

HeraldPOST

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

HP THURSDAY
Aug. 30, 2012

Speed Read



CARE FAIR
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FINAL VOLKSMARCH

The Heidelberg International Wandering Club will host its final volksmarch Sept. 8-9. Open to all ages, the volksmarch covers either a 5 km or 22 km trail. 9

LONDON PARALYMPIC GAMES

The Warrior Transition Battalion-Europe, with the help of various programs, sent 18 Soldiers to watch the 2012 Paralympic Games in London Aug. 27-31. 13



Defense Details

VOTING PROGRAM APP

Service members, their families and U.S. citizens living overseas now have voting information at their fingertips with the Federal Voting Assistance program's new mobile website. The site provides an interface that quickly leads users to voting information in an easy-to-read, mobile-friendly format. Accessible from any smart phone, the site connects voters with the latest news alerts, absentee voting information, state election dates, key contact information and answers to frequently asked questions. Users also can sign up for FVAP voting alerts. Users will be directed automatically to the mobile website when they visit www.FVAP.gov from a mobile browser.

FEMALE BODY ARMOR

Officials from the Project Manager Soldier Protective Equipment Office and Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center came together to design a better-equipped vest for female Soldiers. With more women from the 101st Airborne Division scheduled to deploy to Afghanistan later this year, the redesigned Improved Outer Tactical Vests are expected to help these Soldiers perform their jobs better.

www.defense.gov
www.army.mil/news

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Samantha Smith

Heidelberg American High School junior Justin Rodney picks up his school schedule from science teacher Jon Mittenzwey in the school's cafeteria Monday, the first day of classes. See more back-to-school photos on page 14.

back to school

Goodbye AFN Heidelberg, hello AFN Stuttgart

By George A. Smith
AFN EUROPE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

After an absence of more than 19 years, American Forces Network Stuttgart is back on the air. AFN Stuttgart shut its doors in 1993, moving to Hammonds Barracks, and re-flagging itself as AFN Heidelberg. AFN Stuttgart returned to the air Aug. 18 at the Stuttgart Community Activities Registration and Education Fair during a live radio remote. The station had served Americans in Heidelberg, Mannheim and Stuttgart, but now only broadcasts to Stuttgart. "AFN Europe looks forward to coming back

'home' to Stuttgart, as AFN Stuttgart becomes operational on Robinson Barracks sometime in the coming year," said AFN Europe Commander Lt. Col. Sherri Reed. "We have already started the transition of personnel and continue to monitor the progress of AFN Stuttgart's new home. There are so many opportunities to provide both EUCOM [U.S. European Command] and AFRICOM [U.S. Africa Command] with all that AFN has to offer by being co-located. We are excited to renew old friendships with the Stuttgart community, both German and American."

see AFN page 14

Proactive moves key to garrison's updated closure

By Rick Scavetta
USAG KAISERSLAUTERN PUBLIC AFFAIRS

When Air Force Staff Sgt. Nick Kibbey arrived in Mannheim last November, the morning show radio announcer heard his unit, American Forces Network-Europe, was moving to Sembach Kaserne. His wife, Shiloh, is a nurse looking for work at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. His son Royce, 5, is starting kindergarten. They are expecting a baby in March. Moving now makes sense, Kibbey said. "For me it's just getting to where we're going, to be settled and focused on things," Kibbey said. "We want to do the move and try to achieve our short and long term goals."

"We remain committed to providing a high quality of life during our last year"

— Col. Bryan D. DeCoster, U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg

That's exactly what Army leaders at U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg hope service members will consider, as a new U.S. Army Europe order directs all personnel to depart the Heidelberg and Mannheim areas by Aug. 30, 2013. Soldiers, civilians and their families should begin planning now, said Col. Bryan D. DeCoster, USAG B-W commander.

see CLOSURE page 14

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Exchange 'Takes a bite out of crime'



By Chris Ward
AAAFES PUBLIC AFFAIRS

DALLAS – According to the National Association for Shoplifting Prevention, losses due to thefts from retail stores alone amount to more than 35 million a day.

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service, which has contributed more than \$2.4 billion to Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs in the past 10 years, continues to focus its efforts on reducing theft to maximize the investment authorized shoppers make in their Exchange benefit.

The "Shoplifting Awareness Community Outreach," targeted at youth, uses closed circuit televisions with digital video recorder technology and high-tech electronic article surveillance.

As a result, shoplifting cases

in 2011 dropped 12.7 percent, from 5,432 in 2010 to 4,742.

The value of merchandise involved in these incidents also dropped, from \$533,760 to \$529,440 in 2011.

"Because of the toll shoplifting takes on retail, shoppers typically pay 1.5 cents more per dollar as a result," said the Exchange's Vice President of Loss Prevention Rick Koloski.

"Our proactive and visible efforts to prevent shoplifting have resulted in three consecutive years of decreases and, as a result, a stronger benefit for those we serve," Koloski added.

If shoplifting is suspected, the Exchange Loss Prevention office turns the issue over to local law enforcement.

In addition to possible disciplinary action or criminal prosecution, the Federal Claims Collection Act allows the Exchange to enact a flat administrative cost (Civil Recovery) of \$200.

There may be further fees, in addition to the Civil Recovery Program, depending on the condition of the stolen merchandise.

All defense pay to go electronic by March 1

By Troy Darr
IMCOM EUROPE DEPUTY CHIEF OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A Treasury mandate will soon require the Defense Finance and Accounting Services to pay military, civilian and retired customers by electronic funds transfer.

Beginning March 1, most DFAS customers will receive their pay directly to savings or checking accounts. Customers can get ahead of the rush by setting up direct deposit now. It's easy, it's safe and it gives more control with less stress, according to a DFAS announcement.

With direct deposit, DFAS sends payment straight to they payee's bank account. It gives immediate access to money the day payment is due. It also eliminates the risk of lost or stolen checks, forged signatures and identity theft.

Retirees and annuitants living in Europe will be required to receive their pay directly to their saving or checking accounts. Local retirement services officers have the forms available.

For retirees and annuitants living in Europe, there are four ways to start direct deposit:

- For retirees and annuitants who have an American bank account and want to use that, complete a Fast Start Direct Deposit Form, sign it and mail it DFAS. Be sure to keep a copy for records.

- The user's MyPay account may be used to set up direct deposits to American banks or credit union savings or checking accounts.

- Call DFAS at the Customer Care Center, U.S. civ. 1-888-332-7411 and have the information available to do it telephonically (American banks only.)

- For people who wish to use an international bank, use the International Direct Deposit Form and replace the account number with the IBAN on the form and mail to DFAS or provide to your local retirement services officer for processing.

Retiree Account Mailing Address:

Defense Finance and Accounting Services
U.S. Military Retirement Pay
P.O. Box 7130
London, KY 40742-7130
Fax - 1-800-469-6559

Annuitant Account Mailing Address:

Defense Finance and Accounting Services
U.S. Military Annuitant Pay
P.O. Box 7131
London, KY 40742-7131
Fax - 1-800-982-8459

Please remember the 1-800 fax number is not toll free from Europe.



www.facebook.com/BWnow

DISCUSSION BOARD

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

"Traffic will not be allowed to pass through the tunnel toward Mannheim (near Schwetzingen) 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Sept. 4. Additionally, traffic on that road but going toward Heidelberg will be blocked Sept. 5-6. Detours are L630 or L544 (signs will be in place for the detours.)"

— BWnow Administrator

"There is currently some road work on Patrick Henry

Village starting on Grassweg and near the library, Village Grille, chapel and Shoppette area. There is also road work headed toward the middle school. Use caution when driving on PHV. No estimation yet on when the construction will be complete."

— BWnow Facebook Administrator

"Need to refresh those skills? Check this link out for ARC Refresher Center to get back up to speed!"

www.redcrossrefresher.com."

— American Red Cross Heidelberg-Germany

"The DPW Work Reception desk is experiencing staff shortages. We thank you for your patience. If you can not get through on the phone, please use the following link for an on-line service request ...

www.bw.eur.army.mil/dpw/serviceorder"

— Richard Glass, 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. Only spots results from the weekend will be accepted until noon on Monday.

Last garrison C.A.R.E. Fair held Saturday



Kierra Ho

Left, Jean Anderson draws the winning ticket for a cooler at the Army Community Service Community Activities Registration and Education Fair in the Village Pavilion Community Center on Patrick Henry Village in Heidelberg Saturday, while Norma Ewers, ACS Volunteer Coordinator, Spc. Terie King and Frank J. Powell Jr. present her prize. The drawing, sponsored by ACS, included a high definition TV, a dart board, coffee maker and more.

Community members win big with prizes, employment opportunities, displays, food

By Kierra Ho

USAG BW PUBLIC AFFAIRS INTERN

U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg Army Community Service hosted its last Community Activities Registration and Education Fair at the Village Pavilion Community Center on Patrick Henry Village 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday.

USAG B-W Soldiers, their families and other garrison community members received information about transformation efforts, community organizations and activities.

ACS offered free hamburgers, chips, water and soda to attendees, until supplies ran out.

American Forces Network provided live radio coverage and supported a drawing at 12:30 p.m. for Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation. Prizes included a wide-screen TV, a dartboard and more.

For the first time, ACS Heidelberg invited organizations from Kaiserslautern and Wiesbaden to participate.

“I am bringing in organizations from [these two] communities so that [residents moving] over to Wiesbaden and to K-town shortly will get to interact with these people, who [will provide] these services to them,” said Norma Ewers, Army Volunteer Corps Coordinator at ACS.

More than 41 organizations, including i-Watch, New Parent Support Program, the University of Oklahoma, the American Red Cross and the Heidelberg Chapel Community, set up information booths for current residents and newcomers to learn about the activities and services in the community.

The 529th Military Police Company Military Working Dog Section hosted two demonstrations, where attendees saw how a military working dog follows orders on his hand-

ler’s voice command, said Sgt. Brett Fishel, a military working dog handler.

The Department of Emergency Services staged a static fire display with a pumper truck and an aerial ladder truck. Attendees sat on the trucks, tried on fireman clothing and asked the fire crew questions, said Thorsten Rutsch, Deputy Fire Chief of the Fire and Emergency Services in Heidelberg. They were also permitted to climb the ladder, reaching high above the Community Center.

Even though USAG B-W will inactivate next summer, Christina Callaghan, Division Chief of USAG B-W ACS, wanted community members to know that ACS is still a vital source of information in the garrison.

“[ACS is] not dead yet. We’re not finished yet. We’re not closed yet, so we want to maintain a robust information service for people ... Heidelberg is still alive and



Elizabeth Behring

Regina M. Hingtgen, U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg Public Affairs Officer, talks with Col. Lars Braun, U.S. Army Europe G4, about the Garrison’s Facebook page, BWnow, at the Army Community Service Community Activities Registration and Education Fair in the Village Pavilion Community Center on Patrick Henry Village in Heidelberg Saturday. The public affairs office transitioned to Facebook as the garrison’s primary social media outlet for all news and updates for the community. Become a fan at www.facebook.com/BWnow.

well ... we will have programs for families, Soldiers, retirees and all our civilians [who] are [still] here.”

The C.A.R.E. Fair was sponsored in part by the Service

Credit Union and the United Services Automobile Association.

For more information about ACS, visit www.mwrgermany.com/acs.html.

transformation UPDATE

Updates to Transformation Page

The weekly Herald Post Transformation Page is updated as we receive the latest information. To ensure its accuracy, all community members and organizations are encouraged to e-mail any transformation updates to usaghdpost@eur.army.mil or usarmy.badenwur.usag.mbx.pao@mail.mil for publication in the Herald Post.

BWnow Social Media Site Transitions

U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg has taken yet another step in its transformation by transitioning from BWnow as our primary social media site to exclusively using our BWnow Facebook page. The BWnow social media site was discontinued due to personnel and budget constraints Aug. 26. The garrison Public Affairs Office ensures that all current, useful quality information is available on the garrison's Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/bwnow>.

Frequently Asked Questions

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

E-mail usarmy.badenwur.usag.mbx.post-newspaper@mail.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/news/personnel.htm.

Now that the Heidelberg Medical Activity has deactivated, what will my family and I do for health care? Will the health center be closing sooner now?

The deactivation will not affect future health care services or appointment availability for beneficiaries. The clinic has transitioned under Landstuhl Regional Medical Center for command and control functions previously provided by HMEDDAC. The clinic is projected to close in June 2013. Community members are also encouraged to become familiar with host nation health care resources by reviewing the "Guide to using host nation health care." A copy of the guide is available at the Heidelberg Health Center website (**new URL**): <http://ermc.amedd.army.mil/heidelberg/HNGuide>.

Facilities Operations Changes and Closures Mannheim

ACS – The Army Community Service office located in Bldg. 246 on Sullivan Barracks is closed.

UPDATED – Base Operations – The Mannheim Base Operations office has relocated from Bldg. 246 on Sullivan Barracks to Bldg. 1408 on Coleman Barracks, Room 101. For assistance, residents should call Gilbert Buster at DSN 382-4724, civ. 0162-272-8632.

BFV South Closure – Public access to Benjamin Franklin Village South is no longer available. The area and the access gate have been sealed off and the **Exchange main store, gas station, food court and concessionaires are closed**. Any items left on the installation have been impounded by the Military Police. Access to the area may only be arranged through the Provost Marshal Office at DSN 388-2222/2223, civ. 06221-678-2222/2223.

Bowling Center – The bowling center on Sullivan Barracks is closed.

Burger King – The Burger King on Sullivan Barracks is closed.

Child Development Center – The Child Development Center on Sullivan Barracks is closed.

Chapel – The chapel on Benjamin Franklin Village is closed. All on-post religious services were transferred to the Heidelberg community.

NEW – Coleman Cleaners and Alterations – The Coleman Cleaners with Alterations concession will close **Sept. 15** due to low patronage. Laundry and dry cleaning services are available in Heidelberg on Patrick Henry Village, at Campbell Barracks and the Heidelberg Shopping Center. Alteration service remains available at the Heidelberg Shopping Center. DSN 431-3458, civ. 0703-1439-5100.

UPDATED – Coleman Clinics – The Coleman Troop Medical Clinic has ended full patient care, dental and pharmacy services. Dental

services for the Mannheim-Coleman Soldier population are available at the Patrick Henry Village Dental Clinic in Heidelberg. Sick Call hours at Coleman Barracks will change starting **Sept. 10** based on usage and availability of medical staff. The new hours will be **9-10 a.m. Monday-Friday**. DSN 371-3130, civ. 06221-17-3130.

UPDATED – Community Bank – The Community Bank on Sullivan Barracks will permanently close noon **Aug. 31**. DSN 385-2615, civ. 0621-725-147.

Community Center – The Mannheim community center in Bldg. 2011 in Grant Circle is closed.

Customs – The customs office on Sullivan Barracks is closed.

Facility Closures – The Commissary, the Top Hat Club, Woods Field, Coleman Clinics and the Fitness Center are scheduled to close no later than **Sept. 1**.

Hazardous Waste Disposal Center – The Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Center has moved to Sullivan Barracks, Bldg. 249A (previously the Funari Sort Center). The center is open to military ID card holders 10 a.m.-noon Monday, Wednesday. No bulky items like furniture, electronics, trash or recyclables will be accepted; these may be turned in 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Saturday to the Patrick Henry Village Recycle Center in Bldg. 4485. DSN 373-5396, civ. 06221-17-5396.

Military Police Station – The Military Police station is scheduled to close **Sept. 7**.

Postal Office Hours Change – Mannheim postal facilities have new operating hours. The finance window at Postal Service Center 418 on Coleman Barracks is now open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The community mail room is open 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday and closed Tuesdays and Thursdays. At Postal Service Center 437, finance is open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday. The community mail room is open 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and closed Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Self-Help Store – The Mannheim Self-Help Store is closed.

NEW – Service Credit Union – The Service Credit Union on Sullivan Barracks will permanently close 5 p.m. **Aug. 31**. The Heidelberg Branch Office is located on the Community Support Center, Bldg. 3850. DSN 385-2216, civ. 0621-730-2216.

Shuttle Bus – The community shuttle bus no longer stops at the Benjamin Franklin Village guest house, but a stop was added on Funari Barracks. The schedule is available from shuttle bus drivers or at the Central Processing Facility in Heidelberg or by calling DSN 373-8350, civ. 06221-17-8350.

Sullivan Fitness Center – The Sullivan Fitness Center is scheduled to close by **Sept. 1**.

UPDATED – Sullivan Express Shoppette – The Sullivan Express Shoppette will close **Sept. 1**.

Tax Relief Office – The Tax Relief Office on Sullivan Barracks is closed. Please contact the Heidelberg office located in Bldg. 4507 on Patrick Henry Village for assistance. DSN 388-9586, civ. 06221-338-9586.

WIC Office – The Women, Infants and Children Overseas office further reduced office hours due to transformation and reduced base population. The Mannheim office is open 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesdays and 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursdays.

Heidelberg

Airport Shuttle Buses – The free shuttle service for service members, Department of Defense civilians and their families departing Germany from Ramstein Air Base on the Patriot Express departs Heidelberg once a week from the Patrick Henry Village Guest House. For details on the shuttle schedule, call U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg Central Processing Facility, Room 180, Bldg. 3850, at

the Heidelberg Shopping Center. DSN 370-7343/6711, civ. 06221-57-8399, usarmy.badenwur.usag.mbx.cpf@mail.mil.

Audiology – Audiology services at the Heidelberg Health Center have been reduced due to limited staff. Medical technicians will still be able to provide screening and hearing conservation services. All other audiology services will be referred to host nation providers or Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

Chapels – All chapel services have transferred to Patrick Henry Village and Nachrichten Kaserne. For more information on new service times and locations, call DSN 373-6190, civ. 06221-17-6190.

NEW – Community Mail Room – Community Mail Room 419 (Patton Barracks), CMR 420 (Campbell Barracks) and CMR 432 (Tompkins Barracks) and Postal Service Center 437 (Sullivan Barracks) will relocate to the consolidated Heidelberg Postal Service Center in Bldg. 4503 on Patrick Henry Village effective **Oct. 15**. CMRs 419 and 420 will cease postal operations at their current locations **Oct. 12**. CMR 432 and PSC 437 will cease operations at their current locations **Sept. 15**, with optional general delivery mail services available at CMR 419 until **Oct. 12**. Customers can choose to have mail forwarded to the new postal center on PHV, receive mail at Coleman Barracks (PSC 418) or begin forwarding mail to the gaining location. E-mail questions to usarmy.badenwur.usag.mbx.cmr419@gmail.com, or contact your local postal customer service representative.

UPDATED – Dental Clinic – Sick call and exam hours for the Patrick Henry Village Dental Clinic have changed to 7:30-10:30 a.m. Monday-Friday. All dental care and records from Nachrichten Kaserne Dental Clinic, except oral surgery and periodontal dental services, were transferred to the PHV dental clinic. DSN 388-9500, civ. 06221-338-9500.

Health Center Shoppette – The Exchange Shoppette located on Nachrichten Kaserne is closed.

Optometry Clinic – The Heidelberg Health Center's optometry department has reduced care to provide services only for active duty military and their family members who are enrolled in TRICARE Prime. Dependents or Department of the Army and Department of Defense civilian employees and contractors can obtain services via host nation providers.

Pharmacy Hours – The Heidelberg Health Center Pharmacy has changed its operating hours. The pharmacy is open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday and closed weekends and federal holidays.

NEW – Single Soldier Housing – The Single Soldier Housing Office in Bldg. 3850 on the Community Support Center will relocate to Bldg. 3980 (Housing Office) **Sept. 10**. DSN 387-3346, civ. 06221-4380-3346.

Teen Clinic – The Teen Clinic at Heidelberg High School is closed. Teens can be seen at the Heidelberg Health Center. DSN 371-2622, civ. 00800-376-22273.

UPDATED – Thrift Shop – The Thrift Shop on Patrick Henry Village has relocated to Bldg. 4455. **The shop is also now open 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Saturdays.**

UPDATED – Tompkins Gym – The Fitness Center on Tompkins Barracks in Schwetzingen will close **Sept. 1**. Hours are 5:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Friday, closed Saturdays, Sundays and U.S. holidays and is also open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. training holidays. DSN 370-9193, civ. 06221-57-9193.

UPDATED – Tompkins Retail Store – The Tompkins retail store is scheduled to close **Aug. 31**.

Tompkins Strip Yard Closure – The Tompkins strip yard is closed. Vehicle donations will no longer be accepted at Tompkins Auto Crafts. All patrons must go to Spinelli Auto Skills, Bldg. 1570 on Spinelli Barracks in Mannheim to donate vehicles. DSN 384-6023, civ. 0621-730-6023.

Wood Shop – The Wood Shop on Patton Barracks will remain open until the garrison deactivates. DSN 373-5195, civ. 06221-17-5195.

2012 Army Arts, Crafts Contest winners announced

Heidelberg artists Washington, Sohl win big at annual worldwide competition



Andrew Washington

Andrew Washington, a retired master sergeant, received an honorable mention in the oil painting category for "Nucleus," shown here, in the 2012 Army Arts and Crafts contest. Washington is a former first place Arts and Crafts Contest winner from 1999-2005 and again in 2010 with numerous other awards in between.

By Edward Codina
ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTER DIRECTOR

The annual U.S. Army Arts and Crafts Contest aims to display the creativity and diversity of Soldiers, civilians and family members living in our military communities throughout the world.

The contest was open May 1-June 30, and judging took place at U.S. Army Installation Management Command in San Antonio July 25.

"The quality of this year's entries far surpassed those in past years," said Sandy Nordenhold, IMCOM Chief, Recreation Programming Team for Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

"The judges found the adjudication very difficult and felt the need to award many more honorable mentions. Every year, the contest is flooded with an enormous amount of talent in all media, including painting, photography, sculpture, stained glass and more," Nordenhold added.

The artists' creativity is a testament to the spiritual depth, emotional resiliency

and psychological strength of the military communities and their recreational and artistic support services.

In the Europe Region, U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg's David Sohl won first place in the stained glass category with his piece entitled "Theater."

Sohl, a German Soldier, also won third place in the painting category with "Memories," a riveting personal work about which he stated: "I lost my father when I was a young boy. I created this painting as a tribute to his memory."

In addition, Sohl won two honorable mentions in the mixed media categories with "Puzzled" and "USA 9/11," an installation, and "Happenings-Conceptual," a piece he created in memory of 9/11.

Sohl is self-taught and never had formal training. His style can best be characterized as "beyond boundaries," since he is as comfortable finger-painting like a child as he wields a large brush in an abstract expressionist manner.

He is also a capable artist across all media from drawing, painting, photography,

video, installations and conceptual art to almost any object his eyes set upon. He transforms the everyday aspects of life into pure art.

Sohl is one of several German nationals who have had exhibitions at the Arts and Cultural Center on Patrick Henry Village in Heidelberg.

His work and the awards received in this year's contest are a reflection of the Army's all-inclusive multi-cultural approach to recreational and arts programming throughout Europe and the world. Sohl was sponsored for the contest by Staff Sgt. Marie Ferguson.

He also single-handedly coordinated a combined exhibition with fellow award-winner Andrew Washington at the Rathaus (city hall) in Epfelheim, further strengthening ties between local German and American communities.

Once again, Washington, a retired master sergeant, received an honorable mention in the oil painting category for his "Nucleus." This work is an example of his recent foray into the dreamlike iconography of surrealism via a highly personal and inimitable style that is entirely his own.

Washington is a former first place Arts and Crafts Contest winner from 1999-2005 and again in 2010 with numerous other awards in between.

His work "Portrait of Emily Perez," commissioned by the U.S. Military Academy, was first shown during the "Reflections of Generosity" international art exhibition held in January 2011 at the Heidelberg Arts and Cultural Center.

Perez, a second lieutenant who graduated from West Point in 2005, was killed in 2006 by a roadside bomb in Iraq.

She was the first female African-American officer killed in combat, as well as the first female graduate of the academy to die in the Iraq War and the first graduate of the "Class of 9/11" (cadets who started school in fall 2001) to die in combat.

Washington started painting when he was 5 years old and never received formal training. He has appeared on CNN iReport's "Painter in the Park."



WASHINGTON



SOHL



David Sohl

German Soldier David Sohl won first place in the stained glass category with this piece, "Theater," in the worldwide 2012 Army Arts and Crafts contest. Sohl also won third place in the painting category with "Memories" and honorable mentions in the mixed media categories with "Puzzled" and "USA 9/11," an installation, and "Happenings-Conceptual," a piece he created in memory of 9/11.

Meet the artists, see the artwork

See the artwork and meet and greet artists Andrew Washington and David Sohl starting 7 p.m. Sept. 15 at "Latin Flavors," a dining, entertainment, music and art extravaganza held in honor of National Hispanic Heritage Month in the Village Pavilion Community Center Ballroom in Heidelberg. Event also features Latin dancing followed by a Hispanic dinner. Art exhibition entry forms are available online and in the Arts and Cultural Center, located in the Village Pavilion Community Center. For more information, call DSN 388-9421, civ. 06221-338-9421 or visit <http://mwrgermany.com/artsandculturalcenter.html>.

Happy birthday, Girl Scouting

By Shawn Friend-Begin
USAG KAISERSLAUTERN SUPERVISORY LIBRARIAN

This year, Girl Scouting turned 100. With this in mind, and in honor of World Thinking Day earlier this year, Landstuhl Junior Troop 175 discussed various projects and then voted to make their annual project a time capsule.

World Thinking Day, held annually Feb. 22, allows girls to participate in activities and projects to honor sister Girl Scouts and Scouting in the 150 countries where Scouting is active.

After thinking it over a few months, the girls of Troop 175 decided making a time capsule was their dream project after Assistant Leader Heather Goodwin told of her own experience working on a Girl Scout time capsule project back in New Mexico when she was at camp as a girl.

Troop member Mallory Bergmann stated, "Maybe people might want to join Girl Scouts after they see our time capsule."

Indeed, the colorful display is sure to spur curiosity. Throughout the year, Troop 175 girls worked on various aspects of the project. The troop met in the Post Library on Landstuhl and said they thought it would be the perfect place to leave their time capsule, as they assumed the library would never close. It is the girls' hope the library would be a safe



Anja Peglau

Landstuhl Girl Scout Junior Troop 175 holds the time capsule they assembled in honor of Girl Scouting's 100th anniversary. The time capsule is currently on display at the Landstuhl Post Library in Kaiserslautern and should remain sealed until Girl Scouts open it in 2062. Scouts and troop leaders, from bottom left: Anna Elliot, Kaleigh Nelson, Kendall Jenkins; middle row, from left: Mallory Bergmann, Martha Grace Evans, Dresden Goodwin, Jordan Barenberg, Aja Shilo-Evans; back row, from left: Troop Leader Dee Bergmann, Riana Berry, Supervisory Librarian Shawn Friend-Begin, Christina Cheatham and Assistant Troop Leader Heather Goodwin.

place for their capsule and that many people would be able to see it, spurring curiosity about Girl Scouting and youth in Landstuhl.

As Scout Dresden Goodwin remarked, "It's very inspiring to a lot of people. Girl Scouts in the future will be very excited."

What is in the time capsule is a mystery to be discovered. The girls wrote reports on various projects to be placed in the time

capsule, including current technologies, current trends and current events.

Each girl also wrote and sealed letters that will hopefully be read by a Girl Scout 50 years from now. The locked box is on display under lock and key at the library for all to see.

Troop 175 is led by Dee Bergmann and is made up of 10 fourth and fifth-grade girls.

Sponsors: Gatekeepers of the community

By Helen Tesfai
USAG KAISERSLAUTERN PUBLIC AFFAIRS

When Pfc. Aubrey Schye, a 5th Military Police Battalion Soldier, got back from a six-mile road march, she walked right into an Army Community Service class on sponsorship responsibilities.

Schye, 20, was among five attendees at the class held recently at U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern's Kleber Kaserne. Schye thought back to when she left the U.S. in late 2010, when no one really mentioned anything about a sponsor. She was just 18, fresh from high school and headed to her first duty station overseas. Thankfully, her sponsor reached out to her through Facebook.

"You kind of think, 'No one is going to be there,'" Schye said. "But, they ended up picking me up over here when I got dropped off at the bus."

Roderick Amodia, Army Community Service's relocation readiness program manager, began the class by explaining why sponsorship training is important and briefed attendees on how to care for newcomers.

Sponsorship training "increases awareness of command responsibilities for identifying, referring and coordinating with community agencies and programs to ensure successful integration," Amodia said. "In a nutshell, ensure newcomers transitions are as smooth and stress free as possible."

Capt. Steven Rauschbach, the 5th MP personnel officer, said he experienced the consequences of bad sponsorship.

"My first move, which was from after two years in Darmstadt to Fort Polk, was a catastrophe," Rauschbach said. "There was no sponsor."

Despite the fact that sponsorship training is mandatory for Soldiers, attendance is low, said Michelle Thomas, the garrison's ACS director.

Advertisements are posted on American Forces Network, in the Kaiserslautern American and on Facebook. It's also mentioned each week at newcomers' briefings. In March, U.S. Army Europe mandated that sponsorship training must be done in person, rather than online, as in the past. Still, by mid-year, less than 600 people in Kaiserslautern had attended, Thomas said.

"The training is available, and word about the program is out there," Thomas said. "We're just not getting the attendance."

The USAREUR order also says that government civilians will soon have to undergo inprocessing and attend culture college, Thomas said.

"Sponsors are truly the gatekeepers to a newly arriving Soldier's perception of their new command and community," Thomas said. "This initial interaction of the sponsor and Soldier will set the tone for this new Soldier's experience while in the Kaiserslautern community or any new duty station in the world."

After the class, Spc. Nathaniel Reynolds, 23, said he now sees his role as a sponsor as making sure he provides what's necessary to an incoming Soldier.

"I can take care of him, show him around and where he would go to take care of appointments – stuff like that," Reynolds said.

Sponsorship training is available monthly at Pulaski Barracks. For more information, call DSN 493-4203 or civ. 0631-3406 4203.

Heidelberg Castle on fire



Maj. David J. Hankins

To commemorate the destruction of the Heidelberg Castle in 1693, the city celebrates free castle illuminations three times each summer. Simulated fire (vivid red light) is aimed at the ruin walls, and when it fades away, a fireworks display is ignited from the Old Bridge. The final illumination of the year will start 10:15 p.m. Saturday. For the best view, get a space along the river routes Neckarstaden/B37 (south bank) or Ziegelhäuser Landstraße and Neuenheimer Landstraße (north bank.) Plan ahead: traffic is diverted from the river routes from about 9 p.m. and opens again after crowds have dispersed around 11 p.m.

Realistic looks at drinking, driving perils

By Spc. Joshua Leonard
U.S. ARMY EUROPE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A Soldier slips behind the wheel of the car, turns the ignition key, puts the car in drive and starts down the highway. A moment later, the alcohol in the Soldier's system begins taking its toll and the car veers further and further off the road.

His vision blurs and the car becomes harder and harder to control. A moment later, he runs a red light and slams into the red minivan. He won't make it home today. But luckily, this accident has a reset button. It all took place on a simulator, and everyone is OK – and hopefully a bit wiser.

This interactive training experience is part of the Save A Life Tour, and its goal is to help participants sincerely understand the consequences of driving while impaired. The simulator is the centerpiece of the SALT, but the program, presented by a Michigan-based entertainment company, also includes high-intensity videos, dramatic props and presentations by SALT "tour guides."

It has traveled to schools, bases and other venues across the U.S. and Europe and most recently Friday to U.S. Army

Garrison Baden-Württemberg.

"SALT's relationship with the military began about eight years ago and [it] has traveled to almost all Stateside installations and a large number of overseas installations as well," said Patricia Tooson, USAG B-W Army Substance Abuse Program.

"The intention of this training is to reinforce one primary message, and that is: drinking and driving kills," Tooson said.

On Friday, SALT program manager Andrew Tipton stood beside an open coffin. Real photos of drunk driving victims circulated through the crowd, which sat up and listened closely as he listed the unfortunate statistics and cited several real-world examples of where drinking and driving can lead.

The program is intended to be hard-hitting, Tipton said, designed to graphically illustrate the potentially fatal consequences of drunk driving, not sentence its audiences to "death by Power Point."

It's that punch, presented by what the SALT website calls the "shock jocks of anti-drunk driving," that helps SALT participants to take what the program teaches to heart.

Soldiers eagerly lined up for a chance to experience the SALT driving simulator, anxious to get a safe but realistic first-hand look at the effects of driving while impaired.

Invariably, they walked away amazed at how difficult it is to control a vehicle after drinking alcohol.

Most made remarks like, "This is tougher than I thought" or, "I thought this would be easy, but it's no joke" after taking a simulated spin.

"Participants leave this training with increased knowledge, but also importantly, they leave with the thought of being mindful of their drinking, mindful that their choice can be lifesaving," Tooson said.

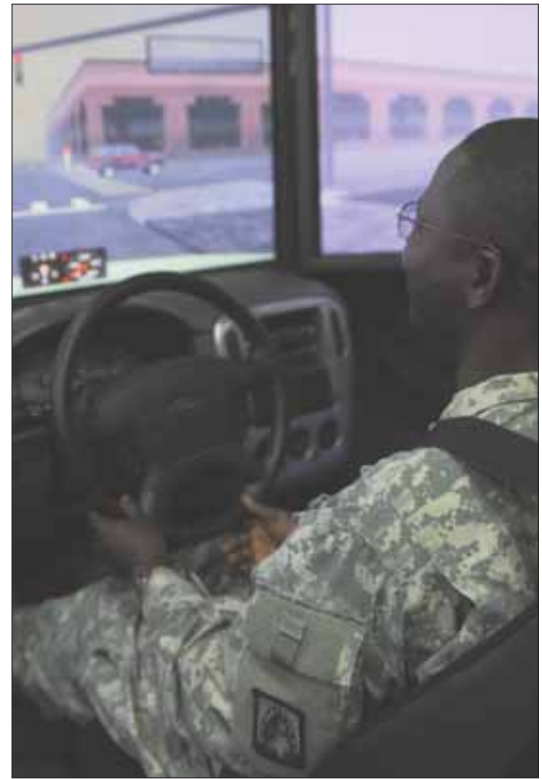
"Choices have consequences, and to see the message hitting home is remarkable.

"The consequences of high-risk choices are great," she added.

"One life, one career, one family or one person's freedom lost to drinking and driving is one too many."

The SALT program is scheduled for future stops at most major installations across Europe.

More information is available from garrison ASAP representatives.



Spc. Joshua Leonard

A Soldier with U.S. Army Europe's 12th Combat Aviation Brigade tries out the Save A Life Tour simulator that demonstrates the effects of driving under the influence of alcohol, during a SALT presentation in Heidelberg, Friday. The responses of the simulator's steering wheel and pedals are delayed, impairing reaction time and causing drivers to overcompensate, swerve and crash, as they do in real-life drunk driving situations.

598th uncases its colors



Deputy to the Commander Stephen L. Marshall and Command Sgt. Maj. Cynthia E. Howard uncase the colors of the 598th Transportation Brigade (Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command), during an Aug. 23 ceremony at Sembach Kaserne. Afterward, Col. Matthew D. Redding assumed command of brigade, which recently moved to U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern from Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Several military and local officials attended the event. For more information on the unit, visit www.sddc.army.mil.

Elisabeth Paqué

ourARMY

around the world

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visit www.army.mil



Staff Sgt. Joe Armas

Four UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters assigned to the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade (ACB), 1st Cavalry Division, take off simultaneously from Cooper Field at Fort Hood, Texas, Aug. 22.



Lt. Col. Daniel F. Bohmer

Staff Sgt. Freddie Goggins Jr. with Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, fires an M777 howitzer at Forward Operating Base Al Masaak, Zabol province, Afghanistan, Aug. 21.



Troy Langenburg

Retired Gen. David H. Petraeus, center, in black suit, the former commander of NATO forces in Afghanistan, participates in the division review for the 101st Airborne Division Aug. 17, at Fort Campbell, Ky., during the 2012 Week of the Eagles reunion. Petraeus is a former commanding general of the 101st Airborne.



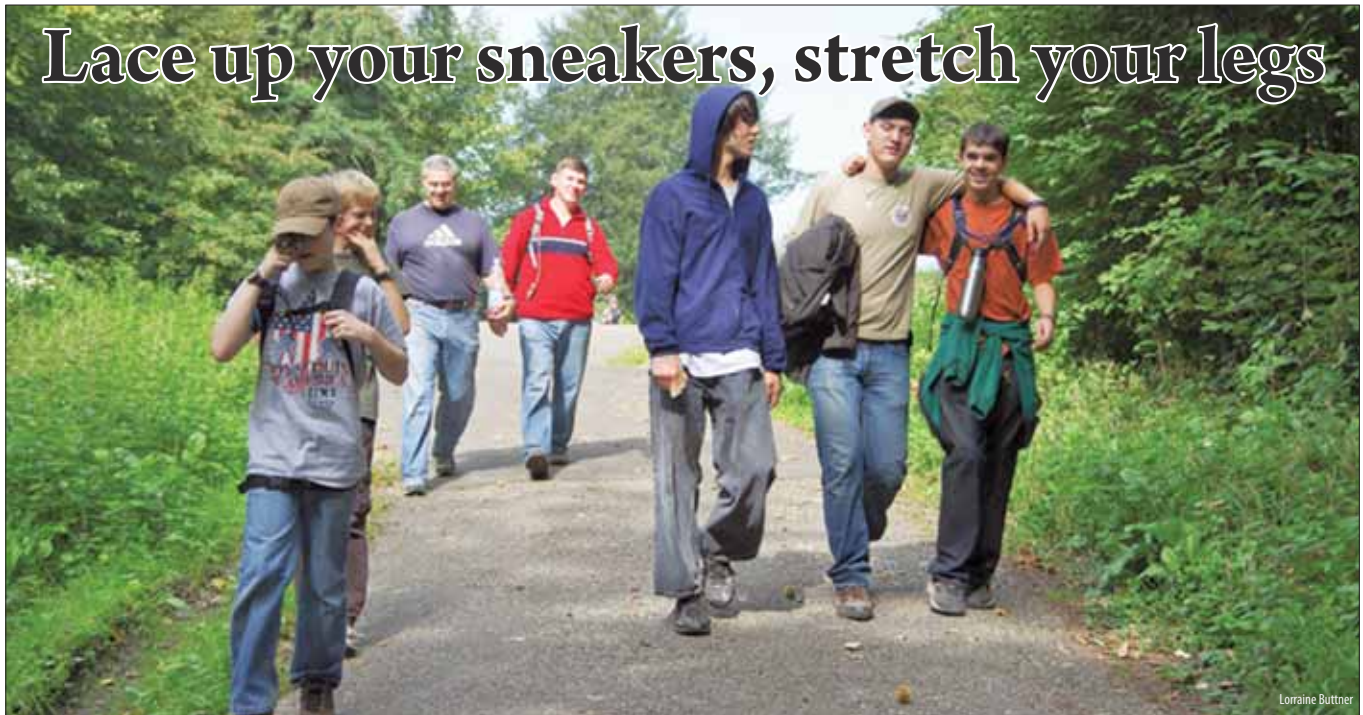
Staff Sgt. Lewis Hillburn

Soldiers with Joint Task Force Guantanamo, Cuba, board a bus heading to storm-safe shelters in preparation for Tropical Storm Isaac Friday. Isaac developed as a tropical storm over the Western Atlantic Ocean affecting Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Cuba before making landfall as a hurricane on the Gulf Coast of the United States.



Pfc. Jordan Fuller

Soldiers with the 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 118th Infantry Regiment, 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, South Carolina National Guard, attach a sling load to a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter during the Kosovo Force 16 Mission Rehearsal Exercise Aug. 20, at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels.



Lorraine Buttner

Last Heidelberg International Wandering Club volksmarch Sept. 8-9



Lorraine Buttner

A group of friends pause for a short break during the Heidelberg International Wandering Club's Volksmarch in 2011.

By Rob Floyd

HEIDELBERG INTERNATIONAL WANDERING CLUB

The Heidelberg International Wandering Club's 38th annual and final volksmarch is scheduled for Sept. 8-9.

Have you ever wondered where the sport of volksmarching originated and how the HIWC got its start? Well, in 1963, the Sports Club of Bobingen, a small town near Augsburg, organized a "Volkslauf," or "people's run," to stir interest in the club among the general public.

According to the original rules, participants had to complete the required distance within a specified amount of time in order to receive a medal. It was not uncommon for people to overextend themselves, and they started expressing strong opposition to the age categories and timed events.

Out of this opposition grew "volks-

marching," an event in which young and old alike could participate without competing. By 1968, the International Federation of Popular Sports was formed by Germany, Austria, Liechtenstein and Switzerland. The national emblems of these countries were placed in a wreath to form the IVV symbol.

By 1974, the sport of volksmarching had become so popular among the Americans and their German friends in the Heidelberg area that the Heidelberg International Wandering Club was formed. True to the "international" in its name, the club opens membership to anyone who has an interest in volksmarching. At its peak, the club had more than 1200 members. Today, even with the draw down, the active membership hovers near 200. The HIWC is one of six clubs in Europe associated with a military community.

Volksmarching is a non-competitive walking (and running) event where all can complete a trail from 5 to 22 kilometers. You can take your dog, push your child in a stroller, walk as a group, or walk on your own – and you get refreshments on the way at "control points" (Kontrollstellen) and at the end, which is back at the start hall.

The HIWC event attracts as many as 3,000 walkers from near and far. The start and finish are at the International Gesamtschule in Heidelberg-Hasenleiser, behind Nachrichten Kaserne (the Heidelberg Health Center). Parking will be available for ID card holders at the Kaserne, and directions to the start hall will be provided.

The 11- and 22-kilometer trails will meander through the forests and fields throughout the hills above Heidelberg. On these trails, volksmarchers will pass near the Ehrenfriedhof Memorial, a monument commemorating those who died in battle in the Heidelberg area during both World Wars and offers a marvelous panorama of the city of Heidelberg.

The 22-kilometer trail will venture to the Heidelberg Castle, while the 5-kilometer will stay in the vineyards below and will be flat and stroller-friendly. In the start hall, volksmarchers will be able to relax and recharge their batteries after the walk. There will be lots of food and drinks on offer, as well as music.

This year, the club is offering a collectable glass beer mug featuring scenes of Heidelberg. The cost is €5 for the mug and the pleasure of walking between 5 and 22 kilometers.

There is a need for volunteers to as-



Lorraine Buttner

The Heidelberg International Wandering Club's Volksmarch attracts as many as 3,000 walkers from near and far.

sist with the annual event.

Anyone who volunteers will receive a T-shirt, free food and drink coupons and dibs on an event prize before they run out.

It takes about 150 volunteers to operate a weekend event from setting up and breaking down benches and tables in the start hall, marking and monitoring the trail, stamping start cards, preparing and selling food, distributing supplies and equipment, directing traffic and making sure the start hall is cleared up after the event.

Everyone is encouraged to come take a walk through the German countryside, enjoy refreshments, take home a souvenir and enjoy taking part in German culture.

For more information, visit the HIWC website www.hiwc.de or contact Rob Floyd at civ. 06227-84-1266 or e-mail hiwc@yahoo.com.

GERMAN NEWS

Cologne Zoo Keeper Killed By Tiger

Ruth K., a 43-year-old Cologne Zoo section head with many years of experience dealing with big cats, was killed by a male Siberian tiger named Altai Saturday when she apparently failed to close a safety door while entering the tiger enclosure to clean it. A co-worker found Ruth K. unconscious and badly bleeding, and Altai missing. The zoo was evacuated as police moved in, using a helicopter to ensure they could maintain an overview of the scene. The tiger had gotten into an administrative building, where a window large enough for him to escape was open. Zoo director Theo Pegel shot and killed the tiger with a high-caliber rifle through a skylight in the roof of the building. "We cannot currently explain how such an experienced keeper could make such a fatal mistake," said Pegel, adding that she should not have been inside the cage with the big cat. "One had to assume after the attack that the zoo keeper was still alive," Frankfurt Zoo director Manfred Niekisch said on HR radio Monday. "Our colleagues in Cologne had no other choice." Tranquilizing the tiger would have taken up to 15 minutes, he said — possibly crucial time to reach the woman who was bleeding badly. The incident is under investigation.

World War II Bomb Evacuation

Thousands were given just a few minutes to evacuate their Munich homes Monday night after the disposal of a 250-kilogram World War II bomb proved more complicated than expected. A building was in the process of being torn down when a digger scraped against metal. Bomb disposal officer Diethard Posorski and his colleagues assumed it was a "normal" bomb — which although dangerous, can be handled with care. It took several hours before it was clear the bomb was more dangerous than anticipated. "That is a chemical delayed-action detonator. I am not defusing that; I'm not suicidal," he told the *Münchner Zeitung* newspaper. Posorski referred to three people who died in Göttingen in 2010 trying to defuse the same kind of bomb, which exploded when they lifted it up a little. "We also lifted this one up a touch, but thank God, we survived," he said. Experts are expected to create a controlled explosion. A timber shell filled with straw and sand was built around the bomb to catch shrapnel and muffle the shock wave.

SOURCE: www.thelocal.de



Vicki Johnson is a military spouse and clinical social worker with more than 13 years experience working with families in crisis. Contact Ms. Vicki by e-mail: dearmsvicki@yahoo.com, follow her on Twitter [@dearmsvicki](https://twitter.com/dearmsvicki), or visit www.dearmsvicki.com.

Dear Ms. Vicki,

The men in our family all served their country and fought in almost every major war the U.S. has been involved in. The women in our family are very feminine, nurturing and take care of their husbands and homes. I grew up knowing I would become a wife and mother, and I am the proud wife of an Army officer. One sister is married to an Air Force officer, and another sister's husband is a Naval officer.

My sister "Jenna" apparently missed this memo. She refuses to get married and have children. She wears her hair short and doesn't wear feminine clothing, and she said she is more comfortable the way she looks. It's embarrassing. Two years ago, she admitted to our family that she is gay. She ruined the family reunion for everyone, and my poor

grandmother just about keeled over.

I believe my sister must have experienced some sort of trauma at the hands of a man. Maybe she was assaulted or molested as a child or something. My parents and family seem to think this is the only reason she would turn from men and become attracted to women. Jenna doesn't realize that a great Army guy is out there who would take great care of her. I love my sister, but I'm ashamed of the way she looks and dresses. We want to help her come to her senses. Just because she has a lot of education, she thinks she can do everything on her own without a man. She should try to be a role model to her nieces and teach them how to live right and upstandingly.

How can I get Jenna to admit something bad happened to her? Taking the Moral High Ground

Dear Moral High Ground,

I'm so happy I'm not your sister. What you said is very judgmental, harsh, critical and demeaning. Moreover, you are factually incorrect. Who told you that trauma causes homosexuality? Well, it doesn't matter, because it's wrong. There is so much homophobia, hatred, discrimination, bullying, intimidation and acts of violence against gay people. This is wrong. We have young gay men and women taking their lives because of hatred they have experienced.

I think you need to stop trying to figure your sister out and stop criticizing, condemning and making disparaging remarks about her. Your grandmother and family will be OK. Your sister is who she is, and you should continue to show love toward her. This shouldn't define your relationship.

You have a right to your opinion,

but your feelings have crossed a line and have moved toward bigotry. Somehow, bigotry and high morals just don't go together.

Dear Ms. Vicki,

I have been married 10 years to a wonderful man who serves our great country, but I have not been a great wife. For years, we tried to have children. I had a full-blown affair for about a year, and I got pregnant while my husband was home for Rest and Recuperation, but I was still seeing my lover.

I don't think my daughter is my husband's. She looks nothing like my husband; she looks just like my lover and his family.

I don't want to lose my marriage, but I want to know if my lover is my daughter's biological father. What if my husband leaves? What if I act like I never cheated? As long as my daughter is loved and cared for, will it matter if I never tell the truth?

From: Truth or Dare

Lady,

I don't think you would know the truth if it hit you in your face. I'm not buying your act. You don't get it and you are not sorry. You obviously know your lover and his family well, and this affair was in the open while your husband was fighting for his country.

You're still having this affair, aren't you? You want to have a sure-steady husband and an ID card, but all the while you can't wait for him to leave again. You have no interest in finding who fathered your child. After all, you could have a paternity test done with your lover and your child, right? What you want is for me to give you permission to continue this lie. Well, I won't.

Immunizations needed to ensure health, readiness

By Kirk Frady
MEDCOM PUBLIC AFFAIRS

It is critically important that every Soldier, family member, Department of the Army civilian and health beneficiary receive all required immunizations and obtain their influenza vaccinations to ensure the Army is a healthy and mission-ready force.

Army clinics across Europe expect to begin offering influenza vaccinations in September to coincide with the start of the school year.

As students returned to school after traveling during the summer, their proximity in the school setting makes them more likely to come into contact with the flu virus and then carry it home to their family, said Col. Carlheinz Stokes, Europe Regional Medical Command Force Health Protection director.

The dominant strain of influenza

during the upcoming flu season is still expected to be the H1N1 strain from the 2009 pandemic.

"H1N1 is still circulating, but due to outstanding efforts and immunization campaigns of the past few years, people are more aware and likely to be adequately protected during the height of flu season," Col. Richard Looney, director of the Army's Military Vaccination program said.

"Influenza immunization rates have gone up every year, and there's no reason to expect they won't go up again during the 2012-13 season."

"Immunization is the very best protection against disease and related complications. Vaccines are safe and effective, and have saved more lives than any other medical measure in history," he added.

Immunizations are the best protection against disease and have saved more lives than any other medical

measure in history.

"Immunizations have prevented approximately 42,000 deaths and 20 million cases of disease over the past decade," Looney said.

"Those preventive efforts have also saved billions of dollars in related health care costs and total societal costs. Morbidity from vaccine-preventable diseases has fallen 90 percent or more for most diseases since the 20th century," Looney added.

A majority of disease outbreaks in the U.S. occur in unvaccinated or inadequately vaccinated populations.

Measles made a comeback in the U.S. partly because unvaccinated people traveled to Europe, contracted the disease and returned home.

Incidence of pertussis (whooping cough) have increased largely due to vaccination coverage rates going down, resulting in a recommendation from the Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention that everyone receive one lifetime booster dose of a pertussis-containing vaccine.

Other vaccine-preventable diseases include polio, mumps, rubella, chickenpox, meningococcal disease, pneumonia, tetanus, diphtheria, human papilloma virus, shingles and Haemophilus influenza B (hib).

A common misconception is that vaccinations are just for kids. Everyone over the age of six months should receive a seasonal flu shot every year.

Infection from influenza viruses can result in illness ranging from mild to severe and may cause life-threatening complications.

Persons with existing medical conditions should consult their health care provider before receiving the influenza vaccine.

For more information, visit www.vaccines.mil, www.cdc.gov/vaccines or <http://ermc.amedd.army.mil>.

GET OUT!

area events

More events online at www.facebook.com/BWnow

September 1

Castle Illumination – The final castle illumination of the summer takes place on the banks of the Neckar river at 10:15 p.m. To commemorate the destruction of the castle by the French, Heidelberg celebrates castle illuminations three times every summer. www.heidelberg-marketing.de.

September 5

Stammtisch – The "English Language Stammtisch" will begin its 2012-2013 season 6:30 p.m. Sept. 5 at the Zum Guldener Schaf restaurant in Heidelberg Altstadt, Hauptstraße 115. The topics will be the presidential election and the candidates, the August Republican and Democrat conventions and the Tea Party candidates for U.S. Senate seats. Event is open to the public. Civ. 06221-80-4976.

Fantasy FilmFest – Founded in Berlin, but now extending across all of Germany, the Fantasy FilmFest is an annual event with screenings in five other cities from Hamburg to Munich. Festival dates for 2012 include Frankfurt Sept. 5-12; Cologne Sept. 6-13 and Nuremberg Sept. 6-13. Visit www.fantasyfilmfest.com for program and tickets.

September 7

Dürkheimer Wurstmärkt – Enjoy more than 150 different wines at over 50 different stands at one of the largest local wine festivals in Germany, Sept. 7-11 and Sept. 14-17. The fest features wine, food and entertainment including live music and fair rides. A special bus and train service will be available through VRN, with return trips until late, especially on weekend nights. Look for the Wurstmärkt ticket at Deutsche Bahn ticket machines. www.duerkheimer-wurstmärkt.de.

Folklore Festival – The city of Karlsruhe hosts the 2012 International Dance and Folklore Festival in the Friedrichsplatz through Sept. 9. Festival starts 6 p.m. Sept. 7 and all day Sept. 8-9. www.folkloria.de.

Crafts Market – Take a stroll through Mannheim's Crafts and Farmers Market at Herzogenriedpark, Max-Joseph-Straße 64 11 a.m. through Sept. 9.

September 8

Metzingen Shopping – Enjoy a shopping trip to Metzingen 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Visit a factory outlet and enjoy discounts from 30 to 80 percent off at 80 different stores including Adidas, Burberry, Nike, Swarovski, Diesel, Max Mara and more. Reservations: DSN 388-9438, civ. 06221-338-9438.

Latin Night – Enjoy music by Disc Jockey Bello NYC and mojitos in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month at the Village Grille

on Patrick Henry Village in Heidelberg, 9 p.m.-close. www.mwrgermany.com.

September 12

Coldplay Concert – British rockers Coldplay promote their 5th studio album *Mylo Xyloto* in Munich at Olympiastadion München at 7 p.m. www.eventim.de.

September 15

Latin Flavors – Enjoy food, dancing, music and art at the Village Pavilion Community Center in Heidelberg in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, 7-11 p.m. Tickets available from the Arts and Cultural Center in advance or at the door. Open to all ages. Call DSN 388-9421, civ. 06221-228-9421, www.mwrgermany.com.

Weinheim Shopping – Weinheim hosts Sunday Shopping along the city's Hauptstraße 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sept. 15 and 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sept. 16.

Kinderfest – Gather your little ones for a day of fun at Luisenpark in Mannheim during Kinderfest. Gartenschauweg 12. Festival starts 2 p.m.

Roter Faden Shopping – Enjoy a variety of special samples and discounts from participating stores in the quaint side streets of the old town in Heidelberg, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Preregistration is required. Additional shopping dates are scheduled for Oct. 20 and Nov. 17. Limited spaces available. DSN 370-7924, www.uso.org/rheinmain.

September 22

Oktoberfest – Travel to Munich's number one festival with Outdoor Recreation. Known the world over, Oktoberfest draws more than six million visitors each year to enjoy local beer, meet people from all over the world and celebrate the royal marriage of King Ludwig I to Princess Therese of Saxony-Hildburghausen. Bus departs 6 a.m. from Patrick Henry Village Park and Ride and returns about 3 a.m. the next morning. Trip includes round trip transportation only. Subsequent trip planned for Sept. 29. www.mwrgermany.com.

Hitscherhof Farm Festival – This festival features a farmers and crafts market with pumpkin soup, corn on the cob with butter, Tarte Flambee, wines, marinated pork steaks and bratwurst, waffles, cake, coffee and more for sale. Kids will enjoy a corn maze and picking their own pumpkin for Halloween. Hitscherhof Pumpkin Farm is located at Hitscherhof 3, 66506 Maßweiler in the Saar-Pfalz area of Germany. For more information, call the farm shop, civ. 06336-839-989. www.hitscherhof.com.

September 23

Sunday Shopping – Enjoy Sunday

shopping and a children's festival in Schwetzingen. Downtown shops will open 1-6 p.m. and the kids-for-kids event will kick off with a soccer tournament at 11 a.m. Other activities include a hands-on kids circus, stage performances, guided tours of the Schwetzingen palace gardens, bouncy castle, bicycle course and town rally. The Kleine Planken pedestrian district and the square in front of the palace will turn into a sports and display arena, keeping children busy and allowing parents a chance to shop. Food and drinks will be available. www.schwetzingen.de/pb/site/Schwetzingen/get/params_Datattachment/372145/Programm-Faltblatt.pdf (German language only).

September 25

Nickelback Concert – Canadian band Nickelback plays at Hanns-Martin-Schleyer-Halle in Stuttgart at 8 p.m. with opening act Daughtry. www.eventim.de.

September 28

Cannstatter Volksfest – Stuttgart holds its 167th annual people's festival Sept. 28-Oct. 14. Beer gardens, wine tents, rides and traditional foods will be available as well as a huge fireworks show on the final evening. www.cannstatter-volksfest.de.

September 29

Fall Fest – Savor the sights and sounds of the fall season during the Heidelberg Fall Fest downtown 11 a.m. - 11 p.m. Enjoy medieval market, arts and crafts, events for kids and live bands.

October 2

International Jazz Festival – Enjoy Jazz, The International Festival for Jazz and More, will present a nearly seven week period of top-class arrangements and extremely diverse performances focusing on jazz but also on bordering genres, such as classical music, pop, rock, hip hop and electronic music. Program runs through Nov. 10 at locations in Heidelberg, Mannheim and Ludwigshafen. www.enjoyjazz.de.

Upcoming concerts

Jennifer Lopez – JLo's Dance Again World Tour comes to Berlin Oct. 13 at 02 World Berlin. www.eventim.de.

Ongoing

Stuttgart Planetarium – The Stuttgart Planetarium offers visitors a trip to outer space without leaving Earth. Ticket reservations are recommended. The planetarium is located at Willy-Brandt-Straße 25, Stuttgart. Civ. 0711-162-9215.

coming to THEATERS

PREMIUM RUSH

(Joseph Gordon-Levitt) Dodging speeding cars, crazed cabbies and eight million cranky pedestrians is all in a day's work for Wilee (Gordo-Levitt), the best of New York's agile and aggressive bicycle messengers. It takes a special breed to ride the fixie (super lightweight, single-gear bikes with no brakes) and riders who are equal part skilled cyclists and nutcases who risk becoming a smear on the pavement every time they head into traffic. But a guy who's used to putting his life on the line is about to get more than he's used to when his last envelope of the day – a routine "premium rush" run – turns into a life or death chase through the streets of Manhattan. (Rated PG-13 for some violence, intense action sequences and language.) 91 minutes.



PLAYING THIS WEEK

Heidelberg, Patrick Henry Village

Aug. 30 - PARANORMAN (PG) 7 p.m.
 Aug. 31 - PREMIUM RUSH (PG-13) 7 p.m.; TED (R) 10 p.m.
 Sept. 1 - BRAVE (PG) 4 p.m.; SPARKLE (PG-13) 7 p.m.; TED (R) 10 p.m.
 Sept. 2 - BRAVE (PG) 4 p.m.; HIT & RUN (PG-13) 7 p.m.
 Sept. 3 - PREMIUM RUSH (PG-13) 7 p.m.
 Sept. 4 - TED (PG-13) 7 p.m.
 Sept. 5 - SPARKLE (PG-13) 7 p.m.
 Sept. 6 - BRAVE (PG) 7 p.m.

Vogelweh, Galaxy

Aug. 31 - THE ODD LIFE OF TIMOTHY GREEN (PG) 4 p.m.; THAT'S MY BOY (R) 7 p.m.
 Sept. 1 - PARANORMAN (PG) 4 p.m.; THE EXPENDABLES 2 (R) 7 p.m.
 Sept. 2 - ROCK OF AGES (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Ramstein, Gateway Cineplex

Aug. 30 - THE ODD LIFE OF TIMOTHY GREEN (PG) 11 a.m., 1:15 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5:45 p.m., 8 p.m.; PARANORMAN (PG) 11 a.m., 1:15 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5:45 p.m., 8 p.m.; THE EXPENDABLES 2 (R) 11:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 5 p.m., 7:30 p.m.
 Aug. 31 - PREMIUM RUSH (PG-13) 11 a.m., 1:15 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5:45 p.m., 8 p.m., 10:15 p.m.; SPARKLE (PG-13) 2:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m.; HIT & RUN (R) 11:30 a.m., 8:30 p.m.; BRAVE (PG) 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 9 p.m.; TED (R) 11:15 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4:15 p.m., 6:45 p.m., 9:15 p.m.;
 Sept. 1 - PREMIUM RUSH (PG-13) 11 a.m., 1:15 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5:45 p.m., 8 p.m., 10:15 p.m.; SPARKLE (PG-13) 2:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m.; HIT & RUN (R) 11:30 a.m., 8:30 p.m.; TED (R) 11:15 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4:15 p.m., 6:45 p.m., 9:15 p.m.;
 BRAVE (PG) 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 9 p.m.
 Sept. 2 - PREMIUM RUSH (PG-13) 11 a.m., 1:15 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5:45 p.m., 8 p.m. SPARKLE (PG-13) 2:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m.; HIT & RUN (R) 11:30 a.m., 8:30 p.m. TED (R) 11:15 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m., 7 p.m.; BRAVE (PG) 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m. Sept. 3 - PREMIUM RUSH (PG-13) 11 a.m., 1:15 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5:45 p.m., 8 p.m.; SPARKLE (PG-13) 2:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m.; HIT & RUN (R) 11:30 a.m., 8:30 p.m. TED (R) 11:15 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m., 7 p.m.; BRAVE (PG) 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m. Sept. 4 - PREMIUM RUSH (PG-13) 11 a.m., 1:15 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5:45 p.m., 8 p.m.; SPARKLE (PG-13) 2:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m.; HIT & RUN (R) 11:30 a.m., 8:30 p.m.; TED (R) 11:15 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m., 7 p.m.; BRAVE (PG) 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m. Sept. 5 - PREMIUM RUSH (PG-13) 11 a.m., 1:15 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5:45 p.m., 8 p.m. SPARKLE (PG-13) 2:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m.; HIT & RUN (R) 11:30 a.m., 8:30 p.m. TED (R) 11:15 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m., 7 p.m.; BRAVE (PG) 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 9 p.m.
 Sept. 6 - PREMIUM RUSH (PG-13) 11 a.m., 1:15 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5:45 p.m., 8 p.m. SPARKLE (PG-13) 2:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m.; HIT & RUN (R) 11:30 a.m., 8:30 p.m.; TED (R) 2 p.m., 7 p.m.; BRAVE (PG) 11 a.m., 4:30 p.m.

THEATER INFORMATION

Patrick Henry Village, Heidelberg, 06221-27-238
 Galaxy Theater, Vogelweh, 0631-50017
 Gateway Cineplex, Ramstein, 06371-47-5550

Visit www.aafes.com for updated listings and more movie descriptions

Mannheim Cineplex (P4 13), CinemaxX (M7, 17), Mannheim, civ. 01805-625466, www.cineplex.de

Mannheim, CinemaxX, Cineplex - English Language movies

Aug. 30-31 – THE EXPENDABLES 2 (R) 4:45 p.m., 11 p.m. at CinemaxX
 Aug. 31-Sept. 1 – TOTAL RECALL (PG-13) 8:45 p.m., 10:30 p.m. at Cineplex
 Aug. 30-Sept. 1 – THE DARK KNIGHT RISES (PG-13) 7:30 p.m., 10:15 p.m. at Cineplex

community HIGHLIGHTS

Privately-Owned Vehicle Lot

Starting Sept. 5, U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg will have one central vehicle resale lot (located across from the dental clinic and the Military Police station on Patrick Henry Village in Heidelberg) for privately-owned vehicles. The resale lot will be the only authorized location in USAG BW to park a U.S. Army Europe-plated POV for sale. Vehicles that are parked with "for sale" signs elsewhere in the garrison will be ticketed for policy violation. Patrons are required to register with Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation in the Village Pavilion Community Center and obtain a permit. For detailed instructions on the POV resale lot, view policy number 68 on www.bw.eur.army.mil/about/policies.html. DSN 388-9438, civ. 06221-678-9438.

Holiday Greetings

The Joint Hometown News Service team will tape greetings in English or Spanish for loved ones statewide that will be broadcast by local TV stations in the U.S. during the upcoming holiday season, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Sept. 9-10 at the Heidelberg Commissary. Service members should wear duty uniform; if on leave, a uniform top and T-shirt should be worn for the taping. Family members should be accompanied by the sponsor, unless the sponsor is deployed. DSN 373-1400, civ. 06221-17-1400.

Operation Rising Star Auditions

A Capella screenings for Operation Rising Star will be held 6:30 p.m. Sept. 13 at KMC Onstage, Bldg. 3232 on Kleber Kaserne in Kaiserslautern. Auditions are mandatory in order to compete 7 p.m. Sept. 22. Winners will go to San Antonio to compete for the grand prize. Registration required. DSN 493-6626, civ. 0631-411-6626.

U.S. Army Officer Candidate School

Completed Officer Candidate School board packets must be submitted no later than Sept. 16 to the Military Personnel Division, Room. 111 in Bldg. 3245 on Kleber Kaserne in Kaiserslautern. U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern will host a structured interview (local board) for OCS 9 a.m. Sept. 21 in the Command Conference Room, Bldg. 2933 on Pulaski Barracks. The Human Resources Command OCS selection board will be conducted Jan. 7-11, 2013. DSN 483-8062/7333, civ. 0631-411-8062/7333, <https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/protect/branches/officer/operations/accessions/OCS/index.htm>.

Equal Opportunity Training

The U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg Equal Opportunity Office recommends supervisors attend annual Equal Employment Opportunity classroom training. Next class is 1-2 p.m. Sept. 19 in Bldg. 128 on Patton Barracks in Heidelberg. Employees must have classroom training every other year and the online version, found at www.bw.eur.army.mil/Directories/EEO/Training/EEONoFEAR.pdf, during the alternate year. Submit completion certificate to EEO. DSN 373-5494, civ. 06221-17-5494.

Retiree Appreciation Day

An Army in Europe Retiree Appreciation Day will be held 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Oct. 13 at the Patrick Henry Village Pavilion in Heidelberg. Guest speakers will be U.S. Army Europe Commander Lt. Gen. Mark P. Hertling and retired Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth O. Preston, co-chairman of the Army Chief of Staff Retiree Council. The Association of the U.S. Army will also host an ice-breaker starting 6 p.m. Oct. 12 at the Pavilion. DSN 370-8399, civ. 06221-57-8399.

KAISERSLAUTERN Education

♦ **imAlone Program** – Child, Youth and School Services will offer the free imAlone Program, where youth can learn how to stay safe, handle emergency situations and more, 4-6 p.m. Sept. 11-19 at the School Age Center, Room 9-10 in Bldg. 17 on Sembach Kaserne. Parents who wish to enroll their children are required to attend a workshop 5-6 p.m. Sept. 10 at the SSAC. Parent Central Services: DSN 493-4156, civ. 0631-3406-4516.

Community

♦ **Save-A-Life Tour Campaign** – The Save-A-Life Tour Campaign will be conducted 8 a.m.-noon and again 1-5 p.m. Aug. 30, 31 in Bldg. 237 on Rhine Ordnance Barracks. The event is reserved seating and invitation-only, and will count toward annual Army Substance Abuse Program training. Each certified attendee will receive a certificate for four ASAP training hours. DSN 486-6254, civ. 0631-86-6254, www.savealifetour.com.

♦ **Karaoke Shootout** – Bring your "right arm," wingman or boss to an organizational-level karaoke shootout 5-9 p.m. Aug. 31 at Armstrong's Club, Bldg. 1036 on Vogelweh Housing. A representative from each unit or organization will select and sing a song and winners will take home a trophy and gift coupon. The free event also features snacks, door prizes and more. Civ. 0631-354-9986.

♦ **Midnight Bingo** – Kazabra Club in Bldg. 2057 on Vogelweh offers Midnight Bingo 9 p.m.-midnight Sept. 2. Doors open at 7 p.m. DSN 489-7261, civ. 0631-534-7261.

♦ **Cologne Zoo** – Army Outdoor Recreation visits the Cologne Zoo Sept. 3. Registration required. DSN 493-4117, civ. 0631-3406-4117.

♦ **Job Fair** – Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation will hold a non-appropriated funds job fair for FMWR jobs 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sept. 5 at Armstrong's Club, Bldg. 1036 on Vogelweh Housing. Applicants should bring resume, valid passport, social security card, transcripts and military or civilian service records, if applicable. Civ. 0631-3406-4009.

♦ **BOSS Meeting** – Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers meets 1:30 p.m. Sept. 6 and first and third Thursdays at Java Café, Bldg. 273 on Rhine Ordnance Barracks. DSN 493-4215, civ. 0631-3406-4215.

♦ **Music Café** – KMC Onstage in Bldg. 3232 on Kleber Kaserne presents the Music Café starting 7 p.m. Sept. 7. The event is an opportunity to relax with fellow music lovers, grab a bite to eat at the Java Café, listen to local musicians or even join in. Registration required to perform. DSN 483-6626, civ. 0631-411-6626.

♦ **Tongeren Antiques Market** – Kaiserslautern Army Outdoor Recreation visits the Tongeren Antiques

Market in Belgium Sept. 9. DSN 493-4117, civ. 0631-3406-4117.

♦ **Bruno's Pasta Bar** – Bruno's Pasta Bar, located inside Landstuhl Community Club, Bldg. 3780, is now closed Sundays, unless reserved. DSN 486-7244, civ. 01371-86-7244.

♦ **Indoor Flea Market** – Buy or sell treasures at an indoor flea market 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Sept. 15 at the Special Events Center, Bldg. 237 on Rhine Ordnance Barracks. Space and tables available to rent from Army Outdoor Recreation. DSN 493-4117, civ. 0631-3406-4117.

♦ **Wounded Warriors** – KMC Onstage in Bldg. 3232 on Kleber Kaserne offers free programming to wounded warriors and their guests at the Fisher House. Landstuhl patrons may be able to obtain transportation to and from KMC Onstage. DSN 483-6626, civ. 0631-411-6626.

♦ **Housing Offices** – The housing offices on Vogelweh and Ramstein have new customer service hours: 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Friday. Housing accepts appointments and express service for walk-in customers. Initial housing briefings in Kaiserslautern are 8 a.m. Monday, Thursday in Bldg. 3245 on Kleber Kaserne. DSN 489-6671, civ. 0631-536-6671.

♦ **Sembach Warrior Zone** – The all-new Warrior Zone located in the bowling center in Bldg. 104 on Sembach Kaserne is now open 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Friday and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Sunday. DSN 496-6342, civ. 06302-67-6342.

HEIDELBERG Education

♦ **ACS Classes** – Job Search Overview and USAJOBS Application Process, 10 a.m.-noon Sept. 4, Village Pavilion Community Center, Bldg. 4507; Professional Resume Writing, 10 a.m.-noon Sept. 5; Financial Readiness Briefing (computer-based training; mandatory for first-term Soldiers.) Registration is required. DSN 370-6883/6975, civ. 06221-57-6883/6975.

♦ **American Red Cross** – An adult and pediatric first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automated external defibrillators course will be offered by the American Red Cross 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Sept. 15 in Bldg. 3850, Room 263, on the Community Support Center. Registration required. DSN 370-1760, civ. 06221-57-1760, Heidelberg@redcross.org.

♦ **UMUC Military Book Award** – University of Maryland University College Europe offers a military book award for active duty service members and their spouses and dependents. Both new and current students are eligible to apply. UMUC Europe also offers a new student scholarship to help students with

book and tuition costs. DSN 370-6762, civ. 06221-3780, www.ed.umuc.edu/financialaid.

♦ **UMUC Field Study Program** – Students can explore fascinating locations and come face-to-face with captivating history in Europe while earning university credit with University of Maryland University College Europe's field study program in Cambridge, England, and Dublin, Ireland, Oct. 13-20. Register until Sept. 30. DSN 370-6762, civ. 06221-3780, www.ed.umuc.edu/fieldstudy.

Community

♦ **International Cooking Class** – Learn how to cook international-style barbecue 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Aug. 31 at the Patrick Henry Village Commissary. DSN 370-6883, civ. 06221-57-6883, www.mwrgemany.com.

♦ **Stuffed Pumpkin Workshop** – Ages 10 and older can learn how to make stuffed pumpkins in time for fall 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sept. 4 in the Arts and Cultural Center on Patrick Henry Village. Introduction to Sewing required unless bringing own machine and transformer. DSN 388-9421, civ. 06221-338-9421.

♦ **Story Time** – The Patrick Henry Village Library hosts story time with a craft for parents and their preschoolers 11 a.m. Sept. 5 and every Wednesday. Children under 3 can enjoy story time 11 a.m. Sept. 6 and every Thursday. DSN 370-1740, civ. 06221-57-1740.

♦ **Homework Helps** – Parent2Parent's workshop "Homework Helps" will be at Heidelberg Middle School's Information Center 3:30 p.m. Sept. 5. Parents can get resources to help their children succeed with homework assignments. Civ. 06205-255-8274, PtoP.Heidelberg@MilitaryChild.org.

♦ **Playgroup** – Parent 2 Parent hosts a playgroup 9:30-11 a.m. Sept. 7 and every Friday at the Patrick Henry Village Child Development Center. Parents and their babies, toddlers and preschoolers can make crafts, listen to stories, sing songs and more. DSN 388-9241, civ. 06221-338-9241.

♦ **Parent's Night, Day Out** – Parents can enjoy some kids-free time 7 p.m.-midnight Sept. 7, 21 and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sept. 8, 22 during Parent's Night, Day Out for infants through fifth graders. Register with Parent Central Services, Bldg. 4443 on Patrick Henry Village. DSN 388-9340, civ. 06221-338-9341, www.mwrgemany.com.

♦ **Dilsberg Trip** – Army Community Service takes public transportation to Dilsberg, a town with history dating back to Roman times, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sept. 8. DSN 370-6883, civ. 06221-57-6883, www.mwrgemany.com.

♦ **Cub Scout Pack 284 Picnic** – Cub Scout Pack 284 will host a welcome back picnic 3 p.m. Sept. 8

at Burger King Park on Patrick Henry Village. New Scouts may register at the picnic and meet their new den leaders. Civ. 06222-318-1502.

♦ **Youth Center Grill And Chill** – High schoolers enrolled in the Heidelberg Youth Center are invited to a Grill and Chill party 6-10 p.m. Sept. 8 at the Village Pavilion Community Center. DSN 388-9003, civ. 06221-338-9003.

♦ **Portrait Painting** – Ages 12 and older can learn basic elements of oil and acrylic portrait painting in a 4-part class 5-7 p.m. Sept. 11, 12, 18, 19 in the Arts and Cultural Center on Patrick Henry Village. DSN 388-9421, civ. 06221-338-9421, www.mwrgemany.com.

♦ **Caracalla Day Spa** – Join Army Outdoor Recreation on a trip to Caracalla Day Spa in Baden-Baden Sept. 16. DSN 388-9282, civ. 06221-338-9282, www.mwrgemany.com.

♦ **Combined Federal Campaign** – The Combined Federal Campaign is scheduled to kick off noon Sept. 17 at the community chapel in Bldg. 135 on Patton Barracks. CFC-Overseas, the world's largest charity campaign impacting the lives of military personnel and family members, runs through Nov. 16. DSN 370-7687, civ. 06221-57-7687-6711.

♦ **Youth Center Europa Park** – High schoolers enrolled in the Heidelberg Youth Center can sign up by Sept. 19 for a trip to Europa Park 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Sept. 22. DSN 388-9003, civ. 06221-338-9003.

♦ **Prague Express** – Join Army Outdoor Recreation on a trip to Prague, the Czech Republic, Sept. 22. DSN 388-9282, civ. 06221-338-9282.

♦ **Biodegradable Waste** – The sustained high temperatures have prompted the Heidelberg city utilities to remind their customers that through Sept. 28, the bins for biodegradable waste are emptied on a weekly basis. This break from the regular two-week cycle applies during the summer months to prevent irritations and comes at no extra charge. Customers may put out their bins on the regular pick up day at the regular location.

MANNHEIM Community

♦ **BOSS Meeting** – Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers meets 3:30 p.m. Sept. 5 at the Coleman Warrior Zone. DSN 382-4148, civ. 0621-779-4148, www.mwrgemany.com.

♦ **Board Game Night** – Play board games 4:30-10 p.m. Mondays at the Warrior Zone on Coleman Barracks. DSN 382-4410, civ. 0621-779-4410.

♦ **Battlefield Night** – Team up with friends and play Battlefield online on X-Box or PlayStation 3 4:30-10 p.m. Thursdays at the Warrior Zone on Coleman Barracks. DSN 382-4410, civ. 0621-779-4410.

Wounded Warriors to attend Paralympics

By Stefan Alford
LANDSTUHL REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Olympic games may be over, but there is still a group of international athletes competing for gold in London, and a select group of Soldiers will be on hand to see the competition.

The Warrior Transition Battalion-Europe sent 18 Soldiers to watch the 2012 Paralympic Games Aug. 27-31, thanks to donations by the American Red Cross, Wounded Warrior Project and the U.S. Olympic Committee Paralympic Military Program.

The Paralympic Military Program donated the tickets for WTB-E Soldiers to view the games, while the Red Cross and Wounded Warrior Project are covering the costs of transportation and lodging.

"When the Paralympics [committee] gave us the tickets, we wanted to make sure our Warriors could actually use them," said Brandi Hall, Outreach Coordinator for the American Red Cross in Europe, explaining why her organization stepped up to help fund the bus and hotel for the trip.

Hall said the invitation from the USOC is both a reward and motivational tool that stems from a June visit when a contingent of Paralympic wheelchair basketball players toured Warrior Transition Units in Europe. The Paralympic athletes played friendly matches with Wounded Warriors to encourage them to get out and participate more in sports activities.

The motivational aspect of attending the first week of the London games, which run through Sept. 9, was echoed by Chris Ebner, an occupational therapist with the WTB-E in Heidelberg.

"This Paralympic experience will provide a source of motivation for these Soldiers, as they will have the opportunity to witness firsthand that despite the physical or mental challenges that an individual may have, they can still reach great heights and achieve their dreams," he said. "We hope to inspire and motivate our Soldiers to reach their full potential in every facet of life whether they plan to return to duty or separate and transition to the civilian sector."

WTB-E Soldiers attending the Paralympics are comprised of units in Kaiserslautern, Wiesbaden, Heidelberg, Stuttgart, Baumholder, Schweinfurt, Bamberg, Katterbach and Vilseck. One of them is Sgt. Larry Watson from Kaiserslautern, who was on hand for the Red Cross "London Luncheon" at Kleber Kaserne Aug. 17, where the tickets were officially presented to WTB-E representatives.

"This is a great opportunity to see this type of competition," said Watson, who is recovering from



Ed Drohan

Warrior Transition Battalion-Europe Soldiers show their team spirit Tuesday in the lobby of their London hotel where they are attending the Paralympic Games. Thanks to donations from the International Olympic Committee and the Red Cross, 17 WTB-E Soldiers are able to attend the games.

nerve damage in his left foot from previous deployments. The WTU wheelchair basketball participant said the chance to go to the Paralympics is just one example of the "wonderful care and treatment" he's received since coming to the unit in November.

"We wanted to include Soldiers who have been involved with our adaptive sports and reconditioning programs throughout the battalion and also those individuals who are fairly new to the organization as well," explained Ebner. Many of the WTB-E's programs mirror those that will be featured in London, like wheelchair basketball, sitting volleyball, swimming, other aquatic sports and archery.

American Paralympians will also compete in 15 additional sports, including cycling, judo, rowing, shooting, wheelchair rugby, wheelchair fencing, track and field and wheelchair tennis. The team of 227 Americans includes 20 U.S. military veterans and active duty service members, some of whom were wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan, according to the USOC Paralympic team website.

Among them is Navy Lt. Bradley Snyder, who lost his vision in September 2011 while swimming in Afghanistan. He is slated to compete in swimming on the one year anniversary of his injury.

The USOC Paralympic organizers note on their website that sports participation rates at WTUs and other Wounded Warrior programs have increased from 31 percent to 54 percent over the past two years. In all, more than 4,200 athletes will participate from 165 countries, eclipsing the previous total of 3,951 participants from 146 nations at the Beijing competition in 2008.

Local teen wins German Fencing Championship

By Dave Hulteen
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OFFICER

Heidelberg Middle School student Marie Alyson Hulteen, 13, competed in the 2012 Deutsche Meisterschaft (German National Fencing Championship) June 2-3 in Dillingen.

Hulteen won the individual ladies foil, B-Youth age group, and the 2012 Deutsche Meisterschaft in B-Youth team competition.

The German Championship tournament

featured 96 top-ranked participants from all over Germany.

Participants fenced in individual competition June 2 and as teams June 3.

Hulteen's first gold medal came after a heart-stopping overtime 10-9 win in the individual competition.

Following her national championship wins, Hulteen was selected for the German National Fencing Association Prospect Squad, a list of 16 women foil fencers



Dave Hulteen

Marie Hulteen, left, executes a lunge attack against an opponent in the German Fencing Championship in Dillingen.

ages 13 through 16 who are considered prospects for the German National Fencing Squad.

staying ACTIVE

Fall Bowling Leagues

Fall bowling leagues are forming at Heidelberg Bowling and Family Entertainment Center. Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation League meets 7 p.m. Sept. 4; mixed league meeting and registration is 7 p.m. Sept. 7 and juniors league starts Sept. 8. www.mwrgermany.com.

Freedom Walk And Run

Registration for the 5th annual U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg Freedom run and walk starts 8:30 a.m. Sept. 8 at the Patrick Henry Village Library in Heidelberg, with run start 9 a.m. Free T-shirt while supplies last. www.mwrgermany.com.

Heidelberg Volksmarch

The Heidelberg International Wandering Club hosts its 38th and final volksmarch 7 a.m. Sept. 8-9 in Heidelberg. Choose from 5 km, 11 km and 22 km routes through the hills above Heidelberg. Registration is at the Internationale Gesamtschule Hasenleiser in Rohrbach. www.hiwc.de.

BOSS Scuba Diving

Try scuba diving in Kronau with Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers Sept. 22. Sign up with Outdoor Recreation by Sept. 14. Cost is \$75. DSN 3273-5275, civ. 06221-17-5275.

Fall Fishing Course

A fall fishing course is scheduled 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Sept. 15-16 at the Heidelberg Rod and Gun Club. For more information, call civ. 06202-51193. www.mwrgermany.com.

Bundesliga Soccer

Catch a home game of TSG Hoffenheim when they play Hannover 96 at 5:30 p.m. Sept. 28 at the Rhein-Neckar Arena in Sinsheim. Tickets can be purchased online at www.achtzehn99.de.

Shotgun And Handgun Safety Courses

Make an appointment for group or individual shotgun or handgun safety courses at the Heidelberg Rod and Gun Club. \$25 registration includes firearm and ammunition. Open to ID card holders 14 and older. Civ. 06202-5119.

Spintastic Spin Classes

Kaiserslautern Sports and Fitness offers spin classes on Kleber Kaserne 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Cost is \$4 per class. Reservations recommended. DSN 483-7610, civ. 0631-411-7610, www.mwrgermany.com.

CYSS Fall Sports Registration

Registration is open for Child, Youth and School Services fall sports programs in Heidelberg and Kaiserslautern. Register at <https://webtrac.mwr.army.mil> or at Parent Central Services.

Personal Trainer Services

Personal trainer services are available at Heidelberg fitness centers. More information: DSN 370-7506, civ. 06221-57-7506.

Fitness Instructors Needed

The U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern sports office is looking for group fitness, martial arts instructors and personal trainers for Army fitness facilities. DSN 486-8317, civ. 06371-86-7172.

Coaches Needed

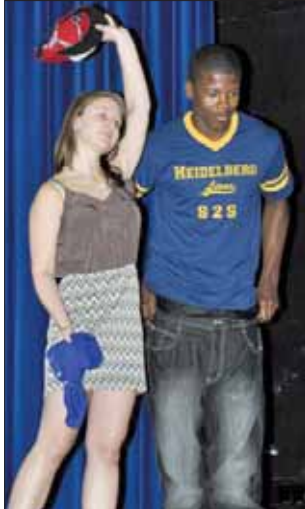
Heidelberg Sports and Fitness is seeking head coaches for community soccer, basketball, softball and volleyball teams. Call DSN 373-8032, civ. 06221-17-8032 for more information.

Send the Herald Post Your Photos

If you have photos from sporting events, e-mail them along with the details of the event and names of those pictured to usaghd.post@ur.army.mil or usarmy.badenwuer.usag.mbx.post-newspaper@mail.mil. Deadline is noon Monday.

Marking the beginning of the end

2012-13 school year last for U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg



Tina Sanders

Emilee McGann and Marcus Jackson demonstrate what clothing styles are prohibited at a Heidelberg American High School orientation Aug. 23.



Linda Steil

Heidelberg Middle Schoolers meet up with old friends prior to the bell ringing Monday morning. The 2012-13 year will be the last for Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe in Heidelberg, due to the scheduled closure of U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg by summer 2013.



Elizabeth Behring

Lt. Col. Deon Young, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, U.S. Army Europe, escorts son Deon Monday to Patrick Henry Elementary School. The younger Deon is in the first grade.

AFN

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AFN Wiesbaden, AFN Kaiserslautern and the Regional Media Center at AFN Europe headquarters on Coleman Barracks now support the Mannheim and Heidelberg communities.

Those in Heidelberg and Mannheim can now

listen to AFN Kaiserslautern (FM 104.6 and 1143 AM) or AFN Wiesbaden (98.7 FM or 873 AM.) 107.3, a low-power FM service, is scheduled to go off the air Sept. 30.

Mannheim and Heidelberg publicity and news coverage requests should now go to tyler.alexander@afn.dma.mil at least a month in advance of the event.

AFN Stuttgart's first home was in the Graf Zeppelin Hotel, from March 17, 1948-July 21, 1953.

The station broadcast from Stuttgart Mittnachtbau July 21, 1953-March 17, 1959.

Next up was building 151, the elementary school, from March 17, 1959-April 16, 1993. AFN Stuttgart became AFN Heidelberg April 16, 1993, when the staff moved to Hammonds Barracks in Seckenheim. In December 2009, AFN Heidelberg moved to Coleman Barracks, into a temporary space formerly occupied by a U.S. Army Band.

CLOSURE

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"We want people to be proactive," DeCoster said. "This is going to happen."

The orders mostly impact three Mannheim units. AFN headquarters and the U.S. Army Regional Correctional Facility-Europe, both based at Coleman Barracks, will move to Sembach once buildings are made ready.

The European Theater Network Operations Support Center at Mannheim's Funari Barracks will eventually become the Information Processing Center at Wiesbaden's Clay Kaserne. Coleman, Funari and Spinelli Barracks will be work sites.

Personnel will commute from either the Kaiserslautern or Wiesbaden area. Units may establish shuttles to make it easier for Soldiers.

Some changes take effect immediately, DeCoster said. Soldiers and civilians on high-cost moves will no longer come to USAG B-W starting in September 2012. Instead, they will be diverted to either Kaiserslautern or Wiesbaden. Soldiers and civilians on

low-cost moves will be diverted beginning no later than January 2013.

"The directive that everybody will move to their gaining location – in this case either Kaiserslautern or Wiesbaden – allows the closure of Patrick Henry Village and the community shopping center earlier than anticipated under our original plan," DeCoster said.

The accelerated timeline affects roughly 230 military members, plus their families and government civilians, said Dianne Hamilton, director of USAG B-W's transformation.

The Army has closed several installations in Europe over the past decade. Experience from those closures has guided current plans, Hamilton said.

"Once you get a population under 500, you have a hard time providing a level of services and support that's commensurate to what we want for our Soldiers, civilians and family members," Hamilton said.

"It's better to have people move to places with robust services," she added.

In May, AFN-Europe leaders held a meeting to discuss transformation and

find out who would like to move early, said Kibbey, 31, a nine-year veteran.

"I'll go ahead and move," Kibbey said. "It makes sense for me, with a son in school and my wife looking for a job."

He's already checked out the Kaiserslautern Military Community for schools, day care and other services. The Army agreed with his plan.

Kibbey's now awaiting Air Force approval for his move, which raises some questions, he said.

Communicating with the community and answering service members' questions, is key to success, DeCoster said. On Sept. 7, the garrison hosts a town hall meeting, and community members can take part through Facebook and AFN. Also, the Herald Post newspaper will continue to provide the latest transformation updates.

DeCoster is optimistic because of recent successes. Roughly 20 units in USAG B-W were already moved or inactivated this year. Now, Mannheim's Benjamin Franklin Village – a housing area larger than PHV – is set to close.

"We have not slipped off timeline at

Town Hall Meeting

U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg will hold a town hall 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Sept. 7 at the Village Pavilion Community Center in Heidelberg. It will be aired on the program guide and the Heidelberg virtual channel, 15 on an AFN decoder or the AFN Atlantic Prime channel from on post. It will also be streamed on the AFN Europe website (www.afneurope.net), on the USAG BW Facebook page (www.facebook.com/bwnow), and the garrison website (www.bw.eur.army.mil/community_life/townhall.html). To e-mail questions in advance, type "town hall meeting" in the subject line and e-mail usarmy.badenwurttemberg.usag.mbx.post-newspaper@mail.mil or ask on Facebook.

all. We remain committed to providing a high quality of life during our last year, but services will end at the latest when the garrison deactivates 30 September 2013," DeCoster said.

"Through this process we've shown that with the right emphasis, plus leaders and the community pulling together, it can be done very effectively," DeCoster added.