

THE GAZETTE

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

Postal Holiday Hours

Effective today, the postal hours are follows:

SHAPE - Monday through Friday

Postal Finance, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Parcel Pick-up, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For mail by appointment (five or more parcels), call DSN 366-6311.

Chièvres - Monday through Friday

Postal Finance, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Parcel Pick-up, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
For the holiday deadlines, see the community briefs.

Schinnen- Monday through Friday

Regular hours.

Also open for customer service and parcel pick up noon-to 4 p.m.
Nov. 24, Dec. 1,8,15 and 22.

Dec. 24 is parcel pick up only from 8 am.m to 4 p.m.

For the holiday deadlines, see the community briefs.

Thanksgiving hours

The Schinnen and Chièvres Commissaries will be open today until 7 p.m. but closed Thursday, Nov. 22 and Friday, Nov. 23.

Gazette submissions

Send your requests for publication to usarmy.benelux.imcom-europe.list.pao@mail.mil. For more information, call DSN 361-5419 or civilian 068-27-5419.

Brussels Turkey Trot



Keith Houin

Michael Maley heads to the finish line Saturday in the Brussels Community annual Turkey Trot. Michael finished 2nd in the 5k division.

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USAG Benelux AFAP 2012



Courtesy Photo

Craig Larsen, Director, USAG Benelux Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation opens the Army Family Action Plan conference with a welcome and thanks to delegates and support volunteers. Members of the Brussels, Chièvres/SHAPE, and Schinnen communities met together for the first USAG Benelux-wide AFAP Conference Nov. 15 and 16. Delegates examined issues that impact not only the Benelux community, but the Army and DOD. The issues were then presented to the USAG Benelux Command Team, Col. Sergio Dickerson, Mr. Joseph Manning, and Command Sgt. Maj. Romeo Montez along with Directorate heads and members of the USAG Benelux community. Officially created in 1983, the Army Family Action Plan is the Army's primary tool to communicate to leaders issues of importance and to improve the well-being of the U.S. Army family. What began as spouse action groups now is a three-level process that covers all Army demographics and resolves issues at the installation, Command and HQDA level. To date, 633 issues have been identified, of which AFAP has driven 107 legislative changes, 154 Army policy and regulatory changes, and 173 improved programs and services, including the Post 9/11 GI Bill, Temporary Lodging Expense, Earned Income Tax Credit and Servicemen's Group Life Insurance.

Brussels Turkey Trot

More than 30 members of the Brussels American community participated in the Turkey Trot Saturday morning.

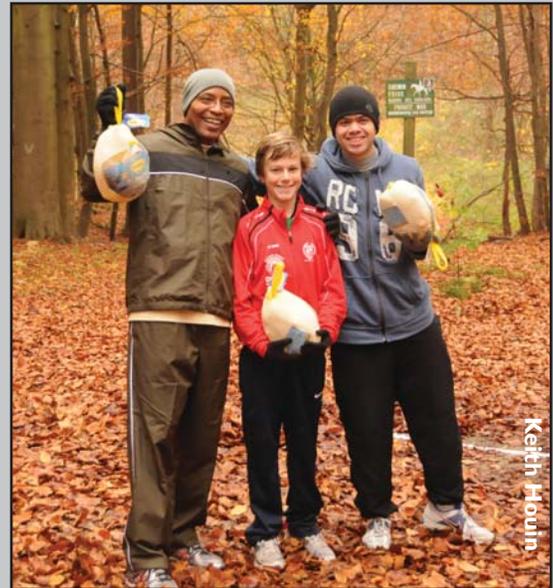
Turkey were awarded to the top three finishers in the 5k and 10k divisions.

5k Winners

1. Sgt. Andres Cuellar
2. Michael Maley
3. Command Sgt. Maj. Romeo Montez

10K Winners

1. Maj. Michael Hiller
2. Capt. Kyle Fransdal
3. Cpl. Trey Rawls



Keith Houin

The 5k winners show off their turkeys. (From Left) Command Sgt. Maj. Romeo Montez, Michael Maley and Sgt. Andres Cuellar.

THE GAZETTE

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Native American Indian Heritage Lunch

Members of the SHAPE/Chièvres community gathered at the Warrior Zone on Caserne Daumerie Thursday to remember the contributions Native American Indians made to the military and the nation. After a short video about the history of the WWII Navajo Code Talkers, Sgt. 1st Class Richard Carman shared additional information about the Code Talkers. The code talkers received no recognition until the declassification of the operation in 1968. In 1982, the code talkers were given a Certificate of Recognition by U.S. President Ronald Reagan, who also named August 14, 1982 "Navajo Code Talkers Day".

On December 21, 2000 the U.S. Congress passed and President Bill Clinton signed Public Law 106-554, 114 Statute 2763, which awarded the Congressional Gold Medal to the original twenty-nine World War II Navajo code talkers, and Silver Medals to each person who qualified as a Navajo Code Talker (approximately 300). In July 2001, U.S. President George W. Bush personally presented the

Medal to four surviving original code talkers (the fifth living original code talker was not able to attend) at a ceremony held in the Capitol Rotunda in Washington, D.C. Gold medals were presented to the families of the 24 original code talkers no longer living.

On September 17, 2007, 18 Choctaw code talkers were posthumously awarded the Texas Medal of Valor from the Adjutant General of the State of Texas for their World War II service.

On November 15, 2008, The Code Talkers Recognition Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-420), was signed into law by President George W. Bush, which recognizes every Native American code talker who served in the United States military during WWI or WWII (with the exception of the already-awarded Navajo) with a Congressional Gold Medal of individual design for his tribe (to be retained by the Smithsonian Institution), and a silver medal duplicate to each code talker.

SHAPE Battalion visits local orphanage

SHAPE Battalion visited a local orphanage in Mons, Friday, Nov.16, 2012. They hosted a special movie night during which they showed the cartoon The Lorax. "This event is sponsored by SHAPE Battalion with Command Sgt. Maj. Philip Dixon and Lt. Col. Paul Sherman and the rest of the staff, HHC and Alpha Company," said Staff Sgt. Maria Alvarenga. "We do events for this orphanage throughout the year. We do movie nights, we do a Christmas party, we do an Easter egg hunt and many other things," added Alvarenga.

(Right) Staff Sgt. Maria Alvarenga (right) tells the children to line up while Sgt. Pamela Smith (left) and Carlos Yung, a civilian volunteer, distribute the pizza slices.

(Below) Sgt. Pamela Smith distributes popcorn to the children while they are watching the cartoon. (U.S.Army photos by Donovan Abrassart)



Leuven Bears visit USAG Benelux-Brussels



The Leuven Bears basketball team treated the Child, Youth and School Services members to a morning of basketball skills and drills at the USAG Benelux-Brussels Sterrebeek Annex Wednesday, November 7, 2012. The basketball initiation was an opportunity for youth to try basketball in a fun and exciting format. The 42 youth were divided into six teams and rotated between six stations, where they tried dribbling, shooting, passing four on four and even wheelchair basketball.

After a morning of sports, the kids and the Bears had an American pizza lunch— a real treat for the six U.S. players on the team. After a group picture, the team headed back to Leuven for practice. A special thanks to Freddy Harnou of the Leuven Bears for making this great event possible for our community. The Leuven Bears schedule is available on their website, www.leuvenbears.be. Youth under 12 years have free admission to games. Above left: Leuven Bears captain Ian Hanavan speaks with the children about basketball and what the next event will be. Above right: Lincoln Landrum learns what it is like to play basketball from a wheelchair. (courtesy photos)

Good locks, good neighbors are deterrents to burglars

Special to the Gazette

Fall is a time when burglars become more active. As the days get shorter, the number of break-ins goes up.

"Many thieves will spend no longer than 60 seconds trying to break into a home," said Lt. Col. Raymond Stuhn, U.S. Army Europe's deputy provost marshal. "Good locks and good neighbors who watch out for each other can be big deterrents to burglars," he added.

In almost half of all completed residential burglaries, thieves simply enter through unlocked doors or windows, Stuhn added. He recommends people lock their doors any time they leave their houses, apartments or barracks rooms, even if it is only for a short time.

A lock on a flimsy door is as effective as locking a car door but leaving the window down, provost marshal officials say. Stuhn recommends that people inspect their doors and locks and ask their landlords or housing office officials for assistance if they need upgrades or improvements.

Some tips for good security include:

- If doors don't fit tightly in their frames, install weather stripping around them.
- Every external door should have a sturdy, well-installed dead bolt lock.
- Instead of hiding extra keys outside a house or apartment, give a key to a trusted neighbor.

- Install outside lights connected to a motion sensor.
- If the front door has a peephole, always use it before opening the door.
- Make a list of valuables, such as electronic components, cameras, computers and jewelry. Take photos of the items and note their serial numbers and descriptions. Check with local military police about engraving valuables through Operation Identification.

Stuhn also had several suggestions for keeping home secure when the occupants are away:

- Create the illusion that someone is home using trusted neighbors or timers to turn lights on and off in different areas of the house throughout the evening. Lights burning 24 hours a day signal an empty house.
- Leave shades, blinds and curtains in normal positions.
- Have a neighbor pick up mail.
- Don't advertise an empty home or barracks room. Tell only people who need to know, such as a landlord or trusted neighbor.
- Never leave a message on an answering machine indicating that no one is home. Better to simply say, "I'm not available right now."
- Soldiers living in barracks rooms should secure their personal belongings in a wall locker.

Thanksgiving Fire Safety Tips



Thanksgiving is one of the yearly events that you hope to celebrate with family and friends. Historically many families have seen their Thanksgiving end abruptly because incidents related to fire and burns have had disastrous consequences, incidents that might have been prevented if fire safety had been taken seriously. Don't let your Thanksgiving end in disaster.

Follow these fire safety tips:

1. Don't overfill your pot with oil - If the cooking pot is overfilled, the oil may spill out of the pot when the turkey is lowered in. Oil can hit the burner and cause a significant fire. Follow the owner's manual and make sure the oil level is at the proper level.
2. Don't drop a frozen or partially thawed turkey into the Oil - Frozen or partially frozen turkey placed into the fryer can cause the oil to spill over the pot and may result in a significant fire or burn injury. Do not use water to thaw your turkey. Make sure your turkey is properly thawed and slowly lower it into the pot to prevent the oil from splashing.
3. Don't place your turkey fryer close to structures or on decks - Often, fires involving a fryer start in a garage or on a patio or deck. Cook outdoors and on a level, firm, and non-combustible surface. Maintain a safe distance from any buildings and keep the fryer off of any wooden structures.
4. Don't use water or ice - When ice or water comes into contact with hot oil, the water vaporizes, causing steam bubbles to pop and spray hot oil. Do not use ice or water to cool down oil or extinguish an oil fire. Keep an extinguisher approved for cooking or grease fires nearby and immediately call 1-1-2 for help. Never throw water on oil or grease fires!!!!
5. Don't leave your fryer unattended - Frying involves cooking with a combustible cooking oil or grease. Many frying units do not have thermostat controls and if left unwatched, the oil will continue to heat until the oil ignites.
6. Don't use your fryer on an unlevel surface - Many fryers are very top-heavy and can be unstable if not used on a level surface. Fryers that are used on an unlevel surface can tip over causing a significant fire or burn injury.
7. Maintain a kids free zone around cooking appliances, 3 feet is a safe distance.
8. Use well-insulated potholders or oven mitts when touching pot or lid handles.
9. The National Fire Protection Association discourages the use of outdoor gas-fueled turkey fryers that immerse the turkey in hot oil. These turkey fryers use a substantial quantity of cooking oil at high temperatures, and units currently available for home use pose a significant danger that hot oil will be released at some point during the cooking process.
10. Watch this video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hQYTMFCLy5E&feature=relmfu>.

Antiterrorism reminder: remove decals from vehicles

U.S. European Command anti-terrorism officials want to remind U.S. personnel stationed in Europe to avoid being targeted by terrorist or criminal forces by blending in and not standing out from the crowd.

One way to do that is to remove decals and stickers that identify a privately owned vehicle as belonging to an American.

Army in Europe Regulation 190-1 (Driver and Vehicle Requirements and the Installation Traffic Code for the U.S. Forces in Germany), which applies to forces stationed in Germany, states that installation and Department of Defense decals not issued in Europe, such as installation access stickers issued at bases in the U.S., must be removed from vehicles before they are registered in Europe.

Displaying decals, stickers or banners on USAREUR-registered vehicles other than those authorized may result in cancellation of a vehicle's registration, failure of the mechanical inspection, or both.

Additionally, displaying license plates or decals in violation of AER 190-1 is a traffic violation that can result in a

driver having two points assessed to his license.

The only authorized emblems eligible to display on USA-REUR-registered vehicles are:

- Installation verification decals issued to employees of non-DoD agencies who work on or have routine access to U.S. military installations
- German environmental emissions control decals
- Handicap parking permits
- European highway vignettes indicating that highway fees have been paid
- Expiration decals issued with initial and renewal registrations

-- An oval international "USA" decal purchased by the owner is required if the vehicle crosses international borders using U.S. Forces "non European-style" license plates.

More information on registration and driving requirements for U.S. forces personnel in Europe can be found at https://aepubs.army.mil/pdfpubs/AER190-1_1003801!.pdf or by checking with your local vehicle registration office.

U.S. Army Public Health Command ensures food safety

Special to the Gazette

One of the duties of the U.S. Army Public Health Command is to ensure that preparing and handling food safely becomes engrained in the Department of Defense culture and becomes common practice at home as well as the workplace.

“Great food safety habits can start simply and lead to a healthier lifestyle,” explained Chief Warrant Officer 5 Ronald Biddle, USAPHC senior food safety officer. “Food safety begins and ends with proper hand washing.”

But hand washing is just one piece in the total food safety picture.

USAPHC’s Veterinary Services Portfolio provides food quality, safety and defense guidelines, policies and procedures for Army veterinary service personnel worldwide. These guidelines enable the Army veterinary food inspectors to provide their customers with a high-quality and wholesome food supply.

Army veterinary service personnel provide public health services in many locations around the world.

“They perform sanitation inspections of facilities, to include inspection of products received, stored and sold,” said Biddle. “They provide these services to the Army and Air Forces Exchange Service establishments; Defense Commissary Agency establishments; Morale, Welfare, and Recreation facilities; and troop feeding activities. These inspections are performed on Navy and Marine installations throughout the nation and abroad.”

Ken Salazar, secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior and a farmer/rancher, notes the importance of food safety and defense.

“I think it is paramount that we take proper steps to ensure the safety of our food supply and domestic livestock herd,” he said.

Col. Paul Whippo, Food Protection Program manager, said Salazar’s comment not only reminds individuals of how important the safety and security of the food supply is, but how it is integrated from farm to fork.

“As members of Public Health Command, we develop and implement food safety policies for the Army. We also work in support of our sister services to ensure that the DoD food supply is safe for service members, retirees and their family members,” explained Whippo.

“We work with other federal and foreign regulatory agencies to make sure that we cover as much of the total picture possible. The bottom line is, without the inspector in the



A veterinary food inspector performs an inspection on carrots at a commissary. (U.S.Army photo by Christina Graber.)

commissary; Troop Issue Subsistence Agency; Meal, Ready-to-Eat plant; MWR; AAFES facilities; and the auditor in the commercial plants, our system and the safety and security of our military food supply would not exist. They ensure our military forces and their families are not at risk,” he added.

Military inspectors are frequently engaged in highlighting food safety and providing information to DoD personnel and their families on installations around the world.

“Visual aids such as flyers and food safety displays are placed near our military food servicing facilities,” said Biddle.

The USAPHC also provides educational outreach through electronic (e-mails and presentations) and physical (information booths and posters) means to better prepare consumers to understand the importance of food safety.

“We all must be vigilant to prevent food-borne illness,” Biddle emphasized.

Food-borne illnesses can be as incapacitating as bombs and bullets, and they occur in homes as well as on the battlefield.

Col. Robert Webb, director of the Veterinary Services Portfolio, is well aware of the impact that safe and quality food has on the DoD.

“It was Napoleon Bonaparte who said, ‘An Army marches on its stomach,’” said Webb. “By that Napoleon meant a well-fed Army is a formidable one, and his statement is as true today as it was in Napoleon’s time.”

Don't miss the energy conservation meeting

The meeting will be held today at 6 p.m. at the auditorium, Bldg. 30, Caserne Daumerie.

Mandatory for all U.S. service members and spouses (if available), residing in Family Housing areas in Attre, Lens, Maisières, Casteau and Ghlin. The purpose is to have a better understanding on how to save energy within the assigned Family Housing units.

Sign in rosters will be provided at the door and compared to current tenant rosters, all service members need to attend and sign-in.

community briefs - community briefs - community briefs

Clinic Thanksgiving Hours

The U.S. led clinic at SHAPE will have reduced hours during Thanksgiving week. Walk in hours will be available Nov. 22 from 8 to 10 a.m. and Nov. 23 from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

If you require acute medical care, walk in to the Back Screening section and you will be seen. There will be limited ancillary services available.

If you need medication refills, call the pharmacy refill line at DSN 423-5981 or civilian 065-44-5981 and your medication will be ready the next business day.

The non U.S. led clinics will be available for normal business hours.

Education

University of Maryland University College Europe

Registration is available now for Holiday Express Intersession – a shortened session that gives students the opportunity to earn university credit in half the time during the holidays – beginning Dec. 17. Many of these courses are offered face-to-face at downrange locations like Afghanistan and Bahrain, so deployed servicemembers can work toward their future goals while fighting for their country this holiday season. The schedule can be found at <http://webapps.umuc.edu/soc/europe.cfm>.

For more information, contact a local UMUC Europe field representative, visit www.ed.umuc.edu, or call DSN 314-370-6762 or civilian 0049-(0)6221-3780.

Stay up-to-date with UMUC Europe on Twitter and Facebook: www.twitter.com/UMUCEurope and www.facebook.com/UMUCinEurope.

Energy conservation meeting

The meeting will be held Nov. 19 at 6 p.m. at the auditorium, Bldg. 30, Caserne Daumerie and is mandatory for all U.S. service members and spouses (if available) residing in family housing areas in Attre, Lens, Maisières, Casteau and Ghlin. The purpose is to have a better understanding on how to save energy within the assigned family housing units. Sign in rosters will be provided at the door and compared to current tenant rosters, all service members need to attend and sign-in.

CYSS

Schinnen CYSS

- CYSS is looking for volunteer coaches for tennis, rock climbing, skateboarding, swimming, skiing/snowboarding, archery, and basketball. Enrollment for Basketball for age group 13-15 both boys and girls is open through Nov. 30. For information call DSN 364-4195 or civilian 0045-526-4195.

- Snowboarding Clinics at CYSS - Enrollment open for 6th through 12th Grade students until Nov. 23 at CYSS Central Parent Services in Brunssum. The \$240 fee includes transportation to and from Snow World, helmet, skis or snowboard, two hours of professional instruction and a snack. The December 6 to February 5 clinics include Freestyle Snowboarding, Beginner/Advanced Skiing and Snowboarding. For details call 045-526-3121.

- CYSS Sports & Fitness Basketball - Enrollment for boys and girls basketball ends Nov. 30 and spaces are limited.

Cost for boys is \$20 for ages 3-5, \$40 for ages 6-15 and \$40 for girls 13-15. Enrollment at Parent Central Services is open to all US/NATO ID card holders. For information please contact 045-526-3121.

Brussels CYSS

Brussels CYSS is looking for volunteer coaches for baseball, basketball, cheerleading, flag football, soccer and wrestling. If you are interested, call Youth Sports & Fitness at DSN 368-9651 or civilian 02-717-9651.

Registration for wrestling, basketball and developmental basketball is open through Nov. 30. For more info call CYSS at DSN 368-9651 or civilian 02-717-9651.

SHAPE/Chièvres CYSS

SHAPE/Chièvres CYSS is looking for volunteer coaches for racquetball, cross country and table tennis. If you are interested, call Youth Sports & Fitness at DSN 423-6143 or civilian 065-44-6143.

SKIES Unlimited

- Enrollment for Spanish classes fall session is still open until full. Session is for 6-12 and 13-18 years old. Parents are welcome to enroll with their child. Price is \$120 for 12 classes.

- Enrollment for cheerleading and basketball open through Nov. 30. For age group 6 to 12. Fee is \$40.

- For more information, contact Parent Central Services at DSN 423-5612 or civilian 065-44-5612.

Mobile Phone Recycling Drive

The Roots and Shoots Club at SHAPE Elementary School is collecting old mobile phones until Nov. 30. Drop your phone at one of the boxes at the Commissary, SHAPE Library, GB and SHAPE Elementary Office. The collected phones will



be given to the Jane Goodall Institute of Brussels for recycling. The reason for collecting these phones is because of coltan, a mineral used in cell phones and that is illegally mined in the Congo, causing problems for habitats for many endangered animals.

Holiday Mailing Deadlines

To ensure your packages sent to the United States are delivered before Christmas, mail them no later than these dates:

26 November	SAM parcels
3 December	PAL parcels
10 December	Priority parcels
10 December	First Class letters
18 December	Express Mail

These dates are valid for all three communities: SHAPE/Chièvres, Brussels and Schinnen.

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ING Bank to close 40 branches in Belgium

The Dutch bank ING is to close 40 of its 773 Belgian branches. Most of the branches that are to close are in Brussels and Wallonia. The bank says that it has too many branches and that a growing number of its customers are using internet banking services. It is still unclear how many jobs will be lost as a result of the branch closures.

Age limit to buy tobacco in the Netherlands

Dutch tobacco companies have written to the health ministry urging the new government to put up the age limit for buying cigarettes and tobacco from 16 to 18. Ministers plan to increase the legal age at which teenagers can buy alcohol from 16 to 18. This could also be applied to tobacco products, Dutch tobacco companies say.

Brussels winter plan for the homeless

The city of Brussels has started to implement its winter plan. From now and until end of March next year, homeless people will be welcome to spend the night in one of the centers for the homeless. They are given the opportunity to sleep, get some food, shower and see a doctor.

Free peppermints would boost road safety

Distributing free peppermints to motorists would improve road safety, according to the Dutch mobility institute. 'Scents, colors, sounds, pictures and temperatures all affect our behavior. We are beginning to get to grips with this in terms of traffic and transport and we can benefit from it,' researchers Jaco Berveling and Harry Derriks said last week. The smell of peppermint and cinnamon make people more alert, meaning they contribute to faster reaction time and improved memory, the researchers say.

Sheep on moped

Police in Tienen, Belgium, arrested three men who were transporting a sheep on a moped. The police soon discovered that the three men were staying here illegally and that the sheep had been stolen.

More U.S. students in Belgium

Figures from the Institute of International Education show that 880 Belgian students registered to study at a school of advanced learning in the United States in 2012-13. The figure is up 8.4% in comparison with only five years ago. The institute's report also shows that 1,374 U.S. nationals registered for academic studies in Belgium in 2011-12. This figure is up 10.5% on the year.

Belgian weapons

Saudi Arabia is the most important purchaser of Belgian weapons. Saudi Arabia purchases approximately one third of all Belgian weapons valued at 253 million Euros. All weapons for Saudi Arabia are produced in Wallonia. Nils Duquet of the Flemish Peace Institute states "because FN Herstal is a crucial company for the Walloon economy, the Walloon government

delivers weapons permits without much argument, even if it concerns sensitive clients. It seems economic interests prevail in Wallonia." Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia has not made it a secret that it supplies weapons to armed groups in Syria, says Thomas Baum, the Director of the Peace Institute.

Multinationals base brand rights in the Netherlands

Dozens of multinational companies have based their branding rights in the Netherlands in order to reduce their tax bills. U.S. coffee giant Starbucks came under attack in a British parliamentary commission for using the Netherlands to get around British taxes. Starbucks UK pays a fee to its Dutch arm for using its branding and coffee recipes, so cutting its tax bill. Ikea has made a similar move, and research by the FD shows numerous international firms including SABMiller, Nike, Bacardi-Martini, Zara, Speedo and Volkswagen have set up similar financial constructions. All these firms also have financial holding companies in the Netherlands. Brewing group SABMiller is an exception; it has set up a special limited company in the Netherlands which manages its brand rights. For example, South African beer brand Castle is brewed in its African homeland under Dutch license.

The paper says in some countries, royalties based on intellectual property can be taxed at up to 30%. However, in the Netherlands, advance deals with the tax office mean incoming royalties are taxed in some cases at 7%, making the move on paper very beneficial.

Sharia4Belgium

The former spokesman of the dismantled Muslim Fundamentalist organization, Sharia4Belgium, will currently remain in jail. The Antwerp Court has confirmed his second arrest. Two weeks ago, the court was considering releasing Belkacem under strict conditions, but the prosecutors' office challenged this decision.

Euro Soccer Championship 2020

The European soccer championship in 2020 might not be organized in one country, but all over the continent. In this case, Belgium will be one of the likely countries where the tournament will be organized, if it is able to qualify. Of all countries that qualify for the tournament, the top 12 countries on the FIFA rankings will receive a venue. Belgium is currently number 20 on the FIFA ranking and would thus be the 12th country on the list. The decision of this format will be made in January 2013.

Nearly every Dutch household has internet

Some 96% of Dutch households now have an internet connection, while 42% of the population have access to mobile internet via smart phones, according to a new research. Around 56% say the internet has given them better access to government and official information and two-thirds have more contact with their family. One third say they have made new friends online.

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

22 November

- Late openings in Brussels museums – Among others, the Charlier Museum, the Maison Autrique, the Museum of the National Bank of Belgium, the Scharbeek Museum of Beer and the new Spontaneous Art Museum will be opening their doors from 5 to 10 p.m. More information on www.brusselsmuseumsnocturnes.be/index-en.php?page=2§=&id=.

22-25 November

- **Free wine testing in Soignies** and lots of reductions up to 35% on many different wines on Chaussée du Roeulx 405. Open Friday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

24 November

- **Volksmarch in Ostiches** for 7 and 13 km. Departure is on Route de Flobecq from 5 to 9 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Chatelet** for 4, 7, 13, 20 km. Departure is on Rue des Campagnes from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

25 November

- **Volksmarch in Mons** for 4, 6, 7, 9, 12, 20, 30, 42 km. Departure is at the Athénée Provinciale Jean d'Avesnes on Avenue du Gouverneur Emile Cornez 1 from 7 to 9 a.m. on the 42 km route, from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the other routes.
- **Volksmarch in Chaussee-Notre Dame-Louvignies** for 5, 10, 15, 20 km. Departure is on Rue de la Justice 3 from 9 am. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Ragnies** for 5, 10, 20 km. Departure is on the communal square from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Bon-Secours** for 5, 10, 15, 20 km. Departure is on the Rue des Sapins from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Bornival** for 5, 10, 15, 20 km. Departure is on Rue du Centre from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Free philharmonic concert in Ghlin** at the church on Place de Ghlin. The concert starts at 11 a.m.



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

24 November

- **Winter Market in Belfied** on and around Koninginneplein in the town center from noon to 8 p.m.
- **Christmas Market in Rotterdam** is held in Verrijzeniskerk on Springerstraat 340. Open: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

25 November

- **Winter Fair in Oud Rolde** held from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the center of this historic town.

29 November

- **Winter Market in Bunschoten-Spakenburg** held in the town center with lots of activities from 3 to 9 p.m.

29 November – 2 December

- **Enchanted Christmas Market in Gladbeck (GE)** in the surroundings of Castle Wittingen. Open: Nov. 29-30, 3 to 8 p.m.; Dec. 1, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Dec. 2, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

30 November – 2 December

- **Nikolaus Market in the center of Geilenkirchen (GE)** is open 5 to 11 p.m., Nov. 30; noon to 11 p.m., Dec. 1 and 6 to 11 p.m., Dec. 2.
- **Christmas Market in Höxter (GE)** held in and around Castle Corvey. Open: Nov. 31, 2 to 7 p.m. and Dec. 1-2, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Entry: €5; children €2.50.
- **Danish Christmas Fair in Rotterdam** at Danish Naval Church (Deense Zeemanskerk) on Coolhaven 1-7 offers all kinds of Danish products. Open: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Ongoing Events & Happenings

Through 22 November

- **Indoor Winter Fair in Utrecht** held in Jaarbeurs, gives visitors a taste of the coming festive month. Entry is €20. Open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Through 23 December

- **Christmas Show in Schimmert**, at Lupa Outdoors Vijvercentrum Limburg on Op de Bies 70. Open: Mondays, from 1 to 5:30 p.m.; Tuesdays-Fridays, from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Saturdays- Sundays, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Courtesy Photo



25 November

- **Crafts Christmas Market in Saint-Symphorien** on the square of Saint-Symphorien 4. Open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Ongoing Events & Happenings

Through 1 January

- **Exhibition "Belgian Art, A Modern Century" in Ixelles** at the Museum of Ixelles. More information on www.museedixelles.irisnet.be/en.



Through 6 January

- **Expo Toots 90 exhibition in Brussels** - For his 90th birthday, discover the career of one of the greatest Belgian jazzmen. In this exhibition, Toots shares his memories and a part of his life. More information on www.toots90.be.agenda.

Through 20 January

- **Exhibition "Paul Delvaux, Les chemins de la creation" in Ixelles** at the Museum of Ixelles. More information on <http://www.museedixelles.irisnet.be/en/home-page/menu-hp-delvaux-en/exhibitions/current-exhibitions/paul-delvaux.-les-chemins-de-la-creation/paul-delvaux-paths-of-creation>.

Through 27 January

- **Jordaens and the Antique exhibition in Brussels** at the Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium. Around 80 paintings and drawings, tapestries and sculptures. More information on www.fine-arts-museum.be/site/EN/frames/F_expo.html.

Through 17 February

- **Exhibition "Space oddity, design fiction" in Grand Hornu**- This is an exploration of some Science fiction themes found in the work of many contemporary designers: anticipation, cosmology, the supernatural.

Through 19 May

- **Monumentum exhibition in Brussels** at the Royal Museum of Armed Forces and Military History. Special exhibition during the cycle " Reflections on the Great War". More information on www.klm-mra.be/klm-new/engels/main01.php?id=menu_links/startpagina

In mid-November, many Christmas markets in Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands open. In Germany every town, city or village has at least one market (called Christkindlmarkt, Weihnachtsmarkt or Nikolausmarkt). Most German markets start in the middle or third week of November and close around Dec. 23. On Nov. 25, a German religious fest day, many markets will be closed or only open a few hours. In Belgium and the Netherlands, the majority of markets start after the fest of St Nicholas, Dec. 5 and 6. A list of November and December Christmas markets is available at www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil. A weekly list will also be included in the Gazette beginning next edition.



Through 23 December Continued

- **Christmas Market in a cave in Valkenburg**, located in Gemeentegrot on Cauberg 4. Open on weekdays, from noon to 9 p.m. and weekends, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Dec. 23, from noon to 6 p.m. Entry is €5; children 5 to 11, €3.
- **Unique Christmas Market in Valkenburg**, held in the Fluwelen (velvet) Cave under the castle ruins on Daalhemmerweg. Open Sundays to Thursdays 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. Entry is €5; children 5 to 11, €3.

Through 25 November

- **PAN Amsterdam** is an important and large international Art & Antique Fair held at RAI. Every year more than hundred art and antique dealers participate with paintings, jewelry, design, silverwork, glass, statues, Asian art and more. Open daily from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Nov. 22 and 25 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Entry is €15; children 11 and younger – free entrance. Catalogue is €12.50.
- **Country & Christmas Fair near Haarzuilens** at Castle De Haar. The fair has more than 200 booths featuring exclusive articles, attractive accessories and festive novelties. Open: Nov. 21-24, from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Nov. 25, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Entry is €16.50; children (12 to 16), €10.

Through 3 December

- **Altstädter Nikolaus Market in the old historic center of Bergheim** - Attractive and traditional Saint Nicolas Market located in the Heimatmuseum among the timber-framed houses. Open daily from 6 to 10 p.m.

Through 3 February

- **Winter Efteling in Kaatsheuvel** at Efteling Amusement & Fairy Tale Park on Europalaan near Tilburg offers good old-fashioned winter fun. Open on weekdays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., weekends and Dec. 22 through Jan. 6 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Dec. 31 from 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. Entry is €35.

SHAPE Trips & Tours

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

- **Brugge Snow & Ice Sculpture Festival, November 24** - Come see 300,000 kilos of ice and 400 tons of snow, kept at minus 5 °C, which a team of 30 international artists have transformed into Ice Magic. The theme of this year's event is inspired by the stories of Harry Potter, Lord of the Rings and the Hobbit. Don't forget to dress warmly. Then head into town for the festive Christmas Markets complete with ice skating rink. Prices- 45€ Adults, 40€ Youth 4-11, 30€ children under 4. Departs Brussels at 8 a.m., departs SHAPE at 9 a.m. Returns SHAPE at 8 p.m., returns Brussels at 9 p.m.



Courtesy Photo

- **Christmas Markets in Germany & France, December 1-2** - Tour begins in the city of Nürnberg which is host to one of Germany's oldest Christmas Markets, dating back to the mid 16th century. Over 180 booths will tempt you with their traditional German wares;

Spiced gingerbread, fruit loaves, baked goods and sweets, savory sausages, glühwein, hand crafted toys, ornaments, candles and crafts. Our holiday merriment begins the following day as we head to Strassbourg, one of France's most enchanting Christmas markets. Spend the day strolling through the cobbled streets and embrace the magic of ten small Christmas markets spread throughout the city center. Ice-skate on the outdoor Ice Rink or stroll through the 300 twinkling booths, discovering local treasures. Price is €180 Single, €165 Double/Twin, €160 Triple, € 145* Youth (7-12), € 125* Children (0 - 6) *when sharing with 2 paying Adults. Departs SHAPE at 6 a.m. (Saturday), departs Brussels at 5 a.m. (Saturday), returns SHAPE at midnight (Sunday), returns Brussels at 1 a.m. (Monday).

Schinnen Trips and Tours

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

There are no trips scheduled for the remainder of this month.

SHAPE Travel Group

For information on the trips below call civilian 065-336560

Travel Group members are available every Wednesday and Friday
from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Foyer of the SHAPE Library, Bldg. 307.

- **Cologne Christmas Market, November 27** - Get in the Christmas spirit with this annual favorite to Cologne, Germany. It's a unique experience with several Christmas markets in the city. You may also visit the magnificent Cologne cathedral or the Farina Fragrance Museum, home of Eau de Cologne. Price is €25 Adults.
- **Monschau Christmas Market and Coffee Mill, November 30** - Guided tour of an artisanal coffee house to follow the evolution of coffee bean to a cup of java. You will then have time to stroll through the stalls of the quaint Monschau Christmas Market, set in a little postcard village. Price is €35 Adults.

For recurring events check on www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil/sites/local/pages/gazette/GazetteExtra.pdf.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

BRUNSSUM/SCHINNEN COMMUNITY

- **Baby&Me Cancelled until further notice.** - If you have any questions or concerns please contact USAG Benelux- Schinnen ACS at DSN: 360-7335 or civilian: 046-443-7335..

November 20

- **Job Search & Resume Writing Class** - From 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the ACS Conference Room. Learn how to look for jobs in this area and how to adapt your resume for the job announcement. For more information and to register, call DSN 360-7269/7500 or civilian 046-443-7269/7500.

November 21

- **Sponsor Training** - At Schinnen ACS learn about becoming a sponsor for new arrivals to the Tri-Border community. Get the essential information newcomers will need for both before and after arrival. Training is from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Class is by appointment only at civilian 046-443-7512.

November 22

- **Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner** - Joint Forces Command Brunssum International Chapel will have a Potluck dinner from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the JFC International Chapel, third floor, American Room to celebrate Thanksgiving together family style. This is open to all congregations and staff of JFC Brunssum. Bring a dish to share. Sign up for dishes at the Chapel. Single Military personnel are invited as guests and do not need to bring anything. For more info call DSN 364-2940 or civilian 045-526-2940.

November 30

- **Hearts Apart** - Held monthly at AFNORTH International School library, Schinnen ACS offers a support meeting for youth separated from a loved one, whether through a deployment or a family situation. Next meeting is 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. For details call the ACS Deployment Readiness office at civilian 046-443-7218.



BRUSSELS COMMUNITY

November 20

- **Finance Office Closure** - The Brussels Finance Office will be closed from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. It will be open from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m..

November 21

- **Free Thanksgiving Luncheon** held at 11:45 a.m. at the 3-Star Community Club, sponsored by the USAG Benelux-Brussels Chapel. Event includes a traditional Thanksgiving meal, enjoying the SHAPE Brass Quintet, and hearing an inspiring message from Chaplain (LTC) Kevin Pies, the Senior Benelux Chaplain. For additional information, call DSN 368-9708.

November 22-26

- **3-Star Community Club Closed**

Community Roundup



www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil

Visit us on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/USAG-Benelux/113926241978535>



SHAPE/CHIEVRES COMMUNITY

- **Children's Holiday Art Contest** - This year's theme is "Let's Celebrate" and is open to age categories 4-6 years, 7-9 years, 10-12 years. The submission deadline is Nov. 23 by 5 p.m. for any artwork that reflects a December holiday celebration. For details, go to the Chièvres FMWR facebook page.

November 20

- **Single service members Thanksgiving Dinner** - The USAG Benelux Chaplain's Office invites all single service members to a Thanksgiving dinner at 5 p.m. at the Chapel Fellowship Hall, Caserne Daumerie.
- **Share-a-Meal** - Donations of non perishable food items can be delivered from 9:30 to 11:45 a.m. at the SHAPE International Thrift Shop. All food collected will be donated to the Share-A-Meal Appeal 2012.
- **Share-a-Meal** - If you need to pick up your boxes or want to make a donation, visit the Share-a-Meal booth at the Silver Spoon from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- **Share-a-Meal** - If you need to pick up your boxes or want to make a donation, visit the Share-a-Meal booth at the Rendez Vous from 2 to 4 p.m.

November 22

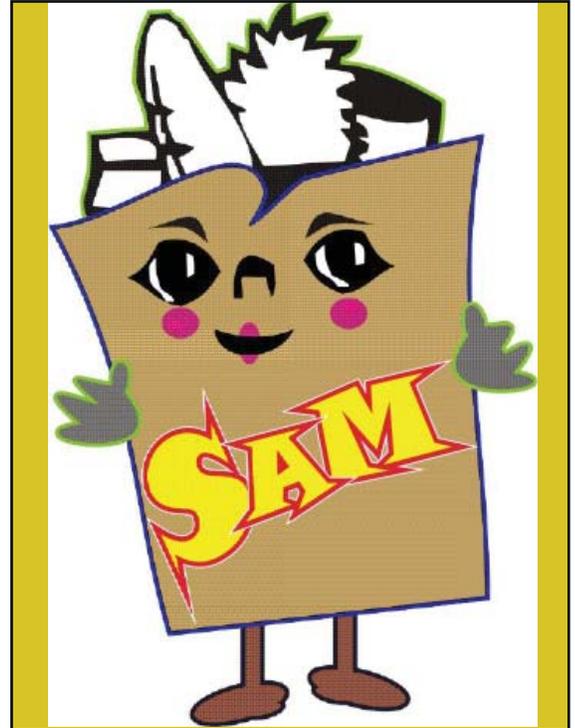
- **Multicultural Festival** - Hosted by the SHAPE American Middle and High School from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. and includes a fashion show and cultural performances in the SHAPE Cinema and immediately following a food sharing, with cultural displays and group dancing. This year's theme is SHAPE our Top 10.

November 25

- **Personal Financial Readiness Workshop** - Are YOUR finances prepared for TDY?, deployment?, PCS moves?, economic downturns?, leaving active duty (ETS or retirement)? Identity Theft?. There will be a financial Readiness Workshop from 1 to 2 p.m. at the SHAPE ACS. For more information and to register call DSN 423-5324 or civilian 065-44-5324.

November 29

- **Insurance Seminar** - ACS is holding an Insurance Seminar from 1 to 2 p.m. at the SHAPE ACS Bldg. For more information and to register call DSN 423-5324 or civilian 065-44-5324.



Capture your best *Army Moments*
for a chance to win great prizes!

myARMY Life photos
a Family & MWR photography contest

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