

THE GAZETTE

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

Benelux news briefs

CAC office closes midweek

The USAG Benelux-Brussels Common Access Card, or CAC, office in Building 4's Room 311, will be closed Wednesdays until further notice.

If you would like to call on a Wednesday to schedule a Brussels appointment for another day of the week, contact the ID card section at SHAPE's Building 253 at DSN 366-6292 or civilian 065-326292.

SATO closing for lunch

In a permanent change starting Nov. 7, the SATO Travel Office at Chièvres Air Base will be closed daily for lunch from noon to 12:30 p.m.

The new opening hours will be weekdays from 8 a.m. to noon and from 12:30 to 5 p.m.

If you have questions, call Stephanie Guerit at DSN 361-5783 or civilian 068-275783.

In related news, due to non-availability of staff members, the CTO-SATO Travel Agency Office at the Brussels Garrison will be closed Nov. 10. Normal operations will resume Nov. 12. In case of an emergency, contact the Chièvres CWT SATO Travel at 068-657125 or fax 068-657170.

Table of Contents

News.....	1-10
Community Briefs.....	11
Events&Happenings...12-14	
Community Roundup...15-16	



IMCOM-E changes leadership

Outgoing region director of Installation Management Command Europe Kathleen Marin, IMCOM commanding general Lt. Gen. David D. Halverson and incoming region director Michael D. Formica enter the change of responsibility Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2014, in Kaiserslautern, Germany. (U.S. Army photo by G. Patrick Harris)

See page 4.

USAREUR welcomes new CG in Wiesbaden ceremony

The U.S. Army Europe colors and command of USAREUR passed from Lt. Gen. Donald M. Campbell Jr. to Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges in a ceremony in Wiesbaden, Germany, Nov. 5.

Hodges comes to USAREUR from Izmir, Turkey, where he served as commander of NATO's Allied Land Command. He was once director of operations for Regional Command South in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom.



Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges

Veterans Day honors those who serve

Nov. 11 is Armistice Day and commemorates the official cessation of hostilities on the western front signed between the World War I Allies and Germany. The armistice, or peace agreement, took effect at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918. The date was declared a national holiday in many allied nations, to commemorate those members of the armed forces who were killed during the war.

In 1954, the name of the holiday was changed to Veterans Day in the United States to celebrate all veterans who have served. Whether called Veterans Day in America, Remembrance Day in the countries of the British Commonwealth or Armistice Day, all remember and honor the veterans for their sacrifices and commitment.

Almost every town and village in Belgium has a wreath-laying ceremony honoring the war victims.

USAG Benelux will participate in the following ceremonies:

- Chièvres, Nov. 11 at 11 a.m. at the war monument across from the city hall
- Brugelette, Nov. 11 at 11 a.m. at the war monument next to the church.

Veterans Day news briefs

Health clinic reduces services, closes others

The SHAPE Healthcare Facility will operate on a holiday schedule Nov. 11 in celebration of Veterans Day.

The following services are available:

- Acute Care Walk-in Clinic will be open from 8 to 10 a.m.
- All other services will be closed.

Cash cage

The 266th Benelux Finance Office's cash cage on SHAPE will be closed Nov. 11.

CSC/CPF

The U.S. Community Services Center, once known as the U.S. Central Processing Facility, in SHAPE's Building 253 will be closed Nov. 11.

AAFES

Chièvres Army and Air Force Exchange Service, or AAFES, facilities will be open Nov. 11 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Schinnen Army and Air Force Exchange Service, or AAFES, concerns will be closed Nov. 11, including the gas station. The Schinnen Shoppette will be the only storefront open Nov. 10 (from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) because most AAFES facilities are normally closed Mondays.

Commissary

The Chièvres Commissary will be open regular hours Nov. 11 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. (Early-bird hours for self-checkout are from 9 to 10 a.m.)

Regularly closed on Mondays, the Schinnen Commissary will be closed Nov. 10 as well as Nov. 11 in observance of Veterans Day.

Credit union

Every branch of Andrews Federal Credit Union will be closed Nov. 11.

Post office

U.S. postal facilities in the Benelux are closed on all federal holidays so they will be closed Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

THE GAZETTE

Col. Marty Vannatter

USAG Benelux
Commander

Editor

Andrea Wales

Marie-Lise Baneton

USAG Benelux
Public Affairs Officer

Staff Writers

Donovan Abrassart
Rita Hoefnagels
Keith Houin
Cis Spook

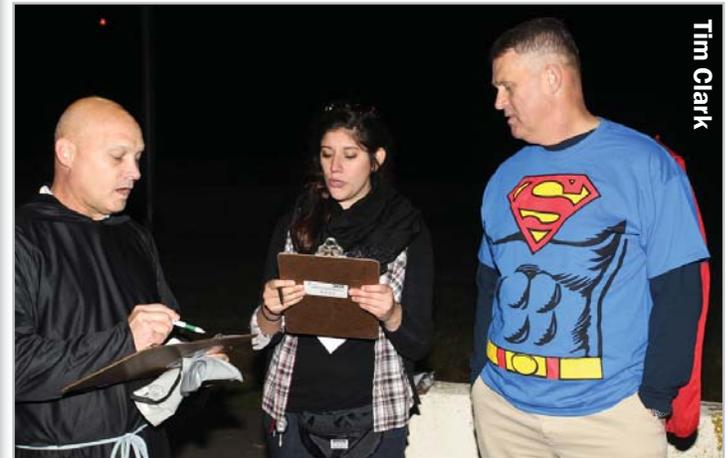
The Gazette is an unofficial publication published under the provisions of AR 360-1 for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of *The Gazette* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of the Army or the USAG Benelux. *The Gazette* is a free weekly 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) 068-275419/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 by Monday at 3 p.m.

IMCOM commander visits USAG Benelux installations



IMCOM commander Lt. Gen. David D. Halverson visited USAG Benelux installations Friday, Oct. 31, 2014, as part of a broader visit to U.S. Army garrisons in Europe. It was his first official visit since he assumed command April 8. During his visit, Halverson stopped by the SHAPE American Elementary School and the Child Development Center on SHAPE. He also participated in a town-hall meeting on Caserne Daumerie and took the opportunity to answer questions from the USAG Benelux work force. Halverson concluded his visit to USAG Benelux installations by taking part in the Trunk or Treat festivities on Chièvres Air Base.

Halverson was accompanied by his wife, Karen; IMCOM-E region director Kathleen Marin and her husband, Steve; incoming IMCOM-E region director Michael D. Formica; Col. James E. Saenz, Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management Strategic Initiatives Group chief; and IMCOM-E Command Sgt. Maj. Romeo Montez III.



Tim Clark

(Counter-clockwise from top left) Children from the Child Development Center welcome the group with the children's song "Round The World With Ways To Say Hello." • USAG Benelux commander Col. Marvin G. Yannatter shows the new SHAPE International School compound to Karen Halverson. • Dr. Bernadette Schlueter, the principal of SHAPE American Elementary School, gives a tour to the group inside the school facility. • USAG Benelux security specialist Tracey Manera puts a question to Lt. Gen. David D. Halverson during the town-hall meeting. • Ornella Pevernagie, USAG Benelux MWR, briefs Yannatter and Halverson on Trunk or Treat activities. (U.S.Army photos by DonovanAbrassart unless otherwise noted)



Marie-Lise Baneton

IMCOM-E changes region director

By Troy Darr

Installation Management Command Europe Public Affairs Office

Installation Management Command Europe welcomed a new region director during a change of responsibility ceremony Nov. 4, at the Vogelweh military complex in Kaiserslautern, Germany.

Kathleen Y. Marin relinquished responsibility of Installation Management Command Europe to Michael D. Formica.

The ceremony and passing of the command's colors was presided over by Lt. Gen. David D. Halverson, commander of U.S. Army Installation Management Command and assistant chief of staff for Installation Management.

With three years as the region director, Marin managed the transformation of IMCOM Europe with her strategy of "Consolidate, Divest and Invest."

"Installation Management Command Europe is the Army's home in Europe, and like any community, our success depends on people," Marin said. "People are our most precious asset, and success in our communities rests on this fact. Not the equipment, buildings, or material resources, but quite simply people."

People are involved in every facet of running military communities, she said, right down to the people who stand guard at the gates while the rest are tucked safely in their beds.

"It has truly been the highlight of my career to be the region director from IMCOM Europe, and it has been my

privilege and honor to serve with you, our IMCOM professionals," she said.

Marin and her husband, Stephen, plan to retire to Oregon.

Formica becomes the fourth region director of IMCOM Europe, having most recently served as the assistant deputy chief of staff, G-3/5/7 (Operations, Plans and Training), for Training and Doctrine Command at Fort Eustis, Va.

"I am honored to be given the opportunity to lead this great team of quiet professionals," Formica said.

He thanked the IMCOM commanding general for Halverson's faith in his abilities and said he enthusiastically accepts the mantle of leadership, recognizing that the IMCOM-E team supports the Soldiers and families of U.S. Army Europe and U.S. Army Africa, and helps to enable Soldiers to be ready to win in a complex world.

"To the Army professionals, Soldiers and civilians within IMCOM Europe, I look forward to leading you as together we execute this mission," Formica said.

During the ceremony, Halverson thanked the command teams from IMCOM Europe's seven garrisons for their efforts in taking care of Soldiers and their families.

Formica will officially take the leadership of IMCOM Europe Jan. 11, 2015. The deputy region director, Col. Anthony Haager, will serve as the acting region director until that time.



Michael D. Formica, incoming region director of Installation Management Command Europe, receives the command's colors from Lt. Gen. David D. Halverson, commander of U.S. Army Installation Management Command and assistant chief of staff for Installation Management, during a change of responsibility Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2014, in Kaiserslautern, Germany. (U.S. Army photo by G. Patrick Harris)



Kathleen Marin bids farewell to Installation Management Command Europe during the change of responsibility in Kaiserslautern, Germany, Nov. 4, 2014. (U.S. Army photo by G. Patrick Harris)

Trunk or Treat conjures up Halloween fun



A long line waits to enter the Trunk or Treat grounds on Chièvres Air Base Friday, Oct. 31, 2014. Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, or FMWR, put on the Halloween event. (U.S. Army photo by Tim Clark)

Chloe VanDenBosch and her sister, Bella, wait for trick-or-treaters at their family's first-place "Minion" trunk at Trunk or Treat on Chièvres Air Base Oct. 31, 2014. (U.S. Army photo by Tim Clark)



An artist paints the face of a willing victim at Brussels Autumn Fest/Trunk or Treat Oct. 31, 2014. Other activities were also organized, such as the Tater-Tot Build-off, children's costume contest and pre-carved jack-o'-lantern judging. (U.S. Army photo by Donovan Abrassart)

Being well-camouflaged makes for an especially good fright Oct. 31, 2014. More than 3,000 children and adults visited Trunk or Treat 2014 at Schinnen. Instead of a haunted house, this year there was a Haunted Trail, along which Halloween-themed tables were set up and vehicles with decorated trunks parked. (U.S. Army photo by Rita Hoefnagels)



The Brussels community celebrates Halloween with Trunk or Treat/Autumn Fest activities Oct. 31, 2014. Around 40 volunteers decorated their trunks to entertain trick-or-treaters. (U.S. Army photo by Donovan Abrassart)

Wearing pirate garb, the Coast Guard earned first-place honors for best trunk or table at Schinnen Trunk or Treat Oct. 31, 2014. (Photo by Ed Rotay)



Trenches to Foxholes

Next week in World War history (Nov. 9 to 15)

World War I

1914

Nov. 9 - In the first-ever wartime action by an Australian warship, the cruiser Sydney sinks the German raider Emden.

Nov. 14 - In Constantinople, capital of the Ottoman Empire, the religious leader Sheikh-ul-Islam declares an Islamic holy war on behalf of the Ottoman government, urging his Muslim followers to take up arms against Britain, France, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro in World War I.

1915

Nov. 11 - First British advance on Baghdad begins.

Nov. 15 - Representatives of Central Powers leave Teheran (Persia) on approach of Russian forces.

1916

Nov. 13 - British troops stage a surprise attack and capture the towns of Beaumont Hamel and Beaucourt at the northern end of the Somme Front.

- The British statesman Henry Charles Keith Petty-Fitzmaurice, better known as the fifth Marquess of Lansdowne, writes a memorandum to the British cabinet questioning the direction of the Allied war effort.

1917

Nov. 11 - The German High Command, led by Erich Ludendorff, gathers at Mons, Belgium, to map out a strategy for 1918. Ludendorff bluntly states he is willing to accept a million German casualties in a daring plan to achieve victory in early 1918, before the American Army arrives in force. The goal is to drive a wedge between the British and French armies on the Western Front via a series of all-out offensives using Germany's finest divisions and intensive storm-troop tactics. Once this succeeds, the plan is to first decimate the British Army to knock Britain out of the war, and then decimate the French Army, and thus secure final victory.

Nov. 15 - Georges Clemenceau becomes France's new prime minister at age 76. Nicknamed "The Tiger," when asked about his agenda, he will simply answer, "I wage war."

1918

Nov. 9 - The Kaiser's imperial government collapses in ruin as a German republic is proclaimed with Friedrich Ebert heading the new provisional government. Kaiser Wilhelm then seeks refuge in Holland amid concerns for his safety after his generals warn him they may not be able to adequately protect him from the volatile situation in Germany.

Nov. 11 - At 5:10 a.m., in a railway car at Compiègne, France, the Germans sign the armistice, which is effective at 11 a.m. — the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. Fighting continues all along the Western Front until precisely 11 o'clock, with 2,000 casualties experienced that day by all sides. Artillery barrages also erupt at 11 a.m. draws near as Soldiers yearn to claim they fired the very last shot in the war.

Nov. 12 - A final action occurs as Germans in Africa under the command of the elusive Gen. Paul von Lettow-Vorbeck encounter British troops in Northern Rhodesia, where news of the armistice hasn't reached the Germans.

World War II

1939

Nov. 9 - Adolf Hitler issues directive No. 9, which calls for German aircraft and submarines to attack British shipping and port facilities.

Nov. 13 - German destroyers Z20, Z18, Z19, and Z21 mine the mouth of the River Thames in southern England, United Kingdom, before dawn. At 8:20 a.m., British destroyer Blanche hits a mine and is badly damaged — one crew member is killed and 12 are wounded. Blanche sinks while under tow by tugboat Fabia becoming the first British destroyer lost to enemy action in WWII.

1940

Nov. 14 - Five hundred German bombers unleash 150,000 incendiary bombs and more than 500 tons of high explosives on the British industrial city of Coventry, taking out 27 war factories. Of the 568 people killed, more than 400 are burned so badly they cannot be identified. Among the more than 60,000 buildings destroyed or severely damaged was St. Michael's Cathedral.

1941

Nov. 13 - The U.S. Congress amends the Neutrality Act of 1935 to allow American merchant ships access to war zones, thereby putting American vessels in the line of fire. In anticipation of another European war, and in pursuit of an isolationist foreign policy, Congress passed the Neutrality Act in August 1935, forbidding the sale of munitions by U.S. firms to any and all belligerents in any future war.

1942

Nov. 11 - Germany withdraws 25 submarines from the North Atlantic to attack Allied shipping off North Africa; on the same day, submarine U-173 attacks destroyer USS Hambleton, oiler USS Winooski and troopship USS Joseph Hewes near Casablanca, French Morocco, sinking Joseph Hewes and killing 100. On land, the French garrison at Casablanca officially surrenders to the Americans.

1943

Nov. 10 - Sixty B-26 Marauders bomb A84 (Chièvres Air Field). Bad weather causes force sent to bomb Vendeville Air Field, France, to abandon the mission.

Nov. 15 - Heinrich Himmler makes public an order that Gypsies and those of mixed Gypsy blood are to be put on "the same level as Jews and placed in concentration camps."

1944

Nov. 12 - As the German battleship Tirpitz lay at anchor in Norway's Tromsø Fjord, 32 British Lancaster bombers take off from Scotland to attack her. Each bomber drops a 12,000-pound Tallboy bomb and two hit their target, causing the Tirpitz to capsize, and kill 1,000 crewmen. Winston Churchill sums up the situation this way: "The destruction or even crippling of this ship is the greatest event at the present time. ... The whole strategy of the war turns at this period on this ship. ..."

"Next week in World War history" is compiled from various sources by Keith Houin, USAG Benelux Public Affairs.

Protect property now

When putting together a family emergency plan or an emergency-preparedness kit, Army personnel and their families should remember to protect their property as well, according to officials from Ready Army, the Department of the Army's emergency-preparedness campaign. All Army personnel should also maintain a basic level of preparedness for all potential hazards.



"Emergencies leave little or no time to prepare," said John Hopper, the USAG Benelux-Schinnen emergency manager. "While protecting yourself and your family is critical, taking action to protect your property and investments can ensure that they survive an emergency in the best possible condition."

To prepare your home for an emergency, remember to:

- Get a family emergency kit and determine the best place to store it.
 - Have a qualified technician repair any defective electrical wiring or leaky gas connections.
 - Place large heavy objects on lower shelves.
 - Store any flammable liquids away from heat sources and possibly in metal cans to prevent fires.
 - Repair any cracks in the ceilings or home foundation.
 - Keep important housing documents in your emergency-preparedness kit.
 - Turn off the gas and electricity if you have to evacuate.
- Find out more at <http://www.acsim.army.mil/readyarmy>.

Family Advocacy organizes senior leaders conference

By Byron Wiley

USAG Benelux Family Advocacy Program

Domestic Violence Prevention and Awareness Month culminated in the Domestic Violence Prevention and Awareness Senior Leader Seminar at the SHAPE Club Oct. 31. The Black Eye Campaign ran the entire month of October.

The USAG Benelux Family Advocacy Program hosted the Domestic Violence Prevention and Awareness Senior Leader Seminar. The seminar was designed to educate and train commanders, senior noncommissioned officers, spouses and other senior leaders from different disciplines on domestic-violence and child-abuse prevention, awareness and response. Senior leaders and spouses from across the footprint were in attendance, including representatives of USAG Benelux, USAG Benelux-Brussels and USAG Benelux-Schinnen.

A panel of subject-matter experts from the Army Community Service Family Ad-

vocacy Program; Social Work Services; Alcohol Substance Abuse Program, or ASAP; U.S. Criminal Investigation Command, commonly known as CID; the Directorate of Emergency Services; and the Health Promotion Council were on hand to make presentations and to field any questions from the attendees. The event concluded in a powerful speech by the guest speaker, Kathryn Seymour, who for the second time participated in the monthlong Black Eye Campaign.

The Black Eye Campaign is a collaborative effort between the Schinnen Family Advocacy Program and the Air Force Behavioral Health Program at the U.S. Clinic on the NATO Air Base in Geilenkirchen, Germany. The Black Eye Campaign is designed to raise awareness about domestic violence.

The Family Advocacy Program solicited volunteers throughout the footprint, to



SACEUR staff supports Red Ribbon Week

Gen. Philip M. Breedlove, Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, and a few members of his staff showed their support for Red Ribbon Week, which kicked off Oct. 23. Red ribbons and red lollipops with anti-drug messages were offered by representatives of the Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) all week. The 2014 theme is "Love yourself: Be drug-free." (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Stefan Hass)

AFAP volunteers improve life

Volunteer delegates from the Benelux communities are needed for the Army Family Action Plan conference at SHAPE Army Community Service Nov. 20 from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

AFAP is an avenue for members of America's military family to express their quality-of-life concerns directly to senior leadership and work together to find solutions.

Volunteers should call:

- Brussels: DSN 368-9721 or civilian 02-7179721;
- Schinnen: DSN 360-7452 or civilian +31 (0) 46-4437452;
- SHAPE/Chièvres: DSN 366-6824 or civilian 065-326824.

use makeup to simulate an injury, such as a black eye or fading bruise, and walk around the community to see if fellow community members would respond or inquire as to the nature of the injury. The volunteers were given a script and an information card to explain the campaign and services available within in the community to address domestic violence. This is the second year that the Family Advocacy Program has collaborated with the Air Force in this effort. Some volunteers have previously supported the Black Eye Campaign effort and expressed an interest in continuing to participate whenever possible because of firsthand experience with domestic violence.

Although awareness is increased during the month of October, domestic-violence prevention and awareness is everyone's responsibility 365 days of the year.



Santa and his USAG Benelux “elves” make a merry Christmas possible for the children of La Fermette, the local orphanage in Ath.

Archive Photo

Local orphans await Santa’s arrival

Christmas is around the corner, and the children of the local orphanage La Fermette in Ath are ready for a visit from Santa.

Ever since the U.S. community settled in the SHAPE/Chièvres area in 1967, it has been supporting the local orphanage “La Fermette” in Ath. “La Fermette” takes care of 32 children under the age of 18 in two facilities located close to Ath. It also watches over an additional 17 children who are still living with their families but who need specific attention.

To make Santa’s job easier, the children have submitted their wish list for Christmas. USAG Benelux’s goal is to

provide each of the children with one of their wishes at a party the afternoon of Dec. 17. Details are still being worked out, but Santa has already saved the date.

If you want to support the program, you can do so in two ways. You may request a copy of the wish list, sign up and purchase the gift for a particular child. You can also donate funds to be used to purchase gifts that haven’t been spoken for by other donors.

If you want to take a look at the wish list or if you have any questions on the orphans program, contact the USAG Benelux Public Affairs Office at DSN 361-5694 or civilian 068-275694.

Holiday news briefs

Holiday postal news

SHAPE and Chièvres post offices will have extended hours Nov. 17 through Dec. 19 —

- Parcel Pickup: 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (an extra hour per day)
- Postal Finance (items to mail): 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (an extra hour per day)
- Mail by appointment (SHAPE only): 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Mailing deadlines

Overseas postal officials recommend these dates for mail to the United States to arrive by Dec. 25 —

- Space Available Mail (SAM): Nov. 26
 - Parcel Airlift (PAL): Dec. 3
 - Priority parcels, First Class letters and cards: Dec. 10
 - Priority Express Mail: Dec. 17.
- Check mail often to free up space for cards, letters and packages.

Tickets on sale now for Christmas brunch at SHAPE

Enjoy a leisurely Christmas brunch at the SHAPE Club Dec. 14 at 11 a.m. The buffet will be stocked with continental-breakfast items, and there will be a cold starter buffet, main-course buffet and sweets. Cost includes a free-beverage station.

Kids Corner has a magician.

Cost: Adults €28, children under 12, €14. Ticket sales end Dec. 11.

Contact DSN 423-4133 or civilian 065-444133, or info@shapeclub.be.

Holiday mailing: Disease outbreaks highlight customs rules

By Robert Szostek

U.S. European Command Customs Public Affairs Office

Recent outbreaks of farm animal diseases in Europe demonstrate the potential devastation foreign pests and diseases could inflict in the United States if they get past American defenses. U.S. personnel in Europe must observe the strict rules for mailing or hand-carrying food or plants stateside.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture issues fines of \$100 to \$1,100 to first-time offenders shipping via mail. Officials say most military mail violations originate in Germany and Spain, and mainly involve sausage and salami.

“Meats, sausages, pâtés and salami can harbor disease viruses — even if canned — and are therefore barred from import into the U.S.,” said Scott Sanner of the U.S. European Command’s Customs and Border Clearance Agency.

Even pasta or soup mixes that contain dried meat aren’t

allowed, he said. Foot-and-mouth disease and bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE or mad cow disease) are examples of diseases that need to be kept out of the United States this way.

Additionally, fresh fruits and vegetables mustn’t be sent to the United States because they can contain the eggs and larvae of voracious pests like the Mediterranean fruit fly.

However, you can ship processed fruit and vegetable products, such as canned fruit, olive oil, mustard and canned or processed sauces. There aren’t any restrictions on fish or mushrooms either, Sanner said. Spices, roasted coffee, cured hard cheeses (with no meat), cakes, candies, cookies and roasted nuts are also OK. You can also ship most herbs and teas if they are dried and commercially packaged.

Breast cancer: A young woman's journey

By **Andrea Wales**

USAG Benelux Public Affairs Office

October was Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

You're young, healthy and blessed with a beautiful family. You've got everything going for you, then life throws you a curve ball.

Claudia Romero, a newcomer to the Chièvres community, was in just that situation a year ago when, at the age of 29, she tested positive for the BRCA1 gene mutation, a genetic marker that can indicate a propensity toward breast cancer.

With a mother and four out of five maternal aunts who tested positive for BRCA1 mutation, Claudia, who came to Chièvres Air Base with husband Air Force Tech Sgt. Marcus Romero, had wanted to get tested for the gene mutation for two years.

Her first OB/GYN at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Alaska, however, didn't return the geneticist's telephone calls so Claudia wasn't tested until she changed doctors at the base. After the death of an aunt from ovarian cancer, breast cancer's "sister" disease, in July 2013, Claudia was determined to get tested and made it quite clear to her new doctor that she wouldn't tolerate any delay.

"TRICARE was with me all the way and gave me all the referrals I needed," she said. "It was great not having to worry about that."

In October 2013, on the same day, Claudia had X-rays taken of her breasts (a routine "screening" mammogram) and a genetic test on her saliva, sampled using a special mouthwash.

The mammogram needed to be redone because it wasn't done properly, and her saliva tested positive for BRCA1 mutation.

Although Claudia's follow-up mammogram was negative, she wasn't taking any chances.

In addition to losing her aunt recently, Claudia had nursed two of her loved ones during their battles with breast cancer -- her mother, who is a breast-cancer survivor after a lumpectomy, chemotherapy and radiation at age 45; and one of her aunts, who in 2006 was diagnosed with Stage 3 breast cancer (which had spread to her lymph nodes) and underwent a double mastectomy to become a breast-cancer survivor. Another aunt is also a breast-cancer survivor, and yet another was put on a five-year course of tamoxifen hormone therapy to ward off the disease.

Claudia had seen what cancer can do so she decided to get a preventive bilateral (double) mastectomy as soon as it could be arranged.

"Even though you have the gene doesn't mean you're going to get cancer. I chose to do it because I was trying to prevent myself from getting cancer, especially with my family history," Claudia said. "I didn't want to go through it. I didn't want my family to go through it."

A surgery date was set for late January 2014, but that wasn't the end of it.



Air Force Tech Sgt. Marcus Romero and his wife, Claudia Romero, hold their children, Marcus, 3, and Madison, 6, during a visit to Brussels Oct. 4, 2014. (Photo by Ruben Romero)

More bad news

As a precautionary measure, Claudia's gynecologist referred her off base for magnetic-resonance imaging, commonly referred to as an MRI, in December 2013.

Claudia's MRI picked up three small spots in Claudia's left breast, but her oncologist said that an MRI is extremely sensitive and "picks up anything," said Claudia, who was then scheduled for a needle-aspiration biopsy.

The day after the biopsy, she got the results.

"It was Friday, Dec. 13, 2013, at 3:15 p.m. I'll never forget it -- Friday the 13th," Claudia said.

She sent a text message to her neighbor saying, "I got bad news. Can you pick up my daughter from school?" Had she actually spoken to her neighbor on the phone, Claudia was convinced she would have broken down in tears.

Despite the heart-breaking diagnosis of Grade 3 invasive ductal carcinoma, Claudia had to make sure Madison, 5, was taken care of -- as if nothing had happened. Her son, Marcus, 2, was still at home.

"It was a stressful week," Claudia said in possibly one of the greatest understatements of her life.

She met with her oncologist, who told Claudia she couldn't wait until her scheduled surgery date in late January because her cancer was graded 3, the most aggressive type of cancer. The first available date for a double mastectomy was Jan. 8, 2014.

However, that wasn't her only surgery: About a week before Christmas 2013, Claudia had a pre-emptive oophorectomy to remove her ovaries and Fallopian tubes in order to prevent ovarian cancer.

"I lived at the doctor's office at that point," she said. "That was our life."

Claudia spent most of the next stage of her life having procedures and recuperating. Her youth and the position

See next page.

Breast cancer | continued

of her breasts made her a good candidate for a special type of mastectomy to preserve the natural contours of the breast as much as possible.

After her successful surgery, she could have reconstructive surgery later on, when she had recovered.

"I still wanted to be able to look at myself in the mirror and be comfortable," said Claudia, who explained that some women don't want to go through the added surgery and inconvenience of reconstruction.



Claudia Romero proudly displays her pink "She's a fighter" T-shirt Oct. 21, 2014.

After Claudia's oophorectomy and double mastectomy, she was virtually an invalid.

"I spent six to eight months in bed – surgery, chemo, another surgery. I lived in my bed," she said. "There were times my kids wanted Mommy and I couldn't see them."

Her mother flew in for Claudia's surgeries and her first round of chemotherapy. She took care of Claudia as well as taking care of things around the house, Claudia said.

Her mother-in-law came for two rounds of chemo and took care of little Marcus, who had been pulled out of day-care by that time.

Claudia's best friend, Christina Caudell, stepped up to the plate and took care of Claudia's family when family members couldn't. She didn't wait to be asked.

"She was my rock when my mom wasn't there," said Claudia, explaining that people who care about you shouldn't wait to be asked to help.

Claudia had an arsenal of medicines she had to take, and, as a result, she had a metallic taste in her mouth for 10 days.

"I gained about 50 pounds because carbs were the only thing I could get down without it making me sick," she said.

Claudia had her last chemo treatment April 3, underwent reconstructive surgery April 25 and doesn't have to do physical therapy anymore.

In June, Claudia hosted a big family celebration. Her mother, father, sister and nieces flew to Alaska to rejoice that the worst was over and to celebrate a new beginning. Claudia had bought live lobsters for the occasion and cooked them at home. It was quite a party, she said.

Since Claudia and her husband arrived at Chièvres Aug. 16, they have been working out together again, although she has stepped down her workout (elliptical machine and light weights only) because her immune system is weak and she has to take it easy. However, she's already lost 25 to 30 pounds.

"My oncologist said it can take anywhere from six months to a year before my body feels like it did before this happened," Claudia said. "I feel more and more like myself. I'm getting there."

BC screening facts

BRCA-mutation testing: Genetic testing isn't just for women, said Claudia Romero, a Chièvres community member who tested positive for BRCA1 mutation, one of the genetic markers that indicate a possible predisposition to breast cancer. For men who test positive for the BRCA mutation, breast-cancer risk isn't as high as it is for women who test positive, but those men have a higher-than-normal risk of prostate cancer.

BRCA1 and BRCA2 are human genes that produce tumor-suppressor proteins, according to the National Cancer Institute's website at <http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/factsheet/Risk/BRCA>. To test for gene mutation, a patient's saliva or blood can be sampled.

Mammography: Mammogram guidelines differ. The American Cancer Society recommends that healthy women (without family history of breast cancer or BRCA genetic mutation) undergo annual mammography screening starting at age 40. However, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommends that these women begin screening at age 50, repeat the test every two years and end screening at age 74, according to <http://www.webmd.com>. The USPSTF is a group of independent health experts convened by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

MRI: Less than 2 percent of all the women in the United States need to follow up their mammograms with magnetic-resonance imaging because of their family history, a genetic tendency or certain other factors, according to the American Cancer Society's website at <http://www.cancer.org>.

Pearls of wisdom

Had Claudia listened to the standard recommendations, she wouldn't be here, Claudia said. Her oncologist said she wouldn't have lasted to 35.

"I don't want anyone to go through what I went through," she said. "Don't take 'No' for an answer. Say, 'I feel like I need more testing done.'"

Claudia had her daughter go to counseling through the Susan Butcher Program at Providence Hospital in Anchorage. Two children's books that were very helpful were "In Mommy's Garden: A Book to Help Explain Cancer to Children" by Neyal J. Ammary and "When Mommy Had a Mastectomy" by Nancy Reuben Greenfield, Claudia said.

People going through this ordeal aren't up to the usual tasks and need help, even though they probably won't ask for it, Claudia said. Friends and family can make casseroles, babysit or buy groceries – anything they think will make the person feel better.

"If you're a true friend, you don't wait to be asked; you just do," she said, paraphrasing one of the sayings she found during her cancer journey. "Don't ask; just do."

community briefs - community briefs - community briefs

Job openings at AFCU

Officials at Andrews Federal Credit Union would like to hire a new senior teller at the Chièvres Branch and a part-time teller at the Brussels branch. Both jobs are listed on the AFCU website at <http://www.andrewsfcu.org>. Once on the website, just click on the "Career Opportunities" link at the top left of the screen. After you are taken to the Career Opportunities Center page, click on "Employment Listings."

Alterations now open on Chièvres

A new alterations contractor recently opened up shop on Chièvres Air Base. Stripes, located in the PXtra, is trying out a test schedule:

Mondays from 2 to 5 p.m.

Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Saturdays from 12:30 to 6 p.m.

Tryouts planned for two SHAPE plays

Auditions will be held at the Performing Arts Centre Nov. 24 and 25 for two SHAPE Players productions.

Tryouts for "You Can't Take It With You," a 1937 Pulitzer Prize-winning play and 1938 Academy Award winner, will be Nov. 24 from 8 to 9:30 p.m. and Nov. 25 from 6 to 8 p.m. Tryouts for "Little Shop of Horrors," a Broadway and Hollywood sci-fi smash musical that has devoured the hearts of theater-goers for more than 30 years, will be Nov. 24 from 6 to 8 p.m. and Nov. 25 from 8 to 10 p.m.

Call DSN 423-3312 or civilian 065-443312 Tuesday through Friday from 1 to 6 p.m.

Kennel closes for maintenance soon

The Chièvres Kennel will close for regular business Nov. 14 at 1 p.m. because of scheduled, routine maintenance. Normal operating hours will resume Nov. 15.

SHAPE Library closes for improvements

The SHAPE International Library will be closed for three weeks from Nov. 10 to 29 for the installation of new carpeting.

Library staff chose that particular three weeks because there are several holidays that fall within that period, and the library would be closed on those holidays anyway.

During the closure, patrons may return items in the outside drop box and renew online. The library will reopen Dec. 1.

The Chièvres Library also can help you with your library needs during this time. For example, books and media checked out at SHAPE International Library can always be turned back in at Chièvres Library.

For more information about library programs, call the SHAPE Library at DSN 423-5631 or civilian 065-445631 or Chièvres Library at DSN 361-5767 or civilian 068-275767, or check the libraries' website at <http://chievres.armymwr.com/europe/chievres/>.

SHAPE Clinic raises awareness about men's health through facial hair

In November, you may start to notice an increase in the number of moustaches being grown across the SHAPE community. The increase is due in part to men supporting the Movember movement.

The Movember Foundation, whose motto includes the phrase "changing the face of men's health," challenges men to grow their moustaches for 30 consecutive days to spark conversations about men's health.

Movember helps draw attention to men's health issues — prostate cancer, testicular cancer and mental health as well as living with and beyond these diseases. The movement began in Melbourne, Australia, in 2003 and has since spread to more than 20 countries.

The SHAPE Healthcare Facility will sponsor its second annual best moustache competition Nov. 26 at 10 a.m. in the clinic main lobby to raise awareness about men's health. Contestants will be judged on moustache thickness, overall appearance and symmetry.

Open season for FEHB starts soon

Federal Employees Health Benefit, or FEHB, Open Season begins Nov. 10 and runs through Dec. 8.

A link to FEHB 2014 Open Season information is posted on the Army Benefits Center-Civilian website at <http://www.abc.army.mil>, under the "Announcements" section.

Sci-fi convention scheduled soon

Operation Sci Fi Con 2014 will be held at Club Eifel on Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, Nov. 15 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Attendees can expect vendors, contests, tabletop gaming demonstrations, displays, collector discussion groups, children's activities and a Jedi training center. Special guests will be a comic artist, a science-fiction author and one of the creators of a sci-fi audio podcast.

Listen to German Big Band sound

Headquarters, Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum, invites everyone to the German Big Band Concert Nov. 17 at Parkstad Limburg Theater in Heerlen. Tickets are on sale each Thursday from noon to 1 p.m. at the Miner's Rest at JFC Brunssum. Tickets are €12.50, €17.50, €20, €22 and €25.

Vehicle airbags recalled

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration posted a statement Oct. 20 urging about 4.7 million owners of Toyota, Honda, Mazda, BMW, Nissan and General Motors vehicles to act immediately on recall notices to replace defective Takata airbags in the following areas: Florida, Puerto Rico, Guam, Saipan, American Samoa, Virgin Islands and Hawaii.

Read more at <http://www.nhtsa.gov/About+NHTSA/Press+Releases/Vehicle-owners-with-defective-airbags-urged-to-take-immediate-action>.



Read about events near Chièvres, SHAPE and Brussels.

Through Nov. 8

- **Adolphe Sax International Competition in Dinant** - The competition is open to saxophonists of a high standard, of every nationality, who haven't yet reached the age of 31 when the final of the competition takes place. Musically, it is overseen by a musical committee chaired by Alain Crepin, composer and saxophone professor at the Royal Brussels Conservatory, and is made up of saxophone teachers from Belgium's Royal Conservatories and Academies. Get more information at <http://sax.dinant.be/en/competition>.

Nov. 6

- **Brussels museums' late openings** - For more information and/or a detailed program and calendar, visit the website at <http://www.brussel museumsnocturnes.be>.

Nov 7 and 8

- **Market highlighting products from Brittany in Dour** - Open Friday from 5 to 9 p.m. and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. with various fish and related products as well as some typical entertainment. Market is held at the "Anciennes Câbleries" on Voie du Prêtre .
- **Wine fair in Binche** - Fair is open Friday from 5:30 to 10:30 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Admission fee is €5, which includes a glass to participate in the wine tastings. Fair is held at the school on Place des Droits de l'Homme.



Nov. 8

- **Zombie Day in Mons** - The parade of zombies will start at the Parc Saint Germain across from Ste Waudru Collegiate Church as of 1 p.m. and will end at the city hall at 4:30 p.m.
- **Wine tasting in Saint-Vaast** - More than 20 different wines will be offered for tasting at La Ferme du Coq on Boulevard du Coq 44 from 3 to 9 p.m.
- **Secondhand toy fair in Ath** - At the Quai de l'Entrepôt 22 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Nov. 8 and 9

- **Welcome in Saint Ghislain weekend** - Open house of all activities the city has to offer from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. both days.

Nov. 9

- **Volksmarch in Woluwe-Saint-Pierre** for 5, 10, 15 or 20 km. Departs from Rue au Bois 365B between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Le Roeulx** for 5, 10 or 20 km. Departs from the school on Rue de l'Ange Gardien 3B from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Erbisoeul** for 5, 10 or 20 km. Departs from Chemin du Prince 115 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Ligne** for 5, 10, 15 or 20 km. Departs from the school on Rue de la Brasserie 92A from 9



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

Through Nov. 9

- **Fall Fair in Minden, Germany**, held on Kanzlers Weide, offers rides, vendor stands, music and food. You can also take a boat trip on the river Weser. Open Sunday through Thursday from 2 to 10 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 2 to 11 p.m.

Through Nov. 11

- **"Woonestetika" in Genk, Belgium**, is a home-and- living fair held at Limburghal on Jaarbeurslaan 6. Enjoy live music, vendor stands with culinary delicacies and experts with information and demonstrations to make your home your castle. Open Nov. 7 from 1 to 9 p.m. and Nov. 8 from 1 to 11 p.m. (Closed Nov. 6.) Admission: €5.

Nov. 7 to 8

- **Antique and Curiosa China Fair in Den Hoorn** on Dijkhoornseweg 45 offers all kinds of china in from the Art Deco, Art Nouveau, old English, old French and other period styles as well as fitting decorations. Open both days from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **MJAZZ Festival in Maastricht** is held at the Maastricht Exhibition & Conference Centre, or MECC. Open Nov. 7 from 7 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. and Nov. 8 from 1 p.m. to 1 a.m. For more information, visit <http://www.mjazz.nl>.

Nov. 7 to 9

- **Saint Vincent Wine and Cheese Fair in Floreffe, Belgium**, is held from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the soccer sports field on Rue Romedenne 150.

Nov. 8 to 9

- **Open House Days in Delft** at Royal Delft Blue Museum and factory, Rotterdamseweg 196, offers visitors a variety of demonstrations, guided tours, a special sale and more. Open Nov. 8 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Nov. 9 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Pasar Malam in Rijswijk** is an indoor oriental market held at Broodfabriek with all kinds of oriental food, music, shows and stands. Open Nov. 8 from noon to 10 p.m. and Nov. 9 from noon to 8 p.m. Admission: €8; children 6 to 12, €4.
- **International Wine Fair in Düsseldorf, Germany**, at InterContinental Düsseldorf on Königsallee, is a must-see if you love wine. Open Nov. 8 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Nov. 9 from noon to 6 p.m. Admission: €12.
- **Art Market in Bad Oeynhausen, Germany**, is held at Museumshof on Schützenstrasse. Open Nov. 8 from 1 to 5 p.m. and Nov. 9 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: free.



Nov. 9 Continued

- **Arts and Crafts market in Soignies** - At Salle de la Haute Scène on Chaussée de Braine 94 from 1 to 6 p.m. Admission is free of charge.
- **Mountain bike ride in Wihéries** - Distances are 15, 30 or 45 km, departs from 8 to 10:30 a.m. on Place du Jeu de Bal-le 25. Participation fee ranges from €3 to €5. Showers and bike wash are available. For more information, check <http://vttdeoliennes.skyrock.com>.



Through Nov. 28

- **Exhibition at the SHAPE Club**- Oil painting and engraving by Michel De Clercq. Open Mondays through Fridays from 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. For more information call DSN 423-4133 or civilian 065-444133.



Nov. 11

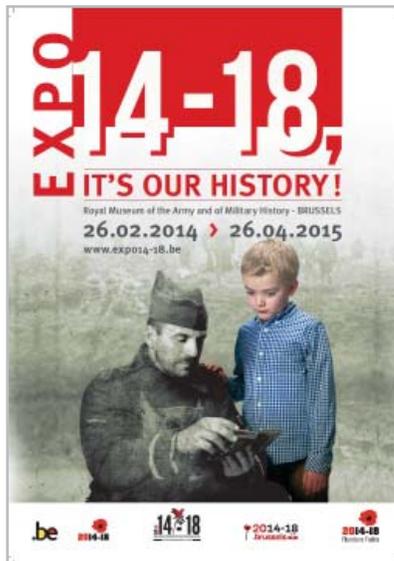
- **Veterans Day/Armistice Day events** - See page 2.

Through Dec. 24

- **Exhibition "Regards croisés sur la Guerre 14-18" (crossed perspectives on World War I) in Ath** on Rue de Pintamont 18 Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and weekends from 2 to 6 p.m.

Through April 26, 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 fee is €12 and €8 for children 6 to 18 years old. Family package is €32 (two adults and two children).



You can look into day-trip specials on Belgian rail at <http://www.belgianrail.be>.



Nov. 8 to 9 continued

- **Art Fair in Köln (Cologne)-Westhoven**, held at Gutshof "Engelshof," gives visitors a taste of the holiday season. Open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Nov. 9

- **Dutch Market in Greven, Germany**, is named "Martinusmarkt" in the center of town. Open from noon to 6 p.m.

Nov. 11 to 13

- **Winter Fair in Maarsbergen** is held in Kaasboerderij (cheese farm) "De Weistaar" on Rottegatsteeg 6. It has lots of home and garden decorations, delicatessen, flowers, plants, demonstrations, live music, fashion, jewelry and lots of food. Open Nov. 11 to 12 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Nov. 13 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: €8; children 11 and under, free.

Nov. 13 to 16

- **La Table Fair in Naarden** is held at Grote Kerk on Markstraat 13 in the center of this fortified city. This Christmas fair features festive table settings from more than 50 exhibitors. Open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission: €15; children 13 and under, free.

Nov. 14 to 20

- **Margriet Winter Fair in Utrecht** is held at Jaarbeurs convention center. This indoor fair offers workshops, shopping and performances. Visit <http://www.margrietwinterfair.nl>. Open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission: €19.50.

Ongoing

Through Dec. 24

- **Christmas Show in Schimmert** at Lupa Outdoors Vijvercentrum Limburg on Op de Bies 70.

Through Feb. 1, 2015

- **Winter Efteling in Kaatsheuvel** on Europalaan near Tilburg offers good, old-fashioned winter fun at Efteling Amusement and Fairytale Park. Closed Jan. 1, 2015. Admission: €35.

Nov. 14 to Dec. 23

- **Christmas Market in Oberhausen, Germany**, is held in and around Europe's largest mall.
- **Christmas Market in Valkenburg** is located in Gemeentegrot, a cave on Cauberg 4. Open weekdays from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and weekends from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.: Dec. 23 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission: €5; children 5 to 11, €3.
- **Christmas Market in Valkenburg** is held in the Fluwelen (velvet) Cave under the castle ruins on Daalhemmerweg. Open Sunday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Dec. 23 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission: €5; children 5 to 11, €3.

Nov. 14 to Jan. 5, 2015

- **Valkenburg: Christmas Town in Valkenburg** offers an unmatched festive experience.

SHAPE Trips & Tours

Serving Brussels, Chièvres and SHAPE

For information on the trip below,
call DSN 423-3884 or civilian 065-443884

Trier/Zweibrücken Outlet, Nov. 22 - Start with a stroll through the cobbled streets of Trier. It's the oldest city in Germany, founded in or before 16 B.C. Trier lies in a valley between low, vine-covered hills of red sandstone in the west of the state of Rheinland-Pfalz (Rhineland-Palatinate), near the border with Luxembourg and within the Mosel wine region. From Trier, the tour group goes to Zweibrücken to "The Style Outlet." More than 130 must-have brands are at reduced prices all year 'round. You can take a break from shopping at one of the restaurants, which offer guaranteed relaxation. Departs from Brussels at 6 a.m. and from SHAPE at 7 a.m. Returns to SHAPE at 11 p.m. and to Brussels at midnight. Cost: €70.



Schinnen Trips and Tours

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

Day Trip to Paris, Nov. 22 - Plan now for a fun day in Paris where you'll have hours to shop, dine and take in the magnificent sights of "The City of Light," a moniker it owes being a center of education during the Age of Enlightenment. The coach departs from Schinnen at 4 a.m. and returns Sunday at 2 a.m. Cost: \$75 for adults and children.



SHAPE Travel Group

For information on the trip
below call civilian 0486-565371.

Bastogne War Museum and Brewery of Gnomes, Nov. 20 - Join the SHAPE Travel Group to step back in time to learn about the Battle of the Bulge in Bastogne, Belgium. The Bastogne War Museum is a new museum that prides itself on immersing each visitor in an interactive experience to teach the causes and dramatic consequences of the Battle of the Bulge. After the museum, the group will head to a nearby brewery called Brasserie D'Achouffe for a late lunch. Be sure to have money for lunch because the cost of lunch isn't included in the price of the trip. After lunch, the group will tour the brewery and will be free to sample four of their different beers before the bus heads back to SHAPE. Cost: €40.

Upcoming trips

SHAPE Trips & Tours

- **Brugge Snow On Ice, Nov. 29**
- **Champagne & Wine Tasting, Nov. 29**



- **London overnight, Dec. 6 to 7**
- **Christmas Market Overnight- Nürnberg, Rothenburg and Cologne, Dec. 13 to 14**
- **Aachen and Monschau Christmas Markets, Dec. 20**
- **Paris in Winter: Paris Day Trip, Dec. 27**
- **New Year's Medieval Dinner in Brugge (Bruges), Dec. 31**
- **Amsterdam with optional tour of Anne Frank House, Jan. 24, 2015**
- **Day trip to Centro Shopping Center in Oberhausen, Germany, Jan. 31, 2015**
- **Croatia with Venice & Slovenia**
- **April 6 to 15, 2015 (10 days round-trip)**

Schinnen Trips & Tours

- **Cologne Christmas Markets, Dec. 6**
- **Express Shopping Trip to London, Dec. 13**



SHAPE Travel Group

- **Cologne Christmas Market, Nov. 25**
- **Leeds Castle/Dickens Christmas Festival, Dec. 6**
- **Paris Lights and Moulin Rouge, Dec. 9**
- **Strasbourg Christmas Market, Dec. 16**



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

BRUSSELS COMMUNITY

Sign up today

- **Turkey Trot** - Join the USAG Benelux-Brussels community for the annual Turkey Trot Nov. 22 at 9 a.m. Stop by the Brussels Fitness Center today to register. For more information, call DSN 368-9667 or civilian 02-7179667.

Nov. 6

- **Family Dinner at 3 Star** - Family Dinner is offered Thursdays from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Enjoy roasted salmon served with vegetables, or chili con carne served over baked potatoes. Make your (required) reservation by contacting reservations3star@yahoo.com. Cost: Adults \$9 (salmon) or \$8 (chili), children 12 and under - \$4.

Nov. 12 and 13

- **Welcome, newcomers** - Brussels Army Community Service invites all service members, civilians and their families to participate in free newcomers events next week. Nov. 12: The deputy garrison manager's welcome and USAG Benelux-Brussels site brief start at 9 a.m. and are followed by a cultural acclimatization (information on local customs as well as basic French and Flemish), which ends at 12:30 p.m. Nov. 13: Metro Madness (in which newcomers learn to use public transportation) runs from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Meet in the ACS conference room in Building 4 half an hour before start time to get settled, get a snack or get ready to leave as a group for a tour, if applicable. Register by calling DSN 368-9783 or civilian 02-7179783.

Nov. 12 and 19

- **Children's Story Time** - The staff members of the Brussels Library invite all preschoolers and their parents to join them for stories and crafts Wednesdays from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. November is dedicated to Thanksgiving stories — Nov. 12: "My First Thanksgiving," and Nov. 19: "Thanksgiving Day Thanks." There won't be any Story Time Nov. 26, the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. For more information, call the library at DSN 368-9791 or civilian 02-7179791.

SCHINNEN/BRUNSSUM COMMUNITY

Register now

- **Snowboarding Clinics at CYS** - Open enrollment for sixth- through 12th-grade students is ongoing through Nov. 21 at CYSS Central Parent Services in Brunssum. Open to all US/NATO ID card holders. The \$280 fee includes transportation to and from Snow-World, helmet, snowboard and two hours of professional instruction. For details, call DSN 364-4195 or civilian +31 (0) 45-5264195.

Sign up today

- **Turkey Trot** - Run off some calories in preparation for all of that pumpkin pie and dressing. Come and join other members of the Schinnen Community for a refreshing 5K run/walk through a nearby nature trail. Be part of the annual Turkey Trot Nov. 21 from 8:45 to 11 a.m. Stop by the Schinnen Andre Bruls Fitness Center today to register. For more information, call DSN 360-7561 or civilian+31 (0) 464-437561

Nov. 12, 19 and 26

- **Labor, Birth and Beyond Class Series** - This New Parent Support Program series, held from noon to 2:30 p.m. in the Schinnen Army Community Service Conference Room, covers these topics — Nov. 12 and 19: Labor and Delivery (Parts I and II), and Nov. 26: Breastfeeding Basics. To register, call DSN 360-7335/7500 or civilian +31 (0) 46-4437335/7500.

Nov. 18 to 21

- **Babysitter's Class** - Youths can become Red Cross certified in pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation, or CPR, and first aid from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Youth Center in Brunssum. The class will also cover tips on entertaining children; safety and nutrition; business practices; child development. Enrollees must be 12 years old and a registered CYSS member to participate. Cost: \$15. Space is limited. Contact Parent Central Services to enroll at DSN 364-3121/2023 or civilian +31 (0) 45-5263121/2023.

Have something for the Gazette?

Email usarmy.benelux.imcom-europe.list.pao@mail.mil

SHAPE/CHIEVRES COMMUNITY

Happening now

- **Tickets on sale for *Seussical, The Musical*** - The SHAPE Players present the Performing Arts School in a musical based on the whimsical works of Dr. Seuss at the SHAPE Performing Arts Centre. It runs Nov. 20, 21, 22, 27, 28 and 29 at 7:30 p.m. with matinee performances Nov. 23 and 30 at 3 p.m. Admission: adult €16, student €9, child €7. Call DSN 423-3312 or civilian 065-443312 Tuesday through Friday from 1 to 6 p.m.

Register now

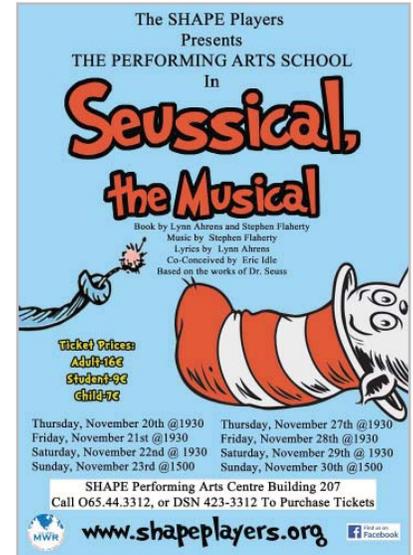
- **Job-search training** - SHAPE Army Community Service's Employment Readiness Program sponsors employment-search training in the ACS Conference Room in Building 4. A Dress for Success Workshop will be held Nov. 7 from 8 a.m. to noon. This lesson will allow students to visually see various examples of dress and to determine the standard for dress in an interview, for a day on the job, and then to discuss alternatives such as "business casual", accessories, tattoos, piercing, and the like. Interviewing Tips and Techniques Workshop will be held Nov. 26 from 9 a.m. to noon. Learn to ace any interview with these tips on how to prepare for an interview, get into the right mind set, and convince potential employers you are a perfect fit for the position. Registration is required. Call ACS at DSN 366-6824 or civilian 065-326824.

Nov. 15

- **Family Fun Night** - Don't miss this opportunity for parents and children to play and meet new friends. The event, which will be held at Chièvres Fitness Center from 5:30 to 9 p.m., is also open to SHAPE Green and Blue ID card holders. Cost: \$3 for admission. \$5 for skate rental. (Limited sizes and quantities are available.) For more information and to register, call DSN 361-5643 or civilian 068-275643.

Nov. 18 and 25

- **Lunch and Learn** - Offered by Army Community Service's Family Advocacy Program, Lunch and Learn meets Tuesdays in the SHAPE ACS Training Room in Building 318 from noon to 1 p.m. The military family-life consultant presents a variety of topics – Nov. 18: Effective Discipline for Children Ages 6 to 9, and Nov 25: Effective Discipline for Children Ages 2 to 5. Brown-bag it, and join the discussion group. For information or to register, call DSN 366-6824 or civilian 065-326824.



Community Roundup

Movies at SHAPE Cinema

Rates – 2D movies: adults €7 and children 11 and under €4. 3D movies: adults €9 and children 11 and under €6. Check <http://www.shape2day.com/cinema.aspx> for the movie schedule.

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). Visit <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. Take a look at movie listings at <http://kinopolis.be/fr/cinemas/kinopolis-bruxelles>.

Movie at JFC HQ Alliance Theater

Adult admission is €5 (ages 12 and older) - Child admission is €3 (ages 11 and under). Check the new web page at <http://www.shopmyexchange.com/reel-time-theatres/Schinnen-1366146> for the movie schedule.

KEEPING YOU CONNECTED
The Official Website of the American Forces Network Benelux

Brussels: 101.7 FM
Chièvres 107.9 FM
SHAPE 106.5 FM,
104.2 FM

benelux.afneurope.net