

The Citizen

Vol. 41, No. 24

www.stuttgart.army.mil

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High achieving BEMS is one of three DoDEA schools to win the 2012 National Blue Ribbon School award.

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FCC amnesty underway

If you're providing unauthorized child care on an installation, you can register with FCC without penalty.

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Campbell takes command of USAREUR

U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs Office

U.S. Army Europe's new commanding general arrived in theater and assumed command of USAREUR Dec. 1.

Lt. Gen. Donald Campbell Jr., now USAREUR's 38th commander, arrived in Heidelberg and took the command's reins earlier than anticipated.

Campbell, who handed off his previous command at III Corps and Fort Hood, Texas, last month, will be the last USAREUR commander in Heidelberg before the command moves to Wiesbaden, Germany, in 2013. He will lead the organization primarily from Clay Kaserne in Wiesbaden.

A formal assumption of command ceremony will be conducted after the new year.

Library inspires would-be authors with 'novel' writing challenge

By Susan Huseman

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Could you write 1,667 words every day for 30 days straight?

That's exactly what Kristin Agcaoili set out to do in November, and at the end of the month she had created a 51,577 word tale about a young girl with magical powers on the run from a government that considers her dangerous.

Agcaoili, a Patch High School junior participating in the 2012 National Novel Writing Month, found time to write between classes, while on the bus to and from school, and late at night.

"I would spend three to four hours a day, if I had time," she said.

Agcaoili is a winner, according to Margi Desmond, organizer of Patch Library's participation in National Novel Writing Month or NaNoWriMo.

NaNoWriMo is an annual Internet-based creative writing project that challenges participants to write the equivalent of a 175-page new novel



www.photos.com

Seventy participants took up Patch Library's challenge to get involved with National Novel Writing Month, celebrated annually in November for the past 14 years. The goal: a 50,000 word novel in 30 days.

between Nov. 1 and 30.

"You 'win' if you complete 50,000 words," said Desmond, a library technician, Army spouse and published author.

"It's like writing the first rough draft of a novel. You're going to have to polish, revise and edit, but it is a way to get started," she said.

While many stateside libraries offer "write-ins" for authors during NaNoWriMo, the Patch Library went several steps further, offering weekend write-ins and a series of classes for teens and adults that would take fledging scribes on a journey through publication.

See *Library* on page 4



'I made myself a snowball as perfect as perfect as can be'

BEMS third-graders Kirsten Burchfield (from left), Sean Ingram, Maryann Putnam and Tyler Farrar team up during lunch recess on Nov. 30 to build a giant snowball. They could not, however, take all the credit. First- and second-graders got the snowball "rolling" in earlier recess periods.

Susan Huseman

Commander's Column

Command team wishes happy holidays to all

Commentary by Col. John Stack
USAG Stuttgart commander

On behalf of the garrison command team, I'd like to extend my wishes for the happiest of holiday celebrations to each member of the Stuttgart military community.

May you all enjoy the warmth of home, the love of family and the company of good friends.

I ask that you remember those serving downrange and their families — service members far from home, single moms and dads pulling double duty while their service member is away, and children who may be celebrating yet another holiday without a parent.

As you plan your holiday activities,

think of our families here in Stuttgart and lend them a helping hand.

Reach out by sharing shopping excursions, tree lighting activities, holiday meals and other family outings.

Remember our single and unaccompanied service members. Make an extra spot at your table and invite them into your home.

While our military members and their families are resilient, being apart during the holidays is especially difficult, and even the smallest gesture may provide tremendous support.

As we wind down the year, I want to thank the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen and their families, the civilian and local national employees, and all the volunteers for their dedicated service to the nation and our community.

Each and every one of you has contributed to making the Stuttgart garrison a great place to live, and Petrina and I are

blessed to belong to such a caring and supportive community.

Because you all play an important role in our community, as you take time to celebrate, do so safely. Carefully plan your activities and be mindful of the possible hazards during this time of year.

Have fun at holiday parties, but don't drink and drive. The risks associated with driving while impaired are very real and can result in tragic consequences for everyone involved.

Use a designated driver or take a taxi. Cab fare is a minor inconvenience compared with what could happen if you are caught driving intoxicated: loss of rank and pay for military, and stiff fines for civilians, not to mention having your driver's license suspended or revoked.

It's simply not worth the risk.

Take care of your battle buddy and stay vigilant.

Thank you for all you do, and have a happy, blessed and safe holiday season.



Col. Stack

THE CITIZEN

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This is the final edition of *The Citizen* for 2012. We will return to print Jan. 10, 2013. Wishing all our readers and contributors a Happy New Year!

Thorns and Roses



Roses to:

- Whoever put up all the Christmas lights — They look great, especially the trees in front of the PX.

- The men who are out early in the morning clearing the sidewalks and roads of snow. Thank you!

- The Stuttgart Theatre Center staff, crew and actors for presenting "Cinderella" on Dec. 8. The show was spectacular for two reasons: The songs brought back good childhood memories, and it was an evening exclusive for families with exceptional family members. A shout out of thanks to the Army Community Service Exception Family Member Program staff, and the special guest appearance by Santa Claus. The children loved it!

Thorns to:

- Those people who are in too much of a hurry to drive carefully around children while they are walking to and from school — Slow down!

- An eatery on Patch Barracks — You've gotten my order (consisting of one basic item) wrong twice in a row, and overcharged me to boot.

Thorns and Roses is about recognizing those who do a good job or make life a little easier. It's also about people who need to be a little more considerate of others.

This column is not about institutions, units or agencies. It's not about situations that could result in legal action under military or German law. Nor is it a place to air management-employee problems or slander anyone. While we are happy to identify stellar service providers, we can't and won't identify underperformers by name. Submissions must be brief and emailed to stuttgartmedia@eur.army.mil with the subject line: Thorns and Roses.

The author's name and valid telephone number must be included for verification. No anonymous submissions will be accepted. We reserve the right to select submissions and edit for publication. Reader feedback in Army newspapers is authorized by Army Regulation 360-1.



Eagle Scout candidate Erick Lopez-Santana, 14, guides donors, to include Truett Sanchez, through the buccal swab process during a Defense Department marrow donor recruitment drive Dec. 8 in the Exchange Shopping Center on Panzer Kaserne. Seventy-seven people registered for the program.

Donor recruitment drive benefits those in need of marrow transplants

Story & photo by Susan Huseman
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

While holiday shoppers browsed the aisles of the Panzer Exchange Dec. 8 and 9, they discovered they could give a meaningful gift that wouldn't cost a dime.

Boy Scouts from Troop 154 asked shoppers to sign up to become marrow donors. Seventy-seven people agreed to register through a relatively quick and easy process.

Michael Ervin, a civilian employee assigned to U.S. European Command was happy to do so.

"This is something I've always wanted to do; I just didn't know how," he said, adding, "We were all put on this earth to help one another."

Potential donors were asked to give four oral swabs collected from their cheeks and complete a simple registration form. The results will be added to Defense Department and National Marrow Donor registries.

"If you match with someone, you'll get a call asking if you'd be willing to undergo more tests and possibly donate your bone marrow," said Erick Lopez-Santana, 14, who organized the drive to benefit the Department of Defense Marrow Donor program as part of his Eagle Scout project.

The C.W. Bill Young/DOD Marrow Donor Center will make arrangements for further testing and if a person is found to be an acceptable match, he or she will be asked to consider donating marrow or peripheral blood stem cells for the patient.

The actual donation will be performed at either Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, D.C., the University of Maryland Greenbaum Medical Center in Baltimore, Md., or at Fairfax Pathology Associates in Fairfax, Va., according to the C.W. Bill Young/DOD Marrow Donor Center website.

Medical fees and any travel expenses are paid for by the receiving patient, said Lopez-Santana.

Approximately 30,000 people in the U.S., more than 500 of them associated with the Defense Department, are diagnosed each year with leukemia or other deadly blood diseases, said Lopez-Santana.

‘ We were all put on this earth to help one another. ‘
Michael Ervin
Marrow donor registrant

According to the DOD Marrow Donor Center website, a bone marrow transplant is frequently their only hope. "Because tissue types are inherited and some tissue types are unique to certain racial or ethnic groups, a patient's best chance is within his or her ethnic and racial group. Since 75 percent of the patients in need of a marrow transplant cannot find a match within their own family, a strong national database is essential for identifying potential donors."

On average, one in every 540 members of the National Marrow Donor registry in the U.S. will go on to donate bone marrow or peripheral blood stem cells to a patient, according to the registry's website.

While Lopez-Santana expects the drive's final number to be over 100, he said achieving a specific number was never his objective.

"My main goal is to build awareness in the community of the Marrow Donor Program and hopefully have follow on donor recruitment drives," he said.

If you missed the recruitment drive, you still become part of the marrow registry.

Active duty service members and their dependents, Defense Department civilians, reservists, National Guard and members of the Coast Guard between 18 and 60 and in good general health can request test kits by sending an email to recruitment@dodmarrow.com. Those not affiliated with the Defense Department can contact the National Marrow Donor Program at <http://marrow.org>.

For more information about the C.W. Bill Young Department of Defense Marrow Donor Program, visit www.dodmarrow.org.

News & Notes

Shuttle buses go on holiday

During the holidays, U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart shuttle bus service will be suspended Dec. 24-26, Dec. 31 and Jan. 1.

For more information, call the USAG Stuttgart Directorate of Logistics at 431-3415/civ. 07031-15-3415.

TSP and Hurricane Sandy

The Thrift Savings Plan has made temporary changes to the financial hardship withdrawal rules for participants affected by Hurricane Sandy. For these withdrawals, documentation requirements, as well as the bar against making new investments for six months after taking a hardship withdrawal, will be waived.

The temporary change allows hardship withdrawals for active employees whose primary home or place of employment is within the designated disaster area and who suffered a personal loss, or for those who will use the money to help certain family members meeting those criteria. The request must specify that it is Hurricane Sandy-related and must be received by Jan. 25.

Specific information on the covered disaster area, eligibility and Form TSP-76 can be found at www.tsp.gov.

Renew exempt tax status

Employees who have a Federal Tax Status 'E' in block 17 of the Leave and Earnings Statement for tax year 2012 will be automatically changed to Federal Tax Status 'F' (pending re-certification of exemption) the first pay period of the 2013 tax/pay year, pay date Jan. 10.

If an employee's tax exempt status is not renewed, the federal tax status will be automatically changed from 'F' to 'Y' (subject to federal tax) for the pay period ending Feb. 9. Federal tax will be withheld on these employees starting in the pay period that ends Feb. 23.

To renew your status, visit www.irs.gov.

Watch out for pickpockets

U.S. Army Europe Office of the Provost Marshal officials warn that the holiday season is a perfect time for thieves and pickpockets.

Most victims are targeted in bars and clubs or in other crowded places, such as buses, train stations and airports. To deter pickpockets, officials recommend that people remain vigilant and not carry large amounts of cash if they can avoid it.

Be aware of distractions such as a stranger asking questions or helping you get on a bus or train. These actions might be staged to allow an accomplice to pick your pocket, purse or backpack.

Officials offer a few more tips for people traveling this holiday season:

Don't advertise that you will be away. Only give the information to people who need to know.

Soldiers living in the barracks should secure their personal belongings in a wall locker.

To make it easier for the police to recover any stolen goods, keep a list of valuables, complete with serial numbers and photos.

Library

Continued from page 1

For lecturers, Desmond, a member of the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Mystery Writers of America, reached out to her network of professional crime writers, editors and publishers.

"I asked these people if they'd be willing to Skype with us and every single one said yes, they would be happy to," she said.

Seventy participants — 25 teens and 45 adults — from the Stuttgart military community signed up for the program.

Best-selling stateside authors appeared via Skype to discuss topics such as story plotting, genre, synopsis, narration and dialogue, critiques and rewrites, networking, and researching and pitching to agents.

Expertise was also drawn from the Stuttgart military community.

Kirsten Carlson, an Army spouse and published children's book illustrator, spoke on the business of children's literature.

Margi Desmond, who has published three short stories and more than 100 non-fiction articles, taught a lesson aimed at short story and nonfiction writers, discussing how to market and sell their writing, and get published.

The ultimate goal of every writer is to see their

work in print. Desmond said it's a hard road, but it can be done.

"You're going to face rejection. Stephen King, J.K. Rowling ... everyone gets rejected," she said. "It doesn't mean you stink, it means that a publisher didn't think they could sell it."

Desmond said when she announced at a writer's club meeting that she'd received her first rejection letter, she got a round of applause. "Now I was really a member of the club."

That's the traditional route. Then, there's self-publishing, where an author publishes his or her work independent of a publishing house.

Amber Riley, a Navy spouse and self-published fantasy writer, led classes on self publishing, and the critiquing and rewriting process.

The phlebotomy major turned vampire writer said she has always written for her own pleasure, but after finishing her first novel, "The Flash of a Firefly," in 2010, she elected to self-publish so she could hold in her hands what she had worked so hard to produce.

She ended up self-publishing two additional novels for a trilogy.

"Now, it's more than just a hobby. It's something I want to pursue through traditional publishing," she said, adding that she is almost finished with a demon-

themed, young adult novel.

Not everyone in the writing program was there to write a novel.

Mike Egley, a civilian who works for U.S. European Command, signed up to learn how to market a 217,000 word fantasy manuscript he penned over the summer.

"I was interested in making contacts, finding out what resources are out there to help me to better craft the story, and find a publisher," he said.

Egley found the help he was looking for, and thanks to what he learned from Amber Riley's self-publishing experience, has selected a self-publishing service and expects to see his book in print as early as January. He's also started a second book.

Based on the success of the NaNoWriMo program, in January the library will begin to offer writing groups for teens and adults.

"It will be a writing club. We'll form critique groups. We'll talk about people's successes and failures — it will be a support group," Margi Desmond said.

For more information on The Patch Library writing program, call 430-7138/civ. 0711-680-7138. For more on National Novel Writing Month, visit www.nanowrimo.org.

USAG Stuttgart Religious Support Office

Holiday Services

Dec. 15

3 p.m.: Chanukah Service and Potluck, Patch Religious Education Center

Dec. 23

11 a.m.: Gospel, Contemporary and Church of God in Christ Combined Christmas Service, Panzer Chapel

Dec. 24

5 p.m.: Protestant Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Robinson Barracks Chapel

5:30 p.m.: Protestant Candlelight Christvesper, Panzer Chapel

6 p.m.: Protestant Candlelight Service, Patch Chapel

8 p.m.: Catholic Christmas Vigil, Panzer Chapel

10 p.m.: Catholic Christmas Vigil, Patch Chapel

Dec. 25

9 a.m.: Catholic Christmas Day Mass, Patch Chapel

Noon: Catholic Christmas Day Mass, Robinson Barracks Chapel

Dec. 31

8 p.m.: Catholic New Year's Vigil Mass, Panzer Chapel

10 p.m.: Gospel and Church of God in Christ Combined Service, Panzer Chapel

Jan. 1

9 a.m.: Catholic New Year's Day and Solemnity of Mary Mother Of God, Patch Chapel

Noon: Catholic New Year's Day and Solemnity of Mary Mother Of God, Robinson Barracks Chapel

Weekend services will continue as scheduled

**For more information,
call the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Religious
Support Office at 431-3079/civ. 07031-15-3079.**

Pay attention to your health, be safe this holiday season

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Give the gift of health and safety to yourself and others by following these holiday tips.

1. Wash hands often with soap and clean running water for at least 20 seconds to keep from spreading germs and getting sick.

2. Bundle up to stay dry and warm. Wear appropriate outdoor clothing: layers of light, warm clothing; mittens; hats; scarves; and waterproof boots.

3. Manage stress. Don't overcommit, and prevent holiday anxiety and pressure. Get enough sleep.

4. Don't drink and drive or let others drink and drive. Whenever anyone drives drunk, they put everyone on the road in danger.

5. Be smoke-free. Avoid smoking and secondhand smoke. There is no safe amount of tobacco or secondhand smoke. Breathing even a little secondhand smoke can be dangerous.

6. Fasten seat belts while driving or riding in a motor vehicle. Use a seat belt on every trip, no matter how short the trip. Always buckle children in the car using child safety or booster seats, or seat belts, accord-

ing to their height, weight and age.

7. Get exams and screenings. Ask what exams you need and when to get them. Update your personal and family history.

8. Get your vaccinations, which help prevent diseases and save lives.

9. Monitor the children. Keep potentially dangerous toys, food, drinks, household items and other objects out of kids' reach. Dress warmly for outdoor activities. Develop and reinforce rules about acceptable and safe behaviors, including electronic media.

10. Practice fire safety. Most residential fires occur during the winter months, so never leave fireplaces, space heaters, stoves or candles unattended. Have an emergency plan and practice it regularly.

11. Prepare food safely. Remember these simple steps: wash hands and surfaces often, avoid cross-contamination, cook foods to proper temperatures and refrigerate promptly.

12. Eat healthy, and get moving. Eat fruits and vegetables. Limit portion sizes and foods high in fat, salt and sugar. Be active for at least 2.5 hours a week and help kids and teens be active for at least one hour a day.

Holiday closures, schedules

Most organizations and facilities in U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 in observance of the Christmas and New Year's federal holidays.

Because many facilities may have altered schedules during the holiday period, be sure to call ahead and verify a facility's hours of operation.

The following is a partial listing of additional closures and changes to operational hours:

Stuttgart commissaries — All commissaries will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

On Dec. 24, the Patch Commissary will be open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Kelley and Panzer commissaries will be open from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.; the Robinson Barracks Commissary will be open from noon to 4 p.m.

On Dec. 31, the Patch Commissary will close early at 6 p.m.

Community Banks — The banks on Patch and Kelley Barracks, and Panzer Kaserne will be open from 9 a.m. until noon Dec. 24 and 31. All Community Banks in the Stuttgart military community will be closed Dec. 25 and 26, and Jan. 1.

U.S. Army Health Clinic Stuttgart — will close at noon Dec. 18 for a holiday function. The clinic will be closed Dec. 22-25 and Dec. 29 to Jan. 1. The Kelley annex will be closed Dec. 19 to Jan. 6.

Contact the Military Police in case of an emergency at civ. 0711-680-116. For immediate health care needs, call the Nurse Advice Line at civ. 00800-4759-2330.

Stuttgart Dental Clinic — closed Dec. 24, 25 and 31, and Jan. 1.

Housing Office — closed Dec. 24-26, and Jan. 1.

Stuttgart Law Center — closed Dec. 24, 25 and 31, and Jan. 1. The Legal Assistance Office will be open Dec. 26-28 and Jan. 2-4 from 8 a.m. to noon. Notaries and powers of attorneys will be available on a walk-in basis.

American attorneys will see walk-in clients on Wednesdays. All other attorney services require an appointment. Normal business hours will resume Jan. 7.

USO Stuttgart — open Dec. 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and from noon to 5 p.m. Dec. 25. The facility will be closed Dec. 26 to Jan. 1.

Panzer Education Center — closed Dec. 24, 25 and 31, and Jan. 1.

1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Dining Facility on Panzer Kaserne — closed Dec. 24, 25 and 31, and Jan. 1. From Dec. 17-30, the DFAC will be open only for the breakfast meal.



Red Bulls take 2nd at IMCOM-E tourney

Stuttgart's Garret Bailey, 13, dribbles the ball past a Kaiserslautern defender with the help of teammates Andrew Porter (from left), 14, and Mickey Glode, 13, during the championship game at the 2012 IMCOM Europe-West Juniors Soccer Tournament held last month. The Red Bulls took second place, losing 4-2 against Kaiserslautern.

Stefan Zappey

Army and Air Force Exchange Service — On Dec. 24, most facilities will close early. The Exchange on Panzer Kaserne will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The complete holiday schedule for all facilities is available at www.shopmyexchange.com/ExchangeStores. Select Europe, then a USAG Stuttgart installation. Click on the "See Details" link following "Stuttgart Facilities Holiday Hours."

U.S. Forces Customs Office — will be closed Dec. 14 for a holiday celebration.

Central Issue Facility, Property Book Office, Central Receiving Point, SSSC Store and the Destruction Facility — closed

Dec. 24-26 and 31, and Jan. 1.

Vehicle Inspection — will close at noon Dec. 14 for a holiday function, and will be closed Dec. 24-26, and Jan. 1.

Vehicle Registration — will close at 10:30 a.m. Dec. 14 for a holiday function; closed Dec. 24-26, and Jan. 1. The facility will close at noon on Dec. 31 for inventory.

USO hosts holiday troop show

The USO Holiday Troop Visit comes to Stuttgart Dec. 17 at 7:30 p.m. in the Patch Fitness Center.

Featured athletes and celebrities include recording star Kellie Pickler, National Hockey League's Matthew Hendricks of the Wash-

ington Capitals, and Major League Baseball's Ross Detwiler and Ryan Mattheus, pitchers for the Washington Nationals.

Seating is limited. Tickets will be available through unit representatives.

German holidays

Germany celebrates the holidays Dec. 25-26, and Jan. 1. Expect all businesses to be closed.

Start new year with 'Financial Peace'

Crazy economic times can create stress, worries and debt. Financial Peace University, a financial education series that promotes sound financial planning principles, will teach you how to refocus on savings and investments.

The USAG Stuttgart Chaplain's Office will sponsor the 13 week class every Wednesday beginning Jan. 16 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Panzer Chapel annex, Building 2940, Panzer Kaserne.

Foundations in Personal Finance, a class for teens, will be offered from 6-8 p.m.

For more information, e-mail FPUstuttgart@yahoo.com.

VAT/UTAP offices in new location

The Utility Tax Avoidance Program and Value Added Tax Relief offices are now located on the third floor of Building 2915, Panzer Kaserne.

The phone numbers will remain the same. UTAP: 431 3451/civ. 07031-15-3451; VAT: 431-3368/civ. 07031-15-3368.

Send your announcements to stuttgartmedia@eur.army.mil.

Holiday Safety: Chestnuts roasting on an open fire could burn your house down

Christmas should be a time of joy and celebration, not sorrow. To ensure a safe and happy holiday season, here are a few things to keep in mind:

Keep candles away from walls and drapes, and avoid using them in decorations or displays. Watch for dripping wax. Keep candles away from air vents or open windows where the flame can be fanned and ignite nearby flammables.

Check electric Christmas lights for frayed or damaged wires or loose connections. Never leave lights on unattended. Always unplug lights before leaving the house and do not leave them on while sleeping.

If buying a live tree, choose a fresh one without shedding needles. Water the tree daily. Do not place the tree near a source of heat such as a radiator. Try to place the tree near an outlet so that an extension cord is not needed for electric tree lights. If you use an artificial tree, make sure it is fire resistant.

BEMS celebrates National Blue Ribbon award

By Lourdes Fernandez
Special to The Citizen

Böblingen Elementary/Middle School officially unveiled its National Blue Ribbon School award Dec. 6.

While Department of Defense Education Activity officials announced the win in September, the award was not presented to the school until Nov. 12 in Washington, D.C.

BEMS officials elected to publicly celebrate the award in conjunction with a December academic awards assembly.

The school gathered Dec. 6 to commemorate the occasion with the unveiling of the National Blue Ribbon School flag and plaque.

"We would not have been able to win this award without the great work you guys do every day. It's all because of you. Congratulations," BEMS Principal Dale Moore told fourth- and fifth-graders, staff, teachers and parents during the first of two assemblies.

This year, BEMS was one of 314 schools to receive the award. Two other DoDEA schools, SHAPE Elementary School in Mons, Belgium, and Charles Turner Joy Elementary/Middle School in Chinhae, South Korea, also received the award.

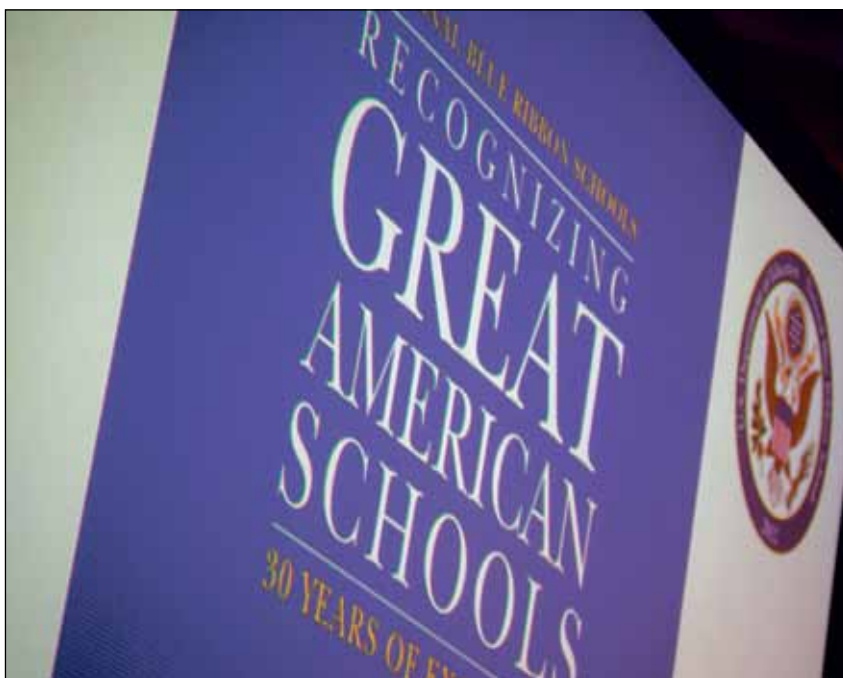
The schools will serve as models for other schools across the nation.

The award honors public and private schools based on their overall academic excellence or for their progress toward significantly improving student academic achievement levels, according to the U.S. Department of Education website.

BEMS received the award as an exemplary high performing school, according to Moore.

It is a coveted award. "Less than 1 percent of schools are recognized each year," Moore said. In fact, only 7,000 schools have been awarded a National Blue Ribbon award in the last 30 years.

Moore and Teresa Senna, a BEMS kindergarten teacher, traveled to Washington, D.C., to attend an awards lun-



U.S. Department of Education

BEMS was recognized as a 2012 National Blue Ribbon School during a U.S. Department of Education-hosted ceremony in Washington, D.C., Nov. 12.

cheon presided over by U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan.

"The ceremony was phenomenal," said Senna, adding that she "felt honored to represent the school at the event."

Senna, a teacher for over 23 years, said she enjoyed attending the ceremony because it gave her a chance "to meet people from across the U.S. who are all focused on education and children."

For Jane Bernasconi, a Parent Teacher Association volunteer and BEMS parent, the award "recognizes the dedication and hard work not only of the faculty and staff, but also of the community at large."

The PTA "works closely with the school and responds to the teachers and administrative needs and requests," said Bernasconi.

In the award application, school officials paid homage to the many programs and activities supported by the PTA, writing that the school enjoyed "amazing support" through the organization.

"The award gives the school bragging rights," said Moore, adding that there was "no way that we could have

"We would not have been able to win this award without the great work you guys do every day. It's all because of you."

Dale Moore
BEMS principal

won the award without our great students, highly dedicated teachers and supportive parents.

"It takes all three to make this type of award happen."

For more information about the Blue Ribbon Schools program and a complete list of 2012 winners, visit: <http://blueribbon.rmces.com>.

School Talk

"My doctrine is this, that if we see cruelty or wrong that we have the power to stop, and do nothing, we make ourselves sharers in the guilt."

Anna Sewall

Bully prevention: the role of the bystander

Research shows that 85 percent of bullying takes place in front of other children.

Research also shows that when student bystanders intervene correctly, bullying will stop 57 percent of the time and within 10 seconds.

Chances are your child has probably played the role of a bystander at some point.

Your child may have stood quietly by, looked away, or actively encouraged or joined in to become a part of a group who chose to cause harm to another.

Our goal in the Stuttgart military community schools and in Child, Youth and School Services is to teach children how to become active bystanders — those who have the power to reduce the audience that a bully craves, mobilize the compassion of witnesses to step in, support the target and to be a positive influence in curbing a bullying episode.

Bully prevention requires a community-wide effort, and we encourage you to contact us to get involved in learning more and contributing to a strong, compassionate community culture.

For more information contact the School Liaison Officers at 430-7465/civ. 0711-680-7465.



430-7465/civ. 0711-680-7465

The School Liaison Officers work in conjunction with the Child and Youth Services Division and the local school community to address educational issues involving military children.



Restrictions to incoming mail

In addition to the military's guidelines, each country has its own customs regulations regarding incoming mail.

German regulations are about to get tighter.

On Jan. 1, in accordance with German law, an "E" restriction will be added to Army Post Office ZIP codes in Germany.

The "E" restriction prohibits the importation of prescription

and non-prescription medicines, vitamins and supplements.

Military Postal Service and Intra-Theater Delivery Service items mailed within Germany will be exempt from the restriction.

Mailings between authorized agencies (hospitals and pharmacies) will also be exempt from this restriction.

Their official APO ZIP codes will not have the "E" restriction.

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Postmaster 431-2874/civ. 07031-15-2874

RB Town Hall set for Dec. 20

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart will host a Town Hall meeting focused on the Robinson Barracks community Dec. 20 at 5 p.m. in the RB Chapel.

Are you grieving? Don't suffer alone

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Religious Support Office and Army Community Service sponsor a grief support group for anyone coping with grief.

The group will meet Dec. 21 from 10-11 a.m. in the Patch Chapel on Patch Barracks.

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

HIRED! to give teens work experience

The HIRED! Apprenticeship Program is seeking apprentices for its winter term that will begin Jan. 3.

The program is open to teens from 15 to 18 years of age. The HIRED! Program offers apprenticeship positions in various Family and MWR organizations.

Apprentices can gain real-life work experience and training, and will receive a cash award upon satisfactory program completion.

For more information, contact the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Child, Youth and School Services Workforce Preparation Specialist at 430-6289/7204 or civ. 0711-680-6289/7204, or via email at stuttgart-cys@googlemail.com.

Due to PCS soon?

If you are relocating within the next three or four months, it's time to begin preparing for the move.

A permanent change of station/



Jump for fitness

Aedan Lara-Smith, 7, delivers a high five to Buddy Lee, a former Marine and Olympian wrestler, and a leading jump rope training expert, in the Patch Fitness Center following a jump rope clinic Nov. 30. Lee, the spokesman for CYS Services's Get Fit ... Be Strong program, held clinics for more than 800 children, supplying each with a jump rope.

Nicole Zuccola

pre-separation briefing will be held Jan. 16 at 1 p.m. in Building 2913, Panzer Kaserne. Army personnel will also receive a briefing on finance issues.

All separating Army personnel must attend this briefing to receive pre-separation information. Advance registration is required.

To register, call 431-2599/civ. 07031-15-2599.

USO serves Christmas dinner at 2 p.m.

The USO will serve a home-cooked Christmas feast Dec. 25 at 2 p.m. The USO will open at noon on Christmas Day.

For more information, visit <http://uso.org/stuttgart>.

Fitness centers to host Lose to Win

If you want to lose weight, improve your physical fitness and live a healthy lifestyle, sign up for the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Lose to Win program. The 16-week competition rewards the person who can lose the most weight/body fat in a healthy manner.

To be eligible to win, all participants must attend an initial and final weigh-in, as well as three out of four other scheduled weigh-ins.

Initial meetings and weigh-ins

will be held Jan. 9 from 7:30-9 a.m. in the Patch Fitness Center; Jan. 9 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Kelley Fitness Center; and Jan. 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Panzer Exchange. Participants must be at least 18 years old.

For more information, call 430-5386/civ. 0711-680-5386.

Health, wellness fair set for Jan. 11

If one of your New Year's resolutions is to improve your health and fitness, make sure to put the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Health and Wellness Fair on your calendar. Family and MWR will host the fair Jan. 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Exchange on Panzer Kaserne.

Health and wellness professionals will offer information about fitness, massage, nutrition, health clinic services and programs, religious support services, tobacco cessation and alcohol-use reduction.

For more information, call 430-2110/civ. 0711-680-2110.

Volunteers needed at Red Cross

The American Red Cross Stuttgart station has several volunteer opportunities available.

Volunteers can manage their involvement and build their Red Cross record with Volunteer Connection, a new, online volunteer management system, at <https://volunteerconnection.redcross.org>.

For more information, contact Liz Thayer at 431-2812/civ. 07031-15-2812 or liz.thayer@us.army.mil, or stop by Building 2915, Panzer Kaserne.

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



Going Green

USAG Stuttgart
Directorate of Public Works
Environmental Division

Snow and ice are slippery hazards. De-icing salt has long been the most common way to clear snow and ice from sidewalks, roadways and driveways.

While it's convenient, there are drawbacks.

Ecosystems adjacent to salted roads are often damaged by the contact. Plants are damaged or killed,

Hold the salt, please

water and soil is contaminated, and in severe cases, wildlife can become ill or die. Salt can also cause serious damage to lawns and gardens.

What you can do

- Use as little de-icing salt as possible.
- Using a small amount of de-icer before a snowfall helps reduce the amount of product needed.
- On dry days, sweep up loose salt

to prevent the excess being washed into the environment.

- Try sand or kitty litter.
- Use elbow grease — shovel quickly, use a broom and something to break any ice.

In Germany, there are several re-usable salt-free abrasives available. For a list of manufacturers, visit www.blauer-engel.de/en/index.php.

IBG Immobilien

Joachim Moss

ISBB Real Estate

Child care providers urged to register with FCC

USAG Stuttgart Child, Youth and School Services

Child, Youth and School Services sponsors a Family Child Care amnesty program each year, allowing people who provide unauthorized child care to register with the Family Child Care program without penalty.

The amnesty period this year runs from Nov. 26 to Dec. 31.

Occasional child care between friends and neighbors is not regulated by the Department of the Army or garrison policy.

Regular care, however, is governed by Army Regulation 608-10.

According to the regulation,

unauthorized child care is caring for a child in government quarters other than the child's home for more than 10 child care hours a week on a regular basis.

A neighbor who cares for a child less than ten hours a week on a consistent basis or temporarily in excess of 10 hours, such as for a temporary duty, overnight or a weekend, is not violating the regulation.

The same holds true for a child who receives care from a babysitter or nanny in the child's home. Such care is considered unauthorized, though, when that same person provides care to any children other than the occupants of the apartment for more than

ten hours a week on a consistent basis.

CYS Services does not assume the non-certified caregiver is providing bad care; however, child care provided on an installation that exceeds the "10 hours rule" must be approved by the garrison commander to avoid legal recourse.

Consequences to the sponsor of the non-certified care giver may include termination of government quarters, financial liability for a child's injury or death, as well as German and U.S. tax liability.

Any caregiver who contacts FCC during the amnesty period may be allowed to continue caring for the children while actively completing the

... Unauthorized child care is caring for a child in government quarters other than the child's home for more than 10 child care hours a week on a regular basis.

certification process.

The certification process includes registration of the caregiver and all children under care, an inspection of quarters by fire, safety and preventive medicine, background checks and valuable training. The certification process is free to qualified applicants.

Certified FCC providers receive financial benefits such as tax-free income, eligibility for no-cost liability insurance and partial reimbursement for start-up costs and food.

A certified provider also has access to equipment and resource materials through the FCC lending library.

Professional benefits include ongoing training and assistance from the FCC staff who are dedicated to helping each FCC provider succeed.

An additional benefit is that being a FCC provider is a career that transfers with few additional requirements from post to post.

If you are caring for children in quarters other than their home for more than 10 hours a week on a regular basis, take advantage of the amnesty period.

Become a Family Child Care professional and receive the benefits and recognition for the valuable service you provide.

For more information, contact Genevieve Nystrom, FCC Director, at 430-7464/civ. 0711-680-7464. Additional information concerning the FCC Program may be found on the USAG Stuttgart FCC profile at www.ArmyFCC.com.

Are you providing child care in your home?
Are you a CERTIFIED Army Family Child Care Provider?

I just found out my caregiver is not authorized to take care of me in her home!
Yes! Caregivers living in government quarters and RCI housing must be Army certified before caring for children.

How can I help my caregiver become Army FCC certified?
 These requirements apply to anyone caring for children in their home on a regular basis.

I don't want to lose my caregiver! What's in it for me and my provider?
 You will be cared for by a certified provider who has training, extensive background clearance checks, & who is frequently monitored. Your provider has access to free loan of equipment & materials, USDA food program reimbursement, financial incentives, and a built in support network!

Have your parents or caregiver contact the Garrison CYS Family Child Care office.

U.S. Army Child, Youth & School Services
 Become FCC Certified ... It's the right thing to do!
 IMCOM
 MWR
 ARMY STRONG

Graphic courtesy of Family and MWR

Care givers who are providing unauthorized child care in government quarters have until Dec. 31 to register to become certified Family Child Care providers with U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart's Child, Youth and School Services. Certified FCC providers receive financial benefits such as tax-free income, eligibility for no-cost liability insurance and partial reimbursement for start-up costs and food. Non-certified care givers and their sponsors may have their government quarters terminated, be financially liable for a child's injury or death, as well as German and U.S. taxes.

Have a comment on garrison services?



Visit the USAG Stuttgart website at www.stuttgart.army.mil and click on "Feedback."

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Are you prepared for winter?

Weather forecasters may be hesitant to make predictions for the 2012-2013 winter season in Germany, but one thing they can agree upon is that it will be cold, there will be snow and ice, and power outages.

Before winter storms and extreme cold weather hits, here's what you can do to prepare.

Be informed

Familiarize yourself with winter weather terms: freezing rain, winter weather advisory, winter storm watch, blizzard warning, etc.

Go to www.stuttgart.army.mil and click on the "Weather" link for the local weather forecast and road conditions.

For your home

- Snow shovel
- De-icing compound
- Rock salt or sand to improve traction
- Water — one gallon per person per day for at least 72 hours
- Food — for at least 72 hours that doesn't require refrigeration or heating
- Can opener for food
- Pet food and additional water for household pets
- Flashlights and extra batteries
- Battery-powered radio
- First aid kit
- Medicines
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Cell phone with emergency charger
- Tool kit

Make kits for home, car

For your car

- Winterize your car now and ensure that you maintain fluid levels
- Keep the gas tank near full to avoid freezing water in the fuel lines
- Bag of sand, road salt or kitty litter for weight and traction, if you get stuck.
- Jumper cables
- Small shovel
- Ice scraper
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Cell phone with charger
- Knife
- First aid kit, warning triangle, and reflective vests
- Blankets, coats, warm clothing
- Water, food and snacks

Make a plan

Your family might not be together when a storm hits, so it is important that everyone knows how to contact one another, what to do in case of an emergency, and how you will get back together.

Ensure that your family knows where you will meet if separated. Choose a place near where you live and another away from your neighborhood.

Ensure that the entire family carries emergency contact numbers to include an out-of-town or stateside contacts.

Inquire about emergency plans where you spend time: work, school, day care.

www.photos.com

For more information, call the USAG Stuttgart Installation Emergency Manager at 431-2035/civ. 07031-15-2035.



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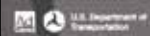
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SAVE A LIFE. DON'T DRIVE HOME BUZZED. BUZZED DRIVING IS DRUNK DRIVING.



Esslingen celebrates holidays in medieval style

By Tracy Moran
Special to The Citizen

Bring your taler and a taste for Met to Esslingen this holiday season and be transported back to the Middle Ages. In modern terms, that means bring some money and a thirst for honey wine whilst Christmas shopping in the open air.

Esslingen's medieval architecture, with its stunning Gothic church steeples, Altes Rathaus, and the oldest row of half-timbered homes in Germany, offers the perfect stage for the wool-garbed traders and craftspeople who turn the city streets into a medieval Christmas spectacle every year.

The town's tourist office decided to launch the medieval market 16 years ago, taking advantage of the town's historic stage.

With the "wonderful heritage of old houses, we saw a chance to create something unique involving the old buildings of Esslingen as a stage for the medieval market," said Anja Scheurenbrand, a press officer at Esslinger Stadtmarketing and Tourismus.

Two markets run concurrently in Esslingen, with contemporary stalls in the town's market place next to the imposing St. Dionysius Church, and a bigger medieval market sprawling throughout the heart of the old town.

In the market place, visitors can shop for food, wooden toys, jewelry, wool socks, hats, scarves and Swabian wares.

In the medieval portion, shoppers may find themselves captivated by the wooden stalls, animal skinned rooftops and the traders hard at work, presenting the



Susan Huseman

Cassandra Waterhouse, 9, and sister Heidi, 8, take a ride on a hand-operated Ferris wheel Dec. 1 during the Esslingen medieval Christmas market.

ancient crafts of pottery making, leather working, candle making, glass blowing, weaving, ironmongery, calligraphy and much more.

In all, some 180 stalls offer medieval and modern products for three weeks running up to Christmas, providing an interactive and enchanting experience for approximately one million visitors.

If handcrafted products are not on your shopping list, have no fear — you can still enjoy the atmosphere, which is always lively.

Actors, dancers, jugglers, jesters and fire dancers wander the cobblestone alleys in costumes, entertaining the crowds each day. The troupe puts on a mesmerizing fire show at the close of day in the Hafenmarkt at 7:30 p.m.

More than 500 concerts are offered on the market stages and throughout the town in churches, theaters and various other venues, providing a wonderful cultural experience.

Children will love dipping candles and riding the medieval Ferris wheel. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, they can learn about the history of the jester, and they can bake at one of two bakeries.

Adults can enjoy arcade games, archery, seeing all the trades practiced before their eyes and even learn how to sew a medieval costume.

If you visit on Thursday, Dec. 20, be sure to wait until the market closes so you can participate in the annual Fackelumzug, where hundreds march with lit torches from the Altes Rathaus up along the ancient town wall up to the fortress, where acrobats and dancers will get the crowds moving and singing.

The fiery procession offers a stunning finale to the market each year.

Esslingen's Christmas market runs through Dec. 21, with stalls opening every day at 11 a.m. and closing at 8.30 p.m.

For more information on the Esslingen Christmas markets, visit the Esslingen Tourist Information website at www.esslingen-tourist.de.

Your workplace.
Your home.
Your litter.



Do your part.
Keep
Stuttgart clean.



Bible Church of Stuttgart

International Baptist Church

Victory Baptist Church

Matthew Leighty

New Beginners

What's happening in FMWR

Ski with ODR

Sign up for Outdoor Recreation's upcoming ski and snowboard day trips.

- Jan. 5, Lech-Zurs, Austria
- Jan. 12, Montafon, Austria

For more information, call 431-2774/civ. 07031-15-2774.

Racquetball tourney

The Patch Fitness Center will host a Kill Shot racquetball tournament Jan. 12-13. Register for men's, women's, junior's and doubles divisions by Jan. 10 online at www.R2Sports.com.

For more information, call 431-2724/civ. 07031-15-2724.

Bowling news

• Sign up for mixed and Ladies' spring bowling leagues through Jan. 15.

• Unit level bowling starts Jan. 9 at 7 p.m.

• A No Tap Doubles Bowling Tournament will be held Jan. 14 at 1 p.m. Sign-ups start at noon. Entry fee is \$20. The first place team will receive bowling balls and a pay-out based on the number of bowlers.

For more information, call the

Galaxy Bowling and Entertainment Center on Panzer Kaserne at 431-2575/ civ. 07031-15-2575.

See stage plays

The Stuttgart Theatre Center presents Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella" at the Kelley Theatre Jan. 4-5 and 11-12 at 7:30 p.m. Matinee performances will be held Jan. 6 and 13 at 3 p.m.

Performances of "Will and Whimsy" will be offered Jan. 15 and 16 at 7 p.m.

To reserve your tickets, call the Theatre Office at 421-3055/ civ. 0711-729-3055 or visit www.stuttgartmwr.com.

Parents night out

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Child, Youth and School Services will host a "Parents' Night Out" Jan. 11 at the Patch Child Development and School Age centers from 6:30-11:30 p.m.

For more information, call 430-7480/7480/civ. 0711-680-7480/7480.

For more FMWR activities, visit www.stuttgartmwr.com.



Coming to Patch Theater

Dec. 14 — Playing For Keeps (PG-13) 6 and 9 p.m.

Dec. 15 — The Muppets (PG) 1 p.m., Frankenweenie (PG) 4 p.m., Playing For Keeps (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Dec. 16 — Ice Age: Continental Drift (PG) 3 p.m., Playing For Keeps (PG-13) 6 p.m.

Dec. 17 — Playing For Keeps (PG-13) 6 p.m.

Dec. 18 — closed

Dec. 19 — Chasing Mavericks (PG) 6 p.m.

Dec. 20 — Fun Size (PG-13) 6 p.m.

Dec. 21 — The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG-13) 6 and 9 p.m.

Dec. 22 — Winnie The Pooh (PG) 1 p.m., The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG-13) 4 p.m., The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Dec. 23 — The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG-13) 3 p.m., The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG-13) 6 p.m.

Dec. 24 — Pictures With Santa at noon, The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG-13) 2 p.m.



Warner Brothers

In "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey" Bilbo Baggins (Martin Freeman) travels with a group of dwarves to reclaim a treasure.

Dec. 25 — closed

Dec. 26 — House At The End Of The Street (PG-13) 6 p.m.

Dec. 27 — House At The End Of The Street (PG-13) 6 p.m.

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