

# THE GAZETTE

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

## Benelux news briefs

### CAC office closes

The USAG Benelux-Brussels CAC Card/Passport Office in Building 4's Room 311 will be closed March 21.

If you need to schedule an appointment for that day, you should contact the CAC/Passport/ID Card Section at the U.S. Community Services Center in SHAPE's Building 253. For an appointment, call DSN 366-6294 or civilian 065-326294.

### SHAPE clinic reduces services on holidays

The SHAPE Healthcare Facility will operate on a Belgian/SHAPE holiday schedule March 25 in observance of Good Friday and March 28 in observance of Easter Monday:

- The Acute Care Walk-in Clinic will be open from 8 to 10 a.m.

### Kennel job open

Chièvres Boarding Kennel is looking for someone to perform pet-grooming services.

This contracted position requires basic proficiency in English and three years of certified experience.

Call DSN 361-5813 or civilian 068-275813.

## Eggstravaganza, Kinderfest, Spring Fling... Get ready!



This year, Chièvres Air Base's Eggstravaganza as well as Schinnen's Kinderfest and Egg Hunt will be held March 19. Brussels' Spring Fling will take place March 26. See pages 7 and 8.

## Table of Contents

News.....	1-6
Inside the gate.....	7-8
Outside the gate.....	9-12

### Benelux Soldier retires

*Capt. Grace Richards, a personnel services officer, accepts the American flag from Pfc. Chynna Knight during Richards' retirement ceremony Friday, March 11, 2016, at the the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux auditorium on Caserne Daumerie in Chièvres, Belgium. The presentation of the flag signifies the honor of serving under it and the unity, power and purpose of the nation. It also serves as a reminder that the men and women whom Richards trained, led and inspired will follow in her footsteps in defending the flag with equal pride. (U.S. Army photo by Keith Houin)*



### AER kicks off campaign in Benelux

*USAG Benelux Army Emergency Relief officer Michael Doorbal explains the program and the intent of the 2016 Army Emergency Relief Campaign at the garrison auditorium on Caserne Daumerie in Chièvres Thursday, March 3, 2016. Army Emergency Relief was incorporated as a private nonprofit organization Feb. 5, 1942, under the laws of the District of Columbia for the purpose of collecting and holding funds to relieve distress of members of the Army and their dependents. The 2016 AER campaign runs through May 15. If you'd like more information but don't know how to contact your local AER representative, call DSN 366-6388 or civilian 065-326388. (U.S. Army photo by Keith Houin)*



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# Combatives students now ready to teach

by **Katrin Galeano**

Family Readiness Group, Company A, AFNORTH Battalion

U.S. Army Tactical (Level 2) Combatives graduation took place in the U.S. Delegation Room at JFC Brunssum March 14. The Combatives class was the first ever taught at JFC Brunssum and in the Netherlands.

Using a modular format, master combatives trainer Lt. Col. Dave DeAtley of AFNORTH Battalion, assisted by Staff Sgt. Abel Salazar, taught participants intermediate and advanced ground fighting,

stand-up techniques as well as tactical scenarios (focused on anti-kidnapping) training over the span of two months. In addition to his Army training, DeAtley holds a black belt in Japanese jujitsu and a blue belt in Brazilian jiu-jitsu.

Seven graduates — Royal Air Force Squadron Leader Ian Cameron, U.S. Air Force Maj. Aaron Sprecher, Staff Sgt. Curtis Ross, Sgt. Anthony Posey, Spc. Jennifer Bermodes, Spc. Joe Furbee and

Pvt. 2 Jordan Tyler — are now qualified to teach Army Combatives up to the company level of U.S. Army Tactical (Level 1).

Overseen by AFNORTH Battalion's Command Sgt. Maj. Travis Childers, the U.S. Army training course was open to all NATO members and civilians at no charge to instill warrior ethos, improve resiliency and expose all students to the realities of real-world fighting and temporary-duty/deployment safety. Another Level 2 course is scheduled for May-June after another Level 1 (Basic) Combatives Course (Modular) in April.

"At any given time our headquarters has dozens of its members TDY or deployed as individuals and small groups," DeAtley said. "Most of them have no idea what to do if a van rolls up next to them on the streets of whichever city they are in and attackers jump out and attempt to kill or kidnap them."

DeAtley acknowledged that the graduation would never have taken place if it weren't for the support and hard work of the U.S. and NATO chains of command, the Brunssum gym and its staff, and the assistant instructors.

"We intend to bring a mobile training team from our schoolhouse at Fort Benning, Georgia, to conduct a Combatives Master Trainer Course to continue to grow the program in Central Europe," he said.



(Left to right) Sgt. Anthony Posey, Staff Sgt. Curtis Ross, Air Force Maj. Aaron Sprecher and Spc. Joe Furbee prepare a four-soldier entry against Staff Sgt. Abel Salazar, who acts as an enemy combatant, Tuesday, March 8, 2016. This scenario uses everything the students learned in the course. (Photo by Sgt. Bradley Zink)

## Powerlifting officials clinic, invitational set for May

Those who would like to become certified powerlifting officials are invited to Installation Management Command-Europe's free officials clinic at the Sembach, Germany, Religious Support Office in Building 118 May 4 to 6 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Open to ID cardholders, ages 18 and older.

A powerlifting invitational will be held at Sembach Fitness Center May 7 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. so that the new officials may practice what they learned in the IMCOM-E clinic.

If you are interested in joining the clinic or would like to participate in the powerlifting invitational, get more information on either of these events by calling DSN 544-9547 or civilian +49 (0) 611-1439547.

## Bodybuilding invitational planned at K-town

Start training. USAG Rheinland-Pfalz will host a Bodybuilding and Figure Invitational at Kaiserslautern High School's auditorium in Germany June 25. Pre-register June 15 to 22.

Open to all ID cardholders, ages 18 and older. Entry fee: \$45. Registration from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Mandatory competitors meeting from

10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Event begins at noon.

Trophies will be presented for first and second place in each weight/height division plus overall award for men and women. Cost for spectators: \$8 for adults; \$5 for children, ages 12 and older. For more information, call DSN 493-2088 or civilian +49 (0) 631-34062088.

# Soldier wins scholarship from Top-3 Association

## Special to the Gazette

The NATO Joint Top-3 Committee recently announced the winner of its spring-term scholarship.

The NATO Joint Top-3 Association is an organization of noncommissioned officers from the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps at NATO headquarters who work to contribute to their community and for the improvement of American enlisted service members at NATO headquarters.

Sgt. 1st Class Khadijah Mitchell-Oleh won on the basis of her application and



Sgt. 1st Class Khadijah Mitchell-Oleh sits at her desk at the U.S. Delegation to NATO Military Committee (JCS) at NATO Headquarters Wednesday, March 16, 2016. (Courtesy photo)

a two-page essay. Mitchell-Oleh works as a senior logistics noncommissioned officer at the U.S. Delegation to NATO Military Committee in Brussels. She is currently working on her Masters of Science in logistical and supply-chain management.

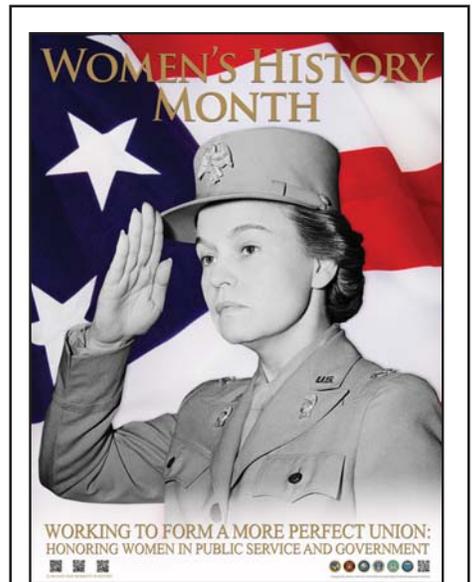
The essay told the story of how, after becoming a mother at a young age, Mitchell-Oleh created a path of hope for herself and for her children, she said.

"I didn't want to become just another teenage-mother statistic," she said, explaining that the essay focused on the outreach services she received as well as the importance of education and personal goals.

Her aim was to give inspiration to others so that "they, too, can succeed and not be another statistic."

The scholarship is designed to offset some costs associated with a college education, such as books or supplies, for a student seeking an associate's, bachelor's or master's degree. The opportunity was open to any active-duty service member in the pay grade of E-7 and below who works at NATO Headquarters, USAG Benelux-Brussels or the U.S. Embassy.

For any questions regarding this scholarship, the next scholarship opportunity or about the NATO Joint Top-3 Committee, call civilian 07-075376.



This poster for Women's History Month, created by the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute, embodies selfless service.

## Women's successes celebrated this month

The USAG Benelux Equal Opportunity Office will host the Women's History Month observance in the SHAPE PAO Auditorium in Building 101 March 24 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

The event's guest speaker will be Air Force Maj. Cashenna Cross, who is the chief of Intelligence Systems under the SHAPE Intelligence Directorate, or J-2.

This year's theme is "Working to Form a More Perfect Union: Honoring Women in Public Service and Government."

A cake-cutting will be conducted at the end of ceremony.

# Andrews scholarship program now open

Andrews Federal Credit Union announced the opening of its 2016 Scholarship Program March 8, according to an Andrews news release from its corporate headquarters in Suitland, Maryland.

Ten \$1,500 non-renewable college scholarships are available to students who are Andrews Federal members or dependents of members in good standing as of March 1, the news release said.

Applicants must be pursuing a degree from an accredited college or university. Applications will be judged on an essay composition and must include community-service activities.

Applications must be submitted by April 30, according to <http://www.andrewsfcu.org/scholarship2016>. Scholarship applications and instructions are available in Andrews Federal branches or can be downloaded at that web address, too.

"Andrews Federal offers these scholarships every year to help our members with the cost of higher education," Andrews Federal president Jim Hayes said in the news release. "We also include a financial literacy component in the essay portion, because our members' financial health is just as important to us."

# Salamanders need human help now

by **Valentin Wallers**

Natural resources manager, USAG Benelux Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division

In addition to traffic, another threat now hangs over European salamanders. Scientists reported plenty of cases of animals infected by a fungus in Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany.

Originally from Asia, *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans*, or Bsal, causes skin lesions that block the pores of the animal, decreasing its breathing capacities and leading, within two weeks, to a death by asphyxia. This highly infectious parasite could become a potential cause of species extinction in batrachian populations and especially the fire salamander in Netherlands. However it is at no risk to humans, and, so far, it doesn't appear to affect European frogs and toads.

Chièvres Air Base hosts several batrachian species, such as the common toad and the brown frog as well as the common newt and the Alpine newt (both aquatic salamanders).

Since 2001, these protected species have been monitored during their breeding season, which generally starts in March/April. The 2014 survey showed an intense frequenting of the newts in the ponds on base. Indeed, the aquatic ecosystem plays a major role in batrachian reproduction. The recently finished pond-dredging project is expected to increase the newt populations on Chièvres Air Base.

**Do your part**

- Remember that, at the end of winter, the first balmy and rainy evenings are the starting signal for millions of amphibians



At left, healthy alpine newts found last year on Chièvres Air Base. (Courtesy photo) At right, alpine newts highly infected by Bsal in Flanders. (Photo by Annelies Jacobs)



Watch for warning signs marking migration paths. (U.S. Army photo by Donovan Abrassart)

to begin their spring migration. Reduce your speed when approaching known migration paths, which are marked by signs. (See photo above.)

- Never release your pets into the wild because they can become a treat for local fauna (predation and competition for food).

# Earth Hour 'shines light' on energy waste

**Special to the Gazette**

People all over the globe are being encouraged to turn off all nonessential lights for an hour during Earth Hour March 19 from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. local time to raise awareness about energy conservation.

This one hour isn't enough to decrease the overall USAG Benelux electricity consumption, but it's a start, said Melanie Chaballe, the USAG Benelux energy manager.

"Little things add up, and this could be the opportunity to realize what we really need on a daily basis," she said. "Do we need all our house lights on? Do we need our office

lights on when the sun is shining? Do we need all those appliances on, even if we are not using them?"

Earth Hour fits in with the goal of the USAG Benelux energy-conservation program and with the USAG Benelux Strategic Plan: to reduce electricity usage by 2.5 percent annually.

To find out more about Earth Hour, visit its website at <https://www.earthhour.org/celebrate-earth-hour> or call the USAG Benelux energy manager at DSN 361-5186 or civilian 068-275186.

# Belgian MOD opens trips to SHAPE, USAG Benelux

by **Donovan Abrassart**

USAG Benelux Public Affairs Office

Crete, Spa or Middelkerke ... Where will you go?

The Central Office for Social and Cultural Action (OCASC) of the Belgian Ministry of Defense recently opened its trips to SHAPE and USAG Benelux members and their guests.

Originally, OCASC, which can be compared to USAG Benelux's Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, facilitates trips for the Belgian military and police; however, OCASC officials decided to make them available to SHAPE/Benelux communities.

OCASC representatives recently contacted Maj. Christian Van Wassenhove, Base Support Group host-nation liaison officer, about their willingness to open their trips to the NATO/SHAPE/USAG Benelux community.

"I am happy," Van Wassenhove said. "It brings both communities together because Shapians will be on the plane and in the hotel only with Belgian military or Belgian policemen. The link will be tighter than it is now."

Van Wassenhove contacted Henriette De Lair from SHAPE Trips and Tours

about this new opportunity for the community.

"The offers they have are great because they own the hotels and they own the apartments," De Lair said.

They currently propose three destinations: Crete in Greece, Spa in the Belgian Ardennes and Middelkerke on the Belgian Coast.

"There could be more in the future," Van Wassenhove said. "We'll see."

*"The offers they have are great."*

Crete is an all-inclusive offer but is only available from June to September for two-week stays.

From the moment you take off from Brussels Airport until you come back, everything is taken care of and paid for (transportation, lodging, food and beverages).

For these dates, OCASC will charter a plane; this plane is only for the people who booked, De Lair said.

Prices range from €1,045 to €1,250 for adults, €435 to €525 for children, ages 2 to 6, and €540 to €735 for children, ages 7 to 13, depending on the period.

As for the other two destinations, they are available throughout the year with no set length of stay.

Whatever destination you choose, different lodging options are offered to accommodate either a single person or a bigger family.

The only condition to book one of these trips is to have a SHAPE, NATO or USAG Benelux ID card.

You're also welcome to sponsor family members and friends as long as you also are on the trip you book for them.

All reservations must be made at SHAPE Trips and Tours.

If you want to get more information about one of these trips or make a reservation, stop by SHAPE's Building 307 or contact SHAPE Trips and Tours at DSN 423-3884 or civilian 065-443884, or, via email, at shapetripsandtours1@gmail.com.

## 'Lucky Leprechauns' compete for fitness, fun

The Swashbuckler "cannonball toss," one of the stations at the Lucky Leprechaun Fitness Scavenger Hunt, at Chièvres Fitness Center Saturday, March 12, 2016, adds some pirate fun to the event. The competition included running, situps, pushups and games to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Six stations were spread over an approximately 5K course. The stations stretched from Chièvres Army Lodging to the Military Police station near Gate 14. They included strenuous challenges like weight-plate transport (from Point A to Point B) and a heavy-machinery tire flip to fun things like corn hole and a magnetic fish pond (often used at children's events). The three teams with the shortest time on the course received prizes. The Lucky Leprechaun Fitness Scavenger Hunt was planned as a healthy way to celebrate St. Paddy's Day. Other ways to celebrate include a fun run in USAG Benelux-Brussels and a dance party with a disc jockey on SHAPE. For details, see pages 7 and 8. (U.S. Army photo by Kathy Garrity-Cantwell)



## BRUSSELS COMMUNITY

### Register now

- **Take VTC-projected classes** - Take classes that are offered by Schinnen Army Community Service or SHAPE ACS by video-teleconference at Brussels ACS. To sign up, call DSN 368-9783 or civilian 02-7179783:
  - **Scream-Free Marriage** - VTC-projected from Schinnen **March 23** from 5 to 7 p.m.

### Make reservations now

- **Spring Fling at the 3 Star** - Celebrate the beginning of spring **March 26** from 9 a.m. to noon. You can start with the breakfast buffet from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Cost: adults, \$8; children, \$4. RSVP for breakfast buffet by March 18 at reservation3star@yahoo.com. Children's Arts and Crafts will take place inside, and bouncy-house fun and egg hunts will be outside. Parents, you can take photos of your children with the Easter Bunny until 10:30 a.m. For egg-hunt schedule, call DSN 368-9680 or civilian 02-7179680.

### March 17, 18

- **BOSS Movie Night** - Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers hosts free movies "Alvin & The Chipmunks: The Road Chip" (PG) **March 17** and "Crimson Peak" (R) **March 18** from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the BOSS Movie Area on the third floor of Building 1. Space is limited so make your reservation soon at reservations3star@yahoo.com. Call DSN 368-9819 or civilian 02-7179819.

### March 18

- **Live Music at the 3 Star** - Jeff Wisnom will perform vintage rock and pop in a free concert from 7 to 9 p.m. For details, call DSN 368-9822 or civilian 02-7179822.

### March 19

- **St. Patrick's Day 5K/10K Run** - This run starts at the Brussels Fitness Center at Brussels Fitness Center, starts at 8:30 a.m. and is expected to last until 12:30 p.m. Open to all U.S. military, civilian, embassy and NATO personnel, their family members and their invited guests. The first 50 participants will receive a St. Patrick's Day T-shirt. To register, call DSN 368-9667 or civilian 02-7179667.

### March 20

- **Protestant Palm Sunday service** - This service will take place at Brussels American Chapel at 10:30 a.m.

### March 22 to 25

- **Welcome, newcomers** - Brussels Army Community Service invites all service members, civilians and their families to participate in free newcomers events next week. **March 22:** Supermarket Guided Tour is conducted from 8:30 to 11 a.m. **March 23:** The deputy garrison manager's welcome and USAG Benelux-Brussels site brief start at 8:45 a.m. and are followed by a cultural acclimatization (information on local customs as well as basic French and Dutch), which ends at 12:30 p.m. **March 24:** Hospital Guided Tour is conducted from 9:30 a.m. to noon. **March 25:** Metro Madness (in which newcomers learn to use public transportation) runs from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Meet in the ACS conference room in Building 4 half an hour before start time to get settled, get a snack or get ready to leave as a group for a tour, if applicable. Register by calling DSN 368-9783/9729 or civilian 02-7179783/9729.

### March 24

- **3 Star Dinner Special** - Enjoy fettucine with chicken and Alfredo sauce or penne with meatballs Bolognese sauce from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Cost: adults \$8; children, ages 12 and under, \$4. (Alternate children's menu: hotdogs or chicken fingers.) Reservations are required. Reserve by close of business the Tuesday before at reservations3star@yahoo.com.

### March 25

- **"The Passion of the Christ"** - This film will be shown at Brussels American Chapel at 6 p.m.

### March 27

- **Protestant Easter service** - This service will take place at Brussels American Chapel at 10:30 a.m.

## SCHINNEN/BRUNSSUM COMMUNITY

### Sign up now

- **Take VTC-projected classes** - Take classes that are offered by Schinnen Army Community Service, SHAPE ACS or Brussels ACS by video-teleconference. To sign up, call DSN 360-7500 or civilian +31 (0) 46-4437500:
  - **Scream-Free Marriage** - given in person at Schinnen ACS **March 23** from 5 to 7 p.m.

### March 19

- **Kinderfest and Egg Hunt** - The 2016 Kinderfest and Easter Egg Hunt will be held at Building H-602 on JFC Brunssum from 10 a.m. to noon. It includes children's activities and games. For details, call DSN 364-3121/2023 or civilian+31 (0) 45-5263121/2023. Open to U.S. and NATO ID card-holders and their guests.

### March 20

- **Protestant Palm Sunday Service** - This service will take place at JFC Brunssum International Chapel at 9:30 a.m.
- **Catholic Palm Sunday Holy Mass** - This service will take place at JFC Brunssum Chapel at 11:30 a.m.

## SCHINNEN/BRUNSSUM COMMUNITY continued

### March 24

- **Catholic Holy Thursday Mass** - This service will take place at Geilenkirchen NATO Air Base Chapel at 7 p.m.

### March 25

- **Catholic Good Friday service** - This service will take place at Geilenkirchen NATO Air Base Chapel at 3 p.m.

### March 26

- **Catholic Holy Saturday Easter Vigil** - This service will take place at Geilenkirchen Chapel at 7 p.m.

### March 27

- **Protestant Easter service** - This service will take place in JFC Brunssum Chapel at 9:30 a.m.
- **Catholic Easter Mass** - This service will take place at JFC Brunssum Chapel at 11:30 a.m.

## SHAPE/CHIEVRES COMMUNITY

### Sign up now

- **Take VTC-projected classes** - Take classes that are offered by Brussels, Schinnen or SHAPE Army Community Service by video-teleconference at SHAPE ACS. To sign up, call DSN 366-6824 or civilian 065-326824:
  - **Scream-Free Marriage** - VTC-projected from Schinnen **March 23** from 5 to 7 p.m.

### March 17 to 18

- **Patchwork Exhibition** - SHAPE Arts and Crafts Patchwork Studio is putting on its ninth Patchwork Exhibition and Unused Fabric Sale **March 17** from 1 to 6:30 p.m. and **March 18** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### March 17, 18, 19 and 20

- **"Urine Town"** - The SHAPE Players present "Urine Town the Musical" at the SHAPE Performing Arts Centre in Building 207 **March 17, 18 and 19** at 7:30 p.m. The curtain goes up on its matinee performance **March 20** at 3 p.m. Cost: adults, €16; students, €8; children, €8. For details, call DSN 423-3312 or civilian 065-443312.

### March 18

- **St. Patrick's Day event** - Wear green, and celebrate St. Patrick's Day at the SHAPE Events Centre from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. A disc jockey will provide music.

### March 19

- **Eggstravanza** - Join the SHAPE/Chièvres community to celebrate the beginning of spring with Eggstravanza at the Chièvres Community Activity Center from 10 a.m. to noon with an outdoor egg hunt at noon.

### March 20

- **Catholic Palm Sunday Mass** - This service starts at the outside entrance (near the Fellowship Hall) at 8:30 a.m. (earlier than other Sunday Masses) and processes to SHAPE International Chapel Centre's East Chapel. If it is raining, the procession will begin in the Fellowship Hall and stay indoors.
- **Anglican Palm Sunday service** - This service will take place at SHAPE ICC's East Chapel at 10:15 a.m.

### March 21

- **Tenebrae Service** - This service will take place at SHAPE ICC's East Chapel at 6 p.m.

### March 21 to 22

- **Host-Nation Orientation** - Army Community Service invites all service members, civilian employees and their family members to learn what the SHAPE/Chièvres community has to offer. During the two-day orientation, you will learn about Belgian customs and basic French. You will also go on a cultural city tour and tour a Belgian hospital as well as sample traditional Belgian cuisine and learn how to shop on the economy. Learn how to use public transportation, and visit the Ste. Waudru Collegiale in Mons. Meet at the ACS conference room 15 minutes earlier than the start time of 8:30 a.m. To register, call DSN 366-6824 or civilian 065-326824.

### March 24

- **Catholic Holy Thursday Mass** - This service (which will include washing of feet) will take place at SHAPE ICC's East Chapel at 7 p.m., followed by Adoration from 8 p.m. to midnight.

### March 25

- **Catholic Good Friday Mass** - This service (which will include Liturgy of the Word with the reading of the Passion; General Intercessions; Veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion) will take place at SHAPE ICC's East Chapel at 7 p.m.

### March 26

- **Catholic Easter Vigil Mass** - This service will take place at SHAPE ICC's East Chapel at 7:30 p.m. Reception in the Fellowship Hall follows.

### March 27

- **Catholic Easter Mass** - This service will take place at SHAPE ICC's East Chapel at 9 a.m. Reception in the Fellowship Hall follows.
- **Anglican Easter service** - This service will take place at SHAPE ICC's East Chapel at 10:15 a.m.
- **SHAPE Contemporary Protestant Easter service** - This service will be held at SHAPE ICC's East Chapel at 11:45 a.m.

# Travel the Benelux

## Longest subterranean river known worldwide is Belgian

**Story by Marêva Baudart**

USAG Benelux Public Affairs Intern

Every day we walk on the ground, but we seldom realize what's going on underground. One thing is sure: the world below us is spellbinding.

Located in the Frenchspeaking province of Liège, the Rubicon is an underground river that carved out the Caves of Remouchamps. It is considered as the world's longest subterranean river (more than 600m).

The limestone caves of Remouchamps were first discovered in the 19th century. They were opened to the public in 1912 and twelve years later, were equipped with lights.

Some 8,000 years ago, the front of the caves was inhabited by Paleolithic hunters and much later became a shelter during World War II. This jewel of Liège contains some remarkable sites to visit. Each of them possesses its own wonders, explained to you in details by guides in French, Dutch, German and English.

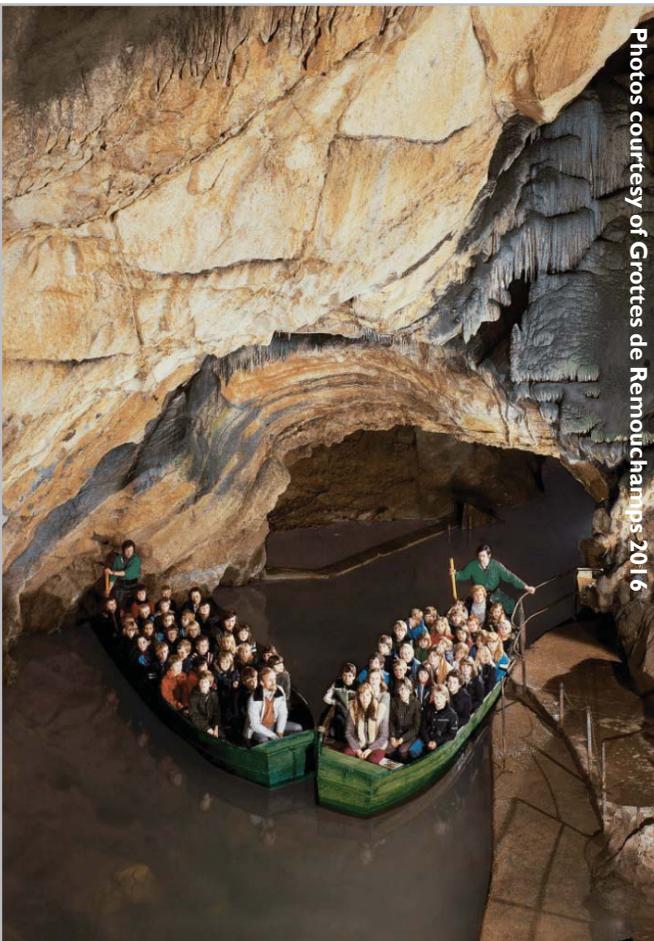
The caves are explored in two levels. The upper gallery is to be visited on foot. There, you will be able to admire many stalactites and stalagmites which embellish the interior of the caves; one of these is thought to resemble the Holy Mary. The paths throughout the journey to the cathedral room (where the two galleries merge) are easy to walk, clean and coated with anti-slip.

The lower gallery is crossed by the Rubicon. After the apotheosis of the cathedral, the second part can be visited during an hour and a half boat trip through the longest underground navigable waterway. There, you will discover that the caves are still home to bats and niphargus, a blind and translucent shrimp.

At the exit of the caves are thematic exhibitions and a museum which explains the history of the caves.

The guided tour lasts about 75 minutes. Do not forget to bring good shoes and warm clothes because the temperature inside the caves varies between 8 and 10 degrees.

Outside the gate



Photos courtesy of Grottes de Remouchamps 2016



**Address:**

Rue de Louveigné 3  
4920 Remouchamps

**Opening hours :**

From Feb. 1 through Nov. 30:  
Daily: 10 a.m to 6 p.m. (last departure at 5 p.m.)

**Tickets:**

- Adults: €14
- Children 3-11: €9

Possibility to get a combined ticket with the safari park "Le Monde Sauvage"

# Manneken Pis: Statue is Belgium's icon

Story by **Marêva Baudart**

USAG Benelux Public Affairs Office Intern

When you first visit the capital of Belgium, one of the main attractions you are directly shown is definitely the statue of Manneken Pis, part of Brussels City's heritage. Located at the corner of the rue d'Étuve (Stoofstraat) and the rue du Chêne (Eikstraat), the fountain is at a few minutes' walk from the Grand'Place. Manneken Pis (Little Pee Man in Dutch) is a 61 cm bronze fountain statue (24 inches) which represents a naked little boy urinating into the fountain's basin. It was designed in 1619 by the Brussels sculptor Jérôme Duquesnoy l'Ancien and is nowadays considered as a symbol of popular resistance.

Several legends bring this national icon to life: one story tells of the savior of the city of Brussels who urinated on a burning fuse. Another story states that before a battle, the two-year-old



Courtesy of Gregory Antiquet - www.mannekenpis.be

Manneken Pis is dressed in the traditional Chièvres crossage outfit.

boy was put in a basket hung in a tree to encourage the troops. From there, he urinated on the opposing forces who were defeated.

Manneken Pis is mainly characterized by the originality of his wardrobe. The statue is regularly dressed up by the non-profit association The Friends of Manneken-Pis. The collection of more than 900 different outfits are gifts made by nations from all over the world or traditional costumes to celebrate the holidays. Many of its costumes are preserved at the Museum of the City of Brussels in the Grand'Place. Until now, this fountain has more than 900 different outfits.

On occasion, the statue is attached to a beer keg. Water is replaced by beer and is served to people passing by, so that everyone can enjoy free beer.

Outside the gate

## Upcoming organized trips

### SHAPE Trips and Tours

Serving Brussels, Chièvres and SHAPE. Call DSN 423-3884 or civilian 065-443884.

- **Cooking class in Lille, March 12**
- **Oostende with Soul Legends, March 19**
- **Paris, March 26**
- **Croatia with Venice and Slovenia, March 28 to April 6**
- **Medieval Dinner in Brugge (Bruges), April 2**
- **Efteling amusement park, April 5**
- **Versailles, April 9**
- **Paris with Moulin Rouge, April 16**
- **Keukenhof Gardens and Gouda, April 23**
- **Berlin, April 29 to May 2**
- **Amsterdam, April 30**
- **Poland: Polish pottery, Auschwitz, Krakow and Wroclaw, May 5 to 10**
- **Monet's House and Gardens, Giverny, France, May 21**
- **Dover Castle and Canterbury by ferry, May 28**
- **Normandy Beaches and Mont St-Michel, June 5 to 8**
- **Paris, June 11**
- **Amsterdam, June 18**
- **Scotland, June 18 to 26**

- **London, June 25**
- **Disney Paris, June 29**
- **Running of the Bulls in Pamplona, July 5 to 9**
- **Durbuy and Namur with the Citadelle, July 13**
- **EuropaPark and Strasbourg, France, July 16 to 17**
- **Discount tickets to local attractions**

### SHAPE Travel Group

Call civilian 0470-876369 for details.

- **Beer, Cheese and Chocolate, March 22**
- **Highclere Castle (setting for "Downton Abbey"), April 4**
- **Veuve Clicquot Champagne, April 14**
- **Paris in the Spring, April 27**
- **Keukenhof Gardens and Scheveningen, May 3**
- **Versailles, May 19**
- **Honfleur and Calvados, May 26**
- **Arnhem, June 7**
- **Canterbury, June 23**

### Schinnen Trips & Tours

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

- **Express Trip to Paris, March 19 (Trip has sold out, but you can call to be put on a waiting list.)**
- **Family Day Trout Fishing, April 9**
- **Keukenhof gardens, April 23**



Read about events near Chièvres, SHAPE and Brussels.

**March 18**

- **Local products market in Frameries** - Local products will be on sale at Epicentre at Rue des Alliés 132 from 4:30 to 8 p.m.



**March 18 to 19**

- **Wine tasting in Soignies** - At Renavins Soignies at Chaussée du Roeulx 405 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**March 19**

- **Flea market in Mons (200 booths)** - Held on Avenue Jean d'Avesnes and neighboring streets from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Flea market in Neufvilles (200 booths)** - Held on Rue de Godimont from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Secondhand toys and children clothes in Ath** - Held at the school at Rue de Pintamont 28 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free admission.
- **Free market in Ixelles** - From 1 to 3 p.m., come with the items you no longer need in front of the church on Place Flagey and find the items you have been looking for. You don't have to exchange items to get what you'd like to take, and everything is free of charge. However, you will have to take back the items that haven't been taken.
- **Carnival parade in Schaerbeek** - Departs from Place Meisier at 6 p.m. and arrives Place de Helmet.
- **Family fun in Jette** - Magic show, bouncy castles, firefighters and K-9 display, face-painting and more from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. at Poelbosch at Avenue du Laerbeek 110.
- **Carnival parade in Watermael-Boitsfort** - Various activities starting at 2 p.m. and a carnival parade with giants starting at 3 p.m. on Place du Triangle-Rembucher.



Family fun in Jette March 19

**March 19 to 20**

- **Crystal fair in Ligny** - Held at the Cultural Center at Rue du Priou 8. Open from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- **Chocolate fest in Mons** - Chocolate aficionados will want to make a stop at this event. Some 35 booths will offer products related to chocolate in the pedestrian area, Rue de la Chaussée, as well as various entertainment from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Shops will be open in the pedestrian area on Sunday afternoon from 1 to 6 p.m.).



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

**Through March 20**

- **HISWA Amsterdam Boat Show in Amsterdam** will be held at RAI on Europaplein. Whether you're looking for a new boat, are interested in chartering a yacht or just want to breathe in all the luxury, this boat show has the information you need. Open March 17 from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; March 18 from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; March 19 and 20 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission: €15; youths, ages 16 and under, free admission.
- **Art and Antique Fair "TEFAF" in Maastricht** will be held at MECC. The world's largest and most exclusive fair of its kind, TEFAF will host 275 dealers of art, antiques and design. Open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; special hours March 20 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission: €55 (includes catalogue); children, ages 12 to 18, €20. For details, visit <http://www.tefaf.com>.

**March 18 to 20**

- **Europa Culinaire (Culinary Europe) in Amsterdam** will take place at Kromhouthal at Gedempt Hamerkanaal 231. This culinary festival will host 20 cooks from different European countries preparing their national specialties for visitors to taste. Open March 18 from 4 p.m. to midnight; March 19 from 2 p.m. to midnight; March 20 from 2 to 11 p.m. Admission: €12.50.

**March 19**

- **Osharecon Tokyo Nights in Nieuwegein** will take place at 't Veerhuis at Nijemonde 4. Oshare is a Japanese word often used to say you're looking terrific. This fair will offer several fashion shows, plenty of Japanese products, music and more. Open from noon to 11 p.m. Admission: €20.
- **Fair for children's clothes and toys in Oosterhout** will be held at De Ark at Arkendonk 98. This large fair will also have bicycles, prams/strollers and more. Open from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Free admission.
- **St. Joep/St. Joseph Year Market in Sittard** will be held throughout the center in the town. Open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**March 19 to 20**

- **Car Show in Geilenkirchen, Germany**, will be held in the town center. This annual car show kicks off the open-air season in the area. The center of town will be blocked to traffic to make room for the many cars, vendors and attractions. Open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Remain vigilant, and maintain situational awareness at all times.



**March 19 to 20 continued**

- **Flea market in Wieze** - Held in Oktoberhallen at Schroverstraat 8 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission: €2.50.
- **"Ducasse de Messines"** - Yearly fest in the Messines area of Mons (Avenue Jean d'Avesnes and area). On Saturday, a **secondhand bicycle fair** on the Belfius Bank parking lot at 2 p.m.; a **parade with giants** starting at 2:30 p.m.; **musical entertainment** at 4 p.m. On Sunday, a huge **flower market** on Rue de Bertainmont, Grand'Rue and neighboring streets; a **religious service** at 9:30 a.m. at the Notre-Dame de Messines church; the **giants parade** at 2:30 p.m. and various **musical entertainment** starting at 3:30 p.m.



Flower market - see "Ducasse de Messines"

**March 20**

- **Shops in the Mons pedestrian area** will be open from 1 to 6 p.m.
- **Clothes outlet fair in Kortrijk** - Held at the Xpo at Doorniksesteenweg 216, visitors will find overstock women's, men's and children's clothes, shoes, accessories, bags, jewelry and more at outlet prices. Open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission: €3.
- **Volksmarch in Nivelles for 5, 10 or 20 km** - Departs from Rue Saint-Jean 2 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Mons for 5, 10, 15 or 20 km** - Departs from Rue Saint-Paul 17 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Thulin for 5, 10 or 20 km** - Departs from Salle Saint-Georges on Place d'Hainin from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Flea market in Jemappes (200 booths)** - Held at Avenue Maréchal Foch 873 from 4 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Flea markets in Jurbise (10 booths)** - One market will be held at Rue du Moustier 3 from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., and another one on Route d'Ath from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Flea market in Hornu (250 booths)** - Held on Route de Mons (CORA) from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- **Flea market in Nivelles (30 booths)** - Held on Parking Carrefour Market at Avenue du Centenaire from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Flea market in Ath (80 booths)** - Held on parking Delhaize at Rue de l'Abbaye 5 from 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **Mountain bike ride for 25, 40, 49, 58, 64 or 80 km** - Departs between 8 and 11 a.m. from the Tennis Club at Route de Biesme 55. Participation fee ranges from €4 to €8. Showers, bike wash and parking are available on site.



**March 19 to 20 continued**

- **Art Fair in Geldrop** will be held at Castle Geldrop at Mierloseweg 1 with glass, ceramics and more. Open March 19 from 1 to 5 p.m.; March 20 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free admission.
- **Oldtimer and Classic Car Fair in Genk, Belgium**, will be held in Limburghal at Jaarbeurslaan 6 with classic cars, accessories, literature, miniatures and more. Open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission: €8.
- **International Alpaca Show in Hapert** will be held in the stables at Sportspark "de Lemelvelden" on Burgemeester Van Woenseldreef. Open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Easter Market in Xanten, Germany**, will be held on market square in the center of town and will offer all kinds of decorations, art, flowers, plants and more. Open Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6p.m.; Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**March 20**

- **Spring Country Fair in Eelde** will take place in Bloemenvellinghal at Burgemeester Legroweg 80 with all kinds of outdoor products as well as curiosities. Open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Gooi's Ladies Event in Hilversum** will be held at Amrath HotelLapershoek at Utrechtseweg 16. The event offers fashion shows, vendor booths, live music and more. Open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Wellness, Health and Beauty Fair in Kermt, Belgium**, will take place at Cultureel Centrum Kermeta at Diestersteenweg 204. You will find information, beauty products, jewelry and fashion. Open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Free admission.
- **German/Dutch cloth and fabric market in Remagen, Germany**, will be held in the city center. This annual market is combined with a spring market. While you're there, visit the remains of the famous bridge and the town museum.
- **Fashion and Food Family Day in Sint-Oedenrode** will transform the town center into a fashion-and-food center. Open from noon to 5 p.m. Free admission.

**Register now**

**March 26**

- **Kennedy Mars in Sittard** started as a way to prove President John F. Kennedy wrong. In a 1963 speech, he said that "nobody can walk 50 miles within 20 hours anymore." Many people all over the world then walked 50 miles/80 km. In Sittard, this volksmarch has become an annual event named the Kennedy Mars. Visit <http://www.kennedymars.org>.

Outside the gate

**Remain vigilant, and maintain situational awareness at all times.**