the process of earning their German sports badges.

transformation UPDATE

Frequently Asked Questions Have a transformation-related question you'd like answered?

E-mail usaghd.post@eur.army.mil. We'll find the answer for you and share it in the Herald Post and on the garrison's transformation Web page at www.bw.eur.army.mil/transformation.

Facilities Operations Changes

Self-Help and SORT Center – Plans are on schedule to open the Self-Help Center in Bldg. 804 and the SORT center in Bldgs. 804 and 806 on Funari Barracks in Mannheim Dec. 20. Operating hours will remain the same and no disruption in service is anticipated as a result of the move from the Taylor Barracks location. However, telephone numbers will change after Dec. 20. Until then, Self-Help DSN 381-7525, civ. 0621-730-7525; SORT DSN 381-7678, civ. 0621-730-7678.

Outdoor Recreation Phones – New DSN numbers for Outdoor Recreation are now operational following the move to Spinelli Barracks, Bldg. 1570 in Mannheim. They are DSN 384-6215 and 6232, fax 384-6707, civ. 0170 451-4102.

Mannheim and Heidelberg Thrift Shops – The Mannheim Thrift Shop will close April 15. Consignments will no longer be accepted after Jan. 15 and donations will no longer be accepted after March 31. The Heidelberg Thrift Shop is in Bldg. 4503 on Patrick Henry Village next to the movie theater. Its hours are 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 2-7 p.m. Thursdays and 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. every first and third Saturday. Civ. 06221-76-7991.

Legal Assistance – The Law Center on Sullivan Barracks, Bldg. 244 provides power of attorney and notary services on a walk-in basis 9-11:30 a.m. Monday-Friday. Legal assistance and claims assistance are provided by Heidelberg Legal Assistance on Patton Barracks DSN 373-5058, civ. 06221-17-5058. Trial Defense Services also is located in Heidelberg in Bldg. 107 on Patton Barracks. Its new DSN is 373-5350.

Polizei Station-Mannheim - The Polizei Station co-located with the Mannheim Military Police Station on Sullivan Barracks is open 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday-Friday, DSN 385-2550, civ. 0621-738616. If polizei assistance is needed during afternoon duty hours, contact the Mannheim-Vogelstang station, Geraer Ring 6, 68309 Mannheim, civ. 0621-1289788. For assistance outside regular duty hours, please contact the Mannheim-Käferfart precinct at 0621-718490. In case of an emergency, dial 110.

www.bw.eur.army.mil/transformation

Get 24/7 talk radio with AFN decoder

AFN Public Affairs

Christmas came early for talk radio fans: AFN PowerTalk, a 24/7 political talk show service now features back-to-back three-hour shows by Rush Limbaugh, Ed Schultz and others on channel 43 of the AFN decoder.

"This service is great news for the talk fans who have contacted us and asked for all three hours of their favorite show – not just the one hour we air on Power Network radio," said Armed Forces Network Europe Commander Col. Bill Bigelow.

Political talk radio is the fastest growing stateside radio format. AFN PowerTalk gives listeners the top-rated conservative and progressive programs from Talkers Magazine and Arbitron audience ratings, the industry's recognized authorities on U.S. radio trends and ratings.

In addition to Limbaugh and Schultz, the channel features shows from syndicated talk show hosts Sean Hannity, Thom Hartmann, Sean Hannity, Bev Smith, Glenn Beck, Bill Press, Mike Gallagher and others.

Schedule:

Monday

- 10 a.m. Best of Bill Press
- 1 p.m. Mike Gallagher
- 4 p.m. Mike Malloy
- 7 p.m. Rush Limbaugh
- 10 p.m. Ed Schultz
- 1 a.m. Sean Hannity
- 4 a.m. Thom Hartmann
- 7 a.m. Rush Limbaugh

Tuesday-Friday

- 10 a.m. Ed Schultz
- 1 p.m. Sean Hannity
- 4 p.m. Thom Hartmann
- 7 p.m. Rush Limbaugh
- 10 p.m. Ed Schultz
- 1 a.m. Sean Hannity
- 4 a.m. Thom Hartmann
- 7 a.m. Rush Limbaugh

Saturday

- 10 a.m. Ed Schultz
- 1 p.m. Sean Hannity
- 4 p.m. Thom Hartmann
- 7 p.m. Glenn Beck
- 10 p.m. Stephanie Miller
- 1 a.m. Michael Savage
- 4 a.m. Bev Smith
- 7 a.m. Laura Ingraham

Sunday

- 10 a.m. Randi Rhodes
- 1 p.m. Mark Levin
- 4 p.m. Alan Colmes
- 7 p.m. Lou Dobbs Weekends
- 9 p.m. Best of Joe Madison
- 12 a.m. Best of Neal Boortz
- 3 a.m. Leslie Marshall
- 6 a.m. Jerry Doyle

Faces of the community: Family Child Care Providers



Dijon Rolle

Nikki Shields, Family Child Care provider, helps children enrolled in her day care create three-dimensional footballs during activity time at her home on Patrick Henry Village in Heidelberg Monday. Shields offers hourly, full-time and before and after day care. The FCC Program is a home-away-from-home child care option. Care is provided in by authorized military family members. FCC Providers receive CYS Services extensive training and then create a developmentally appropriate environment following DOD regulations and Creative Curriculum guidelines. Homes are inspected by fire, health, and safety officials to. Providers and all family members 12 years and older must pass a background check. Homes that meet all standards are certified by the Installation Commander. Providers receive ongoing support from the FCC Director and the FCC training and curriculum specialist. FCC homes provide flexible hours and comfortable family settings. Many offer full-day, part-day, and hourly care. Special services may include 24-hour and long-term care during training exercises, evening and weekend care, care for newborns, children with special needs and those who are mildly ill. For Heidelberg information, call DSN 388-9378, civ. 06221-338-9378. In Mannheim, DSN 380-9668, civ. 0621-730-9668.

Hourly care offered for parents

Staff Report

Parents who need child care intermittently – for example to attend a function, go to the doctor or to get some Christmas shopping done – have the option of hourly care.

Hourly care is available at the Child Development Centers at Patrick Henry Village and Mark Twain Village, the School Age Center, Family Child Care providers and Parent Services through the teen babysitting and parents' night out/day out programs.

The PHV CDC recently moved its hourly care room to a more spacious room so that hourly care slots could increase as well as the number of hours available for hourly care during the day.

"We have not increased spaces because we don't have the staff yet," said Micah Fields, PHV CDC Director.

"We're in the process of hiring so

there will be more access to hourly care," he said.

The centers must abide by correct adult-child ratios and that varies.

For every adult care provider, there can be four infants, or five pre-toddlers, or seven toddlers or 10 preschoolers.

The hourly care room takes reservations for infants and pre-toddlers and the CDC is required to staff according to the youngest age group.

"So, it depends on who calls in first," Fields said. "We have to staff according to the youngest age ratio group."

The current reservation policy also allows parents to reserve spaces 30 days in advance.

"This is a popular option for families who like to plan in advance, but it also limits the number of spaces available to community members who are more spur of the moment

planners," said Sandra Hill, Chief of Child, Youth and School Services.

The PHV CDC hourly program also supports incoming soldiers and family members during their community orientations and inprocessing appointments.

The School Age Center offers hourly care from 3-6 p.m. on school days and 8 a.m.-4 p.m. on school-out days. FCC providers also offer hourly care depending upon their enrollment and operating hours.

A list of hourly care available in FCC homes is maintained by Parent Central Services, the Child Development Centers and the FCC office.

Parent Central Services also keeps a list of teenage babysitters who have completed babysitting training.

In addition, Parent Central Services offers hourly care on the first and third Friday nights of the month and during the day on Saturday.

AFN releases free mobile application

AFN Public Affairs

AFN Europe has a free mobile application that lets you quickly and easily find what's scheduled on AFN TV and watch AFN TV stories on your smart phone or other mobile device.

"We developed this app to better serve our customers. Now folks can access the information about currency rates, gas prices, radio frequency, TV schedules, and events in the community both at home and on the go," said AFN Europe Commander Col. Bill Bigelow.

AFN Europe released the app with no advance publicity and more than 600 people downloaded it in two weeks. The app rolls up some of the most popular parts of www.afneurope.net into a mobile experience so updates instantly reflect within the app. You can listen to AFN OpenLine radio shows live on the app.

The app also includes a feature called "Pics 'n Flix" which gives users the ability to submit story ideas, photos and videos to AFN Europe. Select submissions will be used on AFN Europe's Facebook page and may be featured on AFN TV.

The iPhone/iPod/iPad version of the application is available via iTunes. The Android version is available in the Android Market.

For users of Windows Phone or modern Blackberry devices, you can access a web browser-enabled version of the app by going to <http://afneurope.mln-wap.com>.



Sgt. Adrienne Killingsworth

Soldiers with the 18th Military Police Brigade watch as their instructor demonstrates proper seat and hand position during an Allgemeiner Deutscher Automobil-Club driver safety course at Hockenheimring race track in Hockenheim, Germany, Nov. 21. The brigade participates in three courses per quarter in an effort to keep MP Soldiers safe on the road while conducting patrols.

Soldiers drive patrol cars at Hockenheim race track

By Sgt. Adrienne Killingsworth
18TH MP BRIGADE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A patrol car speeds down a wet road when suddenly the car lurches to the side. Tires squeal. The driver slams on the brakes.

It's a scene that plays over and over again. Fortunately, the scenario is a controlled event on the Hockenheimring race track in Hockenheim, Germany, and part of the Allgemeiner Deutscher Automobil-Club driver safety course there.

Twelve Soldiers from the 18th Military Police Brigade who drove patrol cars on the course there Nov. 21 were selected by their leadership to attend to enhance their driving skills.

Testing and training included a slalom course, braking, circular track, downhill course and skidpan on wet and dry roads.

Robert Myrick, brigade safety officer, said putting drivers in controlled, hazardous situations is an eye-opener.

"I think what the course does is it makes them aware of all the things that could possibly happen while they're op-

erating a patrol car," Myrick said.

For instance, when Soldiers on the course hit the skidpan – a hydraulically operated plate that shifts the rear of the vehicle and makes it skid – they learn to get their car back on course. Soldiers attending the course had all been involved in previous accidents, so building confidence behind the wheel benefits the Soldiers, Myrick said.

"In an emergency situation, it is important that you think in (terms of) solutions and not problems," said Paul Muk, an instructor for the ADAC course. Pfc. Jessenia McElroy, an MP Soldier with the 529th MP Company, said she gained information that will help her in the future, but also a perspective that helped her understand past events.

"I was in a prior accident and (during the course) I got to experience what I did wrong, and I learned what I could have done better to prevent it," McElroy said.

Soldiers drove older and newer patrol vehicles, drove at increasing speeds, and under various conditions giving them an appreciation for the many variables

they may face in the future. With the amount of hours MPs spend on the road every day as a part of their community law enforcement mission, making sure Soldiers stay vigilant while driving is part of keeping the roads safe.

Col. Thomas Evans, the commander of the 18th MP Brigade, has invested in the program since August 2009 to keep MP Soldiers safer on the roads and reduce the amount of damage to government vehicles.

While not every Soldier in the brigade will have a chance to attend the driver safety course, there is increased interest from Soldiers to get the opportunity to improve their abilities.

"I think the word is getting out that there's training going on, and a lot of people want to go out and enhance their skills," Myrick said.

The ADAC driving safety center offers 42 training courses, ranging from basic training for motorcyclists to safety training for bus and truck drivers and premium training for car drivers. For information visit www.hockenheimring.net/en/driving-security-center.

IN MEMORIAM

Retired Lt. Col. Michael B. Farmer, 70, the U.S. Army-Europe Family and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation executive officer from January 1988 through December 2009, died Nov. 26 in Heidelberg.

He is survived by his wife Dagmar of Leimen, Germany, and son Michael S. Farmer of Cedar Hill, Texas.

Farmer graduated in 1962 from Bowdoin College with a bachelor's degree in physics and earned his master's in science from the University of Texas. Farmer served in the military as a Field Artillery Officer in Vietnam and as a member of a select task force to enhance the responsiveness of the military Health Hazard Assessment. His awards include the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal with one Oak Leaf cluster, Army Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Overseas Service Medal (two tours), Army Service Ribbon, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Silver Star and Parachute Badge.

Originally hired as a management analyst for Family and MWR, he was quickly promoted to the position of executive officer. Upon his retirement, he was awarded the Meritorious Civilian Service Award.

Services will be held today at 1 p.m. in the Mark Twain Village Chapel.

Sergeants major set performance goals

USAREUR Public Affairs

As part of the Comprehensive Soldier Fitness program, more than 20 US Army Europe senior leaders received a one-day goal setting class from a team out of West Point Dec. 1 at the Patrick Henry Village Pavilion in Heidelberg.

"What we provided was a tool called goal setting, which is really a tool designed to raise the bar on Soldier performance in pursuit of excellence," said Lt. Col. Greg Burbelo, director of the Army Center for Enhanced Performance. "The objective ... is really to get Soldiers to dream big, think big and have a plan to pursue goals to achieve excellence."

The sergeants major were given goal books and asked to set goals for themselves, so they would know exactly how the process works.

"USAREUR has taken it one step further by creating and modifying their goal books so that they can implement to all Soldiers across USAREUR," Burbelo said.

There were many ideas but one method was agreed upon by all – counseling.

"I think that we would be able to include goal setting into the counseling sessions given every month by our non-commissioned officers and leaders," said Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Sheward, V Corps Special Troops Battalion. "Goal setting is a great addition to the CSF training that is already out there in the Army. It will definitely benefit both leaders and Soldiers."

Staff Sgt. David Harp prepares paratroopers with the 1st Brigade Combat Team to jump from a UH-60M Black Hawk helicopter on Fort Bragg, N.C., Nov. 29. Harp, the noncommissioned officer in charge of airborne operations, is assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division's 2nd Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team.



Sgt. Michael J. MacLeod

2nd Lt. Joseph Marshall, a native of Boyers, Pa., and the 2nd platoon leader with 1st Battalion, 68th Armored Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, enjoys a moment of laughter with Iraqi children from Al Fatih Al Mubien Primary School in Al Zhamar District, Basra, as part of the Iraqi Army's civic action project. The civil military mission advises and assists the U.S. Division-South Soldiers for the IA in establishing community relationships with its people.



U.S. Army Photo

1st Lt. Raymond Gobberg (center), the information operations officer for the Zabul Provincial Reconstruction Team, talks with a village elder during a canal site survey near Highway 1 in the Zabul province of Afghanistan Nov. 27. During the visit the team discussed problems facing the village and how the local government receives information.



Sgt. Joel Salgado

Staff Sgt. Kenderick Shunke with U.S. Army Europe's 172nd Infantry Brigade (right) consults a map with instructor Cpl. Miha Rakar during mountain warfare training at the Slovenian armed forces Mountain Training Center Dec. 3. Soldiers from the 172nd are training alongside their Slovenian partners to prepare for the difficulties faced during mountain operations.

ourARMY
around the world

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MAIL

continued from page 1

"It was the first thing we had to eat and it was amazing. We also had some German Christmas cookies that were pretty good too," she said.

After a quick tour and a round of in-processing, the group was broken down and dispatched to postal facilities throughout Mannheim and Heidelberg to train for the next 14 days on sorting mail, processing packages and running a mailroom.

Ortega along with two other Soldiers – Spc Veronica Rodriguez and Spc Eric Colio are training at Community Mail Room 419 on Patton Barracks.

"We don't really get to do a lot of postal operations when we drill," Rodriguez said. "So this is kind of like an opportunity for us to have some hands on experience which is what our job is supposed to be about. This is what is going to prepare us for when we deploy and we're learning a lot already. Everyone has been really polite and helpful."

Colio, an Iraq war veteran, knows firsthand just how important this training is. "Mail is a huge morale booster for Soldiers especially during

the holidays when they're overseas and serving away from their families and we realize that," he added. "It's a big job and we're just glad to be here to help get it done."

The trio will be supervised by John Harris, wage leader and lead clerk at CMR 419. "I try to rotate them around so that they have a true experience of what it's like to work in a mail room and get the full experience," Harris said. "The last unit that we had here did a great job and we want to make sure this group is able to get as much training in as possible."

The timing of the reservist's arrival couldn't have come at a better time either. Their training also coincided with the huge holiday mail rush. Garrison postal officials said they welcome the extra hands to help expedite the many pounds of packages, letters and cards flowing into community mail rooms.

"They have been a great help this time of year because with the additional man power we are able to get things done faster and that cuts down on some of the overtime that would be required for our normal employ-



Dijon Rolle

Army reservist Spc. Veronica Rodriguez from the 367th Human Resources Company out of Los Angeles sorts, stacks and processes holiday packages at Community Mail Room 419 on Patton Barracks in Heidelberg Tuesday. Members of the unit are deployed to Germany to conduct annual training in postal operations.

ees," said James Harris, Heidelberg post master. "They're a great help to our organization and we really appreciate the opportunity to help get them trained up."

The 376th also deployed personnel to Korea, Italy and Japan to con-

duct annual training at postal facilities there.

The reservists are scheduled to return to California Dec. 21. Another rotation of Soldiers (from a different reserve unit) is expected to arrive in January.

RABBITS

continued from page 1

property damage but is unhealthy for the rabbits. One disease noticed in PHV rabbits is a virus known as myxomatosis that causes eye swelling and blindness among rabbits and leads to death. The disease is not transmittable to humans or animals but

is contagious among rabbits.

The rabbit hunts are required to decrease the number of rabbits on PHV and ensure a healthy rabbit population.

The hunting will be conducted by hunters licensed by the German government and given specific authorization to perform rabbit control hunts

on PHV.

At noon on Dec. 13, an inspection and test hunt will be conducted with local hunters and German Forestry officials. The hunters will be moving through the area on Mondays and Fridays from 7 to 10:30 a.m. until Jan. 7.

Days and times for hunts Jan. 8 through Feb. 28 will be

determined by late December.

Strict procedures are in place to ensure the safety of PHV residents. Only three will be hunting at any time, and they can be identified by their orange hunting jackets and orange vests.

They will be accompanied by a hunting supervisor. Hunters will use 22 caliber ri-

fles. Residents may hear some noise, similar to firecrackers popping, when the hunters shoot.

Residents who have questions or concerns should contact the Heidelberg Outdoor Recreation and Rod and Gun Chief Dave Oakland at DSN 388-9282, civ. 06221-338-9282.

German, military police partner for annual shooting match

A German Police shooting instructor oversees Army Spc. Ray Engstrom shooting a Walther pistol.

Soldiers from U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern were among teams competing during an international shooting competition held recently by German police.

Twenty teams took part in the Nov. 17 event held at the German police academy's new indoor shooting range, just east of Kaiserslautern in Enkenbach-Alsenborn, Germany.

In addition to the Army team, three U.S. Air Force teams from Ramstein also took part. The daylong event included time for contestants to talk over lunch and during breakout sessions.

The annual competition has been held regularly for more than 30 years, said Harald Jung, the German Police Academy public affairs officer. In addition to the American military, teams came from police units throughout Germany's Pfalz region, France, Belgium and the Netherlands.



Rick Scavetta

Feeling the Christmas spirit



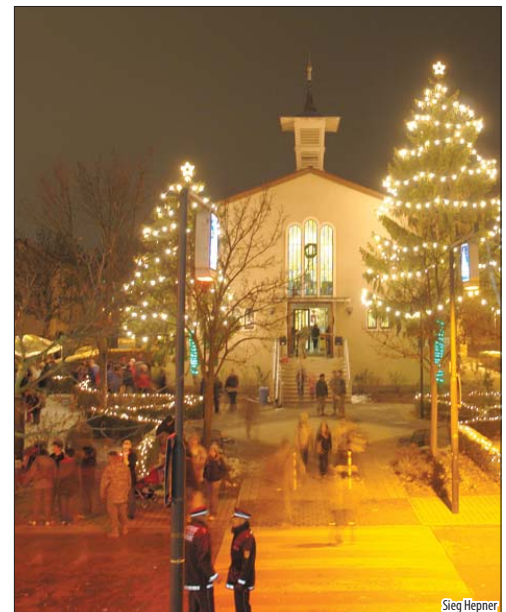
Sieg Heppner



Linda Steil



Linda Steil



Sieg Heppner

Tree lightings ring in the holidays

Staff Report

The cold temperatures came just in time for Mannheim's Christmas tree lighting ceremony Dec. 1 and Heidelberg's Holiday Magic event Friday.

The garrisons drew together in large numbers for the events that mark the start of the holiday season for the military communities. Laughter and the sounds of Christmas carols filled the air along with the smell of glühwein and apple cider.

Mannheim Director of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation employee Christopher Clements had mixed feelings. "It's a magical night, but it's also a bittersweet moment – knowing that this is the last time we'll gather like this under the U.S. Army Garrison Mannheim flag,"

said the 20-plus year employee

"Families need to know that even though our Mannheim garrison will inactivate, USAG Baden-Württemberg stands ready to continue installation services and support," stated Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Elizabeth Ryan Griffin. "Six months will go by far more quickly than any of us can imagine. Our priority is to optimize the effectiveness of our remaining workforce in an effort to minimize the stress and uncertainty a transition of this nature brings."

Many organizations contributed to the success of the programs, including Heidelberg's Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers 12 volunteers who made more than 30 gingerbread houses with children.

NOTE: Jacqui Haggerty contributed to this report.

Photo top left, Mannheim youth from the School Age Center and the Child Development Center sing "Oh, Christmas Tree" on the steps of the Benjamin Franklin Village Chapel Dec. 1 in Mannheim. Photo top right, a child decorates cookies at Heidelberg's Holiday Magic celebration Friday at Patrick Henry Village while children, bottom left photo, from the Patrick Henry Village Child Development Center Strong Beginnings program sing for holiday revelers. Bottom right, the trees that frame the BfV chapel are lit for the garrison's tree-lighting ceremony.

GERMAN NEWS

Germany Stops Waste Shipment

On Monday German officials called off hotly-disputed plans to ship radioactive nuclear waste to Russia as it doubted the cargo would be disposed of safely, a spokeswoman for the Environment Ministry said. Germany's nuclear watchdog approved in September the shipment of 951 spent fuel elements originating from a research center in ex-communist East Germany to the Mayak nuclear facility 2,000 kilometres (1,200 miles) east of Moscow. But Environment Minister Norbert Röttgen said Monday he had ordered the federal exports office to withhold its authorization.

Bundeswehr Face Backlash

A new poll revealed that Germany and its soldiers are disliked by Afghans more than ever before with almost 40 percent of respondents living near Bundeswehr bases favoring attacks on its troops. Nine years after the international deployment in Afghanistan began, approval of the German military has reached an all-time low. Things are particularly bad in the northern Kunduz province, according to the annual poll conducted by German broadcaster ARD along with the BBC, U.S. station ABC and daily newspaper The Washington Post. Overall, two-thirds of the Afghan participants had a negative opinion of NATO troops. But at 39 percent, the number who approved of attacks on troops in the northern regions overseen by the Germans was well above the national average of 27 percent.

German Schools See Improvement

Germany's school standards have improved slightly after a dismal performance a decade ago but are still mediocre when compared with other developed countries, the latest PISA international tests showed Tuesday. While German students' scores for maths and sciences were slightly above the average for OECD countries, they still lagged behind the world's top performers in Finland and South Korea, who tested one to two grade levels ahead. Germany did have the dubious honor of scoring high on inequality – with opportunities between native-born children and those from immigrant families sharply divided.

SOURCE: www.thelocal.de



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,

I just read one of your archived columns on the Internet. This article hit so close to home that I almost started crying. My husband, too, is a workaholic and 100 percent a Soldier. He has made many promises to me and broken them.

When I remind him later he can't even remember what we discussed. I'm talking about life changing promises that deal with the direction of our lives and our relationship. We are in our 20th year of marriage, and we married right after he graduated basic training. I'm at the point now where I have so much resentment and disappointment I feel I'm just in this marriage for our two children. For years I've asked him to go to marriage counseling and there was always an excuse. Recently I told him I wanted to separate – now he wants to try counseling.

I feel it's too little, too late. My

friends and family tell me he is a great guy and good provider and that I'd be making a mistake to divorce. But, I'm unhappy. Any advice would be greatly appreciated.

Dear Unhappy,

Hopefully it was a wake-up call when you asked him for a separation. Try marital counseling before you seek a separation or divorce. You have been married 20 years, so there must be a measure of love you still have for your husband.

A good therapist should offer insight, support and advice. Hopefully, you can find your way "back to love" and find a way "to be in love" with your husband again.

My first suggestion is: Go back 20 plus years and remember when you first met him. Try to remember what he did, what he said to you, his smile, your first conversations with each other about love and life together and the inevitable first kiss. LoL. Hopefully this will light the passion you once had for him.

Lastly, I want you to improve your self-worth and your self-esteem, too. We often get lost in our husband's careers, our children, our homes and we get lost in the rat race of life. Reclaim who you are in this process, too.

Even if you don't seek marital counseling, I still recommend you seek someone for individual support. It's important for you to have your own life. If you are already doing this, then I stand corrected. All marriages will have their ups and downs. I've witnessed people build strong marriages, and I know many who divorced and went their separate ways.

There are many danger signs that tell when a marriage is in trouble.

However, I'll add one to the list – a Ms. Vicki's tip: When a couple can no longer forgive, the marriage is over. Only you can answer that.

Dear Ms. Vicki,

I'm a 35 year old, Christian, single, master's educated (and, I believe, an attractive woman), without children. However, I desire to be married.

The only problem is I never meet men who have the same values as I do about pre-marital sex. I'm not a virgin, but I want to wait for total commitment this time. Additionally, I desire to meet a man who is saved, without a commitment phobia, who desires to be married and who wants to be a loving husband and father.

I would like to have a family (the clock is ticking away) but I want my offspring to have parents who are married to one another. What should I do? From: Wife Material

Dear Wife,

It appears you have a lot to offer. I would like to encourage you to be patient and don't get desperate to the point that you will accept anything. It doesn't sound like you are being too picky.

Conversely speaking, it appears that you are trying to uphold great standards. Don't get too caught up in the biological clock. I know many women and men who are finding true love and commitment after 35 and even in their 50s and 60s. Try not to size up every man you meet as "could this be my husband." Just strive to find true friendship that can grow into something more, because if you can't be friends you can't have a successful marriage.

Germany tightens laws defining winter tire requirements

By Robert Szostek
OPM PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A new law passed by the German parliament that more clearly defines the use of winter tires in Germany went into effect Nov. 29.

U.S. Army Europe Office of the Provost Marshal officials said the law now states that motor vehicles, including motorcycles and four-wheel-drive vehicles, must have clearly marked winter or all-season tires when there is black ice, snow, slush, ice or frost on German roads.

"A winter tire is any tire marked by the manufacturer with the snowflake logo or the letters "M and S" symbol which stands for mud and snow (*matsch und schnee*)," said Tom Lorenzini of USAREUR Vehicle Registry. Even all-season tires can have this M and S symbol, he added.

The German automobile club ADAC recommends tires bearing

the snowflake logo, also called the "three-mountain" logo, because those tires meet the highest standards for winter driving.

The minimum legal tire tread depth for Germany is 1.6 millimeters, although ADAC recommends 4 millimeters for winter driving. Other countries have more stringent requirements – Austrian law mandates 4 millimeters minimum tread depth for winter tires, and other European countries have distinct winter driving laws as well. OPM officials said drivers should check with local authorities before crossing borders.

In some areas of Germany snow chains may be required during winter, but only as directed by police or road signs.

The maximum speed limit while driving a vehicle with chains is 50 kilometers per hour.

While the law does not mandate calendar dates during which snow



Left, tires that bear this three-mountain logo meet the highest standards for winter driving. Right, the road sign indicates that snow chains are required.

tires are required, German drivers often use the helpful rule of thumb "von O bis O" – from October until Ostern (Easter).

Under new rules, fines have been doubled. Drivers caught using summer tires in ice, snow or slush will be fined €40 – up from €20 – and those who cause an accident or obstruct traffic because they used inappropriate tires during winter conditions will be slapped with an €80 fine – up from €40.

In addition, some insurance companies may deny coverage to motor-

ists driving with summer tires on wintery roads.

Safety experts warn, however, that winter tires are no magic potion and that drivers should always drive at reasonable speeds and keep a safe following distance from other vehicles.

Drivers unsure about winter tire requirements can contact their vehicle registration or safety office. Information is available at the USAREUR Registry of Motor Vehicles website at www.hqusareur.army.mil/rmv/default.htm.

GET OUT!

area events

More events online at <http://myBWNing.com>

December 9

The U.S. Army-Europe Band and Chorus – Enjoy the holiday season serenaded by the Army in Europe's band and chorus 7:30 p.m. in the Rhein-Neckar-Halle, Pestalozzistrasse 10 in Eppelheim 69214.

Star of Bethlehem – The Mannheim Planetarium presents "The Star of Bethlehem" in English at 4:30 p.m. Take a journey to ancient times in Bethlehem highlighting the different astronomical explanations of the Christmas star. The 45-minute show is suitable for children 10 and up and also shows 6 p.m. Dec. 28. Civ. 0621-41 56 92, www.planetarium-mannheim.de.

December 10

Disney's Beauty and the Beast – The Broadway musical featuring singing tea pots, swinging candle sticks, chomping wolves, a beautiful maiden and the Beast himself come to KMC Onstage Dec. 10-12 and 17-18 on Kleber Kaserne, Bldg. 3232. Performances are 7:30 p.m. Dec. 10, 11, 17 and 18 and 3 p.m. Dec. 12. Tickets must be picked up at the theater or the One Stop Shop in the Kaiserslautern Library on Landstuhl Post.

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe – C.S. Lewis' beloved and magical "Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" will be presented at the Roadside Theater on Patton Barracks at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 10, 11, 17, 18 and Jan. 7, 8, 14, 15, 21 and 22 and special family matinees at 3 p.m. Dec. 12, 19 and Jan. 9. Tickets: www.roadsideheater.com.

December 11

Handel's Messiah – The Heidelberg Community Chapel Chorus performs Handel's Messiah 7 p.m. in the Mark Twain Village Chapel. Civ. 06221-301269.

Bachata Dance Competition – Bachata is a form of music and dance that originated in the countryside and rural neighborhoods of the Dominican Republic. Similar to the Salsa, this dance competition is sure to mesmerize and captivate 9 p.m.-2 a.m. at Armstrong's Club on Vogelweh Housing. Civ. 0631-354-9986, www.mwrgermany.com.

Bastogne Walk – Support the organizations that provide assistance to veterans by participating in the Bastogne historic walk of 6, 12, 20 or 30 kilometers. Departures take place 8-9:30 a.m. Register and pay on-site 7-9:30 a.m. DSN 361-5419, civ. 068-275-106, www.bastognehistoricwalk.com. Kaiserslautern Outdoor Recreation also goes to Bastogne. DSN 493-4117, civ. 0631-3406-4117, www.mwrgermany.com.

Shop in the Czech Republic – Travel to Cheb and Karlovy Vary with Kaiserslautern Outdoor Recreation. DSN 493-4117, civ. 0631-3406-4117, www.mwrgermany.com.

December 12

U.S. Army-Europe Band – The U.S. Army Europe Band and Chorus performs at 6 p.m. at the Kongresshaus Stadthalle, Unterer Neckarstrasse in Heidelberg 69117.

French Christmas Market – Travel to Luxembourg to see how the French do Christmas markets with Heidelberg Outdoor Recreation. DSN 388-9282, civ. 06221-338-9282, www.mwrgermany.com.

December 13

The U.S. Army-Europe Band and Chorus – There's still a chance to see the amazing collection of talent in the U.S. Army Band and Chorus at 8 p.m. at the Kongresszentrum Stadthalle on Ettlinger Strasse in Karlsruhe 76137.

December 15

Cheap Eats – Learn how to cook food that warms the soul, like chicken, steak, collard greens and mac and cheese at the Warrior Zone on Patton Barracks 6-8:30 p.m. DSN 373-5275, www.mwrgermany.com.

December 17

Salzburg Weekend – Heidelberg Outdoor Recreation takes a trip to spend Silent Nights in Salzburg, Austria, Dec. 17-18. DSN 388-9282, civ. 06221-338-9282, www.mwrgermany.com.

December 18

Ski St. Moritz – Escape to St. Moritz for a ski and snowboard adventure Dec. 18-19 with Heidelberg Outdoor Recreation DSN 373-7889, civ. 06221-17-7889.

Paris for a Day – Zoom from Kaiserslautern to Paris in two hours and 28 minutes at speeds of up to 320 kilometers (200 mph) for a day in Paris with the USO. Travel lightly, backpacks are recommended as lockers are not always available. Be prepared to walk and ride the Metro. This tour is not recommended for small children. Bring passports. The tour meets at Kaiserslautern Hauptbahnhof main lobby at 6:45 a.m. <http://affiliates.uso.org/Kaiserslautern>.

The U.S. Army-Europe Band and Chorus – The Army in Europe's band and chorus continues its holiday appearances at 7 p.m. at the Congress Centrum, Grosser Saal on Am Waisenhausplatz 1-3 in Pforzheim 75172.

December 22

The Nutcracker – Enjoy the beauty and magic of the holidays wrapped up in this timeless production 7:30 p.m. at the Mannheim Rosengarten. Tickets, civ. 0621-392-1710.

December 23

Christmas Ski Weekends – Spend Christmas skiing in Garmish or Interlocken, Switzerland, through Dec. 26 with Heidelberg Outdoor Recreation. DSN 388-9282, civ. 06221-338-9282, www.mwrgermany.com.

December 29

New Year's Eve Trips – Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers offers two chances to ring in the New Year in Europe. Travel to Paris and mention Heidelberg BOSS when you register. Tour includes breakfast at Hotel Kyriad plus sightseeing. Or, welcome the New Year at Berlin's Brandenburg Gate open air festivals. Register: 0173-313-2075.

December 30

Edge of Universe – The Mannheim Planetarium presents "Edge of the Universe" in English at 6 p.m. introducing the new satellite missions Planck and Herschel as well as the upcoming robot exploration of Mars. Civ. 0621-41 56 92, www.planetarium-mannheim.de.

January 9

Tango Passion – The tango company "Tango Pasión" is coming to Mannheim's Rosengarten at 7 p.m. Tickets: Civ. 0621-101011 or www.rheinneckarticket.de or www.bb-promotion.com or local ticket offices.

January 15

Art Exhibition – The Heidelberg Arts and Cultural Center hosts the art exhibition "Reflections of Generosity: Toward Restoration and Peace" 7 p.m. in the Patrick Henry Village Pavilion in Heidelberg featuring the works of over 50 Soldier and civilian artists from the Heidelberg, Kaiserslautern and Mannheim communities as well as from the United States and around the world. The artwork and performances reflect the spirit of ongoing generosity demonstrated by the military and honors the men and women who have sacrificed their lives as a result of ongoing conflicts.

Ongoing

Spice exhibition – Mannheim's Luisenpark is featuring an exhibition of spices around the world through Jan. 9 at the Pflanzenschauhaus. Visitors will enjoy the enticing smells of more than 60 herbs and spices and learn where the plants originated and how they are used for cooking or medicine. The regular entrance fee for the park applies and the exhibition is in German.

coming to THEATERS

THE TOURIST

(Johnny Depp, Angelina Jolie)
During an impromptu trip to Europe to mend a broken heart, Frank unexpectedly finds himself in a flirtatious encounter with Elise, an extraordinary woman who deliberately crosses his path. Against the breathtaking backdrop of Paris and Venice, they find themselves unwittingly thrust into a deadly game of cat and mouse. Rated PG-13 (violence and brief strong language) 98 minutes.



PLAYING THIS WEEK

Heidelberg, Patrick Henry Village

Dec. 9 - TANGLED (PG) 7 p.m.
Dec. 10 - THE TOURIST (PG-13) 7 p.m.; EASY A (PG-13) 9 p.m.
Dec. 11 - LEGEND OF THE GUARDIANS: THE OWLS OF GA'HOOLE (PG) 4 p.m., EASY A (PG-13) 7 p.m.; THE TOURIST (PG-13) 9 p.m.
Dec. 12 - LEGEND OF THE GUARDIANS: THE OWLS OF GA'HOOLE (PG) 4 p.m.; THE TOURIST (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Dec. 13 - EASY A (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Dec. 14 - THE TOURIST (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Dec. 15 - SNEAK PREVIEW (PG-13) 7 p.m. (Sneak previews are new to Heidelberg and are not yet available on DVD.)
Dec. 16 - LEGEND OF THE GUARDIANS: THE OWLS OF GA'HOOLE (PG) 7 p.m.

Mannheim, Schuh

Dec. 10 - TANGLED (PG) 7 p.m.
Dec. 11 - LEGEND OF THE GUARDIANS: THE OWLS OF GA'HOOLE (PG) 4 p.m., EASY A (PG-13) 7 p.m.; WALL STREET: MONEY NEVER SLEEPS (PG-13) 9 p.m.
Dec. 12 - TANGLED (PG) 4 p.m., EASY A (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Vogelweh, Galaxy

Dec. 10 - LEGEND OF THE GUARDIANS: THE OWLS OF GA'HOOLE (PG) 4 p.m.; EASY A (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Dec. 11 - TANGLED (PG) 4 p.m.; WALL STREET: MONEY NEVER SLEEPS (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Dec. 12 - TANGLED (PG) 4 p.m.; EASY A (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Ramstein, Gateway Movieplex

Dec. 9 - HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON (PG) 1 p.m., 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m.; THE TOWN (R) 11:15 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7:45 p.m.; YOU AGAIN (PG) 11:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 10 - THE TOURIST (PG-13) 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m.; LEGEND OF THE GUARDIANS: THE OWLS OF GA'HOOLE (PG) 11:30 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 9 p.m.; EASY A (PG-13) 11:15 a.m., 2:15 p.m., 5 p.m., 7:15 p.m., 9:30 p.m.; WALL STREET: MONEY NEVER SLEEPS (PG-13) 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m., 8 p.m.
Dec. 11 - THE TOURIST (PG-13) 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m.; LEGEND OF THE GUARDIANS: THE OWLS OF GA'HOOLE (PG) 11:30 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 9 p.m.; EASY A (PG-13) 11:15 a.m., 2:15 p.m., 5:15 p.m., 7:30 p.m.; WALL STREET: MONEY NEVER SLEEPS (PG-13) 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m., 8 p.m.
Dec. 12 - THE TOURIST (PG-13) 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 8:15 p.m.; LEGEND OF THE GUARDIANS: THE OWLS OF GA'HOOLE (PG) 11:30 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m.; EASY A (PG-13) 11:15 a.m., 2:15 p.m., 5:15 p.m., 7:30 p.m.; WALL STREET: MONEY NEVER SLEEPS (PG-13) 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m., 8 p.m.
Dec. 13 - THE TOURIST (PG-13) 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 8 p.m.; LEGEND OF THE GUARDIANS: THE OWLS OF GA'HOOLE (PG) 11:30 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m.; EASY A (PG-13) 11:15 a.m., 2:15 p.m., 5:15 p.m., 7:30 p.m.; WALL STREET: MONEY NEVER SLEEPS (PG-13) 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m., 8 p.m.
Dec. 14 - THE TOURIST (PG-13) 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 8 p.m.; LEGEND OF THE GUARDIANS: THE OWLS OF GA'HOOLE (PG) 11:30 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m.; EASY A (PG-13) 11:15 a.m., 2:15 p.m., 5:15 p.m., 7:30 p.m.; WALL STREET: MONEY NEVER SLEEPS (PG-13) 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m., 8 p.m.
Dec. 15 - THE TOURIST (PG-13) 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 8 p.m.; LEGEND OF THE GUARDIANS: THE OWLS OF GA'HOOLE (PG) 11:30 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m.; EASY A (PG-13) 11:15 a.m., 2:15 p.m., 5:15 p.m., 7:30 p.m.; WALL STREET: MONEY NEVER SLEEPS (PG-13) 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m., 8 p.m.
Dec. 16 - LEGEND OF THE GUARDIANS: THE OWLS OF GA'HOOLE (PG) 11:30 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m.; EASY A (PG-13) 11:15 a.m., 2:15 p.m., 5:15 p.m., 7:30 p.m.; WALL STREET: MONEY NEVER SLEEPS (PG-13) 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m., 8 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

community HIGHLIGHTS

Herald Post Holiday Break

Publication of the Herald Post ceases during the week of Christmas and New Years. There will be one more issue of the newspaper – Dec. 16 – before the end of the year. The first issue for 2011 will be Jan. 6.

Education Centers Closure

All Education Centers will be closed Dec. 23-24 and 30-31. The Patton Barracks and Landstuhl Education Centers are open 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Dec. 20-22 and 27-29. The Sullivan Barracks and Rhine Ordnance Barracks Education Centers will be open 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Dec. 20, 22, 27 and 29. and closed Dec. 22 and 28. DSN 493-2592, civ. 0621-3406-2592.

Call for Entries

The Arts and Cultural Center is putting on "The Reflections of Generosity Toward Restoration and Peace" art exhibition Jan. 15-30. Soldiers and civilians in the Heidelberg, Kaiserslautern and Mannheim communities are encouraged to participate in the exhibition by submitting their work. Featured prominently is the work of local artist Andrew Washington whose "Portrait of a Soldier" has been commissioned by West Point and will be presented for the first time at the Heidelberg exhibition. Interested artists must submit entry forms by Dec. 30. DSN 388-9418, civ. 06221-338-9418.

TRICARE

The hours of the TRICARE Service Center in the Heidelberg Health Center on Nachrichten Kaserne have changed to 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays and 8 a.m.-noon Wednesdays and Fridays.

Outdoor Water Faucets

Building coordinators and installations coordinators should check to see that all outdoor water faucets are turned off so they are not damaged by dropping temperatures. The Heidelberg Directorate of Public Works provides these instructions. Turn off the waterline valve in the basement storage room, opposite hose connection; open the valve outside and drain the line; close the outside valve, stop the water hose in basement. For questions, call DPW operation and maintenance, DSN 387-3194.

Legal Education Program

The Office of The Judge Advocate General is now accepting applications for the Army's Funded Legal Education Program to send active-duty officers to law school at the government's expense beginning in the fall of 2011. This program is open to second lieutenants through captains. Applicants must have at least two but not more than six years of service. www.hrc.army.mil.

local EMPLOYMENT

Instructors Needed

The Mannheim American Red Cross needs instructors for the "Together we can save a life" course. Contact the Red Cross on Sullivan Barracks, Bldg 242, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. DSN 385-1760, civ. 0621-730-1760.

Mystery Shopping Program

Work with BARE International to perform customer service reviews and become a paid mystery shopper. garrisonservices@bareinternational.com or www.mwrgermany.com.

KAISERSLAUTERN Community

♦ **Toy Shop 2010** – Donate a new, unwrapped toy to a child in the U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern. Army Community Service is accepting donations through Dec. 15 at Bldg. 2891 on Pulaski Barracks. DSN 493-4221, civ. 0631-3406-4221.

♦ **Kleber Health Clinic** – Ongoing renovations to the clinic will not reduce services at the Kleber clinic in Kaiserslautern. Until renovations are complete medical services will continue in Bldg. 3287a 6:30-7 a.m. for sick call, 7-8 a.m. for inprocessing, 7:30 a.m.-noon and 1 p.m.-4 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays and 7:30 a.m.-noon Fridays. DSN 483-1750, civ. 0631-411-1750.

♦ **Holiday Puppet Show** – Santa will visit the Kaiserslautern Library on Landstuhl Post 10 a.m.-noon Dec. 11. Children can also see a holiday puppet show with free crafts. DSN 486-7322, civ. 06371-86-7322. www.mwrgermany.com.

♦ **Volunteer Recognition** – Submit nominations for the Army Community Service Volunteer of the quarter by Dec. 13 to ACS, Bldg. 2891 on Pulaski Barracks. DSN 493-4232, civ. 0631-3406-4232.

♦ **Steve Martin's Comedy** – KMC Onstage on Kleber Kaserne will hold auditions 7 p.m. Dec. 14-15 for this witty and comical production. Casting calls for seven men and five women. KMConstage@eur.army.mil.

♦ **Free Movie** – The Kaiserslautern Library on Landstuhl Post will show the independent foreign film by Philippe Lioret "Welcome" in French, English and Kurdish with English subtitles 6 p.m. Dec. 16. DSN 486-7322, civ. 06371-86-7322. www.mwrgermany.com.

♦ **Santa Visit** – Santa visits the Kaiserslautern Community Activity Center 3-6 p.m. Dec. 17.

♦ **Armstrong's Club** – Bring your best vocals to Karaoke night at Armstrong's Club on Vogelweh Housing 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Dec. 17. Armstrong's also features Old School R&B 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Dec. 18. DSN 489-6000, civ. 0631-536-6000, www.mwrgermany.com.

♦ **Holiday Bingo** – Stop by the Kazabra Club on Vogelweh 3-6 p.m. Dec. 19 for holiday bingo and a visit from Santa himself. The early bird game begins at 2 p.m. and doors open at 1 p.m. DSN 489-7261, civ. 0631-536-7261.

HEIDELBERG Education

♦ **ACS Classes** – Financial Readiness Training, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Dec. 10; AFTB Level III, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Dec. 14-16; Time Management and Goal Setting, 1-3 p.m. Dec. 14; Effective Management of Volunteers, 10-11 a.m. Dec. 15; Setting Boundar-

ies, 10 a.m.-noon Dec. 16; Helping Children Manage Anger, 1-3 p.m. Dec. 16.

Community

♦ **Housing Office** – The Housing office will close at 11:30 a.m. Dec. 10.

♦ **Work Orders** – The Directorate of Public Works no longer accepts walk-in work requests. All requests will be accepted through phone calls, fax or Internet. www.bw.eur.army.mil under 'Public Works.' DSN 387-3240, civ. 6221-4380-3240.

♦ **Village Pavilion** – Have a Sunday Brunch with Santa 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Dec. 12 at the Patrick Henry Village Pavilion. DSN 388-9454.

♦ **Children's Pageant** – The Protestant children's Christmas pageant will be 10:15 a.m. Dec. 12 at the Patrick Henry Village Chapel.

♦ **IACS and Vehicle Registration** – The Installation Access Control office and Vehicle Registration office will close at 11 a.m. Dec. 15. In case of emergency, contact the Military Police Desk at DSN 388-2222, civ. 06221-678-2222.

♦ **Health Center Meal** – The dining facility at the Heidelberg Health Center will host staff appreciation holiday specialty meal 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Dec. 16.

♦ **Parent Support Group** – There will be a cloth diaper group meeting Dec. 16 and a breastfeeding support group meeting Dec. 22, both at 10 a.m. in the Yellow Ribbon Room in Bldg. 4531 on Patrick Henry Village. DSN 370-6883.

♦ **Civilian Personnel Closure** – The CPAC will be closed Dec. 17 in the afternoon. For emergencies, call civ. 0162-271-1649.

♦ **ACS Closure** – Army Community Service will close at noon Dec. 17.

♦ **Ivy and Ice Ball** – Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Mu Psi Omega Chapter and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Theta Theta Lambda Chapter will host their Ivy and Ice Christmas Ball 6 p.m. Dec. 18 at the Patrick Henry Village Pavilion. Civ. 06222-3071750.

♦ **Roadside Volunteers Needed** – The Roadside Theater needs building, painting and sewing help Tuesday-Friday afternoons to prepare for its next production. www.roadside-theater.com.

♦ **Pharmacy Hours** – The pharmacy inside the Heidelberg Health Center will have reduced holiday hours: 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Dec. 23, closed Dec. 24 and 25, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Dec. 30, closed Dec. 31 and Jan. 1.

♦ **Acute Care Clinic** – The Acute Care Clinic at the Heidelberg Health Center will have reduced hours 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Dec. 24 and will be closed Dec. 25. Normal hours, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., resume for the remainder of the holiday period.

♦ **Heidelberg Housing** – The housing office is open with limited service from 8-10:30 a.m. Dec. 31.

♦ **Legends New Year's Party** – Welcome the new year 8 p.m.-2 a.m. at Legends on Patrick Henry Village. DSN telephone: 388-9570.

♦ **Why Catholic?** – A presentation on Catholic beliefs and faith will take place 10 a.m. Jan. 6 in the Patrick Henry Village Chapel. DSN 370-8238, civ. 06221-57-8238.

♦ **Trash Pickup** – There will be no changes to the refuse collection during the holiday season. However, on Three Kings Day Jan. 6, trash pickup at Mark Twain Village moves to Jan. 7 and the Friday pickup on Patrick Henry Village moves to Jan. 8.

MANNHEIM Education

♦ **Suicide Intervention Class** – The 18th MP BDE is hosting two Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training workshops 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Dec. 13-14 and 16-17 at Bldg. 818, Funari Barracks for anyone who wants to feel more comfortable and competent in helping to prevent suicide. The workshop is open to any military or military affiliated personnel in the Mannheim community. Register: DSN 380-5577.

♦ **New Parent Support** – ACS holds a Bringing Home Baby class 5:30-8 p.m. Dec. 15 on Benjamin Franklin Village, Bldg. 251. DSN 385-2027, civ. 0621-730-2027.

♦ **American Red Cross** – Health and Safety Courses will be 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Jan. 8 for Adult, Child and Infant CPR, AED and First Aid; and Community CPR Instructor course 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Jan. 11-15 at the Red Cross on Sullivan Barracks, Bldg. 242. DSN 385-1760, civ. 0621-730-1760.

Community

♦ **Outdoor Recreation Phones** – New DSN numbers for Outdoor Recreation are now operational following the move to Spinelli Barracks, Bldg. 1570. They are DSN 384-6215 and 6232, fax 384-6707, cell 0170 451-4102.

♦ **Little Women** – Mannheim High School presents "Little Women" 6 p.m. Dec. 10 and 1:30 p.m. Dec. 11 and 12.

♦ **Team Jeopardy Challenge** – Celebrate Army Family Team Building's 16th birthday 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Dec. 16 at ACS Bldg. 254 on Sullivan Barracks. Four-person teams can compete for prizes. Register by Dec. 9. www.mwrgermany.com. Heidelberg: DSN 370-6883, civ. 06221-57-6975 and Mannheim: DSN 385-3101, civ. 06221-730-3101.

♦ **Garrison Offices** – Most garrison offices will close 11 a.m. Dec. 10 for the garrison Christmas party.

♦ **Mannheim Football** – Order a DVD of the Mannheim High School 2010 football season including all regular season games, the playoffs and the championship game at the high school main office by Dec. 15. DSN 380-4212, civ. 0621-730-4212.

♦ **Card Lane** – ACS is sponsoring a Holiday Card Lane through Dec. 15. Decorate an oversized holiday card for display around the Mannheim community. Contact Dan's Wood Shop for materials. DSN 385-2596.

♦ **Angel Tree** – Angel Trees will be located at the Mannheim PX and at Army Community Service on Sullivan Barracks through Dec. 15. Select an angel from the tree, purchase a gift for the child described on the angel and place it (unwrapped) in the drop box.

♦ **Gospel Services** – A Gospel Service Christmas story reading will be held 7:30 p.m. Dec. 15 and a Gospel Service Cantata will be 12:30 p.m. Dec. 19, both at the Benjamin Franklin Chapel.

♦ **Orphanage Collection** – The Stars of Orion Chapter 43, Order of the Eastern Star will be accepting donations of sock, scarves, hats, gloves, body wash, perfume body spray, board games (In German), books (In German), ping pong paddles and balls for children 1-19 of the St. Josef Orphanage in Käferlat. Donations may be dropped at the Mannheim PX Dec. 16-19. Civ. 06221-6487088.

♦ **School Age Center** – Watch the talent of Mannheim youth 4-5:30 p.m. at the Winter Talent show Dec. 17 and listen to holiday carols noon-1:30 p.m. Dec. 22-23 at the center, Bldg. 737. DSN 380-4321, civ. 0621-730-4321, www.mwrgermany.com.

♦ **Youth Center** – A showcase of holidays around the world will happen 3-6 p.m. Dec. 18 at the Youth Center, Bldg. 696 on Benjamin Franklin Village. DSN 380-4887, civ. 0621-730-4887, www.mwrgermany.com.

♦ **Postal Center Volunteers** – Mannheim postal centers are asking for volunteers to help process holiday packages. DSN 384-6040.

♦ **Animal Care Drive** – Child, Youth and School Services will be collecting toys and blankets and supplies for animals in the Viernheim and Worms animal shelters. Drop off donations through the end of December to the School Age Center, Bldg. 737, on Benjamin Franklin Village. DSN 380-4321, civ. 0621-730-4321, www.mwrgermany.com.

♦ **School Advisory Committee** – The Mannheim High School SAC will meet 3:15 p.m. Jan. 20 in the Media Center.

♦ **Yearbook Congratulations Ads** – Student dedication ads are now available for the yearbook, the last for Mannheim high school before its closure in June. Individuals and organizations can consider dedication ads for student at any grade level or as a community farewell in general. Design is provided. DSN 380 4092, civ. 0621-730-4092.

♦ **Christmas Day Mass** – A Christmas day Mass will be held at 10 a.m. at the Benjamin Franklin Chapel.

Sea Lions qualify for championships

The Heidelberg Sea Lions were bested by the Stuttgart Piranhas Sunday at the Eppelheim Hallenbad 522-182 but two swimmers qualified for European Forces Swim League championships.

Qualifying were Ethan Bray, 8,

who swam the 100-meter freestyle in 1:47.22 and Sophia Weedman, 10, with a 50-meter freestyle time of 38.59 and a 100-meter freestyle of 1:29.67. Top scorers with 13 points each were Ethan Parkhill and Wilson Bigelow. Heidelberg

swimmers making the top 10 with 11 points each were Kyle Johnson, Savannah Owens, Ethan Parkhill, Wilson Bigelow, Aldous Reid and Michael Prater. www.heidelberg-sealions.com.

SOURCE: Dahlia Lewis

Swimmers talk about European experience

By Dahlia Lewis
HEIDELBERG SEA LIONS

Four Heidelberg Sea Lions participated in the 28th International Swimfest Nov. 27-28 hosted by SG Poseidon in Eppelheim. Among 273 swimmers from 15 teams and three countries were Heidelberg swimmers Damon Pugin, Mackenzie Walton, Kyle Johnson and Gabriel Lewis. Here are thoughts from two of them.

Mackenzie Walton

What events did you participate in? The 50-meter butterfly, 50-meter breaststroke, 100-meter individual medley, 50-freestyle and 50-meter backstroke.

How did you place? In the freestyle I finished second (for a silver medal), in backstroke third (for a bronze medal), in the 100-meter I.M. fourth, breaststroke fourth and in butterfly I finished fifth.

What kind of experience was this for you? This was an absolutely amazing experience. It was

like that because it was a miracle getting to events on time (I thought I would miss my events because the announcements were in German and I don't speak much German) and just racing the German swim teams — they were really fast!

How did you become involved in swimming? My parents saw an article in the PTAs elementary newsletter about a summer swim camp and asked me if I wanted to go so I went to the swim camp and at the end of the week I was told that I may join the swim team if I



Courtesy photo

wished to.

How long have you been swimming? Officially, I have been swimming on the team since September, but I have enjoyed swimming for fun since I was 3.

What grade and school do you attend? I am in fourth grade at Patrick Henry Elementary School

since December 2009.

What are your goals for swimming this season? My goal is to participate in at least two events in the European Forces Swim League championships. I have already qualified for one event (backstroke) so I only need to qualify one more time to meet my goal. WOOHOO!

Kyle Johnson

What events did you participate in? The 100-meter freestyle.

How did you place? I finished third (for a bronze medal).

What kind of experience was this for you? It was a good chance to interact with the German Swim Club.

How is this international meet different from the EFSL meets? This meet is different from the EFSL (European Forces Swim League) meets because everything was in German. They do not have event numbers. You are expected to get to your event on time and in order. Also, they start the race differently with whistles and buzzers.

How did you become involved in swimming? My friend at Camp Zama, Japan, would tell me all about her weekend swim meets and how much fun she had. This got me interested and so I joined the Camp Zama Tsunami Swim Team. Once I moved to Germany, my mom found out about the Heidelberg Sea Lions through the



Courtesy photo

Internet.

How long have you been swimming? About three years.

What grade and school do you attend? I am in seventh grade at Heidelberg Middle School.

What are your goals for swimming this season? My goal for swimming this season was to qualify for the EFSL Championships in the 50 Freestyle. I just achieved this goal at the last home meet on Nov. 21.

Racquetball tournament played for Angel Tree

The Angel Tree Racquetball Tournament raised almost 40 gifts for the Angel Tree Program, an Army Community Service program that provides gifts for those who need them.

The tournament consisted of seven brackets and a total of 28 participants. Participants came from the local community, Wiesbaden, Ramstein, Ansbach, Stuttgart and Grafenwöhr.

SOURCE: Holly Ogren

Results

- Men's B:** first place, Maxime Bizeau; second place, Bill Ellis
- Men's C:** first place, Karl Dohman; second place, Robert Clark
- Women's Open:** first place, Kozeta Beam; second place, Caroline Parola
- Men's 19-plus:** first place, Nicolas Mufraggi; second place, Maxime Bizeau
- Men's 35-plus:** first place, Timothy Hardison; second place, Victor Farrier
- Men's 50-plus:** first place, James Johnson; second place, Walter Sauer
- Men's Open:** first place, Timothy Hardison; second place Sean Troyer

staying ACTIVE

Rod and Gun Club

The Heidelberg Rod and Gun Club located An der Bundesstrasse 291 in Ofersheim will host a handgun safety course 5 p.m. Dec. 10, fun shoot 1 p.m. Dec. 11, trap course 1 p.m. Dec. 18 and a turkey shoot 10 a.m. Dec. 19. Civ. 06202-51193, www.mwgermany.com

Heidelberg Basketball Practices

Heidelberg Community Basketball Team practices and open tryouts will take place 6-9 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays during the month of December at Tompkins Fitness Center due to the Patton Fitness Center renovation. The Patton basketball court is closed for renovation until Jan. 11. DSN 373-6110.

Sullivan Gym Free Classes

Mannheim's Sullivan Gym now has free zumba classes at 7 p.m. Thursdays. Classes will be free until Feb. 1. Additional classes will be added at 5 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays starting in January. Also, starting Jan. 10, two free interval cardio training classes that include nutritional information. The class will be held 7:15 a.m. and noon Mondays and Wednesdays. DSN 385-3149, civ. 0621-730-3149.

Camp for Student Athletes

An Opportunity Knocks Camp will be held at the Wiesbaden Fitness Center Dec. 27-31, a weeklong camp for DoDDS-E students with courses in self-marketing and promotion, money and time management and public speaking. Student athletes in football, track and field, and basketball will be evaluated in their sport. Upon completion, the No Books No Ball Foundation will promote the student athletes in their database to colleges and universities at Division I, II, III and junior college levels. \$500. Register by Dec. 10. Civ. 06222-307-1750 or 06221-576-543, caseau@earthlink.net, nobooksnoballfoundation@yahoo.com.

Coaches Needed

Volunteer coaches are needed for winter sports teams in Mannheim and Heidelberg. The new fee policy allows all family members of the head coach to play for free and one family member for the assistant coach. DSN 388-9397, civ. 06221-388-9397. DSN 380-9135, civ. 0621-730-9132.

Sunday Night Football

Catch the football games on big screen televisions 7-10 p.m. every Sunday at Armstrong's Club in Kaiserslautern. DSN 489-6000.

Bowl on New Year's Eve

Bring the family and rock your way into the New Year starting at 8 p.m. Dec. 31 at the Benjamin Franklin Village Bowling Center, Bldg. 724 in Mannheim. DSN 380-9528, civ. 0621-730-9528, www.mwgermany.com.

Patton Gym Temporary Court Closure

The Patton Fitness Center basketball court is closed for renovation until Jan. 11. Renovations include installation of the new center court logo, which will be unveiled at the 2011 MLK Basketball Tournament. The Tompkins Barracks Fitness Center has extended hours until 9:30 p.m. through Jan. 7. DSN 373-6110.

Heidelberg CYSS EDGE Program

Teens can get in shape with an EDGE spin class every Wednesday 3:15-4:15 p.m. at the Campbell Fitness Center. Open to the first 25 students in grades 9-12. Weight lifting and endurance training is available at the Campbell Fitness Center. DSN 388-9240, www.mwgermany.com.

Kaiserslautern EDGE Information

The EDGE! Program provides youth in grades 6-12 opportunities to Experience, Develop, Grow and Excel. The free program offers after-school, school-out days and summer activities in partnership with Family and MWR organizations throughout the garrison. There are four packages — Fit EDGE!, Art EDGE!, Adventure EDGE! and Life EDGE! DSN 486-8991, civ 06371-86-8991.