

THE GAZETTE

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

Benelux News Briefs

Presidents' Day

U.S. Army Garrison Benelux will observe Presidents' Day on Monday, Feb. 19. Some offices and facilities may be closed or have reduced hours of operation in observance of the holiday. Check the USAG Benelux Facebook (www.facebook.com/USAGBenelux) for an updated list of closures.

Free Wi-Fi at PX

Free Wi-Fi will be available at the Chièvres Exchange Mall starting Friday, Feb. 16.

TASP Rodeo

The Total Army Sponsorship Program Rodeo will be held Feb. 23 at the Community Activity Center on Chièvres Air Base. For more details, see page 10.

Absentee Ballots

To vote in the 2018 State Primaries and General Election, U.S. citizens overseas must register for an absentee ballot. To view registration deadlines in your state and get more information on election dates, go to www.fvap.gov. For local assistance, please call DSN 366-6192 or +32(0)65-326192.

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Commemorating WWII heroes in Belgium

Air Force Lt. Col. Craig Lindstrom, commander of the 424th Air Base Squadron, joined the members of the Duty of Memory association to pay tribute to the crew members of the U.S. B-17 flying fortress long-range bomber, nicknamed "Susan Ruth," crash in Macquenoise, Belgium, during World War II. (U.S. Army photo by Julie Piron)

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Transition Summits to connect Soldiers with U.S. and Europe-based employers

By Anne Fugate

USAG Bavaria Transition Services

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation's Hiring Our Heroes program will sponsor two transition summits in Europe during March.

The first will be held at U.S. Army Garrison Bavaria, March 26 to 27, and the other at USAG Rheinland-Pfalz, March 28 to 29.

The summits are free and open to active-duty service members, Guard and Reserve, veterans and military spouses.

The Hiring Our Heroes program launched in March 2011 as a nationwide initiative to help veterans, transitioning service members, and military spouses find meaningful employment opportunities, according to their website. The program has held over 1,000 hiring events and helped more than 30,000 veterans and military spouses find jobs.

The summits at Bavaria and Kaiserslautern feature employment workshops, town hall-style panel discussions, networking receptions and career fairs -- all aimed at helping transitioning service members, veterans and their spouses find meaningful employment.

The transition summit at USAG Bavaria takes place at the Multipurpose Facility, Bldg. 134, on Rose Barracks. The current schedule includes the following:

MARCH 26

- 8:30 -- 9 a.m.: Registration
- 9 a.m. -- 4 p.m.: Afterburner Military Transition Seminar
- 9 a.m. -- 2 p.m.: MOAA Military Spouse Employment Symposium
- 4 -- 6 p.m.: Networking Reception

MARCH 27

- 8:00 -- 8:30 a.m.: Registration
- 8:30 -- 11 a.m.: Workshops and panel discussions for job seekers
- 11 a.m. -- 2 p.m.: Industry briefings
- 2 -- 5 p.m.: Hiring Fair



Transitioning Soldiers talk with employers and other career-related organizations during the Transition Summit at U.S. Army Garrison Bavaria. The 2018 European Theater Transition Summit will be held at U.S. Army Garrison Bavaria, March 26 to 27, and the other at USAG Rheinland-Pfalz, March 28 to 29. (U.S. Army photo)

The summit at USAG Rheinland-Pfalz takes place at Armstrong's Club, Bldg. 1036, Vogelweh Housing. The current schedule includes the following:

MARCH 28

- 8:30 -- 9 a.m.: Registration
- 9 a.m. -- 4 p.m.: Afterburner Military Transition Seminar
- 9 a.m. -- 2 p.m.: Military Spouse Employment Symposium
- 4 -- 6 p.m.: Networking Reception

MARCH 29

- 8:00 -- 8:30 a.m.: Registration
- 8:30 -- 11 a.m.: Workshops and panel discussions for job seekers
- 11 a.m. -- 2 p.m.: Industry briefings
- 2 -- 5 p.m.: Hiring Fair

The two summits are being hosted in partnership with Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Labor, U.S. Department of Defense, the Army and the Air Force. Summit organizers ask attendees to register online prior to the event at www.uschamberfoundation.org/event/germany-transition-summit. ♦

To submit or subscribe, email usarmy.benelux.id-europe.list.pao@mail.mil

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Crossage

Feb. 14, 2018

1. Army Staff Sgt. David Tovar is acknowledged as the Vice King of Crossage 2018 during a reception at the city hall in Chièvres, Belgium. He won his title by playing crossage in Vaudignies during the Soumonces.
 2. Bruno Lefebvre, Mayor of Chièvres, and the Crossage committee are talking to the participants during a reception at the Chièvres city hall before start of the event.
 3. Army Col. Kurt Connell, garrison commander for U.S. Army Garrison Benelux, gets ready to hit the chôtelette, or wooden ball, with his rabot, or mallet, during the game. The object of crossage is to hit the beer keg with the least amount of turns.
 4. Participants pose with their decorated rabots and chôtelettes before they play the game. The group included local residents as well as Americans from the USAG Benelux and SHAPE communities who wanted to experience the neighboring town's annual tradition. (U.S. Army photos by Julie Piron).

Belgium, U.S. involvement in World War I

By **Stéphanie Borrell-Verdu**
USAG Benelux Public Affairs

This year marks the centennial of the end of World War I. On this anniversary, it is important to understand the involvement of Belgium in the Great War as well as the consequences that the conflict had on its population.

GERMAN OCCUPATION

Belgium had been a neutral country since the Treaty of London in 1839. So how did the country get involved in World War I? Well, the answer is simple: Germany's Schlieffen Plan. Germany declared war on France. To avoid the French fortifications along the French-German border, the troops had to cross Belgium and attack the French Army by the north. Of course, Belgians refused to let them through, so the Germans decided to enter by force and invaded Belgium on Aug. 4, 1914. By doing so, they violated the Treaty of London, which is why Great Britain, that was bound to guard the neutrality of Belgium, entered the war. Belgium's small Army could not defeat the invaders, but they did manage to slow them down. Despite their resistance and the British Army's help, the German troops soon invaded the country, which remained in their hands for four years until the Armistice on Nov. 11, 1918.

THE BATTLE OF MONS

The fiercest battles took place in Flanders, but Wallonia also played a major role in the war and suffered tragic consequences. Mons, for example, was the scene of several major events during World War I. The Walloon city is often referred to as "The First and The Last," because the first and the last British Soldiers that died during the war were actually killed in Mons. It also staged both the first and the last Allied engagements of the war. Moreover, some of the most mysterious events of World War I happened during the Battle of Mons, such as the famous legend of "The Angels of Mons." On the night of Aug. 26, 1914, several British Soldiers claimed that angels carrying bows came down from the sky to help them at a crucial time and saved their lives. However, it seems that this was a fictional story by the Welsh writer Arthur Machen, who published it in the London newspaper *Evening News*.

The British Army fought brilliantly but was forced to withdraw during what was later known as "The Great Retreat." The Battle of Mons was considered a success by both the Germans and the British, because despite being outnumbered, the British troops managed to prevent the French Army from being outflanked. As for the German troops, they managed to gain a lot of ground to get closer to their final goal: Paris.

CIVILIAN LOSSES

The German mistreatment of Belgian civilians during the invasion was tragic. Civilians lived in a nightmare during the four years of occupation. The numbers speak for themselves: almost 9,000 civilians were deliberately killed by



In an undated photo, a woman talks to Soldiers who were wounded in the Battle of Mons which took place on Aug. 23, 1914 in Belgium during World War I. (U.S. Library of Congress photo)

the Germans and 6,453 of them were killed during the first week of occupation. This impressive number mobilized the public opinion of the Allies. It became a major propaganda object.

THE FLANDERS FIELDS AND THE U.S. ARMY IN WWI

The Americans, who were really moved by what was going on in Belgium, entered the war in 1917. While most of the American Expeditionary Force was fighting in France, four Army divisions fought in Belgium alongside the British Army in the "Flanders Fields," the name given to the battlefield stretching from West Flanders to East Flanders and the Nord-Pas-de-Calais in the north of France. The Flanders Fields was the theater of some of the fiercest battles of World War I. Many Soldiers were injured and killed there, and several villages of the area were totally destroyed. The battlefield has now been converted into a memorial site with monuments, museums and cemeteries. Today, 368 American Soldiers who lost their lives to defend Belgium are resting in Flanders Field Cemetery in the town of Waregem. Their memory is honored each year on the Sunday before Memorial Day with a special ceremony at the cemetery. The name "Flanders Fields" comes from the poem "In Flanders Fields" written by the Canadian Lt. Col. John McCrae. "In Flanders Fields the poppies blow," said in the poem. Poppies have become the symbol of the great loss of the war, because they were flowering the battlefields, especially in the fields of Flanders.

MEMORIAL SITES

World War I left its mark on the country. Today, Belgium is home to hundreds of sites, cemeteries and monuments

WWI, Continued from page 4

commemorating the battles fought in its lands and honoring the memory of those who died to defend the country. In the local area, people can learn war history first-hand by going on a battlefield tour of the Battle of Mons and visiting the Mons Memorial Museum. Almost half of the museum is dedicated to WWI. About two kilometers away from Mons is the St. Symphorien Military Cemetery, where lies the remains of British and German Soldiers killed mainly during the Battle of Mons.

Other famous sites in Belgium include the Fort de Loncin, which is about seven kilometers from the center of Liège. This is a worth-seeing vestige of the Battle of Liège as it is the site where the Belgian Army remained under siege for three days before being blasted out by the Germans. Another famous site is the Citadel of Dinant. The fortress offers magnificent views of the city and holds an amazing exhibition dedicated to the history and consequences of World War I on the city and its population. The "Ploegsteert Memorial to the Missing" and the "Ploegsteert 14-18 Experience," both located in Comines-Warmenton, are also worth a visit.

For more information on World War I sites in Wallonia, visit walloniabelgiumtourism.co.uk/en-gb/3/i-love/heritage-and-culture/wallonia-in-the-wars/14-18.

For more information on World War I sites in Flanders, visit www.visitflanders.com/en/themes/flanders_fields/.

REMEMBER WWI THROUGH MWR

Remember World War I is a two-year collaboration among various libraries whose purpose is to highlight and celebrate



Libraries across the U.S. Army will celebrate the centennial of the U.S. involvement's in World War I by hosting special events, commemorative displays and book clubs for library patrons. People can visit the libraries at Chièvres Air Base, SHAPE, Brussels and JFC Brunssum to learn more about the Remember WWI campaign. (U.S. Army graphic)

the centennial of the U.S. involvement in World War I. Books, videos and other materials are available at the Army Morale, Welfare and Recreation's libraries, the Donovan Research Library and the Marine Corps Community Services Libraries. In U.S. Army Garrison Benelux, people can visit libraries at Chièvres Air Base, SHAPE, Brussels and JFC Brunssum. For more information, visit www.benelux.armymwr.com. and www.rememberww1.com. ♦

Honoring the war heroes in Belgium

Photo and story by Julie Piron
USAG Benelux Public Affairs

On Feb. 8, 1944, in the heart of World War II, the U.S. B-17 flying fortress long-range bomber, nicknamed "Susan Ruth," crashed in Macquenoise near Chimay, Belgium. While two members were killed on impact and three others were captured and sent to prison camps, the pilot, copilot and navigator managed to evade capture thanks to the help of local people. Unfortunately, the copilot and navigator were caught by the Nazis and executed in April 1944. The pilot, Howard Snyder, spent seven months fighting with Belgian and French resistance units. He survived the war and later passed away in 2007.

On Feb. 11, Air Force Lt. Col. Craig Lindstrom, commander of the 424th Air Base Squadron, joined the members of the Duty of Memory association to pay tribute to the crew members.

"These commemorations bind our nations and solidify the friendship between Belgians and Americans, a friendship that was born on the battlefield many decades ago," he said before he laid a wreath in front of the monument built in memory of the crew members. ♦





CARNAVAL CELEBRATED IN SCHINNEN

One of the most important local events in the Dutch Southern Provinces is Carnival. During the event, people wear costumes and masks as they eat, drink and enjoy the festivities. In the Tri-Border community, the celebration commenced Feb. 7 as Chet Witkowski, deputy garrison manager for U.S. Army Garrison Benelux in Schinnen, received the Schinnen Municipality Medal from Leon Frissen, Schinnen mayor, at the annual Carnival reception. Two days later, the Tri-Border community celebrated Carnival at the Pin Point Café and Bowling Center in Schinnen. During the event, community members of all ages came together and watched as the prince and princess were named and given a special key, signifying that they ruled the garrison for the remainder of the afternoon. The festive event brought the multicultural community together as they enjoyed this European tradition. ♦



1. Chet Witkowski (right), deputy garrison manager for U.S. Army Garrison Benelux in Schinnen, received the Schinnen Municipality Medal from Leon Frissen (left), Schinnen mayor, at the annual Carnival reception Feb. 7, 2018, at the Schinnen Town Hall. The reception was the start of the Carnival celebrations in the municipality of Schinnen. (U.S. Army photo by Rita Hoefnagels)
2. Witkowski (right) gives the key of the garrison to Dutch Prince John and U.S. Princess Teresa, who were named the prince and princess of the Carnival celebration Feb. 9, 2018. The key signifies that they ruled the garrison during the remainder of the afternoon. (U.S. Army photo by Nino Antonacci)
3. Families in the Tri-Border community enjoyed the festivities. (U.S. Army photo by Nino Antonacci)
4. The unveiling of the Prince and Princess Carnival 2018 occurred during the beginning of the festivities. (U.S. Army photo by Nino Antonacci)

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. 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.

Every Monday and Friday

- **Lunchtime Yoga** - Relax and refresh during the work day from 12:15 p.m. to 1 p.m. at the Brussels Fitness Center. For more information, call DSN 368-9667 or +32(0) 2717-9667.

Every Tuesday

- The Northern Law Center will provide U.S. federal and state income tax assistance to eligible clients on Tuesdays in Bldg. 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 *Roman J. Israel ESQ* on Friday, *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** - 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. on the first and third Friday of the month. Karaoke will held on the second and fourth Friday of the month starting at 6 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.

Through 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 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.

Feb. 19

- **Veterans Affairs (VA) Claim Services**- The American Legion Post BE02 service officer will have office hours from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. in Bldg. 3 for anyone requiring assistance with their VA disability claim. Appointments and walk-in are welcomed. For further information, email postbe02.serviceofficer@gmail.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.
- **Boy Scouts of America's Blue and Gold Banquet** - The event will start at 6:30 p.m. at the 3 Star Recreation Center. For more information about the local scouting program or attending this event, please email event organizers at cubscoutpack457brussels@gmail.com.

Feb. 22

- **3 Star Dinner Special "BBQ Chicken and Ribs, Baked Beans and Salad"** - Starts at 5:30 p.m. Cost is \$13 for adults and \$6 for children. The alternative kids menu is chicken strips with potato wedges for \$5. Reservations are required by Feb. 20 and can be made at reservations3star@yahoo.com.

Mar. 9

- **Beer and Chocolate** - A beer sommelier and a passionate chocolatier discovered that you can perfectly pair artisan beers and fine chocolate pralines with contrasting flavors to provide a delicate harmony that strengthens the subtleties of both. This event will be held starting at 6 p.m. at the 3 Star Recreation Center, and is open to NATO, U.S. Embassy and U.S. mission cardholders. Reservations are required by Mar. 6 and can be made at reservations3star@yahoo.com. For more information, call DSN 368-9822 or +32 (0)2-7179822.



SCHINNEN/BRUNSSUM COMMUNITY

See also page 7 in "All Communities."

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 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 Girls Softball Open Enrollment** - 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. 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. 16

- **American Legion Post NL01 General Membership Meeting** - The meeting will start at 5 p.m. at 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 purchase tickets, email Americanspousesclub@yahoo.com.

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 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 to Fridays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or email Schinnen-europe@umuc.edu. Spaces are limited so schedule your appointment now!

Mar. 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.

Mar. 16

- **AFE Presents: Wild Women of Comedy** - Armed Forces Entertainment brings the Wild Women of Comedy to Schinnen! On tour is a diverse group of standup comedians sharing their unique comedic perspectives on all things observational and autobiographical. All women have late night credits, comedy albums, or television credits. More event details will be announced soon.

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 April 14. For more information call DSN 360-7561 or +31 (0)46-4437561.

SHAPE/CHIÈVRES COMMUNITY

See also page 7 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.

Every Monday and Wednesday

- **Circuit Training (Stroller Friendly)** - Join the Chièvres Fitness Center (Bldg. 20004) on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., for an adult, high-intensity, full-body workout using body weight and basic equipment followed by 30 minutes of indoor cycling. Kids are welcome. Parents are responsible for their children during the class period. Open to all U.S. and NATO ID cardholders.



Through Feb. 28

- **Mega DVD Sale at the SHAPE International Library** - February is Library Lovers Month. Region 1 and 2 DVDs are on sale for €0.50 per disc. Don't forget to look at the library's collection of books and other materials in 17 languages available for check out. For more information, call DSN 423-5631 or +32(0)6544-5631.

Through Mar. 31

- **Harry Potter Quiz at the SHAPE International Library** - In support of Army Community Service's Harry Potter Movie Nights, the library will have a Harry Potter trivia quiz. Participants can pick up an entry form at the library. All correct entries will be entered in a raffle for some amazing Harry Potter prizes! For more information, call DSN 423-5631 or +32(0)6544-5631.

Through April 10

- **Eight Nights of Harry Potter** - Starting at 6 p.m. on Feb. 20, watch *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* 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. 27, Mar. 6, Mar. 27, April 3 and April 10.

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. 19-Mar. 16

- **CYS Sports Baseball Registration** - Enrollment is open for tee-ball (age 6 to 7), minor (age 8 to 9), major (age 10 to 12) and junior (age 13 to 15) leagues. The cost is \$45. Child, Youth and School Services registration and health assessments are required for participants. Children must be of age by June 15. For more information, stop by Parent Central Services (SHAPE Bldg. 503) or call DSN 366-6839/6797 or +32(0)65-326839/6797.



Feb. 19-Mar. 23

- **CYS Sports Spring Soccer Clinic Registration** - The season will last from April through may. The cost is \$25. 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. 22

- **The Best Senses of Portugal** - Try the best of Portugese cuisine at the SHAPE Events Centre starting at 5 p.m. There will also be live music and prize drawings. Admission is free.

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. 24

- **Latino Party at Sports Bar B3's** - With the support of the SHAPE International Dancing Club, this party is beyond the notes of Salsa, Merengue and Bachata. The event starts at 9 p.m. at the B3's Sport Bar on SHAPE. For more information, go to www.shapedancing.info.

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.

- 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**
- Oxford and The Cotswolds, **May 19-21**
- 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**

Carnival 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 list of upcoming events in February and March (sorted by the date, city and start time):

Wednesday, Feb. 21:

- Children's parade in **Oostduinkerke** starts at 1:33 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 24:

- Children's parade in **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.
- **Opgrimbie near Maasmechelen** starts 2:11 p.m.
- **Overpelt** starts 2:11 p.m.
- **Rotem near Dilsen** starts 2:11 p.m.
- **Schoonderbukuken** starts 2:11 p.m.
- **Sint Martens-Voeren** starts 2:11 p.m.
- **Wortel** starts 2:33 p.m.

Friday, Mar. 2

- Children's parade in **Zoutleeuw** starts 1:11 p.m.

Saturday, Mar. 3

- **Brugge** starts 3:11 p.m.
- Illuminated parade **Gellik** starts 7:33 p.m.
- **Ledeberg** starts 3:11 p.m.
- **Leuven** starts 3:11 p.m.
- **Vechmaal** starts 1:11 p.m.
- Children's parade in **Wieze** starts 2 p.m.

Sunday, Mar. 4

- **Asse** starts 2:33 p.m.
- **Belsele** starts 2:11 p.m.
- **Denderleeuw** starts 2:11 p.m.
- **Grembergen** starts 2:11 p.m.
- **Leopoldsburg** starts 2:11 p.m.
- **Menen** starts 2:11 p.m.
- **Stokkem** starts 2:11 p.m.
- **Wieze** starts 1:33 p.m.
- **Zoutleeuw** starts 2:11 p.m.



Courtesy photo.

Friday, Mar. 9

- Children's parade in **Hechtel** starts at 1:30 p.m.
- Children's parade in **Sint Amandsberg** starts at 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, Mar. 10

- **Geel** starts 2:11 p.m.
- Children's parade in **Maasmechelen** starts at 2:11 p.m.
- Children's parade in **Mechelen aan de Maas** starts at 2:11 p.m.
- **Sint Amandsberg** starts at 3 p.m.
- Illuminated parade in **Vlijtingen** starts 7:11 p.m.
- **Wijnegem** starts at 3:11 p.m.

Sunday, Mar. 11

- **Aartselaar** starts 2:30 p.m.
- **Buggenhout** starts 2:11 p.m.
- **Diepenbeek** starts 2:11 p.m.
- **Hechtel** starts 2:11 p.m.
- **Kapellen** starts 2:11 p.m.
- **Maasmechelen** starts at 2:11 p.m.
- **Mechelen** starts 3:11 p.m.
- **Mechelen aan de Maas** starts 2:11 p.m.
- **Meeuwen** starts 2:11 p.m.
- **Roeselare** starts 3:11 p.m.
- **Temse** starts 2:11 p.m.
- **Tielt** starts 2:33 p.m.

Sunday, Mar. 16

- Children's parade in **Hasselt** starts 2:30 p.m.

Sunday, Mar. 17

- Illuminated parade in **Aarschot** starts 6:30 p.m.
- **Lissewege** starts 2:33 p.m.
- **Stekene** starts 6 p.m.
- **Stene** starts 2:33 p.m.
- **Veldwezelt** starts 2:33 p.m. ♦



Read about events near Chièvres, SHAPE and Brussels.

Through Feb. 17

- **"Kids Carnival" in Soignies** - Families will find many activities for children such as bouncy castles, obstacle course, giant toboggans and other fun games. There will be a space dedicated to children age 1 to 5 and another one dedicated to children age 6 to 12. Held at "Salle Omnisport Pierre Dupont" (Sports Center) on Rue de Cognebeau, 32. Entry is €7.

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. With an international reputation in the world of fashion, advertising and fine art photography, his work is characterized by touches of surrealism and humor. 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.

Feb. 17

- **Carnival: "Venice in the Marolles" (Brussels)** - The Marolles district in Brussels celebrates carnival like in Venice, Italy (the world's most famous carnival) with wonderful costumes, beautiful masks and activities. Held at the Marolles quarter all day long. Free entry.

Feb. 18

- **Volksmarch in Ath for 5, 10 or 20 km** - Departs Chemin des Peupliers, 19 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Naast for 5, 10, 15 or 20 km** Departs Rue du Moulin, 9 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Croix-lez-Rouveroy for 5, 10, 15 or 20 km** - Departs Rue de l'Eglise, 6 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Hérinnes for 5, 10, 15 or 20 km** Departs Chemin des Etangs, 12A from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Flea Market in Quevaucamps** - Held on Place du Pâturage featuring 40 booths from 7 a.m. to 5 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 Uccle** - Held on Chaussée de Waterloo featuring 70 booths from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Feb. 22-25

- **Book Fair 2018 in Brussels** - The book fair is a platform for the promoting books. There are hundreds of national and international publishers at the fair. Held at Tour & Taxis on Avenue du Port, 86. Admissison is free, but registration is required. For more information and to register, visit www.flb.be.



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

Through Feb. 18

- **Belgian Boat Show (BE)** - Held at Flanders Expo on Maaltekoeter 1 in Gent (BE), this is a fair for water sports and recreation. Open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Friday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Entry is €15.

Feb. 16-18

- **Affligem Blues Festival** - Held in Delft (NL), the best blues artists from all over the world will come to the city and perform at 25 bars and inns. The event starts Friday at 6 p.m., Saturday at 3 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m. No entrance fees.

Feb. 17-18

- **Tattoo Expo** - Held at MECC, Forum 100 in Maastricht (NL), this expo is an international event with tattoo artists from all over the world. Open Saturday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Entry is €15.
- **Flanders Collection Car (BE)** - This is an international fair for classic cars, accessories, restoration, miniatures and expos around BMW, pre-war cars and Alfa Romeo at Flanders Expo on Maalterkoeter 1 in Sint-Denijs-Westrem (BE). Open both days from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Entry is €15.
- **Historic Year Market (GE)** - Held at Jahrhunderthalle in Bochum (GE), this is Europe's largest indoor year market and open only Saturday and Sunday. It is a trip back in time with all kind of nostalgic rides, attractions, food and more. Open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Entry is €15 for adults (includes rides and attractions all day), €12.50 for children, and free for children shorter than 80 cm.

Feb. 17-25

- **Home Fair** - Held at the RAI in Amsterdam, visitors will find a variety of exhibitors, artists, workshops, new products and more. Entry is €19.50 for adults, and €5.50 for children. Open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Feb. 22 to 23 from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Feb. 22-25

- **Tuinidee** - This is a large and attractive garden fair held in the Brabanthallen, Diezekade 2 in Den Bosch (NL). Participants offer the newest trends for interior and garden. Open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Feb. 23 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Entrance is €16.50 for adults, and free for children age 12 and younger.

Feb. 22-27

- **Hasselt Antiques & Art Fair (BE)** - Held at Grenslandhallen on Gouverneur Verwilghensingel 70 in Hasselt (BE), the fair attracts more than 12,000 visitors every year. For more information, go to www.hasselt-artanticfair.com.

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.



Antoing-Tournai Vault (E42): There is still road construction on E42 in Antoing-Tournai Vault, in the direction of Mons. Work is scheduled to be completed by the end of this week.



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.



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-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. The speed of traffic is reduced to 70 km/h.



Ath-Hacquegnies (A8): There is road construction on A8 at Ath-Hacquegnies, in the direction of Tournai. Work is scheduled to be completed by Feb. 28.



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.

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.