

THE GAZETTE

Published for members of the SHAPE/Chièvres, Brussels and Schinnen communities

Benelux News Briefs

Feb. 5 Duty Hours

Super Bowl coverage begins late Sunday night. U.S. Army Europe observes a half-day schedule following the Super Bowl on Monday. The duty day for service members begins at 1 p.m. If you are a service member and are unsure if this applies to you, please check with your chain of command. Civilian employees can take annual leave or use compensatory time hours during that day. Normal duty hours will resume Tuesday.

Special Election Dates

Special elections, in addition to U.S. State Primaries, will be held in 2018 on the following dates: Arizona 8th Primary (Feb. 27), Pennsylvania 18th General (March 13), Arizona 8th General (April 24), Ohio 12th Primary (May 8), Michigan 13th Primary (Aug. 7), Ohio 12th General (Aug. 7) and Michigan 13th General (Nov. 6). U.S. citizens overseas must register for an absentee ballot to vote in these elections. Visit www.fvap.gov to register or update your information. For local assistance, call DSN 366-6192 or +32(0)65-326192.

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Benelux community members get ready for crosseage

The golf-like sport returns Feb. 14 to the streets of Chièvres, Belgium. As community members start decorating their rabots and chôlettes and practicing their swings, a historian gives interesting insight on the traditions of the town's annual festivity. (U.S. Army photo by Cis Spook).

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Veterinary staff builds host-nation relations

By Jessica Ryan

USAG Benelux Public Affairs

It was a “meeting of the minds” as veterinarians from the U.S. and Belgian Armies met Jan. 25 at the Chièvres Veterinary Clinic on Caserne Daumerie in Chièvres, Belgium. The topic of discussion was providing medical care for military working dogs, especially during times when veterinary care is not immediately available.

“Military working dogs are extremely important,” said Army Capt. Aimee Hunter, chief of Benelux Veterinary Services. “They save human lives.”

Hunter invited Belgian Army Maj. Ann Jacob and Aniek De Smet, both veterinarians from the Belgian Defense Veterinary Clinic in Meerdael, to the caserne to show them the U.S. Army’s veterinary facility and discuss best practices for treating military working dogs in their respective Armies.

“The main goal for us is to discuss how we are training our dog handlers with giving first-aid care and what the possibilities are to train human healthcare providers. They can help the dogs when they are deployed, especially if there is not a veterinary clinic around or nearby,” said De Smet. “We will have more dogs that will go on missions. When they are further away from the compounds, they need to have care on the spot.”

The meeting, however, was more than just a knowledge exchange between the two Armies. It was also about the U.S. Army fostering a relationship with the host nation’s Army.

Hunter began developing that relationship after meeting Belgian Army veterinarians at the International Military Veterinary Medical Symposium in Garmisch, Germany. The symposium was hosted by the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps, and military veterinarians from 11 different NATO nations also attended.

After the initial meeting, Hunter was invited to attend the annual Belgian Military Veterinary Conference held at the Royal Military Academy of Brussels, where she met Jacob. The two talked about the possibility of meeting outside the conference for a further discussion.

“We are working toward interoperability. The better we



Army Sgt. Jaden Cua (second from the right), animal care specialist at the Chièvres Veterinary Clinic, demonstrates how to use "Jerry," a stuffed dog for medical care training, to Belgian Army Maj. Ann Jacob and Maj. Aniek De Smet, veterinarians at the Belgian Defense Veterinary Clinic, Jan. 25, 2018, at Caserne Daumerie in Chièvres, Belgium. (U.S. Army photo by Jessica Ryan)

work together, the better it is for everyone, most importantly the warfighters whom we are all striving to support,” said Hunter.

The facility at Caserne Daumerie is the only U.S. Department of Defense veterinary treatment facility in the Benelux. While there are other U.S. military veterinary facilities in Europe, it is important for Hunter and her Soldiers to work with the Belgian Army. The host-nation Soldiers can provide expertise on local nuances while their counterparts in other countries cannot.

“Sometimes the Belgian Army veterinarians can get me a faster and more accurate answer for my location than I would get if I talked to someone in Germany. My colleagues in Germany deal with different things than I do in Belgium,” she added. “They are our host nation partners. We are guests in their country. It is awesome to work with them and figure out how we can improve [our practices] so we can take the best care of our military working dogs and by extension the human Soldiers they support,” said Hunter. ♦

Ready for crossage? Attention chôtelette!

By Christophe Morel
USAG Benelux Public Affairs

In Chièvres, Crossage is a must-see event. This year, it will take place Feb. 14 starting at noon in city's streets. For newcomers, this local tradition may seem surprising. Follow our guide to learn everything about this game considered a sport by the local residents:

THE MAIN WORDS

If it's your first time, the most important rule is to learn those two words: "attention chôtelette." During the event, participants play on the street with a wooden mallet called a "rabort" and a wooden ball called a "chôtelette". Teams compete against each other as they hit the chôtelette with their rabot to reach beer kegs in as few hits as possible. Players shout "chôtelette" before they strike the ball to warn other players that the ball is in play.

The game can be compared to croquet or golf. The entire course covers 30 beer kegs. "Teams compete against one another and have to announce a number of hits to touch the keg," said Ovide Canseliet, founder of the Museum of Rural Life in Huissignies.

A LONG HISTORY

In Chièvres, participants play "crossage à l'tonne" (tonne meaning keg) in the streets. It's one of the different forms of crossage. The sport has evolved over the years, and there are few explanations about its appearance. The history of crossage dates back to the Middle Ages. Initially, this game was for nobles. "At the beginning of the 15th century, they were playing beneath the walls of the city. But in the 18th century, it was forbidden to play in the streets because of damages so people played in the fields. It was much more athletic. The players had to run. Then, the game came back to the streets for Ash Wednesday," explained Canseliet.

NO CROSSAGE WITHOUT BEER

Beer is an important part of the crossage for few reasons. First, players try to hit kegs in front of local bars. "There are not many bars left today so people place temporary bars instead," said Canseliet.

Secondly, many players participate in crossage first and foremost to share good times and drinks with friends, which may seem contradictory, because Feb. 14 is the beginning of Lent. "Non-Christians wanted to play, party and drink during Ash Wednesday to challenge the Church. This was not well-perceived of course," Canseliet said.

According to him, drinking beer during the first day of Lent was a provocation. "It was a way of reacting to the obligation of fast and abstinence," he added.

At the end of the game, the losing team must buy beers for the winning team.



Top: Participants from U.S. Army Garrison Benelux showed off their decorated rabots and chôtelettes before they entered the streets of Chièvres to play Crossage Mar. 1, 2017.

Left: Participants competed in teams and play against one another in the city streets during the 2017 event. The game is held annually as participants play the entire course, which covers 30 beer kegs throughout the town. (U.S. Army photos by Cis Spook)

CUSTOMIZED ACCESSORIES

The rabots are handmade with a very specific technique. Players can customize their rabot as well as the wooden ball. "Everybody has the option to decorate their rabot and chôtelette, and there are no rules," Canseliet said. "Most of the time, groups are created by companies, associations, groups of friends," he added. It is recommended that people soak their rabot and chôtelette in water overnight and let it dry before decorating. This is prevent the wood from cracking while playing the game.

STREETS CLOSURES

For the event, the city of Chièvres will be closed to all traffic. No parking will be allowed as this game is played on the streets. "Crossage took a big extension in the 1960's and 1970's, so the city had to be closed," Canseliet said. For security reasons, participants must pay for insurance during registration. If you want to attend the event, remember that several players can hit a ball at the same time in different directions. Watch your surroundings to avoid being hit!

Please register no later than Feb. 9 by calling DSN 361-5805 or 049-687693. Cost is €33 for a rabot and chôtelette and €5 for insurance. Payment must be made at the time of registration.

The saga of the four chaplains

By Sons of the American Legion

Special to the Gazette

This year marks the historic 75th anniversary of the sinking of the U.S. Army Transport *Dorchester* and the legendary acts of selflessness of four Army chaplains who were aboard. Four Chaplains Day, as U.S. Congress has declared, honors the four chaplains who went down with their ship and gave their life jackets to other passengers. The American Legion "Flanders Field" Post BE02 will honor the memory of the four chaplains by hosting an commemorative display Feb. 4 at the Army and Air Force Exchange Store, or PX, mall on Chièvres Air Base, Belgium.

HISTORY

It was known as Torpedo Junction, the U-boat infested, icy waters of the North Atlantic during World War II. On Feb. 3, 1943, the USAT *Dorchester*, an old coastal steamer was slowly making her way through those waters bound for Greenland.

Most of the men were seasick and green with nausea. Because they were in submarine waters, the captain directed the men to keep outer gear and life jackets on at all times. Moving among them were four Army chaplains: George Fox (Methodist), Alexander Goode (Jewish), Clark Poling (Dutch Reformed) and John Washington (Roman Catholic). The chaplains talked with and listened to the men -- soothing apprehensions, offering encouragement or sharing a joke. By their concern, their camaraderie with the men and one another, and their very presence, they brought solace.

An enemy submarine, stalking the ship undetected, fired a torpedo toward the ship's aging flank. The missile exploded in the boiler room, destroying the electric supply and releasing suffocating clouds of steam and ammonia gas. Many on board died instantly. Some were trapped below deck. Others jolted from their bunks and stumbled their way to the decks of the stricken vessel. Taking on water rapidly, the ship began listing to starboard.



Graphic courtesy of the American Legion.

Because security reasons prevented the use of distress flares, escort vessels, still close enough to assist, pushed on into the darkness unaware that the USAT *Dorchester* was sinking.

Overcrowded lifeboats capsized. Rafts drifted away before anyone could reach them. Men clung to the rails, frozen with fear, unable to let go and plunge into the dark, churning water far below.

The four chaplains calmed the frightened men, got them into the spare lifejackets and urged them over the side. The supply of extra jackets ran out with men still waiting. Having decided to remain with the sinking ship, the four chaplains either gave to or forced upon frightened servicemen their own lifejackets.

Too quickly, no more lifeboats could be launched and many men were left aboard, but there was more for the chaplains to do. When last seen, they were standing together on the deck leading the men in prayer. With arms linked in friendship and heads bowed in prayer, they sank beneath the waves. Two of those chaplains were Protestant, one was a Catholic, and one was Jewish. Monsignor John McNamara, former chief of chaplains of the U.S. Navy, said at a Four Chaplains Award Service, "No casting director in Hollywood could have selected a better cast of characters than these four to portray the basic unity of the American people."

The self-sacrifice of the four chaplains was a heroic act. It was not the only heroic act aboard the USAT *Dorchester*. But it was the identity of these four young men, representing three great faiths of the American people that adds symbolism to their sacrifice.

To learn more about Flanders Field Post BE02 and their upcoming events and meetings, email flanders.fields.post.be02@gmail.com. ♦



Graphic courtesy of the American Legion.

Tax assistance center opens for the season

By Jessica Ryan

USAG Benelux Public Affairs

The Tax Assistance Center held its grand opening for the season Monday at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, or SHAPE, Belgium. The event signified the beginning of this year's federal and state income tax preparation and filing process for U.S. personnel.

The office, which is run by the Northern Law Center, provides free tax preparation services by Internal Revenue Service, or IRS, certified personnel to active-duty service members, family members, retirees and Department of Defense civilian employees. DOD contractors are also eligible if legal services are stated in their employment contract.

"During the 2017 tax season, the Northern Law Center's Tax Assistance Office generated 535 federal and 206 state income tax returns in the U.S. SHAPE/NATO, Chièvres Air Base, and USAG Brussels communities, resulting in over \$1,308,171 in tax refunds and savings for clients of over \$184,716 in tax preparation fees," said Army Maj. Joseph H. Wheeler III, the officer-in-charge at the Northern Law Center.

The center is located in SHAPE Bldg. 318, Room 207, and opens Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and from noon to 5 p.m. Services are by appointment only.

The tax assistance services will be provided on an appointment-only basis. Walk-ins are not allowed this year in order to ensure that each client receives timely and professional service, according to Army Capt. Bernard Marshall, chief of client services at the Northern Law Center.

Services are also by-appointment only in Brussels. Services at Chièvres Air Base will be announced soon. In the Netherlands, tax assistance services will be provided by the Netherlands Law Center starting Feb. 6.

According to Marshall, filing tax returns with the center's tax clerks is more advantageous than using online tax-filing services. The tax clerks understand common tax situations with U.S. personnel living overseas, such as moving expenses, foreign tax credits and rental property incomes in addition to other circumstances.

"There are a lot of expenses that military personnel can claim and situations that are unique to military members that develop [when identifying credits and deductions on tax returns]," he said.

"People need to break down every source of income and bring all necessary documentation to their appointment. They can have a conversation with the tax clerks and I beforehand. We can give them a clear answer on how the IRS will treat those sources of income."



From left to right: Capt. Bernard Marshall, client services chief at the Northern Law Center, Maj. Joseph Wheeler III, officer-in-charge at the Northern Law Center, Col. Kurt Connell, commander for U.S. Army Garrison Benelux, and Command Sgt. Maj. Samara Pitre, command sergeant major of USAG Benelux, cut a ribbon during the Tax Assistance Center's grand opening Jan. 29, 2018, at SHAPE, Belgium. (U.S. Army photo by Jessica Ryan)

In addition, people will need to bring the social security cards for each person claimed in their return. More information on documentation needed for the appointment is located at www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil/org-legal.html.

In the U.S., the deadline for tax returns this year is April 17. U.S. citizens, however, living overseas have an automatic two-month extension, making June 15 the final deadline to file returns. People who are unable to meet the June 15 deadline will need to request an additional extension for Oct. 15 by submitting a Form 4868 to the IRS. If an individual files their return after April 17 and owes money to the IRS, as opposed to getting a refund, the individual may incur interest on the amount owed between April 17 and the date that they filed the return, said Marshall.

The Tax Assistance Center is scheduled to be open at SHAPE until June 25.

To book an appointment for the SHAPE and Brussels services, call Northern Law Center at DSN 423-4868 or +32 (0)65-444868 during regular business hours. For services in the Netherlands, call the Netherlands Law Center, at DSN 360-7688 or +31 (0)46-4437688. ♦

Carnaval in the Netherlands

By Rita Hoefnagels

USAG Benelux Public Affairs

One of the most important local events in the Dutch Southern Provinces is Carnaval. During the three-day event, people wear costumes and masks as they eat, drink and enjoy the festivities. This year, Carnaval is celebrated Feb. 11 to 13.

Carnaval is a big celebration, which ends on Ash Wednesday when Lenten, or Lent, starts. Although it was originally believed that Carnaval is a religious festival, it is not. Before Christ was born, February was considered the last month of the year. People began the new year by celebrating the fact that the sun had cast away the dark winter.

The chronicles of Babylon speak of the sacrificial death of the king every year during their new year's celebrations. The king had to die for his people so they could start the new year without sins. To prevent kingdom from becoming a one-year affair, it was decided to have a temporary king during these days. The temporary king would be either a terminally-ill person or a criminal condemned to death.

During the festivities, these men lived like kings.

The Christian Church learned that integrating these rituals into the church was a way of dealing with heathen beliefs. People celebrated but did penance afterwards. Ash Wednesday became the official beginning of a 40-day long Lent season before Easter. This was also believed to be an explanation for the event's name. During Lent, people did penance by fasting. The Latin term "Carne Vale" meant farewell to meat/flesh. During the Reformation, sobriety was preached so these excessive celebrations were considered sinful. As a result, Carnaval ceased to exist.

Carnaval, as it is today, originated from the German Rhineland, with its cradle in Cologne. This city, occupied by Napoleon's Army and annexed later by Prussia, had many inhabitants who did not forget Cologne's glorious past when emperors visited. They were welcomed with great pomp and circumstance and entered the city in a parade while the citizens showered them with flowers. The emperors gave money to those cheering. In 1823, the very first Carnaval/Fashioning parade was organized. The parade had to be equal to the wealthy and glorious entries of the Habsburg emperors in the old days.

A lot of traditions are still the same. Prince Carnaval, for



During last year's celebration at Schinnen, American Prince Roger Pirkola, of Directorate of Public Works, and Dutch Princess Joan Deekman, also from DPW, received the key to the post Feb. 17, 2017. By tradition, they ruled the Schinnen location for the duration of the party. (U.S. Army photo by Nino Antonacci)

instance, still wears a Renaissance costume and is accompanied by Soldiers in 17th century uniforms. At the time of the first parade, these uniforms were really meant as a spoof on the Prussians. Little by little, all kinds of elements were added. Carnaval associations were established and medals were presented to special citizens and event participants. This also started as persiflage on the Prussians' behavior but grew out to be a tradition.

Carnaval has spread all over the Rhineland and the South of the Netherlands. Nowadays, almost every village has its own Carnaval association while the larger cities have even more than one. The Carnaval association consists of a "Raad van Elf" (Council of Eleven) presided by the president or lord, who is responsible for the activities during the Carnaval season. They choose a prince, organize and escort the parade.

They also visit senior living homes,

schools and other associations to give out medals.

The Carnaval festivities typically begin with the mayor handing over the town keys to the prince, making him the ruler of the city or village for the duration of Carnaval.

Many clubs, associations and schools have their own prince and Carnaval fest. The Schinnen Community is no exception. By tradition, these fests are ruled over by a prince and princess and visited by local authorities and Carnaval associations. The fest at Schinnen will be held Feb. 9 starting at 2:11 p.m. in the Pin Point Café and Bowling Center at U.S. Army Garrison Benelux in Schinnen. The fest will begin with the proclamation of Prince and Princess Carnaval for 2018. For newcomers to the area, this is a perfect opportunity to experience Carnaval.

The highlight of Carnaval is the parade. Participants often work year round to build floats and create costumes. Every group tries their best to have the most original designs. After the parade, the festivities start with dancing and singing in the streets and pubs. Many shops will be closed Feb. 12 and 13. Special events, such as Carnaval Band contests, will take place during those days. On Tuesday at midnight, Carnaval officially ends. So dress up, put on your mask and celebrate the festivities! ♦

DOD looking into the impact of fitness trackers on Soldier safety

By Jim Garamone
DoD News

Defense Department officials are studying security issues raised by physical conditioning trackers that also can be used to track service members' whereabouts, a Pentagon spokesman told reporters yesterday.

The concern comes from a "heat map" posted by Strava, the makers of a fitness tracking application that shows the routes service members run or cycle in their daily exercises. These maps can show military bases and may be used to target individuals.

"We take these matters seriously, and we are reviewing the situation to determine if any additional training or guidance is required, and if any additional policy must be developed to ensure the continued safety of DOD personnel at home and abroad," Army Col. Robert Manning III said during a morning news conference at the Pentagon.

Wearable electronic fitness trackers upload data to Strava, which then publishes a heat map of the activity so people can download the maps to find good running or cycling routes.

USE PRIVACY SETTINGS

"The rapid development of technology requires the rapid refinement of policy and procedures to enhance force protection and operational security," Manning said. "DOD personnel are advised to place strict privacy settings on wireless technologies and applications."

Service members are prohibited from wearing such wireless technologies in some areas and during some operations, Manning said.

Manning didn't say what the department will do about the issue at this time. "We have confidence in commanders to employ tactics, techniques and procedures that enhance force protection and operational security with the least impact to individuals," he said.

All DOD personnel go through annual training on



A group of U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers from the 387th Military Police Battalion run past a group of command sergeants major from across the 200th Military Police Command participating in a team-building ruck march during a "CSM Huddle" in Scottsdale, Arizona, Sept. 16, 2017. The DOD is evaluating further guidance for the use of fitness trackers used in Soldiers' physical fitness activities after reports of "heat maps" that can track Soldiers' locations using data from the trackers. (U.S. Army Reserve photo by Master Sgt. Michel Sauret)

information security. The training urges service members and DOD civilians to limit profiles on the internet, including personal social media accounts, Manning said.

"Furthermore, operational security requirements provide further guidance for military personnel supporting operations around the world," he said. The heat map incident re-emphasizes the need for service members to be cautious about what data to share via wearable electronic devices, he added.

Soldiers and civilian employees who are interested in learning about more ways to protect their online presence can check out the U.S. Army's Social Media Handbook and guidelines at www.army.mil/socialmedia/soldiers. ♦



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Soldier, Olympic bobsled athlete wears two uniforms proudly

By Susan A. Merkner

U.S. Army Installation Management Command

If, as William Shakespeare said, "Clothes make the man," then Sgt. Nick Cunningham's wardrobe reflects a man accomplished in two realms: the U.S. Army and the Winter Olympics.

Cunningham, 32, a member of the U.S. men's two-man and four-man bobsled teams, joined the Army in 2011 and earned a spot in the World Class Athlete Program, which is operated by the U.S. Army Installation Management Command. The native of Monterey, California, is a construction masonry engineer in the Army.

"When I put on my uniform for the first time in basic training, I felt a sense of pride I had never imagined," Cunningham said. "Having the word Army across my chest is something I definitely don't take for granted."

Speaking from Calgary, Alberta, Canada, where the U.S. bobsled team is practicing, Cunningham said they were "training smart so we can keep our continuity" two weeks before the opening ceremonies in PyeongChang, South Korea.

One of the more experienced athletes on the team, Cunningham is making his third trip to the Winter Games with hopes of medaling. He was a member of the 2010 and 2014 men's bobsled teams at the Olympics and has been a member of the U.S. World Team four times.

Unlike many WCAP participants, Cunningham already was an Olympic athlete when he joined, after learning about the program from a teammate. Cunningham attended his first WCAP meeting with a healthy dose of skepticism.

"I had not really ever seen myself in the military, and frankly, I went to the [WCAP] meeting trying to find some faults with the program. I was thinking, what's the catch? But as I met people, I realized I wanted to be part of this family. I never thought I'd feel this way about the military. No other program could be as good as this," he said.

"WCAP is a group of people who support each other and work together. Without WCAP, I couldn't do this."

The novelty of being an Olympic athlete never wears off, Cunningham said, and now he is looking forward to sharing the experience with his 2018 teammates.

"I'll always remember my first Olympics as such a special time. You're going through it with your team. You're on the world stage to compete. You're part of a small fraternity of athletes -- that title is something no one can ever take away from you. It's such an incredible moment when you step into the arena with the U.S. team and everyone cheers," he said.

"Our team this year has several first-time Olympians, as well as some attending for the third time. It's going to be great."

Both his Army duties and his athletic responsibilities have a foundation of preparation which leads to readiness



Sgt. Nick Cunningham, a masonry engineer in the Army, is a member of the U.S. men's bobsled team and will compete in the 2018 Winter Olympics. (U.S. Army graphic)

and resiliency, Cunningham said.

"Success is 95 percent preparation and readiness, being in the moment, and 5 percent luck. In bobsled, your luck depends on many things: decisions made, the weather, and when a course has 20 turns — and you run it four times — that's 80 corners for each event."

A Soldier's level of readiness in the Army has real-life consequences, and working in a small bobsled squad shares some similarities.

"The Army taught me realistic goal setting, how to set smaller goals for yourself and then work up to the biggest ones. The Army also teaches preparation and how to overcome adversity, and that plays a role in our sport, too -- readiness and being ready to go."

Although Cunningham's family attended the 2010 and 2014 games to cheer him on, they are not able to make the trip to Korea this year. So he has planned for that scenario.

"My community back home and my family is my backbone," he said. "In a sport of no constants, my family is my constant. They always make me feel grounded. It definitely helps."

While in PyeongChang this month, "I'm going to focus on the goals that I'm there to achieve," he said. "We can celebrate afterwards."

The Army MWR program staff in Monterey also is very encouraging, Cunningham said.

"There's a sense of community pride in what I'm doing. Win or lose, they're behind me -- well, especially if I win. It's nice to feel that. My brothers and sisters in the military are very supportive. I understand that I represent a whole group of people when I step onto that starting block."

"The Olympic uniform and the Army uniform represent something bigger than yourself." ♦

ALL COMMUNITIES

Through Feb. 28

- **American Legion Post BE02 Scholarship: Boys State/Girls State** - The American Legion Post BE02 and the American Legion Auxiliary is sponsoring the 2018 Boys State and Girls State programs. The students in Boys State/Girls State will be flown to Maryland to participate in the week long program during the third week of June 2018. All expenses will be paid by American Legion Post BE02. Boys State and Girls State are summer leadership and citizenship programs sponsored by the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary for high school juniors. For further information and a registration form, please contact Post BE02 representatives at flanders.fields.post.be02@gmail.com. The deadline for submission for the registration form is Feb. 28.



- **American Legion Post BE02 Scholarship: Eagle Scout of the Year** - Scholarships are awarded for the Eagle Scout of the year at the Post and Department levels. The national scholarship is awarded to the Eagle Scout who is selected "The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year." The winner is eligible to receive a \$10,000 scholarship to be awarded over a four-year period. Three additional scholarships of \$2,500 each are also awarded. For further information and a registration form, please contact Post BE02 representatives at flanders.fields.post.be02@gmail.com. The deadline for submission for the registration form is Feb. 28.

The following are VTC-projected classes. For information about and to register for VTC classes, contact:

- For SHAPE: DSN 366-6824 or +32 (0)65-326824
- For Brussels: DSN 368-9783 or +32 (0)2-717-9783
- For Schinnen: DSN 360-7500 or +31(0)46-4437500

Feb. 7

- **Investment Products** - Held from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. This is a review of investment products starting with basic savings accounts, Money Market funds, certificates of deposit, mutual funds -- their differences and objectives. The class will also cover insurance products, annuities, IRAs and the Thrift Savings Plan.

Feb. 14

- **Car Buying and Financing** - Held from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. This class is mainly for those with plans to purchase a new car in the near future and are relatively new to the buying and financing of automobiles.

Feb. 21

- **Insurance Products** - Held from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. This class covers various types of life insurance, ways to use life insurance products to enhance financial planning, the pitfall of various types, how to maximize insurance needs at the least cost and how life insurance can be used to create an instant estate to protect loved ones.



Feb. 28

- **Blended Retirement System** - Held from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. This training offers a complete review of the BRS along with the Thrift Savings Plan component and other relevant points, such as the incentive bonus and the lump-sum options as well as the flexibility offered with this new program.

BRUSSELS COMMUNITY

See also above in "All Communities."

Open Enrollment for Cub Scout Pack 457

- Cub Scout Pack 457 is now registering girls into their Scouting program and also launching a Lions pilot program for all kindergartners. All Brussels community families are invited to sign up their children, boys age 5 (Kindergarten) to 10 years old (6th grade) and girls age 5 (Kindergarten) to 9 years old (5th grade) for the Cub Scouts. Scheduled activities are planned throughout the year in and around Brussels. Contact the pack recruiting coordinator at CubScoutPack457Brussels@gmail.com for more information.

Tax Assistance Services on Tuesdays

- The Northern Law Center will provide U.S. federal and state income tax assistance to eligible clients on Tuesdays in Building 4, Room 316. Services are by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, call DSN 423-4868 or +32 (0)65-444868. For more information on legal services and documentation needed for tax returns, visit www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil/org-legal.html.

Every Thursday and Friday

- **Community Movie Night** - Enjoy free entertainment at the 3 Star Recreation Center starting at 6:30 p.m. The schedule includes *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri* (R) on Friday, *Murder On the Orient Express* (PG-13) on Feb. 8, *Thank You For Your Service* (R) on Feb. 9, *Ferdinand* (PG) on Feb. 15, *Roman J. Israel ESQ* on Feb. 16, *The Star* (PG) on Feb. 22, and *The Shape of Water* (R) on Feb. 23. For more information, call DSN 368-9822 or +32 (0)2-7179822.

Every Friday

- **3 Star Recreation Night and Line Dancing** - Join the Brussels community for games, cards, music and movies starting at 5 p.m. at the 3 Star Recreation Center. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. Line Dancing will start at 7 p.m. U.S. Military, NATO, U.S. Embassy and mission cardholders are welcomed. For more information, call DSN 368-9822 or +32 (0)2-7179822.

Feb. 4

- **The "Big Game" Party** - Watch Super Bowl LII at the 3 Star Recreation Center on Sunday! Festivities start at 7 p.m. with a buffet including delicious finger foods. The cost is \$10 per person plus drinks. To register, email reservations3star@yahoo.com. For more details, call DSN 368-9822 or +32 (0)2-7179822.

Feb. 8

- **3 Star Dinner Special "All You Can Eat Pizza and Salad"** - Starts at 5:30 p.m. Cost is \$11 for adults and \$5 for children. Reservations are required by Feb. 6 and can be made at reservations3star@yahoo.com.

Feb. 16

- **Couples' Night Out** - Celebrate Valentine's Day at the 3 Star Recreation Center! Couples are invited to enjoy a special menu: beef bulgogi with rice, hot pot with vegetables and gambas, and a salad bar. The cost is \$15. Please make a reservation by Feb. 14 at reservations3star@yahoo.com.

Feb. 19 - Mar. 9

- **CYS Sports Spring Soccer Registration** - The season will last from April through June. The cost is \$45 for ages 6 to 12 and \$25 for ages 3 to 5. Child, Youth and School Services registration and health assessments are required for participants. For more information, stop by Parent Central Services (Bldg. 3) or call DSN 368-9651 or +32 (0)2-7179651.

Feb. 21

- **Host Nation/Newcomer's Orientation and Cultural Tour** - Army Community Service is inviting all service members, civilians and their family members to participate in Host Nation Orientation. Registration is required. Call DSN 368-9783 or +32 (0)2-7179783.

SCHINNEN/BRUNSSUM COMMUNITY

See also page 9 in "All Communities."

UMUC Student Appreciation Scholarship

- University of Maryland University College Europe on Schinnen is proud to offer a one-time \$600 scholarship to eligible current students. For more information, contact a program coordinator at DSN 360-7620 or +31 (0)46-4437620. To apply, go to www.europe.umuc.edu/secure/600-student-appreciation-scholarship.

Feb. 5 - Mar. 16

- **CYS Baseball Season Registration** - The baseball season will run from April 21 to June 2. Practice begins April 10 at Slagheap Fields. This is open to youth of all U.S. or NATO ID carholders. The cost is \$45 for youth age 10 to 15. Participants must be registered with Child, Youth and School Services and have a valid health assessment at the time of enrollment. For more information, call Parent Central Services at DSN 606-244-3121 or +31 (0)45-5263121.
- **CYS Girl's Softball** - The baseball season will run from April 21 to June 2. Practice begins April 10. This is open to youth of all U.S. or NATO ID carholders. The cost is \$25 for youth age 3 to 5, and \$45 for youth age 6 to 15. Participants must be registered with Child, Youth and School Services and have a valid health assessment at the time of enrollment. For more information, call Parent Central Services at DSN 606-244-3121 or +31 (0)45-5263121.

Feb. 6

- **Tax Assistance Office Grand Opening** - The Netherlands Law Center will be open for free federal and state income tax preparation on Monday to Thursday from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call DSN 360-7688 or +31 (0)46-4437688.

Feb. 12, 14 and 16

- **Teen Babysitting Course Registration** - This class will meet at the Youth Center (Bldg H-602) at JFC Brunssum from Feb. 12, 14 and 16 from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. The cost is \$15. Participants must be age 12 or older and registered with Child, Youth and School Services. **Registration ends Feb. 7.** For more details, call DSN 606-244-3121/2023 or +31 (0)45-5263121 or +31 (0) 45-5262023.



Feb. 13-16

- **CYS Carnival Camp** - Have fun at the School Age Center with this carnival-themed camp. The camp is open to Child, Youth and School Services children from Kindergarten to fifth grade. Camp fees may apply. Register at Parent Central Services on JFC Brunssum Bldg. H-602. For more information, call DSN 606-244-3121/2023 or +31 (0)45526-3121/2023.

- **Karneval Camp** - Enjoy a Karneval-themed camp from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. The camp is open to Child, Youth and School Services children from sixth to twelfth grade. Camp fees depend on income category. **Registration ends Feb. 9.** Register at Parent Central Services on JFC Brunssum Bldg. H-602. For more information, call DSN 606-244-3121/2023 or +31 (0)45526-3121/2023.

Feb. 14

- **Hearts of Love 5K Run/Walk** - Bring your sweetheart to this Valentine's Day event! The run/walk starts at the Schinnen Fitness Center at 9 a.m. Entry is free. Refreshments will be available. For more information call DSN 360-7561 or +31 (0)46-4437561.
- **LEGO® Day** - Set your imagination loose and explore the wonderful world of Lego® at the JFC HQ Brunssum Library from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call DSN 606-2442469 or +31 (0)45-5262469.

Feb. 15

- **Logistics Readiness Center (LRC) Closure** - The Logistics Readiness Center's offices at Schinnen will be closed all day for quarterly stand down. For more information, call DSN 360-7481 or +31 (0)46-4437481.

Feb. 15-16

- **Newcomer's Orientation & Cultural Tour** - From 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Schinnen ACS, all newcomers and spouses are invited to learn about their new community, including local customs, culture and language. On the first day, explore the Dutch culture with an introduction to the language and get an overview of Tri-Border services. On the second day, go beyond the gate to visit a few local attractions and learn how to use the local train system. For more information, call DSN 360-7500 or +31 (0)46-4437500.



Feb. 16

- **American Legion Post NL01 General Membership Meeting** - The meeting will start at 5 p.m. at USAG Benelux in Schinnen Bldg. 3 in Classroom A. Chartered by The American Legion National Headquarters, the Margraten Post was formed by veterans to help fellow veterans, their families, widows of veterans and orphans. The mission continues as they serve military veterans of the U.S. The post maintains and builds relations with veterans of Allied Nations to honor all sacrifices. For more information about the Margraten Post, visit www.facebook.com/PostNL01.

Feb. 23

- **American Spouses Club's Charity Auction Event** - This special event will be held at the International Conference Room in Brunssum. All money made from the auction prizes will go toward student and dependent college scholarships as well as to assist other programs in the community. Tickets are €25 per person for the auction, which includes a gourmet meal and a chance to win prizes. The doors will open at 5:30 p.m. The silent auctions will begin at that time. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m., followed by a dessert auction and the start of the live auction items. To reserve tickets, email Americanspousesclub@yahoo.com.

Feb. 24 - Mar. 17

- **UMUC Travel and Learn: Dublin Class** - Discover the literary, historical and cultural center of Ireland while earning three college credits in this field study course at University of Maryland University College, or UMUC. The course dates are Feb. 24 to Mar. 17. The class meets on-site in Dublin from Mar. 3 to 10. **Registration ends Feb. 12.** For more information, call DSN 360-7620 or +31 (0)46-4437620 or email schinnen-europe@umuc.edu.

SHAPE/CHIÈVRES COMMUNITY

See also page 9 in "All Communities"

AAFES Announcements

- **Instant Coffee** - The Cofeo instant coffee machine is now available at the Chièvres Exchange Mall. The machine serves different kinds of coffee, tea and hot chocolate. Euros, debit and credit cards are accepted.
- **Job Openings** - AAFES is hiring on Chièvres Air Base. To apply, visit www.applymexchange.com. For more information, call DSN 361-5337 or +32 (0)68-275337.

Tax Center Services on SHAPE

- The Northern Law Center will provide U.S. federal and state income tax assistance at SHAPE Bldg. 318 to eligible clients from Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and noon to 5 p.m. To schedule an appointment, call DSN 423-4868 or +32 (0)65-444868. For more information on tax assistance services, see page 5.

Starting Feb. 6

- **Eight Nights of Harry Potter** - Starting at 6 p.m., watch *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* at the SHAPE Cinema. Admission is €2 per person. All eight *Harry Potter* films will be shown on Tuesdays in February, March and April. The next screenings will be held Feb. 13, Feb. 20, Feb. 27, Mar. 6, Mar. 27, and April 10.

Feb. 6

- **SHAPE International Marching Team Meeting for Nijmegen Marches** - The Nijmegen Marches are a four-day event, scheduled July 16 to 20, in the Netherlands where participants can walk up to 100 miles. You can participate in the event by joining the SHAPE International Marching Team. An information and registration meeting will be held Feb. 6 at 1 p.m. in SHAPE Bldg. 312. For more information, email imtshape@gmail.com or call DSN 423-4760 or +32(0)65-444760.

Feb. 12-16

- **Teen Babysitting Course** - During this class, participants will earn their pediatric CPR and basic first aid certification as well as receive a Magic Babysitter's Bag. Class hours are 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. from Feb. 12 to 16. All sessions must be attended to receive certification. This class is open to youth age 12 and older (grades 6 to 12) and registered with Child, Youth and School Services. Cost is \$25, and **registration ends Feb. 7**. For more information or to reserve your spot, stop by Parent Central Services (SHAPE Bldg. 503) or call DSN 366-6839/6797 or +32(0)65-326839/6797.
- **SAC Carnival Break** - This carnival-themed camp is open to children in Kindergarten to fifth grade registered in Child, Youth and School Services. The camp is from Feb. 12 to 16 on SHAPE. **Registration ends Feb. 2**. Cost is based on total family income. For more information or to reserve your spot, stop by Parent Central Services (SHAPE Bldg. 503) or call DSN 366-6839/6797 or +32(0)65-326839/6797.

Feb. 15

- **Black History Month Event** - Come to the SHAPE Cinema from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and learn about four historical figures who broke barriers as they served their country and fought for freedom. For more information, call DSN 423-8369 or DSN 361-5235.

Feb. 16

- **Chinese New Year** - Come to the SHAPE International Library from 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. to learn about Chinese New Year. Activities include story times, crafts and an opportunity to learn some Chinese words. For more information, call DSN 423-5631 or +32 (0)65-445631.

Feb. 19-Mar. 9

- **CYS Sports Spring Soccer Registration** - The season will last from April through June. The cost is \$45 for ages 6 to 12 and \$25 for ages 3 to 5. Child, Youth and School Services registration and health assessments are required for participants. For more information, stop by Parent Central Services (SHAPE Bldg. 503) or call DSN 366-6839/6797 or +32(0)65-326839/6797.



Feb. 23

- **Total Army Sponsorship Program Rodeo** - Held in the Chièvres Community Activity Center from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., participants are invited to visit each station and receive valuable information on sponsorship. Volunteers are needed for this event! For more information, call DSN 366-6192 or DSN 361-5973.

Feb. 27-28

- **Host Nation Orientation** - The original orientation in February has been rescheduled. Army Community Service is inviting all incoming service members, civilians and their family members to participate in Host Nation Orientation in SHAPE Bldg. 318 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Registration is required. Call DSN 366-6824 or +32 (0)65-326824.

UPCOMING ORGANIZED TRIPS & TOURS

SHAPE Trips & Tours

Serving Brussels, Chièvres and SHAPE. Call DSN 423-3884 or +32 (0)65-443884.

- Belgian Beer Tour in Antwerp, **Feb. 3**
- Malta, **Feb. 8-12**
- The Hague, Netherlands, **Feb. 10**
- Rosenmontag Carnival in Cologne, **Feb. 12**
- Valentine's Dinner Cruise on the Seine in Paris, **Feb. 17**
- Cooking Class in Lille (or Lille only), **Feb. 24**
- Operation Market Garden "A Bridge Too Far" in Arnhem, **Mar. 3**
- Hamburg, Germany, **Mar. 10-11**
- Bad Münstereifel, Germany, **Mar. 17**
- Northern Italy, **Apr. 3-12**

- London (with optional musical Dreamgirls), **Apr. 14**
- Gouda & Keukenhof Gardens, **Apr. 21**
- Reims with Champagne, **Apr. 28**
- Rhine Dinner Cruise with Fireworks, **May 5**
- Bruno Mars Concert in Paris, **Jun. 30**

Schinnen Trips & Tours

Call DSN 360-7560 or +31 (0) 46-4437560.

- Luxembourg, **Feb. 17**
- Paris, **Mar. 17**
- Family Day Trout Fishing, **Apr. 7**
- Keukenhof Gardens, **Apr. 21**
- Weekend Trip to Normandy, France, **Jul. 20-23**

Highway Construction and Road Closures

You may experience some delays while driving in Belgium this season. Road construction projects are occurring throughout the country and may result in temporary lane closures and road congestion. We will provide regular updates to ensure that the community is informed and prepared.



Brussels: Be patient if you are driving on Boulevard de la Woluwe (R22). Traffic is reduced to one lane. Road construction is behind schedule. The expected completion date is yet to be determined.



Brussels: Renovation of the Reyers tunnels is in progress in the center of Brussels. You can expect deviations, or detours, and road congestion near the tunnels. Work is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year.



Ath-Hacquegnies (A8): There is still road construction on E429 (A8) between Ath and Hacquegnies, in the direction of Tournai. Traffic is reduced to one lane. Work is still ongoing, and the completion date is to be determined.



Tubize-Enghien (A8): Pay attention if you are driving from Brussels. There is still road congestion on E429 (A8) between Tubize and Enghien, in the direction of Tournai. Road construction has been interrupted due to bad weather and will resume in the spring. The speed of traffic is reduced to 70 km/h.



Tournai-Mons (E42): Work on the bridge started Nov. 13 in Bernissart and is expected to last two years. Traffic is reduced to one lane in the direction of Mons.



Andenne/Daussoux (E42/A15): The three-way yard project between Andenne and Daussoux has been underway since August. This project involves 15 km in both directions. Two lanes of traffic will be maintained. Work is scheduled to be completed by August 2018.



Mons/The Ring (A7): From Feb. 5 to 9, there will be road construction in direction of Brussels, near the Grand Prés. If you drive to Brussels via the R5, you will have to take the deviation, or detour, until the Imagix roundabout. From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., there is expected to be road congestion in that area so please be patient and drive safely!

Please be cautious and patient while driving at all times. If you have questions or would like to report other highway construction sites and road closures, please email the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux Public Affairs Office at usarmy.benelux.id-europe.list.pao@mail.mil.



Read about events near Chièvres, SHAPE and Brussels.

Through Feb. 4

- **Tournai Jazz Festival** - There will be 21 shows, 160 musicians, master classes, workshops, activities for children and more. Held at Halle Aux Draps on the square. Open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 6:30 p.m., Saturday at 3 p.m., and Sunday at 11:30 a.m. The NATO Jazz Orchestra will perform Sunday at 4:15 p.m. Entry is from €12 to €40, and free on Sunday. For more details, call +32 (0)69-841737 or email contact@tournaijazz.be.
- **BRAFA 2018** - The Brussels Antiques & Fine Arts Fair is one of the longest running international fairs in the world. It's held at Tour & Taxis on Avenue du Port 86C in Brussels. Open daily from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Entry: €25. Catalogue is €10. For more information, visit www.brafa.art.

Through Feb. 25

- **Exhibition in Mons: David LaChapelle. After the Deluge** - The Beaux-Arts Mons, or BAM, is hosting, for the first time in Belgium, a major exhibition dedicated to the American photographer and director David LaChapelle. Held on Rue Neuve, 8. Open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, visit www.polemuseal.mons.be/en or call +32 (0)65-405325. Entry is €9. Free entry on every first Sunday of the month.

Feb. 2-4

- **Sports Fair 2018 in Brussels Expo** - This is the largest sports fair in Belgium. The expo features 200 demonstrations and initiations by professionals, stands with known and new sports brands, the latest trends in sports materials, food supplements, coaches, trainers and more. Open Friday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Entry is €12 and free for children.

Feb. 3

- **Concert "PAC Rock 2018" in Baudour** - Held on Rue du Parc from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Projet X, Dissident and Heaven Begins will perform music of U2, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Muse, Depeche Mode, Pink Floyd, Kings of Leon and more. Entry is €7.

Feb. 4

- **Super Bowl Party at the Hard Rock Cafe** - Watch the big game at the Brussels location starting at 11 p.m to 4 a.m. Event tickets are on sale at <https://goo.gl/3788sF>. "Big Game" meal and drink packages are available for purchase. For more information, call +32(0)2-5461660 or visit www.hardrock.com/cafes/brussels.
- **Flea Market in Anderlecht** - Held on Boulevard Sylvain Dupuis (Shopping Westland) featuring 300 booths from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Herchies for 5, 10, 15 or 20 km** Departs the school on Route de Baudour, 4 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Read about events near Brunssum and Schinnen (in the Netherlands unless otherwise indicated).

Feb. 2-4

- **Little Italy Fair: The Taste of Italy** - Held at WesterUnie & Westerliefde on Klönneplein 4-6 in Amsterdam. There will be special food tastings, wines, holiday specials and more. Entry is €15, and free for children age 11 and younger. Open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **International Dog Show** - Held at Beursgebouw on Lardinoisstraat 8 in Eindhoven (NL). Open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Entry is €8, and free for children age 11 and younger.

Feb. 3-4

- **EilandenPlaza "Island Square"** - Held at De Broodfabriek on Volmerlaan 12 in Rijswijk (NL), this is a vacation fair with stands, presentations, food tastings and more about the four beautiful islands of Sardinia, Corsica, Sicily and Elba. The fair is both days open from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Entry is free.
- **Antiques & Curiosa Fair (BE)** - Held at Oktoberhallen, Schroverstraat 18 in Wieze (BE). Open both days 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Entry is €3.

Feb. 4

- **The Feel At Home in The Hague Fair** - Held at Atrium Den Haag on Spui 70 in the center of The Hague (NL), this is the largest event within the city's international community. Visitors will enjoy the unique atmosphere, the entertainment and the 150 stands with a variety of national and international goods. The fair is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Entry is free.
- **Children's Carnival Parades** - A parade is held in the center of Sittard (NL) and begins at 1 p.m. Another parade will be held in the center of Stein (NL) and begins at 1 p.m.

Feb. 5

- **Lichtmessmarkt (GE)** - Held in the center of Vreden (GE), this is a typical year market. Open from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Feb. 8-11

- **Art Rotterdam** - Held at historic Van Nellefabriek on Van Nelleweg 1 in Rotterdam (NL), this is one of the top five winter art fairs according to *The Huffington Post*. Open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. On Feb. 9, the fair will be open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Entry is €19.50.

Feb. 9-11

- **Asia in Antwerp (BE)** - Held at Waagnatie on Rijnkaai 150 in Antwerpen with several Asian activities such as the Chinese Lion Dance, Ninjas, acrobats, Asian food stands, Feng Shui, a Chinese tea ceremony, yoga and more. Entry is €15. Open each day from noon to 9 p.m.