

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.

Crossage in Chièvres

Due to Crossage on Wednesday March 5, the streets in Chièvres will be blocked off to all traffic. Deviation signs will be posted. Also, gate #14 to Chièvres Air Base will be closed all day but access to Caserne Daumerie will remain possible from the Chièvres traffic circle.

Schinnen Pin Point Café

The new operating hours are:
 Mon-Tue from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Wed-Sat from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
 Sun from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Regular menu is every day from 11 a.m. until closing.
 Breakfast is served Mon-Sat from 9 to 11 a.m.

Brussel Library

The Brussels Library will close at 4 p.m., March 6.

African-American celebration



Keith Houin

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The National Hellenic Council Step Team performs the traditional step dances of African-American fraternities and sororities at the USAG Benelux African-American History Month observance. In addition to the dances, the Benelux Community Gospel Service musicians performed songs from the civil rights era, there was a video presentation about the Wereth Eleven created by Sgt. Vincent Pedican, a poetry reading by Senior Master Sgt. Kareema Patton and guest speaker Jennifer Tosch, founder of Black Heritage Amsterdam Tours.

Utility allowance has increased

Special to the Gazette

The utility allowance for Belgium has recently been revised from €847 to €921, a €74 increase. At current exchange rates, the U.S. dollar equivalents are from \$1212 to \$1318, a \$106 increase.

The online survey was conducted between October 16 and December 16, 2013. Surveys were included in the analysis only if they were from service members who had received OHA for at least six months, had paid for most of their utilities separately from rent (utility point score of five or higher), and had collected a full utility allowance.

There are 676 service members assigned to Belgium who met the qualifications for the utility portion of the survey; 242 valid surveys were submitted for a 36% response rate. The response rate for the previous survey was 33%.

Increased expenses were reported for electricity, natural gas, oil, bottled gas, fuel, residential water, sewer, bottled water, maintenance and insurance, which were only slightly offset by lower reported expenses for trash.

The MIHA\Miscellaneous for Belgium was revised from €517 to €534, a €17 increase. The U.S. dollar equivalents at current exchange rates are from \$740 to \$764, a \$24 increase. The online survey was conducted between October 16 and December 16 2013. Surveys were included in the analysis only if they were from service members who had received OHA for at least three months and no more than 27 months, rented private quarters, and did not share quarters with other personnel on OHA.

There are 594 service members assigned to Belgium who met the qualifications for the MIHA portion of the survey; 225 valid surveys were submitted for a 38% response rate. The response rate for the previous survey was 72%.

Increases in freezer, stove, space heater, air conditioner, power hookup, plumbing hookup, smoke detector, cabinet, curtain rod, insulation, window screen, inspection and painting costs reported were only partially offset by decreases in reported costs for humidifiers, washers, dryers, water heaters, telephone hookups, heating hookups and light fixtures.

The next utility survey is scheduled for October 2014, the next MIHA\Miscellaneous survey is scheduled for October 2016.



Did you know that . . .

The primary mission of Army Emergency Relief is to provide financial assistance to Soldiers, Active and Retired, and their Families?

AER is conducted within the Army structure, with assistance available at 82 AER sections located on Army installations, world-wide.

Through reciprocal agreements, AER assistance is available through the Air Force Aid Society, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, Coast Guard Mutual Assistance, and the American Red Cross.

Soldiers Helping Soldiers for 72 Years
www.aerhq.org
 Campaign runs through May 15

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
<http://benelux.afneurope.net>

THE GAZETTE

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TAX CENTERS

Documents to bring along to prepare tax returns

Free tax assistance is available in the Benelux. The U.S. Army runs four tax centers in the Benelux, providing electronic preparation and filing of federal and state tax returns, and direct deposit of refunds.

- **SHAPE Tax Center:** Located on SHAPE in Bldg 318 on the second floor. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The center is closed on U.S. federal holidays. Contact information is DSN: 423-4906 or civilian 065-44-4906.
- **Brussels Tax Center:** Located at USAG Brussels in Bldg 4 on the second floor. Hours of operation: by appointment, Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The center is closed on U.S. federal holidays. Contact information is DSN: 423-4868 or civilian 065444868.
- **Chièvres Tax Center:** Located in the PX building next to the food court. Hours of operation are Tuesday through Saturday from noon to 7 p.m. The center is closed on U.S. federal holidays. Contact information is DSN: 361-5706 or civilian 068275706.
- **Schinnen Tax Center:** Located in Bldg. 37. Open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Simple returns may be done on a walk-in basis. Complex returns may be dropped off with a follow-up appointment. For information or appointment call DSN 360-7688/7691 or civilian at 046-443-7688/7691.

The following documents are necessary to accurately prepare federal and state returns:

All tax returns:

- W-2s: wage income
- 1099s: other income
- Bank direct deposit information (account and routing number)
- Tax identification numbers/birth dates of all family members (SSN, ITIN)
- Prior year returns

Homeowners:

- Mortgage interest statement (Form 1098)
- Real estate tax statement
- Mortgage insurance statement
- Landlords:
- Rental receipt information (1099-MISC)
- Property management statement of receipts and expenses
- Mortgage interest statement (Form 1098)
- Hazard insurance information
- Prior year returns (required for depreciation purposes)
- Completed draft Schedule E (available at www.irs.gov)
- Self-employed:
- Mortgage interest statement (Form 1098)
- Certificate of Coverage (SSA-4121-W-Ger)
- Revenue and expense information (including any government subsidies)
- Completed draft Schedule C (available at www.irs.gov)



At Schinnen

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.

At SHAPE/Chièvres

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.

At Brussels

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.

Have Something for the Gazette?
Email usarmy.benelux.imcom-europe.list.pao@mail.mil

SHAPE hockey team plays in tournament at Garmisch, Germany



Military hockey players from across Europe gathered at the Olympic Ice Stadium in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, for the 22nd Annual Armed Forces Alpine Classic hockey tournament February 20-22, 2014. Fourteen teams participated, including teams from the Kaiserslautern Military Community, Germany; Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany; Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe in Belgium; Naval Support Activity Naples, Italy; U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart, Germany; and others. Players hailed from Belgium, Canada, the United States and other countries. The slate included 22 games to open the round-robin tournament that consisted in a skills competition, an all-star game and trophies. The Kaiserslautern teams play in memory of Airman 1st Class Zachery Cuddeback, killed by a gunman at the Frankfurt, Germany, airport March 2, 2011. Before his death, Cuddeback also played hockey with one of the Kaiserslautern-based teams. The ice rink played host to the winter Olympics in 1936 here. (Top picture) Markus Klauss skating up with the puck followed by line mate Jody McKinnon. (Picture left) Michel Bouchard battling for the puck in the offensive zone. (Picture bottom) From left to right top, Sean Lynch, Grant Hadrava, Michel Bouchard, Richard Handfield-Jones, Jason Giroux, Markus Klauss, David Coderre, William Handfield-Jones, Drazen Osmak, Scott Gallup. From left to right bottom, Jody McKinnon, Stephen Giles, Christian Charron, Christopher Pettypiece, Paul Tucker, Peter Zakrajsek.



community briefs - community briefs - community briefs

Carnaval in the Netherlands

Carnaval or Fashing is an important local tradition and this year it is celebrated March 2-4. Shops in Limburg and parts of Germany will close while pubs and bars will stay open until at least 3 a.m. The streets will overflow with Carnaval revelers and parades. If held up by a parade, don't try to cut through the revelry. It could cause a serious accident and it shows a lack of respect for host nation cultural events. And if enroute to USAG Benelux-Schinnen and a parade is in progress, park the car and enjoy the festivities. The parades at Schinnen are March 3 and 4 between 1 and 5 p.m. and will delay access and exit to and from the base during that time.

U.S. town hall and info fair on SHAPE

The next U.S. town hall and information fair will be held March 18 at the SHAPE events center from 3 to 6 p.m. The townhall will start at 4 p.m. with information booths and family fun from 3 to 4 p.m. and from 5 to 6 p.m. Event is open to all U.S. service members, civilians and dependents. To apply for a booth, call the USNMR at DSN 423-4032 or civilian 065-44-4032. Applications must be submitted by March 4.

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.

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. Cost is \$20 for 3-5 year olds and \$45 for 6 to 15 year olds. 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.

Girls Softball - Enrollment for 10 to 15 year olds is open until February 28. Season is April 15 through June 3. Cost is \$45. For information, call DSN 364-4195 or civilian 045-526-4195.

CYSS SHAPE/Chièvres

Teen Babysitting Course for ages 12 or older - Course is March 3-6, mornings only. Cost is \$25 and includes First Aid and CPR certificate, babysitter's handbook and a magic babysitter's bag. To register, call DSN 423-5612/6097/6039 or civilian 065-44-5612/6097/6039.

Ski Week Camp at SAC for kids 1st to 6th grade - Camp is March 3-7 and includes a field trip to Brussels. For information, call DSN 423-6039 or civilian 065-44-6039.

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.

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

SHAPE wine ration cards

Wine ration cards are only valid for the three month period specified on each card. The FSCEP located in Bldg. 210 will issue two cards covering a six month period. The RIS and Carrefour are only authorized to accept the card pertaining to the current period. Ensure that you have the correct ration card before attempting to make a purchase.

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.

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.

Virtual Career Library

The USAG Benelux-Brussels and Schinnen ACS Employment Readiness Programs have joined the digital revolution with the addition of the Virtual Career Library to its full range of career guidance and employment services. This innovative career information service is available at no cost to personnel and their families who participate in the ACS Employment Readiness Program. For more information, contact your ACS Employment Readiness Program Manager in Chièvres/SHAPE/Brussels at DSN 366-6815 or civilian 065-32-6815, in Schinnen at DSN 360-7269 or civilian 046-443-7269 or log on to the USAG Benelux-Schinnen ACS Employment Readiness website to register at <http://www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil/employmentreadiness/employmentX.html>, Click 'Virtual Career Library', and apply for a user name and password.

Single European payment Area

Effective immediately, all electronic payments across the Euro area should conform to the new SEPA standard. Community Bank customers can make SEPA payments online, by using Community Bank's Online Euro Bill Pay, and in the Schinnen Banking Center. As the European Commission has recently extended the SEPA transition deadline until August 1, Community Bank will continue until further notice to accept payments in the old, pre-SEPA format. However, it is recommended that customers switch to the new SEPA standard and start using the International Bank Account Number (IBAN) and the Bank Identifier Code (BIC) for their payments as soon as possible.

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 your party, stop by the Arts & Crafts Center on SHAPE, Bldg. 307, e-mail artsandcraftsshape@gmail.com.

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 or call DSN 423-6049 or civilian 065-44-6049.

New AAFES hours in Schinnen

New AAFES hours of operation are as follows:

Express (Shoppette):

Mon from 9 a.m. to 4 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-O coin design contest

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

Chièvres Fitness Center

The new schedule at the Chièvres fitness center is as follows:

Mon 5:50 - 7 p.m.: Spin with Quest

Tue 5:50 - 7 p.m.: Strength & Toning with Quest

Wed 5:50 - 7 p.m.: Step Aerobics with Quest

Fri 12:30 - 1:15 p.m.: Yoga with Phil

Sat 10 - 11:15 a.m.: Strength & Toning with Quest

Sat 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.: Spin with Quest

Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness Program

The Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness program (CSF2) launched a new social media platform, ArmyFit, for Soldiers, Army families and Army civilians to use in building their resilience and enhancing their performance. This online, self-development platform offers members of the total Army an opportunity to access tools and resources that will help them improve their physical and psychological strength in the areas of social, emotional, spiritual, family and physical fitness. For information go to <https://www.milsuite.mil/book/docs/DOC-131521>.

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

Winter Olympic Medals

The final top five countries with the most medals at the winter Olympics in Sochi is as follows:

1. Russia with 13 Gold, 11 Silver, 9 Bronze medals
2. Norway with 11 Gold, 5 Silver and 10 Bronze medals
3. Canada with 10 Gold, 10 Silver and 5 Bronze medals
4. USA with 9 Gold, 7 Silver and 12 Bronze medals
5. The Netherlands with 8 Gold, 7 Silver and 9 Bronze medals

Dutch threat level remains "substantial"

Several media report that the threat posed by Dutch Jihad fighters returning from Syria remains substantial. The number of Dutch Jihad fighters returning from Syria has increased – approximately twenty people with or without fighting experience are back in the Netherlands. There is fear that because of their traumatic experience they would radicalize and pose a threat to the Netherlands.

Approximately one hundred Dutch have joined terrorist groups in Syria; at least ten of them have died there. Youth from all over Europe are fighting in Syria: at the end of 2013, there were approximately 1,200 to 2,000 European youth fighting in Syria, most of whom are under 25 and with a relatively high number of women among them.

Giant pandas have arrived in Belgium

Belgian media devoted prominent attention to the arrival last Sunday of two Chinese pandas in Belgium. The pandas were welcomed at the airport by Prime Minister Di Rupo, Defense Minister De Crem, Vice-Prime Minister De Croo, the Chinese Ambassador to Belgium, and 120 Belgian and foreign journalists. Under police escort, the pandas were taken to Pairi Daiza where visitors will be able to watch them when the park opens for the season, April 5.

Cat survives six-week sea crossing

Dock workers opening a container at the Mammoet Transport terminal in Schiedam, the Netherlands earlier this month were surprised to see a ginger cat which had made the six-week crossing from Singapore. Very thin and frightened, the cat was handed over to the local animal shelter where he was given the nickname "Singapoes". The cat was able to survive the sea crossing because there was a small amount of water in the container.

Pay using your smartphone

As of May in Belgium, it will be possible to pay your purchases in shops or online using an application on your smartphone or tablet through Bancontact. Instead of using your bank card, you scan the so-called QR code, which you will have to confirm with your private PIN code. According to Bancontact, it's a secure way of paying, both in the shop and on the internet. Paying online, via the internet, is rather complicated

at present since you have to insert your card number, your name, and you need a device that acts as a bank card reader. Under the new system supported by Bancontact, payments are said to be perfectly safe. The application was tested by 40,000 consumers last year.

Live shark washes up on Dutch northern island

A Starry smooth-hound shark has been washed up alive on the Wadden Sea island of Vlieland, the Netherlands. The shark was found during the weekend and taken to the Noordwester nature center after efforts to release it back into the North Sea failed. The shark is now being monitored. The shark, just over one meter long, is found in the eastern Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea. It is the biggest live shark ever to wash up on the Dutch coast.

Dutch children are healthy

Dutch teenagers are smoking and drinking less than a decade ago and in general their health is good, according to a survey. However, the number of teenagers being admitted to the hospital because they have drunk too much alcohol has increased and there has been no reduction in childhood obesity rates. Bullying at high school has gone down but remains unchanged at elementary school. There has also been an increase in child abuse reports but it is unclear if this represents a real rise. The aim of the survey is to provide an integrated overview of the physical and psycho-social health of children and adolescents to make sure government policy is meeting their needs. International surveys show repeatedly that Dutch children are among the healthiest and happiest in the world.

Nature thinks it is springtime

The warm winter is confusing nature, with plants shooting up and getting ready to bloom at least a month early. The bulbs are three or four weeks early and the hortensias are already in leaf. Some roses are in bud and the grass has remained green all winter. Insects and birds are also getting ready for spring. Early butterflies have been spotted and the birds are singing in search of a mate. The black Alder tree is already in full bloom in the south of the country and pollen scores are mounting. People who suffer from allergies may think they have a cold but in fact they might have early hay fever,

British retailer re-opens in The Hague

British department store group Marks & Spencer has opened a new three-floor store in the center of The Hague, 13 years after pulling out of the Netherlands. The company returned to the Netherlands last year, opening a small outlet in Amsterdam's Kalverstraat with a limited collection of food items and a focus on e-shopping for its clothing.



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

27 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.

28 February - 2 March

- **Wine fair in La Louvière** - Fair will have over 40 wine producers and will offer wine as of €5 per bottle at the Louvexpo on Rue du Hocquet 7. Open Friday from 5 to 10 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Entrance fee is €5, including one tasting.



Courtesy Photo

1-4 March

- **Carnaval in Malmedy** - On Saturday, the parade starts at 4:15 p.m., on Place Albert I with several bands and will go throughout the city. On Sunday, the parade starts at 1:30 p.m. on Place de Rome with the famous "Haguète Dance" (main character of the carnival) and 2,500 participants. Final gathering at 6:30 p.m. on Place Albert I. Monday is role-playing day starting at 11 a.m. with satirical shows on



Courtesy Photo

Haguète

moving stages and actors' parade. On Tuesday starting at 2 p.m., the bands and carnival societies go around town all afternoon and at 7 p.m. is the burning of the Huguète on Place Albert I, symbolizing the end of winter.

2 March

- **Volksmarch in Lobbes** for 5, 10 or 20 km - Departure is from Place Communale 15 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. No participation fee.
- **Volksmarch in Péronnes-lez-Antoing** for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 or 30 km. Departure is from Rue du Centre between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. Participation fee is €0.75.
- **Volksmarch in Soignies** for 5, 10 or 20 km. Departure is from the school on Place Van Zeeland 33 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. No participation fee.



Courtesy Photo



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

28 February - 2 March

- **Flanders horse expo in Gent** - Held at Flanders Expo on Maaltekouter 1, this expo is the largest



Courtesy Photo

and most diverse event related to horses. There are exhibitions, demonstrations, competition, shows and more. Open on Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Entry is €17.

1-2 March

- **Indoor flea market in Goes** - Held at Zeelandhallen on Da Vinciplein. Open both days from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Entry is €4.50.
- **Oriental & Asian market in Gorinchem** - Held at Evenementenhal on Franklinweg 2 with art, fabrics, antiques, fashion, jewelry and lots more. Open both days from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Entry is €7.50.

2 March

- **Volksmarch in Geleen** for 15 or 35 km. Departure is at Biesenhof on Biesenweg 1 at 9 a.m.
- **Volksmarch in the Drunense Duinen in Drunen** - Departure is from Café De Klinkert on Klinkert 1. Detailed information is provided after mandatory registration via email at info@thewalkingcompanions.nl or by phone 0426-373020.
- **Volksmarch in Waalwijk** for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 or 30 km. Departure is from Buurthuis Zanddonk on Willaertpark 2A from 9 to 10:30 a.m. for the 30 and 25 km routes, from 9 to 11:30 a.m. for the 20 and 15 km routes and from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for the 10 and 5 km routes.



Courtesy Photo

Drunense Duinen



2 March Continued

- **Volksmarch in Villers-Saint-Ghislain** for 5, 10 or 20 km. Departure is from Rue Jules Beresse 3 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. No participation fee.

2-4 March

- **Carnaval of Binche** - This world famous carnival that is on the UNESCO world heritage list, dates back to the 16th century. The main events are: Sunday as of 9 a.m., disguised and drums entertain the center of town. The parade starts from Place Eugène Derbaix at 3 p.m. Monday is children's day. The locals will go from pub to pub and from pub to friends' houses while dancing in the streets. At about 4 p.m., the youth gather and dance to the music of the drums heading to the Grand-Place. At about 7 p.m., they all watch the fireworks. On Mardi-Gras, the "Gilles" are allowed to wear their costume. The day starts in the very early hours with the dressing, after which they go from house to house. At 8:30 a.m., the Gilles wear their traditional mask for the reception at the city hall. During the afternoon parade, weather permitting, the Gilles wear their impressive hats covered with ostrich feathers and offer hundreds of oranges. Torchlight procession and final gathering is on the Grand-Place around 8 p.m.



Laurent Dussalissois

Ongoing

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?pageld=577>.

Through 26 April 2015

- **Expo 14-18: It's our history in Brussels** - At the Royal Army Museum on Parc du Cinquanteaire 3, daily from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 4:45 p.m. except Mondays. Admission is €12, children 6 to 18 pay €8, family package (2 adults and 2 children) are at €32.



5 March

- **The Dülkener Schöppenmarkt in Viersen (GE)** is a traditional Year Market which takes place every year on Ash Wednesday.

5-9 March

- **HISWA Amsterdam boat show at RAI in Amsterdam.** Looking for a new boat? Want tips? Interested in chartering a yacht? Or just want to breathe in all the luxury? Find all this and more at



Courtesy Photo

the Boat Show held at Europaplein in Amsterdam. Open: March 5-7 from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and March 8-9 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Entry is €15; youth 16 and younger get free entrance.

6-8 March

- **French gourmet market in Detmold (GE)** - Dealers offer delicacies from the different French regions such as olives from Provence, Foie gras from Gasconne; pastries from Brittany and more. Held in the center of town, market is open from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

7-9 March

- **Spring garden and home fair in Zwolle** - Get new ideas and professional advice for your garden and home. Fair is open March 7 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and March 8-9 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the IJsselhallen. Entry is €8, children 11 and younger get free entrance.

7-10 March

- **Garden fair in Genk** - Held at Limburghal on Jaarbeurslaan 6, fair is open March 7 from 3 to 10 p.m. and March 8-10 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Entry is €9.50, children 14 and younger get free entrance.

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.

CARNAVAL IN THE NETHERLANDS

Host Nation Events & Happenings

1 March

Brunssum: Children parade starts at 2:33 p.m. on Schoolstraat.

Heerlen: Youth parade starts at 1:33 p.m. from Stationsplein.

Heerlerheide: Children parade starts at 2:11 p.m.

Hoensbroek: Children parade starts at 1:11 p.m. on Market Square.

Kerkrade: Youth parade starts at 2:11 p.m.

Landgraaf: Children parade starts at 12:30 p.m. on Heggenstraat.

Maastricht: Reception Prince Carnaval in Train Station at 1:11 p.m., followed by a parade to Market Square.

Puth: Children parade starts at 2:11 p.m. from Market Square.

Roermond: Carnaval manifestation at Train Station Square starts at noon.

Simpelveld: Youth parade starts at 1:11 p.m.

2 March

Beek: Illuminated parade between 6:30 and 9 p.m. starts at Van Sonsbeecklaan.

Echt: Main parade starts at 1:33 p.m. at Nieuwe Markt.

Eijgelshoven: Main parade starts at 2:11 p.m. at Terheidenstraat.

Eijsden: Main parade starts at 2:11 p.m.

Geleen: Main parade starts at 1:49 p.m.

Heerlen: Main parade starts at 12:11 p.m.

Kerkrade-West: Main parade starts at 2:11 p.m. on Grachterstraat.

Maastricht: Carnaval festivities at Vrijthof start at 12:11 p.m. Main parade starts at 1:33 p.m. on Stationsstraat.

Margraten: Main parade starts at 2 p.m. on Prins Bernhardlaan.

Merkelbeek: Main parade starts at 2:11 p.m. on Titus Brandsmastraat.

Noorbeek: Main parade starts at 1:30 p.m.

Nuth: Main parade starts at 2:11 p.m. on Parallelstraat.

Oirsbeek: Main parade starts at 2:11 p.m. on In Den Moel.

Puth: Main parade starts at 1:11 p.m. on Bovenste Puth.

Schinveld: Children parade starts at 2:11 p.m. on Putbergstraat.

Sittard: Main parade starts at 12:55 p.m.

Spaubeek: Main parade starts at 2 p.m. on Kerkstraat.

Valkenburg: Children parade starts at 3:11 p.m. on Walramplein.

Voerendaal: Main parade starts at 2:11 p.m. on Heerlerweg.

Wijlre: Main parade starts at 2:11 p.m.

3 March

Amstenrade: Parade starts at 2:11 p.m. on Hommerter Allee.

Beek: Parade starts at 1:30 p.m.

Bocholtz: Parade starts at 2:11 p.m. on Heiweg.

Brunssum: Parade starts at 1:41 p.m. on Schinvelderstraat.

Geleen: Children parade starts at 2:11 p.m. in the center.

Hoensbroek: Parade starts at 1:11 p.m. on Juliana Bernhardlaan.

Hulsberg: Parade starts at 1:30 p.m. on Kleingenhoutersteeg.

Kerkrade: Parade starts at 11:11 a.m. on Dr. Ackensplein.

Limbricht: Parade starts at 2:11 p.m. on Burgemeester Coonenplein/Beekstraat.

Maastricht: Children parade starts at 2:33 p.m. at Lage Barakken Wyck and ends at Vrijthof.

Munstergeleen: Parade starts at 2:11 p.m.

Nieuwstadt: Parade starts at 2:11 p.m. on Beijerstraat.

Roermond: Parade starts at 2:11 p.m. on Roersingel.

Schinnen: Parade starts at 2:11 p.m. on Veeweg.

Schinveld: Parade starts at 2:11 p.m. on Putbergstraat.

Thorn: Parade starts at 2:11 p.m.

Treebeek: Youth parade starts at 10:11 a.m. on Komeetstraat.

Urmond: Parade starts at 2:11 p.m.

Valkenburg: Parade starts at 1:11 p.m. on Daalhemerweg.

4 March

Echt: Children parade starts at 1:33 p.m. on Nieuwe Markt.

Geleen: Tattoo in the center starting at 6:11 p.m. Closing ceremony starts at 11:59 p.m.

Heerlen: Light parade starts at 8:11 p.m. on Geleenstraat/Pan-

tiusplein.

Landgraaf: Parade from Schaesberg to Nieuwenhagen starting at 1:11 p.m. on Markt Schaesberg.

Maaseik: Clown parade in the center starting at 8:11 p.m.

Munstergeleen: Children parade starts at 2:11 p.m.

Nieuwstadt: Children parade starts at 2:11 p.m. on Delweide.

Noorbeek: Children parade starts at 1:30 p.m. on Schoolstraat.

Oud-Valkenburg: Light parade starts at 7 p.m.

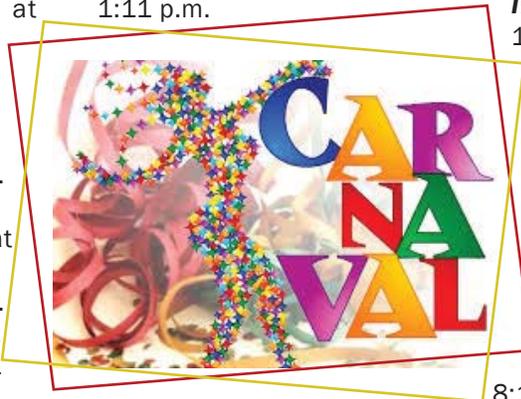
Schinnen: Children parade starts at 2:11 p.m. on Nieuwe Markt.

Sittard: Children parade starts at 2:11 p.m. on Reinoud van Gelderstraat.

Valkenburg: Light parade starts at 8:33 p.m. on Walramplein.

Other activities:

Maastricht: The Maastricht Prince Carnaval and his retinue will hold a reception at the city's train station March 1, 1:11 p.m. At 1:55 p.m. they will march to the Market Square where the Prince will lay a wreath at the statue of "t Mooswief" (Cabbage Woman). There's also a Carnaval brass band contest March 3, 2:11 p.m. on the Vrijthof in the center.



CARNAVAL AT USAG BENELUX-SCHINNEN

For over 20 years USAG Benelux-Schinnen has held a traditional party the Friday before Carnaval. This year, the party will be on February 28 at the Recreation Plaza on the Schinnen installation starting at 2:11 p.m. with the proclamation of the Prince and Princess. Doors open at 1 p.m.

If it is your first year in the Netherlands, this is a great opportunity to experience a traditional and cultural event. Get a costume, find a mask and bring your family and friends to join the USAG Benelux-Schinnen community in their celebration. For more information, call DSN 360-7322 or civilian 046-443-7322 or DSN 360-7331 or civilian 046-443-7331.



OTHER CARNAVAL PARADES IN BELGIUM

28 February

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

1 March

Ekeren starts at 1:11 p.m.
Genk starts at 2:11 p.m.
Huissignies starts at 2 p.m.
Oostende starts at 2 p.m.
Ophoven starts at 2:11 p.m.
 Children's parade in **Sint-Truiden** starts at 3:11 p.m.
Tienen starts at 2:11 p.m.
 Children's parade in **Tongeren** starts at 2:33 p.m.

2 March

Aalst starts at 1 p.m.
Baarle-Hertog starts at 1:11 p.m.
Blankenberge starts at 2:33 p.m.
Essen starts 1:49 p.m.
Heist starts at 2:33 p.m.
Herenthout starts at 1:30 p.m.
Kinrooi starts at 2:11 p.m.
Lanaken starts at 2:11 p.m.
Lokeren starts at 3:33 p.m.



Lommel starts at 2:11 p.m.
Lummen starts at 2:11 p.m.
Maaseik starts at 2:11 p.m.
 Illuminated parade in **Neerpelt** starts at 7:33 p.m.
Oostduinkerke starts at 2:33 p.m.
Opplabeek starts at 2:11 p.m.
Tongeren starts at 2:33 p.m.
Vilvoorde starts at 2:33 p.m.
Vroenhoven starts at 2:33 p.m.

Children's parade in **Weelde** starts at 1:30 p.m.

Zonhoven starts at 2:11 p.m.

3 March

Bocholt starts at 2:11 p.m.
Molenbeersel near Kinrooi starts at 2:11 p.m.
Rekem near Lanaken starts at 2:11 p.m.
Sint-Truiden starts at 2:11 p.m.

4 March

Blankenberge starts at 3 p.m.
 Children's parade in **Diest** starts at 2:33 p.m.

's Gravenvoeren starts at 2:33 p.m.
 The Clown parade in **Maaseik** starts at 8:11 p.m.
Smeermaas starts at 3:11 p.m.
 Illuminated parade in **Wellen** starts at 7:33 p.m.

5 March

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

SHAPE Trips & Tours

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

- **London, March 1** - Join us for a day of free time in the city of endless attractions: Buckingham Palace, Big Ben, Westminster Abbey, Trafalgar Square, Tower Bridge, St. Paul's Cathedral, Museums, and the West End theater district. The price is €108. Departs SHAPE at 4:30 a.m., departs Brussels at 3:30 a.m., arrives at SHAPE at 1:30 a.m. and at Brussels at 2:30 a.m.



Schinnen Trips and Tours

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

- **Paris, March 15** - Spend a day to shop, dine or take a city tour. Bus departs Schinnen at 4 a.m. and returns at 2 a.m. (Sunday). Cost is \$75 for adults and children.

SHAPE Travel Group

For information on the trip below call civilian 0486/56.53.71

- **Creativa Craft Fair, Brussels, March 13** - Creativa is the fair for creative leisure. The fair has over 200 exhibitors displaying and selling everything you need for scrapbooking, jewellery making, patchwork quilting, card making, mosaics, cake decorating and more. Stock up on supplies for your existing crafts or find ideas for new hobbies. Price is €25, including entrance.



Upcoming trips

SHAPE Trips & Tours

- **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 21**
- **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

- **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

27 February

- **Financial Fitness workshop** - Helps you to become and stay financially fit for life. Workshop is from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in the JFC Brunssum Library. For more information, call ACS at DSN 360-7450/7500 or civilian 046-443-7450/7500.

28 February

- **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.

5 March

- **First Term Briefing** - From 11 a.m. to noon at ACS. This is a mandatory briefing for all first term/initial term Soldiers. Learn about the practical approach to financial management, tools to handle money wisely, ability to make informed purchasing decisions and more. For more information or to register, contact ACS at DSN 360-7450/7500 or civilian 046-443-7450/7500.

SHAPE/CHIEVRES COMMUNITY

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.

6 March

- **Great Dates connect** - Looking for a fun and meaningful way to connect with your spouse or partner? Join the Great Day at the fellowship hall, Daumerie Chapel from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. Registration is required at DSN 366-6824 or civilian 065-32-6824.

BRUSSELS COMMUNITY

1-31 March

- **2014 Spring Reading Program "Reading Around the World"** - Registration is now open. For more information, call DSN 368-9791 or civilian 02-717-9791.

5 March

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

- **Education Opportunity Forum** - Held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the USAG Brussels Community Food Court with representatives of the University of Maryland, Central Texas College, the University of Oklahoma, and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University to discuss programs available to students in the Benelux.

6 March

- **AFE Charlie's Angels Comedy Tour** - At the 3 Star Lounge as of 5:30 p.m. for dinner (Specialty Hot Dog Platters at \$5) and showtime at 7 p.m. Free tickets are available for pick-up at the Library and Fitness Center (18 + Mature audience).

Armed Forces Entertainment Presents

CHARLIE'S ANGELS COMEDY TOUR

Free tickets available for pick-up at the Library and Fitness Center

18+ Mature Audiences

Thursday, March 6

3 Star Lounge

Doors & Dinner 5:30 PM

Showtime 7 PM

For more information DSN: 368-9680 or CIV: 02-717-9680

Dinner

\$5 Specialty Hot Dog Platters

Chicago style, bacon-cheddar, chili-cheese, and kraut
Plus a condiment bar!





BRUSSELS COMMUNITY Continued

15 March (Sign up by noon on March 7)

- **St Patrick's Day Ball** - The annual ball sponsored by the Irish Club of Belgium will take place at the Steigenberger Grand Hotel (formerly The Conrad) on Avenue Louise 71, 1050 Brussels. This charity event starts at 7 p.m. with a champagne reception and is followed by a five-star meal. After dinner there will be entertainment by "Damhsa" and D.J. Clutz. This year proceeds will support The Childhood Leukemia Unit in St.Luc University Hospital, Brussels. Ticket are at €80 for members of the Irish Club of Belgium and €95 for non-members. The event is strictly black-tie and only open to adults (minimum age of 18). Sign up by email at info@americanclubbrussels.org or by phone at 02-2195808.



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.

Feb. 28	4 p.m.	The Lego Movie 3D	PG	120 min
	6:45 p.m.	Pompeii	PG-13	112 min
	9:30 p.m.	Robocop	PG-13	121 min
Mar. 1	4 p.m.	The Nut Job 2D	PG	120 min
	6:45 p.m.	Robocop	PG-13	121 min
	9:30 p.m.	Her	R	120 min
Mar. 2	3 p.m.	Lego 2D	PG	120 min
	5:45 p.m.	Pompeii	PG-13	106 min
Mar. 5	4 p.m.	Lego 3D	PG	120 min
	6:45 p.m.	Pompeii	PG-13	106 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/kinopolis-bruxelles>.

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.shopmyexchange.com/ReelTimeTheatres/Movies-Brunssum.htm>.

Feb. 28	7 p.m.	Pompeii	PG-13	112 min
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The March movie schedule was not available at publication date.

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USAG-Benelux



Tri-Border Community

