

# THE GAZETTE

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

## Hosting U.S. citizens

Family members of the B-17 Royal Flush crew are coming to Belgium for the 70th anniversary of the crash that occurred in a field in Silly April 13, 1944. Some of the 20 relatives are staying with Belgian families but members of the SHAPE/Chièvres community who are interested in hosting some of them, can do so too. If you live in Silly or neighborhood and are willing to host one or several U.S. family members April 11-14, contact the USAG Benelux Public Affairs Office at DSN 361-5694 or civilian 068-27-5694.

## Register for the Crossage

The golf-like sport of Crossage takes place March 5, starting at noon in the streets of Chièvres and surrounding villages. The entire course covers a total of 29 kegs. Cost is €32 for a wooden mallet and ball, and €3 for insurance. The payment and registration deadline is Feb. 25. Call DSN 361-5433 or civilian 068-27-5433 or 0496-876938 to register. Even if you already have your equipment, you still need to make sure you officially register and get your insurance. Otherwise, if you play Crossage without any insurance and end up causing damage, you will have to pay for repair out of your pocket.

## CHIÈVRES AIR BASE

# Supporting NATO missions



Cis Spook

A Boeing 757 Combi operated by TNT from Liège, takes off from Chièvres Air Base while supporting a NATO mission, Tuesday, February 18, 2014. The plane landed at Chièvres coming from Geilenkirchen, Germany, to pick up a delegation from SHAPE and headed to the United Kingdom. There are only two of this kind of airplane that carries both passengers and cargo and it is the first time it lands on Chièvres Air Base.

## Table of Contents

News.....	1-8
Benelux News.....	9
Events & Happenings.....	10-12
Community Round Up.....	13-14

# USAG Benelux-Schinnen introduces Plastic Heroes

*Special to the Gazette*

Since January 2010, all municipalities in the Netherlands have been collecting plastic separately from other waste through the Plastic Heroes bags.

USAG Benelux-Schinnen now also introduces the Plastic Heroes system. All you have to do is collect your plastics separately and dispose of clean plastic only in the recycling bins located in kitchens, conference rooms and classrooms. These bins are only for on base plastic recycling, you cannot take your Plastic Heroes bags from home to the installation.



## What kind of plastics can I recycle?

### DOs

- Plastic bags
- Food bags: pasta, rice, candy
- Meat and cheese packaging
- Plastic foil from magazines and commercial folders
- Blister packs (from toothbrushes, electrical cables, screws, etc)
- Butter cups, sauce cups, creamy cheese, pate or coffee milk packaging
- Bags of vegetables, fruit or salad, French fry trays
- Yoghurt, pudding, ice-cream and whipped cream cups
- Lids from peanut butter jars or chocolate paste
- Squeeze sauce bottles (mayo, ketchup)
- Dishwasher and other cleaning product bottles
- Bottles of shampoo, shower gel, bath foam, soap
- Tubes of gel, cream, body-lotion and tooth paste
- Oil and vinegar bottles
- Soda, water and dairy product bottles
- Gel, vitamin and other pharmaceutical product containers
- Plant pots

### DON'Ts

- Package with content
- Package from chemical waste (package from make-up products, bottles of turpentine, glue tubes)
- Polystyrene and styro-foam (fast-food packages, meat trays and packaging filling materials)
- Waste paper, cardboard or foil mix (covering materials, chip packaging, pills or chewing gum packages)
- Cardboard bottles (milk and juice)
- Other plastic products and utensils (plastic chairs, toys)

**Make sure you respect these instructions so the recycling process will be appropriate.**

**Make sure that everything is empty and remove paper, cardboard or aluminum foil**

By separating plastics from other trash we initiate the plastic recycling process which ensures that the collected plastics will be processed and used in new products. There is also cost saving involved as the plastics no longer end up in the regular, more costly, trash disposal, but in the less costly plastic recycling.



The MG James Ursano Scholarship awarded 3469 scholarships to the children of Soldiers in 2013.

The program, named after a former AER Director who was an advocate for education, can provide scholarships for up to four years.

The application period runs from January 1st, with a May 1st deadline.

The applications can be completed on-line, streamlining the process. The children of active duty and retired Soldiers are eligible for the Ursano Scholarship. For more information go to: <http://www.aerhq.org/dnn563/Scholarships.aspx>.

Soldiers Helping Soldiers for 72 Years  
[www.aerhq.org](http://www.aerhq.org)

# THE GAZETTE

To subscribe, email [usarmy.benelux.imcom-europe.list.pao@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.benelux.imcom-europe.list.pao@mail.mil)

**Col. Marvin G Vannatter Jr.**  
USAG Benelux  
Commander

**Editor**  
Donovan Abrassart

**Marie-Lise Baneton**  
USAG Benelux  
Public Affairs Officer

**Staff Writers**  
Rita Hoefnagels  
Cis Spook  
Keith Houin

*The Gazette* is an unofficial publication published under the provisions of AR 360-1 for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of *The Gazette* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of the Army or the USAG Benelux. *The Gazette* is a free weekly publication distributed via email every Thursday, except when that day is an American, Belgian or Dutch Holiday, then *The Gazette* is published on Friday. The editorial content of this publication is prepared, edited, provided, approved and published by the USAG Benelux Public Affairs Office, Unit 21419, APO AE 09708. Telephone (0032) 068-27-5419/DSN 361-5419. Everything advertised in this publication will be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the publisher will refuse to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement of the products or services advertised by the U.S. Army. Submit content or story ideas to [usarmy.benelux.imcom-europe.list.pao@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.benelux.imcom-europe.list.pao@mail.mil) by Monday at 3 p.m.

# Chaplain assistant gets one step closer to his dream

**By Donovan Abrassart**  
*USAG Benelux Public Affairs*

Spc. Ryan M. Brown doesn't play video games, doesn't watch TV, he doesn't play sports. He works at the SHAPE Chapel, he volunteers his time in other places and, above all, he plays music, "it's just my way of life," he says.

Every day, he wakes up at three o'clock, he plays guitar before heading to the SHAPE Chapel. When he returns home from work, he gets back on his guitar. Music plays a major role in his life. "Music is like breathing" he says.

He has been playing guitar for the last 21 years. He grew up in a family where music was really important and he was six years old when he told his father, a bass player, he also wanted to play music. The bass being too big for him, his father got him a guitar and he started to play by ear.

When he was 13, he joined his first band. He then played with several other bands until he joined the military. Because he always played with local bands, he never had the opportunity to travel and perform on stage. Recently though he performed on SHAPE at the 4th of July celebration in a band he put together with Staff Sgt. Mathew B. Fohner and other musicians. They also performed in Mons that night.

All his life, he has prayed to become a professional musician. He plays his guitar ten to twelve hours a day anyway, so if he can do that as a job it is even better. "The hardest thing to do with an instrument is not the most beautiful song,

the hardest thing to do is to make a dollar," he says. "I don't want to be rich, I just don't want to have to make a choice between milk and cigarette at the grocery store."

A few weeks ago, he came a step closer to his dream. He was playing in his room as usual and was "obviously loud" when Staff Sgt. John Darnell, who lives next to him, came knocking at his door and told him about the audition commercial he had seen on TV for the USAREUR Band and Chorus. Brown decided to take his chance, sent his packet and within two weeks he got auditioned by a panel. The audition went very well and he passed the test. "It popped up and it appeared to be too good to be true." "It means the whole world to me."

After two years and a half of service at the SHAPE Chapel, Brown is about to join the USAREUR Band and Chorus Jazz Combo, at Sembach Kaserne in Sembach, Germany.

Brown is excited and honored to take on this new challenge. "The organization takes such great detail in deciding which musicians are able to play down there, they are the most talented people I have been around since I have been in the military."

Brown is expecting to learn a lot from this new experience. He wants to be as competitive as possible and have as many things underneath his belt to make himself viewed as an asset.

You can follow Brown on Twitter @Th3vintage.



Brown performs on stage at the 4th July celebration on SHAPE, Thursday, July 4, 2013

Donovan Abrassart

**Do you or someone you know have an interesting hobby?  
 Let us know at [usarmy.benelux.imcom-europe.list.pao@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.benelux.imcom-europe.list.pao@mail.mil).**

# Military Saves Week starts this week



Kim Wayland, Deputy Garrison Manager USAG Benelux-Schinnen signs the Military Saves Week Proclamation. Military Saves Week is a week long campaign of financial classes and activities organized by ACS Financial Readiness Program to help service members and their families save money and build wealth. Take the Military Saves Pledge and promote savings year-round. Learn about ways to invest, save and build your wealth for the future.



## Schinnen Military Saves Week Program

### Feb 24

- 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.: Military Saves Kickoff Event, Circuit Training, Schinnen, Fitness Center
- 1-4 p.m.: One-on-One with the visiting personal financial counselor

### Feb. 25

- 10:15-10:45 a.m.: Financial Fitness, Coast Guard Activities Europe, Schinnen
- 11 a.m.-1 p.m.: Military Saves Booth at the Schinnen Bowling Center
- 4:30-5:30 p.m.: Regional Support Group, JFC Brunssum – Delegation Room
- 6-7:30 p.m. Saving, Investing and Retirement Workshop, JFC Brunssum Library

### Feb. 26

- 9-10:30 a.m.: Cash Savvy Story Time – CYS/CDC Program, JFC Brunssum
- 11 a.m.-1 p.m.: Story Time and Activity, JFC Brunssum Library
- 3:30- 6 p.m.: Cash Savvy–Money Talks–CYS/SAC Program, JFC Brunssum
- 6-7:30 p.m. Marriage and Money Workshop, JFC Brunssum Library

### Feb. 27

- 10-10:45 a.m.: Raising Money Savvy Kids – ACS Play Morning, CAC, Schinnen
- 11 a.m.-1 p.m.: Military Saves Booth at the Bowling Center - Schinnen
- 1-2:30 p.m.: Financial Fitness, 39th Signal Battalion – USAG Benelux-Schinnen
- 4:30-6 p.m.: "Are you financially fit?" workshop, JFC Brunssum Library

### Feb. 28

- 9:30-11 a.m.: Saving, Investing and TSP, Library, JFC Brunssum
- 1-3 p.m.: Military Saves Booth at the Commissary
- 2-3 p.m.: Cash Savvy Hearts Apart- AFNORTH International School

**For more information call civilian 046-443-7450/7500 or DSN 360-7450/7500.**

## SHAPE/Chièvres Military Saves Week Program

### Feb 24

- 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Personal Financial Planning for Transition, Digital Training Facility on Chièvres Air Base
- 2-30-3:30 p.m.: Credit Scores, Reports and Repair (and preventing ID theft), Caserne Daumerie, Bldg. 30

### Feb. 25

- 9:30-10:30 a.m.: Smart Money Management, SHAPE, Bldg. 318
- 10:30-11:30 a.m.: Investing 101, SHAPE, Bldg. 318
- 1:30-2:30 p.m.: Car Buying, Caserne Daumerie Bldg. 30
- 2:30-3:30 p.m.: Retirement Planning, Caserne Daumerie, Bldg. 30

### Feb. 26

- 9:30-10:30 a.m.: Smart Money Management, Caserne Daumerie, Bldg. 30
- 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.: Investing 101, Caserne Daumerie, Bldg. 30
- 1:30- 2:30 p.m.: Credit Scores, Reports and Repair, SHAPE, Bldg. 318
- 2:30-3:30 p.m. Retirement Planning, SHAPE, Bldg 318

### Feb. 27

- 1:30-2:30 p.m.: Car Buying, SHAPE, Bldg. 318
- 2:30-3:30 p.m.: Smart Money Management, SHAPE, Bldg. 318

**For more information call DSN 366-6824 or civilian 065-32-6824.**

## Brussels Military Saves Week Program

### Feb. 27

- 10:30-11:00 p.m.: Retirement Planning, Drew Room, NATO
- 11-11:30 a.m.: Investing 101, Drew Room, NATO
- 11:30 a.m.-noon: Preventing ID theft

**For more information call DSN 368-9783 or civilian 02-717-9783.**

# Claims process when PCSing

## Special to the Gazette

PCSing to the Benelux community can be a confusing and stressful time. The anxiety of a household good and vehicle shipment only adds to that stress, especially when your goods have been damaged. A better understanding of your responsibilities and options during the claims process can help to alleviate that stress. Here are a few things to keep in mind:

### Household Good Shipments

- Claimants are expected to report losses or damages to their property promptly. The longer the delay in reporting a loss, the more substantiation you will be expected to provide.
- Claimants are expected to list missing inventory items and obvious damage at time of delivery. If you do not notice damage that may be considered readily apparent you will be asked to provide a written explanation of why the damage was not noted at delivery.
- Unpack and inspect all of your goods for damage as soon as possible after delivery.
- Do not throw out any damaged property until you have been cleared to do so by your Transportation Service Provider or your Military Claims Office, and try to find back receipts or bills for your damaged items (the TSP may require it during your claim process).
- You must provide notification of loss or damage to the TSP through the DOD Defense Personal Property Program (called DP3) within 70 days of the date of delivery, by using the Defense Personal Property System. However, if you are unable to provide notice online, you must send the notification document by e-mail with a delivery/read receipt to the TSP by midnight of the 70th day following delivery, or deliver your documents to the Claims Examiner who will personally send the notification to the TSP by himself.
- You must keep a copy and proof that the notification was sent on time. If you need assistance to dispatch the forms to the TSP, submit both notifications to the MCO within 70 days of delivery date. Also, keep in mind that the TSP might request receipts, bills or even an estimation of repair for the damaged items, just to verify either the actual value of the damaged item(s), or the original value when you purchased the item.
- Submit your claim through the DPS website directly to the TSP within nine months of delivery if you desire Full Replacement Value coverage. Reporting the notice of loss/damage is not the same as filing a claim. If you elect to file your claim with the Government or are unable to settle it with the TSP, you must file your claim with the MCO within two years from the date of

delivery. Additional documentation and substantiation may be submitted later.

### Damage to Quarters during an HHG Delivery/Pickup

- If the movers caused damage to your house or apartment while delivering or picking up your property, report such damage to housing authorities within a few days.
- Write a statement that includes: the delivery date, nature of the damage, location of the damage, the landlord's name, address, insurance company, and policy number.
- Send the statement to the moving company by registered mail within ten days of delivery/pickup. Note that the moving company is not necessarily the same company that will serve as your TSP. You will need to take note of the name and contact information for the moving company.
- Keep a copy for your records and provide a copy to your landlord and your local Housing Office.
- The rest of the process involves the moving company's insurance company and your landlord's.

### Shipment of Privately Owned Vehicles

- Thoroughly inspect your vehicle. Damage to privately owned vehicles must be noted on the back of the Vehicle Inspection and Shipping Form provided by the contractor when the vehicle is picked up at the Vehicle Processing Center. Obvious external damage that is not listed at the time of pick up may not be payable.
- Damage the claimant could not reasonably be expected to notice at the VPC must be reported to the VPC within a very short time, usually just a few hours after leaving the VPC. You should thoroughly inspect the inside as well as the outside of your vehicle at the VPC. You should also turn on and test all operating systems, such as wipers, air conditioners, heaters, radios, electronic windows and seats, during the inspection.
- If you have any issues or concerns during the joint inspection at the VPC, ask to see the Contracting Officer Representative on site for assistance and report any issues to the MCO within 24 hours of the pick up date.

### Theft and Vandalism

Theft or vandalism to your home, property or vehicle must be reported to police authorities within 24 hours.

For help, details or more information about the claim process, contact the Northern Law Center's Claims Office, at DSN 423-4061/4195 or civilian 065-44-4061/4195.

Have Something for the Gazette?  
Email [usarmy.benelux.imcom-europe.list.pao@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.benelux.imcom-europe.list.pao@mail.mil)

## BAS student hits first place at Oratorical contest

Ruth Alvarez won the first place in the Department of France's High School Oratorical Scholarship Contest, Sunday, February 16, 2014 in Stuttgart, Germany. Alvarez, a senior at the Brussels American High School, competed on several topics concerning the U.S. Constitution. She will now advance to the next level of competition: the American Legion National Oratorical Contest in Indianapolis, Ind. April 4-6 where she will compete for up to \$18,000 in scholarships.



Courtesy photo

(From left to right) Alvarez receives the first prize from Department of France Commander James Settle.

## Job fair on Chièvres Air Base



Keith Houjin

Miguel A Flores-Acevedo, USAG Benelux Employment Readiness Program Manager, helps Daniel Diaz look for a job at the employment, education and volunteer information fair Wednesday, February 19, 2014 at the Chièvres Community Recreation Center.

## Sweetheart 5k run



Rita Hoefnagels

A special Sweetheart 5K Run was organized by USAG Benelux-Schinnen in honor of Valentine's Day on Friday, February 14, 2014. About 40 American and Dutch runners participated and this included a dog. Winner was Joy Villescas (below picture) who run the 5K in 24 minutes.

### Emergency numbers

#### Brussels

Any emergency - Dial  
**112**

Brussels MP station:  
DSN 368-9769

civilian 02-717-9769

#### Schinnen

Any emergency - Dial  
**112**

Schinnen MP station:  
DSN 360-7555

civilian 046-443-7555

#### SHAPE/Chièvres

Any emergency - Dial **112**

Chièvres MP station:

DSN 361-5301

civilian 068-27-5301

SHAPE Police Desk:

DSN 423-3333/4

Civilian 065-44-3333/4

### Suicide hotline

Get free and confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year:

Call DSN 118 (\*2 118 from SHAPE)

or civilian toll free number 00800-1273-8255..

If you need support, you can also chat online at <http://www.MilitaryCrisisLine.net> or send a text message to 838255

# community briefs - community briefs - community briefs

## Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training

The USAG-Benelux Army Suicide Prevention Program and Chaplain are sponsoring an Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training two-day course Feb. 27-28, at the SHAPE Chapel, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The ASiST course has been adopted by the Army as part of the overall Army Suicide Prevention Program to raise awareness of, and vigilance towards suicide prevention amongst gatekeepers. Gatekeepers are individuals who, in the performance of their assigned duties, provide counseling to Soldiers and civilians in need. Primary and secondary gatekeepers include anyone assisting those in need who are more susceptible to suicide ideation or who may come in contact with a person at risk for suicide. Gatekeepers receive training in recognizing and helping individuals with suicide-related issues. Gatekeepers may include Family Advocacy Program workers, Army Emergency Relief counselors, emergency room medical technicians, medical and dental health professionals, first-line supervisors, military policemen, and trial defense lawyers.

## Virtual Career Fair

Meet with employers back home - Veteran Recruiting Services, in partnership with European ACAP invites you to join Feb. 25 from 4 to 6 p.m. Meet and interact live with recruiters from dozens of U.S. leading employers and government agencies, from anywhere with a computer and internet connection. Job seekers need to register with their local ACAP Center for the career fair and register to attend the career fair on the Web site. Once they are registered they can browse the employer booths 24/7 on the Web site and check out the jobs and their location. It is important to register both with ACAP and the virtual career fair early. This includes posting a resume to their profile. To register, go to <http://events.veteranrecruiting.com/vshow/VRSCareer/registration/5690?partnerref=ACAP#>.

## AFCU \$1,500 scholarship

Andrews Federal Credit Union is now accepting applications for one of the eight \$1,500 non-renewable scholarships for higher education and books. Any AFCU member or member's dependent pursuing a degree from an accredited college or university is eligible. Application forms are available online and in branches through April 25. All applicants have to be members or members' dependents with an Andrews Federal account in good standing as of Feb. 1. (If student is a member's dependent, the student does not have to have an account; parent/guardian must be the account-holder). Scholarship applications must be received no later than April 25 at Andrews Federal Credit Union, 5711 Allentown Road, Suitland, Md. 20746 by 4 p.m. via mail, 5 p.m. via branch-delivery or 11:59 p.m. via email. The 2014 scholarship application form is available at any branch or online at <http://www.andrewsfcu.org/scholarship2014>.

Judges will not know the identities of applicants during the selection process.

## Sembach Soccer Officials Clinic

**Soccer Practicum Tournament** - Feb. 22 at 9 a.m. at Sembach Fitness Center, Bldg. 105. To register for the tournament contact DSN 493-2087 or civilian 0631-3406-2087.

Free entry for the first six teams. Open to ID cardholders aged 18 and over and not in high school. If possible, bring a whistle, a uniform and a set of cards on first day of clinic.

## CYSS Schinnen

**Baseball** - Enrollment for 3-15 years old is open until Feb. 28 for the April 15 to June 3 season at CYSS Central Parent Services in Brunssum. For details call civilian 045-526-4195. There are limited spaces and you must be registered with CYSS and have a valid health/sports assessment at the time of enrollment. Open to all U.S. and NATO ID Card Holders.

## COLA survey

The Cost of Living Allowance is evaluated on a regular basis. In order to determine where and at what percentage service members purchase goods and services on the local economy, they are invited to fill out the COLA survey. To do so, go to <https://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/lps-belgium.cfm>. The survey will be available until March 7.

## Is your community HEALTHY?



Many things affect the overall health of the community.

Your Community Health Promotion Council wants to hear what matters to you.



Give us a better picture of what people in the community think needs improvement or is great as it is. The survey will take 10-15 minutes and is open until the end of March 2014.

Your opinion is important!  
**MAKE IT COUNT**  
 Visit <http://go.usa.gov/Z7D9>



## community briefs - community briefs - community briefs

### CYSS SHAPE/Chièvres

**Developmental soccer/baseball for ages 4-5** - Registration is open until March 14 for the season starting mid April and running through June. Cost is \$20.

**Baseball for ages 6-7, 8-9, 10-12 or 13-15** - Registration is open until March 14 for season starting March and running through June. Cost is \$40.

**Soccer for ages 6-7, 8-9 or 10-12** - Registration is open until March 14 for season starting March and running through June. Cost is \$40.

**Softball for girls ages 10-12** - Registration is open until March 21 for season starting March and running through May. Cost is \$40.

**Ski Week Camp@SAC** - Register now for the camp to be held March 3-7 for first to sixth grade.

**For more information or to register for the above classes/camp, call DSN 423-5612/5611 or civilian 065-44-5612/5611.**

### SHAPE Girl Scouts

The SHAPE Girl Scouts will be selling cookies through March 7. Find them on SHAPE during the week at the Silver Spoon, Carrefour, and U.S. Post Office. On the weekends, you can purchase your cookies at their booth at the PX and Commissary.

### Chièvres Fitness Center

Find hereafter the new schedule at the Chièvres fitness center: Mon: Spin class from 5:50 to 7 p.m.; Tue: Toning from 5:50 to 7 p.m.; Wed: Step aerobics from 5:50 to 7 p.m.; Fri Yoga from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.; Sat Strength toning from 10 to 11:15 a.m. and spin class from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

### Brussels Library

Registration starts Feb. 25 for the 2014 Spring Reading Program "Reading Around the World" March 1-31. For more information or to register call DSN 368-9791 or civilian 02-717-9791.

### Brunssum pilates

The class will be held today at 9:30 p.m. at the JFC Chapel. Class will not be held on Feb. 27 as the instructor, will be out of town. Class will resume March 13 following the AFNORTH Carnaval Break. Your assistance is asked in completing a short, anonymous survey regarding the Brunssum Pilates class. Your feedback is very welcome - even if you are a newcomer to the class or you haven't been able to join recently - the information will be used to find out what's important to you and help tailor the class to your needs. To complete the survey, go to [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/19jYhsPSBevCcGi2BtLtrxbZ6lylOvdy04Ntm1e2\\_Oul/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/19jYhsPSBevCcGi2BtLtrxbZ6lylOvdy04Ntm1e2_Oul/viewform).

### American Legion Auxiliary

The American Legion Auxiliary will be conducting an initial chapter meeting Feb. 22 at noon in the USAG Benelux-Brussels

Community Conference Room. The mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For more information regarding the American Legion Auxiliary, visit <http://www.legion-aux.org/> or contact [flanders.fields.post.beo2@gmail.com](mailto:flanders.fields.post.beo2@gmail.com).

### SHAPE Arts & Crafts Center

**Birthday parties** - Book your birthday party at the Arts & Crafts Center, also available on Saturday. There are a variety of crafts for children of all ages such as bisque painting and name signs. You bring the food and they provide the fun. To book you party, stop by the Arts & Crafts Center on SHAPE, Bldg. 307, e-mail [artsandcraftsshape@gmail.com](mailto:artsandcraftsshape@gmail.com) or call DSN 423-6049 or civilian 065-44-6049.

**Engraving** - In the shop you can also find a variety of plaques, coins, badges with NATO symbol and a lot of other gifts that can bring joy to your colleagues, friends or families.

**Swarovski Crystal Jewelry Making** - The instructor will teach you how to create jewelry based on your personal taste.

**Patchwork** - Come and meet the instructor at Art & Crafts Center, Patchwork Studio, Bldg. 307, SHAPE Library. All courses are held in SHAPE.

**For more information on the above, stop by the Arts & Crafts Center on SHAPE, Bldg. 307, e-mail [artsandcraftsshape@gmail.com](mailto:artsandcraftsshape@gmail.com) or call DSN 423-6049 or civilian 065-44-6049.**

### Cruise with AWAG

**Leadership and Training Seminar:** Registration is open through Feb. 28 for the seminar held March 4-8 at the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort, Garmisch, Germany. Get freestyle learning on leadership development, private organization core curriculum and personal development. Go to [www.awagonline.org](http://www.awagonline.org) for a complete list. For more information, contact [benelux@awagonline.org](mailto:benelux@awagonline.org).

### New AAFES operating hours in Schinnen

Effective Feb. 23 AAFES new hours of operation are as follows:

#### **Express (Shoppette):**

Mon from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.,  
Tues-Fri from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.,  
Sat from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.;  
Sun from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

#### **Main Store:**

Mon closed;  
Tues-Sat from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.;  
Sundays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### 2014 CFC-0 coin design contest

Submission deadline is March 15. Participants will create a 2014 CFC-0 coin design that embodies the spirit of the campaign. The chosen design will be distributed to select contributors during the 2014 CFC-0 this fall. For more information go to <http://cfccoverseas.org/>.

# III = BENELUX NEWS III = III = BENELUX NEWS III =

*Benelux News is a compilation of translated news stories from regional media sources*

## Winter?

The present winter will certainly become the second warmest on record, but there is still a good chance that the all-time record will be broken. The meteorological winter runs from December 1 to the end of February. Until now, we have hardly been confronted with temperatures below zero. During the coming days, temperatures are expected to stay very mild for this time of year as ocean winds will keep on dominating the weather.

## Earthquake in Dutch Groningen province

Parts of Groningen province were hit by the strongest earthquake in six months, measuring 3 on the Richter scale. The quake centered close to the village of Loppersum, where some of the worst earthquake damage has been recorded over the years. The quakes are caused by the land settling following the extraction of natural gas from underneath the northern province. Last month, the minister for economic affairs announced several measures to reduce natural gas extraction from the Loppersum area. But locals are still angry the government is not doing enough.

## "Europe cities and regions of the future"

Ghent and the Walloon Region have made it into the top-20 of the list of "European Cities and Regions of the Future 2014/2015" that was released by The Financial Times. London retained its top position, while Germany's Nordrhein-Westfalen climbed to the first rank as Europe's top region to invest. The list is compiled every two years and highlights cities and regions that are thought to have a big potential for investors in the coming years. London tops the Financial Times' cities' ranking, and is followed by Helsinki and Eindhoven. Ghent is the only Belgian city on 20th place. Nordrhein-Westfalen, located in the industrialized Ruhrgebiet in western Germany, tops the regions' hit parade, coming from 7. Scotland and the Greater Copenhagen area follow in second and third places. The Walloon Region is the only Belgian region that made the list, making sixteenth.

## Olympic games 2014 in Sochi

As of today, the medal count is as follows:

1. Norway with 9 Gold, 4 Silver and 7 Bronze,
  2. Germany with 8 Gold, 3 Silver and 4 Bronze,
  3. The United States with 7 Gold, 5 Silver and 11 Bronze,
  4. Russia with 6 Gold, 9 Silver and 7 Bronze,
  5. The Netherlands with 6 Gold, 7 Silver and 9 Bronze,
- Belgium still hasn't earned any medal.

## Jobs boom in Born, Dutch Limburg

Production of the Mini at the Nedcar plant in Born, Limburg, will bring several hundred jobs to the area. The Mini Hatch

will be built in Born starting next summer. The extra jobs are in logistics, maintenances, quality control and sales. In 2012, Mitsubishi pulled out of Nedcar, putting 1,500 jobs at risk. At the time all 1,500 workers were promised jobs for the reopening of the Nedcar factory reopened to produce the Mini. During the change-over period, they are being paid from the unemployment benefit fund, topped up by Nedcar's owner VDL to their former salary levels.

## 50th anniversary of Moroccan immigration

A ceremony was held this week in Brussels to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Moroccan Immigration in Belgium. During his speech, Belgian Prime Minister Elio Di Rupo stating that "delivering a speech as a Prime Minister whose family immigrated to Belgium, is a very symbolic moment." Di Rupo also paid tribute to all Moroccans who came to work in Belgium, saying that "we owe them part of our prosperity."

## Euthanasia law in Belgium

The House has approved the expansion of the Belgian euthanasia laws to include minors. From now on, terminally ill children who are in unbearable pain will be able to request to be euthanized. Belgium will thus be the first country to have no age limit on euthanasia. However children need to be considered mentally competent by two doctors and a child psychiatrist, and must have parental consent. The vote is causing a lot of discussions both in Belgium and in the international media.

## European drones

While drones were initially an American "thing," the European Union is working hard to catch up. A study, conducted jointly by civil rights organizations Statewatch and Transnational Institute, shows that the EU invested approximately 500 million euros in unmanned aircraft which are used to detect illegal immigrants at sea and for a range of tasks over land. The EU investments will be increased even further in the coming years which will mainly benefit defense companies such as EADS (French-German-Spanish), Thales (mainly French), and BAE (British). In times of shrinking military budgets, defense companies see drones as new opportunities for both military and civil use.

## Former Belgacom director

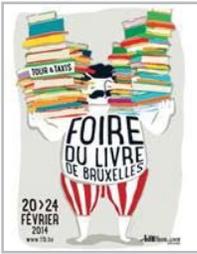
Didier Bellens, the former Belgacom director, is demanding 5 million euros in compensation after the Belgian telecom giant terminated his contract. Bellens was fired for 'serious offense', even though his contract ran until 2015. The amount Bellens is requesting equals to two years of his former salary. Bellens further mentioned that he would go to court if parties didn't reach an agreement.



This column includes events within close distance to Chièvres, SHAPE, Brussels

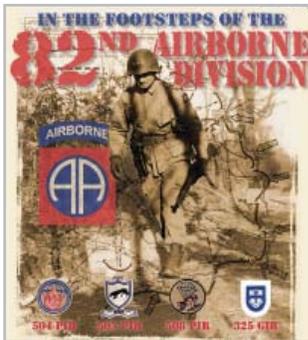
**20-24 February**

- **Brussels Book Fair** - 44th edition of the fair that covers all book varieties in the presence of 800 authors. Open Thursday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Monday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Tour & Taxis on Avenue du Port 86C. Entrance fees range from €5 to €7.



**22 February**

- **100% Female Flea Market in Brussels** - Everything will only be for women at this flea market held on Quai de l'Industrie 54 from noon to 7 p.m.
- **March in the footsteps of the 82nd Airborne Division** -



Historical march will follow the steps of the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment from Bra through Trou-de-Bra, Derrière le-Thiers, Les Villettes, Pont-de-Villette, Floret and back. Hot soup will be served in Les Villettes and hot wine at the end. Certificates are presented to participants. Departure from Bra at 9 a.m. Registration fee is €6.

**22-23 February**

- **Anne Frank display in Anderlues** - Open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. with guided visits from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The display is held in the local school on Rue Guerlement. Entrance is free.
- **Antique Fair in Ath** - Antiques, collectors' items, postcards, books, stamps at Chemin des Primevères (CEVA hall) from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Entrance fee is €3.



**22 February - 2 March**

- **Batibouw in Brussels** - International fair related to building, renovating and decorating at the Brussels Expo on Place de Belgique. Open from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. every day except Thursday, open



from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.

**23 February**

- **Volksmarch in Auderghem** for 5, 10 or 20 km. Departure is from the school on Boulevard des Invalides 26 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.



This column includes events within close distance to Brunssum and Schinnen.

**20-23 February**

- **Tuinidee in Den Bosch** is a large garden fair held in the Brabanthallen, Diezekade 2. Open: Feb. 20 and 22-23 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Feb. 21 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Entry fee is €15. Children 12 and younger are free.



Courtesy Photo

**21-23 February**

- **Garden fair in Ulfst** is held in SSP Hall on Dru-laan with all kinds of decorations, gardens, machines and more. Open Feb. 21 from 1 to 9 p.m. and Feb. 22-23, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Entry fee is €5.
- **Festival of special beer in Sohier/Wellin (BE)** on Rue Basse, visitors can taste more than 130 different beers, many of which originate from traditional production, including some "exotic" beers. No entrance fees.

**22 February**

- **Volksmarch in Venlo** for 7.5 or 15 km. Departure is from Sportpark Vrijenbroek on Wittendijkweg 61 between 8:30 and 11 a.m.

**22-23 February**

- **Model show and building block festival in Goes** - Held at Zeelandhallen, Da Vinciplein 1, the show includes model trains, accessories and materials but also life size buildings built with blocks as well as computer games and more. Open both days from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Entrance is €11, children three to 12 years old: €5.
- **Indoor Asian/Oriental market (Pasar Malam) in Rijswijk** at Beurshal on Volmerlaan 12. Open both days from noon to 10 p.m. Entrance is €10; children €3.



Courtesy Photo



23 February continued

- **Volksmarch in Quevaucamps** for 5, 10 or 20 km. Departure is from "L'Orée du Bois" on Rue de l'Ecole Moyenne 1 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Feluy** for 5, 10 or 20 km. Departure is from Salle de la Maison du Peuple on Grand'Rue 22 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Flea market in Auderghem** - Inside flea market held at the school on Avenue Joseph Chaudron 115 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- **Discover Jurbise** - Guided tour of Jurbise from 2 to 5 p.m. starting on Place de Thoricourt. Tour is about 10 km and free of charge.
- **Children's carnival in Woluwe-Saint-Pierre** - At the Centre Communautaire de Joli-Bois on 100, Avenue du Haras with a circus workshop, balloon sculptures, face painting, games, magic show and more between 3 and 6:30 p.m. Entrance fee is €3.



Mark your calendar

Through 2 March

- **Will Eisner, from the spirit to the graphic novel** - Retrospective of American artist Will Eisner (1917-2005), the creator of "The Spirit" (1940). More information on <http://www.comicscenter.net/en/exhibitions/the-great-temporary-exhibitions/will-eisner-from-the-spirit-to-the-graphic-novel>.

Through 9 March

- **The Gille going topsy-turvy in Binche** at the International Carnival and Mask Museum on Rue du Saint Moustier 10. The exhibition presents the history of the gille; it shows the gille today, in Binche but also elsewhere. The exhibition presents objects of art which give the gille the status of an icon. More information on <http://www.museedumasque.be/en/page.php?pagelid=577>.

26 February through 26 April 2015

- **Expo 14-18: It's our history in Brussels** - At the Royal Army Museum on Parc du Cinquantenaire 3, daily from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 4:45 p.m. except Mondays. Free admission to the expo and the museum.



Through 23 February

- **Annual home fair in Amsterdam** - held at the RAI, visitors will find a variety of exhibitors, artists, workshops, new products and many sales. Entry is €19.50; children €5.50. Open Thursday and Friday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; open Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Antiques & art fair in Hasselt (BE)** at Grenslanndhallen on Gouverneur Verwilghensingel 70. This fair draws more than 12,000 visitors every year. More info at <http://www.hasselt-artanticfair.com>.

23 February

- **Gent military fair** - In Hall 2 of the Flanders Expo on Maaltekouter, the fair offers all kinds of military goods such as uniforms, medals, helmets for exchange or for sale. Open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Entrance fee is €5.

- **Flea market in Reuver** - No commercial vendors at this market, only locals who want to sell the furniture and goods they no longer need. Open from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Broeklaan 2.



Courtesy Photo

Entrance fee is €2.50, free for children under 12.

- **Volksmarch in Eijsden** for 8, 12, 18 or 24 km. Departure is from the K.O.H. on Prins Bernhardstraat 4 from 8 a.m. to noon for the 24 km route, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. for the 18 km route, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. for the 12 km route and from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. for the 8 km route.
- **Nordic walking in Roosteren** (12 or 22 km). Departure is at IJscafé Nostalgie on Illikhoven 9b at 9:30 a.m. for both distances.
- **Volksmarch in Schinnen** for 6, 10, 15 or 20 km. Departure is from Burgemeester Pijlsstraat 1 e from 8 a.m. to noon for the 20 km route, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. for the 15 km route and from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. for the 10 and 6 km route.

Mark your calendar

19 April

- **Kennedy Mars** - Register now for the Kennedy Mars held April 19 in Sittard. To register go to <http://kennedymars.org>. In a 1963 speech, John F. Kennedy said as a result of the modern affluent society, "nobody can walk 50 miles within 20 hours anymore". After this statement, people around the world walked 50 miles/80 km to prove he was wrong.

## SHAPE Trips & Tours

For information on the trips below,  
call DSN 423-3884 or civilian 065-44-3884

- **Vietnam, February 28 - March 9** - Vietnam is a country full of history, beautiful architecture, smiling and welcoming faces, paddy fields and glistening temples and pagodas. During this round-trip you will see the city of Ho Chi Minh and the green fields of the Mekong Delta. In the center you will enjoy the World Heritage Sites of Hoi An and Hue with some free time to relax at the beach. At the end you will go to the north and discover the Halong Bay. Prices are adult single €3,265, adult double/Twin €2,800, adult triple €2,740, Child(13+) sharing triple room with two adults €2,740, Child (0-12) sharing triple room with two adults.

## Schinnen Trips and Tours

For information on the trips below  
call DSN 360-7561 or civilian  
0031-(0)46-4437561

- **Paris, March 15** - For details on this trip, please contact the Schinnen Trips and Tours.

## SHAPE Travel Group

For information on the trip below  
call civilian 0486/56.53.71

- **Breendonk Memorial, February 20** - Belgium has not been spared by the horror of Nazism and its concentration camps. The fortress of Breendonk is a moving and striking example. It is one of the best conserved camps in Europe. Join us as we take a guided tour of the camp (in English). Audio guides are available in Dutch, French and German. Dress warmly and bring waterproof clothing and comfortable shoes as part of the visit will take you outside. We recommend you pack a picnic lunch as we will not be stopping to eat and there is no food available on site. Price is €30.



Courtesy photo



## Upcoming trips

### SHAPE Trips & Tours

- **London, March 1**
- **Disneyland Paris, March 3**
- **Amsterdam with canal tour, March 15 (Sign up by March 13)**
- **Dover Castle and Canterbury, March 22**
- **Maastricht, March 29**
- **Benidorm, Spain, April 5-15 (Deposit is due by February 10)**
- **Monet's Home and Gardens, April 12**
- **Keukenhof and Gouda, April 18**
- **Hans caves and safari park, April 19**
- **King's Day Amsterdam, April 26**
- **Rhine in Flames, May 3**
- **Champagne, May 10**
- **Paris, May 17**
- **Versailles, May 24**
- **Polish pottery, May 29 - June 1**
- **Normandy Beaches, May 30 - June 1**
- **London, June 6**
- **Stonehenge with Salisbury, June 28**
- **7 Night Mediterranean Cruise, July 4-11 (Deposit is due by February 28)**
- **London, August 15-17**

### Schinnen Trips & Tours

- **Trout fishing, March 29**
- **Keukenhof Gardens, April 12**
- **Trip to Malgrat De Mar, Spain, April 18-27**
- **Miami Dolphins VS Oakland Raiders in London, 27-29 September**

### SHAPE Travel Group

- **Creativa Craft Fair, Brussels, March 13**
- **Polish Pottery Outlet & Utrecht, March 21**
- **Nivelles & St. Feuillien, March 25**
- **Champagne in Epernay, April 24**
- **Keukenhof & The Hague, April 29**
- **Strasbourg, May 8**
- **Versailles Palace & Gardens, May 22**
- **Tongeren & the antiques market, June 1**
- **Fontainebleau Palace, June 5**
- **A day in Paris, June 19**

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

## BRUNSSUM/SCHINNEN COMMUNITY

### 21 February

- **Host Nation and Newcomers Tour** - Held from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Visit the Tri-Border communities, take a hospital tour, visit local attractions and shopping areas, and learn how to use the local trains and bus systems. For more information or to register, contact ACS at DSN 360-7450/7500 or civilian 046-443-7450/7500.
- **Raquetball Tournament** - Held at the André Bruls Fitness Center. Today is the last day to register. For more information or to register call DSN 360-7561 or civilian 046-443-7561.

### 24 February

- **Celebrity Chefs "Messlords" Tour** - Navy entertainment & Armed Forces Entertainment present the Celebrity Chefs "Messlords" Tour at the JFC Brunssum Alliance Rest from noon to 2 p.m. Tickets are €10. Ticket sale is at the Alliance Rest in Bldg. 201, the Miner's Rest in Bldg. 106 and in the FSMW Office Bldg. 401, room 2.23. For more information call 045-5263483.

### 26 February

- **Resume Writing** - Learn to write more effective resumes that highlight and market your knowledge, skills, and abilities. We'll review different resume styles, examine job announcements and discuss how to effectively present your experience and accomplishments to get your resume noticed. The class is held from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the ACS Conference room. For information or to register, call DSN 360-7269/7500 or civilian 046-443-7269/7500.
- **Heinsberg Hospital Tours** - Meet in the Heinsberg Hospital Lobby at 6 p.m. No registration required.

### 28 February

- **Parents' Night Out** - Enjoy a night out while CYSS takes care of your children from 6:30 to 11:30 p.m. A light dinner will be served. Care is \$20 per child with each additional sibling at \$18. AFC benefits can be used. Care is located at JFC Brunssum. To sign-up contact PCS at least two days prior at 045-526-3121 or stop by to make your reservation. Open to CYSS Registered Children Infant-5th Grade. Fees are non-refundable.
- **Hearts Apart** - Schinnen ACS offers a support group for youth separated from a loved one, whether through a deployment or a family situation. The meeting is held from 2 to 3 p.m. at AFNORTH International School. For questions or more information, call the ACS Deployment Readiness office at DSN 360-7269/7500 or civilian 046-443-7269/7500.

## SHAPE/CHIEVRES COMMUNITY

### 20 February

- **Preteen/Teen Book Club** - The group will discuss *I Am the Messenger* by Marcus Zusak. Registration is not required and there is no fee for this program. For more information or to reserve a copy of the book, call the library at DSN 423-5631 or civilian 065-44-5631, e-mail at [mwr.shape.library.info@us.army.mil](mailto:mwr.shape.library.info@us.army.mil) or stop by during regular hours.

### 24 February

- **African American Heritage celebration** - The celebration is held at 11:30 a.m. at the community activity center on Chièvres Air Base.
- **Lunch and Learn - From Couplehood to Parenthood** - Meets from noon to 1 p.m. For more information call DSN 366-6824 or civilian 065-32-6824.

### 26 February

- **Autism Awareness Book Club-SHAPE Chapter** - Join from 4 to 6 p.m. to learn more about Autism Spectrum disorders. This week, you will read *A Wild Ride Up the Cupboards: A Novel* by Ann Bauer. The location is to be determined. For more information, call DSN 423-5749 or civilian 065-44-5749.

### 3-6 March (Register now - limited space)

- **Babysitting course** - Learn basic childcare skills and get CPR/First Aid certified. You must be 12 years (7th grade) or older and registered with SHAPE CYSS to participate in the course. The class is held Monday from 9 a.m. to noon, Tuesday from 9 to 11:30 a.m., Wednesday from 8 a.m. to noon and Thursday from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Cost is \$25 per person and includes First Aid and CPR certificate, babysitters handbook and a babysitter's bag. For more information or to reserve your space, call CYSS Parent Central Services at DSN 423-5612/6097/6039 or civilian 065-44-5612/6097/6039.



## KEEPING YOU CONNECTED

The Official Website of the American Forces Network Benelux

Brussels: 101.7 FM – Chièvres 107.9 FM – SHAPE 106.5 FM and 104.2 FM

[benelux.afneurope.net](http://benelux.afneurope.net)

## BRUSSELS COMMUNITY

### 20 February

- **Library Book Club** - The group will discuss *Lean In* by Sheryl Sandberg from 1 to 3 p.m. at the USAG Benelux-Brussels Library. For more information, call DSN 368-9791 or civilian 02-717-9791.

### 25 February

- **How to Become a Parisian in one Hour** - This one hour comedy show pokes fun at Parisians. The show by Olivier Giraud draws as many French people as foreigners. The show is held at 8:30 p.m. at the Théâtre de la Toison d'Or on 396-398 Galeries de la Toison d'Or. To register, go to <http://www.ffact.be>.

### 26 February

- **The 7 Habits of 24/7 Dads** - Meets from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the ACS Conference Room, Bldg. 4. second floor. For more information or to register call ACS at DSN 368-9783 or civilian 02-717-9783.

### Movie schedule at the SHAPE Cinema

Rates: 2D movies are €7 for adults and €4 for 11 years and under; 3D movies are €9 for adults and €6 for 11 years and under. Movies are subject to change. Check <http://www.shape2day.com/cinema/february-movie-schedule.aspx> for updates.

<b>Feb. 21</b>	4 p.m.	The Lego Movie 3D	PG	120 min
	6:45 p.m.	About Last Night	R	98 min
	9:30 p.m.	Robocop	PG-13	121 min
<b>Feb. 22</b>	4 p.m.	Winter's Tale	PG-13	118 min
	6:45 p.m.	Endless Love	PG-13	103 min
	9:30 p.m.	Robocop	PG-13	121 min
<b>Feb. 23</b>	3 p.m.	Winter's Tale	PG-13	118 min
	5:45 p.m.	About Last Night	R	98 min
<b>Feb. 26</b>	4 p.m.	Robocop	PG-13	121 min
	6:45 p.m.	Endless Love	PG-13	103 min

**Theaters near SHAPE/Chièvres that play movies in English:** Only the British or American movies listed as VO (Version Originale or Originele Versie) will be in English.

**Plaza Art** - Rue de Nimy 12, 7000 Mons (next to the main square). Check the schedule at: <http://plaza-art.be/index.cgi?p=Grille>.

**ImagiBraine** - Boulevard de France, 1420 Braine l'Alleud

Check the schedule and purchase your tickets at : <http://kinopolis.be/nl/bioscopen/kinopolis-imagibraine>.

**Kinopolis** - Boulevard du Centenaire 20, 1020 Bruxelles. Check the schedule at <http://kinopolis.be/fr/cinemas/>

### Movie schedule at the JFC HQ Alliance Theater

Adult admission is €5 (ages 12 and older) - Child admission is €3 (ages 11 and under). Check <http://www.aafes.com/ems/euro/brunssum/htm> for updates.

<b>Feb. 21</b>	7 p.m.	About Last Night	R	98 min
<b>Feb. 22</b>	4 p.m.	Walking with Dinosaurs	PG	87 min
	7 p.m.	Robocop	PG-13	121 min

### Visit us on Facebook:

USAG Benelux-Brussels



USAG-Benelux



Tri-Border Community

