

# Stuttgart job seekers get ‘wired’ to get hired

Story & photo by Mark J. Howell  
 USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

If you ask unemployed veterans how difficult it is to get a job in the current market, some would say it’s virtually impossible.

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart is helping by trying to make finding a job “virtually” possible.

USAG Stuttgart’s Army Community Service teamed up with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Joining Forces Campaign to present the first-ever virtual job fair held at ACS on Panzer Kaserne March 28.

The local job fair was part of a worldwide initiative called “Hiring Our Heroes,” which has a goal of finding jobs for over 500,000 unemployed veterans.

The jobless rate for veterans serving after 9/11 is almost double the national

See *Virtual Job Fair* on page 4



Master Sgt. Tawnia Valdez of the 52nd Signal Battalion ‘chats’ online with employers from the U.S. during USAG Stuttgart’s first virtual job fair on March 28. Valdez was among other service members who are getting ready to separate from military service and were looking for jobs during the event.



Martin Greeson

## MPs ‘clear house’ during exercise

Pfc. Craig Heil (from left), Pfc. Johnathon Hayes and Spc. Eliud Rodriguez, all assigned to the 554th Military Police Company, perform room clearing training with M4 rifles on the Panzer Urban Operation Site during an all-day exercise March 14. 554th MPs complete these types of drills quarterly to ensure they are prepared for any urban situation. The training is designed to help Soldiers better implement the concept of “shoot, move and communicate.”

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### ‘ScreamFree’ parenting

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart’s Army Community Service offers parents a chance to save their voices with “ScreamFree” parenting training sessions.



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### ‘Spring clean’ the natural way

Spring is in the air and many people feel like cleaning their houses and apartments from top to bottom. Read more about how to make your own natural cleaning products.



**Commander's Column**

# Don't be 'that' neighbor — be considerate

Commentary by Col. Carl D. Bird  
USAG Stuttgart commander



**Col. Carl D. Bird**

W<sup>e</sup> all have them, the neighbors who you can not only count on, but who you enjoy being around.

And then there are, well, let's call them the bad neighbors.

If you do a You Tube search of "bad neighbor," you'll find over 9,000 videos. Take that search to the Web and there are countless articles on how to deal with annoying neighbors. There are even websites where you can submit your less-than-pleasant neighbor experiences.

Being on bad terms with a neighbor can make life frustrating.

But being a good neighbor doesn't mean you have to take family vacations together.

It simply means being considerate.

With shared stairwells, landings, sidewalks, parking and playgrounds, residents of U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart family housing have an extra responsibility to their neighbors.

It doesn't take much ... keeping the common outdoor areas safe and clean by putting toys, bicycles, skateboards and strollers away in storage rooms can go a long way in building neighborly goodwill.

So does cleaning up trash after a party, keeping music at a reasonable volume, and picking up after your pets.

Your housing area will be friendlier, safer and a more comfortable place to live.

If you reside off post, you know that Germans take great pride in their homes.

They are kept neat and tidy, with everything in its appointed place.

There are many unwritten rules regarding the maintenance of one's home, and regardless of your nationality, you

are expected to adhere to them.

It doesn't matter where we live ... we all have to do our fair share of cleaning and beautification.

In fact, the garrison is in the midst of its annual spring cleanup. I encourage you to join us.

Spring cleaning helps to support our families' health and wellness as we purge our dwellings of dirt, dust and other irritants that have accumulated over the winter.

But do it safely. Make sure you prevent accidental poisonings by keeping kids as far apart as possible from dangerous chemicals such as cleaning products, paint and solvents.

In fact, we've gathered some green cleaning tips on pages 10 and 11 of this issue that show you how to make your own eco-friendly cleaning products.

Spring is also the perfect time to start those self-help projects that you've mulled over all winter or to clean out closets and storage rooms.

If you're on a mission to downsize your belongings for an upcoming move or to simplify your life, Family and MWR hosts flea markets throughout the year where you can sell your unwanted things.

A flea market that focuses on children will be held April 28 on Patch Barracks. The Kidz Only flea market is a nice way for parents to meet and network, and practice the principles of sustainability.

I like what Environmentalist Paul Hawken wrote: "Leave the world better than you found it."

This can apply to many areas: the relationships we have with neighbors, our living conditions and the environment.

Bottom line, it's about being good neighbors and good citizens.

*Editor's Note: For details on upcoming flea markets, visit the Stuttgart Family and MWR website at [www.stuttgartmwr.com](http://www.stuttgartmwr.com).*

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[www.stuttgart.army.mil](http://www.stuttgart.army.mil)

## ON THE STREET

### What are you doing during spring break?



**Staff Sgt. Arthur Phillips**  
*(U.S. Army)*

"My mother-in-law will visit us and we're taking the kids to LegoLand."



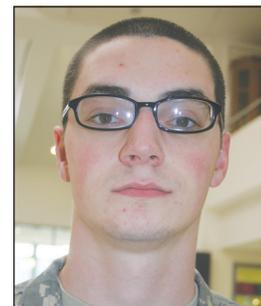
**Marybeth Spivey**  
*(Spouse)*

"I will paint my apartment and go on bike rides."



**Staff Sgt. Michael Everett**  
*(U.S. Marine Corps)*

"I will take online classes for my degree in cyber security."



**Spc. Benjamin House**  
*(U.S. Army)*

"I will be dog sitting for friends and look forward to simply relaxing."



**Maj. Nathan Frye**  
*(U.S. Marine Corps)*

"I will be staying here for work, but my family is going to San Diego."



**Sgt. Maria Boring**  
*(U.S. Army)*

"I will take my kids to the pool and on hiking trips."



**Liza Briggs**  
*(Civilian)*

"I'm going TDY somewhere in Africa."



**Sgt. Shawn Skirvin**  
*(U.S. Army)*

"We're going to see the cathedral in Cologne."

# ‘ScreamFree’ training supports parents, provides direction

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Of all the joys that come with having and raising children, there are times when being a parent can be challenging ... even frustrating.

In order to support not only parents and grandparents, but anyone who interacts with children on a daily basis, U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart’s Army Community Service hosted it’s first “ScreamFree” parenting training from Feb. 28 to March 6.

“The self-help program focuses on changing adult behaviors,” said Sonia Greer, Family Advocacy Program educator and ScreamFree parenting facilitator.

“ScreamFree takes a different approach to traditional parenting models. It’s not focused on your children’s behaviors, but on how you manage emotional reactions to the child’s behavior,” Greer said.

The training is based on Operation: ScreamFree, a program designed to support U.S. military families around the world in dealing with ever-changing lifestyles that include deployments and separation from family, according to the Operation: ScreamFree website.

The concept comes from the ScreamFree Institute, a non-profit organization that was founded by Hal Runkel, a therapist and relationship coach and author of the book, “ScreamFree Parenting.”

ACS offers the ScreamFree training over four two-hour sessions. Participants receive a workbook that follows video lectures based on Runkel’s book.

In addition to the presentations, participants are able to discuss their own situations and share solutions.

“Sharing experiences with others makes the group dynamic, and that is essential for the training,” Greer said.

The scenarios focus on everyday situations, such as children not making their beds, not doing homework or simply misbehaving.

According to Greer, the most common problems that participants face when dealing with their children are grades, discipline, behavior and controlling daily chores.

The training aims to give parents new tools to minimize stress over little things and resolve power struggles within the family, according to Greer.

“Reactionary adult behavior reflects on our children and threatens to deteriorate the relationship dynamic,” Greer said.

Consequently, adults have to focus on their own roles and behavior in order to control it, according to Greer.

Changing behaviors isn’t something that people can learn overnight. However, the training is an opportunity for attendees to find ways to better manage themselves as parents.

“It’s about growing as a parent ... it’s maintaining calm and integrity and having words and actions match,” Greer said.

*The next ScreamFree parenting training is scheduled for April 23 and 30, May 7 and 14 from 10 a.m. to noon at Brewed Awakenings, Building 168, Robinson Barracks, and May 8, 15, 22 and 29 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Army Community Service, Building 2915, Panzer Kaserne.*

*To register, call 431-3362/civ. 07031-15-3362.*

## News & Notes

### POV shipping delays

Department of Defense active duty and civilian employees who plan to use their privately owned vehicle shipping entitlement between now and May 4 will experience a delay due to scheduled ship maintenance.

The delay will affect vehicles that are being shipped to Europe. The required delivery date has been extended for 30 days during this time period. Transit times will vary based on the location of the Vehicle Processing Center being used.

For more information, call the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Vehicle Processing Center at 431-2617/civ. 07031-15-2617.

### Housing residents must call 117 to report fire emergencies

The fire alarm system in U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Army Family Housing is not connected to the Stuttgart Army Airfield Fire Control Center.

Fires and other emergencies must be reported directly to the Stuttgart Fire Department. Based on the incident, the fire department is then able to respond or request support from host nation emergency services.

Residents are advised to always evacuate the building immediately after the fire alarm is activated.

For more information, contact the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Fire Department at 430-2065/civ. 0711-680-2065. In case of an emergency, call 117/civ. 0711-680-117.

The fire department also urges residents to store the emergency number into the mobile phones of all family members.

### Overseas Housing Allowance survey influences entitlements

U.S. Army Europe is currently conducting an Overseas Housing Allowance survey until April 30.

The survey is intended to measure the amount of compensation that service members receive from Overseas Housing Allowances to live in privately leased or rented residential housing.

Every year, the Defense Travel Management Office conducts a survey to identify how much service members spent in the previous year for utilities such as electricity, heating fuel, water, trash removal and sewer fees.

All service members, regardless of service affiliation, who reside in off-post housing are requested to complete the survey in order to accurately gage the amount of OHA required. The survey is critical for ensuring OHA rates are properly set at overseas locations, and directly effects the amount of housing allowance each service member will receive.

Spouses are authorized to take the survey if their sponsor is deployed.

The survey can be accessed on the U.S. Army Europe home page at [www.hqusareur.army.mil](http://www.hqusareur.army.mil).

*(This information was provided by U.S. Army Europe).*

## USAG Stuttgart Religious Support Office

# Seasonal worship services

### Lutheran

April 5, Maundy Thursday  
6:30 p.m., Panzer Chapel

April 6, Good Friday service  
6:30 p.m., Panzer Chapel

April 8, Easter sunrise service  
7 a.m., Panzer Chapel

### Protestant

April 8, Easter service

- 10 a.m., Robinson Barracks Chapel
- 10 a.m., Panzer Chapel
- 11 a.m., Patch Chapel
- 12:30 p.m., Panzer Chapel (Gospel)
- 12:45 p.m., Patch Chapel (COGIC)

### Jewish

April 6, Passover, 1st Seder  
Noon, Panzer Chapel

April 7, Passover, 2nd Seder  
Noon, Panzer Chapel

### Catholic

April 5, Holy Thursday Mass  
6 p.m., Patch Chapel

April 6, Good Friday Liturgy  
3 p.m., Patch Chapel

April 7, Easter Vigil  
8 p.m., Panzer Chapel

- April 8, Easter Sunday Mass
- 9 a.m., Patch Chapel
  - Noon, Robinson Barracks Chapel
  - 5 p.m., Patch Chapel

Panzer Chapel — Building 2940; Robinson Barracks Chapel — Building 115; Patch Chapel — Building 2305

USAG Stuttgart Religious Support Office: 431-3079/civ. 07031-15-3079

## 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 [jason.m.mckenna4.mil@mail.mil](mailto:jason.m.mckenna4.mil@mail.mil).*

**By Capt. Jason M. McKenna (U.S. Army)**  
Stuttgart Law Center

**Q:** *I recently arrived in Germany and prefer to live off post. However, I'm apprehensive due to the differences in culture. Specifically, I'm curious about the differences in landlord and tenant laws. With which laws and issues should I be familiar?*

**A:** Living on the local economy and integrating yourself with the German community is an exciting endeavor. However, you are correct to note differences in law and legal culture. Herr Werner Sukup, the German attorney at the Legal Assistance Office, advises clients regarding landlord and tenant issues. He often encounters clients who, before leaving Germany, experience problems with their landlords that may impact their finances; specifically, their security deposits. Unfortunately, in some instances, it is too late to ensure the client is fighting a winning battle. Thus, the LAO recently began to offer a landlord and tenant briefing for the community. The briefing targets newcomers to Germany, but all members of the Stuttgart community seeking to learn more about local landlord and tenant law are welcome. The briefing is held every second Thursday of the month at 11 a.m. in the courtroom, Building 3312 on Kelley Barracks. Contact the Central Processing Facility to verify dates for the briefing.

Here are a few key points that everyone should keep in mind when living off post:

- Everything, and I stress, everything, should be in writing. Oral agreements with your landlord are highly discouraged and most likely unenforceable.

- You have a duty to notify your landlord in writing of required repairs. Failure to notify your landlord can result in severe penalties. Real-life example: A client notices a small leaking pipe in his basement prior to going on leave for three weeks to the U.S. The leak is minor, and a small bucket catches all leaking water. When the client returns from the U.S., the entire basement was flooded and the walls were barely standing because the pipe exploded. The client breached his duty to notify the landlord of required repairs and, as a result, was liable for nearly €100,000. Approximately €1,000 is withheld from his check each month.

- If you request an upgrade to your apartment, such as a whirlpool, the landlord may relay up to 11 percent of the cost to you each year that you remain at the apartment. Thus, over nine years, you'll pay the entire cost.

Contact the Legal Assistance Office for more information.

*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.*

# Virtual Job Fair . . . . .

*Continued from page 1*

rate, averaging around 12 percent, and that jumps to 29 percent for those under the age of 25, according to an NBC News report. The report added that this problem isn't just affecting service members. The unemployment rate for military spouses is a staggering 26 percent.

The website for the virtual job fair offered a list of more than 100 U.S. employers looking for experienced veterans for a variety of positions.

Participants could click on companies they were interested in and enter a live chat to talk directly with recruiters. If the job seeker was interested in applying for a job after speaking with them, they could submit their resume instantly on the same site.

Christi Ham, wife of Gen. Carter Ham, the commander of U.S. Africa Command, heard about the initiative during a conference in Washington D.C., and brought the concept back to Stuttgart.

"I asked myself ... what can we do for the service members and spouses overseas?" Ham said.

"For some military spouses, it's difficult to grow professionally because we pick up and move with our service members. Anything we can do to help make it easier is nice," she added.

More than 15,000 people worldwide signed up for the online Hiring Our Heroes job fair. Almost 4,000 resumes were posted during the event, according to a representative from Military.com, the organization that created the website for the online fair.

In Stuttgart, the virtual job fair assisted more than 100 job seekers, while more than 1,000 people in Germany visited the fair's website. The garrison also invited a dozen local companies to complement the online portion, which appealed to people interested in finding a job in Germany.

Maj. Susan McMullen, an Air Force Reserve staff officer attached to the U.S. European Command Logistics Directorate, came to the fair with hopes of

“Instead of just uploading my resume, I had a chance to talk to some of the recruiters in chat rooms, which makes it more personable.”

**Maj. Susan McMullen**  
U.S. European Command

finding a job in the U.S. before her temporary duty in Stuttgart ends.

"The virtual part of the fair was great," said McMullen. "Instead of just uploading my resume, I had a chance to talk to some of the recruiters in chat rooms, which makes it more personable."

Due to the positive feedback received, the garrison will look to host similar fairs on a recurring basis in the future, and is also sharing the idea with other military communities in Europe so they can participate.

"My hope is that the seed we planted with this fair in Stuttgart will start to grow in other communities," Ham said.

*The Chamber of Commerce and Military.com will continue to host virtual fairs throughout the year. For more information, visit [www.uschamber.com/hiringourheroes](http://www.uschamber.com/hiringourheroes).*

*Job seekers are urged to visit the ACS Employment Readiness office, Building 2915 on Panzer Kaserne, to have their resumes reviewed by a counselor before they register for a job fair.*



Photo by Mark J. Howell

**Staff Sgt. Nathan Faraday of Marine Forces Europe speaks to a representative of Jobs Worldwide during the USAG Stuttgart Virtual Job Fair. Jobs Worldwide was one of a dozen local employers that supported the fair on-site to assist job seekers looking for opportunities in Germany, while the "Hiring Our Heroes" online fair, hosted by Military.com, helped attendees to find jobs in the U.S.**

**CID offering reward**

The Stuttgart Criminal Investigation Division is offering a \$1,500 reward for information leading to the apprehension and conviction of a person responsible for rifling mail and stealing personal property between Feb. 23 and March 8.

Anyone having knowledge of the incident should contact the Stuttgart CID office at 430-2976/ civ. 0711-680-2976, or the Military Police at 430-5262/civ. 0711-680-5262.

**New customer service hours at CPAC**

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

Walk-in service will be available Monday through Friday from 1-4 p.m., however, on Wednesday the office will be closed from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Appointments are available during all other hours of operation.

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



Mark J. Howell

**Unexpected spring 'break'**

**Patch Elementary School and Patch High School students receive water donated by the Defense Commissary Agency Europe on Husky Field following a bomb threat on March 29. USAG Stuttgart's Directorate of Emergency Services, along with German Polizei, evacuated all school buildings to ensure the safety of the students.**

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

**Easter holidays, traffic, closures**

Easter is April 8. During the Easter holidays, German stores will be closed on Good Friday, April 6, as well as on Easter Monday, April 9. Stores will be open for shoppers April 7.

Local German schools are on Easter vacation through April 13. Traffic is antici-

pated to be heaviest on the weekends.

- All Community Banks will be closed on April 6 and 9. The Panzer Community Bank will be open from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on April 7.

- The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Housing Office and Vehicle Registration will be closed on April 6 and 9.

- The 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Consolidated Dining Facility will be closed on April 6 and 9.

**Spring Fest**  
Stuttgart's Child, Youth

and School Services will host its annual Spring Fest April 28 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Patch Youth and Fitness Center. The event will feature free activities for the entire family to include face painting, pony rides, games and more.

**Apply for jobs with Summer Hire**

Applications for the 2012 Summer Hire program in U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart are currently being accepted online through May 20 at <https://cpolrhp.cpol.army>.

mil/eur/employment. Family members ages 14-22 with valid ID cards, including spouses under age 18 who are still in high school, are eligible to apply.

Jobs are available in labor, clerical and child care fields. The program will run from June 18 to July 27.

For more information, call the Stuttgart Civilian Personnel Advisory Center at 431-3128/civ. 07031-15-3128.

**Take Army MWR survey**

Provide feedback to the Army's Morale, Welfare and Recreation services by taking the MWR Services Survey.

Selected personnel, to include active duty service members, Department of Defense civilians and non-appropriated fund employees, will be notified via email and will have until May 8 to take the survey.

Every three years MWR requests that community members fill out a 15-minute survey to find out how MWR can better serve the military community.

For more information, call MWR Marketing at 421-3153/civ. 0711-729-3153.

**Kelley Commissary has new hours**

The Kelley Barracks Commissary has new opening hours. The store will be open Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The store will be closed Saturday and Sunday.

For more information, call 421-2366/civ. 0711-729-2366.

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# As spring arrives, dust off your emergency plan

By Capt. Felix Castro

USAG Stuttgart Emergency Management Office

This spring while cleaning windows and scrubbing floors, take time to dust off the family emergency action plan, as well.

When an emergency event occurs, it is too late to get prepared. But it is never too early to plan for what you and your family can do during an emergency situation.

## Get a kit

When disaster strikes, emergency responders address the most critical needs and may not even be able to get to an area until it is deemed safe.

It is your responsibility to ensure your family's well-being during times of crisis. An emergency kit can help you do this.

An emergency kit should be filled with enough items for your family to live off for up to three days. One gallon of clean, drinkable water for each family member per day is advised, as well as a three-day supply of non-perishable foods.

Also take into consideration special family needs, such as infant formula, diapers and medications.

Other important items that should be included are batteries, a flashlight, a hand-crank emergency radio, personal hygiene products, as well as family documents.

Tools, such as wrenches and pliers to turn off home utilities, garbage bags and tape, are also helpful.

## Make a plan

After preparing an emergency kit, it's time to



Photos.com

An emergency kit will help you ensure your family's well-being in times of crisis.

develop an emergency plan and discuss it with your family.

Everyone should know where to find the emergency kit.

Keep a list of emergency contacts to inform loved ones of your situation. The contact list should include phone numbers, email addresses and social media profiles. Keep in mind that during an emergency, often times the ability to communicate with others

may be extremely difficult.

Also consider making a plan to shelter in place. Depending on the nature of an emergency, such as an industrial accident or terrorist attack, you may be asked to stay put until the incident passes.

If directed to shelter in place, quickly bring family and pets inside and ensure your emergency kit is with you.

Lock doors, close windows and air vents, and turn off anything that would bring outside air into the house, such as clothes dryers, exhaust fans, heating and air conditioning systems. Afterward, seal all windows, doors and vents with plastic and tape.

Once everything is sealed, monitor television reports, listen to the radio or check the Internet for updates and instructions from emergency management officials.

## Evacuate

When it is safe to evacuate, have a plan ready for your family to act on. Also, have a designated location to evacuate to in the event of an emergency.

You should choose several destinations in different areas to have options. Have alternate routes to those destinations, as roadways will likely be congested and alternate means of transportation may not be available. To be on the safe side, vehicles should have at least a half tank of gas at all times.

While you cannot plan for every possible emergency, an emergency kit and a plan can help.

For more information, visit <http://www.acsim.army.mil> and click on the Ready Army link.

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you know.



### Interested in delivering the Citizen?

AdvantiPro is seeking two responsible delivery persons age 16 or older to distribute the Citizen newspaper to Robinson and Patch Barracks residents. If interested, contact Jacob Urban at civ. 0152-269-7206.

### DoDDS new school year registration

Stuttgart Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe will hold registration for the 2012-2013 school year April 24 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and April 25 and 26 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Panzer Exchange.

Sponsors should bring copies of orders, birth cer-

tificates, updated emergency contact information and shot records to register their children.

For more information, call the School Liaison Office at 430-7465/civ. 0711-680-7465.

### Buy, sell at 'Kidz Only' flea market

A Kidz Only flea market will be held April 28 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Patch Fitness Center parking lot. To reserve a table, call 430-2110/civ. 0711-680-2110.

### German-American baseball game

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart's Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation will host a German-American baseball game April 18 at 5

p.m. on Husky Field, Patch Barracks. Patch High School will play the Sindelfingen Squirrels.

### Banks to open late April 25

Community Banks in U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart will open late because of mandatory training on April 25. The banks will be open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### Gain 'financial peace' with FPU

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Religious Support Office will host a Financial Peace University class on Robinson Barracks starting April 18.

The 13-week class will be held every Wednesday

from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the RB Chapel Annex in Building 116. Child care will be provided. Seating is limited.

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

### Observe Earth Day

Earth Day is April 22, and Stuttgart's Child, Youth and School Services will host a free Earth Day activity on April 23 from 2:30-5 p.m. at the Panzer Main Exchange. Children can plant their own flowers.

### Shopping cart locks

Due to shopping carts being removed from the Patch Commissary, commissary shopping carts now have locks that will accept €1 or a U.S. quarter.

### Kiddie Boot Camp

Stuttgart's Child, Youth and School Services will host "Kiddie Boot Camp" April 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Panzer Fitness Center. Children in first through fifth grade can take part in free training-style activities.

### 'Amazing Race: Teen Edition'

Stuttgart's Child, Youth and School Services will host "Amazing Race: Teen Edition," on April 28. The race will start at the Patch Hub at 9:30 a.m.

To register, call Parent Central Services at 430-7480/civ. 0711-680-7480.

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

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**DSN 118**



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## 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.*

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# Easter season symbolizes new beginnings

Story & photo by Carola Meusel  
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

This year, Easter or, as Germans say, "Ostern," is celebrated April 8.

During Easter, Christianity celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The festivities traditionally start with Good Friday, one of the most highly observed Christian holidays where people commemorate his crucifixion.

Good Friday also marks the last day of the holy week and the end of the 40-daylong fastening period that started on Ash Wednesday.

In Germany, Easter is celebrated for four days: Good Friday, when Jesus was crucified, Easter Saturday, when Jesus was entombed, Easter Sunday, when Jesus rose from the dead and Easter Monday, a federal holiday.

Some believe the word "Easter" refers to the direction of sunrise. Reflecting on the Christian tradition, the rising sun is a symbol for the resurrection and the homecoming of Jesus Christ.

Easter also marks the beginning of spring, a season that cherishes rebirth, renewal and growth.

Germans like to ring in spring by filling their homes with fresh flowers and other Easter decorations.

"During this time of the year, people prefer multicolored flowers like tulips, daffodils and violets. The mix of strong colors such as yellow, orange, pink or purple symbolizes

prosperity," said Lena Gschwind, a florist from Esslingen.

"Most people prefer to decorate their homes with these flowers to prepare for the Easter festivities or simply to add a little happiness to their lives after the long and gray winter months," she said.

Other typical Easter decorations include painted eggs, hens, rabbits and chickens.

The tradition of artfully painting eggs dates back to the ancient world. Inspirations came from Greece, Italy, Russia and Armenia.

Then, during the 13th century, the first painted Easter egg was mentioned in an official document in Germany, where it also became a symbol for fertility.

The colors of the eggs have specific meanings. For example, red symbolizes Jesus' sacrifice, yellow is enlightenment and wisdom, green means youth and innocence, and orange stands for strength, resiliency and ambition.

"During Easter, people like to decorate birch tree and pussy willow branches with traditionally painted eggs," said Gschwind. "Other decorations include Easter nests that are made out of branches and moss and are typically filled with eggs, wooden bunnies or chickens."

Painted eggs are also used throughout Germany to add grace to "Easter fountains," a tradition that originated in Franconia.

To this day, fountains in smaller



Lena Gschwind, a florist from Esslingen, works on an Easter bouquet last year. The bouquet is made out of birch tree branches and "Mühlenbeckia" (maidenhair) plants. Painted eggs or wooden bunnies make this a typical Easter decoration for dining tables and windowsills in Germany.

towns and villages are decorated with eggs, multicolored ribbons, wreaths, tulips and daffodils.

In Germany, Easter Sunday is traditionally celebrated with close family. Often times, the festive day starts with an Easter brunch and is followed by an Easter egg and nest hunt in the garden or out in the woods.

Much like in the U.S., children search for their Easter nests, which are filled with chocolate eggs and bunnies or other smaller presents and candy.

"I remember my parents telling me that the Easter bunny made the nests with the painted eggs especially for

me and my sister and then dropped it all off in our garden," said Gschwind, reflecting on her childhood memories.

Another tradition during Easter Sunday is to serve baked goods such as sweet cake shaped in the form of an Easter lamb — a symbol for resurrection — shortbread cookies and Easter bread and rings with almonds or sesame seeds during breakfast or afternoon tea.

Whether you're German or American, Easter is a time for families and friends to celebrate traditions, regional customs, values, and the arrival of spring and its new beginnings.

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## What's happening in FMWR

### Karaoke night

The Irish Pub will offer karaoke April 13 and 20 from 8-11 p.m.

The pub is located in the Galaxy Bowling and Entertainment Center, Building 2998, Panzer Kaserne.

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

### "Twelfth Night" opens at Kelley Theatre

The Stuttgart Theatre Center presents William Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night."

Performances at the Kelley Theatre are set for April 6, 7, 13, and 14 at 7:30 p.m. Matinee performances will be held April 8 and 15 at 3 p.m.

To make a reservation, visit [www.stuttgartmwr.com](http://www.stuttgartmwr.com).

### Easter brunch at Kelley Club

An all-you-can-eat Easter brunch will be offered at the Kelley Club April 8 from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., and features an omelette station and an Easter egg hunt for children.

For more information, or to make a reservation, call 421-4660/civ. 0711-729-4660.

### Paintball with ODR

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Family and MWR's Outdoor Recreation will host Paintball days April 14 and 28 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

To register, call ODR at 431-2774/civ. 07031-15-2774.

### Foreign Film Sunday

The Patch Library's Foreign Film Club will screen Srđan Golubovic's "The Trap" April 15 at 3 p.m. Patrons are invited to discuss the film afterward.

For more information, call 430-7138/civ. 0711-680-7138, or stop by Building 2343 on Patch Barracks.

### Month of the Military Child bowling special

The Galaxy Bowling and Entertainment Center, Building 2998 on Panzer Kaserne, will offer free shoe rental for children and 50 cents off of each child's meal during April.

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

For more activities and events, visit [www.stuttgartmwr.com](http://www.stuttgartmwr.com).



## Coming to Patch Theater

**April 6** — *Gnomeo & Juliet* (PG) 3 p.m. (free matinee showing); *Wrath of the Titans* (PG-13) 7 p.m.; *Man on a Ledge* (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.

**April 7** — *Wrath of the Titans* (PG-13) 4 p.m.; *Man on a Ledge* (PG-13) 7 p.m.; *Wrath of the Titans* (PG-13) 9 p.m.

**April 8** — *Hop* (PG) 4 p.m.; *Wrath of the Titans* (PG-13) 6 p.m.

**April 9** — *Wrath of the Titans* (PG-13) 6 p.m.

**April 10** — *The Muppets* (PG) 3 p.m.; *Big Miracle* (PG) 6 p.m.

**April 11** — *Man on a Ledge* (PG-13) 6 p.m.

**April 12** — *Puss in Boots* (PG) 3 p.m.; *Dr. Seuss' The Lorax* (PG) 6 p.m.

**April 13** — *American Reunion* (R) 6 p.m.; *The Grey* (R) 9 p.m.

**April 14** — *Dr. Seuss' The Lorax* (PG) 4 p.m.; *American Reunion* (R) 7 p.m.; *Chronicle* (PG-13) 9 p.m.

**April 15** — *Megamind* (PG) 2



Universal Pictures

*Jason Biggs and Alyson Hannigan of the original "American Pie" cast, return for their high school reunion in "American Reunion."*

p.m.; *Chronicle* (PG-13) 4 p.m.; *American Reunion* (R) 7 p.m.

**April 16** — *American Reunion* (R) 6 p.m.

**April 17** — *Chronicle* (PG-13) 6 p.m.

**April 18** — *Dr. Seuss' The Lorax* (PG) 6 p.m.

**April 19** — *The Grey* (R) 6 p.m.

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# Spring Cleaning

the natural way



**A**pril, for many people, means spring cleaning. But instead of buying disinfectants, window cleaners, furniture polish and other cleaning agents, why not make your own?

Chances are you already have most of the necessary ingredients. They're easy to make, easy to use, and most importantly, safer products for your home.

## Tub & tile cleaner

- **Prevention.** Add two tablespoons baking soda to your bath water and you won't have to worry about ring-around-the-tub. Your bath water will be soft, too.

- **Baking Soda.** Sprinkle baking soda as you would scouring powder. Rub with a damp sponge. Rinse thoroughly.

- **Vinegar and Baking Soda.** To remove film buildup on bathtubs, apply full-strength vinegar to a sponge and wipe. Next, use baking soda as you would scouring powder. Rub with a damp sponge and rinse thoroughly with clean water.

- To clean grout, put three cups baking soda into a medium-sized bowl and add one cup warm water. Mix into a smooth paste and scrub into grout with a sponge or toothbrush. Rinse thoroughly and dispose of leftover paste when finished.

## Shower secrets

- Pour 1/4 cup baking soda and one cup vinegar into a strong, sandwich-sized plastic bag and tie it onto and over a scummy shower head. Let the bubbling brew set for an hour. Remove the bag, then turn on the water. Hard water build-up will be gone and your shower head will sparkle again.

- Clean shower stall doors by first spraying them with clear vinegar. Let it set for a few minutes, then scour with a sponge sprinkled with baking soda. Rinse and wipe or squeegee dry.

## Decal remover

- **Vinegar.** To remove no-slip decals from the bathtub, saturate a cloth or sponge and squeeze hot vinegar over decals. Vinegar also removes stick-on hooks from painted walls. Saturate cloth or sponge with vinegar and squeeze the liquid behind the hook so that the vinegar comes in contact with the adhesive. In addition, vinegar can be used to remove price tags and other decals from glass, wood and china. Paint the label or decal with several coats of white vinegar. Give the vinegar time to soak in and after several minutes, the decal can be rubbed off.

## Toilet bowl cleaner

- **Baking soda and Vinegar.** Sprinkle baking soda into the bowl, then drizzle with vinegar and scour with a toilet brush. This combination cleans and deodorizes.

## Upholstery

- Clean upholstery by sprinkling it liberally with baking soda and letting it set for a few minutes before vacuuming. Smoke odors will also be eliminated.

## Window & glass cleaner

Never wash windows while the sun is shining on them because they dry too quickly and leave streaks. When polishing windows use up and down strokes on one side of the window and side to side strokes on the other to tell which side requires extra polishing.

Use a natural linen towel or other soft cloth, a clean, damp chamois cloth, a squeegee, or crumpled newspaper. One word of warning about newspaper: while newspaper does leave glass lint-free with a dirt-resistant film, persons with sensitivities to fumes from newsprint may wish to avoid the use of newspaper as a cleaning tool.

- **Vinegar.** Wash windows or glass with a mixture of equal parts of white vinegar and warm water. Dry with a soft cloth. Leaves windows and glass streakless. To remove those stubborn hard water sprinkler spots and streaks, use undiluted vinegar.

- **Baking Soda.** To clean cut glass, sprinkle baking soda on a damp rag and clean glass. Rinse with clean water and polish with a soft cloth.

- **Scratches, Stains, and Discoloration in Windows and Glass:** toothpaste. Rub a little toothpaste into the scratch. Polish with a soft cloth.

## Floor cleaners

- **For Wood Floors:** vegetable oil and vinegar. Mix a 1 to 1 ratio of oil and vinegar into a solution and apply a thin coat. Rub in well.

- **For Ceramic Tile:** vinegar. Mix 1/4 cup white vinegar (more if very dirty) into 1 gallon water. This solution removes most dirt without scrubbing and doesn't leave a film.

- To dissolve chewing gum, soak the area with vinegar.

- **To remove black heel marks:** baking soda. Rub the heel mark with a paste of baking soda and water. Don't use too much water or the baking soda will lose its abrasive quality.

- **To remove crayon marks:** toothpaste. Crayon marks on the floor may be removed by rubbing them with a damp cloth containing toothpaste. Toothpaste will not work well on wallpaper or porous surfaces.

## Stainless steel cleaner

- **Olive Oil.** Rub stainless steel sinks with olive oil to remove streaks.

**Vinegar.** To clean and polish stainless steel, simply moisten a cloth with undiluted white or cider vinegar and wipe clean. Can also be used to remove heat stains on stainless steel cutlery.

- **Club Soda.** Remove streaks or heat stains from stainless steel by rubbing with club soda.

## Oven cleaner

- **Prevention.** Put a sheet of aluminum foil on the floor of the oven, underneath but not touching the heating element. Although this may slightly affect the browning of food, the foil can be easily disposed of when soiled.

- **Salt.** While the oven is still warm, sprinkle salt on the spill. If the spill is completely dry, wet the spill lightly before sprinkling on salt. When the oven cools down, scrape away the spill and wash the area clean.

- **Vinegar.** Retard grease buildup in your oven by dampening your cleaning rag in vinegar and water before wiping out your oven.

- **Baking Soda and Very Fine Steel Wool.** Sprinkle water followed by a layer of baking soda. Rub gently with a very fine steel wool pad for tough spots. Wipe off scum with dry paper towels or a sponge. Rinse well and wipe dry.

## Furniture polish

The idea behind furniture polish for wood products is to absorb oil into the wood. Many oils commonly found in our kitchens work very well.

- **Olive Oil and Vinegar.** Mix three parts oil to one part vinegar. Apply and polish with a clean soft cloth.

- **For Grease Spots:** salt. Immediately pour salt on the grease spot to absorb grease and prevent staining.

- **For Scratches:** Use lemon juice and vegetable oil. Mix equal parts and rub into scratches with a soft cloth until scratches disappear.

Source: [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)

## Green Cleaning: By the Numbers

**3,000** — the number in tons of paper towels sent to landfills each day.

**100** — the number of dollars your family could save by replacing paper towels with microfiber cloths or towels.

**202,056** — the number of exposure cases called into poison centers in 2010 involving household cleaning substances; 111,817 of those calls involved exposure to children age five and under.

**100** — the number of times higher that indoor air pollution levels can be above outdoor air pollution levels, according to U.S. EPA estimates.

**17,000** — the number of petrochemicals available for home use, of which only 30 percent have been tested for exposure to human health and the environment.

**63** — the number of synthetic chemical products found in the average American home, translating to roughly 10 gallons of harmful chemicals.

**275** — the number of active ingredients in antimicrobials that the EPA classifies as pesticides because they are designed to kill microbes.

Source [www.dep.state.fl.us/green/gc\\_make-ourown.htm](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/green/gc_make-ourown.htm)