

THE GAZETTE

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

Benelux News Briefs

LRC closures

The Chièvres Central Issue Facility office (Hangar 3) will be closed Feb. 12 to 16 for their annual internal inventory. ALL of LRC Benelux to include Schinnen/Brussels/SHAPE/Chièvres Maintenance, Supply (CIF,PBO,SSD), Transportation (PPPO & TMP), and Plans & Operations will be closed Feb. 15 for an LRC Benelux Stand Down/training. Shuttle service on Feb. 15 will run as scheduled.

Chili cookoff

There will be a chili cookoff during the Total Army Sponsorship Program Rodeo Feb. 23 at the Community Activity Center on Chièvres Air Base. Participants and volunteers are needed. For more information, please contact Richard Smith by Feb. 13 at DSN 366-6192 or richard.j.smith52.civ@mail.mil. The TASP Rodeo will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This is an informative event for those who plan to sponsor incoming personnel to USAG Benelux or want to learn more information about the community.



The Gilles are ready to dance in Binche

The Carnival of Binche is one of the most famous Belgian celebrations. It draws thousands of tourists from all over the world to the Walloon city of Binche. The festival happens three days before Ash Wednesday. This year, it will occur from Feb. 11 to 13. The central figures are the Gilles, who wear a spectacular costume decorated with red, black and yellow symbols of lions, crowns and stars. (U.S. Army photo by Tim Clark)

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New First Sergeant Simms assumes responsibility at HHC

By Julie Piron

USAG Benelux Public Affairs

First Sergeant Natalee C. Simms took responsibility as the First Sergeant of Headquarters and Headquarters Company at U.S. Army Garrison Benelux during a ceremony Feb. 5 at the Caserne Daumerie Chapel.

Capt. Curtis Radoff, company commander, highlighted the great work and dedication of Master Sgt. Shauna Richardson serving as the Brussels provost sergeant and the first sergeant for the last few months.

During the ceremony, Richardson passed the company guidon to Radoff who himself handed the guidon to Simms, demonstrating his confidence in her being the backbone of the company.

Simms recently arrived from the Pentagon where she was the supply NCO for the Joint Improvised-Threat Defense Agency. "HHC Benelux has a history of great leadership, and I will continue that history as the first sergeant," Simms said. ♦



Capt. Radoff, HHC Company Commander, passes the company guidon to 1st Sgt. Natalee C. Simms during her assumption of responsibility ceremony Feb. 5, 2018, in Chièvres, Belgium. (U.S. Army photo by Julie Piron)

Official opening of the tax assistance office in Schinnen

The tax assistance office in Schinnen will be open for free federal and state income tax preparation Monday to Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call DSN 360-7688 or +31 (0)46-4437688.

For current information and required documents, please visit the Netherlands Law Center Facebook page. ♦



From left to right: Gertrudis Guanga, tax volunteer, Noel van Zandvoort, Walter Linden, Maj. David Trainor, Staff Sgt. Randell Butman and Staff Sgt. Efrain Valencia cut a ribbon during the official opening Feb. 6 in Schinnen. (Courtesy photo by Clarence Grant)

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Community hosts first Harry Potter movie night

By Jessica Ryan

USAG Benelux Public Affairs

Community members came to the SHAPE Cinema – Alliance Auditorium Tuesday night for a screening of the Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone on SHAPE, Belgium. The screening is a part of the Army Community Service's "Eight Nights of Harry Potter," a special outreach event where each movie of the Harry Potter series will be shown to families in the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux and NATO communities.

The event was more than an opportunity for Harry Potter fans to watch the film on the big screen. It was about bringing the geographically-dispersed and international community together while educating them about resources provided by Army Community Service, Army Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, SHAPE's Morale Welfare Branch and other community organizations at SHAPE and the Army garrison.

"We do our best work by promoting a healthy environment for families," said Bill Gault, victim advocate at the ACS's Victim Advocacy Program and one of the lead organizers for the event. "We hope to get a diverse population to attend these events. In addition to watching a great family film, they will be able to meet with organization representatives and put a name to a face."

Fans can also enjoy Harry Potter themed activities at the cinema.

During the first night's event, Dan O'Riley, library technician, set up an arts and crafts table and helped participants with coloring Hogwarts' house crests and making sorting hats. He also played music from the movie, such as "Hedwig's theme," on the electric piano.

There are special giveaways at each screening, according to Gault. Fans can listen to Armed Forces Network Benelux's radio shows in the morning and afternoon for a chance to answer trivia questions and enter a drawing.

Prior to each screening, one contestant from that week's drawing will win a copy of the book corresponding to the movie. Fans are also encouraged to dress up in costumes, Gault added. Before the screening, fans can participate in a costume contest. One lucky winner from each screening will be in a drawing

theater is Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them," said Jackson. "We want to be a part of this community event."

Another parent Cat Harrington came to the screening with her five-year-old son. "We really like Harry Potter, and we haven't seen it [together] on the big screen," said Harrington. "I like the series' message that children are being accepted for being different and can find comradery within their differences."

The remaining screenings are scheduled Tuesdays at 6 p.m. at the SHAPE Cinema from Feb. 13 to Mar. 6 and Mar. 27 to April 10. Admission is €2 per person. For more information, call ACS at DSN 366-6824 or +32(0)6532-6824.

For a chance to enter AFN Benelux's trivia contests, listeners can tune into 107.9 FM (Chièvres), 106.5 FM (SHAPE), 101.7 FM (Brussels), 99.7 FM and 96.9 FM (Tri-Border Area) or AFN360 Internet Radio at www.afneurope.net/Stations/Benelux from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. ♦



Cosplayers pose during a costume contest at the inaugural Eight Nights of Harry Potter event Feb. 6 at the SHAPE Cinema Alliance Auditorium. U.S. Army Garrison Benelux's Army Community Service partnered with American Forces Network Benelux, SHAPE International Library, and SHAPE Morale and Welfare Branch to organize a multi-week Harry Potter themed marathon to boost morale, present family resources to the audience, and use a popular story to bring the SHAPE NATO community together. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Brycen Guerrero)

to win a special prize, which will be given at the final screening on April 10.

Among the crowd during the first event was Army Lt. Col. Amy Jackson, deputy commander for administration for the SHAPE Army Healthcare Clinic, and her daughter Kaitlyn, who is in fifth grade. A huge fan of the series, Kaitlyn began reading the books in second grade and just finished the series this school year.

It was a special night for the mother and daughter duo, since it was their first time seeing the "The Sorcerer's Stone" in a movie theater together.

"Because Kaitlyn is only 10 years old, the only movie we've seen in a



Three children color their Hogwarts house crests during the inaugural Eight Nights of Harry Potter event Feb. 6 at the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) Cinema Alliance Auditorium. U.S. Army Garrison Benelux's Army Community Service partnered with American Forces Network Benelux, SHAPE International Library, and SHAPE Morale and Welfare Branch to organize a multi-week Harry Potter themed marathon to boost morale, present family resources to the audience, and use a popular story to bring the SHAPE NATO community together. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Brycen Guerrero)

Take care of your car during winter months

By Jessica Ryan

USAG Benelux Public Affairs

Experiencing car problems is never easy. Whether it is a dead battery, flat tire, worn-out brakes, bad engine or another part failure, these unexpected issues are hard to deal with especially during the winter months.

However, simple car maintenance can prevent some of those problems.

"The best way to avoid finding yourself stranded, because you need a jump-start, or worse, stranded and facing massive repair bills due to a cracked engine block, is by completing a thorough maintenance check on a regular basis," said Tom Corbitt, the program manager at Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation's Auto Skills Center on Chièvres Air Base, Belgium.

Here are some tips on how to take care of your vehicle during the winter months:

CHECK YOUR TIRES

The dreaded tire pressure monitoring system, or TPMS, light can turn on when the system senses low tire pressure. Some systems may be sensitive during sudden temperature changes. When the light comes on, drivers should immediately check the pressure and then add air as needed to meet the manufacturer's recommended tire pressure. Many gas stations have machines where people can add air to tires for a nominal fee. However, please keep in mind that tire pressure is measured differently in Europe than

in the U.S. While Americans are used to filling tires based on the pounds per square inch, or PSI, Europeans use kilopascals, or kPa, instead. Check your car's owner manual to ensure that you use the right measurements for proper inflation.

It is also important that your car has the right tires for driving in Europe. According to Corbitt, all season radial

either by months or mileage, for when to replace the fluids.

For coolants, Corbitt recommends to use a proper antifreeze mix of half water and half antifreeze. The ratio optimizes the freezing and boiling points of the radiator fluid. Don't put excessive amounts of fluid in the radiator as it won't help with warming the engine quickly.

WARM THE CAR CORRECTLY

During cold days, it may be tempting to start your car and wait for it to warm up as you stay indoors. However, according to Corbitt, this method does not warm the engine efficiently and is frowned upon. Since 2014, leaving the engine running when your car is parked is forbidden in Belgium and violators can receive fines. "The most effective way to warm the engine, and thereby get warm air blowing through the cabin, is to drive the car," said Corbitt.

Another bad habit to avoid is pouring hot water on the car to defrost the windows and windshields. This can result in shattered glass, especially if the window already has a nick or crack in it. Instead, Corbitt recommends covering the windshield with a piece of cardboard, sun shade or an old sheet to provide frost, ice or snow build-up on the car.

"Keep in mind, it is always best to clear all of your windows completely before driving the vehicle for line-of-sight and safety reasons," said Corbitt.

DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE

It is never a good idea to wait until the last minute to get repair work done, especially if someone else is performing the job or if parts need to be ordered in. "The most common issue we see in the Auto Skills Center from a maintenance failure perspective is brakes that have been ignored for far too long," he said. "Generally, these are the same customers requesting brake inspections one or two days prior to leaving on an epic European road trip." As stated above, performing



Jonathan Hopkins checks his car's battery at Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation's Auto Skills Center on Chièvres Air Base, Belgium. The center provides work bays for community members who want to perform repair and maintenance work on their cars. (U.S. Army photo by Jessica Ryan)

tires, which typically display the "M+S" symbol, which stands for mud and snow, on the sidewall are acceptable in all European countries that currently mandate winter tires. Belgium and The Netherlands do not have this rule. However, nearby countries such as Germany and Luxembourg do in addition to other countries in Europe. Specific regions, such as in the mountains, may require actual winter tires or snow chains. As a general rule, this winter-tire requirement lasts from Nov. 1 to the middle of April.

FILL VEHICLE FLUIDS AS NEEDED

Preventative vehicle maintenance, such as checking the fluids, can help you avoid being stranded or having expensive repair bills. The main fluids to check are engine oil, coolant, power steering fluid, brake fluid, transmission fluid and windshield washer fluid. Your car's owner manual should provide timelines,



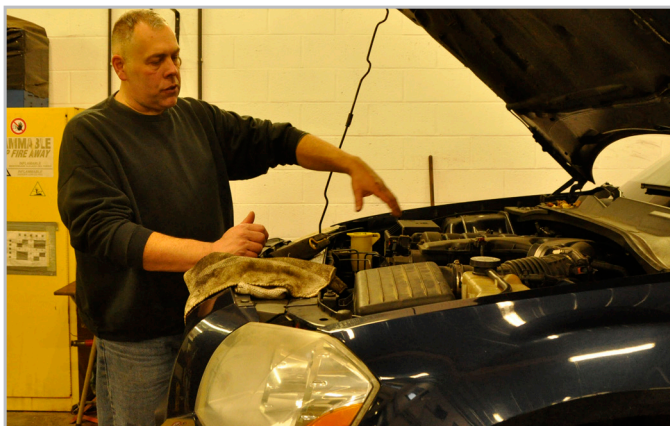
A car is elevated on a work bay at Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation's Auto Skills Center on Chièvres Air Base, Belgium. Community members can use work bays at the center to perform repair and maintenance work on their cars. (U.S. Army photo by Jessica Ryan)

Take care of your car during winter months, continued from page 4

preventative maintenance is key, and parts, such as brakes, should not be neglected.

If you have questions or concerns about your car, the Auto Skills Center staff is there to help. "The staff is always ready to listen, look, evaluate and recommend," said Corbitt. The staff can perform repairs and preventative maintenance work. In addition, people work on their cars by renting work bays, tools, machinery and diagnostic equipment for a nominal fee.

"You have the opportunity to perform maintenance and repair on your privately owned



Tom Corbitt, the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation's Auto Skills Center program manager, shows areas where drivers should look at during maintenance checks while looking at a car at the center on Chièvres Air Base, Belgium. Corbitt recommended that drivers perform regular maintenance checks to sure their cars are running properly. (U.S. Army photo by Jessica Ryan)

vehicles with professional quality tools and equipment in addition to skilled and experienced assistance, out of the weather and for a fraction of what it would cost on the economy to have it done for you," he added.

The Auto Skills Center is located in Bldg. 20186 on Chièvres Air Base. The center is open to all U.S., DOD and NATO cardholders. For more information on the center's hours of operation and services, visit www.chievres.armymwr.com/programs/autoskills or call DSN 361-5796 or +32(0)68-275796. ♦

Scout Sunday Celebrates 108 years of scouting in America

By Cub Scout Pack and Boy Scout Troop 457

Special to the Gazette

Feb. 4 marked the 2018 Boy Scouts of America Scout Sunday, a kickoff event to celebrate 108 years of Scouting in America. Traditionally, this observance is held on the first Sunday prior to Feb. 8, a day that is meant to mark the founding of the scouting movement in the United States.

Services like this were conducted by the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts located around the globe. They offered an opportunity for their congregations to honor scouts and their leaders. In addition, the event highlighted the scouting movement and the value of scouting as a youth program.

Dozens of local scouts and their families from Cub Scout Pack and Boy Scout Troop 457 gathered at the Community Chapel on U.S. Army Garrison Benelux in Brussels to observe the milestone event and Communion Sunday service under the guidance of former Boy Scout, Chaplain Rickey Brunson, and leadership of Elijah Morris, the troop chaplain's aide and first class scout.

Brunson's message of selfless service and sacrifice was purposefully tied to the spirit of the Scout Oath and the 12 tenants of the Scout Law. His powerful message was conveyed through the heroic story of the four chaplains who gave their lives to save fellow service members when their transport ship was torpedoed by a German U-Boat. The story spoke about the importance of helping other people at all times by putting others' needs before self.

In his sermon, Brunson acknowledged that as a Boy Scout, the Scout Oath was instrumental in his personal

decision to become a chaplain and in his commitment to God and service to others.

"Events like this are meant to cause our Scouts and Scouters to reaffirm their commitment to the Scout Oath" said Jerry Beck, the Cub Scout Pack 457 committee chairperson. "I am so thankful for our local community and their continued efforts to support scouting at events like this."

The crowning event marking the 108th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America will be the annual Blue and Gold Banquet on Feb. 21 at 6:30 p.m. at the 3 Star Recreation Center in Brussels. For more information about the local scouting program or attending this event, please email event organizers at cubscoutpack457brussels@gmail.com. ♦



1. Bear Scout Frankie Lichtenstein lights the remembrance candles to open the Scout Sunday service. 2. Scouts and Scout Leaders from Cub Scout Pack and Boy Scout Troop 457 pause for a post Scout Sunday photo. (U.S. Army photos by Jerry Beck)

African-American WWI 'Harlem Hell Fighters' proved their mettle, patriotism in combat

By Col. Richard Goldenberg
New York National Guard

When the African American National Guard Soldiers of New York's 15th Infantry Regiment arrived in France in December 1917, they expected to conduct combat training and enter the trenches of the Western Front right away. They could not have been more wrong.

The black troops were ordered to unload supply ships at the docks for their first months in France, joining the mass of supply troops known as stevedores, working long hours in the port at St. Nazaire.

More than 380,000 African Americans served in the Army during World War I, according to the National Archives. Approximately 200,000 of these were sent to Europe.

But more than half of those who deployed were assigned to labor and stevedore battalions, assigned to tasks that many Army leaders saw as most appropriate.

These troops performed essential duties for the American Expeditionary Force, building roads, bridges, and trenches in support of the front-line battles.

In St. Nazaire, the New York National Guard Soldiers learned they would work to prepare the docks and rail lines to be a major port of entry for the hundreds



U.S. Army African American Soldiers of the 369th Infantry Regiment learn from French mentors in trench warfare in an undated photo during WWI. The 369th Infantry, an all-Black combat unit, served with distinction under French command in WWI and received the nickname 'Hell Fighters of Harlem' from their German enemies. (Courtesy photo)

of thousands of forces yet to arrive in France.

The African American regiment was a quick and easy source of labor, according to author Stephen Harris in his 2003 book, "Harlem's Hell Fighters."

"First, Pershing would have a source of cheap labor," Harris wrote. "Second, he wouldn't have to worry about what to do with black Soldiers, particularly when he might have to mix them in with white troops."

But officers, leaders and the combat Soldiers had not signed up for labor. They were committed to fighting the Germans and winning the war.

"They had no place to put the regiment," said infantry Capt. Hamilton Fish, according to the Harris book. "They weren't going to put us in a white division, not in 1917, anyway; so our troops were sent in to the supply and services as laborers to lay railroad tracks. This naturally upset our men tremendously."

The regiment's best advocate was their commander, Col. William Hayward.

"It was time for us to try to do something towards extricating ourselves from the dirty mess of pick-swinging and wheel barrel trundling that we were in," Hayward had said to Capt. Arthur Little, commander of the regimental band, according to Jeffrey Sammons in his 2014 book "Harlem's Rattlers and the Great War."



African American stevedores in an undated photo during WWI. African American supply and services units provided a great amount of labor for the arriving American Expeditionary Forces in France in 1917-18. They would be joined by the African American 369th Infantry Regiment, formerly the National Guard's 15th New York Infantry. The 369th arrived in France in December 1917 and initially served as a labor force to improve the port of St. Nazaire, France for follow on forces. The infantry regiment would not move on to prepare for combat operations until March 1918. (Courtesy photo)

African American History Month, continued from page 6

"We had come to France as combat troops, and, apparently, we were in danger of becoming labor troops," Hayward said.

Hayward argued his case in a letter to General Pershing, outlining the regiments' mobilization and training, and followed up immediately with a personal visit to Pershing's headquarters.

He would bring with him the regiment's most formidable weapon in swaying opinion: the regimental band, lauded as one of the finest in the entire Expeditionary Force.

While the regiment literally laid the tracks for the arrival of the two million troops deploying to France, the regimental band toured the region, performing for French and American audiences at rest centers and hospitals. The 369th Band was unlike any other performance audiences had seen or heard before, noted Harris. The regimental band is credited with introducing jazz music to France during the war.

The military band would frequently perform a French march, followed by traditional band scores such as John Philip Sousa's "Stars and Stripes Forever."

"And then came the fireworks," said Sgt. Noble Sissle,

weeks of combat training.

They also learned they had a new regimental number as the now-renamed 369th Infantry Regiment. Not that it mattered much to the Soldiers; they still carried their nickname from New York, the Black Rattlers, and carried their regimental flag of the 15th New York Infantry everywhere they went in France.

While the 369th Infantry would become part of the U.S. Army's 92nd Infantry Division, it would be assigned to fight with French forces. This solved the dilemma for Pershing and the American Expeditionary Forces of what to do with the African-American troops.

The black troops would see combat, but alongside French forces, who were already accustomed to the many races and ethnicities already serving in the ranks of their colonial troops.

"The French army instructors literally welcomed their African American trainees as comrades in arms," Sammons wrote. "To the pragmatic French army instructors, the Soldiers were Americans, black Americans, to be trained for combat within their ranks. The trainees clearly excelled at their tasks."

After learning valuable lessons in trench warfare from their French partners, the Soldiers of the 369th finally had their chance to prove their worth as combat troops when they entered the front lines, holding their line against the last German spring offensive near Chateau-Thierry.

Their value was not lost on the French, and the regiment continued to fight alongside French forces, participating in the Aisne-Marne counter offensive in the summer of 1918 alongside the French 162nd Infantry Division.

The Hell Fighters from Harlem had come into their own, in spite of their difficult start.

The regiment would go on to prove itself in combat operations throughout the rest of the war, receiving the French highest honor, the Croix de Guerre, for its unit actions, alongside some 171 individual decorations for heroism.

February is African American History Month. U.S. Army Garrison Benelux leaders and community

members are joining the Army and nation in celebrating the tremendous contributions of African-American Soldiers, civilians and family members. On Feb. 15, a special event will held at the SHAPE Cinema from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. To learn more about this event, call DSN 423-8369 or DSN 361-5235. ♦



Soldiers of the 369th Infantry Regiment man a trench in France during World War I. The Signal Corps photograph collection includes every major aspect of the U.S. Army involvement in WWI. (Courtesy photo)

band vocalist and organizer, in the Harris account, as the 369th Band would play as if they were in a jazz club back in Harlem.

After some three months of labor constructing nearby railways to move supplies forward, the Soldiers learned that they had orders to join the French 16th Division for three

Proper Dietary Habits Vital for Children's Oral Health

By Capt. Nathan Persell
SHAPE Dental Clinic

Children's Dental Health Month is observed throughout February. The American Dental Association's slogan for the 2018 national health campaign is "Brush Your Teeth with Fluoride Toothpaste and Clean Between Your Teeth for a Healthy Smile." The purpose is to highlight the importance of proper dental care and teaching children good oral health habits.

Children have wide array of food choices. Walking down a super market aisle can be intimidating due to the wide variety of available foods. From fresh fruits and vegetables to processed and packaged foods and soft drinks, each of these products can significantly affect oral health.

More often than not, it's the non-nutritional foods that are conveniently packed, cheaper and quick-and-easy meals. Plus, the marketing firms have figured out ways to attract consumers. Dress up the food packaging with bright colors or have a child's favorite television star be a spokesperson for the product. The pressure for a parent to buy grows exponentially.

Besides, kids know what tastes good. Generally, the first two ingredients in anything a child picks out for themselves is corn syrup and High Fructose corn syrup, code words for sugar. Parents need to remember that they are the ultimate say in what their children are eating.

When it comes to avoiding cavities, there may be something even more important to avoid than those sugar-laden convenience foods: the sugar-laden beverages. The average teenage boy in the U.S. consumes 81 gallons of soft drinks each year. That's almost three 2-liter bottles each week! Sugar alone cannot cause cavities. It's only when bacteria break down the sugar

into acid that the teeth start to corrode or demineralize. Typical soft drinks are high in both acidity and sugar content and therefore become a double-edge sword. Even the parents who minimize their children's soft-drink intake are not off the

hook. Many sports drinks and juices contain just as much sugar and acid as those soft drinks and can be disguised as good sources of nourishment.

While the type and quantity of sugar our children consume makes up a big piece of the puzzle, the last variable is how often these "sugar exposures" occur. Even if the overall consumption is low in volume, a child who frequently sips on sugary drinks or eats starchy snacks has greater risk of cavities. This "grazing" habit can have a real adverse effect on oral health.

The American Dental Association recommends the following hints to reduce your children's risk of tooth decay:

- Sugary foods and drinks should be consumed with meals. Saliva production increases during meals and helps neutralize acid production and rinse food particles from the mouth.
- Limit between-meal snacks. If kids crave a snack, offer them nutritious foods.
- If your kids chew gum, make it sugarless. Chewing sugarless gum after eating can increase saliva flow and help wash out food and decay-producing acid.
- Monitor beverage consumption. Instead of soft drinks,

sports drinks and juice all day, children should also choose water and low-fat milk.

- Help your children develop good brushing and flossing habits.
- Schedule regular dental visits.

Let's face the fact that children are going to eat and drink sugar. The questions remain how much sugar, what types of sugar and how often the sugar exposures occur. Are our children getting the nutritious foods that they need? Parents, it's up to you to lay the foundation now for a lifetime of healthy eating



Help your children develop good brushing and flossing habits. (Courtesy photo)

habits and proper oral health.

Army Capt. Nathan Persell is a general dentist at the dental clinic in the SHAPE Healthcare Facility. To learn more about their services, visit <http://rhce.amedd.army.mil/SHAPE>. ♦

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.
- **First quarter Joint Top III Scholarship Award Contest** - The Joint Top III and Andrews Federal Credit Union are offering a scholarship to Brussels active-duty enlisted service members and enlisted spouses who are currently enrolled in an associates, bachelor, or master's degree program at an accredited college or university. Award of the scholarship will be based on a specific essay topic writing contest. The essay must be two pages with 1-inch margins on all sides, double spaced, original work, Arial Font size 10-12, with references included. The topic is "How have you recovered from a past mistake, challenge or disappointment? What happened, were you responsible for this action, and what did you learn?" The deadline for essay submissions is Feb. 28. The NATO Joint Top III Association will board the submissions, determine the eligibility, acceptability and quality of the entries, and announce a winner in March. One award of \$150 will be offered. Please send your email essay or questions at antonio.gonzalez22.mil@mail.mil or mocerino.robert@hq.nato.int.



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. 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 *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. 15

- **3 Star Dinner Special " All You Can Eat Taco Bar"** - Starts at 5:30 p.m. Cost is \$11 for adults and \$5 for children. Reservations are required by Feb. 13 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."

Closures

- **Brunssum Post Office** - The Brunssum Post Office Finance Window will be closed Feb. 12 and 13. People will not be able to mail out packages or purchase stamps or money orders. This closure will allow the post office to pick up mail earlier at Schinnen before the roads close for the Carnaval Parade. Mail pick-up services will not be affected. The Finance Window will reopen Feb. 14. If you have any questions, call DSN 360-7273 or +31 (0)46-4437273.
- **IACS** - The IACS Office in the Schinnen MP Building will be closed Feb. 9 starting at noon and Feb. 12 all day.
- **LRC Office** - The Logistics Readiness center offices at Schinnen will be closed all day for quarterly Stand down Feb. 15. For more information call DSN 360-7481 or +31 (0)46-4437481.

UMUC Student Appreciation Scholarship

- University of Maryland University College Europe on Schinnen offers 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.

Through Mar. 16

- **CYS Baseball Season Registration** - The baseball season will run from Apr. 21 to Jun. 2. Practice begins Apr. 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 Apr. 21 to Jun. 2. Practice begins Apr. 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. 11-13

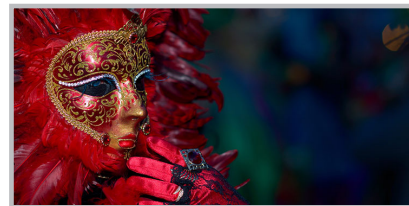
- **Carnaval at Schinnen** - Shops in Limburg and parts of Germany will close while pubs and bars will stay open until at least 3 a.m. The streets will overflow with Carnaval revelers and parades. If held up by a parade, don't try to cut through the revelry. Be careful and remain vigilant when in a large crowd or gathering. If



en-route to USAG Benelux in Schinnen and a parade is in progress, park the car and enjoy the festivities. Remember to be safe and don't drink and drive! The parades in Schinnen are Feb. 12 and 13 between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. and will delay access and exit to and from the base during that time!

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)45-5263121 or 31 (0)45-5262023.



- **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)45-5263121 or +31 (0)45-5262023.

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. 15-16

- **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.
- **Winter Break Fun** - Come to the Schinnen Bowling Center from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fun includes Cosmic Bowling, Indoor Wall Climbing (10 a.m. to 3 p.m.), Bouncy Castles, basketball shoot, corn-hole and much more. Cost is \$5 per person. Tickets can be purchased on the event days at the Schinnen Bowling Center. For more information, call DSN 360-7560 or +31 (0)46-4437560 or usarmy.schinnen.id-europe.list.dfmwr-crd@mail.mil.

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.** Call DSN 360-7620 or +31 (0)46-4437620 or email schinnen-europe@umuc.edu.

Mar. 2

- **UMUC on-site advising** - Visit an advisor from the University of Maryland University College for on-site advising. Meet an advisor on base on Tuesday, Mar. 2 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Schinnen Education Center and from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Brunssum Library. For an appointment, contact the Schinnen Education Center at DSN 360-7620 or +31 (0)46-4437620 on Mondays-Fridays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or email to schinnen-europe@umuc.edu. Spaces are limited so schedule your appointment now.

Apr. 14

- **Pickleball** - It is a paddle sport (similar to a racquet sport) that combines elements of badminton, tennis,

and table tennis created for all ages and skill levels. Visit the Schinnen Andre Bruls Fitness Center for more details, give it a try, and sign up for the upcoming "Couples" Pickleball Challenge on Apr. 14. For more information call DSN 360-7561 or +31 (0)46-4437561.

SHAPE/CHIÈVRES COMMUNITY

See also page 9 in "All Communities"

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.

Through April 10

- **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, April 3 and April 10.

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.

- 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**
- Amsterdam, Netherlands, **Mar. 24**
- 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**
- Kevin Hart Comedy Tour in Antwerp, **Aug. 25**

Schinnen Trips & Tours

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

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

Discover Belgium: the Carnival of Binche

By Stéphanie Borrell-Verdu

USAG Benelux Public Affairs

You have probably already heard about the Carnival of Binche, one of the most famous Belgian celebrations. Each year, it draws thousands of tourists from all over the world to the Walloon city of Binche. The festival happens three days before Ash Wednesday. This year, it will occur from Feb. 11 to 13.

This unique carnival, which includes stunning costumes and folkloric traditions such as the throwing of oranges, is more than a festival and party to the people of Binche. It was recognized by the UNESCO as a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity in 2003.

Even though Carnival of Binche's exact origins are uncertain, the first written record of the celebration dates back to the 14th century. Things changed very little since that time, proving that one of the main aspects of this Carnival is the tradition.

More than a thousand inhabitants of Binche dress up as one of the four characters involved in the festival: The Peasants, the Harlequins, the Pierrots and the Gilles. The central figures are the Gilles, who wear a spectacular costume decorated with red, black and yellow symbols of lions, crowns and stars. They also don a white-filly collar, a white head covering, and have yellow bells attached to their costumes. They wear wooden clogs and will, during different stages of the street party, wear a mask and a magnificent feathered hat. Every male from Binche can become a Gille regardless of his age but needs to keep in mind that it is a lifelong commitment. As for females, they can become one of the three other characters involved in the process, and the Gilles' wives also play a major role in the Carnival.

On Sunday, the 13 societies take part in the Carnival parade in the streets of Binche at 3 p.m. They are accompanied by drums and brass instruments as they show off their impressive costumes that they have secretly been working on for months, if not years. This explosion of colors and sounds will amaze you, and it is just the beginning.

On Monday, a confetti battle between local children in the town square starts at 10 a.m. After that battle, the colorfully costumed children perform a dance at 4 p.m. and fireworks close out the joyful day at 7 p.m.

The three-day festival reaches its climax on Shrove Tuesday. The day starts at dawn, with one of the most important parts of the festival: the dressing of the Gilles, during which each Gille puts on his straw-stuffed costume with the help of family members. In the meantime, the leader of each "society" goes from one house to another to collect members of his groups. According to the tradition, Gilles have to drink a glass of champagne at each stop. A drummer accompanies each society during the whole process, and all the characters shuffle-dance through the streets to the drumbeat.

Once every society finishes, the Gilles parade on the streets with a bunch of willow twigs that they shake to ward off evil spirits. During this process, they wear sinister-looking porcelain masks with a Napoleon III-like moustache and green glasses. Then, each society enters the town hall and is honored as the mayor gives them medals. At 3 p.m., the famous procession of the oranges starts, during which the Gilles remove their masks and put on their ostrich-feathered hats that can be up to 35.4 inches (90 centimeters) and 6.6 pounds (3 kilograms).

During the procession of the oranges, all four characters parade one more time on the street, but this time they are throwing or passing oranges. Stay alert if you do not want to be hit by one. Nevertheless, it is important to know that catching or being hit by an orange brings good luck, and that refusing one, or sending it back, is considered as a grave insult. At 8 p.m., the last "rondeau," in which the Gilles dance in a huge circle, is performed on the Grand Place. The day and the festival officially end with fireworks starting around 9 p.m., but not entirely, as they are followed by a huge party in the town square late into the night.

It is better to arrive early to find a place to park your car, but extra trains will run to and from Binche during the Carnival. It is also important to know that hotels in and around Binche are usually full during the festivities, so it is better to book far in advance. Finally, keep in mind that there could be some changes to the schedule due to weather conditions, because the Gilles feathered hats are too precious to be ruined by Belgian weather!

The Carnival of Binche is a must-see for anyone who loves colorful and culturally rich events. It is an explosion of colors and sounds that adults and children will enjoy. For more information about the event, visit www.carnavaldebinche.be/accueil.html. ♦



The stunning costumes, unchanged in centuries, are decorated with red, black and yellow symbols of lions, crowns and stars, topped off with white frilly collars and a white head covering. A red and yellow belt with bells attached and wooden clogs complete the outfit. (U.S. Army photo by Tim Clark)

Carnivals in Belgium, continued from page 13

From fries, waffles and beer to costumes, parades and beer!

By Stéphanie Borrell-Verdu
USAG Benelux Public Affairs

Carnival is deeply rooted in the Belgian culture. Even though the most famous is the one in Binche, Belgium is also home to numerous other worth-visiting carnivals. Carnival is not only the perfect time to have fun, but it is also the perfect time to try some delicious regional specialties, such as the Baiser de Malmedy and the Pets-de-nonne. Just like every other Belgian celebration, Carnival is also a great time to have some of the best Belgian beers! Here is a list of the most famous Belgian Carnivals:

Malmedy

When: Feb. 10 to 13

Where: Place Albert I, 4960 Malmedy

The Carnival of Malmedy, also known as the "Cwarmê," has been recognized as Immaterial Heritage of the Wallonia-Brussels community and is spread into four days of fun. This year, Malmedy will celebrate its 560th edition! The celebrations start at 9 a.m. on Shrove Saturday with a parade of the "Grosse police" (fat police), but the Cwarmê reaches the main event at 2 p.m. on Shrove Sunday with all of the characters parading and dancing through the streets. The parade will start from Malmedy's "Place de Rome." The Huguêtes, which are the principle characters of the Carnival, play a major role in the parade. They are then burned at 7 p.m. on Tuesday at the "Place Abert 1er," marking the end of the Carnival.

Don't worry if you don't understand everything said during the Cwarmê as people will speak in a local Walloon dialect. It won't prevent you from enjoying the festival! For more information, visit www.malmedy.be/fr/Tourisme/folklore-et-carnaval/le-carnaval/programme-2018.html.

Dinant

When: Feb. 15

Where: Esplanade du centre culturel, Rue Grande 37 5500, Dinant

The Carnival of Dinant is not as ancient as the others, its 12th edition will be held this year on Feb. 15. The "Guinguet," the "Cafonnette" and the "Cheval Bayard," the famous giants of Dinant, will start their parade at 2 p.m. at the Cultural Center of Dinant. The funniest part of the Carnival is that you can disguise yourself and take part in the wheel barrow decorating contest! For more information, call +32(0)82-710124.

Stavelot

When: Mar. 10 to 12

Where: Different streets in Stavelot

The 516th edition of the Carnival of Stavelot, also known as "The Laetare of Stavelot," will be held Mar. 10

to 12. This famous Carnival includes fireworks, confetti, light shows and other fun festivities! The most important day is Sunday. A huge parade involving more than 2,000 local participants and beautiful floats takes place at 2 p.m. and one of the biggest fireworks shows in the region is held at 9 p.m. The "Blanc moussis" are the traditional icons of the Carnival. They wear a white dress and don carrot-nosed masks, parodying 15th century monks who were forbidden from the Carnival. For more information, visit www.laetare-stavelot.be.

Tournai

When: Mar. 9 to 11

Where: On different streets in Tournai (Place Crombez, Place de Lille, Rue de la Madeleine, Avenue des États-Unis)

What makes the Carnival of Tournai special is that it has a different theme each year. This year's theme will be "Drôle de biête" (weird creatures). The festival starts on Friday night with the Nuit des Intrigues, a light and sound show, but the Carnival itself starts on Saturday, with all the different "brotherhoods" wearing magnificent costumes and parading through the streets of the city.

Children will enjoy the launch of balloons at 5 p.m. on Saturday and the throwing of Pichous, traditional biscuits, from the Belfry at 6 p.m. After the biscuits are thrown, the 'Carnival King' is burned, while children dance around a bonfire to the sound of drums. A masquerade is then held at the Halle aux Draps at 10 p.m. on Saturday. For more information, call +32(0)69-766526 or email asbl@carnavaldetournai.be.

Andenne

When: Mar. 11

Where: Different streets in Andenne

The Carnival of Andenne, also called The Carnival of Bears, was created in 1954 and celebrates the legend on a young boy who was rumored to have killed a bear that was terrorizing the city with his bare hands. During this event, more than 500 "bears," which have become the mascots of the town, parade through the streets of Andenne led by the giant bears Fonzi, Martin II and Martel. The parade starts at 2 p.m. and tons of confetti and sweets are thrown into the air.

The parade ends at the end of the afternoon at the "Place des Tilleuls," where the recently elected Carnival King and Queen throw hundreds of tiny toy bears from the balcony of the town hall. The Carnival of Andenne is a great event, especially for those with young children. For more information, email elce1954@hotmail.com. ♦



Parades in Belgium

Special to the Gazette

Be prepared to have a very festive time! In the coming weeks, many carnivals and parades will take place in Belgium. Here is a first list for the month of February. March events will be listed in another Gazette.

Friday Feb. 9:

- Children's parade in As starts at 12:45 p.m.
- Children's parade in Bree starts at 1:33 p.m.
- Children's parade in Genk starts at 1:33 p.m.
- Children's parade in Lokeren starts at 2:11 p.m.
- Children's parade in Mesen starts at 1:33 p.m.
- Parade in Oostende starts at 2 p.m.
- Parade in Ophoven starts at 2:11 p.m.
- Children's parade in Opwijk starts at 1:33 p.m.
- Children's parade in Steendorp starts at 2:11 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 10:

- Illuminated parade Brakel starts 7:30 p.m.
- Genk starts at 2:11 p.m.
- Oostende starts at 2 p.m.
- Ophoven starts at 2:11 p.m.
- Sint Huibrechts-Lille starts at 2:11 p.m.
- Children's parade in Sint-Truiden starts at 3:11 p.m.
- Steendorp starts at 2:33 p.m.
- Teuven starts at 2:11 p.m.
- Tienen starts at 2:11 p.m.
- Children's parade in Tongeren starts at 2:33 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 11:

- Aalst starts at 1 p.m.
- Baarle-Hertog starts at 1:11 p.m.
- Baasrode starts at 2:11 p.m.
- Blankenberge starts at 2:33 p.m.
- De Klinge starts at 3:11 p.m.
- Eisden near Maasmechelen starts 2:33 p.m.
- Eksel starts at 2:11 p.m.
- Essen starts 1:49 p.m.
- Hamont starts at 3:11 p.m.
- Hamont-Achel starts 2:11 p.m.

- Heist starts at 2:33 p.m.
- Herenthout starts 1:30 p.m.
- Kanne (Riemst) starts 2:33 p.m.
- Kaulille starts at 2:11 p.m.
- Kinrooi starts 2:11 p.m.
- Lanaken starts 2:11 p.m.
- Lokeren starts 3:33 p.m.
- Lommel starts 2:11 p.m.
- Lummen starts at 2:11 p.m.
- Maaseik starts 2:11 p.m.
- Maldegem starts 3:30 p.m.
- Illuminated parade Maldegem starts at 7:30 p.m.
- Moerzeke starts 2:11 p.m.
- Illuminated parade Neerpelt starts 7:33 p.m.
- Oostduinkerke starts at 2:33 p.m.
- Opglabeeke starts 2:11 p.m.
- Tielrode starts at 2:11 p.m.
- Tongeren starts 2:33 p.m.
- Vilvoorde starts at 2:33 p.m.
- Vosselaar starts 1:40 p.m.
- Vroenhoven starts 2:33 p.m.
- Children's parade in Weelde starts at 1:30 p.m.
- Zichem starts 2:30 p.m.
- Zonhoven starts 2:11 p.m.
- Zwevezele starts at 3:11 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 12:

- Aalst starts 1:45 p.m.
- Bocholt starts 2:11 p.m.
- Genoelselderen starts 3:11 p.m.
- Kermt starts 2:11 p.m.
- Lutlommel starts 2:11 p.m.
- Moelingen starts 2:11 p.m.
- Molenbeersel near Kinrooi starts at 2:11 p.m.
- Rekem near Lanaken starts 2:11 p.m.
- Sint-Truiden starts 2:11 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 13:

- Blankenberge starts 3 p.m.
- Children's parade in Diest starts at 2:33 p.m.
- 's Gravenvoeren starts at 2:33 p.m.
- Clown Parade in Maaseik starts at 8:11 p.m.
- Smeermaas starts at 3:11 p.m.
- Illuminated parade Wellen starts 7:33 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 21:

- In Oostduinkerke, Children's

parade starts at 1:33 P.M.

Saturday, Feb. 24:

- Children's parade Borgloon starts at 2:11 p.m.
- Heers starts 2:11 p.m.
- Heusden starts 2:11 p.m.
- Kraainem starts at 2:33 p.m.
- Rukkelingen-Loon starts at 2:11 p.m.
- Uikhoven starts 2:11 p.m.
- Zeebrugge starts 2:33 p.m.
- Sunday, Feb. 25.
- As starts 2:33 p.m.
- Assenede starts 2:11 p.m.
- Bilzen starts 1:30 p.m.
- Borgloon starts 2:11 p.m.
- Dendermonde starts 2:11 p.m.
- Elversele starts 2:33 p.m.
- Kessenich (Kinrooi) starts 2:11 p.m.
- Lede starts 3:11 p.m.
- Ninove starts 3:11 p.m.
- Opggrimbie near Maasmechelen starts 2:11 p.m.
- Overpelt starts 2:11 p.m.
- Rotem near Dilsen starts 2:11 p.m.
- Schoonderboken starts 2:11 p.m.
- Sint Martens-Voeren starts 2:11 p.m.
- Wortel starts 2:33 p.m.
- Wijnegem starts at 3:11 p.m. ♦



In Genk, the city centre will once again be heaving with young people taking part in Genk's annual children's carnival parade. It's one of the largest in Limburg (Courtesy photo)



Read about events near Chièvres, SHAPE and Brussels.

Feb. 10

- **Crazy Carnival in Mons** - A marching band will play in the streets. There will be also mascots, street artists, balloons, activities for children, sweets and lots more. Held on Rue de la Chaussée and Grand-Rue from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Free entry.
- **Classic clubbing in Brussels** - During this evening, Beethoven's music meets electronic music. The Belgian National Orchestra, with 45 musicians, will perform with renowned DJ Simon LeSaint (SLS). The concert will start at 9:30 p.m. Held at Bloody Louis, on Avenue Louise, 32. Entry: €20.
- **Flea Market in Koekelberg** - Held on Boulevard Léopold II featuring 100 booths from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Feb. 10-11

- **Comic Con in Brussels** - Fans will find dealers, artists, actors and comics, games, films, collectibles, TV series, clothes, toys gadgets and more. Special guests include: Seth Gilliam from The Walking Dead, Dean Cain from Lois&Clark: The New Adventures of Superman, Jeremy Bulloch from Star Wars, Nichelle Nichols from the original Star Trek, John-Rhys Davies from Lord Of The Rings and many others. Admission ranges from €12 to €80. The event is open Saturday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Held at Tour & Taxis on Havenlaan 86c.

Feb. 11

- **Love Bugs Parade in Brussels** - The 10th anniversary of the Love Bugs Parade will take place Feb. 11, 2018 in front of Autoworld Brussels. The parade gathers an impressive groupe of modern and classic VW Beetles. Enjoy the VW atmosphere from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Afterwards, the cars will start the rally through Brussels until 6 p.m. Held on Parc du Cinquantenaire, 11. For more information, call +32 (0)2-7364165. Free entry.
- **Volksmarch in Meslin-l'Évêque for 5, 10, 15 or 20 km** - Departs the school on Rue Centrale, 13 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Quevaucamps for 5, 10 or 20 km** - Departs Rue de Tournai, 103 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Flea Market in Anderlecht** - Held on Boulevard Sylvain Dupuis (Shopping Westland) featuring 300 booths from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- **Flea Market in Woluwe-Saint-Pierre** - Held on Rue René Declercq, 20 (Colruyt) featuring 120 booths from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Feb. 14

- **Valentine's Day at the Hard Rock Cafe** - Candlelight, decorations, live acoustic music (from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.) and a three-course menu. Entry is €75 per couple. Reservations are recommended. Call +32(0)2-5461660.



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

Feb. 9-11

- **Asia in Antwerp (BE)** - Held at Waagnatie on Rijnkaai, 150 with several Asian activities such as the Chinese Lion Dance, Ninjas, acrobats, and more. Entry is €15. Open from noon to 9 p.m.
- **Kampeer (camping) & Outdoor in Gorinchem** - Held at Evenementenhal on Franklinweg, 2 in Gorinchem. Open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Object Rotterdam** - Held in the HAKA building and the Rotterdam Euromast on Vierhavensstraat, 38-42. Open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Entry: €12.50, and free for children under age 12.

Feb. 9-14

- **Boot Holland in Leeuwarden** - A fair for water sports enthusiasts held at WTC Expo on Heliconweg, 52. This attractive fair has many boats and ships on display as well as all kind of accessories, navigation apparatus, clothes, etc. For more information, visit www.boot-holland.nl.

Feb. 10

- **Reception of the Maastricht Prince Carnaval and his retinue** - Held at the city's train station at 1:11 p.m. At 1:55 p.m., they will march to the Market Square where the Prince will lay a wreath at the statue of "t Mooswief" (Cabbage Woman).
- **Moto Retro Wieze (BE)** - A large indoor fair with everything about motor bikes from the past. Held in Oktoberhallen on Schroverstraat, 18. Open both days from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Entry is €10, and children age 12 and younger have free entrance.

Feb. 10-18

- **Belgian Boat Show in Gent (BE)** - A fair for water sports and recreation. Held at Flanders Expo on Maaltekouter, 1. Open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Feb. 16 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Entry: €15.

Feb. 11

- **Military Fair in Antwerp** - Held at Antwerp Expo on Jan van Rijswijcklaan, 191 with sale of uniforms, helmets, accessories, medals and more. Open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Entry is €6.
- **Swan Market in Utrecht** - A lifestyle event with a large market. There is also live music and a food court. Held at Werkspoorkathedraal on Tractieweg, 41. Open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Entry: €2.

Feb. 12

- **Carnaval brass band contest in Sittard** - Held at 3 p.m. on the Market Square.
- **"Rosenmontag Zug" in Germany** - Aachen, Cologne, Düsseldorf and other cities in Germany stage parades. They all start around noon.

Feb. 12-18

- **ABN AMRO World Tennis Tournament in Rotterdam** - Held at AHOY with several top players. For more information, go to www.abnamrowtt.nl/en.

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.

Outside the Gate



Antoing-Tournai Vaulx (E42): Road construction began Feb. 6 on E42 in Antoing-Tournai Vaulx, in the direction of Mons. Work is scheduled to be completed by Feb. 14.



Mons/The Ring (A7): Until Friday, 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.



Brussels: Be patient if you are driving on Boulevard de la Woluwe (R22). Traffic is reduced to one lane, and there is road congestion. 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. Work is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year. Since Jan. 27, the Reyers-Meiser tunnel is closed in the direction of Meiser for three months.



Tubize-Engghien (A8): Pay attention if you are driving from Brussels. There is still road congestion on E429 (A8) between Tubize and Engghien in the direction of Tournai. 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 Daussoulx 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.

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.