

**PREVIEW**  
IMCOM-Europe Boxing  
Championship  
— Page 8

**GUIDE**  
Fest Dress:  
Your guide to Trachten  
— Page 14-15

I'm glad  
I live here  
Swabian-American  
Biergarten

**MYSTERY**  
The Legend of the Patch  
Barracks Bison  
— Page 16-17

# A letter from the editor

Photo by Shchepkova Elena/Shutterstock.com

October is fest time in Germany. As the leaves turn yellow and summer makes way for fall. The beer tents rise, and the tables fill with men and women dressed in their finest lederhosen and dirndl. While COVID-19 has canceled some of the great German fests like the Oktoberfest in Munich or the Cannstatter Volksfest here in Stuttgart, many cities are still holding scaled down events including our very own Swabian-American Biergarten.

From Oct. 15-17, the Panzer Parade Field will transform itself into a massive Biergarten, with live music, carnival games and yes, of course, a mass (1 Liter) of beer for every ticket holder. And to give you a head-start on this sure to be great event, we are sharing a primer on how to “dress your German best.” So we expect no one to make the excuse, “I didn’t know how to dress like an 18th century German.” And for those who want to dig a bit deeper into the history of Stuttgart’s premiere festival, we’re sharing the city’s story on their very own Volksfest. Can you believe that a massive volcanic eruption thousands of miles away in Indonesia was the catalyst for the event? Finally to put a truly American twist on our October event, we’re bringing Europe’s best military boxers together for the IMCOM-Europe Boxing Championship Tournament. They’ll be fighting in the Panzer gym. Check out our preview, we’re almost as excited about the production value as we are about the fights – almost.

We’re also excited to launch a brand new column, ‘From the Historian.’ European Command’s historian Bill Butler shares with us maybe the most famous mystery on USAG Stuttgart - The Legend of the Patch Barracks Bison. We don’t want to spoil the ending but the ending is explosive.

Inside this edition we also highlight the amazing work the Stuttgart Community Spouses Club did to raise donations for the Afghan evacuees in Europe. They instantly turned their thrift shop into a well-oiled donation center, and within days sent a caravan of goods up to Ramstein Air Base.



But sadly, we will have to raise our bierstein one last time, as we say farewell to Lawrence Reilly Jr., our Public Affairs director. For the past five years Larry has guided one of the most successful and effective garrison public affairs shops in the Army. He will be retiring with his wife Rita, another

beloved member of the garrison team, after nearly 45 years of Army service. Together, “the twofer” as Larry would always say, will have more than 85 years of combined service to the Army. Truly, a mentor and leader to all of us in the Public Affairs Office.

Finally, we hope you enjoy our Oktoberfest edition, and look forward to saying Prost! with you at the Swabian-American Biergarten.

.....  
*Larry you will be missed, but we’re excited for your new life in retirement!*

*Your Citizen Team*



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A young Lawrence Reilly Jr., interviews a battalion commander during a march through a small German town. Courtesy Photo



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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

**2 Letter from  
the editor**

**4 At the Patch Library**

**5 German, American  
Signaleers sharpen  
their steel during  
Iron Castle**

**6 & 7 Professional women  
soccer players  
visit, teach, play in  
Stuttgart**

**8 Chaplains Corner:  
Fall is in the air**

**9 Stuttgart laces up  
for European Boxing  
Championship**

**10 & 11 History of the  
Cannstatter Volksfest**

**12 & 13 Spouses Club  
answers call, leads  
Afghan donation  
drive**

**14 & 15 Look your best at any  
German fest: A guide  
to dressing like an  
18th Century local**

**16 & 17 From the Historian:  
The Legend of the  
Patch Barracks Bison**

**18 Music celebration  
'Jazz Open' returns  
to Stuttgart**

**19 The Big Question:  
What is your favorite  
German Oktoberfest  
Food?**

#### Cover image:

Young woman with gingerbread heart.

Photo by CCISUL/Shutterstock.com

# At the Patch Library

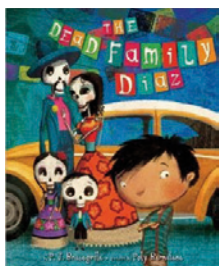
By Geoff Morris

Stuttgart Citizen Volunteer

Halloween is fast approaching and with that you're probably looking for something for the season, maybe a book, maybe a movie. Whatever your spooky desire, the Patch Library has just what you need. With a massive collection of kids books, movies, games, plays, audiobooks, and novels.

## The Dead Family Diaz JP Bracegirdle

Little Angelito Díaz is feeling scared. It's the Day of the Dead, when he and his family must walk among the Living. And his sister says they are all hot and squishy, with bulging eyes and crazy hair! Will he make it back, still dead and in one piece? Or will Angelito find himself lost in the Land of the Living forever?



## Witches!

### The Absolutely True Tale of Disaster in Salem Rosalyn Schanzer

Tackling the same twisted subject as Stacy Schiff's much-lauded book *The Witches: Salem, 1692*, this Sibert Honor book for young readers features unique scratchboard illustrations, chilling primary source material, and powerful narrative to tell the true tale. The riveting, true story of the victims, accused witches, crooked officials, and mass hysteria that turned a mysterious illness affecting two children into a witch hunt that took over a dozen people's lives and ruined hundreds more unfolds in chilling detail in this young adult book by award-winning author and illustrator Rosalyn Schanzer. With a powerful narrative, chilling primary source accounts, a design evoking the period, and stylized black-white-and-red scratchboard illustrations of young girls having wild fits in the courtroom, witches flying overhead, and the Devil and his servants terrorizing the Puritans, this book will rivet young readers with novelistic power.



## Pumpkin Carving Edward Palmer

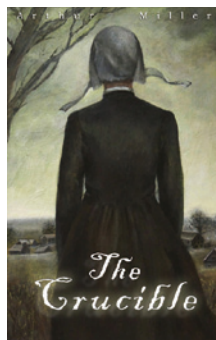
Some are frightful; others are fanciful, but all these pumpkin carving designs are just perfect for fright night and fun to make. What a wicked grin Spikes has—his big teeth are positively eerie!

You can almost hear the “Grrr” coming from the gaping mouth of Goblin Growl. Whether you create a Creepy Cauldron or a Goofy Gremlin, you're guaranteed to make Halloween magic. “Thirty-seven frightful, fanciful, and friendly designs, complete with patterns.”—American Bookseller.



## The Crucible Arthur Miller

“I believe that the reader will discover here the essential nature of one of the strangest and most awful chapters in human history,” Arthur Miller wrote of his classic play about the witch-hunts and trials in seventeenth-century Salem, Massachusetts. Based on historical people and real events, Miller's drama is a searing portrait of a community engulfed by hysteria. In the rigid theocracy of Salem, rumors that women are practicing witchcraft galvanize the town's most basic fears and suspicions; and when a young girl accuses Elizabeth Proctor of being a witch, self-righteous church leaders and townspeople insist that Elizabeth be brought to trial. The ruthlessness of the prosecutors and the eagerness of neighbor to testify against neighbor brilliantly illuminates the destructive power of socially sanctioned violence.



## Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone Joanne K. Rowling

Harry Potter is an average bespectacled eleven-year-old boy who has lived with the Dursley family ever since his parents died in a car crash. For some reason, the family has always mistreated him. On his eleventh birthday, a giant man named Rubeus Hagrid (Robbie Coltrane) hands him a letter telling him that he has been accepted as a student at the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Harry learns that his parents were wizards and were killed by the evil wizard Voldemort (Richard Bremner), a truth that was hidden from him all these years. He embarks for



his new life as a student, gathering two good friends Ron Weasley (Rupert Grint) and Hermione Granger (Emma Watson) along the way. They soon learn that something very valuable is hidden somewhere inside the school and Voldemort is very anxious to lay his hands on it.

## Halloween (2018) John Passarella

Still living in dread of having to face Michael, the person who has destroyed her life, lucky survivor, Laurie Strode, has been bracing herself up for the past forty years for yet another encounter with the maniacal serial killer. And, in 2018, four painful decades after the bloodbath in Haddonfield and the shocking events of Halloween (1978), her fears come true, as Myers escapes from the custody of Dr Sartain in Smith's Grove Sanitarium. Now, Michael's butcher knife has the final say, and even though no one seems to believe in the existence of pure evil, Laurie is determined to stand up for herself, and rid the town's nightmare once and for all. But, has she got what it takes to confront the Boogeyman?

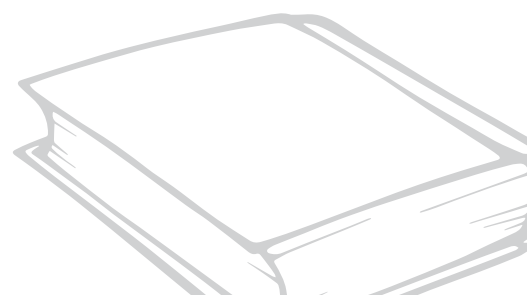


## The Shining by Stephen King

Jack Torrance's new job at the Overlook Hotel is the perfect chance for a fresh start. As the off-season caretaker at the atmospheric old hotel, he'll have plenty of time to spend reconnecting with his family and working on his writing. But as the harsh winter weather sets in, the idyllic location feels ever more remote...and more sinister. And the only one to notice the strange and terrible forces gathering around the Overlook is Danny Torrance, a uniquely gifted five-year-old.

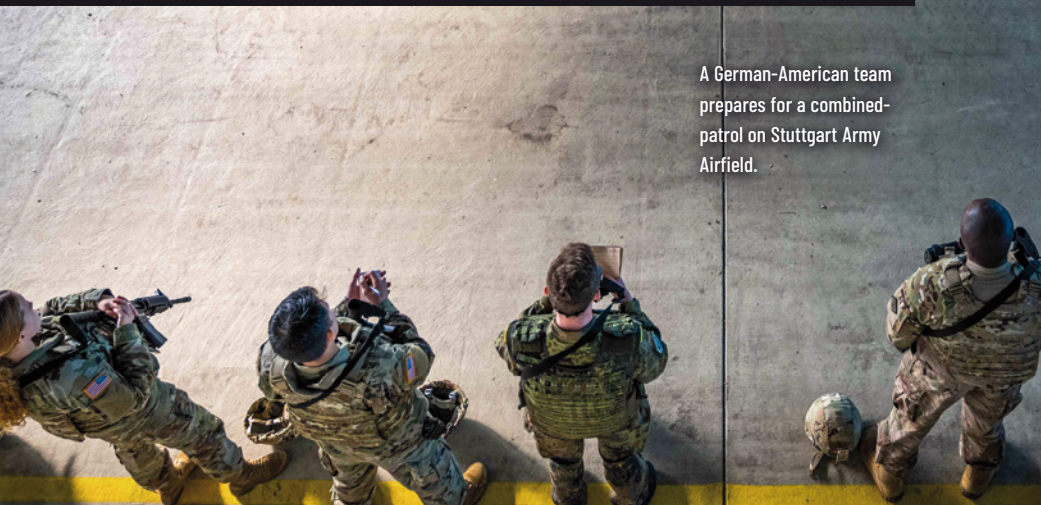


.....  
Descriptions from IMDB and Goodreads






# GERMAN, AMERICAN SIGNALEERS sharpen their steel during Iron Castle



A German-American team prepares for a combined-patrol on Stuttgart Army Airfield.



Two U.S. Soldiers flank a German Soldier as they prepare to step-out on patrol.

American Soldiers from Stuttgart joined German forces from Bavaria in a base protection exercise that saw the combined force respond to suspicious persons and booby-trapped vehicles last week.

The weeklong exercise, dubbed Iron Castle, teamed up Soldiers from the 52nd Signal Battalion with their German signaleer counterparts from the 293rd Signal Battalion out of Murnau, 40 miles south of Munich.

“Force Protection entails how our soldiers would operate if they were asked to defend an installation,” said 2nd Lt. Logan Turley, incident command center, officer in charge. “Iron Castle is our annual force protection exercise that certifies us on our mission to defend our installations here on Stuttgart.”

Turley said that the exercise began with classroom exercises, information briefs from force protection experts and hands on instruction. For the final two days, the combined German-American team was sent to Stuttgart Army Airfield where they patrolled and responded to threats across the installation.

While the day job for the 52nd Signal Battalion revolves around protecting and maintaining the communication networks across Stuttgart, Turley emphasized that his troops are more than just keyboard warriors.

“A lot of our main mission involves network and communications support, but at the end of the day we’re Soldiers, we have to come out and do our basic Soldier tasks – like patrolling bases,” he said.

What really stood out to Turley during the exercise was working with his German counterparts.

“We’re collaborating on ideas on how to better protect the post,” he said. “The cross-training between the two units will come in handy in case we ever need to react to a real world scenario.”

German Staff Sgt. Daniel Ender who worked alongside Turley during the exercise agreed.

“We learned a lot from each,” Ender said. “We shared leadership techniques and tactics on how to clear or react to situations.”

The two said they shared ideas on everything from force protection techniques to differences in radio language.

Ender said his two major highlight were leading combined U.S.-German patrols and working out every morning with his American counterparts, but what he said really stuck with him was the sense of comradery the two teams built in just five days.

“We’ve just been here a week but we’ve already become close friends,” Ender said.



# Professional **women** soccer players visit, teach, play in Stuttgart

By Bardia Khajenoori

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Four professional women's soccer players visited Stuttgart on August 30 to raise community spirits, share insights, and offer advice and coaching to the next generation of players.

Natasha Kai, Ashley Nick, Sarah Huffman, and Kassey Kallman came to Panzer Kaserne as part of a weeklong All-Star Soccer Tour through U.S. military bases in Germany. The tour is one of the first live engagements for Armed Forces Entertainment since the start of the pandemic.

**1** Ashley Nick teaches ball handling techniques during a youth soccer clinic.

Photo by Paul Hughes

**2** Bella Henderson, Stuttgart High School junior, tackles the ball away from Natasha Kai, Olympic gold medalist.

Photo by Marcus Fichtl

**3** Female professional soccer players answer a barrage of questions from the kids on Stuttgart.

Photo by Paul Hughes

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"I think it's a great opportunity to give back and show our appreciation to the people who fight for our country," said Kai, who was taking part in the tour for the second time.

The day began with an early morning scrimmage against members of the 52d Strategic Signal Battalion. While friendly on its face, the game between professional athletes and professional soldiers was inherently competitive.

"It's nice to see the troops smiling and having a good time, but yeah, I think we all really want to win," Nick said with a smile.

Some service members who step up to face the pros learned the hard way that having general fitness and athletic prowess isn't all it takes in soccer.

"You can have some really athletic men and women who probably dominate at other sports, but it's a little tricky when you play with your feet and you're not used to it," Kallman said. "So I think everyone has a good time seeing those physical specimens looking a little awkward and having some laughs."

A post-match discussion identified a few areas of mutual familiarity in both careers, including mission focus, discipline, and the importance of teamwork, as well as work-life balance.

The players then took part in a question and answer session with students at Stuttgart High School, sharing personal anecdotes and life lessons on topics ranging from participation in college sports to resilience in the wake of setbacks. Bella Henderson, a SHS junior and member of last season's soccer team, attended the Q&A and had an opportunity to speak one-on-one with Kallman after getting an autograph.

"She plays my position, so it was really cool to see someone who's had experience at a professional level, and get advice from her that I'll hopefully be able to implement this year," Henderson said.

Henderson had a chance to put that advice to use less than half an hour later while defending against Kal, a former U.S. international and Olympic gold medalist, as the All-Stars were split between two teams of SHS girls in a head-to-head matchup.

After a lunch spent meeting and service members at the Originals Café dining facility, the players headed back to an indoor field for an afternoon of skills clinics with players aged 5-15.

"It's a very humbling experience, seeing these kids and looking at the twinkle in their eyes when they're so excited to see us," Kai said.

The players presented the garrison command team with a signed soccer ball as a memento of the visit before departing for the next stop on their tour.

**4** Female professional soccer players from the All-Star soccer program pose for a photo with the 52nd Signal Battalion.

Photo by Marcus Fichtl

**5** Ashley Nick laughs while posing for a photo with local Stuttgart-based Soldiers.

Photo by Marcus Fichtl

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# Chaplain's Corner

## Fall is in the air

By Ch. (Maj.) Michael Jones  
Religious Support Office

Fall is in the air! You can smell freshly cut grass as it's being bailed for hay. The cool mornings and evenings let you know the dog days of summer are finally over. Stores seem schizophrenic as they offer elaborate displays of Halloween candy and costumes while reserving an aisle or two for the early Christmas decorators. Trees show off their handiwork with leaves changing from green to brightly colored yellows, reds and oranges before falling to the ground. If you're lucky, you may even catch the distinct smell of a real wood burning fireplace.

All of this, and much, much more let us know another season has passed and Autumn is in full swing. As the leaves of fall signal change, it may be a reminder to turn over a new leaf of change and let old habits pass while pursuing what is good, whole, and healthy.

All four of our children have left home and are at various stages of "adulthood". As difficult as it may be, we still gather for holidays at the Jones River House in Florida to catch up on life and spend time loving on another. Many years ago, we stumbled upon a life-system we call the 5-Fs which help us communicate, set goals and deal with expectation management.

The 5-Fs are Faith, Family, Friendships Fitness, and Finances. We've found the amount we pay attention to or ignore the 5-Fs of life dictates the relative success we enjoy or failure we endure.

As each member of the family evaluates where they are on a 1-10 scale in the 5-Fs, it gives us opportunities to celebrate successes or encourage through challenges. Let's face it, we all have room for improvement.

It all begins with Faith. Where is my Faith on a scale of 1-10? And what steps need to be taken to move me closer to where I want to be? In our faith tradition, prayer, reading scriptures, being joined to a faith community, taking communion and acts of service are important. These actions help me to live out my faith. Actively talking about my faith with family is encouraging because they let me know its



Photo by Volodymyr TVERDOUKHUB/Shutterstock.com

okay when I've blown it and they offer encouragement to do better.

We've made a pact that Family is important. Where is my relationship with my Family on a scale of 1- 10? It's pretty easy to get balled-up with a spouse or kids - especially as kids grow into adults.

Remember, your kids get a 51% vote about life when they turn 18. Keeping Family relationships in check can be tricky. Liberal amounts of love, grace, and forgiveness while respecting healthy boundaries goes a long way with Family relationships. So, how would you assess where your Family is on a scale of 1-10.

Life without Friendships is unhealthy but, let's face it, life with SOME Friendships is unhealthy as well. Where are your Friendships on a scale of 1-10? Am I the only one who has a friend or two a bit on the edgy side? Keeping the right kind of people in your life is healthy. Conversely, being the right kind of friend is healthy as well. It's good to take inventory of and nurture true friendships but, let's be honest enough to ice the relationships which are unhealthy.

Fitness encompasses more than just eating properly and exercising. It also takes into account emotional and psychological well-being. So, where is your Fitness on a scale of 1-10? Having people in your corner to listen yet, call you out when you're out of balance emotionally or psychologically is necessary for good health. The same is true with our physical fitness. Who is your accountability partner for a physically healthy life?

I recently read the number one reason for stress and divorce in marriage is Finances. This may be a surprise to you but, this year Christmas is on December 25. With a little financial planning and budgeting, the temptation to over-spend for the holidays can be avoided. How different would your life be if you were completely debt free from credit cards, car payments, student loans, and even mortgage payments? It's not impossible to take control of your money. So, I ask, on a scale of 1-10 how are things financially?

Turning over a new leaf isn't easy but it is worth it. As the leaves fall and the seasons change, consider having the courage to evaluate your life's 5-Fs. Take small steps to where you want to be and take your loved ones along for the journey of a lifetime!

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# Stuttgart laces up for European Boxing Championship

Boxers spar in the Patch Gym as they prepare for the European Boxing Championship.



A USAG Stuttgart boxer takes a breather between sparring matches.

**Story and Photos by Marcus Fichtl**

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Fists will be flying and the ring will be rocking during the IMCOM-Europe Boxing Championships on Panzer Kaserne, Oct. 16.

As many as twenty bouts are expected in multiple weight classes, as men and women from across Germany and beyond will descend on the Panzer Gym to be crowned Europe's top boxer. It's the second Army boxing tournament post-covid in Germany, will be hosted a stones throw from the Garrison's Swabian-American Biergarten.

"This tournament is about bringing all of the [overseas] service members together, and showcasing

their skills," said Cory Hoffman, event organizer and ringside referee.

An official USA boxing sanctioned event, Hoffman said the tournament will have all the trimmings of "a very legitimate boxing production."

He said there will be massive monitors – inside and outside the gym, a TV production crew – potentially with instant replay capabilities, lighting engineers, a live MC, and post match interviews. Food and beverages will be able to be purchased in the gym's parking lot.

Army Capt. Michael Stanphill, one of Stuttgart Boxing's newest members will be lacing up for his first fight during the IMCOM-Europe Boxing Championship.

"It's been my dream since middle school to become a boxer, and when I saw the flyer I knew I needed to take my shot" he said.

Stanphill said he and his team have been living the dream in the Patch Gym the past three months and they're ready to bring home the gold for USAG Stuttgart.

"This will be a great event for fans of boxing and our Stuttgart team," he said. "Hopefully we bring home the championship again."

*Gates will open at the Panzer Gym at 2 p.m. For information on how you can register to fight, please contact Cory Hoffman at [cory.l.hoffman2.naf@mail.mil](mailto:cory.l.hoffman2.naf@mail.mil) or call: +49 (0) 711 680 2886.*

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# History of the Cannstatter Volksfest

By City of Stuttgart

Editor's note: Many people know that the Oktoberfest in Munich was first created to celebrate the marriage of the Bavarian Crown Prince Ludwig to Princess Therese, but fewer people know that Stuttgart's Cannstatter Volksfest, also known as Wasen, is a different fall fest with its own unique history and traditions. Canceled this year because of the coronavirus pandemic, the festival brings in more than 4 million people a year.





Photo by Simon Dux Media/Shutterstock.com

In a time of political strife and economic weakness, Württemberg's King Wilhelm I and his wife Katharina laid the foundations for what today has become known as the Cannstatter Volksfest by forming the "Centralstelle des landwirtschaftlichen Vereins" – an agricultural organisation – in 1817. An agricultural festival with horse races, prizes for outstanding achievements in livestock breeding combined with a people's festival was, in accordance with the king's wishes, designed to revive Württemberg's economy after the damage done to it during the Napoleonic wars and volcanic eruption in Indonesia so enormous that its ash caused the "year without summer" in 1816.

## The first Cannstatter Volksfest

Everything was then prepared for 28 September, one day after the king's birthday, in the following year. The original Cannstatter Wasen site has been the venue for the major festival ever since 1818. At the time it was an idyllic though watery meadow on the banks of the River Neckar which was yet to be dammed up. Lying between green fields and vineyards and without any surrounding buildings, the Wasen, as the site is called by the locals, lay within view of the royal Villa Bellevue close to the Wilhelma, the only combined zoo and botanical garden in Germany. It was therefore only a short horse-drawn carriage ride away for the festival's benefactor who had no intention of missing the ceremonial opening and witnessing the successful start. The original idea of the "king amongst farmers and the farmer amongst kings", as Wilhelm I was called by his contemporaries, continues today in the shape of the so-called "Landwirtschaftlichen Hauptfest", a large agricultural show running parallel to the Volksfest that showcases all the latest technology within the farming industry in the state of Baden Württemberg.

## First Volksfest parade in 1841

There have almost always been parades through the streets of Stuttgart to the Volksfest on the Cannstatter Wasen. Reports dating back to 1841 tell of a festival parade with over 10,000 participants and well over 100,000 people lining the streets. At the time, the town had a population of barely 40,000. The Volksfest parade in today's sense with its official start at the Cannstatter Kursaal was held for the first time in 1927. As befitting the home town of Gottlieb Daimler and Wilhelm Maybach, the first motorcade took place in 1911.

Initially there were only very few funfair attractions and stalls selling beer. They were also all confined to the edge of the actual site in favour of the royal box and the stand for dignitaries. In 1860 the "Amts- und Intelligenzblatt für das Oberamt Cannstatt" (The Official and Intelligence Journal for the District Authority of Cannstatt) wrote of a scene similar to the one today in that the stalls were for the first time "arranged in three main streets and numerous side streets".

On the instructions of King Karl I, son and successor to Wilhelm I, the Cannstatter Volksfest was no longer held annually but biannually from 1882 until the death of the king in 1891. It and the effects of the two World Wars have led to there being a total of 28 years in which there was no Volksfest.

Baden Württemberg's largest festival, a big attraction from the start, the Cannstatter Volksfest has continued

to grow over the decades and has successfully combined tradition with modernity in an appealing and unique way. Baden Württemberg's largest festival attracts approximately four million visitors every year. In the early years, the number of people involved in the festival was significantly higher than the joint population of Stuttgart and Cannstatt. According to contemporary records, more than 30,000 participants and guests were present at the festival right from the start in 1818. Some even had to endure several day journeys from all parts of the kingdom. When remembering that the first Cannstatter Volksfest only lasted a single day, namely on the 28 September 1818, the number of visitors is comparable with the daily figures today. The Cannstatter Volksfest was therefore a major attraction at the very beginning and it has stayed that way right up until the present day.

The present Cannstatter Volksfest lasts longer than it has ever done before in the past. In the 19th century, there was only a single day of festivities, a little later there were three, then four and from the end of the 1920s five festival days. After the Second World War, people were able to celebrate on ten days, then twelve and since 1972 sixteen. The Volksfest has lasted 17 days since 2007 when the official opening on Saturday was brought forward to Friday.

## The "Fruchtsäule"

The "Fruchtsäule" (Fruit Column) is the emblem of the Cannstatter Volksfest. There has been a towering column decorated with many different kinds of fruit, cereals and vegetables ever since the first Volksfest in 1818. Today the symbol reminds one of the origins of the Volksfest, namely the agricultural festival. Commissioned and funded by King Wilhelm I, the first fruit column was designed and built by the architect to the royal court, Nikolaus Friedrich von Thouret, the money for the first fruit column was funded by King Wilhelm I.

After the First World War it was seen as being a "monarchistic relic" due to its origins and royal blue colour and was not erected for a number of years. The tradition was then revived for the 100th Volksfest in 1935 and it has adorned the festival site every year since. Built in 1972, the diameter, height and colour of the present fruit column replicate the original version. Twenty-six metres high, it is mounted on a five-metre high base and weighs about three tons. The dish holding the fruit and plant decoration at the top weighs approximately an additional 600 kilos. The outer part of the column is made of wood and inside is a steel construction.

The fruit column's appearance has changed many times over the course of the decades. Up to 1995 it was dismantled and stored at the end of each Volksfest. In the following years it remained by way of trial on the Wasen so that it could be seen each year during the Stuttgart Spring Festival. Since the past few years only the top has been removed so that the base, which supports the Cannstatter Jug during the Spring Festival, remains standing.

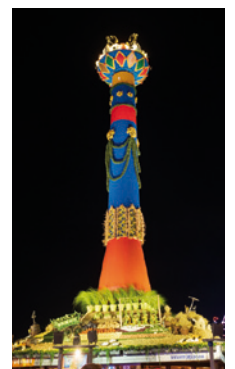


Photo by Kalf/Shutterstock.com



Photo by SewCream/Shutterstock.com

Shelley Williams, SCSC Welfare Treasurer, unloads bags of donations at Ramstein Air Base. Photos courtesy of SCSC

# Spouses Club answers call, leads Afghan donation drive

By Paul Hughes  
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Goods were purchased for donation by the Stuttgart community. The SCSC then sorted and delivered the donations including urgent needs like childcare products.



Kamey McGurk was sitting in the Atlanta airport waiting for her flight back to Germany when heart-breaking images of Afghanistan began dominating her news feed.

Foreseeing an immediate need for the Afghan people evacuating from Kabul, McGurk knew she had to act now. She immediately fired a flare to her Stuttgart Community Spouses Club. In a matter of days, the team of military spouses would be responsible for sending convoy after convoy full of urgently needed donations to Ramstein Air Base.

“People were posting on social media websites that they needed help,” said McGurk, the SCSC president.

McGurk began relaying mission requirements through multiple chat groups, forgetting, that most of her team were still sleeping in Germany, due to the time difference. By morning her team woke to a plan, and immediately the spouses of the SCSC leapt into action.

Their first task – turn the thrift shop they run on Patch Barracks into a donations center.

“We needed to start getting donations in, so we closed the thrift shop and switched to only processing donations,” said Shelley Williams, the SCSC Welfare treasurer. “The SCSC has a location and we have great volunteers.”

An assembly line was set up in the now-converted thrift shop. On the first day alone, the SCSC had 25 volunteers identifying and cataloguing donations. But while clothes were being donated in large amounts, some items remained scarce.

“We needed baby supplies,” Williams said. “We were learning of babies being born on the planes as they were coming in, we needed diapers, formula, bottles and other items for maternity and nursing.”

To meet these new demands, McGurk and Williams’ team set up a donation box at the Post Exchange. The Stuttgart community once more demonstrated their compassion - buying and donating formula, feeding items and toys for children. And as the situation continued to evolve, so did the donations. There became a serious need for blankets and jackets. The Afghans were housed in tents, and were dealing with an unusually cool Germany after flying from a hot Afghanistan. The SCSC delivered.

“What we did was just the right thing to do,” Williams said. “These people have just fled their homes for who knows how long, maybe forever. They don’t know where they’re going, and I just can’t imagine that.”

On Monday, Aug 24, the SCSC team were collecting donations, and by that Wednesday the SCSC had

rented a cargo van and packed a convoy of six vehicles with donations and headed to Ramstein.

McGurk said her team's thorough planning allowed them to bypass much of the red tape. "Our donations [went] straight into the hands of the evacuees," she said.

The SCSC soon returned with two more convoys on Sunday and Monday.

Williams had no doubts that her team of spouses could get the job done, regardless of people's prejudices and stereotypes— be that through supporting the community with scholarships and welfare funds, or helping Afghan evacuees.

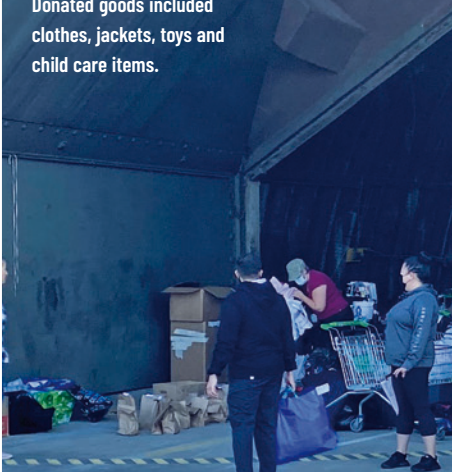
"A lot of people, I think, in the past maybe have a different view of what our spouses club does, and what they're about," she said. "We are very much about supporting our community, it's not about: 'let's dress up and have a tea party.'"

In the end, the SCSC and the Stuttgart Military Community pulled through for a people who were leaving violence for peace, not just because they could, but because it was the right thing to do.

"Military spouses did what military spouses always do – we got after it!" Williams said.



Donated goods included clothes, jackets, toys and child care items.



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By Novelda Sommers  
FMWR Marketing

When it comes to choosing a dirndl — the traditional dress worn by German women and girls — sometimes the hardest part is narrowing it down to just one. The humble combination of apron and dress has evolved to include an endless array of styles, patterns and fabrics.

For men, traditional styles have changed hardly at all since laborers put on leather pants or shorts called lederhosen to stay warm and protected. You can add your own take on the alpine “suit” with a colorful shirt or offbeat pair of shoes, if you wish.

The pandemic may have interrupted many of the occasions where German residents and visitors could strut their Bavarian or Swabian stuff, but those conditions won’t last forever. We’ve put together a beginner’s guide to buying German trachten — the folk costume with historic roots in parts of Germany, Austria and Italy.

### All dressed up with somewhere to go

There may be no better place to be seen in your Deutsch duds than at the Swabian-American Biergarten and U.S. Army IMCOM-Europe Boxing Championship event, October 15-17 on the Panzer Kaserne Parade Field, Panzer Fitness Center and surrounding area.

The weekend will include live local bands, the U.S. Army IMCOM-Europe Boxing Championship, family day on Sunday, Swabian food, and beer from a local brewery, including MWR’s special-label Feierabend. Tickets are more than half gone for reserved seating in the tent and can be bought through MWR Tours.

Go to [stuttgart.armymwr.com](http://stuttgart.armymwr.com) for more information.

### Enduring styles

Once practical workday attire, trachten now represents a tie to the past and pride in one’s traditions - or an affinity for German culture and people, if worn by a guest. Women needed aprons to protect their dresses as they worked, and men wore sturdy leather pants for farming and manual labor. In some regions, the styles, patterns and colors worn could indicate one’s village or social standing.

“People showed, with their clothing, how rich or important they were,” said Pia Faber, who sells tracht and accessories as an AAFES vendor rotating through several U.S. military installations across Germany.

Over the past few decades, traditional clothing has regained popularity, with designers creating colorful, fashion-forward combinations of ribbons, fabrics and designs. It’s not just for fest, either. In some regions, people find reasons year-round to put on their folkloric finery, whether for church, milestone occasions or special events out on the town, Faber said.

No matter your style, here’s a quick guide to the essentials when compiling your trachten wardrobe.

### First the ladies:

- **The dirndl.** Faber said the dress consists of four basic pieces: blouse, bodice, skirt and apron. The blouse is cropped and usually white, but not always. The dress is a fitted bodice and skirt, usually sewn together. Length is according to preference.
- **Aprons,** worn over dresses, are tied on the right side if you’re taken, left if available, middle for young maidens and in the back for widows.
- **Shoes and accessories.** There are no set rules, Faber said. Many prefer flats or Mary Janes, but you could go for booties or heels. Some like to carry a small, heart-shaped purse. Jewelry might include a pendant depicting a deer, rose or edelweiss flower.
- **Hair.** Top off your look with braids, a flower headband or an Alpine hat if you wish.

### For the gentlemen:

- **The lederhosen and leather suspenders.** This, along with a shirt, socks and shoes, forms the basic fest outfit for men and boys. Length of the lederhosen can be above or below the knee. In lieu of suspenders, you can wear a belt. The shirt is checkered or plain white, with buttons.
- **Shoes.** For the full effect, obtain the Haferlschuh, the traditional Bavarian leather work shoe. But Faber said hiking boots or any rugged brown leather shoe works just as well.
- **Socks.** Wear long, light-brown wool socks. Calf warmers can be worn with shorts.
- **Optional accessories.** For men, these include a hat with pins or feathers (on the left only), a vest or jacket, and charivari - a chain of charms worn across the front of the lederhosen.

# Look your best at any German fest

## A guide to dressing like an 18th Century local

## Where to buy

Two shopping options will be available on Panzer Kaserne in the near future. Pia's Bavarian Clothes will set up as an AAFES vendor at the Panzer Exchange, Sept. 28 through Oct. 11. And during the week of the Swabian-American Biergarten event Oct. 15-17, Trachten Michel will offer a selection of traditional German clothes for sale in the Galaxy Bowling and Entertainment Center.

Dianne Schwarz, who heads up several shopping-focused Facebook pages for military spouses and expats, said women can expect to spend at least \$200 for a full dirndl set at a trachten retailer. Lucky shoppers might stumble across options at discount department stores or find a gently used set on one of the online yard sale sites.

"I've worn mine on ski club trip fest nights, to SCSC events, to Stuttgart's Volksfest and Frühlingsfest," said Schwarz, a Stuttgart Community Spouses' Club leader. "There are lots of opportunities to wear them."

The spouses' club maintains the following partial list of retailers for members looking to shop for trachten. No federal endorsement is implied. Covid rules may affect access and hours of operation, so check before you go, and some retailers also sell online. Some vendors may accept VAT forms.

- **Krüger Factory Outlet Store**, Antoniusstrasse 21, 73249 Wernau
- **TK Maxx** (often carries dirndls seasonally), Königstrasse 18, 70173 Stuttgart or Wolfgang-Brumme-Alle 27, 71034 Böblingen
- **Angermaier Trachten**, Eberhardstrasse 8, 71713 Stuttgart
- **Trachtenmode Breuninger Department Store**, Marktstrasse 1-3, 70173 Stuttgart
- **Galeria Kaufhof**, Königstrasse 6, 70173 Stuttgart or Eberhardstrasse 28, 70173 Stuttgart
- **C&A Department Stores**, Königstrasse 6, 70173 Stuttgart or Mailänder Platz 7, 70173 Stuttgart
- **CARRÉ Bad Cannstatt**, Wildungerstrasse 2-4 70372 Stuttgart

## 2021 Swabian-American Biergarten

Get your tickets before they're gone to go inside the tent at the Swabian-American Biergarten, October 15-17 on Panzer Kaserne. Tickets are available for eight-person tables (\$270) or individuals (\$40/person advance, \$50/person the day of the event if not sold out). Family day tickets for Sunday, October 17, are \$30 in advance for guests 17 and under, \$40 if purchased at the event, and include access to extra activities for kids.

Ticketed guests get a reserved seat at a table in the tent, a Swabian meal of their choice, a liter of beer or soda and live entertainment. The music line-up for the weekend includes rock bands from the Stuttgart area, a DJ and the Stuttgart High School drumline. U.S. Army IMCOM-Europe Boxing and other Biergarten events outside the tent are free admission.

For ticket information and more details, go to [stuttgart.armymwr.com](http://stuttgart.armymwr.com), or call MWR Tours at CIV 09641-70-596-2104 / DSN 314-596-2104 (office hours Monday - Friday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Panzer Kaserne, Building 2915, Room 312B).

Proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test (no self-testing) within the last 24 hours must be presented prior to entry into the Biergarten tent or Panzer Gym. Please note that entry requirements for this event may change.



A family frolics in a meadow near the German Alps.

Photo by Damaris Rodriguez Pomaes



Kids pose for a photo in their German best.

Photo by Kate Swartz

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# From the Historian

## The Legend of the Patch Barracks Bison



Photo of John Greene atop the bison, purportedly taken in the fall of 1945. Photo by Stanley Wyman

By Bill Butler

EUCOM Command Historian

The story of Patch Barracks' elusive bison began in the 1930s. Long before it served as the headquarters for United States European Command (USEUCOM), Patch was built to house Wehrmacht tank regiments. The Germans constructed the kaserne between 1936 and 1937, and upon completion, the post became home to the 7th Panzer Regiment in May 1938. In honor of the regiment's lineal predecessors, the post was known as the Kurmärker Kaserne. The European bison, or wisent, served as the regimental mascot. Shortly after their arrival, the 7th Panzer commissioned local notable Professor Rudolf Pauschinger to craft a seven-foot tall white granite bison sculpture to adorn their new headquarters. The statue was erected near the present-day flag poles, between what is now the barracks chapel and the Rogers Conference Center.

At the beginning of World War II, the 7th left Kurmärker Kaserne to fight in Poland and ultimately served in France and North Africa. During the war the kaserne's subsequent occupants changed many times—it briefly housed two Panzer companies, served as the headquarters for a German infantry

division, hosted a Wehrmacht engineering academy, and finally, functioned as temporary office space for displaced personnel from the local Daimler-Benz factories. Throughout the war, the bison remained firmly planted near the flagpoles and bore silent witness to the ever changing number of tenants.

The closing months of World War II were even more tumultuous for the kaserne. Allied airstrikes in the spring of 1945 destroyed several buildings and littered the ground with bomb craters. In the final weeks of the conflict, the French arrived in Stuttgart and briefly occupied the area around Kurmärker Kaserne. In July 1945, American forces from the 373d Field Artillery Battalion, a unit of the 100th Infantry Division, took control of the post from French forces. Later in December 1945, the 373d's brief stay ended when they received orders to return to the United States. The next resident was the 346th Engineer General Service Regiment which moved in shortly before the 373d departed. Despite the bombings and occupying forces, the bison remained at his post. American photographs and stories from occupying soldiers corroborated the statue's presence, but not long after the Americans' arrival the bison vanished without explanation.

Over the years, both Germans and Americans

have searched for the bison since its disappearance around late 1945 or early 1946, but rumors of its whereabouts have not yet led to a discovery. In 1970, the USEUCOM Command Historian, Russel A. Gugeler, received a letter from retired

U.S. Army Colonel Harrison C. Jacobs alluding to the location of the statue. Jacobs was a member of the 346th Engineer Regiment stationed at Patch after the war. He claimed a local commander ordered the removal of the bison, prompting Jacobs and his men to blast the granite statue from its pedestal and bury it in a nearby bomb crater. Several Germans who worked on the post after the war corroborated Jacobs' demolition story, but they could not agree on the statue's final resting place. Although Gugeler's leadership was eager to recover the bison, the command conducted no further investigation, and the German government had no interest in funding an excavation project for Wehrmacht relics.





Courtesy Photo

The myriad of theories and rumors surrounding the statue's whereabouts may explain the command's reluctance to act on Jacobs' account. Local German citizens who supported Jacobs believed the bison may have been drug to the athletic field or the chapel basement. Other locals claimed the bison was dumped in water reservoirs located near the athletic field. After the war, American soldiers often disposed of rubble, vehicles, and other large debris in these reservoirs. One German, Werner Glathaar, claimed he saw the bison many times around 1945 during his frequent swims there, but his story was never verified by other contemporary witnesses.

Around 1974, a local man, Heinrich Elsasser, claimed the statue was discarded in a wooded trash dump that later became a part of new post housing. Elsasser had worked in Patch's heating plant for decades and recalled seeing the discarded statue around 1946. His account was even verified by a fellow plant-worker, but the statue was never located. If his story is true, the bison may still be buried under Building 36 in present-day Weicht Village Family Housing.

Despite the investigative efforts of multiple USEUCOM Command Historians, the great bison hunt went cold until 2015, when then Command Historian, Mr. Dan Fitzpatrick, was contacted by retired U.S. Army Colonel Walter "Beetle" Betley. During World War II, Betley served as a lieutenant in the 286th Engineer Combat Battalion, and eventually ended up at the kaserne in the closing months of the war. Recently, Betley heard about the missing statue from other soldiers stationed at Patch after the war, and ultimately visited Patch Barracks in mid-2015 to discuss his role in the bison's disposal.

According to Betley, one day in 1945 a superior officer told him to "get rid of the buffalo," as part of his combat engineer duties. After some deliberation, Betley and his soldiers drilled a hole in the base of the statue, inserted TNT, and blew the bison off its pedestal. The explosion easily separated the statue from its base, and Betley even recalled a small piece of flying bison sailing through a nearby window—despite the presence of a protective net to contain the explosion. He claims other soldiers from the unit brought in a bulldozer and pushed the statue into a nearby bomb crater. "I think it was over on this side. Most of the crater damage was over there," Betley said as he pointed to the west side of the current Rogers Center parking lot.

Betley's account is similar to the Jacobs story from 1970, and both claims that the statue was bulldozed into a nearby bomb crater are plausible. Even without the pedestal, the statue weighed an estimated 15 tons, and pushing it into a nearby crater was the simplest way to dispose of it. If these stories are true, the statue may yet remain intact and could potentially be restored and displayed in its original location. Or perhaps it should rest with the recently reactivated German Panzerbattalion 363, who adopted the 7th Panzer's heraldic bison insignia after the war.



The statue remained standing after Allied airstrikes in 1945.

Courtesy Photo

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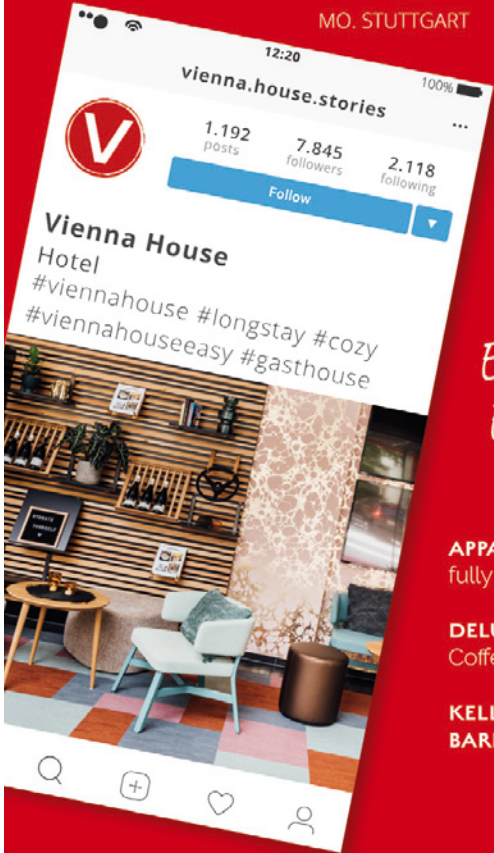
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# Music celebration 'Jazz Open' returns to Stuttgart

Story and Photo by Paul Hughes

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

The Stuttgart "Jazz Open" takes place annually in the heart of downtown Stuttgart. And this year, with the event running between Sep 10, and Sep 19, it became one of the first large-scale music events to take place in the city since the start of the COVID pandemic.

Set in seven locations around the Stuttgart center, the largest venue at the Schlossplatz is an impressive site for an outdoor concert. And, on Sept 15, the venue was filled with people, some of whom had waited more than 20 years to see headline act Liam Gallagher – Ex singer of Oasis and of Wonderwall fame – return to Stuttgart.

What started out as a Jazz event in 1994 – where marquee names were notable Jazz musicians such as Paul Scofield and Randy Crawford – the festival morphed into a celebration of all music genres. Gallagher himself acknowledged this fact, when he joked with the rock 'n' roll crowd, by asking if they were "enjoying the jazz."

After last year's event became a victim of COVID, its 2021 return looked markedly different from previous Jazz Opens, appearing at times like a return to normality, but with a few exceptions. Baden-Württemberg's current COVID guidance limits the number of attendees to outdoor events to 5000 people – less than half of this facility's capacity. Masks were mandatory and only tested, recovered or vaccinated people were allowed to enter.

This year Gallagher is among good company in terms of well-known solo artists gracing the stages. Other big acts include; Ben Howard, Amy Macdonald and Katie Melua. The latter played the smaller Altes Schloss stage, one of the more intimate venues of the festival.

The 2022 line up for what is one of Stuttgart's most important cultural events has already been announced. Next year audiences will have the opportunity to be serenaded by Sting, to Rock out to Van Morrison, or chill to the easy listening of Jamie Cullum in a weeklong event that's not to be missed.

For more information go to <https://www.jazzopen.com/jazzopen-2022.html>



Liam Gallagher one of the headline acts at this year's festival sings "Hello," taken from the Oasis album: *Definitely Maybe*, for whom he was the lead singer.

Photo by Paul Hughes




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# The Big Question:

## What is your favorite German Oktoberfest Food?



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1



2



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&  
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6



7

### 1. Apfeltasche

- Joshua Smith, 12th Grade

### 2. Debrecziner

- James Arnold, 10th Grade

### 3. "Yufka, like the ones outside Real"

- Aidan Wilbur, 3rd Grade

### 4. "I went to a German restaurant just out in town and got a pork shank, that's the most German so far, Christkindelsmarkt and the Glühwein of course too".

- Lt. Col. James Bechtel, Marine

### 5. "Schweinshaxe (pork knuckle), big old mess of beer. Life is good".

- Bill Christina, USAG Stuttgart

### 6. "Flammkuchen and Currywurst"

- Raechele Butler, Librarian

### 7. "Sauerkraut, potato salad, off the top of my head"

- Sherman T Sumner Jr., Librarian

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