

Garrison hosts first virtual town hall meeting

By Mark J. Howell
 USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

You don't always have to be seen in order to be heard. U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart proved this during its first-ever virtual town hall meeting held Jan. 31 on the garrison's Facebook page.

In just one hour, over 100 questions and comments from community members were posted on the page. Topics ranged from parking enforcement to service hours to the usage of garrison facilities.

"We traditionally hold these town halls in person, but many times people can't attend because of other engagements," said Col. Carl D. Bird, USAG Stuttgart commander. "By doing this on Facebook, we gave community members the opportunity to speak their minds and get their questions answered while in their homes or offices."

Initial feedback from the event

indicated that people appreciated the new format and that the town hall was accessible from anywhere.

For those who were unable to "attend," the transcript of the online discussion is available on the garrison's Facebook page.

The garrison added Facebook and Twitter to its public affairs program in December 2009.

"Facebook is just one of many tools the garrison uses to help gauge its successes and concerns within the Stuttgart military community," Bird said. "It's a forum for people to get and share information; however, Facebook isn't taking the place of the in-person town halls or the Interactive Customer Evaluation system."

Bird said members of the Stuttgart military community are encouraged to use the ICE system to communicate customer service experiences.

Due to the success of the virtual town hall meeting, the garrison com-



If you're not yet a fan of the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Facebook page, log on to www.facebook.com/USAGarrisonStuttgart and click the "like" button.

mander plans to conduct more in the future. He also is interested in working on new strategies, such as streaming live video, to better engage the audience.

"If you have a garrison-related question, you can post it on the Facebook page anytime, not just during the town halls," Bird said. "The response time may take a little longer since the staff isn't all in one room, but you'll get a response."

Community members may also find the garrison's Facebook page is a good resource for local news, events, road conditions and details of service facility closures.

If you're not yet a fan of the USAG Stuttgart Facebook page, log on to www.facebook.com/USAGarrisonStuttgart and click the "like" button.

Ryan Dolittle, 7, returns a volley during a seated volleyball game Feb. 3 during the USAG Stuttgart Family and MWR Health and Wellness Fair. Teammates (from left to right) Holly Ogren, Brian Pappas, Kelly Sarles, Gabby Nelson and Beth Cullum "stand" ready to assist.



Susan Huseman

Playing by the 'seat of one's pants'

Seated volleyball was one of many hands-on activities offered during the USAG Stuttgart Family and MWR Health and Wellness Fair held Feb. 3 in the Patch Fitness Center. A vast number of agencies attended the fair to publicize their programs and services that promote healthy lifestyles, and bring awareness to the garrison's Comprehensive Fitness Program.

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Military Police from the 554th MP Co., remember Military Working Dog Cedo, whose eight-year career came to an end in December when he was euthanized.



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The ugly truth about bullying

Barbara Coloroso, an international best-selling author and parenting expert, talks about bullying and its effects during anti-bullying workshops Jan. 25.



‘See something, say something’

Preventing terrorism by paying attention, speaking up

Commentary by Shay Edwards
USAG Stuttgart Antiterrorism Office

If I could change one character trait of the people who reside in the Stuttgart military community, it would be to increase their inclination to report things that just don't seem right. Reporting suspicious activity or behavior is not difficult to do, yet it is rarely done.

People seem to be more willing to submit an ICE comment to complain about a long wait at the front gate than they are to call the Military Police because of a suspicious box or child's backpack that was left outside their quarters.

Reporting is what creates the information stream that allows our law enforcement and intelligence communities to investigate and share information with their German counterparts. The information helps to paint a picture of the most probable and dangerous threats to U.S. Defense Department personnel in Germany.

How to report

To report anything strange or suspicious that is not an emergency, on or off post, contact the Military Police at 430-5262 or civilian 07031-15-5262.

I suggest that you input these numbers into your cell phone before you read further. Save the phone

People seem to be more willing to submit an ICE comment to complain about a long wait at the front gate than they are to call the Military Police because of a suspicious box...

numbers now, and you'll be prepared later.

If you are reporting an imminent threat, call the military police at DSN 116. Off post, you can call civilian 112, the German emergency number.

If the suspicious activity is not currently occurring, you can report it online at the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart website at www.stuttgart.army.mil by clicking on the iWatch icon.

What to report

Suspicious activity is any behavior or activity that seems unusual or out-of-place. Suspicious behavior can be anything; however, here are some examples of behaviors and activities that may be associated with terrorist activity:

- Briefcases, backpacks, or packages that have been left behind or unattended;
- Strangers photographing or filming in and

around the installation. They may be conducting surveillance for an attack;

- Holes in the fence line;
- Cars or trucks parked next to the fence line;
- People asking questions about sensitive information such as security procedures, without a right or need to know.

If you're unsure ...

If you are unsure about whether or not to report a suspicious activity that you see, report it and let the military police decide what to do with the information.

You don't have to wait for the MPs to show up on the scene. You just need to pass along what you see. A minute of your life can save someone else's.

The bottom line is that the law enforcement and intelligence communities can only be successful if they are tipped off to suspicious activity.

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www.stuttgart.army.mil

ON THE STREET

What film gets your vote for an Oscar?



Staff Sgt. Russ Becker
(U.S. Army)

“‘Harry Potter’ parts one and two because of the storyline and the special effects.”



Bushy Hartmann
(Spouse)

“‘War Horse’ because it made the horses seem so important.”



Capt. Skip Lussier
(U.S. Navy)

“‘The Help’ because it represented the author’s story in the movie.”



Spc. John Watts
(U.S. Army)

“‘Immortals.’ It simply was a really good movie.”



Sgt. Ryan Kendall
(U.S. Army)

“‘Midnight in Paris’ because of the humor used towards the late authors and artists.”



Sgt. Denise Augustin
(U.S. Army)

“‘The Help’ because Skeeter supported them in the end.”



1st Lt. Joe Carniglia
(U.S. Marine Corps)

“‘Moneyball’ because Jonah Hill did a great job.”



Staff Sgt. Randy Van Zandt
(U.S. Army)

“‘Once’ because it was a realistic movie.”

MPs remember battle buddy

By Mark J. Howell

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Military Police from the 554th MP Company gathered in the Panzer Chapel Jan. 20 for a memorial ceremony to remember and honor a fallen comrade.

The accomplished eight-year career of Military Working Dog E024, better known as Cedo, came to an end when he had to be euthanized in December.

Staff Sgt. Kenneth Johnson, Cedo's handler over the last two years, participated in the ceremony by reading a poem entitled "Guardians of the Night" and ringing a bell signifying a "last call home" before closing the door to Cedo's kennel and rendering a final salute to his partner.

"He was a friendly dog in comparison to the others ... not very aggressive," said Johnson, a military working dog handler with seven years experience. "He loved to be petted and wanted to play with everyone."

Cedo was born in August 2000 and attended the military working dogs training school at Lackland Air Force Base in 2001. In July 2002, he was assigned to the 26th Area Support Group in Kaiserslautern.

The German shepherd was reassigned to Stuttgart in February 2007, after the first of three deployments to combat operations — two to Iraq and one to Afghanistan. He also provided security for the president, vice president and secretary of state during VIP visits.

"He worked and played hard, and when that was done, he would sleep hard, too," said Johnson, with a laugh. "He had the heart of a champion."

Johnson witnessed this first-hand during their deployment to Afghanistan last year. They would often go on support missions with 10th Mountain Division in search of weapon caches, many times over rough terrain and with temperatures near 120 degrees.

"There was one mission that was only supposed to be a couple hours, but ended up taking almost nine," Johnson said. "Toward the end, we ran out of water and I had to give Cedo an IV. He was really tired, but he pushed through. I was really proud of him."

During another mission supporting the 101st Airborne, Johnson and Cedo were again asked to stay longer than they had planned for. While waiting for supplies — including dog food — to arrive, Johnson shared his field rations with Cedo to keep him going.

The bond between dog and handler gets much stronger while on deployment, according to Sgt. Brad Carrico, a fellow dog handler with the 554th MP Company.

"You're basically all each other has," Carrico said. "While on deployment, you're together 24/7 so you



Photo courtesy Staff Sgt. Kenneth Johnson

Cedo and handler Staff Sgt. Kenneth Johnson of the 554th MP Co., pose for a photo on Dec. 10, a few days before Cedo was euthanized.

do everything together ... I even let my dog sleep on the foot of the bed with me."

After Johnson and Cedo returned in June 2011 from their deployment, Johnson noticed a considerable change in Cedo's behavior.

He was increasingly tired and began showing signs of neurological problems that affected his rear legs and ability to walk.

"He still wanted to work and play, but couldn't," Johnson said. "At first, the vet wanted to let Cedo retire and be adopted, but after a while it was pretty clear that his quality of life was decreased."

On Cedo's last day, Johnson said goodbye and held Cedo throughout the procedure.

Johnson won't be getting a new working dog; he has since become a plans and operations sergeant. However, he'll still play a role in training the other eight working dogs in the Stuttgart area.

"It has been hard, even though we saw it coming," Johnson said. "We try to act tough because we're Soldiers, but it's difficult. It's really is like losing a family member."

News & Notes

New USAREUR senior enlisted leader named

U.S. Army Europe commanding general Lt. Gen. Mark Hertling has named Command Sgt. Maj. David Davenport Sr. as his new senior enlisted advisor.

Davenport is currently assigned as the 1st Armored Division and Fort Bliss, Texas, command sergeant major.

The Nashville, Tenn. native, who is replacing Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Capel, has served two previous tours in Germany, with the 1st Battalion, 63rd Armor in Vilseck and the 1st Squadron, 1st U.S. Cavalry in Büdingen.

Davenport is scheduled to assume his new duties as the USAREUR command sergeant major this month.

(This information was provided by U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs Office.)

Deadline for Scholarships for Military Children nears

The deadline for submitting applications for the Defense Commissary Agency's 2012 Scholarships for Military Children program is Feb. 24.

Applications are available in all Stuttgart commissaries and online at www.commissaries.com or at www.militaryscholar.org.

Applicants must be dependent, unmarried children of active duty or reservist service members or retirees, or survivors of service members who died while on active duty or receiving military retirement pay. Applicants must also be 21 years old or younger, or 23 and younger if enrolled as a full-time college student.

Mandatory TARP briefings

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart will hold Threat Awareness and Reporting Program briefings for military and civilian personnel. Family members are also encouraged to attend.

Briefings in English are scheduled in the **Patch Theater** Feb. 13-16 at 9 and 11 a.m., and 1 p.m.; and at 3 p.m. on Feb. 14 and 16 only. On Feb. 17, briefings will be held at 9 and 11 a.m.

The **Panzer Chapel** will host English-language briefings Feb. 21, 22 and 24 at 9 and 11 a.m., and 1 p.m.

In the **Kelley Theatre**, English briefings will be held Feb. 27 through March 1 at 9 and 11 a.m., and 1 p.m.; on Feb. 28 and March 1 a 3 p.m. briefing is also scheduled.

Briefings in German will be held Feb. 13, 15 and 17 at 3 p.m. in the Patch Theater; Feb. 21, 22 and 24 at 3 p.m. in the Panzer Chapel; and Feb. 27 and 29 at 3 p.m. in the Kelley Theatre.

All military and civilian personnel, regardless of branch of service, are required to receive a TARP briefing at least once a year.

For more information, contact your unit's security manager.

(This information was provided by the Stuttgart Field Office.)

The Stuttgart Tax Center offers free tax assistance to ID cardholders

Monday-Friday
9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Closed federal holidays
Room 231, Building 3312
Kelley Barracks

For more information, call the Stuttgart Tax Center at 421-4588/civ. 0711-729-4588.



Ask a JAG

Editor's Note: Do you have a legal question you would like to see answered in a future edition of The Citizen? If so, contact "Ask a JAG" at stephen.j.bishop.mil@mail.mil.

By Capt. Stephen Bishop (U.S. Army)
Stuttgart Law Center

Q: Last week at the commissary, my bagger lost control of the grocery cart and it scratched the door of my car. The repair estimate is \$300. Who pays for that?

A: Unless the bagger agrees to pay for the damage, you will likely end up eating the cost.

It's probably not prudent to pursue a judicial remedy. Jurisdictional issues preclude you from filing in a U.S. court, so you would have to pursue the action through the German system (Mahnverfahren).

Beyond the language barrier and time-consuming process, you will bear the economic risk of paying up-front court fees and other expenses, which may be unrecoverable or even exceed the amount claimed.

Of course, you have the option to file a comprehensive claim with your private insurance, but the benefit of that depends on your deductible, as well as any impact it may have on your premium.

Though comprehensive claims generally carry low deductibles, and the owner is not considered "at fault," each person's policy is different and requires individual analysis.

What about the Military Claims Office on Kelley?

While many patrons believe the commissary or the Army would be liable, that is not the case. Baggers are not employees of the Defense Commissary Agency, the Army or the federal government. Their precise status is complex and commonly misperceived.

Legally speaking, baggers are "self-employed licensees." That means they've been given permission to enter the commissary for the purpose of conducting a personal business for profit, i.e., solicit patrons to accept their bagging and carry-out services in return for the expectation of a customary tip. As licensees, baggers are solely responsible for their negligent acts.

This article is not meant to discourage acceptance of baggers' services. Indeed, baggers are critical in speeding up the check-out process and can be exceedingly helpful. Just be aware of the relationship that is created. If you do not wish to "hire" a bagger, then politely decline his or her services. Conversely, if you do hire a bagger, and that bagger damages your property, immediately inform the local commissary manager either in person or by submitting an ICE comment, and then schedule an appointment at the legal assistance office. But if you have the typical experience of hiring a diligent and courteous bagger, be sure to give him or her a commensurate tip — preferably the kind that folds instead of jingles.

This column is not intended as individual or specific legal advice. If you have specific issues or concerns, you should consult a judge advocate at 421-4152/civ. 0711-729-4152.

Bees create buzz at schools, improve spelling, vocabulary

By AnnMary Driscoll
Special to The Citizen

Stuttgart schools crowned their spelling bee champions last month.

Standing alone in front of a microphone, voice echoing over the audience, one child after another tackled vocabulary such as reimbursable, onslaught, polyglot and slantendicular.

A correct answer brought a sigh of relief, or perhaps a quick fist pump. A mistake pulled a gasp from the audience or, at times, heralded tears from a disappointed contestant.

Spellers tackled third-grade level words at first, then proceeded quickly to the eighth-grade level and beyond.

The Böblingen Elementary/Middle School bee was held Jan. 19. Thirteen students in grades three through eight competed in front of their classmates, teachers and parents for more than an hour.

After several championship rounds, the prize finally went to seventh-grader Suzanna Ortiz, who correctly spelled amethyst to take home the trophy. Fifth-grader Max Tortorelli was the runner-up.

Ortiz and Tortorelli were in a close race, fraying the nerves of the audience; it took nine rounds for Ortiz to pull ahead.

At Patch Elementary School, students in grades three to five gathered to cheer on twelve of their classmates Jan. 25. After 31 rounds and nearly two hours, fourth-grader Kaitlyn Gonyer emerged victorious, correctly spelling trembling.

Trembling herself, Gonyer credited her father for helping her succeed.

"He'd say the word and I'd spell it. We studied nearly every day for a couple of weeks, and the more I studied, the better I got," Gonyer said.

Fourth-grader Rhoslyn Owens was named runner-up.

On Jan. 31 at Robinson Barracks Elementary/Middle School, an enthusiastic crowd greeted the twelve representatives from grades three to eight.

After a mere eight rounds, seventh-grader Sara Tingey correctly spelled "stringent" and had the award in her hands.

This will be Tingey's second trip to the European bee; she represented Patch Elementary School as a fifth-grader.

“We studied nearly every day ... the more I studied, the better I got.”

Kaitlyn Gonyer
PES spelling bee champion

Sarah Hoeing, grade eight, will serve as runner-up.

Tingey and her brother Damon, who placed third, practiced spelling words aloud together. "Anytime one of us missed a word, we'd re-spell it three times. We would do that out loud, because you can't write the word down in the real thing," Sarah said.

The contests help students "improve their spelling, increase their vocabularies, learn concepts and develop correct English usage," according to the Scripps National Spelling Bee website.

The parent-teacher organization at each school coordinated the bees.

The process for each began with grade-level contests. Students studied at least 100 words, based on lists provided by E.W. Scripps, the media company that operates the national spelling bee.

Winners from each grade moved onto the school-wide bees, studying at least 450 words.

The winners will compete in the European spelling bee in Ramstein on March 17.

The winner of the European competition will travel to Washington, D.C., to compete in the Scripps National Spelling Bee May 27 to June 2.

Winning words at past national spelling bees

2000 • demarche	2006 • Ursprache
2001 • succedaneum	2007 • serrefine
2002 • prospicience	2008 • guerdon
2003 • pococurante	2009 • Laodicean
2004 • autochthonous	2010 • stromuhr
2005 • appoggiatura	2011 • cymotrichous

Source: www.spellingbee.com



AnnMary Driscoll

Seventh-grader Sara Tingey glances toward the RBEMS judges after correctly spelling the championship word stringent.



James Lloyd

Seventh-grader Suzanna Ortiz wins the BEMS spelling bee held on Jan. 19 after spelling the word amethyst.



AnnMary Driscoll

Fourth-grader Kaitlyn Gonyer battles for 31 rounds to become the Patch Elementary School spelling bee champ Jan. 25.

Holiday schedule

Most organizations and facilities in U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart will be closed Feb. 20 in observance of the Presidents Day federal holiday.

Patrons are advised to call ahead before visiting any facility.

The Stuttgart Army Health Clinic and Dental Clinic will be closed Feb. 17 and 20.

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.

Piranhas need coach, swimmers

The Stuttgart Piranhas swim team is looking for a head coach for the 2012/13 swim season. The team's spring training is set to begin March 12.

Applicants should send their resume to registrar@stuttgartpiranhas.org by March 1.

Swimmers interested in joining the Piranhas team can get more information at registrar@stuttgartpiranhas.org.

ASAP training

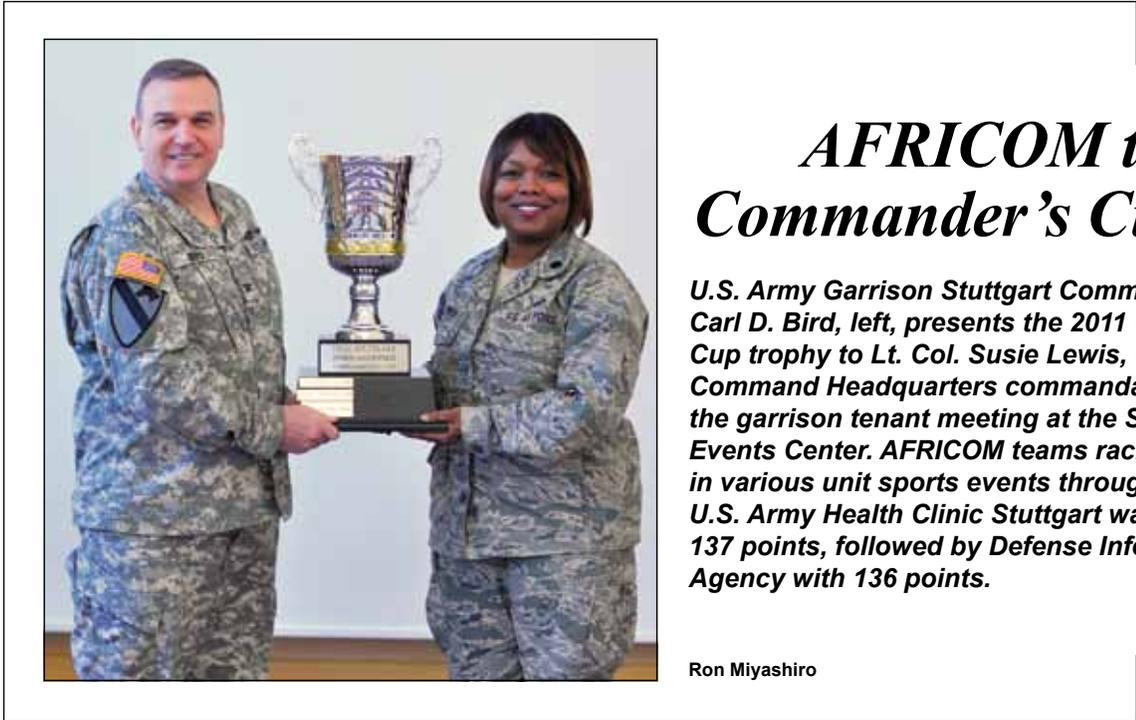
The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Army Substance Abuse Program will conduct annual civilian ASAP training for garrison supervisors Feb. 16 from 9-10 a.m.

Two training sessions for employees will be held from 10:30-11:30 a.m. and 1-2 p.m. in the Kelley Theatre, Building 3320, Kelley Barracks.

For more information, call 431-2743/civ. 07031-15-2743.

CYS Services holds sports registration

Registration for U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart



AFRICOM takes Commander's Cup again

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Commander Col. Carl D. Bird, left, presents the 2011 Commander's Cup trophy to Lt. Col. Susie Lewis, the U.S. Africa Command Headquarters commandant, Feb. 1 during the garrison tenant meeting at the Swabian Special Events Center. AFRICOM teams racked up 156 points in various unit sports events throughout the year. U.S. Army Health Clinic Stuttgart was second with 137 points, followed by Defense Information Systems Agency with 136 points.

Ron Miyashiro

Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation's Child, Youth and School Services spring sports season, which includes soccer, baseball and softball, runs through Feb. 28.

Participants must have a physical valid through June 15.

To register your child, stop by Parent Central Services in Building 2347 on Patch Barracks.

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

NAF job openings

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart's Non-appropriated Fund Human Resources Office is accepting applications for positions within Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation's Child, Youth and School Services and the Galaxy Bowling Center.

To view online vacancies, visit www.usajobs.gov or stop by the NAF/HRO office, Building 2948, Panzer Kaserne or call 431-3119/

civ. 07031-15-3119.

Volunteer of the year nominations due by Feb. 24

Nominations for U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart's 2011 Volunteer of the Year program are being accepted through Feb. 24.

The recognition program honors community volunteers for their dedication and commitment.

Nomination packets for youth, local national, civilian, military member, military retiree, and military spouse and family member are available online at www.stuttgartmwr.com.

All nominees must be registered through the ACS Volunteer Corps Coordinator.

The Stuttgart Volunteer Recognition ceremony is scheduled for April 5 at 5 p.m. in the Patch Community Club, Building 2505, Patch Barracks.

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

Play bunco with SCSC Feb. 21

The Stuttgart Community Spouses' Club will hold a "Cowboy-Bunco" event Feb. 21 at 6 p.m. in the Swabian Special Events Center on Patch Barracks.

For more information, or to register, e-mail scsc4reservations@yahoo.com or visit www.stuttgartspousesclub.org.

AUSA career fair set for Feb. 17-18

The Association of the U.S. Army Stuttgart Chapter and U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Army Community Service team up to host a career fair Feb. 17-18 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Marriott Hotel in Sindelfingen.

Companies and government agencies will be hiring.

The career fair is open to all members of the Stuttgart military community, to include service members, wounded warriors, spouses and civilian employees.

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

Register for women's leadership forum

The fourth annual U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Women's Leadership Forum will be held March 29 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Swabian Special Events Center on Patch Barracks.

The forum is designed to advance federal employees' management and leadership skills.

For more information, please send an e-mail to usagstuttgarteeo@eur.army.mil.

Send community-wide an announcements to stuttgart-media@eur.army.mil.

Recycling cell phones is an easy call

Many people throw away old cell phones even though they are still functional. But did you know cell phones contain precious and non-ferrous metals, as well as detrimental elements, chemicals and contaminants?

One ton of old cell phones can yield approximately 280 grams of gold, 140 grams of platinum and palladium, and 63 kilograms of copper. Recycling just a million cell phones can reduce greenhouse gas emissions equal to taking 1,368 cars off the road for a year.

Don't throw away your cell phone in a normal trash container. Each USAG Stuttgart installation has a hazardous waste collection point where old and used cell phones are accepted: Patch Barracks, Building 2316; Kelley Barracks, Building 3371; Panzer Kaserne, Building 2958; and Robinson Barracks, Building 139.

For more information, call 421-6288 or 421-6135.



USAG Stuttgart Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division

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Library ‘rolls’ out creative activities, programs

By Mary “Tweedy” Knaf & Susan Huseman
Special to the Citizen

Considered one of the most versatile tools in a household, duct tape is now one of the most popular art mediums at the Patch Library.

After a successful duct tape trick-or-treat bag-making session last October, Librarian Tracie Miller decided to host another event with the sticky stuff on Jan. 26.

“We thought this would be a way to engage the teenagers and focus their creative energies,” Miller said.

The library provided an array of colorful tape and a few basic instructions for the do-it-yourself activity.

Originally created during World War II to keep moisture out of ammunition cases, duct tape has gone far beyond household repairs. It has developed an cult following and is a popular material for crafts, decorations, clothing and accessories.

Patch Library’s “Ductigami” attracted a wide range of participants from kindergartners to entire families.

It was a logical progression for Aidan Oldmixon, 9, who has practiced origami — the Japanese art of paper folding. He and his sister, Sage, 6, spent the afternoon constructing wallets.

“I’ve never done any origami ... except I’m good at folding things. This is so much fun,” Sage said.

Patricia Hübschman brought her children, Sophia, 14, Kurt, 12, and Kenzie, 8, to the event.

“We’ve never done this before, but we love all the things the library does,” Hübschman said.

The library is doing a lot of things these days.

For movie lovers, the library offers a foreign film club the third Sunday of every month. Silvio Soldini’s “Days and Clouds” will be shown Feb. 19 at 3 p.m., and patrons are invited to discuss the film afterward.



Photos by Mary “Tweedy” Knaf

[Photo above] Jasper Surret, 16, places a few dollars in the wallet he made out of duct tape Jan. 26. [Photo right] Ben Hodges, 11, assists his mother Stephanie as she weaves strips of duct tape to construct a purse, her first attempt at duct tape crafts, during “Ductigami.”



Continuing on that theme, an Oscar trivia contest will be offered Feb. 20-23 and an Oscar movie weekend is scheduled for Feb. 25-26.

Other programming includes the Family Book Club on March 25 with activities based on the book “Chasing Vermeer.” Patrons can make their own greeting cards on April 14 in celebration of National Card Making Day.

On-going programs include a story time every Thursday at 11 a.m. and an after-school Gaming Club that meets every Thursday.

For more information, call 430-5232/0711-680-5232. A complete list of library activities, is available on the USAG Stuttgart Family and MWR webpage at www.stuttgartmwr.com.

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you know.

Vehicle Registration to close for upgrade Feb. 15-17

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Vehicle Registration office will be closed Feb. 15-17 for renovations that will improve services.

Along with cosmetic upgrades, fiber optic cabling will be installed to speed up processing times, an automated numbering system will be installed that estimates wait times, and a service menu board will be set up which will provide a listing of required items for services.

For more information, call 431-2833/civ. 07031-15-2833.

ACS seeks care providers

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Army Community Service Family Advocacy Program is looking for emergency placement care providers.

EPC providers give a child, or children, a temporary home during family crisis situations.

For more information, call 431-3364/civ. 07031-15-3364.

Clubs sponsor free ice skating

The Stuttgart Military Community Eishockey Club, along with the Stuttgart Community Spouses Club, will host a Family Skate Night on Feb. 25 from 5:15-6:45 p.m. at Eisstadion Wernau, Stadionweg 12, 73249 Wernau.

Admission is free for all military ID cardholders and their families.

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

Volunteers needed for Spring Bazaar

The Stuttgart Community Spouses' Club is looking for volunteers to assist with the setup of the Spring Bazaar on March 12-15, and during the bazaar, March 16-18.

For more information, visit www.stuttgartspouses-club.org or e-mail scscbazaar-volunteer@yahoo.com.

Postal hours to change, postage goes up

Effective Feb. 13, the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Army Postal Offices and community mail rooms will operate with re-

duced customer service hours. For the new operation hours, go to www.stuttgart.army.mil and click on the Hot Topics link.

Prices for most domestic and international postal mailing services increased Jan. 22. The price of a one-ounce first-class mail stamp will increase one cent, to 45 cents. To see all postal increases, go to www.usps.com.

For more information, call the USAG Stuttgart Postmaster at 431-2874/07031-15-2874.

Resilience training for high schoolers

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

The program is designed to build spiritual strength in the participants.

The training will be held March 2-3 on Patch Barracks.

For more information, call 431-3078/civ. 07031-15-3078, or e-mail james.e.sciegel.civ@mail.mil.

New customer service hours at CPAC

The Stuttgart Civilian Personnel Advisory Center has announced new customer service hours for 2012.

Walk-in service will be available on Monday and

Wednesday from 1-4 p.m., however, customers must sign in by 3:45 p.m. Appointments are available Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8 a.m. to noon and on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons from 1-4 p.m.

The Stuttgart CPAC office is located on the first floor of Building 2948 on Panzer Kaserne.

To make an appointment, call 431-3488 or civ. 07031-15-3488.

'Company' opens at Kelley Theatre

The Stuttgart Theatre Center presents "Company: A Musical Comedy."

Performances at the Kelley Theatre are set for Feb. 10, 11, 17, 18, 24 and 25, and March 2 and 3 at 7:30 p.m.

Matinee performances will be held Feb. 19 and 26, and March 4 at 3 p.m.

For tickets, call 421-3055/civ. 0711-729-3055 or visit www.stuttgartmwr.com.

Due to PCS soon?

The next scheduled permanent change of station/preseparation briefing will be held Feb. 15 at 1 p.m. in Building 2913 on Panzer Kaserne.

All service members and civilians departing within the next four to five months should attend. Information will be provided from agencies to include transportation,

customs, health and dental clinic, Tricare, vehicle registration, housing and Army Community Service. Army personnel will also receive a briefing on finance issues.

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

For more information and to sign up, call 431-2599/civ. 07031-15-2599.

Changes to airport shuttle service

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation airport shuttle program will no longer offer pick-up services from the airport.

The service is now limited to transporting registered guests to the airport from the Kelley and Panzer Hotels.

Reservations can be made with the front desk staff of the hotels.

For more information, call the Kelley Hotel at 421-2815/civ. 0711-729-2815, or the Panzer Hotel at 431-3490/civ. 07031-15-3490.

Men's team seeks softball players

The Stuttgart Stallions men's community softball team is looking for players. The season will begin in March.

If interested, send an e-mail to miles_jeffery@hotmail.com or disapromfe@yahoo.com.

Apply for SCSC Scholarships

The Stuttgart Community Spouses Club awards scholarships to graduating seniors, continuing students and spouses who demonstrate high academic achievement and overall success.

Applications are available at the SCSC thrift shops, Panzer Education Center, Patch High School and on-post libraries.

For more information or to download an application, visit www.stuttgartspouses-club.org. Applications must be postmarked by March 9.

Send community-wide announcements to stuttgart-media@eur.army.mil.

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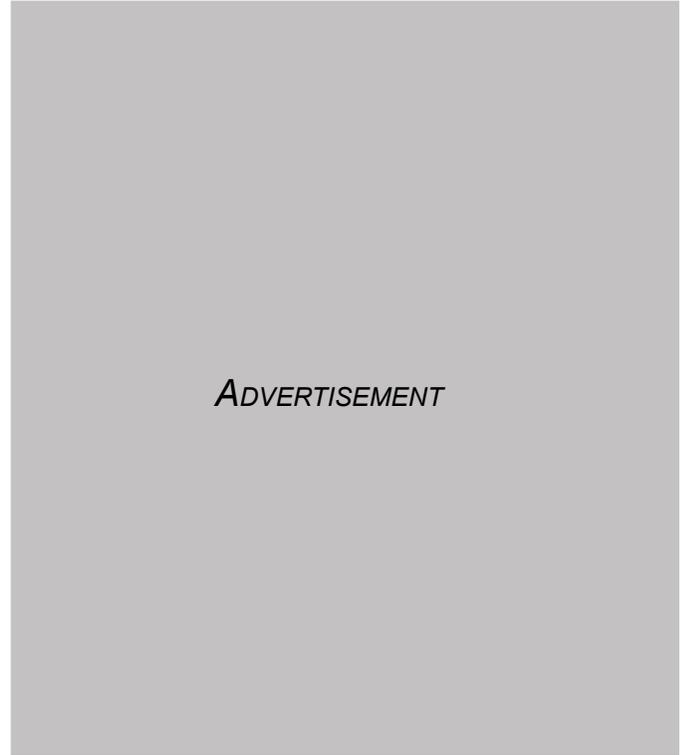
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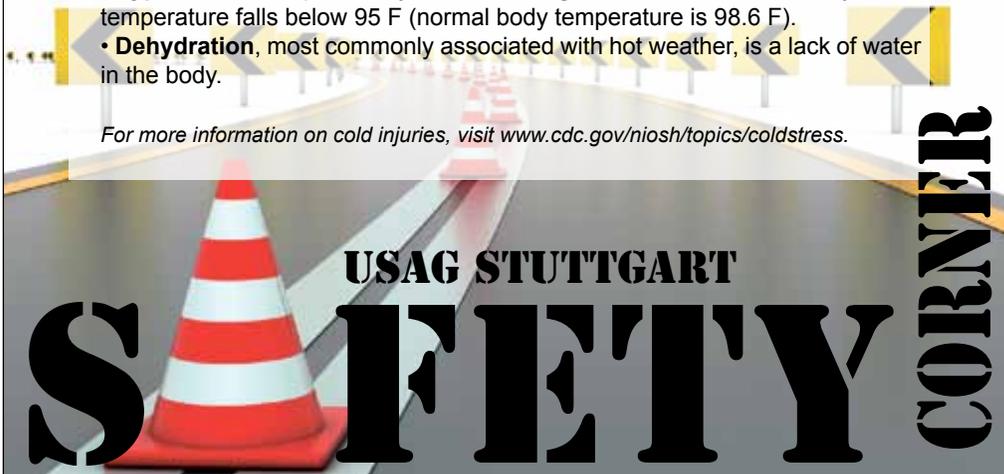
Beat the cold

More than 550 service members suffered cold weather injuries in 2010. When out in the elements, keep cold weather clothing clean and dry, and watch for skin color changes, blurred vision or slurred speech. Remember to stay hydrated.

The most frequent cold weather injuries are:

- **Frostbite** is the freezing of skin tissue that can extend through all layers of the skin, and freeze muscle and bone.
- **Frostnip** is the freezing of the top layers of the skin and is considered the first degree of frostbite.
- **Chilblain** is a nonfreezing cold injury that results from repeated, prolonged skin exposure to cold and wet (high humidity) temperatures above freezing.
- **Immersion foot** is a nonfreezing injury that results from prolonged exposure to wet conditions between 32 F and 60 F, or inactivity while wearing damp socks and boots.
- **Hypothermia** is a potentially life-threatening condition in which the body's core temperature falls below 95 F (normal body temperature is 98.6 F).
- **Dehydration**, most commonly associated with hot weather, is a lack of water in the body.

For more information on cold injuries, visit www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/coldstress.



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Parades, parties mark 'Fasching' season in Germany

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Thought there were only four seasons in a year? Think again. It might last just six days, but "Fasching," or carnival, is considered a fifth.

Fasching marks the "Närrische Zeit," or foolish season, and Germans revel in the chance to cut loose.

This year, Fasching will be celebrated from Feb. 16-21 with fests, parades, music and many "foolish" events.

Fasching or "Fastnacht" (according to the Swabian dialect) originates in the word "fasting" and marks the week before Ash Wednesday.

The main events and parades peak during the traditional Fasching week, starting on "Schmotziger Donnerstag" (Greasy Thursday). The Swabian word "schmotzig" means lard or grease and refers to the opulent food eaten during Fasching, such as "Fasnetsküchle" (Fasching doughnuts).

The remainder of the Fasching week is Fasching Saturday and Sunday, Rose Monday and Fat Tuesday. In the evening of Fat Tuesday, the "Fastnacht," represented as a witch in southern Germany, is buried in a casket and the wild days end at midnight.

However, Fasching goes by many names, depending on where patrons choose to celebrate. Whether it's "Karneval" in Cologne, "Fasching" in Stuttgart, or the "Schwäbisch-alemannische Fasnet" in the Black Forest, every region celebrates this season a little bit differently. But rest assured that all festivals have one goal in mind: to live it up before the 40-day Lent period begins.

This year's Greasy Thursday, or "Weiberfastnacht," (Women's Fasching) will be celebrated Feb. 16.

In Cologne, this means that women take control with chopping off the ties of their male colleagues.

Here in Stuttgart, Bad Cannstatt's "Kübelesmarkt" Fasching association will kickoff the area's first Fasching event with setting up the "Narrenbaum," or fool's pole, at 6:30 p.m. at the Marktplatz, and a parade starting at 7 p.m. downtown.

Neuhausen, just 15 kilometers outside Stuttgart, is one of the most popular Fasching metropolises in the area. The town celebrates Greasy Thursday with the "Hexentanz," or witch's dance.

During the event, Neuhausen's Fasching fools storm the town hall and force the mayor to hand over



Carola Meusel

A "Waldhexe," or forest witch, from the Rohrer Fasching association poses during the 2011 Fasching parade in Stuttgart-Hofen. This year's parade will be held Feb. 21 at 1 p.m.

the keys of the city administration.

The fools "official" reign lasts until Fat Tuesday. In order to celebrate this symbolic event, a huge fire is lit and all of Neuhausen's witches and fools dance around it.

This year's Hexentanz will be held Feb. 16 at 7 p.m. at Schlossplatz in front of Neuhausen's town hall.

During the various Fasching parades in southern Germany, "Narren," or Fasching fools with wooden masks in the image of witches, devils and grotesque animals can be seen in many towns.

Don't be surprised if one these Narren walk up to you and either ruffle your hair or drop you a piece of candy.

Most street parades will begin on Feb. 19.

Catch the procession in Rottenburg am Neckar

Fasching parades

- **Rottenburg am Neckar:** Feb. 19, 1:30 p.m.
- **Neuhausen:** Feb. 19, 1:33 p.m.
- **Weil der Stadt:** Feb. 19, 2 p.m.
- **Rottweil** (located in the Black Forest): "Narrensprung" (fool's jump) Feb. 20 at 8 a.m. and Feb. 21 at 8 a.m. and 2 p.m.
- **Stuttgart:** Feb. 21, 2 p.m.
- **Cologne:** Feb. 20, 10:30 a.m.

Fasching events

- **Neuhausen:** Restaurant Saalbau: Rose Monday Ball, Feb. 20, 6 p.m.
- **Neuhausen:** Restaurant Saalbau: "Fasnetsausklang," or Fasching burial ceremony, Feb. 21, 6 p.m. Tickets for the events cost € 12 and can be purchased by calling civ. 07158-948194
- **Stuttgart-Hofen:** "Narrenparty," or fool's party, Feb. 21, 2 p.m. at the Fitness Center (Turnhalle) in downtown Hofen
- **Weil der Stadt:** Fasching market and entertainment, Feb. 17, 6-8 p.m., and night parade at 8 p.m. in downtown Weil der Stadt
- **Stuttgart:** "Monster-Guggen-Konzert" (Carnival music concert), Feb. 20, 6 p.m. at the Marktplatz

at 1:30 p.m. Enjoy food, drinks, merriment and a stunning bird's eye view of the city skyline and surrounding vineyards.

Every year, some 5,000 fools from all over Germany participate in the Neuhausen parade, which is known as the largest Fasching parade in the Stuttgart area. This year's parade will be held Feb. 19 at 1:33 p.m.

Besides the parade, many restaurants along Kirchstrasse and Marktstrasse offer special balls with music, comedy, entertainment, food and clubbing throughout the Fasching week.

Cologne's Rose Monday (Feb. 20) parade is the largest parade in Germany and stretches to a length of nearly seven kilometers. However, visitors to Stuttgart's Fasching parade should not expect the same proportions. The city hosts its parade on Feb. 21 at 2 p.m.

Have a comment on garrison services?

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The ugly truth about bullying

By Susan Huseman

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Phoebe Prince, 15, of South Hadley, Mass., hanged herself after months of being taunted and bullied by classmates. Tyler Clementi, 18, a freshman at Rutgers University, jumped to his death from the George Washington Bridge after an intimate encounter was streamed over the Internet by his roommate. Jamey Rodemeyer, 15, of Buffalo, New York, an openly gay teenager, committed suicide as a result of constant bullying. Two weeks after Rodemeyer's death, another 15-year-old boy, Jamie Hubley of Ottawa, Canada, killed himself.

All four teens were subjected to cruel verbal and online bullying. But they certainly were not alone.

Over a three week period in the U.S. last October, 10 boys ages 11 to 14 killed themselves — all “relentlessly targeted over and over by their peers with derogatory sexual comments,” according to Barbara Coloroso, an international bestselling author, speaker and consultant on parenting, teaching, school discipline, bullying and conflict resolution.

“The old adage ‘sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me,’ is a lie,” Coloroso, a special education teacher and former Franciscan nun, told an audience of Patch High School students Jan. 25 in one of three anti-bullying workshops she

conducted for U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart in advance of an anti-bullying policy that will take effect in April.

Bullying, as defined by Coloroso, is a conscious, willful and deliberate hostile activity, intended to harm.

According to her book, “The Bully, the Bullied, and the Bystander,” bullying is “not about anger, or even about conflict. It’s about contempt — a powerful feeling of dislike toward someone considered to be worthless, inferior or undeserving of respect.”

Coloroso said there are three types of bullying: verbal, relational and physical. The most common form is verbal and it can “pack a tremendous wallop.”

But when combined with the tools of cyber-bullying — cell phones and the Internet — the effects can be deadly, she added.

During the workshops, Coloroso described case after case of extreme bullying that resulted in the targeted students committing suicide, or even worse, such as the 1999 Columbine High School massacre where 12 students and one teacher died; 23 students were wounded; and the two killers took their own lives.

She noted that the two seniors responsible for the killing siege, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, were targets of frequent, vicious bullying by athletes at Columbine High.

She said relentlessly targeted kids eventually beat themselves up because they are “no good” and a small percentage may turn their self-loathing “outwardly toward others.”

Because much of the bullying goes on “under the radar of adults,” Coloroso encour-

‘The old adage ‘sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me,’ is a lie.

Barbara Coloroso
Bullying expert

aged the students to stand up to those who resort to name calling, or who target students by shunning them, excluding them from social activities or spreading rumors.

“You never know when you’ll make a difference in another kid’s life,” she said.

“Pay attention, get involved and never, ever look away,” she advised. “I want each one of you ... to be ... the kid willing to stand up and speak out, to step in to do the right thing ...”

The Department of Defense Education Activity has adopted similar language for the slogan of its national bullying awareness and prevention program that began in the 2011-12 school year: “Stop Bullying Now! Take a Stand. Lend a Hand.”

In an August 2011 memo, Marilee Fitzgerald, the DODEA director, asked each school to launch an outreach effort to prevent bullying.

In Europe, Installation Management Command and Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe officials collaborated with bullying and resiliency experts (to include Coloroso), youth program professionals and community leaders to formulate an anti-bullying policy and procedures.

“Bullying is an issue worldwide,” said Judi Patrick, IMCOM-Europe School Liaison Officer, who initiated a comprehensive bullying prevention program in coordination with DODDS-Europe in U.S. Army Garrison Garmisch last year. That program is being rolled out to all Army garrisons in Europe this school year.

The bullying prevention program and the anti-bullying policy include a clear definition of what bullying is, its impact, and outlines discipline procedures. It also recommends programs for schools to adopt, such as Coloroso’s or the Committee for Children’s “Steps to Respect/Second Steps.”

“We want our students to feel safe in and out of school. We’re trying to build resiliency and respect,” Patrick said.

For more information about Barbara Coloroso’s work, visit her website, www.kid-sareworthit.com. Information on DODEA’s bullying awareness and prevention program is available at www.dodea.edu/StopBullying.

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart School Liaison Office has copies of Barbara Coloroso’s books, DVDs and CDs for check out. Call 430-7465/civ. 0711-680-7465.

Bullying tips for parents

Excerpts from “The Bully, the Bullied, and the Bystander,” Barbara Coloroso © 2002, used with permission

Warning signs of a bullied child

- Shows an abrupt lack of interest in school, or refuses to go to school
- Takes an unusual route to school
- Suffers drop in grades
- Withdraws from family and school activities
- Is hungry after school
- Steals money from home
- Makes a beeline to the bathroom when arriving home
- Is sad, sullen, angry, or scared after receiving a phone call or e-mail
- Does something out of character
- Has torn or missing clothing
- Uses derogatory or demeaning language when talking about peers
- Stops talking about peers and everyday activities
- Has physical injuries inconsistent with explanation
- Has stomachaches, headaches, panic attacks,

- is unable to sleep, sleeps too much, is exhausted
- Plays alone, or prefers to hang

How to report bullying

- Arrange a meeting for you and your child with the appropriate person at the school.
- Bring to the meeting the facts in writing — the date, time, place, kids involved, and the specifics of the incidents — and the impact the bullying has had on your child as well as what your child has done to try to stop the bullying that didn’t work.
- Work with your child and school personnel on a plan that addresses what your child needs right now in order to feel safe, what he or she can do to avoid being bullied and to stand up to any future bullying, and whom to go to for help.
- Find out what procedures the bully will be going through and what kind of support the school is

expecting from the parents of the bully.

- If you feel the problem is not being adequately addressed by the school, know that you can express your concerns and let the teacher and/or administrator know that you will take the next step to the school district board office and if necessary — especially in the cases of serious abuse and racist or sexist bullying — to the police.

Seven steps to stop bullying

1. Discipline
2. Create opportunities to “do good”
3. Nurture empathy
4. Teach friendship skills
5. Monitor TV viewing, video games, computer use
6. Engage in more constructive, entertaining, energizing activities
7. Teach ways to “will good”

What's happening in FMWR

Feline Fun Show set

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart's Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Feline Fun Show is set for Feb. 25 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the fitness center, Building 2337, on Patch Barracks.

Registrations will be accepted until Feb. 22 at the Patch Fitness Center or the Stuttgart Veterinary Clinic, Building 2996, Panzer Kaserne.

Indoor Flea Market

An indoor flea market will be held at the Patch Community Club, Building 2505, Patch Barracks, on Feb. 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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

Champions Basketball Tournament

The Stuttgart adult basketball championships will be held Feb. 17-20. Games will be played in the fitness centers at Kelley and Patch Barracks and Panzer Kaserne.

Registration ends Feb. 13. Participants must be 18 and older.

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

Foreign Film Sunday

The Patch Library's Foreign Film Club will screen Silvio Soldini's "Days and Clouds" Feb. 19 at 3 p.m. Patrons are invited to discuss the film afterward.

For more information, call 430-5232/civ. 0711-680-5232 or stop by Building 2343 on Patch Barracks.

Karaoke night

The Irish Pub located in the Galaxy Bowling and Entertainment Center, Building 2998, Panzer Kaserne, will host a Karaoke night Feb. 23 from 8-11 p.m.

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

Play Texas Hold 'Em

Play Texas Hold 'Em Feb. 24 at 7 p.m. in the Patch Community Club. Registration opens at 6 p.m.

Participants must be 18 and older.

For more information, call 430-5433/civ. 0711-680-5433.

For more activities and events, visit www.stuttgartmwr.com.



Coming to Patch Theater

Feb. 10 — Big Miracle (PG) 7 p.m.; Sherlock Holmes: A Game Of Shadows (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 11 — Arthur Christmas (PG) 4 p.m.; Big Miracle (PG) 7 p.m.; Immortals (R) 9 p.m.

Feb. 12 — The Muppets (PG) 2 p.m.; Big Miracle (PG) 4 p.m.; New Year's Eve (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Feb. 13 — Big Miracle (PG) 6 p.m.

Feb. 14 — War Horse (PG-13) 6 p.m.

Feb. 15 — New Year's Eve (PG-13) 6 p.m.

Feb. 16 — Joyful Noise (PG-13) 6 p.m.

Feb. 17 — Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (PG) 6 p.m.; The Sitter (R) 9 p.m.

Feb. 18 — Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (PG) 4 p.m.; The Sitter (R) 7 p.m.; War Horse (PG-13) 9 p.m.

Feb. 19 — Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (PG) 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Joyful Noise (PG-13) 4 p.m.

Feb. 20 — Journey 2: The Mysteri-



Warner Brothers

'Joyful Noise' tells the story of an unlikely partnership between two strong-minded women played by Dolly Parton and Queen Latifah.

ous Island (PG) 3 p.m.; Joyful Noise (PG-13) 6 p.m.

Feb. 21 — Red Tails (PG-13) 6 p.m.

Feb. 22 — Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close (PG-13) 6 p.m.

Feb. 23 — War Horse (PG-13) 6 p.m.

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