



Get ready for college

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2017: The Year in Review

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Infrastructure upgrades, improvements within community to continue in 2018

By Larry Reilly
USAG Public Affairs Office

During 2017, construction could be found across the Stuttgart military community as roads were torn up to replace cobblestones on Panzer Kaserne and heating lines on Patch Barracks. Construction sites were also evident with the building of the Subway Sandwich concession on Kelley Barracks and the repairs to Bldg. 300 on Robinson Barracks.

Whether it was road or facility work, the construction sites also had an impact on the flow of traffic and the availability of parking throughout the community.

"One of the critical needs is our infrastructure. The power, heating, water, and sewer infrastructure on our five installations requires extensive revitalization," said Col. Neal A. Corson, commander, USAG-Stuttgart. (See p. 2). "There is no doubt; it will be challenging and at times frustrating as the roads and buildings on our installations will be under repair. However, in the long



Photo by John Reese, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Construction workers repair the walkway to an entrance of a residential building in the Panzer Housing Area after repairing the heating pipes to the building.

run, we will have a much improved community."

Future projects such as the new commissary on Panzer Kaserne or the new elementary school on Patch Barracks may be a few years down

the road. However, the community was able to reap the benefits of some completed projects in 2017.

"We were able to complete the construction of the artificial turf sports field on Panzer Kaserne,"

said William R. Rossignol, chief of engineering, Directorate of Public Works. "Two projects completed just before the end of 2017 were the new Subway food outlet and the German Cantina on Kelley Barracks."

For those who work and live on Kelley, the two food outlets are a welcome sight. However, they may want to enjoy a leisurely walk to the get their food fix because traversing the streets will continue to be a challenge in 2018 as the project to repair broken and old drainage pipes under the roadway will continue. Parking at Kelley will also be a tough task throughout the New Year.

Patch Barracks will also challenge drivers trying to maneuver around and looking for parking spots. The current construction project repairing the heating lines and causing havoc along some of the main streets on Patch will continue well into 2018. The New Year brings the start of projects to build a parking garage behind the commissary and to demolish the old elementary school.

See Construction, p.2

Cyber warriors train, compete to defend the world from future hackers

Story and photos by John Reese
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

The CyberPatriots of Patch Middle School went into action at The Hub Youth Center, Patch Barracks, to protect vulnerable computers from simulated hacking attempts, Dec. 9.

The young ladies, all 12-13-years old and sporting their blue team shirts identifying them as cybercrime fighters, were completing second and more challenging round of securing computer operating systems.

"Basically, they're reverse computer hacking," explained Girl's STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) Club sponsor, faculty advisor for CyberPatriots and co-sponsor of the Patch Middle School Robotics Team, 7th grade science teacher Rachel Makle. "They find system vulnerabilities, viruses - anything that could present a problem for a cyber network."

The students worked intently on timed problems, some in groups and some individually. A chorus of cheers echoed across The



CyberPatriot Melayna Tingy focuses on finding vulnerabilities in a computer's operating system at The Hub, Dec. 9.

Hub whenever they successfully completed a task.

"In the first round, they scored in the top 50 percent of all teams worldwide, and they'd only had two practices at that point," Makle said.

There are 1,110 middle school teams registered, said signal officer Maj. Natasja K. Allen, U.S. European

Command, who recently started the Patch CyberPatriots team. Allen's mission is cybersecurity for EUCOM. Her goal in starting the club was to develop future cyber professionals by giving them an early start on the security aspect, so by the time they reach college, cybersecurity is

See STEM, p.12



Megan Newkirk, 12, is mentored by Maj. Natasja Allen during round two of the STEM CyberPatriot competition.

Closing one chapter, starting another with 2018

By Col. Neal A. Corson
Commander, USAG-Stuttgart

After closing out 2017 and reflecting on the six months I have been in position, I am thoroughly convinced that the Stuttgart is a one of kind community. With its wide-ranging missions, diverse workforce, and vibrant community, I'm am certainly glad I live here.

Throughout my career I have been a consumer of many garrison services and enjoyed the sense of community that living on an installation brings, however, I did not fully appreciate the true mission and responsibilities that the garrison team is charged with on a daily basis.

From the community-wide events, programs and services the FMWR team conducts to the infrastructure upgrades and housing services the Public Works

team oversees, and all the services, and programs the other garrison directorates seamlessly provide; the Stuttgart community rivals a small stateside city.

As we venture into 2018, the garrison team with guidance from the Department of the Army, the Installation Management Command and senior leaders in Stuttgart will access and evaluate its events, services and programs. The evaluation process will take into consideration the fiscal year funding and the need/use of all its services and programs.

Bottom line, if a service or program is not being used, it could be eliminated as a cost-saving measure to focus limited funds on critical

needs within our community.

One of the critical needs is our infrastructure. The power, heating, water, and sewer infrastructure on our five installations requires extensive revitalization. The projects on Patch, Kelly and Panzer to update our heating and sewer infrastructure are examples of the level of disruption that these projects create. As we begin the construction of the new commissary and Patch Elementary School the disruption to traffic and parking are going to continue.

There is no doubt, it will be challenging and at times frustrating as the roads and buildings on our installations will be under repair at one time or another. However, in

the long run, we will have a much improved community.

In addition to construction, the community and garrison services are continuously pressured with an ever increasing population. Although we may not see a major increase in the overall number of community members, there is a slow and steady increase each year. We are already at or reaching the limit of our ability to provide top quality services in certain areas to all members of the Stuttgart community. This is an issue that the garrison is constantly engaging our higher headquarters in an effort to secure more resources.

As we transition to 2018 the Garrison team will continue to pursue ways to increase the quality of life within our community to ensure that everyone who calls Stuttgart their home away from home will also say ... "I am glad I live here."



Col. Neal A. Corson

Construction

continued from p.1

More to follow, as many more projects are planned for Patch Barracks during the next couple of years.

If you are looking for that sleepy little installation, don't look toward the Stuttgart hilltops as the roads on Robinson Barracks will be under construction to replace all the heating lines for the residence. The stairwells and entrance roadway repair projects will get underway as well. The resident units in Bldg. 184 will be converted from two and three-bedroom units to three and four-bedroom units.

"RB will look like all the other bases during the next two years; construction everywhere," Rossignol said.

At Panzer Kaserne, the commissary construction project will start to show signs of life, and a project to install a permanent access control point canopy will be started. The construction project in the Panzer housing area to repair heating lines will continue well into 2018.

It is said that patience is a virtue.



Photos by John Reese, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Right, concrete hardens before pipes are reburied; above, workers tamp down gravel at the entrance of a Panzer housing building.

That personality characteristic will come in handy in 2018, as many construction projects are underway throughout the community.

"As we transition to 2018, the Garrison team will continue to pursue ways to increase the quality of life within our community to

ensure that everyone who calls Stuttgart their home away from home will also say ... "I am glad I live here," Corson said.

(Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of articles that will outline the various construction projects that will be conducted on the five



USAG-Stuttgart installations during the next couple of years.)

The Citizen

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Dec. into Jan.: What was and will be

By USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Ped Gate

The pedestrian gates on Patch and Robinson Barracks were back online; as of press time, the pedestrian gate at Kelley Barracks was not functioning; in the meantime, the Military Police will continue to man the gate for pedestrian traffic, weekdays, 7:30-9 a.m., unless they're needed to respond to a call. Check the announcements page on The Stuttgart Citizen online for updates.

Worldwide Caution

The Department of State's continues its efforts to provide U.S. citizens traveling abroad with information about safety and security events. It updated a Worldwide Caution with information on the continuing threat of terrorist actions, political violence, and criminal activity against U.S. citizens and interests abroad, Dec. 6, replacing the worldwide caution dated Sept. 14, 2017. U.S. citizens are strongly encouraged to maintain a high level of vigilance and take appropriate steps to increase their security awareness when traveling. To better prepare for possible emergencies, U.S. citizens are encouraged to read Country Specific Information pages, Travel Warnings, and Travel Alerts on travel.state.gov before planning a trip.

AFN

AFN television went to high-definition broadcasting using easyTV set-top boxes, Dec. 12. If you already use an easyTV box, all you needed to do was turn it on.



Photo by Larry Reilly, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Touting ugly sweaters and navigating wet streets on Patch Barracks, participants in the Dec. 16 Ugly Sweater 5K race also endured a mixture of rain and snow.

The great community volunteers of the Stuttgart USO Center provided a Christmas dinner, gifts and games for single and unaccompanied service members, Dec. 14. Watch for upcoming events hosted by the USO throughout 2018.

Also on Dec. 14, the Stuttgart chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army conducted an information technology job fair at the Swabian Special Events Center, Patch Barracks, highlighting employment opportunities for community

members. Fairgoers met with recruiters and passed along resumes. If you missed this job fair, the next opportunity by AUSA is slated to take place March 27.

Younger people looking for work experience had their own Youth Job Fair at The Hub, Patch Barracks, Dec. 12-14. The fair, hosted by Child and Youth Services, helped youth prepare resumes and learn how to get through interviews. Those who attended were able to apply for positions lasting up to 12 weeks

during the winter semester.

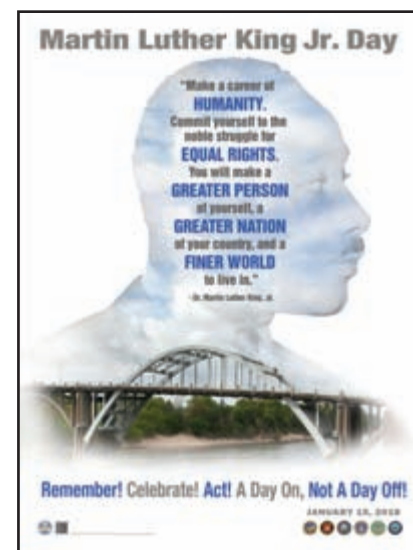
The last big run (or walk/run with your dog or push a stroller) of the year hosted by Family & Morale, Welfare and Recreation was the Dec. 16 "Ugly Sweater Run." Scores of runners clad in their ugliest sweaters ran five kilometers from and back the Patch Fitness Center while the weather outside was frightful.

An observance for Martin Luther King Day, hosted by U.S. Africa Command, is scheduled to take place at noon, Jan. 11, in the Kelley Theater. The theme for this year's event is "Remember! Celebrate! Act! A day on, not a day off!" The third Monday in January is observed as MLK Day. and has become the MLK Day of Service, a chance for Americans to perform volunteer work. This year, the third Monday, Jan. 15, falls on Dr. King's birthday.



Photo courtesy of Stuttgart USO Center staff

Sarah Kemp, manager, USO Stuttgart Center (center, green dress), welcomes single and unaccompanied service members to an evening of food, fun and family-atmosphere.



Tips to prepare parents, students for financing college

By Alisha Pabon

Special to The Stuttgart Citizen

One of the most stressful aspects for high school seniors is applying to college, and applying for scholarships and financial aid.

A study conducted by New York University concluded that 49 percent of students reported feeling a great deal of stress caused by homework and preparing for college.

Planning how to finance tuition and expenses is a large factor in preparing for college. According to the National Student Financial Wellness Study by Ohio State University, seven out of 10 college students feel stressed about their personal finances. Nearly 60 percent are worried about having enough money to pay for school, while half are concerned about monthly expenses.

Merilee Nevins, U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart's Army Community Service Financial Readiness specialist, offers military community members the following tips, and advice to parents and students about saving for college.

"An important first step for college is figuring out how to pay for it," Nevis said. "Paying for college may seem scary, but there are resources to assist you. For instance, the GI bill, FAFSA, scholarships and grants."

The Post 9/11 Government Issue Bill (GI bill)

The GI Bill is applicable for individuals who served on active duty after Sept. 10, 2001. Transferring the GI bill must be completed while serving as an active member of the armed forces. The benefits include up to 36 months of education benefits. If the college is a "Yellow Ribbon School," benefits could also include a monthly housing allowance, annual books and supplies stipend, and a one-time rural benefit payment.

Financial Aid

For financial aid, the Free

Application For Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is a form that can be prepared annually by current and future college students. The FAFSA determines eligibility for student financial aid.

The college or

career school

will then

determine how much financial aid a person is eligible to receive, by reviewing the FAFSA.

Financial aid is calculated using the cost of attendance, an estimated reasonable cost of completing a full academic year (usually, nine months) as a full-time student. The cost is then subtracted by the expected family contribution, the estimate of the parents' and/or the student's ability to contribute to a year of post-secondary education expenses. The total equals your financial need. Remember, scholarships can affect financial aid.

Scholarships

Start the scholarship search process sooner than later, and be aware of scholarship scams." For example, scholarships are free and should not request financial information.

The biggest source of scholarships come from a college directly, but the most prestigious, competitive, highly ranked colleges do not provide any merit-based scholarships.

Not all scholarships require perfect test scores or straight A's, unless it is a merit-based scholarship. Students should apply for any merit, athletic and artistic scholarships they qualify for.

Depending on the organization and committee, an essay could be required. However, when receiving a scholarship, also ask the

organization what is needed to maintain that award. In some cases, scholarships can even be renewable.

If a scholarship renews for more than one year, there are often requirements

to keep the

award,

such

as

having a

certain GPA or

keeping the same

major.

Current high

school students

are encouraged

to be in contact

with a counselor

throughout the year.

Counselors have

reliable resources

available. Mesharn

Joseph, a counselor at

Stuttgart High School,

recommends a variety of

different options:

- ✓ Check your email or the daily student bulletin for scholarship information.
- ✓ The guidance office has books with scholarship information.
- ✓ Check the scholarship wall, just outside the guidance office, which is updated with references of scholarships available, including the description and requirements for applying.
- ✓ Visit scholarship websites. A list can be emailed upon request, and are occasionally placed in the student bulletin.
- ✓ Keep up with deadlines for both colleges and universities you are applying to and for scholarships.
- ✓ Visit a list of some available scholarships for military dependents on www.stuttgartcitizen.com.

Grants

Grants are federal need-based rewards that do not need to be paid back, making them

another viable option for financial aid in lieu of loans or scholarships.

A Federal Pell Grant is awarded to students who can demonstrate the requisite level of financial need, status as a full-time or part-time student, with intent to attend an academic school year or less. Most of the recipients come from families where the annual household income falls below \$25,000.

The Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, gives anything between \$100 and \$4,000 per year depending on the gravity of the person's financial aid need.

Lastly, a teacher grant is available for people who want to become a teacher in a high-need field in a low income area. Certain classes are required and you must teach in a low income area for a certain amount of time. If this is not done, the grant becomes a loan.

For more information about financial planning for college, check out the free Financial Readiness classes available to all ID cardholders at ACS, Bldg. 2915, Panzer Kaserne.

The next "Lunch and Learn Financial Readiness" class focused on saving for college, scholarships and student loans is Feb. 7 at ACS, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. The class helps attendees to create a financial plan to make college dreams a reality. It also helps people to become familiar with the variety of scholarship resources, and calculate the cost of college to set realistic savings goals. The instructor explores all types of tuition assistance including loans, grants, scholarships and the GI Bill. Participants will also learn about the processes and deadlines for applying for financial aid. For more information, call 431-3362 or 07031-15-3362.

(Editor's Note: Alisha Pabon is a senior at Stuttgart High School and is a part of the Career Practicum program for the garrison Public Affairs office. She is interested in majoring journalism and communications.)



NEWS BRIEFS

**CFC continues ...**

The Combined Federal Campaign, the annual giving campaign making it easier for federal employees to give back to a cause that matters to them, has been continued until Jan. 12. Donate to the vetted charity of your choice by completing a pledge form online or fill out one with your unit representative. Money can be deducted directly from your paycheck for one-time or continuous giving. Visit www.stuttgartcitizen.com and search CFC.

Plethora of packages

The Community Mail Rooms still have a lot of parcels to be picked up. The CMRs have limited space to accommodate the tremendous influx of packages. Community members are encouraged to help clear out the backlog.

Road & weather updates

Stay informed about on-post road and winter weather conditions by visiting the garrison Facebook page around 5:30 a.m. each morning to the garrison Facebook Page. Individuals living off-post are responsible for assessing their own commuting area, and should contact their command if they believe it is unsafe to travel to work due to poor weather or road conditions.

RSO temporarily closed

The Retiree Services Office, located in Bldg. 2915, Rm. 122, is closed until further notice. The office is normally run by volunteers. Currently, there are no volunteers or a retiree council. USAG Stuttgart Retirement Services is currently looking for a new volunteer retiree council. Retiree actions will still be processed by the garrison Retirement Services program manager.

If you need a retiree action, or if you're a community member interested in volunteering to run the RSO or to be on the retiree council, call at 431-2130 or 07031-15-2130.

March into 2018

The Stuttgart German-American Wandering Club posted its pre-registration list for the first half of

the new year. The first volksmarch of the year takes place in Grabenstetten, Jan. 7, and the next event is a bus trip to Rothenburg ob der Tauber, Feb. 24. The club helps out by organizing carpools, providing GPS coordinates and more. To see the schedule from now through June, visit www.sgawc.org/archive/Januar-Juni-2018.pdf.

TSP G Fund hits ceiling

As of Dec. 13, the U.S. Treasury was unable to fully invest the Government Securities Investment (G) Fund due to the statutory ceiling on the federal debt. However, G Fund investors remain fully protected and G Fund earnings are fully guaranteed by the

federal government. This statutory guarantee has effectively protected G Fund investors many times over the past 25 years. G Fund account balances will continue to accrue earnings and will be updated each business day, and loans and withdrawals will be unaffected.

Got a dry tree?

Many people like to keep their Christmas trees up well into January. The USAG Stuttgart Fire Department reminds community members to properly dispose of dry trees due to the fire hazard; check with your building coordinator. For those living off post, check your trash removal schedule for tree pickup day.

USAG STUTTGART APPLICATION

Official app of U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart, U.S. military installation in Stuttgart, Germany under the Department of Defense Installation Management Command Europe is now available in the App Store for iOS devices and Google Play for Android devices.



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HPV: It's not just for girls!

By Maj. Lisa Dennis
Army Health Clinic Stuttgart

January is Cervical Health Awareness month, and the Army Health Clinic Stuttgart would like to raise the awareness and provide you with facts about how women can protect themselves from human papillomavirus (HPV) and cervical cancer.

The HPV infection is spread through sexual activity and is also a major cause of cervical cancer. However, HPV is not confined to females; it affects males as well.

About 79 million Americans currently have HPV, yet many of them don't know they're infected. Sadly, each year in the United States, more than 11,000 women get cervical cancer and 11,000 men get cancers caused by HPV. When cervical cancer is found early, it is highly treatable and associated

with long survival and good quality of life.

In addition to HPV, other risk factors women should be aware of for cervical cancer include: smoking, using birth control pills for a long time (more than five years), giving birth to more than three children, and having several sexual partners.

"For prevention, the HPV vaccine is given to 11-12 year old girls and boys in a two-shot series, with the second one given 6-12 months after the first dose," said Keanya Britton, immunizations nurse, Kelley Clinic. "If the series is started after the age of 15, a patient will need to get three doses. The HPV vaccine can be given up to the age of 21 for males and 26 for females."

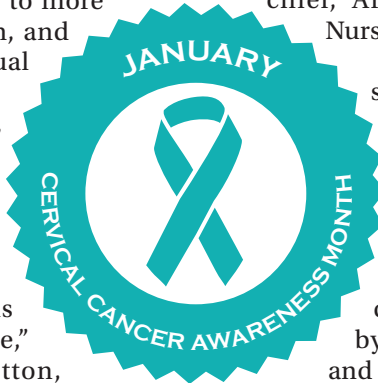
cervical health and detection of cancer, women should have routine cervical cancer screenings.

"Cervical cancer can often be prevented with regular screening tests called Pap tests and follow-up care," said Capt. Scott Maddox, chief, Army Public Health Nursing at the clinic.

Cervical cancer screenings can help detect abnormal (changed) cells early, before they turn into cancer. Most deaths from cervical cancer could be prevented by regular Pap tests and follow-up care.

Army Health Clinic Stuttgart encourages community members to take an active part in their healthcare.

"We encourage women to get their routine well-woman exams. For most women, this should be done every three years with a



Get immunized for HPV

To make an appointment to discuss HPV immunization with one of our providers, please call 590-2900 or 06037-2900. To begin the series for your son or daughter, you may walk in to the immunization clinic or call 590-1617 or 06037-1617.

screening for HPV done at the same time," said Maj. Katherine Converse, clinical nurse officer-in-charge at the Patch Health clinic.

Parents of pre-teens and teens should bring their children in for the routine HPV immunization. Also, as women age, Pap and HPV screenings should be done every five years, providing they remain normal.

Finally, Stuttgart community leaders should spread the word to others. Add information about HPV and cervical cancer prevention to your newsletter, tweet about cervical cancer health awareness month, add this article to your website, and consider hosting a community event to raise cervical health.

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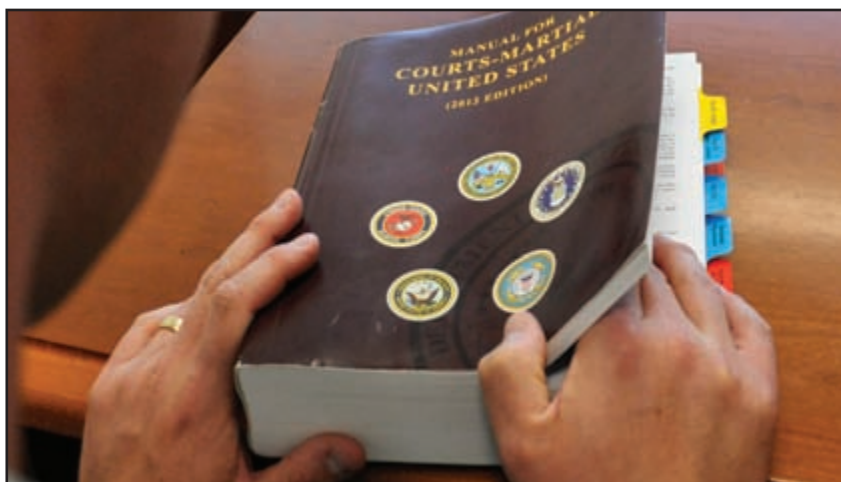
Ask a JAG: Understanding your housing lease agreement

By Capt. Matthew N. Karchske
Judge Advocate, Stuttgart Law Center

Q: My New Year's Resolution is to understand my German housing lease agreement. I know it's not the same as back home, and I keep hearing horror stories from people who lost their deposit or got stuck with huge bills. Help!

A: Living on the local economy and integrating yourself with the German community is an exciting endeavor. However, you are correct to note differences in law and legal culture. Herr Werner Sukup, the German attorney at the Legal Assistance Office (LAO), advises clients regarding landlord and tenant issues. He often encounters clients who, before leaving Germany, experience problems with their landlords that may impact their finances; specifically, their security deposits.

Unfortunately, in some instances, it is too late to ensure the client is fighting a winning battle. Thus, the LAO recently began to offer a landlord and tenant briefing for the community. The briefing targets newcomers to Germany, but all members of the Stuttgart community seeking to learn more about local landlord and tenant



law are welcome. The briefing is held every Tuesday at the Welcome Center on Panzer Kaserne starting at 10:20 a.m. Here are a few key points that everyone should keep in mind when living off post:

- Everything, and I stress, *everything*, should be in writing. Oral agreements with your landlord are highly discouraged and most likely unenforceable.
- You have a duty to notify your landlord in writing of required repairs. Failure to notify your landlord can result in severe penalties. Real-life example: A client notices a small leaking pipe in his basement prior to going on leave for

three weeks. The leak is minor and a small bucket catches all leaking water. When the client returns from the U.S., the entire basement was flooded and the walls were barely standing because the pipe exploded. The client breached his duty to notify the landlord of required repairs and, as a result, was liable for nearly €100,000. Approximately €1,000 is withheld from his check each month.

- If you request an upgrade to your apartment, such as a more energy sufficient heating plant, the landlord may relay up to 11 percent of the cost to you each year that you remain at the apartment. Thus, over nine years, you'll pay almost

the entire cost. Contact the LAO for more information.

Keep in mind that many contracts in Germany are self-extending/ automatically renewing unless you terminate in time (six weeks or three months prior before it would normally expire), usually in writing. It is highly recommended you use the German postal system and send the letter as "Einwurfeinschreiben" (registered mail with return receipt, confirming on which day it was placed in the letterbox of the receiver) or you could be on the hook for another year.

Pictures are a good sample of good evidence, but keep the following in mind: Date and time the photos, so you can proof when this photo was taken; always use the highest possible resolution and use the flash to ensure the best possible picture quality; store the pictures at (at least) three different locations such as a SD-card, a hard drive, on a DVD, in the cloud, etc.

Legal documents such as those from the courthouse can be served by simply putting it in your mailbox and the objection time (quite often 14 days or one month) starts the very next day. It is therefore strongly recommended that you check your mail box 2-3 times each week.

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Photo by Holly DeCarlo-White, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Carolina Panthers players Mario Addison, Dean Marlowe, Andrew Norwell, Kawann Short and Trai Turner visited the Stuttgart Military Community and spent time with service members and their families stationed here as part of a week-long USO/NFL tour.

By John Reese
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

The past year was busier than the year before, a trend that will continue in an age of less resources and an equal-to-or-greater-than ratio of work. The garrison's Public Affairs Office covered much of what happened in the local military community through the newsstand and online editions of The Stuttgart Citizen, and on popular social media platforms, like Facebook.

January

The year began by observing the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Jan. 11, hosted by U.S. Africa Command. The guest speaker was Juandalynn R. Abernathy, daughter of Rev. Dr. Ralph D. Abernathy, who succeeded King after his assassination.

Physics students from Stuttgart High School visited the CERN Hadron Collider near Geneva, Switzerland, one of the world's most important scientific experiments.

The 554th Military Police

Company, the garrison's police force, practiced responding to an active shooter during a training exercise at Stuttgart High School, Jan. 27. The MPs were supported by the school's administrative staff and 18 drama students who added realism.

SHS hosted and won a four-team wrestling tournament, grappling with students from Hohenfels, Munich and Vilseck.

February

Sir Waldo Weathers, saxophonist extraordinaire for James Brown, performed live at the garrison's African-American History Month observance at the Panzer Exchange. Weathers dazzled the crowd with his musical talents.

German and American football fans stayed up late to watch the New England Patriots beat the Atlanta Falcons in Super Bowl LI at the Galaxy Bowling & Entertainment Center on Panzer Kaserne.

The garrison's Best Warrior Competition was held under chilly gray

2017: The Year

skies, Feb. 13-15, naming Pvt. Joshua Young and Staff Sgt. Jay Cortner Soldier and NCO of the Year, respectively.

The Stuttgart Theatre Center opened its season with an impressive performance of "A Streetcar Named Desire," Feb. 17. The top-notch caliber of the play made it worthy of a Topper Award (the military's version of the Tony) nomination.

Two decades of air defense over Stuttgart was marked by the Joint Tactical Ground Station on Kelley Barracks, Feb. 19. The mobile system can be deployed by air and be operational within two hours of landing.

A sponsorship rodeo, an event to bring together key personnel to develop knowledgeable sponsors for incoming personnel, filled the entrance of the Panzer Exchange, Feb. 22.

The Stuttgart Piranhas Swim team wrapped up February with 37 gold, 37 silver and 22 bronze medals at the European Forces Swim League, Feb. 25-26.

March

The Spring Bazaar was bigger and better, March 17, in the Patch Fitness Center, with more vendors offering a wider variety of products.

March saw the first visit the National Football League teams. Players from the Carolina Panthers lunched at the 10th Special Forces Group dining facility, March 10, signing autographs and greeting fans.

Although it's a "purple" joint-service community, this garrison was declared the Army's best worldwide, receiving the Army Communities of Excellence gold medal in March. The garrison's Army Community Service was also recognized, receiving "Public Sector Innovation Award for the 21st Century" first place.

April

In April, the 100th Military Police Detachment's working dogs were featured in a controlled aggression demonstration video.

April marked the first time in more than a decade without a biweekly newsstand edition of The Stuttgart Citizen. A special PCS-out issue was printed to inform personnel leaving the community on what to do. Production resumed in August as a monthly newspaper.

May

Asian American, Pacific Islander Heritage Month was celebrated with dancing, singing and food sampling at the Panzer Exchange.

The second of two special PCS issues hit the stands, this one welcoming newcomers to the Stuttgart military community. Copies of this



Thousands gathered on Patch Barracks Day in the traditional American way: with family fun and fireworks.

issue are placed in rooms at the Kelley and Panzer hotels, and are available at in-processing and PAO.

June

Dr. Michelle Sanders, a physician serving at the Kelly and Patch health clinics, swam the English Channel as part of a relay team, crossing it in recognition of the 100th anniversary of U.S. forces in Europe.

July

Independence Day was the biggest event in July, with thousands of community members enjoying American traditions like barbecued foods, bands, games and a huge fireworks display.

The garrison welcomed a new commander, July 12, when Col. Neal Corson accepted the reins from Col. Glenn Dickenson.

Fallen military personnel were honored by the 10th Run to Remember,



Michael D. Formica, Installation Manager, passes the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart garrison commander during the change of command ceremony on Patch Barracks, July 12, 2017.



Photo by Kevin S. Abel, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart's Stuttgart Theatre Center's production of "A Streetcar Named Desire" was awarded Best Play at the 2017 U.S. Army Installation Management Command (IMCOM) Europe Tournament of Plays (Toppers), April 29, 2017.

Year in Review



Photo by John Reese, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

July 4, 2017 to celebrate Independence with a patriotic parade, barbecue, music,

July 29. The 5k and half-marathon runs were organized to recognize Gold Star spouses, and the 2017 run was started by Gold Star spouse Michelle Martell.

August

The annual Communities Activities, Registration and Education Fair brought together representatives from almost every garrison agency, government or not, in the Patch Fitness Center, Aug. 26. Simultaneously, the USO held a "Fun in the Sun" day across the street on Husky Field, while a flea market filled the gym's parking lot. It was a beautiful day with almost as many participating community members as the 4th of July.

August's next big event came late in the month: the first day of school, Aug. 28. Students at Robinson Barracks Elementary School, Patch Barracks Middle School, and the three schools on Panzer Kaserne (the temporarily



Photo by Kevin S. Abel, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

ment Command Directorate-Europe guidon to Col. Neal A. Corson as the new e of command conducted at Washington

relocated Patch Elementary, and Stuttgart Elementary and Stuttgart High) resumed classes and the day went smoothly, despite detours due to construction and heavier traffic from parents and buses.

September

The month saw two major events: Soldierfest and Stallion Shake 2017.

Soldierfest, a thank you tribute to the troops, took place on the first Monday of the Cannstatter Volksfest, bringing together hundreds of warriors primarily from Germany, the U.S., Austria, France and Switzerland, plus a few small bands representing other countries. The garrison commander and senior enlisted adviser helped tap ceremonial kegs and addressed the festive crowd.

Stallion Shake 2017 was the garrison's biggest force protection exercise of the year, involving or impacting most garrison assets, plus engaging hundreds of host nation emergency responders. The exercise took place mainly on Patch Barracks, with two primary scenarios – a terrorist bombing at the main gate and an active shooter in the (closed) Patch Elementary School. It was an excellent training event demonstrating German-American cooperation.

October

In October, SHS saw a huge turnout for the Hybrid College Fair, Oct. 11, with college-bound students linking up with dozens of universities.

Retiree Appreciation Day, Oct. 19th, showed the garrison's concern for the purple community of retirees.

Olympian swimmers visited to train the already voracious Piranhas swim team, and astronaut Bob Cabana visited the garrison schools to inspire kids about science, math and exploration.

Service members were immunized for the flu in a three-day exercise simulating a response to a pandemic, and the community bank on Panzer Kaserne cut the ribbon on a much-anticipated coin counting machine.

October wouldn't be October without FMWR's Great Pumpkin 5k and Harvest Fest, Oct. 28, and trick or treating in the community housing areas.

November

Nov. 4 saw the Red Cross' Baby Expo at the Patch Community Club, a very active flea market at Patch's Swabian Special Events Center and a good turnout for Dungeons and Dragons in the Patch Library. That evening, the SHS Panthers football team finished an undefeated season to take the DoDEA-Europe Division I Championship.

FMWR's new tour office held an open house, Nov. 6, and the Robinson Barracks Zentrum opened Nov. 13, operated by volunteers. A blood drive on Patch and Panzer, Nov. 14-15, brought in a week's worth of collections in just two days. Also on Nov. 15, six Kansas City Chiefs cheerleaders signed



Photo by Kevin S. Abel, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Pvt. Joshua Young, climbs the "Tough One" during the U.S. Army Garrison's Best Warrior Competition in Stuttgart, Feb. 13, 2017. The competition is a grueling, three-day event that tests the skills, knowledge, and professionalism of warriors representing the garrison.

autographs, met service members and performed a dance routine on Panzer Kaserne.

An unexploded, 500 lbs. aerial bomb dropped next to Panzer Kaserne during World War II was defused by German EOD experts in a daylong operation that closed the main road past post and even affected air traffic from Stuttgart International, Nov. 19.

Veterans Day, lantern walks,

tree lightings, three community Thanksgiving dinners and the kickoff of the Combined Federal Campaign rounded out a busy November.

December

The final month of 2017 was filled with Christmas markets and holiday gatherings. Many took leave. The USO served special meals for single and unaccompanied warriors, plus a takeaway meal for Christmas day.



Photo by Kevin S. Abel, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

USAG Stuttgart conducted a force protection exercise in conjunction with Host Nation emergency services on Patch Barracks, Sept. 16, 2017. The full-scale exercise is designed to train personnel in handling various types of incidents and emergencies in accordance with the garrison's force protection plan.

5 things you should know about ‘black ice’

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Winter driving isn’t only about dealing with snow. Ice on the road is a real threat.

Black ice, in particular, is dangerous because it’s invisible, the term “black ice” being somewhat of a misnomer as the ice is clear. However, you can better protect yourself by understanding and knowing how to deal with this winter issue.

1. Black ice is regular ice

Black ice is a glaze that forms on surfaces (especially roads, sidewalks, and driveways) because of freezing moisture. It’s called “black ice” because it tends to look like the rest of the pavement on the road, although in reality, it’s actually clear. Black ice forms without creating bubbles, which allows it to blend in with any surface it forms over. It’s dangerous because it’s very difficult to detect in advance. Being aware of it and adjusting your speed and driving behavior can reduce the risk of being involved in a serious accident.

2. Know where to expect black ice

Black ice usually forms just about at the freezing point. Sometimes in frigid weather conditions on highways, it will form due to the heat of tires on the road coupled with the freezing temperature. It forms most commonly at night or in the early morning hours when the temperatures are at their lowest, or when the sun isn’t around to warm the roads. It tends to form on parts of the road without much sunshine, such as along a tree-lined route or a tunnel. It may also form more frequently on roads that are less traveled and it forms readily on bridges, overpasses and the road beneath overpasses due to cold air being able to cool both the top and underside of the bridge or overpass, causing the surface to freeze faster.

3. Know when to expect black ice

Black ice tends to form during the early morning and evening. In daylight hours, the road is usually warmer and less likely to create black ice. But remember: less likely does not mean “never”. Always be prepared for the possibility of encountering black ice. See the signs of black ice. If you are driving and see cars suddenly swerve for no apparent reason, black ice could have been the cause.

4. Know how to see black ice – sometimes

While black ice is transparent, it can be seen in the right lighting conditions (dawn, daylight and dusk should offer enough light to see). It almost always forms in very smooth and glossy sheets. If the majority of the road appears a dull black color but the patch just ahead appears shiny, you may be about to drive onto black ice. You won’t always



Photo by Taras Makarenko

Black ice is dangerous because it’s invisible, the term “black ice” being somewhat of a misnomer.

be able to see black ice, but looking for it can’t hurt. It may also help you to stay focused in less than ideal driving conditions. Just be sure to keep your eyes on the rest of your environment as well.

5. Prevent or minimize future encounters with black ice

While knowing how to drive on it remains a number one priority, here are some other things to do: *Make time for safety.*

You need not drive the posted speed limit during icy weather if the limit is faster than its safe to drive. Fast driving could reduce your control if you come upon black ice. Be extra careful and slow down at on and off ramps, as the curve of the ramps coupled with the weight of the vehicle and potential ice can cause the vehicle to lose traction. Don’t use cruise control in icy conditions and don’t tailgate.

Keep your windshield clear. Ice, snow, dirt and anything else can prevent you from seeing. Clean your windshield before starting the vehicle.

Turn your headlights on early. Leave them on whenever driving. You may spot the sheen of black ice before you hit it, plus it helps other drivers be more aware of you.

Check your tire tread. Worn tread causes accidents in any conditions and will ensure you lack traction when

needed on black ice; tires should be snow, or mud and snow (M+S) rated.

(Editor’s note: Information for this article came from USAG Bavaria Public Affairs.)

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Memorable jump in high winds like storms of life

By Chaplain (Col.) Michael T. Klein
Command Chaplain
United States Africa Command

Back in November 1998, I jumped with my unit onto Malsheim Drop Zone near Stuttgart. Unfortunately, during that time of year, the winds were extreme and it was highly unlikely the training event would succeed. On the ground, the winds seemed fine and the safety personnel determined the risk was low for the paratroopers.

I remember leaving the aircraft and panicking as I looked below. All I could see was the stadtmittelpunkt (city center)

of Malsheim. Fortunately, at drop altitude, the winds were so strong that the stick (group) of paratroopers would inevitably be carried to the drop zone, a grassy landing strip for gliders on the edge of town.

I remember descending and seeing a two-story sawmill on the lead edge of the drop zone. I thought to myself, "If I hit that steep roof, my chute will collapse, I'll roll off, fall to the ground and break my neck!"

At the last possible moment, I decided to run with the wind across the highway and land between two rows of trees on the edge of the glider strip. As I shot across the road, an oncoming semi-truck started honking his horn. Now I thought, "Oh great! I'm going to splat like a bug on this guy's windshield." Fortunately that didn't occur, and

although my chute was hopelessly snarled in the trees, I landed safely in the grass.

Life can be a series of storms! The adversity of our circumstances or problems in life may seem impossible. There may appear to be no solution in sight. As we enter calendar year 2018, I want to encourage you to reach out for help during your trials or storms of life.

"The LORD Himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." Deuteronomy 31:8

God is available, willing, and your help in the storms. Call out to him during your times of distress and adversity. There is no other helper capable of steering you through the winds of change in 2018.

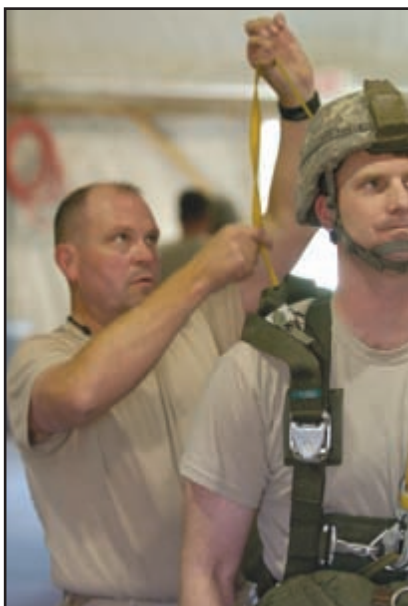


Photo courtesy of Ch. (Col.) Michael T. Klein

Klein performs a jumpmaster personnel inspection on a Soldier.

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STEM

continued from p.1

already second nature to them.

“Patch Middle School is competing against other middle school teams in Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Japan, Hungary and another middle school in Germany,” Allen said.

The ladies practice after school and on Saturdays to hone their skills, mentored by Allen.

“I’ve always enjoyed science, and I think being curious is the key to getting better at it,” said Kiersten Steagall, who wants to be a therapist making prosthetics for injured animals. “And yeah, it’s pretty fun.”

Kiersten used the example of a duck to explain her thinking process for how a prosthetic would have to work when the duck was swimming, walking or flying. “My mom says that it’s really good to have a gifted mind.”

The girls really took to (Allen’s) lessons and are enjoying this, Makle said.

“They like the challenge of finding the viruses or vulnerabilities in whatever system they’re working in. It’s something that I’m glad Natasja was able to bring to them.”

A sound effect on the group computer brought another round of cheers, meaning the CyberPatriots

had completed another task. The team was figuring out the different users in various groups to determine which users don’t belong.

“At first, I thought it was just fun, and I still do it because I actually love it,” said 7th grader Alyssa Drivas, who plans to be a scientist who studies animals. Her twin sister, Anastasia, is also on the team.

Future actress, writer and scientist Megan Newkirk, who performed in the Patch Middle School Drama Club’s “A Fairytale Christmas Carol,” Dec. 13, joined the CyberPatriots because she likes the challenge.

“I like computers,” Megan said. About her future, she said, “I could be a lot of things.”

“These ladies surprise me, every day, on what they know already coming into this. Some of the things they’re being asked to do are very complex, very difficult,” Allen said. “It’s hard. It’s not simple things I would expect (12-13-year-old students) to do. A lot of professionals wouldn’t know how to do the things they’re being asked to do and research. I’m blown away, every day.”

The next round for the Patch CyberPatriots will be at the state level on Jan. 20 with the overseas students being counted like a state



Clockwise from front left, Kourtney Steagall, Anastasia Drivas, Kiersten Steagall and Alyssa Drivas find security flaws in Windows 7, Windows 10, and Ubuntu 14, while keeping computer functions such as email working. Team progress is recorded by a central CyberPatriot scoring system.

in the continental United States.

“Because we’re a middle school, we’re guaranteed the state round,” Makle said. “But they still have to continue to build on their score until they’re in the top 50 percent of all of the competing schools so they can go to the semi-final level, and then try to reach the national level in Washington D.C.”

“They really are smart kids, and they continue to amaze us,” Makle said.

Have the courage to help a buddy!



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Skiing it out this winter with MWR

By Alisha Pabon

Special to The Stuttgart Citizen

During the winter sports season, skiing and snowboarding become significant once again. However, participating in these sports in Europe is a slightly different experience for beginners, or even advanced skiers or snowboarders.

Bruce Zabukovec, recreational specialist at the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart's Family and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation program, provided some insight of what one might expect on the slopes in Europe.

According to Zabukovec, the most important thing for beginners is safety. Before getting on skis or snowboards, get educated, "study about it! Do your homework with websites like YouTube, or the ABCs of Snowboarding/Skiing, then it will be in your subliminal mind and you won't be as anxious," Zabukovec said.

Zabukovec recommends layering of your clothes, no cotton (it



Photo courtesy of Pexels

Whether you're a skier, snowboarder or cross-country enthusiast or enjoy sports informally or professionally, the slopes across Europe promises fun for all the family.

does not dry quickly) and ski socks.

"Socks are important because of how ski boots press on the foot. The better the sock, the less pressure you will get and the more comfortable it will be," he said.

The differences between U.S. ski

slopes and those in Germany are often explained in terms of length and time.

"The (ski) runs tend to be longer in Europe, but back in the U.S., there are more areas where you could board between the trees. Also, the

lines are lot shorter in Europe at the lifts," said George Roos, Stuttgart High School teacher and avid skier.

Zubukovec advises all Outdoor Recreation participants to remember that after a long day of skiing, it will be normal to feel tired. Do not push too hard if it is your first time in general or the first time in the season.

In the event of taking the last run, Zabukovec also warns, "Be careful, you do not want to be stuck or get injured on the slopes. You are more fatigued which could cause injuries to occur, and the sun is going down."

"To get better, you have to go as much as possible," said Roos.

Where is the best place to ski or snowboard?

"Anyplace, so long as it is with friends," Roos said. "Boarding is more fun when you do it with a group."

(Editor's note: To read the full article and find out more about where to hit the slopes in the greater Stuttgart area and beyond, visit www.stuttgartcitizen.com.)



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Photos © Dirk Kittelberger

U.S. Post Offices in Stuttgart will reduce operating days per week

Starting Feb. 5, 2018, the U.S. Post Offices in the Stuttgart community will have a reduction in the number of days per week they will be open. The following are the days and hours the four post offices will be open:

Patch: Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Kelley: Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Panzer: Monday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
RB: Tuesday and Thursday from 1 to 3:30 p.m.

The four Community Mail Rooms will remain open 24/7 for customers with mailboxes, and their customer windows open for parcel and general delivery pick-up from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and again from 3 to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, except on federal holidays.

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SHS's new drum line joins Music Dept.

Story and photo by Hannah Rhoden
Special to The Stuttgart Citizen

Stuttgart High School has a new addition to the music department this year: the Stuttgart Legacy Drum Line.

The team first appeared at a football game at the beginning of the year.

After the team's first appearance, students became interested in the its new, fresher look. The drum line had previously performed only once with volunteer members and borrowed instruments. This year, in contrast to previous years, the drum line has sponsor Staff Sgt. Clarence Everett, who is partially responsible for the fresh start. The team now has their own equipment, allowing them to accept music students as members.

During football season, the team practiced twice per week behind the SHS gym or cafeteria. Everything from songs to chants, even choreography, are rehearsed multiple times before the audience gets to view it.

"We will do it 'til it's perfect," said Marquis Jackson, head drummer.



Staff Sgt. Clarence D. Everett Jr., 10th SFG practices with the high school members to help make corrections and adjustments.

The 16-member team perfected a number of songs they've already performed, all with unique names such as "West Side" and "Strawberry." Instead of the volunteers seen in previous years, this year's team is music students who play more than percussion instruments; some of them play

guitar, brass, woodwinds and more. After a few football games, the drum line had a definite following comprised of parents, students and community members.

"I love them, they are so good. Plus, they participate and help

out in all our cheers," said Amanda Fuglaar, SHS cheer captain, after watching a halftime routine by the drum line. With the growing popularity of drum lines and many students wanting to join the ensemble, a waitlist was formed for those anxious to join.

The drum line participated in many other school events outside of football games, including providing musical support for a production of the SHS Drama Department.

"The drum line did a fantastic job," said Joe Holder, School Liaison Office.

The drum line also performed two songs at the Winter Band Concert. One song was written by the drum line sponsor and the by the head of the. At the end of that performance, the drum line's new leaders were announced; Jackson, the current head drummer, graduates at the end of this school year.

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Piranhas attack the competition, bring home 30 medals

By Ami DeBrine
Special to The Stuttgart Citizen

The Stuttgart Piranhas Swim Team recently attended the European Forces Swim League Individual Long-Distance Championship in Lignano, Italy. Because the distances involved are much longer than those typically swum in a regular competition, a separate championship meet is held each November. In order to qualify for this competition, swimmers had to achieve a top time in their event and age bracket.

The long distance meet, held Nov. 24-25, featured more than 390 individual entries from 15 teams throughout Europe, with Stuttgart sending 22 swimmers. In the end, Piranhas swimmers broke four team records and brought home more than 30 medals (places 1 through 6), including seven gold, 13 silver, and four bronze.



Photo by David Broer

Ryan Stevenson, grade 6 at Patch Middle School, of Stuttgart Piranhas competing at the EFSL Long-Distance Individual Championship goes on to break team records in all three of his individual events.

For Piranhas girls age 15, Alexia Symak was the big winner, taking first place in all three of her events; 800m free, 400m IM and 1500m free.

"It's not always easy waking up at 4 am each day for practice, but

in the end it's always worth it once you get that gold medal," Symak said.

Ryan Stevenson (boys age 11) who was swimming in his first long distance championship, broke Piranhas' team records in all three of his individual events; 400m free, 1500m free, and 400m IM.

"When in doubt, keep swimming," Stevenson said. "The finish is always getting closer."

The other team record to fall was broken by Madison Bratton (girls age 11) in the 400m free.

Piranhas who placed in the top three in their age groups are:

Brooke Bailey, girls age 15 – second in 800 free and 400 IM

Madison Bratton, girls age 11 – first in 1500 free, second in 800 free, and third in 400 IM

Zoey Bratton, girls age 13 – third in 1500 free

Kevin DeBrine, boys age 17 – third in 800 free

Kurt Huebschman, boys age 17 – second in 800 and 1500 free and third in 400 IM

Ella Kalinowski, girls age 12 – second in 800 free, 400 IM, and 1500 free

Kyle Stevenson, boys age 14 – first in 800 free and second in 400 IM and 1500 free

Ryan Stevenson, boys age 11 – first in 1500 free and second in 400 free and 400 IM

Alexia Symak, girls age 15 – first in 800 free, 400 IM, and 1500 free

Jazlyn Symak, girls age 9 – second in 400 free

Madeleine Varhola, girls age 9 – first in 400 free

The Piranhas will continue to participate in regional swim meets throughout the winter as they set their sights on defending their title in Berlin as Rheinland Division champions.

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