

THE GAZETTE

Published for members of the Chièvres Air Base, Caserne Daumerie, SHAPE and Brussels communities

Local orphans

Children from the local orphanages in Ath have submitted their wishes for Christmas. If you would like to buy or contribute to one of their wishes, contact the USAG Benelux Public Affairs Office at DSN 361-5694.

Postage increase

On January 22, the price of the first class stamp will go up to .45 cents. However, stamps that are bought before that date will automatically be valued at .45 cents. The price for each additional ounce remains unchanged at .20 cents.

Other changes taking effect in January are:

- The postcard stamp increases to .32 cents
- New international prices will be:
 - .85 cents to Canada/Mexico
 - \$1.05 cents elsewhere.

Marquee on Chièvres

Want to wish your friend a happy birthday? Or say thanks to a favorite teacher? You can now display your message on the MWR marquee on Chièvres Air Base. There is a maximum capacity of five lines and 15 characters per line. The cost is \$10 for one week. To get a copy of the grid to fill out, contact MWR at DSN 361-5907/5841.

Single Soldiers give Thanks



Cis Spook

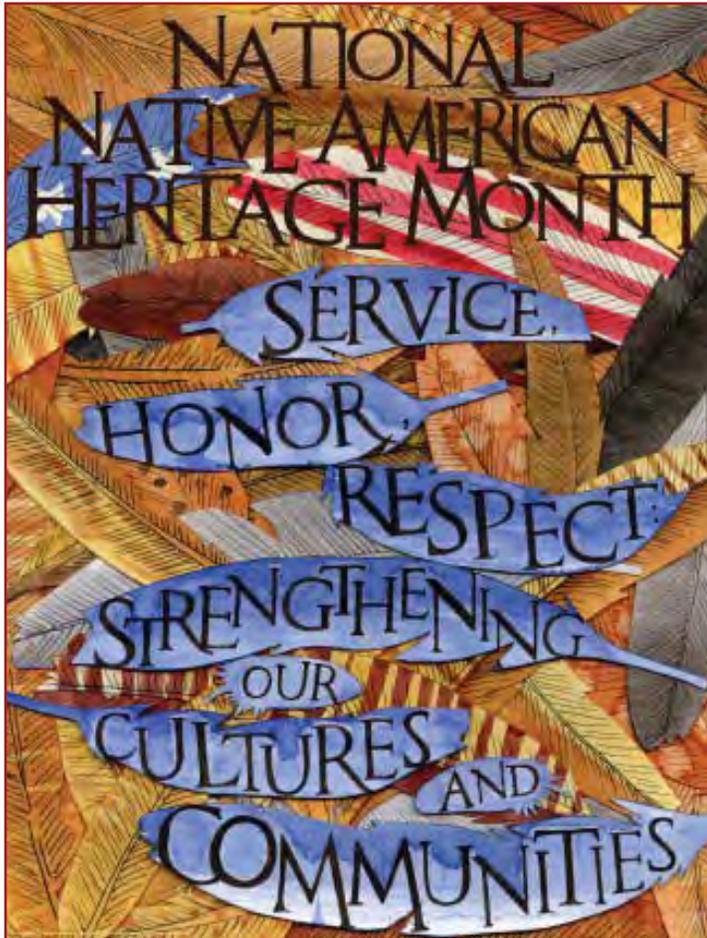
Cpl. Haisam Younes (left) and Cpl. Brandon Butterfield both from A Company, SHAPE Battalion are getting served by Col. Rick Tillotson, USAG Benelux Commander and Command Sgt. Maj. Allan K. Fairley at the Single Soldier Thanksgiving dinner held at Daumerie Chapel, Nov. 22. The home-cooked meal was prepared by volunteers of the Hospitality Ministry and Military Council of Catholic Women of SHAPE and entertainment was provided by the SHAPE International Choir.

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November is National Native American Heritage Month

Courtesy of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior



What started at the turn of the century as an effort to gain a day of recognition for the significant contributions the first Americans made to the establishment and growth of the U.S., has resulted in a whole month being designated for that purpose.

One of the very proponents of an American Indian Day was Dr. Arthur C. Parker, a Seneca Indian, who was the director of the Museum of Arts and Science in Rochester, N.Y. He persuaded the Boy Scouts of America to set aside a day for the "First Americans" and for three years they adopted such a day. In 1915, the annual Congress of the American Indian Association meeting in Lawrence, Kans., formally approved a plan concerning American Indian Day. It directed its president, Rev. Sherman Coolidge, an Arapahoe, to call upon the country to observe such a day. Coolidge issued a proclamation on Sept. 28, 1915, which declared the second Saturday of each May as an American Indian Day and contained the first formal appeal for recognition of Indians as citizens.

The year before this proclamation was issued, Red Fox James, a Blackfoot Indian, rode horseback from state to state seeking approval for a day to honor Indians. On December 14, 1915, he presented the endorsements of 24 state governments at the White House. There is no record, however, of such a national day being proclaimed.

The first American Indian Day in a state was declared on the second Saturday in May 1916 by the governor of New York. Several states celebrate the fourth Friday in September. In Illinois, for example, legislators enacted such a day in 1919. Presently, several states have designated Columbus

Day as Native American Day, but it continues to be a day we observe without any recognition as a national legal holiday.

In 1990 President George H. W. Bush approved a joint resolution designating November 1990 "National American Indian Heritage Month." Similar proclamations, under variants on the name (including "Native American Heritage Month" and "National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month") have been issued each year since 1994.

THE GAZETTE

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Eating well in the workplace

Lt. Col. Twyla Leigh, Dietitian
U.S. Army Public Health Command

It's been a long day at the office. Visions of the vending machine flash through your mind. Caffeine and sugar are calling your name.

The additional 140 calories from a 12-ounce can of soda and 220 calories (or more) from a candy bar or bagged snack, if eaten on most work days, will create a weight gain of a jumbo 25 pounds per year. Even if the soda is diet and only the candy or bagged snack is eaten, expect a weight gain of 15 pounds per year. Add to that the extra calories we eat when someone brings in donuts or "goodies" to the office, or what about that desktop candy jar? These office hazards add to inevitable weight gain that most of us blame on aging, heredity and/or metabolism. We are not doomed to work in "obesifying" office conditions and can make positive changes to manage our health and weight. Be prepared for office pitfalls (even if you work from home) and plan ahead.

Here is a list of strategies to consider for a healthier work environment:

Eat breakfast—Breakfast skippers start the day at a disadvantage and may start grazing early and feel they have no will power or resistance to sugary and fatty foods that they might otherwise avoid.

Bring healthy (and portion-controlled) snacks—Prepare snacks the night

before, portion in snack bags; use a coolie bag if needed. Some examples of healthy snacks include roasted almonds; low-fat cheese wedges (non-refrigerated, like Laughing Cow); fresh seasonal fruit—apples, grapes, cherries or berries; fresh cut vegetables—celery, cucumbers, bell peppers, grape tomatoes, baby carrots, with or without low-fat dressing, or maybe with a couple of olives or slices of pickle; 100-calorie prepackaged snacks; low-fat popcorn if a microwave is available; hard-boiled egg; or low-fat, low-sugar yogurt.



Archive Picture

Eat mindfully—No matter what you are eating, focus on the smell, taste and crunch. Don't eat and work or watch the screen at the same time. This type of "multi-tasking" doesn't allow you to realize that you are satisfied with your snack and you may be tempted to keep "grazing."

Think thirsty, not hungry—Have lots of cool water on hand to drink throughout the day. Many times we think we are hungry and overeat when we have not had enough fluids.

Read labels—Look at the content of the vending machine. Ask the person who works with the vending company to add lower calorie, lower fat and higher protein snacks to the mix.

Move more—Take a walk. Stand up and stretch.

Identify supportive co-workers—Share recipe ideas for healthy snacks. Encourage one another to eat healthy and exercise more.

Change the office culture—Model good eating. If you bring in a snack to share, make it healthy – fresh fruit, whole grains and lower fat recipes. Suggest non-food rewards and celebrations. Positive recognition and certificates of appreciation add to a supportive, productive and healthier work culture.

AFJROTC in Aviano Drill Competition

Special to the Gazette

Twelve members of AFJROTC unit BE-931 recently competed at the Aviano Invitational Drill Competition at Aviano High School, Aviano, Italy. For the second time in as many competitions the cadets placed first in the inspection category and their commander, Cadet Captain Matt Horn garnered the Best Inspection Commander Award.



Courtesy Picture

The Exhibition Saber Team placed second; this is the first time BE-931 has had this type of team.



Courtesy Picture

Prior to the awards ceremony all the cadets in attendance take the floor for IDR which is fondly referred to as "knock-out." With approximately 140 cadets competing, BE-931 second year cadet Marek Gernat walked away with second place.

The unit finished second overall out of seven schools from England, Italy, Germany, and Belgium.

St Nicolas is coming to town

By Douglas E. Morris
Brussels Weekly Editor

This article may seem a bit premature, but here in Belgium there is no Thanksgiving, and as you probably have noticed, Belgians are already gearing up for the winter holidays by hanging lights and decorations, and stores are filling with holiday treats. This preparation is because the traditional Belgian winter holiday festival is much earlier, December 5 and 6 rather than December 25.

For Belgians, St Nicolas (in French) or Sinterklaas (in Dutch) — the forerunner of North America’s Santa Claus and England’s Father Christmas — arrives on December 5, the eve of St Nicolas’ feast day. In recent years, Christmas (along with Santa Claus) has been pushed by shopkeepers in Belgium as another gift-giving festival mainly for adults; although for young children, December 5 & 6 is still much more important than Christmas.

For Belgian kids, the St Nicolas tradition starts with the placing of a shoe in front of the fireplace on the evening of December 5, singing songs, going to bed, then upon waking on the morning of the 6th, presents will be arrayed around the shoes. Sometimes, on December 5, kids put a carrot or a handful of hay in the shoes as a treat for Saint Nicolas’ white horse or donkey, and then the next morning the carrot or hay will be replaced by candy.

St Nicolas is usually accompanied by a black-faced helper (Black Pete) called Père Fouettard (in French) or Zwarte Piet (in Dutch), or a number of them.

Père Fouettard has roughly the same relationship to St Nicolas that the elves have to America’s Santa Claus. Père Fouettard’s black face seems to indicate that he is an African, but that is open to interpretation. He is described by some as a slave who, when St Nicolas bought him his

freedom, was so grateful that he stayed to assist him. He is described by others as a servant, though the more politically correct explanation is that Pete is not African at all. His face is “black from soot” as a result of climbing through chimneys to deliver his gifts.

Part of the St Nicolas tradition is telling children that Père Fouettard will leave well-behaved children presents, but will punish those who have been naughty by carrying them off in a burlap sack to St Nicolas’ off-season home of Madrid, Spain. Some cultural historians suggest that the original gift associated with St Nicolas, mandarin oranges, led to the

belief that he was from Spain. Or more likely, as Belgium was part of the Spanish Netherlands during the same time period that the St Nicolas and Père Fouettard’s tradition was emerging, their off-season sanctuary was given as the same home of the rulers of the territory.

Many Americans often experience shock at seeing the black-face of Père Fouettard, as such a caricature has been seriously taboo in the US for decades. Sensitive to this, since 1990 Belgium and the Netherlands attempted to

replace the black make-up with a rainbow of colors. However, that idea simply did not take hold, and in 2007 everything reverted back to the traditional black-faced Petes.

Whether you find Père Fouettard offensive or accept him as a part of the Belgian culture, while here, why not participate in the Belgian holiday gift giving celebrations on the evening of December 5 and the morning of the 6th? I am sure your kids would love to start this new tradition.

Note: This article was first published in the Nov. 17 issue of the Brussels Weekly.



Courtesy Picture

St Nicolas (in French) or Sinterklaas (in Dutch) with his helpers named Père Fouettard (in French) or Zwarte Piet (in Dutch).



Unused airline tickets

Special to the Gazette

It is important for travelers to officially cancel airline tickets and other travel reservations when a trip is cancelled before travel begins. Failure to cancel may result in a loss of government funds and/or unused tickets.

Per JFTR (U1037)/JTR (C1009), a traveler must promptly cancel airline and/or lodging reservations when it is known that they will not be used (e.g., TDY canceled, curtailed or changed). All unused tickets must be promptly turned into the issuing Commercial Travel Office. A traveler's failure to follow these procedures may make the traveler and/or unit financially liable for any resulting losses.

For travelers:

You may also be holding on to inventory that the airline could sell to another customer. To cancel a ticket:

- If your authorization is signed but not approved by your Authorizing Official, you must cancel your reservations by using the Trip Cancel feature in DTS.
- If reservations were signed and approved, you must use trip cancel link in DTS. If expenses were incurred such as the Commercial Travel Office fee, registration fee etc., use the trip cancel link with expenses.
- If reservations were made directly with your Commercial Travel Office, you must contact the Commercial Travel office to cancel.

For more information on cancelling a ticket, contact your Defense Travel Administrator.

For Authorizing Officials:

Authorizing officials are encouraged to frequently check routing lists to ensure that authorizations are approved or disapproved in a timely manner.

For Defense Travel Administrators:

Defense Travel Administrators are encouraged to frequently run an approved status report to identify those authorizations that are waiting to be approved or may need to be cancelled. Please encourage authorizing officials to approve or cancel reservation in their routing queue in a timely fashion.

Emergency Numbers

Medical emergency/Fire 100
 Police emergency 101
 Anti poison 070-245245
 Help Line 02-6484014 (English speakers)
 Child Focus: 116000
 Red Cross: 105
 Throughout Europe: call 112 for an emergency

Works to start in Attre, Dec. 1



Works will start Dec. 1 on the section in front of the Château d'Attre for an estimated period of time of six months.

As of Dec. 1, road repairs will start on Avenue du Château in Attre. For the duration of the repairs, which may take up to six months, traffic will be prohibited on the section from Attre's Grand'Place to the bar-restaurant "Le Vieux Chaudron", the section in front of the Château d'Attre. Deviation signs will be posted.

During the works, Avenue St-Martin will remain accessible to local residents and shops.

To avoid the area, coming from Ghislenghien, take a right at the crossroads prior to the castle, go straight and turn on Rue Salvador Allende in the center of Maffle to get to the N56 Ath/Chièèvres.

To go to Ghislenghien from Chièèvres, head towards Ath, take a right at Maffle, go to the center and take a right and the T intersection. Continue until the crossroads near the Attre castle and make a left.

Jurbise residents

In a real effort to strengthen the relationship with the local communities, events are organized to give you the opportunity to get to know your fellow citizens. You have probably been told about the event held in Soignies two weeks ago; this week, the city of Jurbise is inviting its newcomers and American residents on Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. at the "Salle Culturelle Jacques Galant" on Rue Moustier 8. This event will be supported by the local merchants and the SHAPE band will provide entertainment. Free tasting of traditional products will be available. For more information, call civilian 065-44-3339 or 068-27-5824.

Local community briefs

Volunteering during the tax season

The Northern Law Center is looking for military spouses or family members to assist as volunteers during the upcoming tax season. This is a great opportunity to gain technical and practical experience in tax preparation. Best of all, the training is conducted by an IRS representative and it is free. Space is limited. For more information, contact the Northern Law Center at DSN: 423-4061 or Civilian: 065-44-4061.

Beauty Shop on Chièvres Air Base

Opening hours are:
 Tue - Thur from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
 Fri & Sat from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 Sun & Mon closed.

Barber shop on Chièvres Air Base

Opening hours are:
 Tue - Sat from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 Sun & Mon closed
 For information, call DSN 361-5635 or civilian 068-27-5635.

Barber and Beauty Shop at Family Care Center, Brussels

Opening hours are:
 Tue - Fri from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Each 1st and 3rd Sat from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Each 2nd and 4th Sat closed.

Employment

Andrews Federal Credit Union is looking for individuals who want to advance their careers with a progressive full-service local financial institution. During this exciting time, Andrews Federal offers a full-range of financial and lending services for its members. European branches are located in Belgium, Netherlands and Germany. As a stable and thriving institution, Andrews Federal has the resources and experience to help individuals further develop their careers. Here are some career opportunities in area branches:

- Branch Manager - Brussels
- Member Services Representative/Teller Floater - Benelux Region
- Part-Time Member Service Representative - Brussels
- Branch Manager - Chièvres
- Senior Teller - Chièvres

For these and other career opportunities or to apply online, go to www.andrewsfcu.org or call Overseas Headquarters office Civilian 0611.978.7502. All applicants must have a U.S. Passport. Andrews Federal Credit Union is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



As of Nov. 23, USAG Benelux has raised \$29,279.00



NOVEMBER SPECIAL

50% off all TSP Toys



Don't forget - the Holiday Season is approaching quickly, so get a head-start on your Holiday Shopping!

Education

University of Maryland University College

Are you a degree seeking UMUC student? Have you completed LIBS150 Introduction to Research?

If not, this one credit hour seminar is a required general education requirement for UMUC graduates and is being offered next month. This hybrid class will meet in Brussels from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, December 3 and is being taught by Professor Joseph Naas. There is no textbook needed. If you would like to enroll, please contact your UMUC SHAPE Field Representative by Friday, November 30, 2011 DSN 423-5173 or Civilian 065-44-5173 shape@europe.umuc.edu.

University of Phoenix

Degree Programs Offered:
 Master of Business Administration
 Master of Arts in Education/ Adult Education & Training
 Master of Arts in Education/ Teacher Leadership
 Master of Arts in Education/ Teacher Education (Elementary, Secondary, & Special Education)
 Open to all SHAPE, NATO, Embassy ID holders
 For more information stop by the USAG Benelux Education Center, Bldg. 212, Rm 113 or call DSN: 423-4645.

University of Oklahoma

Next on-site course at SHAPE for the Master of Arts, International Relations program will be IAS 5940: Topics in International Studies: Contemporary China.

The course will be November 15-20 and students will discover how China became an international financial power, better understand the Chinese perspective of Americans/Westerners, develop a basic understanding of the current social, political and economic situation in China. For more information, call DSN 423-3654 or civilian 065-44-3654.

USAG Benelux and local community briefs

Christmas Holiday Art Contest

Chièvres FMWR and Grandma's Attic are sponsoring a children's Holiday Art Contest for all Shapians in the age categories 4-6 years, 7-9 years, 10-12 years. This year's theme is the North Pole. To participate, create an original artwork on an unlined, white sheet of paper: US Letter (8.5 x 11 inches) or A4 (21 x 29 centimeters). Any medium (crayons, markers, paint, pastels, etc.) may be used but the picture must be in color.

Artwork must be entirely original work, created by the submitting artist, and cannot include any copyrighted image or likeness.

Entries must have the artist's name, age, nationality, parent's name and email address printed on the back. Entries should be delivered to CYSS Parent Central, Building 503, SHAPE, Monday-Friday between 1:30 and 5 p.m. The deadline for submission is Dec. 1 at 5 p.m.

CYSS Skies Classes

- **Basketball** for ages 6-15 from Dec. through Mar. Fee is \$40. Registration is open through Nov. 25.
- **Cheerleading** for girls 6-12 from Dec. through Mar. Fee is \$40. Registration is open through Nov. 25.
- **Piano** for ages 3.5-12 from Nov. 21 through Dec. 16. for one on one classes, 30 minutes long. Registration is open through Nov. 21. Fee is \$80.
- **Indoor Soccer** for ages 13-16 from Jan. through Mar. Fee is \$20. Registration is open through Dec. 23.

Sign-up at Parent Central Services, SHAPE Bldg. 503 Mon- Fri 9 a.m. to noon (appointments only) and 1:30 to 5 p.m. (walk-ins welcome). For information, call Parent Central Services DSN 423-5612 or civilian 065-44-5612 or DSN 423-5611 or civilian 065-44-5611.

Christmas Mailing Deadlines

PAL Parcels – Dec. 2
 Priority Parcels – Dec. 9
 1st Class Letters – Dec. 9
 Express Mail – Dec. 16

Extended Hours Nov. 14 - Dec. 23:

Chièvres Postal Finance: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Chièvres Parcel Pick-up: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

SHAPE Postal Finance: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

SHAPE Parcel Pick-up: 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Nov. 15 - Dec. 23:

Brussels Parcel Mailing: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Brussels Parcel Pickup: 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The Holiday season dates of closure are Dec. 26 and Jan. 2



Sunday worship service schedule

SHAPE/Chièvres area

9 a.m. – Catholic Mass at SHAPE Chapel

10:15 a.m. - Anglican service at SHAPE Chapel

11:45 a.m. – Contemporary Protestant service at SHAPE Chapel

For additional information, contact the Chaplain's Office at DSN 361-5381.

Jewish Community Liaison: contact DSN 423-4938

Muslim Community Liaison: contact DSN 368-9814

Catholic Mass

Each Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 11:45 a.m. at the Daumerie American Chapel and

Thursday at 12:15 p.m. at the SHAPE Chapel.

Brussels area

10:30 a.m. – Protestant service at Chaussée de Louvain 13, St. Stevens Woluwe.

Perishing Poles Winter SAC Camps

The dates for week 1 are: Dec. 19-23, the dates for week 2 are Jan. 3-6. Registration is starting Dec. 5 and will run until Dec. 15. Join an exciting expedition to the chilly world of Perishing Poles. Discover icebergs taller than a house, camouflaged polar bears, pesky penguins and icy ravines.

The schedule for week one will be as follows:

Monday: Explorers on ice
Tuesday: Pals in the Polar seas
Wednesday: Iceberg bowling
Thursday: Incredible icebergs
Friday: Polar people

The schedule for week two will be as follows:

Monday: CYSS will be closed
Tuesday: Explorers on ice
Wednesday: Iceberg Bowling
Thursday: Pals in the Polar seas
Friday: Incredible icebergs

GIVE ONLINE AT WWW.CFCOVERSEAS.ORG

1. **Choose your charities**, go to the "Donate now" button and use the online search to select from more than 2,400 charities.

2. **Make a commitment**. Donate via payroll allotment, credit/debit card, e-check, cash or check.

3. **Submit your pledge**. If you gave through the printed pledge option online, you must give a copy to your representative to complete the pledge process. For the paperless options (check, credit or e-check) you do not need to submit a form to your representative but remember to retain a copy of your pledge for tax purposes.

|| BELGIAN NEWS ||

By Cis Spook

USAG Benelux Public Affairs

Bruges company to create sand sculptures in the U.S.

The Bruges-based company "Snow and Ice Events" will be responsible for a sand sculpture festival in Orlando (Florida) next year. The ice sculpture festival in Bruges has just opened (see local events). Some 30 sculptors from abroad have been working on some 100 sculptures.

Belgian politics

Last week, the coalition talks were as far away as ever from reaching an agreement on the 2012 budget. As a result, Elio Di Rupo, the person entrusted with the job of forming a new Belgian government, submitted King Albert II his resignation. Within hours of Di Rupo's decision, the interest rate that Belgium now will have to pay in order to borrow money for ten years has risen above 5%. According to a financial news agency, it is the first time since 2008 that Belgium's long term interest rate has risen above 5%. The higher rate reflects ebbing confidence in a country's ability to repay all its debts.

The King met with representatives from all six parties in order to find a solution. Eventually, the talks resumed and after 16 hours of negotiations, all six parties agreed upon the 2012 budget. Di Rupo stated that the pressure exerted by the European Commission played a role in reaching the agreement. The 2012 budget contains structural socio-economic measures, but does not touch the social security system or provide for the raising of the retirement age.

Leaders of the Christian, socialist and liberal trade unions have expressed their concerns that workers and those claiming benefits are being asked to pay too high a price. A general strike has been set for December 2.

In the meantime, negotiations will continue with the objective to form a government this week.

Former U.S. rapper Loon in Brussels jail

Loon, who now calls himself Amir Junaid Muhadith, was on his way to an Islamic conference when he got arrested at the Brussels airport. The former rapper is wanted in the U.S. for distributing heroin three years ago in North Carolina and the American authorities have asked for his extradition.

Loon converted to Islam a couple of years ago and now lives in Algeria. Up until a few years ago, Loon worked regularly with big R&B stars such as Beyoncé and Usher. He announced that he was quitting show business in 2009

|| BELGIAN NEWS ||

and converted to Islam. Loon was born Chauncey Lamont Hawkins, but changed his name to Amir Junaid Muhadith on becoming a Muslim. He now travels the world giving talks about his conversion.

Mons glass containers

The second underground glass container is currently under construction on Place Nervienne in Mons. The first one was built early last year on Place de Bootle. Regular glass containers bring along lots of nuisance such as noise and other waste that is piled up next to the containers. Having them underground solves a lot of these issues but it costs the city five times more than regular ones. The city of Mons is nevertheless planning on building a third one near the Ile aux Oiseaux.

Police union wants Google Street View taken off line

The police union has issued a warning in connection with Google's Street View application that was launched in Belgium last week. Via a website, everybody is able to see photographs of your own home but also those of all your neighbors as well as perfect strangers living at the other side of the country. The union warns that thieves and burglars can make use of these photographs. They no longer need to do recon, from their own homes, they are able to see properties in great detail and examine the security features as well as the neighborhood.

Since Google Street View was launched, numerous people have filed a complaint with the police for privacy abuse.

Restaurants targeted in VAT fraud operation

Belgian judicial police raided some 12 restaurants in and around Brussels and in Liège as part of a major operation against Value Added Tax VAT fraud. A dozen restaurants were targeted in the capital, in Overijse (Flemish Brabant), Waver, Waterloo and Nivelles (Walloon Brabant). Eateries in Liège, eastern Belgium, also received an unannounced visit from the police. Some 120 police officers were deployed in an attempt to collect evidence of VAT evasion and fraud involving turnover figures. The police took away the restaurants' cash registers. Investigators also searched the premises of the company that supplies the cash register systems. It is being alleged that this company supplied a special computer program that allowed the restaurants to keep part of their takings hidden from the taxman. By 2013 all restaurants are obliged to link their cash registers to a special control system in order to prevent fraud.

Have Something for the Gazette?

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

Through 15 January

- **Snow & ice sculpture festival in Brugge** from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. For more information about the program and prices, visit www.icesculpture.be.

28 November through 3 December

- **Shape International Basketball Tournament** at the SHAPE Main Gymnasium. Ten teams will be competing: USA, Belgium, France, Latvia, Italy, Lithuania, GBR, Kazakhstan, Canada, Poland. For information, check www.shape2day.com.

1 December

- **Brussels Museums Late Nights openings.** The following museums are exceptionally open from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.: NEW Antoine Wiertz Museum (Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium), BELvue Museum, Clockarium, Coudenberg-Former Palace of Brussels, Grand Serment Royal et de St-Georges des Arbalétriers, Museum of Natural Sciences, Planetarium of Brussels. More information on www.brussel museumsnocturnes.be.

2-4 December

- **Wine and catering professions fair in Leuze-en-Hainaut** at the town hall from 6 to 9 p.m on Friday, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday.



- **Volksmarch in Soignies** for 5, 10, 20 km. Departure is from Salle Saint-Vincent on Rue Chanoine Scarmure 17 starting at 8 a.m.
- **Volksmarch in Mainvault** for 5, 10, 20 km. Departure is from the local school on Rue du Mont 2 starting at 8 a.m.
- **Volksmarch in Carnières** for 3, 5, 10, 20 km. Departure is from Cranières' square from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Participating fee is €0.75.

6 December through 11 December

- **Agribex in Brussels** (Heysel) at Brussels Expo from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.: agriculture, breeding and gardening.

8 December

- **Brussels Museums Late Night openings.** The following museums are exceptionally open from 5p.m. to 10 p.m.: City of Brussels Museum of Costume & Lace, Jewish Museum of Belgium, NEW Marc Sleen Museum, Museum of the City of Brussels (Maison du Roi), National Museum of the Resistance, Toy Museum, Wiels - Center for Contemporary Art. More information on www.brussel museumsnocturnes.be.



3 December

- **Volksmarch in Péronnes-lez-Antoing** for 4, 7, 12, 15, 20, 24 km. Departure is from Rue du Centre 57 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Participating fee is €0.75.

3-4 December

- **Flea market in Mons** at Mons Expo on Avenue Thomas Edison from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Entrance fee is €3.
- **Midi Minuit (noon to midnight) event in Chièvres** - Small commercial fair and arts & crafts on the square and inside the city hall on Saturday from noon to midnight and aperitif on Sunday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free entrance.

4 December

- **Flea market in Aiseau-Presles** (130 booths) on rue JF Kennedy 150 from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Mountain Bike Ride in Pécrot** for 25, 34, 45, 54 km. Departure is from Taverne du Val Fleuri on Rue Léopold van Meerbeek 265 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Participating fee is €4-5. Showers and bike-wash available.
- **Mountain Bike Ride in Thoricourt (Silly)** for 20, 40, 50 km. Departure is from Rue de l'Enseignement at 8 a.m. Participating fee is €3. Showers and bike-wash available.
- **Mountain Bike Ride in Havré** for 15, 25, 35, 45 km. Departure is from Salle Omnisport de Phase (Sports center) on Rue Saint-Antoine 1 from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Participating fee is €3-5. Showers and bike-wash available.

10 December

- **Run & bike in Grez-Doiceau** for 6 and 12 km. Departure is from the local school on Rue Pont au Lin.
- **Volksmarch in Brussels** for 16 and 12 km. Departure is at the Athénée Fernand Blum on avenue E. Renan 12 from 2 to 7 p.m. Participating fee is €0.75.
- **Volksmarch in Tournai** for 7, 12, 13, 20 km. Departure is at the Ecole du Château on Avenue Leray 33 from noon to 3 p.m. for 13 and 20 km and from 5 to 9 p.m. for 7 and 12 km. Participating fee is €0.75.
- **Volksmarch in Aiseau** for 4, 6, 12, 21. Departure is at the Salon Communal on Rue Lambot from 7 a.m. to noon for 21 km and from 7 .m. to 3 p.m. for 4, 6, 12 km.
- **Flea market in Ath** on the Place du Faubourg de Mons from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **Christmas concert** in Jurbise at the church Saint Eloi on Route d'Ath at 8:30 p.m. Entrance fee is €12.



Cris Spook

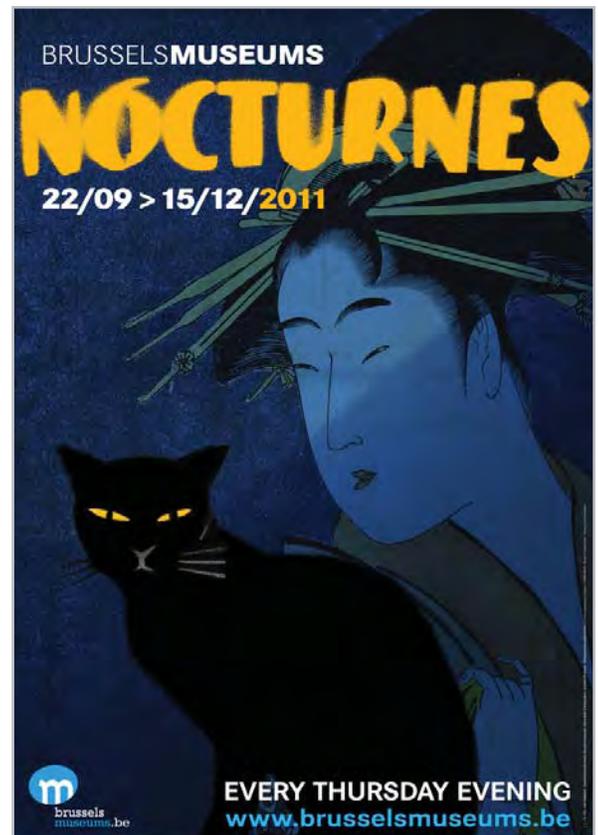
USAG Benelux Soldiers participate every year in the Bastogne commemorations to be held this year, Dec. 10.

10-11 December

- **Bastogne commemorations:**
 - *34th Historic Walk* covering 7, 13 or 22 km. Departure is from the Sports Center between 8 and 9:30 a.m. on Saturday. Registration will be at the sports center from 3 to 8 p.m. on December 9 and from 7 to 9:30 a.m. on December 10. Participating fee is €6.
 - *Official commemorations* will start on December 10 at 3 p.m. with a parade led by the USAG Benelux Color Guard to Patton's monument and McAuliffe's monument for wreath laying ceremonies. Upon the parade's return at the city hall, authorities will throw nuts from the city hall balcony.
 - *Vintage military vehicles-parade* on Sunday at 2:30 p.m. through the center of the town.
 - *McAuliffe's cave* at Base Bastogne on Rue de La Roche will be open during the entire weekend from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Flea market in Wasmes** at the Espace Magnum on Avenue Schweitzer from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

11 December

- **Mountain bike ride in Vossem** for 30, 40 and 50 km. Departure is from the British School of Brussels on Leuvensesteenweg 19 from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
- **Mountain bike ride in Montigny-Le-Tilleul** for 15, 25, 40 km. Departure is from the cultural center on Rue Wilmet 1 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Participating fee is €3-5. Showers and bike-wash available. (465 participants in 2010).
- **Mountain bike ride in Havré** for 27 and 50 km. Departure is from Rue Doyen 7 from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Participating fee is €3-5. Showers and bike-wash available. (288 participants in 2010).
- **Volksmarch in Cortil-Noirmont** for 5, 10, 20 km. Departure is from Route de Gembloux 2 starting at 8 a.m.
- **Volksmarch in Erquelinnes** for 5, 10, 20 km. Departure is from Rue de Maubeuge 197 starting at 8 a.m.
- **Volksmarch in Lens** for 5, 10, 20 km. Departure is from the local school on Rue du Thy 3 starting at 8 a.m.
- **Volksmarch in Silly** for 5, 10, 20 km. Departure is from the main square starting at 8 a.m.
- **Volksmarch in Eugies** for 6, 12 and 20 km. Departure is from Le Foyer on Rue Haute 38 from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Brussels Museums Late Nighth Opening - See Dec. 8

Upcoming Christmas Markets



The below list of Christmas markets and activities includes the ones that start this week. The list will be updated on a weekly basis to include the markets starting the week of the Gazette's publication date.

Ongoing Christmas markets:

Through 4 December

- **The Magical Christmas Moments in Brugge** at "Oud Sint-Janshospitaal" in the center offers a variety of gifts; Christmas decorations; and workshops. Open every day from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Entry: €12; children 11 and younger – free entrance.

Through 5 December

- **Christmas market in Etterbeek** at Market Square. Open: Nov. 26, from 6 to 10 p.m.; Nov. 27 & Dec. 4-5, from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Nov. 28, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Nov. 29-30, from 4 to 8 p.m.; Dec. 3, from 4 to 10 p.m.

Through 30 December

- **Christmas market in Liège** (170 booths) on Place St Lambert and Place du Marché from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. (max. to 10 p.m. during the week and 12 p.m. the weekend).
- **Christmas market in Floreffe** (45 booths) at the Abbey site on Rue Séminaire from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Monday through Friday and from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Through 1 January

- **Winter Wonders in the center of Brussels.** Ice-skating rink and a Christmas market. Open Mondays-Thursdays, from noon to 9 p.m.; Fridays-Sundays, from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Dec. 24 & 31, from noon to 6 p.m. and Dec. 25 and Jan. 1, from noon to 10 p.m.



Donovan Abrassart

Through 2 January

- **Christmas market in Dour** and ice skating rink at Parc Communal on Rue Grande in the center of Dour.

Through 3 January

- **Christmas market in Bruges** on the Grand' Place and Place Simon from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Through 8 January

- **Winter Dream in Gent** with Christmas market, ice-rink and lots more winter activities on Sint-Pietersplein. Open: Sundays-Thursdays, from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Fridays-Saturdays, from 10 to 1 a.m.; Dec. 24, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Dec. 31, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Jan. 1, from 2 to 11 p.m.

2 through 31 December

- **Christmas market in Namur** (70 booths) on Place d'Armes from noon to 7 p.m.

2-4 December

- **Christmas market in Braine-Le-Comte** (70 booths) in the city center from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

2-4 December & 9-11 December

- **Christmas market in Nivelles** at Grand'Place, in the cloister of the Abbey and in large tents around the Collegial Church from 4 to 10 p.m. on Fridays, from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Saturdays and from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sundays.

3-4 December

- **Christmas market in Fleurus** (50 booths) at the Ferme de Martinrou on Chaussée de Charleroi from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Christmas market in Villerot** (40 booths) on Place de l'Eglise from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday.

3-4 December Continued

- **Christmas market in Wavre** (40 booths) on Boulevard de l'Europe from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- **Christmas market in Ramillies** (60 booths) on Avenue des Déportés from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

3-30 December

- **Christmas market in Tournai** on the main square open on weekdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and again 2 to 7 p.m. and in weekends from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

4 December

- **Christmas market in Lessines** (60 booths) on Chaussée Gabrielle Richet.

8 December through 1 January 2012

- **Christmas market in Mouscron** (40 booths) on the Grand'Place from 2 to 8 p.m. on weekdays and from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on the weekends and on public holidays.

9-11 December

- **Christmas market in Havré** (120 booths) at the Château des Ducs de Croÿ from 6 to 11 p.m. on Friday, from 2 to 12 p.m. on Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Christmas market in La Hulpe** (40 booths) near the church from 6 to 10 p.m.
- **Christmas market in Nivelles** (30 booths) on the Grand'Place and cloister from 4 to 10 p.m. on Friday, from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Christmas market in Rebecq** (70 booths) at the Moulin d'Arenberg on Rue Docteur Colson from 7:30 p.m. on Friday and from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.
- **Christmas market in Woluwe-Saint-Lambert** (100 booths) on the Place St-Lambert from 5 to 9 p.m. on Friday, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Christmas market in Ixelles** at Place Flagey from noon to 9 p.m. on Friday, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday.

9-18 December

- **Christmas market in Louvain-La-Neuve** (150 booths) on the Place de l'Université and the Grand'Place from noon to 8 p.m. on weekdays and from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. during the weekends.

10 December

- **Christmas market in Chimay** at the Grand'Place and in the Castle courtyard from 1 to 7 p.m.

10-11 December

- **Christmas market in Binche** (25 booths) on Place du Centenaire 20B from 2 to 9 p.m. on Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Christmas market in Ellezelles** (20 booths) at the hall "Chez Nous" on Rue d'Audenarde from 3 to 9 p.m. on Saturday and from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Christmas market in Evere** (70 booths) at the town hall on Square Hoedemaekers 10 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Christmas market in Florennes** (25 booths) on Place Verte from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Christmas market in Itterbeek** (55 booths) on Keperenberg 37b from 2 to 8 p.m. on Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Christmas market in Leuze-en-Hainaut** (60 booths) at the town hall from 2 to 9 p.m.
- **Christmas market in Waterloo** on the square of the town hall and on Rue F. Libert from noon to 8 p.m.

10-28 December

- **Christmas market and ice-skating rink in Antwerpen** at the Grote Markt from noon to 8 p.m. on Sundays to Thursdays and from noon to 10 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays; from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on 24 & 25 December.

9 through 31 December

- **Christmas market in Mons** (40 booths) on the Grand'Place from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Mondays to Thursdays and from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Fridays to Sundays.

11 December

- **Christmas market in Silly** (50 booths) on the square and at the cultural center from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Courtesy Photo

SHAPE Trips & Tours

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



Courtesy Photo

Events & Happenings

- **Aachen and Monschau Christmas Markets, December 3** - Visit the many wooden stalls embellished with fairy lights on the Monschau market square. Trip also stops at the Aachen's 'Christmas City'. Price: €50. Departs SHAPE at 6:30 a.m. and returns at 10:30 p.m. **Only a few seats left.**
- **London Christmas Shopping, December 10** - The day is yours to see London in lights. Price: €65. Departs SHAPE at 5:30 a.m. and returns at 1:30 a.m. **Only a few seats left.**
- **Brugge Snow & Ice Sculpture Festival, December 17** - Come see 300,000 kilos of ice & 400 tons of snow, kept at minus 5°C, that a team of 40 international artists have transformed into an Ice Fantasy. Enjoy a drink "on the rocks" at their very own ice bar. Dress warmly. Then head into town for the festive Christmas Markets complete with ice skating rink. Price: €43 Adult, €40 Youth 4-12, €30 Child 0-3. Departs SHAPE at 9 a.m. and returns at 8 p.m.
- **Paris after Christmas, December 27** - Come escape with us for a relaxing day in Paris. Whether you're strolling along the Seine or soaking up city life from a sidewalk café, you'll see why Paris is the ideal spot for a relaxing get away. Of course, you can't miss the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe, and the Louvre. Savor an éclair from a pâtisserie or a glass of Beaujolais in a romantic bistro. From culinary delights to cultural sights, Paris will tempt every one of your senses. Price: 45 Euro. Departs SHAPE at 8 a.m. and returns at 10 p.m.
- **New Year's In London, December 30 - January 1 (Friday - Sunday)** - London is one of the most popular places to spend New Year's Eve. There will be a fabulous fireworks display at the London Eye, and the annual New Year's Day Parade starting at Parliament Square at noon. Price: €420 Single, €260 Double, Twin, Triple, €175 Youth 5-12*, €100 Child 0-4* (*When sharing a room with two fully paid guests). Departs SHAPE at 7 a.m. on Friday and returns at 11:30 p.m. on Sunday. **Only three rooms left.**
- **Amsterdam, January 7** - Take a ride through the winding canal lined streets on a guided bicycle tour, walk the town or visit the Van Gogh Museum, Anne Frank House, sip coffee at the world's best cafés or enjoy a day of leisure in this beautiful city. Amsterdam is famed for its beautiful canals and outrageous cafés. So whether you're an art lover, music lover or a culture lover - Amsterdam has more to offer than you could possibly wish for. Come spend a day in this unique city. Price is 40 €. Depart SHAPE at 7 a.m. and returns at midnight.

30 November

- **Alcoholics Anonymous** - The English speaking SHAPE Alcoholics Anonymous Group meets on Wednesdays, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at SHAPE, ASAP (Army Substance Abuse Program), Bldg. 342. Members support one another's 12 Step recovery program and freely share their AA story with newcomers. Family members, friends, and anyone interested in AA are welcome to attend. For a recorded message with telephone contact numbers, call 049-405-8137. For English speaking meetings in Brussels and throughout Europe see the website www.aa-europe.net.
- **Preschool Story Time** - Meets every Wednesday from 10 to 10:30 a.m. at the SHAPE International Library and helps preschoolers build confidence, learn socialization skills and make friends. There is no fee for this program. For more information, call the library at DSN 423-5631 or civilian 065-44-5631.
- **Infant Massage Class** - Meets every Wednesday at 11 a.m. in the SHAPE Healthcare Facility second floor conference room. Expectant mothers and mothers with newborns and older infants are welcome. Mats and oils are provided. No pre-registration is required. Open to all U.S., NATO and SHAPE ID cardholders. Call ACS DSN 423-4274 or civilian 065-44-4274 for more information.

2 December

- **Alcoholics Anonymous** - The English speaking SHAPE AA Group meets on Fridays from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at SHAPE, ASAP (Army Substance Abuse Program), Bldg. 342. Members support one another's 12 Step recovery program and freely share their AA story with newcomers. Family members, friends, and anyone interested in AA are welcome to attend. For recorded message with telephone contact numbers, call 049-405-8137. For English speaking meetings in Brussels and throughout Europe see www.aa-europe.net.
- **Asperger/Autism Support Group Family Bowling Night** - If you or someone you know has been diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome or an Autism Spectrum Disorder, join this evening of fun at the Pizza Bowl from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Shoe rental and games will be at a reduced rate and food is available for purchase. For information and registration, call DSN 423-5324 or civilian 065-44-5324.
- **Parents' Night Out** - When is the last time you enjoyed a kid free evening or ate a meal without interruptions? Sign up for the special "Holidays around the World" Parents Night Out from 6:30 to 11:30 p.m. Cost is \$20 per child and includes a small mid-evening snack. Make sure your child has had dinner before dropping off.

5 December

- **Stroller Time** - Bring your child and stroller for a walk on the SHAPE path from 10 to 11 a.m. from the ACS, Bldg. 318 on SHAPE.

6 December

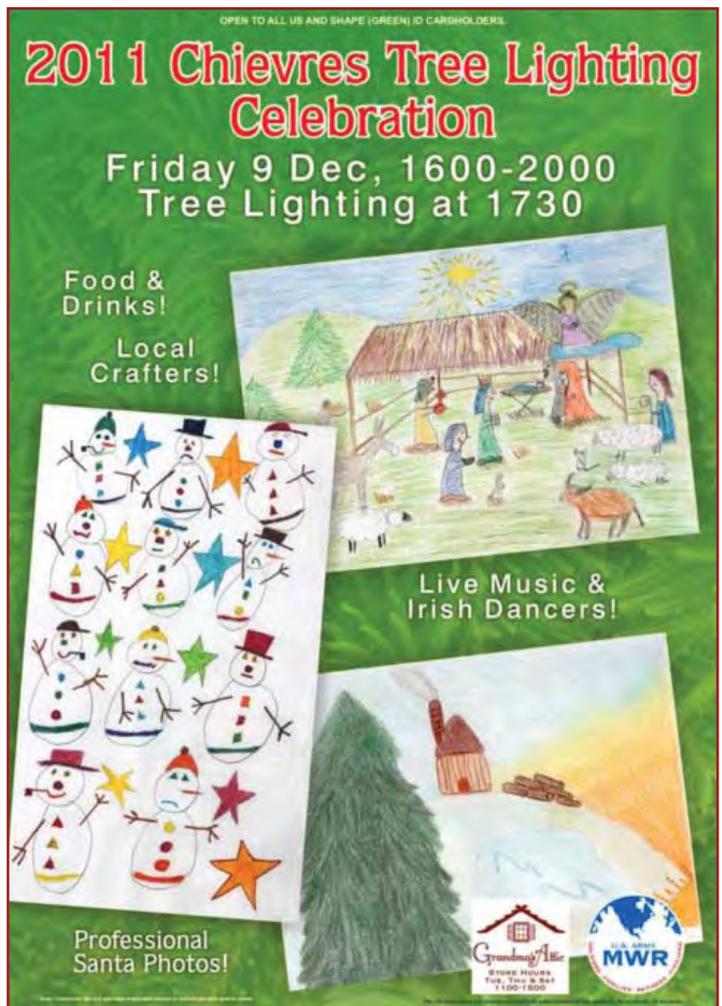
- **Preschool Story Time** - As of today, enjoy the additional Preschool Story Time every Tuesday from 5 to 5:30 p.m. for stories, finger plays, songs. There is no fee for this program. For more information, call the library at DSN 423-5631 or civilian 065-44-5631.

6-8 December

- **Instructor Training Course** from 8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at ACS, Bldg. 318, SHAPE. Build a foundation of presentation skills, group interaction skills and the ability to demonstrate confidence in front of a group. Available to all military branches, civilian employees, volunteers and family members.

7 December

- **Breastfeeding Support Group** will meet from 10 to 11 a.m. in the SHAPE Healthcare Facility second floor conference room. For information, call SHAPE WIC Overseas at civilian 065-44-5971.
- **Make The Right Move** - Prepare yourself for your next PCS and attend the "Make the Right Move" briefing from 2 to 3 p.m. at ACS, Bldg. 318, SHAPE. For information, call DSN 423-5324 or civilian 065-44-5324.



AT USAG BRUSSELS

- **Taco Night** is back at the 3-Star Recreation Center on USAG Brussels. Join us Thursday, starting at 5:30 p.m. Prices are \$8 for adults and \$6 for children 10 years and under. Children 2 and under eat for free. For more information contact the 3-Star Recreation Center at 02-717-9822 or DSN 368-9822.
- **Movie Night** - Before you plan a trip to the movie theater, check out the listing of free first run movies being shown at the 3-Star Recreation Center. Movies are shown on Thursday and Friday evening beginning at 6 p.m. For more information contact the 3-Star Recreation Center at 02-717-9822 or DSN 368-9822.
- **Youth Sports** - Youth Sports and Fitness has begun its fall sports seasons for cheerleading, flag football, and soccer. For more information on games and practice times please see your child's coach or contact the Youth Sports and Fitness office at 02-717-9680 or DSN 368-9680.
- **The Northern Law Center** legal office will be closed Nov. 29 due to personnel shortages. Normal hours will resume the following Tuesday, Dec. 6.
- **Children's Christmas Craft Day** sponsored by the USAG Brussels Chapel. To register, call civilian 02-717-9677.
- **4th Annual Army versus Navy Co-ed Flag Football Game**, Dec. 3 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at the Sterrebeek Annex. For more information, call DSN 368-9667 or civilian 02-717-9667.

FITNESS CLASSES

All classes are held at the USAG Brussels Fitness Center in Bldg. 3 and are free of charge. For more information, call 02-717-9667.

- **Big Will's Body Shop** - Sessions are from 1 to 2 p.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
- **Spin Class** - Every Monday and Thursday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., every Saturday from 10 to 11 a.m.
- **Yoga** - Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 to 11 a.m.
- **Yoga-Flo** - Every Tuesday and Thursday from 10 to 11 a.m.
- **Zumba** - Every Tuesday and Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- **Body in Motion** - Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
- **Zumba Toning** - Every Saturday from 11 a.m. to noon and every Monday and Thursday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
- **Fitness Program** - through October 31. By joining the program you may be eligible for three hours of duty time per week to exercise. Application packets are available at the USAG Brussels Fitness Center.

The Fitness Center is open Monday through Friday from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Holiday hours are from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call the Fitness Center at DSN 368-9667.

ANDREW FEDERAL HOLIDAY GIVE-AWAYS

Andrews Federal Credit Union has announced it is supporting its garrison communities through the upcoming holiday season by giving away six \$100 Andrews Federal Visa Gift Cards. Each Andrews Federal branch is offering a chance to win a \$100 Andrews Federal Visa Gift Card to logistically supported US citizens, age 18 years or older, now through Dec. 16. Stop by the branch during business hours between now and Friday, Dec. 16, to enter to win. It is as easy as completing an entry card. Remember, to be eligible to win, you must be a logistically support U.S. citizen, age 18 or older.

The Brussels Branch is located on USAG Brussels in building #4, hours of operation are: Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

To learn more about Andrews Federal Credit Union and its community involvement, visit www.andrewsfcu.org.

USAG BRUSSELS
**WINTER
 FEST 2011**
**FRIDAY
 2 DECEMBER**


1600-1900
Santa's Workshop
 in the 3 Star Recreation Center
 Enjoy crafts, hot chocolate and a visit with
 Santa! Bring your camera for pictures!


1800
Tree Lighting Ceremony
 at USAG Brussels Courtyard

For more information please contact
 DSN 368-9763/CIV 02-717-9763