

AFN Heidelberg transitions to AFN Stuttgart

Sgt. Sarah Goss conducts a call-in radio interview with a United Service Organizations-Stuttgart representative about upcoming events during AFN Heidelberg's morning show Aug. 16. On Aug. 18, AFN Heidelberg transitioned to AFN Stuttgart, and the station, currently located on Coleman Barracks in Mannheim, is scheduled to move to USAG Stuttgart's Robinson Barracks next summer.

Lance Milsted



By Carola Meusel
 USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

After serving the Mannheim, Heidelberg and Stuttgart military communities for almost 20 years from Hammonds Barracks in Seckenheim, then Coleman Barracks in Mannheim, the American Forces Network Heidelberg station is scheduled to move to Robinson Barracks in Stuttgart next year.

It could be considered a reunion.

From 1959 until 1993, AFN was headquartered at Robinson Barracks on the first floor of Building 151, now home to the RB Fitness Center, Library and other Family and MWR facilities.

"AFN Heidelberg looks forward to coming 'home' to Stuttgart, as AFN Stuttgart becomes operational on Robinson Barracks in the coming year," said Lt. Col. Sherri Reed, AFN Europe commander.

See *AFN transitions to Stuttgart* on page 4



Photos by Mark J. Howell



Ella Catchpole, 6, shakes hands with Brad Snyder, a Navy veteran and U.S. Paralympic Swimming Team member during the C.A.R.E. fair. The team will compete in the 2012 London Paralympic Games.



More than 30 community members participate in a "flash mob" in front of the Exchange during the C.A.R.E. Fair.

C.A.R.E. Fair offers facts, fun

More than 60 local agencies and private organizations set up information tables inside the Exchange Shopping Mall during the USAG Stuttgart Community Activities, Registration and Education Fair Aug. 18. The annual fair offered newcomers the opportunity to learn about programs, services and organizations in one location.

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FPU teaches mind over money

Thanks to Financial Peace University, Stuttgart military community members have put away a total of \$530,000 in savings and reduced their debt by \$1.3 million.



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AFRICOM Olympics: seriously fun!

AFRICOM community members didn't clown around when it came to the second annual AFRICOM Olympics, designed to build camaraderie and esprit de corps.



INSIDE
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Commander's Column

Tough DUI laws mean long-term consequences

Commentary by Col. John P. Stack
USAG Stuttgart commander

It's hard to think about Germany without conjuring up images of Oktoberfest or the hillside vineyards along the Rhein or Moselle rivers. After all, this country is famous for its beer and wine.

Here in Stuttgart, two big fests are about to start: the Stuttgart wine village at the end of August, and the Cannstatter Volksfest at the end of September. I encourage everyone to get out and experience German culture, and these fests are a great way to do it.

But we must all be responsible in how we consume alcohol. Don't drink and drive.

Have a plan before you go out that ensures your safe and uneventful return home every time. Recognize the reality that, as a drug, alcohol impairs your senses and decision-making abilities. It's important to develop a plan — before you even take a sip.

We all know about the consequences of drinking and driving, and the importance of designated drivers. I realize you've heard it time and time



Col. Stack

again, yet many in the community continue to violate this very simple rule.

Since October of last year, members of the Stuttgart military community have been charged with 32 offenses related to drunken driving.

The NATO Status of Forces Agreement requires that all U.S. service members follow host nation laws. This means that we must follow the German rules of the road.

It's important to know that even though the German attitude toward drinking may seem to be more casual than in the U.S., driving drunk in Germany carries much stricter penalties than the States.

The German police often set up checkpoints during beer and wine festivals, and near known drinking establishments.

Service members and civilians who are stopped for driving under the influence of alcohol will face a number of possible consequences.

Under German law, a driver with a blood alcohol concentration of as little as .05 percent could be fined up to €500 and be assessed four traffic points.

Under Army in Europe Regulation 190-1, Driver and Vehicle Requirements and the Installation Traffic Code for the U.S. Forces in Germany, this same driver will also have his U.S. Army Europe driving privileges suspended for 90 days.

Fines and suspensions increase with additional incidents. Further, junior service members in particular should know that drivers under the age of 21 can lose their license if their BAC shows any alcohol use whatsoever.

Service members who drink and drive also, of course, face action by their command.

A command could respond by filing a general officer memorandum of reprimand in the service member's personnel file; imposing non-judicial punishment, which can mean loss of rank and pay, among other things; or by seeking a court martial.

While a DUI is a very serious offense across the board, in this day and age, as retention standards become stricter, a military career probably won't survive one. With the unemployment rate as high as it is, the financial impact on families is potentially more severe than one might think.

Think about the other costs, such as stress to self and family, the loss of rank and your reputation, increased insurance premiums and fines, as well as the permanent stain on your record. We have all worked too hard in service of our country to end our tours in Europe as alcohol-related casualties.

Have a plan before you participate in these events. If you drive, do not drink; if you drink, do not drive.

Keep in mind the number of alternatives to drinking under the influence. Mass transportation, taxis and designated drivers are all good alternatives to driving under the influence of alcohol.

Additionally, an emerging trend within Germany is the availability of great tasting non-alcoholic beer. If you must drive, non-alcoholic beer or other non-alcoholic drinks may be your ticket to a safe and uneventful return home.

Leaders and supervisors at all levels must take proactive measures to reduce alcohol-related incidents within their organizations. This requires leaders to establish goals and guidelines that clearly

... Even though the German attitude toward drinking may seem to be more casual than in the U.S., driving drunk in Germany carries much stricter penalties than the States.

communicate expectations regarding on- and off-duty behavior that emphasizes the importance of appropriate consumption of alcohol and sound decision making at all times. Additionally, friends, comrades and co-workers have an obligation to do everything possible to prevent anyone they know from driving while intoxicated.

Whatever you do, do not look the other way in hope that everything will turn out well. There is too much at stake to take such a risk.

Education and awareness are vital to reducing our alcohol-related incidents, but more importantly, to developing a values-based lifestyle that can bring much more meaning and value to service members and their families.

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart has a Comprehensive Fitness Program that is designed to positively impact all facets of our lives, including the social, family, spiritual, emotional, and physical dimensions. I encourage everyone to contact Angela Hunter, the USAG Stuttgart Health Promotion Officer, at angela.m.hunter32.civ@mail.mil, and check out both the Stuttgart garrison, and Family and MWR websites to see how our great programs can lead to improved wellness and resiliency.

Recognition and incentives also play an important role in this process. Recently, USAG Stuttgart initiated an installation-wide Garrison Commander and Command Sergeant Major Incentive Award that will be presented to all units that go a full quarter free of alcohol-related incidents. This award increases in category, from bronze, silver, gold and platinum, with each alcohol incident-free quarter.

I encourage leaders and supervisors throughout the Stuttgart military community to highlight this and other programs that encourage sound decision making and planning with the end state of eliminating these incidents.

As USAG Stuttgart's Garrison Commander, I personally challenge unit commanders, military and civilian leaders, directors and service members to commit to no alcohol-related incidents during the upcoming wine and beer fests. Let's work together to make Stuttgart a model of excellence, ensuring the safety of all our community members.

Remember, your safety, the safety of others — even the well-being of your family — depends on your good judgment.

THE CITIZEN

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Federal internship program taps talents of students with disabilities

By Megan Clancy
Special to The Citizen

College and graduate students with various disabilities gained both work and travel experience this summer, thanks to U.S. Army Europe's participation in the Workforce Recruitment Program.

Several military installations in Germany benefited from the talents of the 27 students who participated in the U.S. Department of Labor and Department of Defense co-managed program, undertaking special projects, assisting permanent staff with key projects and sharing their specialized knowledge and technical skills.

"The WRP is a resource to connect public and private sectors world-wide with highly motivated post secondary students and recent graduates with disabilities," said Stephen King, the director of Disability Programs at the Pentagon, in a written response.

King said the program started in 1975 with a group of students in a Navy laboratory, grew within the Navy, and eventually expanded throughout the Defense Department.

Since the program's government-wide expansion in 1995, more than 6,000 students and recent graduates have received temporary and permanent employment opportunities through the program, according to the WRP website.

This is vital, because employment rate among people with disabilities is still higher compared to people without disabilities.

For example, as of July, 13.6 percent of people with disabilities were unemployed, while 8.4 percent of people without disabilities were unemployed, according to Bureau of Labor statistics.

"Hiring people with disabilities contributes to military readiness. People with disabilities face unique challenges; we need that type of problem-solving ability and skill in the workplace," King said.

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart participated in the program for the first time this year, with five students who assisted permanent staffers in the EEO, Information Technology, Public Affairs, Housing and Human Resources offices.

While 2,200 students across the nation applied for the program, only 546 were hired, according to USAREUR EEO Manager Rafael Reyes, who has served as the WRP coordinator since 2004.

The 27 WRP students who chose to work in Europe were responsible for all living and travel costs, which can be a huge burden, according to Dr. Ronnie Holmes, the USAG Stuttgart EEO manager and WRP liaison.

"Most students prefer to stay in the States or their local commuting area to avoid such expenses," he added.

While daunting at first, many recruits find traveling to Europe for work experience is well worth it.

"Initially, it was a gamble," said Jeff Greer, 62, who left his wife at home in the States for the opportunity. "The cost of round-trip air travel was considerable."

Greer, who is pursuing a doctor of education degree in vision rehabilitation therapy at Texas Tech University, is working for USAG Baden-Württemberg in Heidelberg for his second internship.



Susan Huseman

Justine Fulls, a computer engineering major at California State University Long Beach, and a Workforce Recruitment Program intern assigned to U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart, and Khatari Davis, an IT specialist for 52nd Signal Battalion, perform maintenance on a computer Aug. 17. Fulls also assisted the Public Affairs Office in a website project.

Last summer was Greer's first year as a WRP student, and the first year that he learned how to live independently with his visual and hearing issues.

"I had no idea what living and working conditions in Germany would be like," Greer said.

"WRP has been a good learning experience in the working environment. I have demonstrated to employers the ability of individuals with low vision to work in the normal working environment. It will certainly be an asset in any of my future endeavors. Hopefully, this will help future employees with disabilities," Greer said.

Which is the point of the WRP: to show employers that people with disabilities are employable and have strengths that they can bring to the table, according to King, the director of the Pentagon's Disability Programs.

People with disabilities often face discrimination when they apply for jobs because employers may not be educated about the implications of hiring applicants from this pool.

"Over the last 35 years, employers have become more open-minded about hiring individuals with disabilities," King said.

For more information about the Workforce Recruitment Program, visit www.wrp.gov.

Editor's Note: Megan Clancy, a graduate student studying journalism at California State University Northridge, is a participant in the Workforce Recruitment Program.

News & Notes

Record your family holiday greetings Sept. 11-12

A Joint Hometown News Service team will be in U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart next month to tape holiday greetings.

The team will be at the Exchange on Panzer Kaserne Sept. 11 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and at the Patch Food Court Sept. 12 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Service members, civilian employees, contractors and family members are eligible to participate. Military members must be in uniform. Greetings can be recorded in English and Spanish. Most greetings will air from Thanksgiving Day through New Year's Day.

For more information, contact the USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office at 431-3099/civ. 07031-15-3099.

Request free SAT/ACT test preparation program

eKnowledge, a provider of interactive learning products and services, is continuing its military donation program by offering its SAT/ACT test preparation program to military families.

The program comes in a single DVD and include more than 11 hours of video instruction, 3,000 files of supplemental test prep material, sample questions and practice tests. Students select the training they need and study at their own pace.

For more information or to order a copy of the program, visit www.eknowledge.com/militaryhomefront.

Alumni wanted for college fair

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart School Liaison Office is seeking college alumni to support its third annual college fair scheduled for Oct. 9 on Patch Barracks.

Represent your alma mater and let college-bound high school students know what your school can offer them.

For more information and specific requirements, contact Wayne "Joe" Holder at wayne.j.holder.naf@mail.mil or Brian Pappas at brian.n.pappas.naf@mail.mil or call 430-7465/civ. 0711-680-7465.

Volunteers needed at Pfennig Bazaar sorting rooms

The 44th Pfennig Bazaar, hosted by the German American Women's Club, will be held Oct. 12-13. This large-scale flea market raises money for organizations and individual scholarships for the Stuttgart military community, as well as local German beneficiaries. Last year, the GAWC raised approximately €100,000.

The GAWC has accepted gently used donations all year, and seeks volunteers to help with sorting the items at their Kelley and Patch Barracks sorting rooms.

For directions and hours, send an email to gawcvolunteer@yahoo.com with the subject line "sorting room."



Garrison welcomes new command sergeant major

USAG Stuttgart incoming command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Bernard P. Smalls (foreground), receives the noncommissioned officers' sword from USAG Stuttgart Commander Col. John P. Stack during a change of responsibility ceremony in the Patch Community Club Aug. 17. The sword represents the passing of responsibility from the outgoing interim garrison command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Luis F. Bispo (center), who will join Special Operations Command Africa's military information support team as the operations sergeant major. Also participating in the ceremony was 1st Sgt. Travis Futch (far left).

Martin Greeson

AFN transitions to Stuttgart

Continued from page 1

“There are so many opportunities to provide both U.S. European Command and U.S. Africa Command with all that AFN has to offer. We are excited to renew old friendships with the Stuttgart community, both German and American.”

The move is already underway. According to Lance Milsted, the station’s operations manager, the AFN staff is preparing to establish a temporary news bureau in the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart headquarters building on Panzer Kaserne between now and October.

During the garrison’s Community Activities, Registration and Education Fair held Aug. 18, the transformation was officially announced: AFN Heidelberg now is called AFN Stuttgart.

The first staff member, Sgt. Daniel Maffett, moved into the temporary studio on Aug. 13.

The current plan calls for four people to come to Panzer Kaserne: two broadcasters, one combat documentation and production specialist and one engineer.

The entire AFN Stuttgart team, some 16 personnel, is scheduled to move to Building 209 on Robinson Barracks next year. The 12,000 square foot facility, a former bachelor officers’ quarters, is undergoing a complete renovation and will feature studios outfitted with state-of-the-art equipment.

The AFN staff will use the temporary studio on Panzer Kaserne to produce radio and television stories, while all radio operations, such as the morning and afternoon shows, and newscasts, will continue out of Coleman Barracks until the team settles in on Robinson Barracks, according to Milsted.

For the last 18 months, AFN Heidelberg’s focus has been to keep Mannheim and Heidelberg community members abreast on how the installation closures would impact them.

“It was our priority to make sure that people continue to know where they can go to get medical and dental treatment, and programs for their children,” Milsted said.

Those responsibilities have now been transferred to AFN Wiesbaden, AFN Kaiserslautern and the Re-



Construction laborers work on an exterior wall of Building 209, the future home of AFN Stuttgart, on Robinson Barracks. The building is undergoing a complete renovation to accommodate AFN Stuttgart’s move from Mannheim to Stuttgart next year. A temporary studio on Panzer Kaserne will be used to produce radio and television stories, while all radio operations and newscasts will continue out of Coleman Barracks until the team settles in on RB.

Carola Meusel

gional News Center at AFN Europe headquarters on Coleman Barracks, according to Milsted.

The Stuttgart military community will certainly benefit from AFN’s transition.

“We’re all yours, Stuttgart! You have us to yourselves; you don’t have to share us with anybody else,” Milsted said.

He added that it had been a challenge to simultaneously serve the Mannheim, Heidelberg and Stuttgart communities. While Mannheim and Heidelberg are geographically closer, covering an event in Stuttgart required a full-day mission, especially when considering travel time. As a result, coverage was more selective.

“What people will start to see is focused on the Stuttgart community, period,” Milsted said.

There will be more opportunities to tell Stuttgart stories and get information out, to include Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, and United Service Organizations-sponsored events. The plan also calls

for more television spots and live radio remote broadcasts, according to Milsted.

“We also encourage people to connect with us and share ideas on programs they would like to see or developed,” Milsted said.

He also stressed that AFN constantly strives to do a better job in meeting the needs of the community. He recommended those interested in getting their events publicized or covered via radio or television to get in touch with AFN ahead of time, ideally 30 days out, to allow for adequate planning.

“People need to know how to utilize us so that we can serve them best,” Milsted said.

“We have to work through the transition, but we’re all excited about the opportunity to only focus on one community,” he added. “We get to know the people, the people get to know us and we’ll understand the heartbeat of the community much better because we’re in it every day.”

Schools announce open houses, orientations

Böblingen Elementary/Middle School will host a **new student orientation** on Aug. 24 at 11 a.m. for all fifth-graders who are entering the sixth grade, and for new, incoming middle school students.

The school will also host an **open house** on Aug. 24. Open house for middle school students and their parents will be from 4-6 p.m. and from 5-7 p.m. for elementary school students and parents.

For more information, call 431-2715/civ. 07031-15-2715.

Patch Elementary School will host a back to school **open house** on Sept. 6 at 5:30 p.m. Teachers, administrators, PTA and school advisory committee representatives will be in attendance.

For more information, call 430-5200/civ. 0711-680-5200.

Robinson Barracks Elementary/Middle School will hold an **open house** Aug. 24. A middle school open forum is scheduled to start at 1:30 p.m., followed by sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade parent meetings.

An elementary grade open forum will be held from 2-3 p.m.

For more information, call 420-7112/civ. 0711-819-7112.

Patch High School will hold a **student orientation** on Aug. 23 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for students who relocated over the summer.

The high school will also host an **open house** on Sept. 12 from 5-7 p.m. to allow students and parents to become familiar with facilities and to help establish informal communication channels between teachers, students and parents.

For more information, call 430-7191/0711-680-7191.

Half day for DoDDS-E students on Sept. 6

Sept. 6 is an administrative half day for all Stuttgart DoDDS-Europe students. Students will be released at 10:50 a.m.

MCEC training

The Military Child Education Coalition will hold a professional development training for school counselors, educators and other personnel who work with students, Oct. 1-4 at the Swabian Special Events Center on Patch Barracks. The training is free, but enrollment is limited.

A Transition Counselor I session will be held Oct 1-2, followed by part II on Oct. 3-4.

For more course information about these sessions, go to www.militarychild.org/professionals/programs or contact the Europe MCEC Project Manager at 0176-2486-



Preserving the past

Hartmut Ulmer, a painter with USAG Stuttgart Directorate of Public Works, applies a fresh coat of paint on the VII Corps insignia on Kelley Barracks Aug. 8. Kelley Barracks, named after World War II Medal of Honor recipient Staff Sgt. Jonah E. Kelley, was home to VII Corps headquarters from 1951 to 1992, when the unit deactivated.

Susan Huseman

5620 or email brenda.coffield@militarychild.org.

Join SCSC Sept. 18

The Stuttgart Community Spouses' Club will host a welcome event for all ID cardholders with free appetizers, door prizes and a raffle, on Sept. 18 at 6 p.m. in the Swabian Special Events Center on Patch Barracks. Participants are invited to attend and learn about SCSC and its activities for the coming year.

For more information, email sesc.memberships@gmail.com or visit www.stuttgartspousesclub.org.

CPAC to offer benefits refresher training

The Stuttgart Civilian Personnel Advisory Center will hold a benefits refresher training session on Aug. 29 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. in the Directorate of Logistics Conference Room, Building 2953, Panzer Kaserne.

The training will cover pay ad-

vances, foreign transfer allowance, temporary quarters subsistence allowance, living quarters allowance, utility tax avoidance program and post allowance.

To register, send an email to usarmy.stuttgart.hqda-cpac.mbx.stuttgart-cpac@mail.mil.

Vehicle Reg closures

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Vehicle Registration Office will close at noon Aug. 31 to conduct its monthly inventory. Vehicle Registration is also scheduled to close on Sept. 3 for Labor Day and on Sept. 7 to allow its local national workforce to attend an annual outing.

For more information, call 431-2833/07031-15-2833 or visit www.stuttgart.army.mil and click on "Directorates" then "Emergency Services."

Clinics to close Aug. 24

The Stuttgart Army Health Clinic and Dental Clinic will be closed Aug. 24 for an organizational day.

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

Learn German landlord and tenant laws

Attorneys from the Stuttgart Law Center will discuss German landlord and tenant law and some of the common legal problems that have been faced by Stuttgart military community members, during in-processing briefings scheduled for Aug. 23 and 30, and Sept. 13 and 27 at 10 a.m. at the Central Processing Facility, Building 2913, Panzer Kaserne.

For more information, contact the Central Processing Facility at 431-2599/07031-15-2599 or the Legal Assistance Office at 421-4152/0711-729-4152.

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

Wasps, bees, hornets: protected by law

All kind of creatures are protected by Germany's Nature Protection Law, even wasps, bees and hornets. Killing these insects without reason is prohibited.

To help prevent conflicts:

- Don't attack the bees, wasps or hornets. Avoid quick movements.
- Don't destroy the nest. If located on a U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart installation, contact the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division at 421-6130/civ. 0711-7228-6130, or the Fire Department.
- Be careful when gardening or playing outside. Perspiration attracts bees and wasps.
- Keep dumpsters closed and clean. If this is not possible, close the garbage bags tightly.
- Be careful when eating outdoors. Avoid open food/sweets, and cover leftover food and drinks.
- Attract and distract bees or wasps with other food by placing a glass filled with apple juice a safe distance away from you.
- Try this preventive measure: Wasps don't like strong smells. Use lemon slices with cloves or burn coffee powder.



USAG Stuttgart Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division

School Talk

Anti-bullying policy signed

In April 2012, an anti-bullying policy was signed by the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart commander; Child, Youth and School Services personnel; and all Stuttgart Department of Defense Dependents Schools Europe principals.

The USAG Stuttgart School Liaison Office will spearhead a bully prevention task group to inform, educate and develop strategies to reduce bullying.

Garrison and school officials have adopted the following definition for bullying:

Bullying is a mean and one-sided activity intended to harm where those doing the bullying get pleasure from a targeted child's pain and/or misery. Bullying can be verbal, physical, and/or relational; have as its overlay race, ethnicity, religion, gender (including sexual orientation), physical, or mental ability; includes all forms of hazing and cyber bullying. It can be and often is continuous and repeated over time, however, once is enough to constitute bullying.

Middle school students need passes for duty buses

Bus passes are available for middle school students to ride the duty bus to participate in structured after-school CYS Services activities, Scouting programs, etc.

The duty bus form must be signed by a parent acknowledging their student will be riding an unsupervised bus and that a duty bus pass does not prevent bad behavior.

If a student is disruptive on the duty bus and will not abide by the rules, adults on the bus are encouraged to call the Military Police desk. MPs will meet the bus, the student will be removed, and a parent will be called.

The only way garrison officials can reduce inappropriate behavior on the duty bus is for parents to be proactive with their students, and for adults to report unacceptable behavior.

Duty bus forms may be picked up at Böblingen and Robinson Barracks elementary/middle schools and the School Liaison Office in Room 210, Building 2347, Patch Barracks.



Connecting Families, Schools & Communities

430-7465/civ. 0711-680-7465

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

DODEA to adopt Common Core State Standards

Department of Defense Education Activity Communications Office

The Department of Defense Education Activity is adopting the Common Core State Standards into its curriculum, instruction, and assessment programs.

The CCSS initiative began more than two years ago as a collaboration between state governors and education leaders to introduce consistency in education systems across the nation. This initiative has garnered the support of 46 states, two territories, and the District of Columbia to date. All participants in the CCSS initiative are working together to implement high quality standards in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science for kindergarten through 12th grade. These curriculum standards are research based, rigorous, relevant to the real world, and reflect the knowledge and skills America's students need for success in college and careers.

Currently, CCSS are finalized in the English Language Arts and Mathematics content areas. DODEA will begin work on adopting the standards in these two areas and will continue to adopt the CCSS in Science as they are approved and become available.

Adopting the CCSS will benefit DoDEA's highly mobile student population which moves frequently between public schools and DODEA schools.

"The Common Core State Standards give momentum and credence to the promise of public education in America to provide the best and expect the best of all students everywhere," said Marilee Fitzgerald, DODEA director. "DODEA's adoption of the Common Core State Standards marks a defining point

for our highly mobile students because consistent standards will enable DODEA students to more effectively stay on track even when their families are moving between the States or overseas."

The adoption of the CCSS will not mean that DODEA is moving toward a single national curriculum. However, the adoption and implementation of the CCSS standards will allow DODEA to use a diverse array of rich curriculum resources that will help formulate a curriculum that will meet the needs of its students. DODEA will ensure its curriculum and professional development are aligned with the CCSS.

DODEA expects to implement the CCSS gradually over the next several years with the ultimate goal of providing a smooth transition from its current curriculum standards and the process will involve all members of the DODEA educational community. Both English Language Arts and Mathematics standards come with assessments not yet fully developed, and as soon as they are available, DODEA will implement those assessments.

"We will move swiftly to adopt and implement the CCSS, keeping pace with our counterparts," said Ms. Fitzgerald. "However, we will make the transition in thoughtful, measured steps to ensure we do our best wisely integrate changes in curriculum, instruction, and assessment into our existing framework. Our teachers, administrators, parents, and military commanders will play key roles in this process, and we will be seeking their advice, input, and expertise along the way," she added.

For more information about the Common Core State Standards, visit www.corestandards.org.

Back to school: Use caution when driving

- Students return to school on Aug. 27. The morning commute period is 7:15-8:30 a.m. and the dismissal period is 2:30-2:45 p.m.
- Drivers should exercise extra caution when school begins, especially during the morning commute and afternoon dismissal periods.
- All drivers must obey the posted speed limits.
- Be aware that children, especially those 12 years old and younger, are not always aware of their surroundings and assume that drivers will stop for them.
- Children may dart into the road without first looking for traffic.



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'Guten Appetit'

USAG Stuttgart Commander Col. John P. Stack (center) and Command Sgt. Major Luis Bispo (left), the garrison command sergeant major, make lunch selections Aug. 14 at the German Kantine on Patch Barracks. The Kantine, housed in the former Patch Dining Facility location, is open from 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Susan Huseman

Holiday schedule on Sept. 3 for Labor Day

Many organizations and facilities in U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart will be closed Sept. 3 in observance of the Labor Day federal holiday.

The Stuttgart Army Health Clinic and Dental Clinic will be closed Aug. 31 for a training holiday and on Sept. 3.

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

Because specific listings are too numerous to detail here, patrons are advised to call ahead before visiting any facility.

Be in the know: go to the installation staff meeting

To find out about upcoming community events, construction projects and other items that may affect those living in the Stuttgart military community, attend the next U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Installation Staff Meeting to be held Sept. 5 from 9-10:30 a.m. in the Swabian Special Events Center on Patch Barracks.

Meet with Exchange/DeCA managers Sept. 5

Exchange and Defense Commissary Agency officials encourage customers to provide feedback during an Exchange and DeCA quarterly council meeting on Sept. 5 in

the Swabian Special Events Center from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Changes at Kelley health clinic announced

The Kelley Annex health clinic will undergo a safety and quality assessment over the next several weeks.

Pending the completion of the assessment, the Kelley Annex Clinic will limit its services to active duty service members and U.S. Africa Command personnel. Contractors, retirees and civilians will be seen for direct, mission-related care.

The Kelley Annex will be open on Monday and Thursday only, from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. If a holi-

day falls on a Monday, the Kelley Annex will be open on the following Tuesday.

- Additionally, the Kelley Annex will be closed Aug. 27-31.

- All patients may still have their medications refilled at the Kelley Pharmacy during stated business hours.

- Family members and retirees enrolled in Tricare Plus may be seen at Patch health clinic.

- Retirees, their family members and survivors not enrolled in Tricare Plus may receive care at the Patch health clinic on a space-available basis.

- Civilian employees and contractors may be seen at the Patch health clinic on a space-available basis.

For more information, call 430-8618/civ. 0711-680-8618.

Due to PCS soon?

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

Permanent change of station/pre-separation briefings will be held Sept. 19, Oct. 17 and Nov. 14 at 1 p.m. in Building 2913 on Panzer Kaserne.

Army personnel will also receive a briefing on finance issues.

All separating Army personnel must attend this briefing to receive pre-separation information.

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

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

AUGUST IS ANTITERRORISM AWARENESS MONTH

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Vaccines aren't forever ... make sure your children are still protected

By Kirk Frady
U.S. Army Medical Command
Public Affairs Office

August has been designated as National Immunization and Influenza Vaccination Awareness Month.

Immunizations are really the best protection against disease and have saved more lives than any other medical measure in history.

"Immunizations have prevented approximately 42,000 deaths and 20 million cases of disease over the past decade," said Col. Richard Looney, director of the Army's Military Vaccination Program.

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

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

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

Incidence of pertussis, or whooping cough, have increased largely due to vaccination coverage rates going down, resulting in a recommendation from the Centers for Disease Control that everyone receive one lifetime booster dose of a pertussis-containing vaccine. Other vaccine-preventable diseases include polio, mumps, rubella, chickenpox, meningococcal disease, pneumonia, tetanus, diphtheria, human papillomavirus, shingles, and Haemophilus influenza B.

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

"H1N1 is still circulating, but due to outstanding efforts and immunization campaigns of the past few years, people are more aware and likely to be adequately protected during the height of flu season," Looney said.

He added that influenza immunization rates have gone up every year, and are expected to do



www.cdc.gov

Adolescents, preteens and teens need vaccinations too. Ask your health care provider if your child needs immunizations to protect against serious diseases.

so again during the 2012-13 season."

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

A common misconception is that vaccinations are just for kids.

Everyone over the age of 6 months should receive a seasonal flu shot every year.

However, there are certain groups who should not receive the vaccination. For instance, those with altered immune competence are at high risk for influenza infections and should be vaccinated with trivalent inactivated influenza virus vaccine.

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

Army clinics in Europe are expected to begin offering influenza vaccinations in September.

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Stuttgart FPU students pay down \$1.3 million in debt

By Megan Clancy
Special to The Citizen

Money may not grow on trees — but it is possible to cultivate financial wellness and weed out debt, thanks to Financial Peace University.

FPU is a 13-week video money management course taught by best-selling author and financial guru Dave Ramsey.

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Religious Support Office has sponsored FPU for the community since 2009.

Since then, local FPU students have put away approximately \$530,000 in savings and reduced their debt by an estimated \$1.3 million, according to Gary Kaczmarek, who facilitates the course along with Sherry Hugan and several other dedicated volunteers who have graduated from FPU.

“The FPU class not only allows you to help yourself, but it also teaches you to help others. We see people win with money, we see them have more peace, and we see them help other people. That’s powerful,” he said.

The RSO offers FPU four times a year, free of charge.

“In the States, you could expect to pay \$150 to \$200 for the class, while we can offer the class here for free. It’s a great benefit for the military and civilians in the community,” Kaczmarek said.

The joint training specialist for U.S. Africa Command signed up for FPU in 2009 because he wanted to learn how to save more money, spend wisely and give more.

He enjoyed the class so much that he decided to become a facilitator in order to teach others to help themselves financially.



www.photos.com

It is estimated that Financial Peace University students in the Stuttgart military community have saved \$530,000 and paid off over \$1.3 million of debt.

“I believe in it. I see what it did in my life, and I see what it does for other people,” he said.

“The family, the military and our nation will be stronger when we handle our money wisely,” he added.

FPU students are from all walks of life, of varying ages, with different goals.

Frederick “Fritz” Volkommer intends to go back to school in the fall to attend Colby-Sawyer College in London, N.H.

He said he plans to finance his education — with tools he learned in FPU.

Others take the class to learn how to better manage their money.

Adam Williams, a senior airman, and his wife, Emma, said they enrolled in FPU to “change our family tree” for the better.

They have managed to pay off \$20,000 in debt and now volunteer as facilitators.

“The FPU class helps us put a name

to every dollar,” Williams said.

FPU has taught them to be wise with their money.

“Where most people will just charge to their credit cards, we’re choosing to pay cash, so that later in life, we won’t have outstanding debt,” Emma Williams said.

Now that they are free of credit card debt, the couple has their sights on paying off their home mortgage early.

“That’s our biggest goal. We haven’t met it, but we’re well on our way,” Emma Williams said.

A typical FPU class session begins with a video lesson, followed by a facilitator-led discussion about the lesson.

Discussions can vary from how to protect against identity theft, planning for retirement, saving for college, investing and giving.

The classes have grown in popularity over time, almost doubling in size. With limited seating, accommodating all students can be a challenge, but according to Kaczmarek, “We try not to send anyone away.”

The next Financial Peace University course will begin Sept. 11. The class will be held Tuesday from 6:30-8:30 p.m. A Foundations in Personal Finance class for teens will also be offered from 6-8 p.m.

Both classes will meet in the Religious Education Center, Building 2332, Patch Barracks.

While the courses are free, donations to the RSO are accepted.

For more information, visit FPU Stuttgart on Facebook. To register for the class, send an email to FPUSuttgart@yahoo.com.

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Danielle Skinner

Children joust during the second annual AFRICOM Olympics held Aug. 10 on Kelley Barracks. The Olympics were designed to build camaraderie within the command and to thank AFRICOM members and their families.



Members of U.S. Africa Command warm-up before the start of the second annual AFRICOM Olympics on Aug. 10. Events included track, flag football, basketball, kickball, dodgeball, water balloon toss, and a chili cook-off, among many others.

Danielle Skinner

Friendly competition builds esprit de corps, resilience

By Jamie Pomerhn

U.S. Africa Command Public Affairs Office

As the London Olympics were winding down, U.S. Africa Command staff members and their families gathered to kick off the second annual AFRICOM Olympics, held Aug. 10 on Kelley Barracks.

Participants could choose from 22 varied events, to include a 400-meter relay, basketball tournament, egg run and chili cook-off.

While the games were designed to build camaraderie within the command, Gen. Carter F. Ham, the AFRICOM commander, also wanted the event to thank AFRICOM members and their families, according to Chief Master Sgt. Jack Johnson Jr., the AFRICOM senior enlisted leader.

They also served to strengthen resilience in the AFRICOM community.

“One of the most important things that makes us effective — whether it’s civilians or whether military — is our Total Force Fitness, and that encompasses mental, social, emotional, environmental, spiritual [domains] ... and this great event really answers that call,” Johnson added.

When Vice Adm. Joe Leidig, deputy to the com-

mander for military operations, fired a starter pistol to start the 400-meter relay, the games were underway.

Other events followed, including an intense dodgeball contest, a pingpong competition and flag football games.

One of the most popular non-athletic events was the chili cook-off, coordinated by Sgt. 1st Class Amy Bauer, noncommissioned officer in charge of the commander’s open mess.

Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. O.G. Mannon, Commander of Special Operations Command Africa Rear Admiral Brian Losey, Lt. Col. George Mims, and J1/8 (Resources) Director Robert Maxwell judged the 12 entries.

After much consideration, Melissa Kreitzer from the J3 (Operations and Cyber) Directorate won first place, with Kevin Levija from the headquarters staff taking second, and Jane Rathbun from the J1/8 Directorate placing third.

Meanwhile, the youngest competitors tossed water balloons, raced while hula-hooping, and battled for the final spot in musical chairs. Other children enjoyed a bounce house and having their faces painted, while listening to music played by American Forces Network disc jockeys, who broadcast live from the event.

For Mannon, having children participate was his

favorite part of the event.

“Watching the young people go along with their fathers and mothers was way cool. Being military families, we don’t get as many opportunities to do that as much as other folks do. It’s really important for the young people to do things with their families. They’ll remember this for a long time,” he said.

Members of the J6/7/9 (Systems/Joint Training and Exercises/Outreach) Directorates ensured everyone received a hot meal, as they grilled 900 hamburgers and 600 hot dogs.

The overall winners were announced during the closing ceremonies.

The J3/4 Directorates, the reigning champions, successfully defended their title, placing first with 49 points. U.S. Marine Forces Africa, took second, only a half a point behind, and the J5 Directorate (Strategy, Plans, and Programs) placed third with 35 points.

A three-way tie for the spirit award sparked an impromptu dance-off by the J5 Directorate, the command group, and the J1/8 Directorates. Command leaders unanimously ruled J1/8 as the winners.

In his closing remarks, Leidig said it best: “Thanks for all of the hard work you do every single day at AFRICOM. It’s an amazing place to be, and I’m proud to be part of this team.”

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Call 431-2530 to speak to an ASAP counselor

Celebrate Swabian way of life at Stuttgart's 'Weindorf'

By Carola Meusel

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

This year's annual "Stuttgarter Weindorf," or wine village, will run from Aug. 29 through Sept. 9 in downtown Stuttgart. The fest opens daily at 11 a.m. and runs until 11 p.m. Sunday through Wednesday, and until midnight Thursday through Saturday.

The Weindorf focuses on celebrating Baden-Württemberg's 1,000-year-old wine tradition. Visitors can sample over 500 wines from the Württemberg and Baden regions during the 12 days of the fest. Traditional Swabian meals, such as "Maultaschen" (meat and vegetable-stuffed noodles), "Zwiebelrostbraten" (roast beef with sautéed onions) and "Bubaspitzle" (potato noodles mainly served with sour cabbage), are served in some 120 lavishly decorated wine booths.

"The Weindorf can be considered one of the highlights in Stuttgart during the summer event cycle," said Werner Koch, the Pro Stuttgart Verkehrsverein chairman.

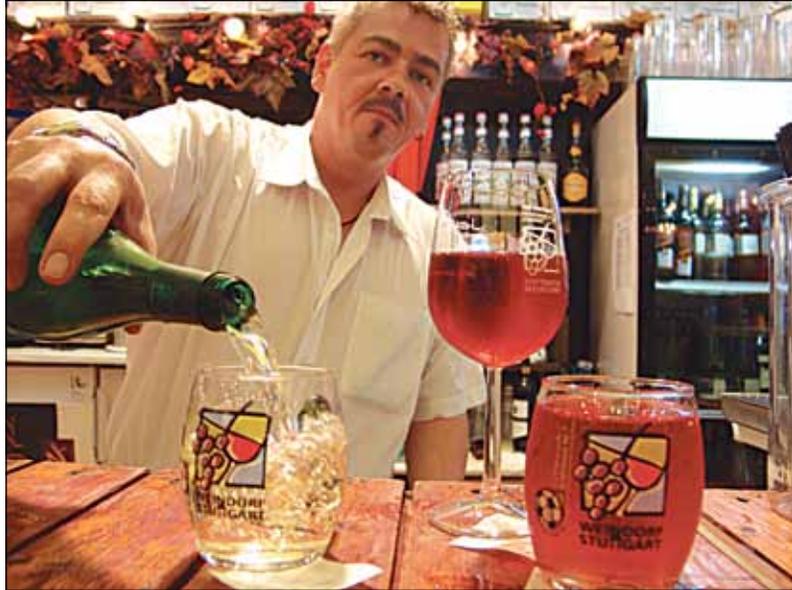
"Visitors to the Weindorf can enjoy 'schwäbische Gemütlichkeit' (Swabian way of life) and a cozy atmosphere all throughout the fest," Koch added.

The Weindorf not only attracts locals, but visitors from all over the world, according to Koch.

"Therefore, we are looking forward to welcoming many of our American friends and neighbors to the Weindorf," Koch said.

Swabians are known for celebrating fests to honor their traditions and cultural heritage. Almost everything is tied to history, and so is the wine in Stuttgart.

The middle Neckar region has always been known



Zum Wohl! Regional wines Spätburgunder Weissherbst and Riesling are poured at a booth during the Stuttgarter Weindorf, held each year in downtown Stuttgart. This year's wine village will be held Aug. 29 to Sept. 9. Visitors can enjoy more than 500 wines from the Württemberg and Baden regions and indulge in traditional Swabian food.

Photo courtesy of ProStuttgart

for cultivating fine wines, ranging from Trollinger red to white Riesling to rose Schiller wines. According to legend, there was more wine available than water during the 14th century in Stuttgart, which resulted in Swabia adopting wine as the national drink.

The Weindorf spans from the Marktplatz square, to Kirchstrasse and the Schillerplatz square. Here, the statue of the famous Swabian poet, Friedrich Schiller, oversees the wine fest. Some people say that the light-bodied Schiller rose wine is named after him.

The Schillerplatz is framed by several historic buildings, to include Stuttgart's old castle, the old chancellery, the prince's building, and the "Stiftskirche," or collegiate church. The church is Stuttgart's

oldest Protestant church and the only monument dating back to the Staufen era, making it the city's most significant landmark.

Another landmark in the square is the "Fruchtkasten" building. During the Middle Ages, the building was a storage hall for grain and also housed a wine press. Today, the State Museum Württemberg's musical instrument collection is displayed at the Fruchtkasten.

After buying their first glass of wine, visitors can use it to sample wine throughout the fest or keep it as a souvenir; some have their name engraved on the glass.

"The Weindorf makes the perfect place for people to get together, talk, laugh, celebrate and enjoy a good time," Koch said. It's a "must-go-to event."

At your leisure



Burggaststätte Hohen Neuffen

"The Hohen Neuffen Fortress is one of Germany's largest fortress ruins and will set the stage for an arts and crafts market, and a medieval spectacular Aug. 25-26.

Festivals

The **Historischer Handwerkermarkt and Burg-Spectaculum**, or historic arts and crafts market and fortress spectacular, will run at the Hohen Neuffen Fortress in Neuffen Aug. 25-26. On Saturday, the event will run from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on Sunday, from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

The fortress, which is one of the largest fortress ruins in Southern Germany and dates back to the 11th

century, sets an authentic stage for the medieval outing.

The event will feature jousting tournaments, jugglers, traveling minstrels, craftsmen, fire breathers, knights and witches.

A medieval market selling arts and crafts, food and offering hands-on activities, recreating the way of life during the Middle Ages, will also be held.

Tickets cost €5. Tickets for children ages 6-12 are €3. On Aug. 25, entrance for children is free.

For more information, visit www.hohenneuffen.com.

The **Markgröninger Schäferlauf**, or shepherd's race, will run Aug. 24-27 in Markgröningen's historic downtown area. On Friday, the program will start at 8 a.m., Saturday at 6 a.m., Sunday at 9:30 a.m. and Monday at 2 p.m.

The historic shepherd's race will take place on Saturday from 1:15-3 p.m. On Sunday, various races and the "Schäfertanz," or shepherd's dance, will start at 1:30 p.m. All races will be held at the "Stoppelfeld," or stubble field.

The "Vergnügungspark," or fun park, located at Unterriexinger

Strasse will offer rides, food and family entertainment.

A variety market will be set up in the historic downtown area and be open Aug. 24 from 2 p.m. until midnight, Aug. 25 from 8 a.m. to 1 a.m., Aug. 26 from 10 a.m. until midnight, and Aug. 27 from 2 p.m. until midnight.

A "Schäfermarkt," or shepherd's market, will be held Aug. 25-26 at Unterriexinger Strasse for visitors to learn all about sheep and sheep farming. A petting zoo for children will also be offered. The market will be open on Saturday at 8 a.m. and on Sunday at 10 a.m.

An arts and crafts market will be held Aug. 25-26 at the Schlosshof. The market will be open on both days from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m.

The four-day fest will end with a firework display Aug. 27 at 9:30 p.m. at the fun park.

On Saturday and Sunday visitors to Markgröningen can only access the downtown area by purchasing a "Festplakette," or badge, for €3.

Tickets for the shepherd's races range from €2 to €11.

For more information and event times, visit www.markgröningen.de.

Ludwigsburg will host the **Venezianische Messe**, or Venetian Fair, Sept. 7-9 in the baroque downtown area. On Friday, the Venice carnival-inspired street festival will be open from 6-11:30 p.m., Saturday from 2-11:30 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

The event will feature colorful costumes and masks, music, fire shows, dance, stilt and "Commedia dell'Arte" theater performances. Italian food will be offered and visitors are invited to actively participate in the festival. Face painting and a children's theater will be offered, as well.

Tickets cost between €7 and €10.

For more information, visit www.venezianische-messe.de.



www.venezianische-messe.de

The Venetian Fair will be held in Ludwigsburg Sept. 7-9.

What's happening in FMWR

Get tickets to the hottest show in town

Be part of the excitement at fifth annual European Bodybuilding/Figure Championship on Aug. 25 at the Patch Fitness Center.

A pre-judging show will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The evening show starts at 6 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. All ticket holders will be entered into a drawing to win door prizes such as a TV, Olympic weight bar, whey protein tub, spa certificate and more.

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

How far will you go in the 'Amazing Race'?

Register you and a partner for a chance to win a spot in U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart's own "Amazing Race" scheduled for Sept. 15.

Interested participants must be at least 18 years old and must register by Sept. 5. Teams will be notified by Sept. 7.

The race includes challenges on Patch Barracks and Panzer Kaserne.

Register online at www.stuttgartmwr.com/amazing-race.

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

Learn to be a youth soccer official

Those who wish to officiate at Child, Youth and School Services soccer matches (and get paid for it) will need to attend the officials' clinic scheduled for Aug. 27-30 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. in the Patch Fitness Center.

No experience is necessary and new officials are encouraged to attend. The CYS Services season is scheduled to run Sept. 8 to Nov. 3.

Attendees will learn field mechanics, rules and points of emphasis. The clinic will end with a written test and a practical examination. The clinic is free.

For more information, contact the CYS Services sports and fitness office at 431-2616/civ. 07031-15-2616.

For more activities, or to join the Family and MWR email list, visit www.stuttgartmwr.com or [facebook.com/familyandmwr](https://www.facebook.com/familyandmwr).



Coming to Patch Theater

Aug. 24 — ParaNorman (PG) 6 p.m., The Expendables 2 (R) 9 p.m.

Aug. 25 — Ice Age: Continental Drift (PG) 2 p.m., ParaNorman (PG) 4 p.m., The Odd Life Of Timothy Green (PG) 7 p.m., The Expendables 2 (R) 9 p.m.

Aug. 26 — ParaNorman (PG) 2 p.m., The Odd Life Of Timothy Green (PG) 4 p.m., The Expendables 2 (R) 7 p.m.

Aug. 27 — The Expendables 2 (R) 6 p.m.

Aug. 28 — Savages (R) 6 p.m.

Aug. 29 — The Amazing Spiderman (PG-13) 6 p.m.

Aug. 30 — The Dark Knight Rises (PG-13) 6 p.m.

Aug. 31 — Sparkle (PG-13) 6 p.m., Ted (R) 9 p.m.

Sept. 1 — Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (PG) 2 p.m., Sparkle (PG-13) 4 p.m., Premium Rush (PG-13) 7 p.m., Hit and Run (R) 10 p.m.

Sept. 2 — Brave (PG) 2 p.m., Sparkle (PG-13) 4 p.m., Premium



Lionsgate

In "The Expendables 2," Sylvester Stallone (Barney) and his team of mercenaries seek revenge for the murder of one of their own.

Rush (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Sept. 3 — Hit and Run (R) 6 p.m.

Sept. 4 — The Dark Knight Rises (PG-13) 6 p.m.

Sept. 5 — The Hunger Games (PG-13) 6 p.m.

Sept. 6 — Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (PG) 6 p.m.

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