



A hero's legacy:

Celebrating the
102nd birthday of a
three-war veteran

Pages 14, 15 & 16

SHS student author shares "A Dog's Trail"

Page 18

How volunteering can help you integrate into the community

Page 13



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There's a saying in German ("Der April macht was er will") that April "does what it wants," weather-wise, and the transition into Spring this year has proven its continued accuracy. The lead-up to production of this issue saw multiple days above 80 F, followed not long afterwards by actual snowfall. But no matter what April's whims say, the second quarter Citizen is here to help carry us forward.

The resounding theme you'll find in this issue is Service, manifesting in different times, places, and ways.

Our cover story is a journey through the life of CW3 (Ret.) Charles Ferber — a local retiree who recently turned 102, served in World War II (as well as Korea and Vietnam), and epitomizes the title "Soldier for Life."

You can also read about the exploits and legacy of Gen. Alexander M. Patch, namesake of Patch Barracks, in this month's Historian feature, or might be inspired to visit the American Dreams exhibit at the Baden-Württemberg House of History, where several of the profiled German emigrants to the United States made meaningful contributions in the armed forces of their adopted land.

You can learn about the Health Clinic's new around-the-clock forensic examination capability, which saves sexual assault patients hours' worth of travel in a crucial time but can only be offered thanks to the willingness of dedicated clinicians to undergo additional training and take after-hours on-call shifts.

We also highlight a local 16-year-old author whose children's book, inspired by elements of his life, has the potential to help other military children

cope with change and uncertainty (as the Month of the Military Child reminds us, they serve too); highlight two garrison employees who go out of their way to meet the needs of their fellow community members; and provide insight into how you can fulfill your civic duty, making your vote count from overseas in a presidential election year. Last, but not least, on the theme of service, is a story about the profound impacts of volunteerism and a celebration of our contributions over the past calendar year.

We also help you plan your summer with festival listings, check in on Stuttgart High School Panther sports teams midway through their season, and provide helpful tips to ensure motorcycle rides can be as safe as they are enjoyable.

On a bittersweet note, this issue marks the last original contributions of our three incredibly talented and dedicated SHS Career Practicum students who have spent this school year with the Public Affairs Office: Ava Harris, Kieran Murphy, and Nick Steddum. Whether through writing stories, creating graphics, scripting and voicing radio news updates, or working on any number of other tasks in support of our mission, these graduating seniors have truly helped to better inform and serve the community during their time with us. We sincerely appreciate their hard work and send them off to college with our thanks and best wishes for the future.

We hope you enjoy this issue!

Your Citizen Team



Command Sgt. Maj. Denice Malave is joined by some young friends at the opening of the Army Community Service Family Room, a newly redesigned multi-purpose space for group programs within the ACS offices on Panzer Kaserne. Photo by Daisy Fakunle, Family Advocacy Program Manager

Cover image:

Charles Ferber, a retired Soldier who served in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, poses with his wife Eleonore at their home in Münsingen in February on the occasion of his 102nd birthday. The inset photo, provided by the Ferbers, shows them on their wedding day in January 1966.

Photo by Balmina Sehra, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2	A letter from the editor	10	Festivals in Focus for 2024	18	SHS student author shares "A Dog's Trail"
4	At the Patch Library	11	Spring Fest in Stuttgart and UEFA Euro 2024	19	Voting from abroad
5	Chaplain's Corner: The Neuroscience of Joy	12	Stuttgart military community gains new sexual assault response capability	20 & 21	Employee Spotlight
6	Explore Southwest Germany's U.S. connections in "American Dreams"	13	How volunteering can help you integrate into the community	22 & 23	USAG Stuttgart and MWR events
8 & 9	From the Historian: Remembering Lieutenant General Alexander M. Patch	14, 15, 16	A hero's legacy: Celebrating the 102nd birthday of a three-war veteran	24 & 25	Halfway through spring season, Panther sports set the pace
				26	Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month
				27	The Big Question: What's your favorite springtime activity?

At the Patch Library: Summer Reading Program 2024

By MWR Patch Library

The Patch Library is thrilled to announce this year's Summer Reading Program with the theme: "Read, Renew, Repeat". Don't miss out on the 8-week program happening every Monday at 2 p.m. from June 5th to August 2nd, 2024. Throughout the week, there will be self-paced scavenger hunts, activity sheets, and bingo cards available. Sign up online, log your reading minutes, and visit the library every week to participate in fun activities and win exciting prizes. If you would like to collect t-shirts and swag bags, you must first register on the Beanstack website and log in at least one hour of reading. Registration will begin on May 1, 2024, and end on August 2, 2024. Logging minutes will be accepted from June 1, 2024. Please visit Beanstack to complete your registration at:

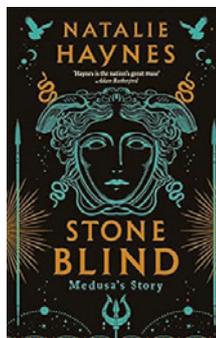
<https://patchlibrary.beanstack.org/>

Photos courtesy of MWR Patch Library



Stone Blind Natalie Haynes (2022)

A captivating retelling of the life of Medusa in Greek mythology. Told from Medusa's perspective with a feminist twist, the story draws you in and keeps you invested until the very end.



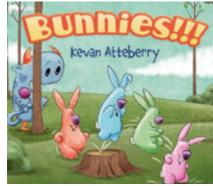
Mr. Roll Finds New Life: Let's Upcycle Sophia Huang (2022)

This book is on a roll! Quite literally! Mr. Roll is a happy toilet paper roll, until one day his paper runs out and he wonders what will happen to him next. Follow Mr. Roll on his adventures and see how his story unfolds!



Bunnies!!! Kevan Atteberry (2018)

An adorable tale of a sweet and friendly monster who just wants to play with a group of bunnies in the forest. This story is sure to make little ones laugh and learn that everyone needs a friend, even monsters.



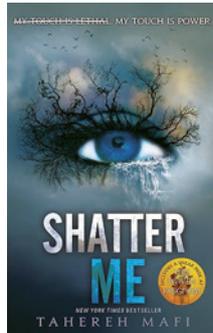
The List of Things That Will Not Change Rebecca Stead (2020)

A beautiful story of the experiences of a young girl from a divorced family and a father who comes out as homosexual. This heartwarming book captures the essence of acceptance, forgiveness, and love through life's changes and challenges.



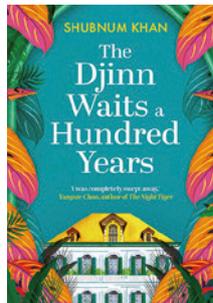
Shatter Me

Tahereh Mafi (2011)
An unpredictable Dystopian fantasy that will have you rooting for the heroine. Full of literary imagery, this novel shows that your worth is not always what you perceive it to be.



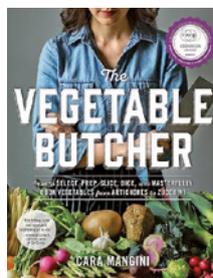
The Djinn Waits a Hundred Years Shubnum Khan (2024)

Set in South Africa a twisted novel about ghosts, culture, love, and tragedy. Every home has a story but this one has a haunting past that is sure to leave you obsessed with how it will end.



Vegetable Butcher Cara Mangini (2016)

No meat in this butcher's kitchen! This cookbook is full of different vegetable-based recipes that are sure to impress a crowd. Discover a new approach to vegetables. Try out the beet hummus recipe it's out of this world!



Maybe You Should Talk to Someone Lori Gottlieb (2022)

Gottlieb is a therapist who has seen it all and has been on both sides

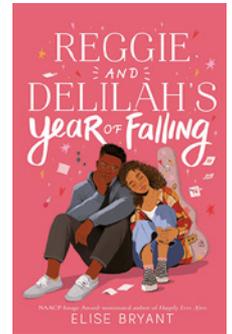


of the therapy. Laughs and tears through the remarkable stories of five patients and their journey through therapy, the good and the bad. She poses the question we've all asked, "Maybe you Should Talk to Someone".

Reggie and Delilah's Year of Falling Elise Bryant (2023)

A heartwarming tale of a shy girl and a nerdy boy, who fall in love through multiple chance encounters.

Summaries and covers courtesy of Goodreads and/or publishers



Chaplain's Corner: The Neuroscience of Joy



Photo by ESB ProfessionalShutterstock.com

By Chaplain (Maj.) Eric Bryan

Deputy Garrison Chaplain, USAG Stuttgart

To those departing this Summer, to all those soon to be in the pack-out ritual, we will miss you! One family soon to leave, Ryan and Janette Bareng, Ryder, Jacelle, Kailea, and Kyler, you were all in while here. Your presence will be missed at AFRICOM and in the jiu-jitsu ring. PWOC Tuesday mornings won't be the same without you. Everyone will miss you at the "humble Patch Chapel" family, especially myself and Gudrun.

To anyone new to Stuttgart, picking up this magazine for the first time, I am one of about ten Chaplains assigned to Stuttgart. Over the years, we have observed how community connection is vital, life-giving, and needed in Stuttgart. Let us help you find a like-minded community of worship, a group committed to service, a band of brothers or sisters.

Today, however, I focus my words on those who will remain in Stuttgart for another year. Please consider this reality: we are this community's foundation. We know how Stuttgart runs. We have just enough experience. Now that others have

left, this is our season to lead, to set the tone and culture for our neighborhood, our office, our school, and wherever we have influence.

How do we improve Stuttgart's culture? I have a proposal for you. Best of all, it is grounded in the latest brain science. Here it is – joy!

Dr. Jim Wilder, who has been training leaders for over forty years and builds upon Dr. Allan Schore's work in neurobiology, reminds us that effective leaders involve both the right and left hemispheres of the brain. The left side of our brain, as you might know, processes speech, strategy, logic, and story. However, the part of our brain which governs joy, character, group identity, and connection with others, is on the right side of our brain. I hope you find science intriguing – if you want a joyful home, a joyful place to work, or even a joyful community, we need to effectively use our right brain.

Let me suggest one specific skill, something each of us in Stuttgart can practice – everyone can do this, all ages, military, civilian, children, and retirees. Our face is the primary way we communicate joy. When our face lights up, when we show excitement to see someone, we transmit joy to someone's brain. When we convince someone we are glad to see them, by smiling, by lifting our eyes, with a pleasant tone of voice, we fuel the right hemisphere of the brain where joy grows.

You might be familiar with the Scriptures (long before neuroscience) where God describes his face through blessing. From Numbers 6:24-26, notice how God's face lights up in joy, "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace." With God's people in the community, we experience God's face, lit up and lifted, reiterated in Psalm 16:11, "In your presence is fullness of joy!"

Here's the point: God has given you a face, a beautifully designed face like no one else. Please consider the significance of this statement – your face is the primary way to make Stuttgart a joyful community. Want to use neuroscience to transform your relationships? Have you ever wondered why left-brain lectures and arguments never solve the problem? After a frenzied Stuttgart day, give someone a joyful face, a face that lights up, that communicates, "I like being with you!"

And catch yourself, the stoic face staring at the screen. Recognize how a "screen face" communicates the opposite of joy. Trust the evidence from both science and Scripture – a face, not a screen, fuels joy.

If you would like to learn how to develop the joy part of your brain, please come talk to me. I'll show you some practical ways to exercise joy. Neuroscience says you can reset to a joyful disposition, as does the Word of God. Joy – practice it, get good at it, lead with it.

So seize this moment, set this magazine aside for a moment. Find someone nearby; communicate joy with your face (a face that says, "I like being with you!"). Stuttgart's culture begins with you.

Chaplain (Major) J. Eric Bryan is Stuttgart's Family Life Chaplain, a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, and currently serves among the pastoral team for the 1100-Patch Protestant Chapel service. His office is located at Panzer Chapel and can be contacted best through email: james.e.bryan40.mil@army.mil.



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Explore Southwest Germany's U.S. connections in 'American Dreams'

Photos courtesy Haus der Geschichte Baden-Württemberg / Daniel Stauch

By Bardia Khajenoori

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Did you know that the world-renowned dairy industry of the U.S. Upper Midwest owes much to the alfalfa-growing efforts of a man from Baden, or that the artist who painted 'Washington Crossing the Delaware' hailed from nearby Schwäbisch Gmünd?

Their stories, and those of 32 other American immigrants with southwest German roots, are told in the special exhibition, "American Dreams," open through July 28 at the Haus der Geschichte (House of History) Baden-Württemberg (HdGBW) in Stuttgart.

"The decision to migrate is a very big one, and there are many different reasons why people leave for new places," said Dr. Christina Ziegler-McPherson, one of the exhibition's curators and an American-born, German-based historian. "But no matter how well you prepare or how well-networked you are, going to a new country is

"But no matter how well you prepare or how well-networked you are, going to a new country is often a leap into the unknown. One common thread is that these people were all willing to take their fate into their own hands."

Christina Ziegler-McPherson,
exhibition curator

often a leap into the unknown. One common thread is that these people were all willing to take their fate into their own hands."

"American Dreams" divides the 34 individual stories, taken from across a period of about 300 years, into related topics: for example, early arrivals who worked directly with the land, those who emigrated seeking greater religious freedom, and Jewish Germans who fled Nazi persecution. Its title is a deliberate play on the common, singular phrase 'American Dream,' directly signaling the diversity of people, times, and visions encompassed. Their connections even manifest in the physical space of the room, with each exhibit case serving as the starting point for a striking red stripe across the floor. These make their way across each section of the room, eventually merging at tall screens showcasing the unifying theme of those profiles and offering more critical perspectives.

While complemented by interactive multimedia displays and even AI-powered features, its storytelling works mostly through the highlighting of specific objects – or, in museum parlance, "material history," – that are closely related to the individual being discussed. These range from a housemaid's postcards to a Civil War uniform and race car driver's helmet. The items are, after all, more than just physical things: "they represent and carry

the history and culture that made them," Ziegler-McPherson said.

More than 230 such objects are displayed, with fewer than 10 coming from the HdGBW's permanent collection. Nearly everything is loaned for the exhibition, whether from family collections, museums, or other sources, and roughly half of them are from the United States.

"We almost entirely started with stories first, and then saw if we could find objects to go with them," Ziegler-McPherson said. That approach led to a monumental research effort involving numerous hours combing through historical archive and library records, tracking down and reaching agreements with historical figures' living descendants, and "talking to just about every German-American museum in the United States."

This exhibition also represents a somewhat unusual style of operating for the HdGBW, she said, as the state institution generally showcases objects and tells stories of people who live in the region – not those who left. But a strict local focus still left plenty of noteworthy and fascinating figures to profile.

Kat Wheeler, a strategic planner and USAG Stuttgart civilian employee, who attended a guided tour with her 16-year-old daughter, thought it would offer an opportunity to learn "not only about our culture, but how other people perceive it."

During her visit, she met someone from Reutlingen, a town about twenty miles south of Stuttgart which was the birthplace of economist Friedrich List. Regarded as one of the most influential German economists of all time, he spent five years in Pennsylvania before returning to Europe. Wheeler was curious to learn about his role in developing policy proposals, and the exhibit had firsthand letters and artifacts from him.

"Putting a specific human face on this historical story and then seeing someone from his hometown explaining his legacy there was a really interesting experience," Wheeler said.

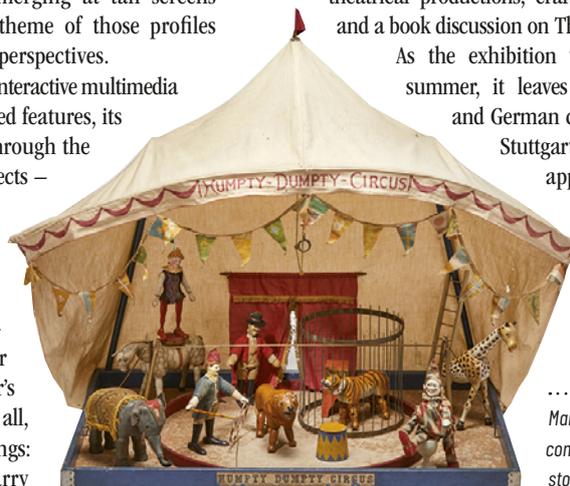
She also made special note of a video exhibit featuring Thatcher Scharpf, U.S. Consul General in Frankfurt, as he visited the local town of his ancestors and learned surprising details of his family background, such as the fact that cousins fought on opposite sides in World War I.

An accompanying educational program in cooperation with the Deutsch-Amerikanisches-Zentrum (DAZ / German-American Center) Stuttgart features a variety of enriching educational and cultural programs like theatrical productions, craft beer tastings, and a book discussion on *The Great Gatsby*.

As the exhibition wraps up this summer, it leaves the American and German communities in

Stuttgart with a deeper appreciation for the complex tapestry of stories that forms our shared history.

.....
Marcus Fichtl
contributed to this
story.



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From the Historian: Remembering the Quintessential Quiet American Hero: Lieutenant General Alexander M. Patch

By Col. Christopher Libertini

Office of the Command Historian, U.S. European Command

“Be more than you appear to be; do much—say little; let your work speak for you.” This pragmatic philosophy guided the life and career of one of the great unsung U.S. Army leaders of World War II, Lieutenant General Alexander M. Patch. While he spent the entire war commanding large formations in combat and achieving some significant firsts along the way, his twofold purpose to care for soldiers and to accomplish missions seldom earned him headlines even though he achieved both goals with tremendous success. Unassuming by nature—even his name exudes modesty—he may have preferred it that way, but his incredible story certainly deserves a wider remembrance among those who wear uniforms of the U.S. military.

It could be said that Alexander Patch came into this world with Army in his blood and service as his destiny. Remarkably, his largely unremembered life touched on so much of U.S. history. He was born at Fort Huachuca in 1889 when Arizona was still just a territory, very much a part of the nation’s fading frontier. His father, a West Point graduate, served with the 4th Cavalry and spent time chasing down horse thieves. After his father suffered a career-ending injury during a patrol, the Patch family moved east to Pennsylvania. In 1909, the young Patch followed his father’s lead and entered West Point. Although he was not particularly distinguished in his academic work, he demonstrated athleticism and leadership that would serve him well for the remainder of his Army career.

After his commissioning in 1913, he served in the American Southwest with the 18th Infantry Regiment, eventually participating in Brigadier General John J. Pershing’s famed Mexican expedition to seize Pancho Villa in 1916. That operation marked something of a changing of the guard for the U.S. Army. It was among the last to use horse-borne cavalry in large numbers and the first to use truck transports and aircraft in an operation into foreign territory. It seems only right that Patch would be there for an operation that spanned two very different eras in the history of warfare, as his own life seemed to bridge two great eras as well. The following year Patch deployed to France with the First Infantry Division just two months after the U.S. Congress declared war on Germany and thereby was among the first U.S. Soldiers to serve in the European theater. By October 1918, he commanded an infantry battalion during the hard-fought Meuse-Argonne Campaign, and, when the Armistice ended hostilities the following month, he was the deputy commander of the 18th Infantry.



General Patch (2nd from the left) with other Joint Force Commanders on New Caledonia, October 1942. Courtesy Photo

During the interwar period, Patch spent 11 years teaching as a military science and tactics professor and studied at the U.S. Army War College. This extended period in training assignments would serve Patch well once the United States was drawn again into a world war after the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. Ill-prepared for a major conflict, the U.S. scrambled to meet the expanding Japanese threat in the South Pacific. Army Chief of Staff General George C. Marshall selected Patch to command Task Force 6184, which aimed to defend New Caledonia, an island Japan needed to capture to isolate Australia and New Zealand. Patch proved to be the right man for the job. Soon this became known as the Americal Division, a composite term for “Americans in New Caledonia,” a unit that would go on to have a distinguished lineage fighting throughout the Pacific and ending the war in Tokyo. After the successful defense of New Caledonia, Patch and his Americal Division pushed on to Guadalcanal. In December 1942, he became overall commander of all U.S. forces on the island, which included both U.S. Marine Corps and Army units, and their actions quickly stamped out the last pockets of enemy resistance by February 1943.

With the war in the Pacific now tilting in the Allies’ favor after victories at Coral Sea, Midway, and Guadalcanal, the Army needed General Patch in the European theater. In March 1944, he took command of the U.S. Seventh Army which was preparing for the invasion of southern France. Landing in the French Riviera on August 15, 1944, Patch’s Seventh Army achieved what remains one of the greatest advances in all of military history. In just four days his forces covered 500 miles, an amazing testament to his skills as an operational planner and trainer of Soldiers. All was not well, however. In October he received the tragic news that his son, also a West Point graduate, had been killed in action while leading an infantry company in northern France. Like so many other Americans of that era, he took the news stoically and continued with his mission.

Extended supply lines and increasing German resistance by now had slowed the Seventh Army’s advance to the northeast, but by November his troops had pushed through the Vosges Mountains in eastern France and captured Strasbourg on November 23, 1944. As the Battle of the Bulge attack stalled in Belgium, Hitler launched one final offensive, Operation NORDWIND (North Wind) in northern France on January 1, 1945, with the express purpose of inflicting mass casualties and thereby convincing the Western Allies to agree to peace. It fell to Patch’s Seventh Army to have the honor of repulsing this last Axis offensive of the war in the West. By mid-April 1945, his troops had reached the Stuttgart region and later fittingly captured Berchtesgaden, the site of Hitler’s famed Berghof, the dictator’s favorite country retreat house in the Bavarian Alps. It was here that Hitler once hosted British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain in September 1938 in what proved to be failed negotiations to avert a new European war. Thus, Patch’s Army ended World War II where in some ways the conflict had started seven years earlier. Sadly, Lieutenant General Patch, who had served his nation so admirably for over



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35 years in uniform, did not long survive the end of the war. He died of pneumonia at Brooke Army Medical Center in Fort Sam Houston, Texas in November 1945. His earthly remains reside in the cemetery at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. His life had come full circle. He was born into the U.S. Army and now rests in peace with the U.S. Army.



Courtesy Photo

While the memory of Lieutenant General Patch and his record of wartime achievements may have faded, his short essay on leadership, unassumingly titled in true Patch fashion, "Some Thoughts on Leadership," should be required reading for every officer, especially junior leaders attending their Basic and Captains Career Courses. In an age when there is a seductive temptation to rely on a technological solution to the challenges of the battlefield, Patch's leadership philosophy is rooted in a contrary, more enduring reality. Written at the height of World War II in December 1943 when the outcome of the conflict was still very much in doubt, Patch's essay notes that in war the advantages in technology and tactics are only fleeting. Victory always is determined by the individual Soldier, who must be brave, disciplined, and motivated. However, in non-militarized societies like the United States, these types of Soldiers can only be produced by skilled, resolute leaders, which means leadership holds the key to victory. For Patch, leaders must be principled, self-sacrificing, firm, resourceful, self-controlled, and courageous. They must put the care of soldiers before their own needs. Although he wore stars on his collar throughout World War II, Patch was known for braving the dangers on the front lines to visit his troops and was legendary for preparing detailed plans to limit as much as possible the dangers and risks to which his soldiers would be exposed.

Today, there are few remembrances of Lieutenant General Patch. During the 1950s and 1960s, a navy transport vessel bore his name, General Alexander M. Patch, before being transferred into the Ready Reserve in early 1967. His name also adorns a community center at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. However, history certainly got it right in having Patch's name permanently affixed to a small military installation in Stuttgart, Germany. The reactivated Seventh Army, remembering their former commander, gave Patch this honor when it established its headquarters in November 1950 at what at the time was called Kurmärker Kaserne. Originally built to be a Soldiers' garrison, Patch Barracks today houses within its unobtrusive walls the headquarters to U.S. European Command, seemingly embodying Patch's words: "Be more than you appear to be; do much—say little." It is here in this major combatant command that a new generation of leaders meticulously plans to deter aggression and defend U.S. interests and those of her allies in the spirit of Lieutenant General Patch. To serve at Patch should remain an honor and highlight the careers of all who have been assigned there. He was truly the quintessential quiet American hero.



General Patch checking in with Private Cornelius Allen, Quartermaster Corps driver, outside of Strasbourg, France, December 1944.

Courtesy Photo

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FESTIVALS in Focus: 2024

By Bardia Khajenoori

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

The Stuttgart region loves its festivals, but when it comes to frequency and diversity, there's no time quite like the summer. From live music to showcases of food and world culture (and this year, soccer-related activities), the options are endless.

Bring cash – though credit cards are increasingly accepted at vendor booths – and strongly consider using public transit to get to these events due to busy or closed roads and limited nearby parking, as well as getting home responsibly. Apps such as VVS Mobil, SSB Move, and DB Navigator offer customized door-to-door public transit routing and the ability to buy tickets on your mobile device.

This list is provided solely for informational/cultural awareness purposes; inclusion of an event does not imply endorsement.

CITY/NEIGHBORHOOD FESTIVALS

Most local towns and villages host at least one marquee street festival in the summertime, as do most districts of Stuttgart. These events typically feature live music or DJs and stages for artistic performances along with activities for children. They are open access and have no admission fee, with a wide selection of food, drinks, and other products available for sale from vendors. When they take place in a town center over a Sunday, the day is often (but not always) designated as a special "Shopping Sunday," with nearby stores open for business.

- **Stuttgart-Vaihingen**, home to Patch Barracks, kicks off the spring/summer season with its **Vaihinger Frühling (May 4-5)** at the Vaihingen Marktplatz.
- The half-century old **Backnang Street Festival (June 21-24)** brings six musical stages to the streets and alleyways of this historic town northeast of Stuttgart.
- **Nürtingen's 'Nice on the Neckar'** festival

transforms the city's riverfront into a cultural hub from June 21-22 while the City Fest (Stadtfest) of Böblingen, home to Panzer Kaserne, takes place **July 5-7**, featuring Sunday shopping and an additional "Lakeside Open Air" stage on Friday and Saturday.

- **SchoWo, or Schorndorf Week (July 12-16)**, offers more than 100 activities over five days across the birth city of pioneering engineer and industrialist Gottlieb Daimler.
- The **Heusteigviertel** in Stuttgart-Süd, full of neo-Renaissance and Art Nouveau architecture, holds its bustling fest from **June 28-30**, but July marks the busiest month for neighborhood festivals within Stuttgart.
- Highlights include the **Marienplatzfest (July 4-7)**, back from its year off with a robust live music program that later turns to a silent disco; **Westallee (July 11-13)**, Stuttgart-West's "alternative" festival along tree-lined Johannesstrasse; and **Bohnenviertelfest (July 18-20)**, whose neighborhood takes its name from the practice of its poorer residents growing beans in their gardens hundreds of years ago.
- **The Henkersfest** (or 'Hangman's Fest'), which takes place at the city's Middle Ages execution site of Wilhelmsplatz in Stuttgart-Mitte has no confirmed dates as of press time but typically takes place in **mid-to-late July**.

ARTS, CULTURE, AND DINING

- The **Hamburg Fish Market** starts a few weeks early this year (**May 23 - June 2**) so that Karlsplatz can transform into a Euro 2024 fanzone, but is guaranteed to provide its typical festive atmosphere and delicious, seafood-heavy culinary landscape.
- The **Sindelfinger Schlemmermarkt** (gourmet market) takes place near the city's Marktplatz from **May 30-June 2**.
- The **Afrika Festival (July 12-14)** returns to Erwin-Schöttle-Platz with food, fashion shows, concerts, an African market, and more.

- **The Summer Festival of Cultures (July 19-24)**, with its stage set up prominently on Marktplatz, is southern Germany's largest world music festival and celebrates Stuttgart's diversity with an eclectic array of musical and artistic performances, authentic food stalls, and artisanal shopping opportunities.
- **Esslingen's Estival**, on the market square from **August 2 to 14**, has a full entertainment program but highlights its culinary offerings as "regional and international, traditional and reinvented."
- **The Stuttgarter Weindorf** (Wine Village), from **August 28 to Sept. 8**, converts Schillerplatz, Marktplatz, and the street between them into a sea of quaint pop-up stalls and restaurants showcasing wine from local vineyards and the best of regional cuisine.

MUSIC AND SPECIAL EVENTS

- Ludwigsburg hosts an **International Street Music Festival** from **May 17-19**, followed by the larger Ludwigsburg Festival that runs from June 1 - July 20 and presents numerous artistic and musical performances in venues scattered throughout the city and its sprawling palace complex.
- Stuttgart's renowned **Jazz Open** brings a star-studded lineup of artists from a range of musical genres to Schlossplatz and other venues from **July 18-29**.
- Killesberg Park holds its annual **'Lichterfest'** (Festival of Lights) **July 20**.
- The Stuttgart Ballet will host its popular **'Ballet in the Park'** event **July 20-21**, simulcasting a live performance from the opera house on Saturday.
- **Christopher Street Day** is Stuttgart's LGBTQ+ Pride celebration, with a street festival **July 27-28** and the parade on the first day.
- **Flammende Sterne**, the international fireworks festival held in Ostfildern's Scharnhaufer Park, is set for **August 23-25**.



How to navigate through the infamous Spring Fest in Stuttgart

By **Balmina Sehra**

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Spring has officially sprung in Stuttgart, with flowers blooming, birds chirping, and sunny weather (well, sometimes). Although the changing weather usually serves as an indication of the season's arrival, for the residents of Stuttgart, nothing marks the beginning of spring quite like the much-anticipated opening of the Stuttgart Frühlingsfest (Stuttgart Spring Fest). This annual celebration transforms Bad Cannstatt into a swarming spot of joy and tradition for three weeks every year between April and May.

As the largest spring festival in Europe, it attracts visitors from all over the world, excited to partake in the festivities and immerse themselves in the local culture.

Whether you're planning your first visit or you're a seasoned attendee, here are some fun facts about this annual German fest that will help you blend in like a local.

HOW DID IT ALL BEGIN?

The Spring Fest celebration was established as a kick-off event for the new travel season after the winter break, which starts after the Christmas markets end. Unfortunately, the exact year of the festival's founding cannot be traced as it was most likely canceled several times, particularly in its early years. Although the precise year of the first Spring Fest celebration is unknown, it is believed to have taken place around the 1930s.

WHAT TO DO AT THE FRUHLINGSFEST?

Families with young children can have a great time enjoying various activities that are designed to keep the little ones entertained. These activities include face painting, toddler rides, and games. Every Wednesday is Family Day, which means you can enjoy several rides at reduced rates, along with some great offers.

There are many roller coasters to choose from, suitable for both young and old. However, if you're not a fan of high-speed rides, don't worry, as there is a selection of rides that will suit even the faint-hearted.

If you're not into roller coasters, there are still plenty of things to do. You can stroll through several fun markets and purchase German souvenirs and teddy bears or enjoy their large selection of food vendors including German, Italian, and Mexican. Make sure to bring cash though as many vendors do not accept card payments.

DRESS CODE

If you're wondering what to wear to the Spring festival, you can wear anything that you would at a theme park. However, it is recommended that you wear comfortable shoes since you may be doing a lot of walking. While taking a stroll, you may notice some people wearing traditional German clothing such as dirndls and lederhosen. These garments originated from Bavaria and are commonly worn at the Volksfest. However, some festival-goers also enjoy wearing them for the Spring festival. If you feel like joining in, you

can find some shops that sell dirndls and lederhosen. Who doesn't love an opportunity to dress up?

HOW TO STAY SAFE AT THE FRUHLINGSFEST?

If you plan to enjoy the famous German beer, it's important to plan your ride home in advance. Never attempt to drive after consuming alcohol. To plan your trip using public transportation, you can check out the USAG Stuttgart app and find the "Get around" tab. Make sure to keep your friends and family informed of your whereabouts and how to reach you at all times. Although Germany is a relatively safe country, be cautious of pickpockets and keep your belongings close to you. As they say in Germany, "opportunity makes a thief."

SOME EXTRA TRIVIA FACTS:

Have you ever wondered why the festival held in Stuttgart during spring is called "Stuttgart Frühlingsfest" while the one in fall is called "Canstatter Volksfest?" The answer lies in history. Cannstatt was once a separate city but eventually became part of Stuttgart. As a result, the festival held in Cannstatt was renamed "Canstatter Volksfest" but continued to take place in the same location. However, some people from Cannstatt felt that their city's name was being disrespected, so they refused to attend the festival with the Stuttgart name. To blend in with the locals, you can refer to the festival as "Canstatter Wasen" or simply "kleiner Wasen." The latter name is used more commonly for the spring festival as it is a bit smaller than the fall festival.

Logo of UEFA Euro 2024 Germany

UEFA EURO 2024

By **Nick Steddum**

SHS Career Practicum

International soccer is coming to Stuttgart this summer as the city plays host to the UEFA Euro 2024 games!

UEFA – the governing body of European soccer – will hold its 2024 quadrennial championships in 10 cities across Germany, with one of the largest venues in Stuttgart. From June 14th to July 14th, multiple tournament games, with the addition of a large public viewing and a myriad of other attractions, will garner soccer fans to the city to take part in the festivities and watch their teams.

Stuttgart is set to host five of the tournament's games in Bad Cannstatt's MHPArena, for tournament purposes known as the Stuttgart Arena.

Germany, Scotland, Belgium, Denmark, Slovenia, Hungary, and Ukraine will all play matches in Stuttgart: Slovenia and Denmark are scheduled to meet on June 16th, with Germany set to play against Hungary three days later. On June 23rd, Hungary is scheduled to play another preliminary round match, this time against Scotland.

The last preliminary round game is scheduled for June 26th between Belgium and Ukraine. On July 5th, Stuttgart will host two teams who will meet in the quarterfinals.



The championship ethos won't be limited to the arena. Per the motto, 'the whole city is a stadium', activities are planned throughout the city in the form of four large 'fan zones'.

The foremost fan zone will encompass Schlossplatz, offering a diverse range of sporting activities, as well as food and drink from local restaurants.

Schlossplatz will also hold a large public viewing, with two large screens broadcasting the tournament's games.

Additional fan zones are planned around other areas of the city. Marktplatz will grant even more sporting activities, such as goal wall shootings and obstacle courses; Karlsplatz will be the home of live music, dances, lectures, and other cultural showings; and Schillerplatz is where event goers will be able to enjoy Stuttgart's culinary and beverage specialties.

The city's championship opening will be held on June 13th, marked by a concert in fan zone Schlossplatz, to include many German national stars.

For more information on the festivities and how to purchase tickets for the games and concert, visit the official website at: <https://uefaeuro2024.stuttgart.de/>

Stuttgart military community gains new sexual assault response capability

By **Balmina Sehra**

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

The Stuttgart military community gained an important new resource for sexual assault response as the U.S. Army Health Clinic Stuttgart officially implemented an in-house medical forensic examination capability.

“Forensic Healthcare Examiners (FHE) are nurses and providers specially trained in Medical Forensic Examination to deliver coordinated, high quality, patient-centered, trauma-informed, medical forensic care for persons reporting sexual assault,” said the clinic’s commander, Lt. Col. Zachary Heinrich. “Our team, in coordination with our higher headquarters, Medical Department Activity Bavaria, has planned, trained, and worked tirelessly over the past several months to bring this critically important component of sexual assault response to the Stuttgart community.”

Local sexual assault forensic exam (SAFE) capabilities have been a long sought-after asset by the USAG Stuttgart Sexual Harassment/Assault Response & Prevention (SHARP) program. Jessica Green, SHARP program specialist for U.S. Army Europe and Africa, and Andrea Ryan, USAG Stuttgart SHARP Victim Advocate, explained what it means for sexual assault patients. Their remarks have been consolidated and edited for length.

What did the SAFE process look like before it became available in Stuttgart? What is different now?

Before SAFE was accessible at Stuttgart, clients were escorted by SHARP SARC’s or Victim Advocates to either Landstuhl Regional Medical Center near Kaiserslautern or to Ansbach for SAFE. Patients returned to the Stuttgart clinic for follow-up care. FHE perform a medical exam, prioritizing the person’s health and well-being after a reported physical or sexual assault. An exam can include collection of biological and trace evidence (that may be used in the court of law). Persons can choose to have all or part of the SAFE, as well as have the option to choose medical treatment only.

Now, they can go to the Stuttgart Health Clinic, which makes it much quicker for our clients and cuts down on the length of the process. Many of them will find it much more appealing to have the option of visiting a provider they may already be familiar with. Since it’s the patient’s hometown clinic rather than an emergency department, victims can receive care in a calm and more therapeutic environment.

What is the process like?

Individuals reporting sexual assault can either contact their SHARP specialist/Victim Advocate or go directly to the clinic. It’s important to make sure the community is aware that our team will do everything possible to maintain confidentiality, whether it is about completing a SAFE or just wanting to get checked out by a medical provider.

Is a medical checkup necessary?

We encourage persons reporting to reach out to learn about their options for medical care- whether they want a SAFE or not. Forensic healthcare program care coordinators support patients by scheduling priority-level visits with specially trained follow-up healthcare providers during clinic hours. These providers can address any concerns or questions and offer appropriate medications such as emergency contraception, sexually transmitted illness treatment, and prevention, as well as referrals to additional services. Ongoing follow-up and support are managed collaboratively by the clinic’s forensic healthcare program care coordinator.

What if someone didn’t seek help within 24 hours of the incident?

We encourage patients or their SHARP representative to reach out anytime to ensure the patient receives information and recommendations for their individual situation and concerns. We guide, they decide. Our goal is to ensure the patient has the information necessary to make the best personal decision for their health. Some medications, for example, emergency contraception, are time-sensitive.

What is the biggest takeaway?

The service is available to Service Members, Dependents, GS Civilians, Contractors, and Local Nationals. The sooner people reach out, the better, but it’s also never too late. We encourage contacting the SHARP, FAP (Family Advocacy Program), or the Forensic Healthcare Program at Stuttgart Clinic to learn about options and to get accurate information to make an informed decision.

If you have been affected by sexual assault, please see the information below to learn how you can get in touch with SHARP or the Stuttgart Health Clinic.

24/7 SHARP Hotline for Stuttgart: +49 (0)172-868-6019
Europe SHARP Hotline: +49 (0) 611-143-537-4277 (From DSN lines, 314-537-4277)

The Telephone Helpline staff can directly transfer you to your nearest Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARC), Victim Advocate (VA), Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) Coordinator, Military OneSource, Psychological Health Center of Excellence, and civilian sexual assault service provider. To chat with the helpline staff online go to <https://safehelpline.org/>.

Physician Assistant Janet Coy and Licensed Practical Nurse Jessica Faison pose in the SAFE exam room at the U.S. Army Health Clinic Stuttgart on Patch Barracks. Photo by Balmina Sehra



How volunteering can help you integrate into the community



By Ava Harris

SHS Career Practicum

Moving frequently, especially overseas, can be challenging and can require a significant amount of social skills. It can be tough to find a way to establish roots when you're constantly on the move. However, many people at the Stuttgart Garrison have discovered a way to form meaningful connections - through volunteering.

Over the years, volunteerism has become increasingly widespread in the community. In 2023, over 500 volunteers logged approximately 43,000 hours.

"Every year when I see a summary of the hours that were provided by volunteers or a listing of services that were possible because of volunteers, I'm in awe. Stuttgart seems to far exceed what I've seen in other communities," said Chief of Army Community Service (ACS), Kari Sharpe.

As many search for some American familiarity overseas, people from all walks of life have dedicated their time to volunteering in the Garrison community. The United Service Organizations (USO) has a team of approximately 100 volunteers who come from diverse backgrounds.

"The beauty of the USO and the volunteering here is that you can reach all different ages. When you come here, you'll meet someone your age or from your background," said USO volunteer and leader of the Coffee Connections program, Katherine T. Aitken.

And with a diverse set of minds comes a diverse collection of activities.

"Volunteers at the USO do anything and everything. No two days are alike here," said the USO Center Manager, Ryann Hangsleben.

Volunteerism provides endless avenues to try new hobbies, build a resume, or simply stay occupied.

"It's the ultimate way of being a part of the community, involved in the community, and investing in the community whether or not you have a job here," said Sharpe.

Building a resume may be particularly important to spouses and dependents in the Garrison when looking for work.

"It's an opportunity for folks to test out if they would like working in certain areas or fields," said Sharpe.

However, the primary reason people choose to volunteer is to find bonds in the community, whether that's making friends or just finding someone to relate to. Being overseas can feel isolating, but volunteers remind us it is possible to feel at home anywhere we go.

"The volunteers bring connection because we are often, in the military, so far from home. Especially overseas, we can feel isolated. The volunteers make a big impact in just bringing a little joy to your day, being that friendly face and a taste of home," said Hangsleben.

As an organization dedicated to protecting the rights of volunteers, ACS aims to ensure a great experience with Garrison volunteering.

"We have a pool of resources for potential volunteers; we can connect them with organizations who have expressed to us that they would really benefit from some volunteer manpower and we can point them in the right direction based on where their interests lie," said Sharpe.

If you are interested in volunteering, reach out to ACS or your preferred organization.

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A hero's legacy: Celebrating the 102nd birthday of a three-war veteran



Charles Ferber as a young pilot, photo from Charles Ferber's Diary. Courtesy photo

Story and photos by Balmina Sehra
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

A retired U.S. Soldier living in the Stuttgart area recently marked his 102nd birthday, a milestone that celebrates his longevity and honors his extraordinary lifetime of service to his country.

A pilot at heart served with distinction across three major twentieth-century conflicts: World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. He has not only witnessed history in the making but has actively shaped it with his dedication to duty and his constant craving for adventure.

Charles Ferber was born in January 1922 in Greenwich, Connecticut. After completing his education at the State Technical School in nearby Stamford, he was in the workforce for about a year before joining the military at the age of 20.

Years after Ferber left the military, he began writing his biography in diary format, detailing his life in the army. The following is an extract of his experience when first joining the military.

"A bus load of us were driven to Fort Devens, Massachusetts. Here Army life

started, such as barracks life, mess halls, formations, and long waiting lines. We were equipped from head to toe in uniforms etc. and two barrack bags. Our pay was 21 dollars per month."

Throughout his military career, Ferber learned many valuable skills as a young Soldier, he took construction courses while working with the corps of engineers, learned parachute jumping, and found his passion in flying while learning helicopter and airplane flying. A pilot through and through, he continued flying even after separating from the military for a decade before deciding to enlist again.

His diary recounts the time the deployed young Soldier, still early in his career, spent Christmas far away from home on a ship in Morocco.

"The convoy arrived off the coast of Casablanca on 24 December 1942. It was a pretty sight to see Casablanca shining so white in the sunlight. We remained on board overnight. For the Christmas Eve meal, we had a can of sardines, soda biscuits, and an orange."

Ferb's career was not without its moments of terror and dread, one of which was when his infantry unit led the Allied landing on the beaches near Anzio, in January 1944, also known as Operation Shingle.



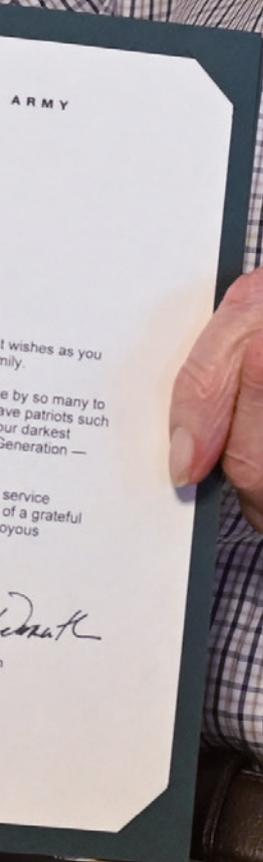
spanning many years and three conflicts. On behalf of the Army, I wish you and your family all the best on this occasion. Once again, Happy Birthday!

Sincerely,
Christine E. Wormuth
Christine E. Wormuth

Siblings and
a year
Sasha!
see you at
celebration of D-Day
the year

A congratulatory letter from the Secretary of the Army, Hon. Christine Wormuth, stands alongside a certificate of a flag flown above U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart at the Ferbers' home in Munsingen.

Charles Ferber and his wife on their wedding day in 1966, photo from Charles Ferber's Diary. Courtesy photo



Charles Ferber holding his certificate and birthday card.

“I made friends with a German family. Although non-fraternization was in effect, I still visited my German friends quite often,” Ferber wrote in his diary.



Photo from Charles Ferber's Diary

“On the way in, about 1 am, the sky lit up, then terrific explosions took place. Two barrages of 1500 8-inch rockets lit up the sky and made a roaring noise. At the time we didn't know if it was the enemy greeting us. This and being in the earthquake in Anchorage, Alaska, were the two most frightening things in my life. All hell broke loose for four months. It was muddy, rainy, and winter. Clothes and bedding always damp. It was the most miserable living conditions I was ever in,” Ferber wrote in his diary.

Four months later they achieved a breakthrough and moved on to Rome.

Moreover living a life as a Soldier also meant being exposed to certain diseases he otherwise may never have encountered. For instance, he contracted Malaria while on duty in Africa in 1943. He became ill a few years later, while completing his OCS (Officer Candidate School) in Fontainebleau, France, and had to be hospitalized immediately.

“After one month in the hospital, I was released. The war in Germany had ended. I was shipped to Regensburg, Germany. We were in an old German post called “Altes Lager”.

Ferber was then sent to Auingen, Münsingen, close to Stuttgart.

Being brought up in a large family meant that life became a little lonely living in the barracks. One day, he decided to send some photos home and looked for a photoshop. He found one in Münsingen called Fotohaus Schmidt and became close with the owner, a lady in her 50s named Louise, and her family.

“I made friends with a German family. Although non-fraternization was in effect, I still visited my German friends quite often,” Ferber wrote in his diary.

Ferber didn't realize at the time that his new-found friendship with this German family would eventually lead him to his future wife.

His service wasn't long, and after about two months, he said goodbye to Germany and was shipped back to the U.S. in October 1945.

After ten years in the military, Ferber decided to separate from the Army in 1952, becoming a bush pilot in fixed and rotary wing aircraft (helicopters and airplanes).

“I taught myself flying in the Rocky Mountains, flew the barren land in winter and summer, I flew the Arctic Circle and the Coast Oil Fields of Prudhoe Bay,” Ferber wrote in his diary.

But his draw for real adventure pulled him back into military life more than a decade after he separated from the Army. Ferber, at this point in his 40s, heard that the Army was taking back former pilots. After being turned down due to his age, he applied for the Warrant Aviation Branch. He was accepted in 1964 with orders to go to Germany.

“When I got to Germany, I was sent to the 97th Flight Detachment, which was located on the Stuttgart Airfield. Things hadn't changed much in the Army since I left. I started the process of learning about flying in Europe and all flight rules and regulations. I picked up my car at Bremerhaven and was able to finally get around to see some of Germany as it was 19 years since I was last here.”

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While studying a map of Germany, he saw Münsingen located close to where he was staying. So, one day in February 1965, he made his way back there to visit his German friends.

Although Eleonore, a niece of the photo shop owner, hadn't met Ferber during his first stay in Germany, she had already heard many stories about him from her family.

"I was told that there was this nice American man who would bring oranges and chocolate, which was a grand gesture since it was after the war and all of us didn't have much...even himself," said Eleonore, Ferber's wife.

When Ferber arrived at the store, Eleonore was there coincidentally, helping out as her sister, who typically worked at the shop, was away skiing. Since the store was busy, Eleonore's aunt Louise asked Ferber to come back at another time so that they could talk without interruption. When Ferber returned a few days later, many people had heard about his upcoming visit and were curious to meet him. As many of them did not understand English, Eleonore sat with Ferber and translated for him throughout the evening.

"And yeah, you know how it goes, he invited me to dinner and that's how we got together," said Eleonore.

In May 1970, Ferber was ordered to return to Vietnam and while traveling, he stopped in the Philippines to attend jungle school.

"In jungle school, we learned about survival and how to escape [and] evasion. They taught me to watch the monkey. Eat what the monkey eats, and if he doesn't eat, eat the monkey," said Ferber.

He departed Vietnam in November 1971 to take up his final duty station in Heidelberg, Germany, bringing his storied Army career to a close three years later. He was awarded two Purple Hearts during his time in service, for wounds received in combat during his deployments in Vietnam and Korea.

He has resided in Germany ever since, and it was at his home – in Münsingen, of course – that he received a birthday card in February from the Secretary of the Army, the Hon. Christine Wormuth, sending well-wishes for his 102nd. The card was hand-delivered by the USAG Stuttgart Retiree Services Officer, Rachel Doran.

"He is the epitome of 'Soldier for Life,' and I'm honored to be able to help recognize him in this special way," Doran said.

Ferber is not just a "Soldier for Life," but an aviator for life as well. In his diary, he wrote:

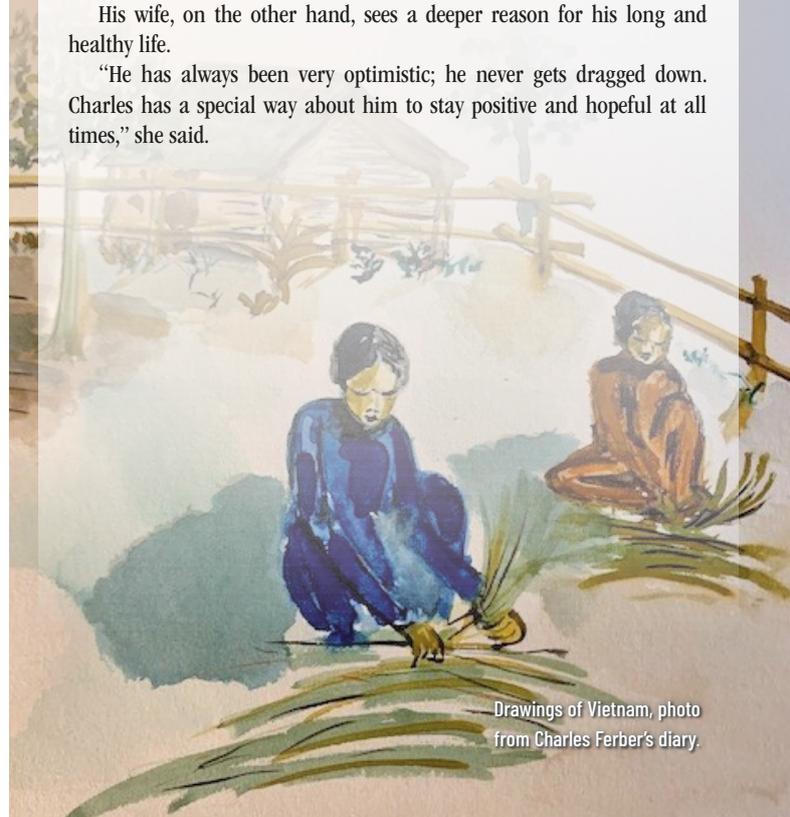
"I retired with a total flying time of ten thousand flying hours in fixed and rotary wing time to include both military and civilian time. I have flown over all terrains, temperatures, and all types of weather."

Ferber believes that the secret to his longevity lies in his simple diet.

"Always eat good food, none of these fast foods. I weigh the same as I did when I was 60," said Ferber.

His wife, on the other hand, sees a deeper reason for his long and healthy life.

"He has always been very optimistic; he never gets dragged down. Charles has a special way about him to stay positive and hopeful at all times," she said.



Drawings of Vietnam, photo from Charles Ferber's diary.

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SHS student author shares “A Dog’s Trail”

Story and photos by **Bardia Khajenoori**
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Bradlee Potter first conceived an idea for his children’s story while on a family trip in Arizona. Four years later, the 16-year-old Stuttgart High School sophomore and Army officer’s son was invited to host a community storytime with his book *April 12*, sitting alongside the garrison’s senior enlisted leader as a published author.

“A Dog’s Trail: Adventures Around the World” was the latest selection in a series of ‘sensory readings’ hosted by the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) and certainly fit the bill for an event taking place during the Month of the Military Child.

It describes the journey of a Dalmatian puppy named Spot who is adopted by a firefighter but gets lost during their first mission together. Her way home ends up taking her across the world as she meets new friends and tries new food and experiences.

“To me, it was originally just a fun story,” Bradlee said. “I’ve always liked dogs, I’ve always been traveling since my dad’s in the military, and I’d been thinking about writing a book for a long time, so I kind of just put them together.”

The idea of a sixth grader drafting a manuscript didn’t come as a shock to his parents. His mom, Brittany Potter, described his knack for storytelling as well-established even then.

“From a young age, he would always come up with these drawn out, elaborate stories with so much detail,” she said. “He just has an incredible imagination.”

Bradlee received support from family and friends throughout the writing process but singled out his grandfather’s encouragement and advice as critical to helping him follow through. With some refinement over time and the addition of new material based on more recent experiences, the chapter book for young readers was ultimately published last year.

Now older and wiser, he’s come to realize that his tale might have a more meaningful angle than simply entertainment – one that could even bring comfort to others like him.

“It’s surprisingly relatable to a military child’s life, like always having to move to new places and meet new people, then having to leave them and only getting to stay there for a short time,” he said. “Then you eventually find your place that you think of as ‘home.’”

His mom didn’t necessarily find those parallels surprising, having earlier noticed the similarities between Spot’s journey and the mobile, ever-changing lifestyle Bradlee had come to regard as normal.

“Spot talks about missing family and friends, but also making new ones and trying out all these different things you maybe couldn’t have, had you not gone on these adventures,” Brittany said. “I think it was more of an unconscious thing to him at first, but I feel like that’s kind of what military kids experience and something they can relate to.”

Her own upbringing was markedly different, living in the same house in the same town until she was 18. Back then, the idea of her best friend moving away would have been devastating, she said, but she sees an incredible level of resilience in how military children can accept and cope with similar situations on a more regular basis.

“I just think my kids are a lot stronger than I was at that age,” she concluded.

Joy Ashley, the EFMP coordinator, organized the event and reached out to Bradlee’s mother after learning about his book through social media. She also invited Command Sgt. Maj. Denice Malave to take part.

“Reading with Bradlee was a wonderful experience, and I was truly impressed with the book,” Malave said. “It says a lot that he would take the time to write a story that a kid could feel familiar with and give that to the kids and parents of the community.”

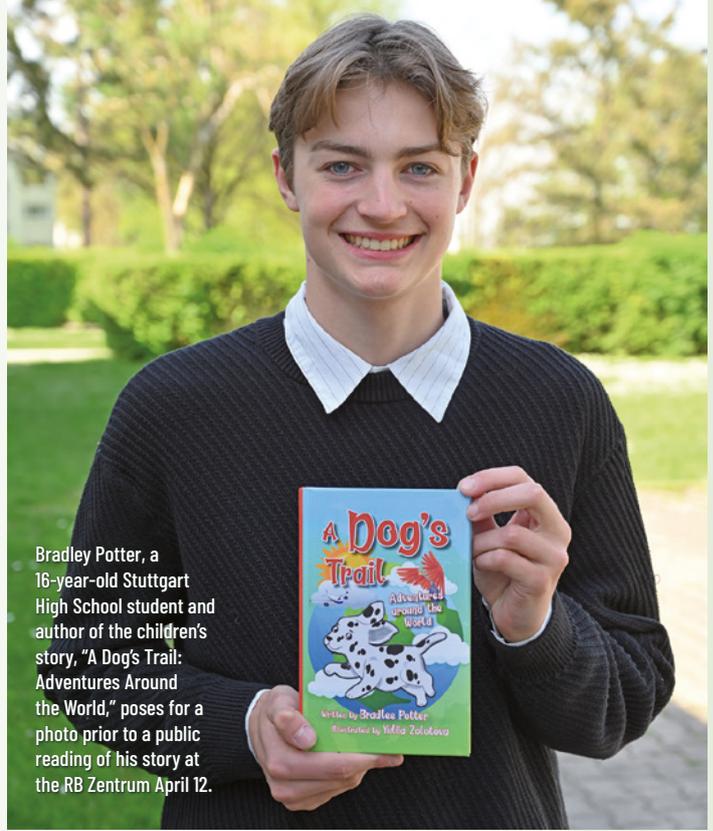
She recognized his contribution with a garrison command coin that Bradlee could admire for only a moment before the children in attendance sheepishly began approaching his table for autographs.

“Chase your dreams,” he scribbled.

While he enjoys writing, Bradlee said he considers it purely a hobby for the time being, not yet a college or career aspiration. He’s nevertheless putting the finishing touches on a mystery novel for older audiences, which aligns more closely with his personal reading preferences.

As he develops his skills further, he continues to draw inspiration from the themes of his own stories, especially the importance of cherishing the present – a key takeaway from “A Dog’s Trail.”

And for the rest of his time in Germany – before being whisked off to his family’s next adventure – he intends to do just that.



Bradlee Potter, a 16-year-old Stuttgart High School student and author of the children’s story, “A Dog’s Trail: Adventures Around the World,” poses for a photo prior to a public reading of his story at the RB Zentrum April 12.



Six-year-old Kai Smith takes a moment to turn and smile during the April 12 reading of “A Dog’s Trail” at the RB Zentrum.



Bradlee Potter reads from his book alongside Command Sgt. Maj. Denice Malave.



Bradley Potter holding his USAG Stuttgart coin.



Voting from abroad

By Nick Steddum

SHS Career Practicum

Voting season is fast approaching. As American citizens, it's important to understand how you can exercise your right to vote, even while overseas, using the resources at your disposal online and on-post.

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart runs a Voting Assistance Program that provides information on voter registration and participation in elections back home. Online, the primary resource for voting overseas is the Federal Voting Assistance Program website, FVAP.gov.

"The FVAP website is a one-stop shop," said 1st Lt. Kendall Douglass, Voting Assistance Officer for the garrison. "You can learn how to register to vote, get absentee ballots, or change your address."

Douglass says many people in the community believe they can't vote while they're stationed overseas. He is working hard to change that perception.

"As a U.S. citizen, you still have the right to vote, even if you're overseas," said Douglass.

Douglass advises people to check the FVAP website as soon as possible to better understand registration rules and requirements to obtain a ballot.

One recommended method is to use the Federal Post Card Application, FPCA, as it is standardized for use across all States and will extend your eligibility to receive a ballot for all federal elections for at least one calendar year. The FPCA acts as both a registration and absentee ballot request form.

Douglass routinely answers a wide variety of questions, from the mechanics of voting in elections from Germany to the process of registering dependents who have turned 18 during the overseas tour of the sponsor. Douglass plans to periodically set up information booths in the main Exchange in the coming weeks to share information on these and other challenges.

"I want to make sure people are prepared for the upcoming elections," said Douglass.

Dawn MacFarland, an instructor at Stuttgart High School who has maintained her right to vote via mail-in ballots for 24 years, emphasizes the importance of exercising voting rights, even if you're thousands of miles from home.

"When everybody's voice is heard, we have a better representation of America in totality," said MacFarland.

Douglass is available to help community members at every stage of the voting process, whether they need aid in filling out their FPCA, registering and casting ballots in alternative methods, printing and mailing, or getting in touch with your local election office.

"Our real goal is to reach out to the community and spread awareness of how important it is to have your voice be heard," said Douglass.

The Voting Assistance Office can be reached by calling DSN 324-412-0510 or at +49 (0)711-7080-0510.



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Employee Spotlight



Interview and photos by Bardia Khajenoori
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Kelvin Sutton Postal Clerk (Patch APO & CMR)

How long have you been in this role, and in federal service?
Since January, but I also worked at USAG Stuttgart postal from 2014 to 2017; first as a volunteer, and then on staff when a position came available. Total federal service comes to about 25 years, including time as an aircraft mechanic and eight years in the Army as a paratrooper.

What does a typical day look for you?
On the CMR side, the mail truck usually arrives in the morning. We unload it and process everything (scanning them in and organizing them), and that could take up to all day, depending on how full the truck is. We used to have to physically write everything down, but now we have scanners and a digital system that speeds things up and handles notifications. When we work the APO side, we still help unload the truck but then have to set up our time/date stamps and help a steady stream of customers while the doors are open. We put packages into bags for the appropriate transit destination, then load them into the truck and finish off administrative tasks.

How do you feel your work impacts the community?
Mail is one of the most morale-boosting services the garrison provides. Everybody likes to receive something, right? So it's like every day is Christmas. You not only have packages coming from loved ones, but also things from home that you just can't get here.

What do you find most rewarding about your job?
I'm a people person, so I appreciate the constant interaction with the community. When we go out, my kids joke about how I know everybody, but that's because I'm always seeing them, especially my customers at Patch. One of the big reasons I chose to come back here was the work environment. It allows you to not only build relationships with your coworkers, who become like family, but also the community members.

Do you have any particularly memorable experiences?
A few years ago, an Air Force officer came in who was having a particularly bad day. She was new and couldn't get her box open, so she asked me to help. We went through the combination and how to open it up again, and then I went back to my business. Later on, as she was getting ready to leave Stuttgart, she came back and said, "That day you helped me open my box, I was so miserable, I was seriously considering just leaving the service, but your kindness changed my whole outlook." It just goes to show you never know who you're going to affect, or how; you don't know what kind of day someone's having, and a little bit of customer service can go a long way.

What kind of skills do you think are most essential to do well in your job?
Customer service. You have to have a great attitude and a willingness to deal with the public. Attention to detail too. If you don't have those, your time here is going to be difficult. I'm always trying to help out customers at the APO to make sure their custom forms are filled out correctly and specifically enough so they don't get flagged and held up.

How would you summarize your personality in one sentence?
I love people.





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Stephanie Holets
Relocation Readiness Program Manager,
Army Community Service

Interview and photos by Nick Steddum
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs



Can you provide some information about your position here in Stuttgart?

My role in the garrison is to ensure that our military members and DOD civilian counterparts have a smooth relocation process, both when they arrive in Stuttgart and when they depart for other assignments. Therefore, coordinating with other agencies is important to ensure we're maximizing that ease of transition.

How long have you been working in this position?

Although I've only been in this position for four months, my entire government career has been in family programs, so this job is quite similar to what I've been doing for the past few years.

Can you describe what a typical day may look like for you?

I oversee and work on strategic planning for the contractors who work on our program. I am the one who ensures they don't have barriers to doing the work that they are doing.

How does your work impact the community?

As a military spouse, I believed that I had enough experience when it came to moving. However,

with our first tour overseas, I realized how challenging it can be. Our goal is to ensure that families are ready to come to work and stay focused on the mission. If families struggle with everyday tasks, such as registering their children for school or buying groceries off base, it could affect whether they decide to stay here or even in the military. Therefore, our work is crucial to our community.



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USAG Stuttgart and MWR Events: Your Ultimate Guide for Summer Sunshine Strategies

By Kay Moncada
USAG Stuttgart Family & MWR

As summer approaches, it's time for us to unwind and look forward to a season of wellness and relaxation. USAG Stuttgart Family & MWR has activities for all ages, from the exciting Independence Day Celebration to fun-filled CYS Summer Camps, lively golf tournaments, and more!

Independence Day Celebration (July 4, 3 - 11 p.m.)

The Independence Day Celebration hosted on Panzer Kaserne promises to be an unforgettable celebration, welcoming not only our USAG Stuttgart community but also our host nation neighbors to join in on the festivities. The gates for the event will open at 3 p.m. and includes music, rides, a variety of food & beverage vendors. As the sun sets, the vibrant energy of the event will increase with a performance by this year's feature band, Everclear; their show starts at 9:30 p.m. The day culminates with a spectacular fireworks display at 10:30 p.m.

Throughout the day, attendees can immerse themselves in a variety of entertainment options. The Panzer Main Exchange parking lot will host a dazzling car show, while adjacent areas will buzz with excitement from eating contests, inflatables, bull riding, and much more creating a playground of fun for children and adults alike. For those seeking a refreshing escape from the summer heat, CYS Water World offers a cool oasis, complete with power paddle, waterlog roll, and other attractions. Additionally, history buffs can explore a collection of old military vehicles on display, providing a glimpse into the storied past of our Armed Forces.

Wristbands are available for presale at \$10 each or \$30 for a set of four, granting access to Water World and many rides and inflatables, ensuring that every attendee can fully enjoy the festivities. The pre-sale for wristbands is scheduled to begin June 10 and run until July 2. Wristbands will also be available for purchase on the day of the event. Secure your presale wristbands at all CYS facilities (excluding Robinson), Patch Arts & Crafts, Robinson Fitness Center, Kelley Fitness Center, and the Galaxy Bowling & Entertainment Center.

Whether it's mingling with friends, indulging in delicious food, or marveling at the stunning fireworks display, the Independence Day Celebration on Panzer Kaserne promises a day filled with fun, camaraderie, and patriotic spirit for all who attend. So, grab a sparkler and let's light up the night with laughter and joy! To find additional details, visit stuttgart.armymwr.com.



CYS Summer Camps & Job Opportunities

CYS offers a diverse range of summer camps tailored for children and youth, starting June 10, and concluding August 16.

The School Age Care (SAC) camp promises an exhilarating experience to fill young campers' day with special arts and crafts projects and hours of outside activities, while the Patch Youth Center (aka The HUB), presents camp sessions every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Geared towards 6th to 12th graders, these camps offer a dynamic curriculum encompassing activities from BGCA, 4H, STEM, fitness, and recreational pursuits. Additionally, Wednesdays at the HUB feature exciting day trips across Germany, adding a touch of adventure to the camp experience. Both the Panzer Youth Center and the HUB, offers Open Recreation Programs for youth in grades 6 to 12, providing free access to engaging activities. Whether it's discovering new interests, forging lifelong friendships, or simply soaking up the moments of summer, CYS camps offer an unforgettable journey filled with adventure. For additional information, please contact Parent & Outreach Services at 09641-70-596-7467 or visit our website at stuttgart.armymwr.com.

Looking for more than just a job? Consider pursuing a fulfilling career with outstanding benefits and the chance to make a meaningful impact. Connect with CYS at their upcoming in-person job fairs.

- May 14, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., at Patch Bldg. 2312, 3rd Floor.
- June 11, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., at Panzer Education Center Bldg. 2915, 4th Floor.
- July 9, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., at Patch Bldg. 2312, 3rd Floor.

Join CYS and explore the possibilities of a rewarding career while playing a role in shaping the future! For additional information on all CYS programs, visit stuttgart.armymwr.com.

** Please note that all CYS facilities will be closed on May 24, Jun. 19, Jul. 4, and Jul. 5 for Federal Holidays and CYS Training Days.*

STRONG B.A.N.D.S. (April 29 - June 2)

Discover the power of STRONG B.A.N.D.S. – an initiative promoting healthy, active lifestyles for Army communities through Balance, Activity, Nutrition, Determination, and Strength. Join Family & MWR and AAFES at the Panzer Main Exchange on May 4 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for the kick-off of Strong B.A.N.D.S. Enjoy free fitness-class demonstrations



for kids and adults, bike maintenance by Outdoor Recreation, inflatable soccer goals with intramural sports, sign-ups for both youth and adult sports activities, MWR Trips & Tours, trivia games, and chances to win MWR SWAG and prizes. Throughout the weeks ahead, you will be able to immerse yourself in the themed activities of STRONG B.A.N.D.S. For further details on weekly events scan the QR code, stop by any USAG Stuttgart Fitness Center or call 09641-70-596-7136. Let's make healthy living fun together!

Stuttgart Golf Course: Kornwestheim (Various Dates and Times)

This summer, the Stuttgart Golf Course invites you and your family to join in on the excitement with a lineup of engaging golf programs. Starting in May don't miss the Wednesday Night Scrambles, Friday Night Showdowns, and the Get Golf Ready Program,

Photo by Family & MWR

Photo by Makaela Osiguis

Graphic by Family & MWR HQ

each offering a unique way to enjoy the game of golf this summer.

The Wednesday Night Scrambles present a 4-person, 9-hole scramble starting at 6 p.m., with an entry fee of \$20 for annual members and \$30 for U.S. ID cardholders, carts included, with sign-up beginning the previous Sunday at noon. Limited to 15 teams, the first 60 paid players will participate across dates from May 8 to August 7.

On Fridays, gear up for the Friday Night Showdown, where golfers can engage in head-to-head short game challenges, testing their skills against fellow golf enthusiasts for an evening of camaraderie and competition, with an entry fee of \$15 and multiple entries possible on May 31, June 28, and July 26.

The Get Golf Ready Program offers individuals aged 16 and above a fast, fun, and rewarding introduction to golf through a series of three 90-minute lessons, covering all aspects of the game from swing techniques to course etiquette, with registration at \$110 per person, sessions starting from May 14 to August 22.

Stay tuned for further updates and information about the 15th Annual Commander's Cup Tournament scheduled to take place on July 27. Experience the joy of summertime and the thrill of golfing in Germany at the Stuttgart Golf Course, where every swing is accompanied by breathtaking scenery and where there is something for everyone to enjoy. To reserve your spot in our upcoming events or schedule a tee time visit stuttgart.armymwr.com or call the Stuttgart Golf Course 0714-187-9150.

Outdoor Rental Gardening Tools

Revamp your outdoor gardening experience with ease by taking advantage of the convenient lawn equipment rental services offered by Outdoor Recreation (ODR). Whether you're tackling a weekend landscaping project or just need some tools for a quick yard cleanup, ODR has you covered. Our daily and weekend packages ensure flexibility to suit all your gardening needs.



Choose from a wide range of top-quality, battery-powered tools, including mowers, hedgers, leaf blowers, string trimmers, and chainsaws, all available at competitive prices. Daily rates start as low as \$20, with weekend packages offering even greater value. All weekend rentals come with a fully charged battery, goggles, and earphones for protection, ensuring your safety while you work. A \$50 cash deposit is required to take a battery charger for the weekend — ensuring unlimited power for those larger backyard projects. Say goodbye to the hassle of owning and maintaining expensive equipment — rent with Outdoor Recreation and make your gardening tasks a breeze. For more information, visit or call Outdoor Recreation at 09641-70-596-4291.

MWR Trips & Tours - Experience the Magic of Kraków, Poland with an Early-bird Registration Special (November 27-December 1)

Don't miss your chance for an unforgettable journey to the heart of Poland this Thanksgiving Break with an enticing early-bird special offer to Kraków, Poland. From Nov. 27 to Dec. 1, travelers can immerse themselves in the rich history and vibrant culture of this enchanting city with a meticulously curated package that ensures an enriching and hassle-free experience.

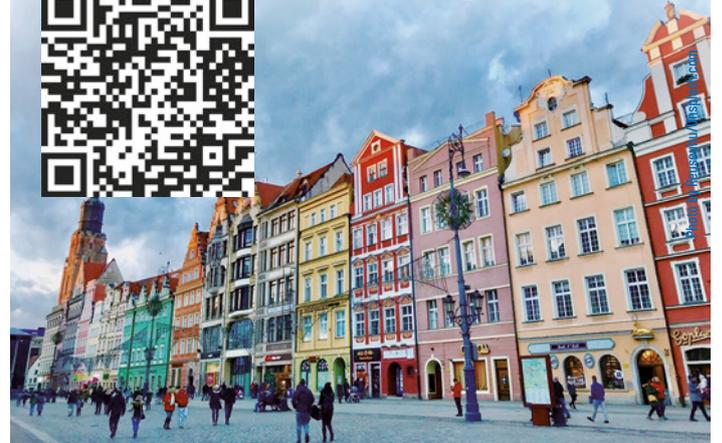
Take advantage of the early-bird pricing special, available now through June 14. An incredible value with double occupancy priced at \$1,200 per person, single occupancy at \$1,400, and children aged 2-15 years at \$1,015. This all-inclusive package features airfare, four nights of luxurious accommodation at Hotel Novatel, daily breakfast to kick-start your days of exploration, and round-trip bus service from the airport to the hotel, and back. But the perks don't end there! Travelers will also enjoy a comprehensive itinerary featuring highlights such as a three-hour guided tour of Kraków city, a sumptuous three-course dinner at a local restaurant, and an enlightening journey through the historic Wawel Castle grounds, including entrance to the mesmerizing Dragon Cave and Wawel Cathedral. Additionally, guests will have the opportunity to delve into the magnificence of Wawel Castle Royal Chamber with guided admission, as well as a visit to the famed Salt Mines in Wieliczka, complete with a two-hour tour. With ample free time scattered throughout the itinerary, adventurers can also venture

out to explore the city at their own pace, ensuring a truly personalized and memorable experience. Don't miss your opportunity to discover the wonders of Kraków, Poland or other exciting trip opportunities with MWR Tours. Registration is available in person, over the phone at 09641-70-596-2104, or via Webtrac. Even if the registration deadline has passed, there could still be openings! Don't hesitate to contact the MWR Tours staff to inquire about availability.

USAG Stuttgart Family & MWR is excited to join you and your family in celebrating the summer season.

** Effective Monday, June 17 prices will change, rates for double occupancy, single occupancy, and children aged 2-15 years will be \$1,350.00, \$1,550.00, and \$1,165 respectively. A non-refundable deposit of \$150.00 per person is required upon booking. Deadline for refund request or FULL payment of the trip must be made by Sep. 13, 2024.*

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Halfway through spring season, Panther sports set the pace

Story and photos by Kieran Murphy
SHS Career Practicum

Springtime can be a challenging time for high schoolers, filled with anticipation and stress. As they approach the year's end, they face the daunting tasks of standardized tests, final exams, and, for many, college admissions.

Spring sports can serve like a breath of fresh air, lifting their spirits and helping them engage their minds in a way that boosts their overall well-being.

But roughly halfway through the season, how are the Stuttgart High School (SHS) Panther teams faring? What were they hoping to achieve, and are they on the way to doing it? Let's have a look, sport by sport.

Baseball

Perfect seasons are very rare for any sport because of the intense competition, and that was made clear to the SHS baseball team during their season opener at home against Ramstein. Matched up against their biggest rival in seemingly every sport, Stuttgart came up short in defending home field with a narrow 3-4 loss after having the first game rained out.

As the saying goes, iron sharpens iron, and this was the case as Stuttgart went on to win their next two games — the second of the wins coming after a rally by the team in the final innings against Kaiserslautern (K-Town).

On April 13, baseball was set to have an away game at Spangdahlem but due to poor conditions at their field, the Panthers played host instead, defeating the Sentinels in both games with scores of 24-1 and 17-7. These performances were highlighted by team captain and third baseman/outfielder Ryan Santana hitting an inside-the-park home run in both games to advance the team to 4-1 on the season.

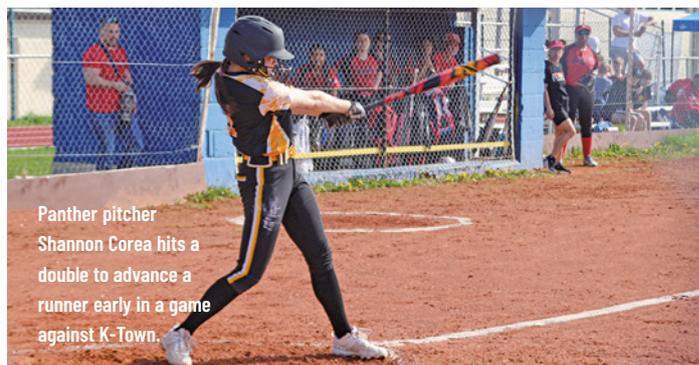
"The start of the season really changed the team dynamic. We all made mistakes in that first game, and I include myself. We weren't meshing well as a team but that game showed us the cracks. After that game, though, we started to grow as a team and work more together which has led to us being undefeated since then," Santana said.

Softball

Softball also had some first-game jitters as they fell to Ramstein starting 0-2. They quickly bounced back to set the record straight, though, as they made quick work of K-town in the next two games. The first game went smoothly as the Panthers beat the Raiders with a final score of 3-1. Pumped up after the first win, Stuttgart came back to finish the job in the second game, where they swept the series with a final score of 19-4 in a blowout, mercy rule victory. Matched up against Spangdahlem, the Panther softball team made it look easy as they mercy-ruled the Sentinels in not just one, but both games of the series to move 4-2 on the year.



2-way Stuttgart senior Ryan Santana delivers a strike directly over home plate in a matchup against Ramstein.



Panther pitcher Shannon Corea hits a double to advance a runner early in a game against K-Town.

"That first game against Ramstein was hard, but it set up the expectations for the rest of the season and showed us where we needed to improve," said second baseman Bella Whaley. "The team has gotten a lot stronger and we've been undefeated since then for a reason."

Soccer

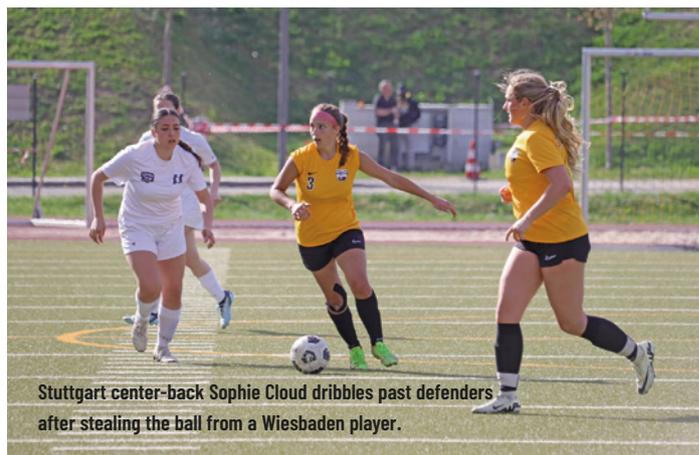
Baseball and softball aren't the only spring sports that bring in viewers: soccer is also very popular among SHS students, and it's easy to see why. The girls varsity soccer team has done nothing this season if not put on a show. They steamrolled every team in their path on the way to a 4-0 undefeated start to the season, with one of those teams being the former European Division 1 Champions (SHAPE International School).

The girls' true dominance showed April 6, the night of their fourth win. Going onto someone else's field and playing well isn't easy, and Vilseck sure did make it look difficult when they traveled to Stuttgart as the Falcons were snuffed out by the Panthers' dominance in a 10-0 mercy rule win. Their road to glory did not slow down when matched up against Wiesbaden April 12, as the girls' varsity team simply outplayed the Warriors to notch their fifth straight win.

"Being undefeated definitely gives the whole team a feeling of confidence as we near championships. Being able to go to Euros with more wins than losses has really shown us that our hard work over these past few weeks has paid off," said Stuttgart center-back Sophie Cloud. "Injuries have been tough this year, soccer is a contact sport after all but our coaches understand the importance of staying healthy and have helped us recover after every game."

There must be something in the SHS water that makes incredible soccer players, because the boys varsity soccer team has also enjoyed an amazing start to the season. The team's chemistry was clear after getting their first win facing K-Town away during week one. The Panthers haven't looked back since, as they have spent the past five weeks dominating every team forced to match up against them — with the most recent win coming against Wiesbaden at home. Both teams had high hopes coming into the Friday night game April 13, but the blue and gold were forced to leave black and blue as the Panthers came out on top, advancing to 5-0.

"Being undefeated is hard," said Stuttgart midfielder Gabe Maples. "You always feel the pressure of having to perform better to keep the streak alive but that's ultimately what makes us play harder."



Stuttgart center-back Sophie Cloud dribbles past defenders after stealing the ball from a Wiesbaden player.



Miles Soto and Gabe Maples congratulate teammate Connor Eaton following his second goal of the season.

Track

While all of the SHS spring sports are unique, they all have one thing in common: a whole lot of running. While every team is pretty good at it, there is no one better than the track team, and nowhere is the saying “Speed Kills” more true than on the Stuttgart track. This was best shown April 13, when the team hosted its first home meet of the season.

Bright and early Saturday morning, both the track and field were buzzing with anticipation as a total of five schools were competing that day. While the sun was already beating down by mid-morning, the heat didn’t slow down Stuttgart as they dominated throughout the day and saw multiple runners set personal records (PR). Sprinter Nate Clery was one of them, hitting a PR of 24.23 seconds in the 200-meter race.

“Believe it or not, coming off of an injury helped motivate me. There were a lot of doubts about whether or not I could still perform, and I used that to my advantage,” Clery said.

Another Stuttgart sprinter, Daniel Greer, also hit his own milestone in the same race.

“I beat my old record by a full second, and I think it all comes down to coaching,” Greer said. “I used what Coach Ian had told me about relaxing and taking longer strides in the last straight away.”

These incredible performances led the Panthers to take home the win over the weekend.

No matter what sport you look at, Stuttgart is at the front of the pack. With the all-around success of the Panthers this season, the students at Stuttgart High School can only keep cheering and hope that the total dominance continues.



Senior sprinter Nate Clery rounds the bend as he gains speed for his first performance of the day.

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May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month

By Rachael Long

USAG Stuttgart Safety Manager

Motorcyclists are hard to see. Knowing where to expect them can help you become safer and more confident on the roads during warm-weather months when most motorcyclists take to the streets. When you watch for motorcyclists, see more than the motorcycle, see the person under the helmet. They may be your friend, neighbor, or even a relative.

MOTORCYCLE SAFETY – MOTORIST AWARENESS TIPS

Most crashes with motorcyclists occur when vehicle drivers are turning left.

Intersections are one of the biggest dangers for motorcyclists. Their smaller size causes them to be overlooked by other drivers. Make sure to look twice before turning, especially to the left.

Most motorcycle-vehicle crashes happen on city streets, not highways.

A common misconception is that most crashes involving motorcyclists and vehicles occur on highways. Data shows that a large majority take place on city streets (lots of vehicles in motion).

Avoid distractions and double-check your blind spots.

Keep devices out of reach so you won't be tempted – even when stopped at intersections. Motorcyclists can get lost in a vehicle's blind spot. Be extra cautious when merging or changing lanes.

Always assume motorcyclists are closer than they appear.

Their speed and distance are difficult for drivers to judge, especially at intersections. Keep a watchful eye at all times. Look twice at intersections before you turn or pull out.

Keep your distance and watch for signals and visual cues.

Many motorcyclists slow down by downshifting, which won't activate the brake light. Allow yourself extra space when you're following a motorcyclist, particularly on busy city streets. Motorcyclists often use hand signals, similar to bicyclists, to let others know their intentions.

Don't rely just on your ears!

You can't always hear motorcycles, especially when they're oncoming. Remain alert at all times.

MOTORCYCLE OPERATOR TRAINING REQUIREMENTS (U.S. FORCES IN GERMANY)

Service Members must have up-to-date Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) training. Motorcycling is a lifelong learning process, and motorcycle skills require occasional refreshing. Riding a motorcycle may look easy, but it requires a lot of coordination, mental focus, and regular practice to become skilled at it. The MSF (Motorcycle Safety Foundation) courses are offered through an Army-wide contract, with a local subcontractor operating in Europe. While Service Members have priority, DoD Civilians can also attend the courses if there is space available.

- ➔ The training site for USAG Stuttgart is Stuttgart Army Airfield (SAAF). MSF courses offered:
- ➔ Basic Rider Course (BRC, 2 days) / Experienced Rider Course (ERC, 1 day).
- ➔ The BRC card is valid for one year / ERC card valid for five years.
- ➔ For the BRC, the contractor provides motorcycles, helmets, and gloves.
- ➔ For the ERC, riders must use their own motorcycles and PPE.

Remember, riders **MUST** successfully complete BRC before operating a motorcycle.

- ➔ An expired BRC card does not require rider to retake BRC; schedule an ERC instead.

Prerequisites for participating in any MSF training in Europe:

- ➔ U.S. State-issued motorcycle license;
- ➔ Motorcycle endorsement to a valid driver's license; or
- ➔ HN motorcycle license.
- ➔ MSF instructors will check and reject candidates with incomplete documents!

Check the calendar and register at: <https://airs.safety.army.mil>

MOTORCYCLE OPERATOR PPE REQUIREMENTS

A motorcycle rider must wear high-quality personal protective equipment (PPE) from head to toe. Wearing a helmet alone can be the deciding factor between life and death in any motorcycle accident. A helmet is an obvious way to minimize the seriousness of a head injury or avoid it completely. A full-face helmet provides the most protection and is highly recommended.

Helmets are the most critical personal protective equipment (PPE) a rider wears, but all PPE is important!

Motorcycle operators and passengers must wear:

- Helmet; Eye Protection; and Protective Clothing.
- All personnel (except local nationals) will wear:
- Full-finger gloves/mittens; over-the-ankle footwear; long-sleeved shirt/jacket; and full-length trousers.
- See the Installation Traffic Code for U.S. Forces in Germany (AER 190-1) for specific requirements.

There is a reason that **“DRESS FOR THE SLIDE, NOT THE RIDE”** is a common motto among motorcycle riders. If you think the cost of buying PPE is too high, consider the cost of not wearing it.

It truly is worth every dime, every time!

Find additional traffic safety requirements in the Installation Traffic Code for U.S. Forces in Germany (AER 190-1) or AR 385-10, Chapter 13. Motor Vehicle Mishap Prevention



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The Big Question: What's your favourite springtime activity?

“Traveling is our family’s favorite thing to do, especially when the weather is nice.”

Zara Kim, 29



Überlingen by Marc Kunze/Shutterstock.com



Esslingen by Sijie Fuimer Photography/Shutterstock.com



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“It’s gotta be BBQ.”

Jason Lee, 45

“We really like the beer gardens around here, good food and beer.”

Rachel Davis, 25, and Liam Davis, 29

“I like to bring my kids to the park when the weather is nice.”

Amanda Martinez, 24

Photo by Sibbotina Anna/Shutterstock.com



Graphics by View Apart/Shutterstock.com

“I love riding my bike. I’ve heard Stuttgart is a good area for it.”

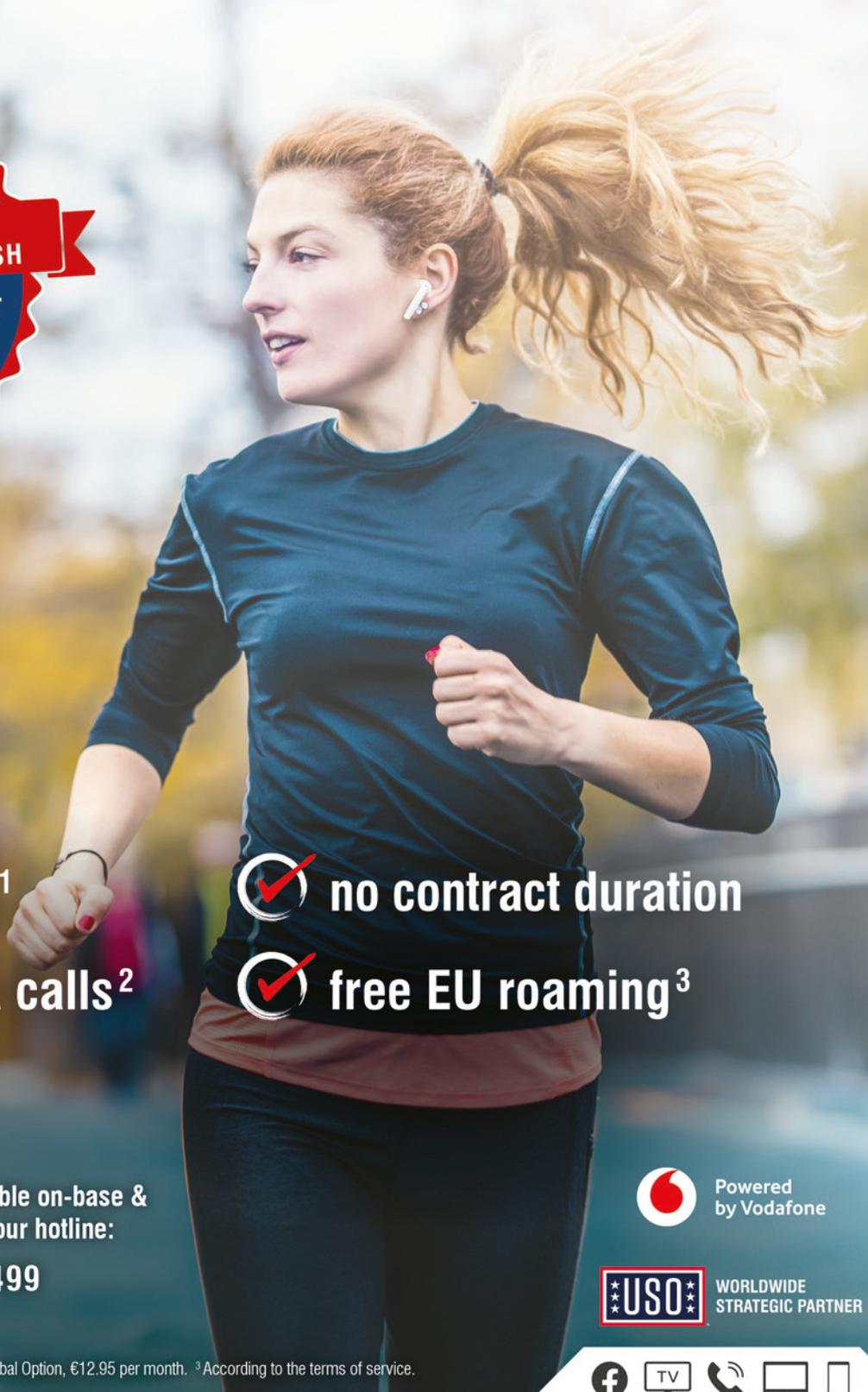
Leila Schmidt, 33



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