



National History Day

Sixth grade students perform "Hidden in Plain Sight: The Disappearance of Roal Wallenberg" for visitors, parents and teachers before official judging during National History Day held at the Vicenza Elementary School annex Thursday.

The theme of this year's school-wide National History Day is "Taking a Stand in History: People, Events, and Ideas." The other competition categories in the annual event included Individual Documentary, Individual Exhibits, Group Exhibits and Individual Papers. All the winners of each category will go on to compete with other entries from schools in the Mediterranean District. (Photo by Laura Kreider, Outlook Staff) See story on page 5.

Military culture must change to fight 'Long War'

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – As the United States confronts terrorism, military personnel have to make a cultural shift as they fight what officials now call "the Long War," senior DoD officials said.

Lt. Gen. Raymond Odierno, the assistant to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said in an interview that the generation of servicemembers entering the military today must focus on how the United States will deal with extremist networks that threaten America and its allies.

Odierno said the situation is analogous to the situation confronting servicemembers who fought the Cold War. The Cold War was a generational conflict that started after World War II and only ended with the break-up of the Soviet Union in 1991.

"This generation of servicemembers will be in what we're calling the Long War," the general said. "Our estimate is that for at least the next 20 years, part of our focus will be on how do we deal with the extremist networks that will continue to threaten the United States and its allies."

While conventional forces must remain robust and their capabilities must remain second to none, the military's focus will broaden to include a greater emphasis on special operations.

"We have to be able to respond conventionally if necessary, but we must provide more focus on irregular warfare missions," Odierno said.

Even after the defeat of al Qaeda, extremists groups will remain a problem, Odierno said. This will be complicated because terrorist networks are "non-state actors" that may be operating in friendly nations. The mission will not be to confront armies, navies or air forces, but shadowy groups.

The Long War will require different military capabilities and require U. S. leaders to develop a holistic concept of how to defeat these networks. Odierno said this entails being able to coordinate the military aspect of the fight with the efforts of diplomats, financial experts, police officials and others. It also will entail countering propaganda and misinformation extremists release.

Another piece of the Long War for servicemembers is

Even after we win in Iraq, even after we win in Afghanistan, there will be extremist groups that will threaten us.

Lt. Gen. Raymond Odierno
Assistant to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

cultural awareness, Odierno said. Young leaders must understand what drives extremists. "We have to try to understand why they do the things they do, because you have to understand your enemy," he said.

Troops will also have to understand countries U. S. forces will operate in. "You have to understand what their cultures are, what's important to them," Odierno said. "We have learned a lot in the last three or four years, but we have a long way to go."

As part of the Long War mindset, the military is moving more toward an expeditionary force. "With ground forces we are moving back to the United States, so we are able to react around the world quickly and rotate forces quickly," he said.

All ground forces are going to have to work more closely with special operations forces and must enhance their capabilities to work in irregular environments. Special operations forces must also develop new capabilities, and the United States must develop more special operations personnel, Odierno said.

While the changes affect ground forces most, the Air Force and Navy are not spared. The Air Force global strike capability will be crucial in shaping the battlefield. The Navy, while maintaining its skills in the open ocean, known as "blue-water capabilities," will move more into littoral, or coastal, warfare.

"Even after we win in Iraq, even after we win in Afghanistan, there will be extremist groups that will threaten us," Odierno said. "Military personnel must be ready for whatever confronts them in this Long War."

Morale support upgraded for deployed personnel

USAREUR Public Affairs
News Release

In continuing efforts to provide Health, Morale, and Welfare support to deployed European theater personnel, U.S. Army, Europe and 5th Signal Command are upgrading the way deployed personnel make morale telephone calls to family members in Germany, Italy and Benelux (Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg.)

The new system will allow deployed personnel from USAREUR units (Soldiers, Department of the Army civilians and U.S. government contractors) to make two 15-minute calls per week to family members without operator intervention. Previously, personnel were authorized only one 15-minute call per week.

Beginning Feb. 15, USAREUR will turn on the new Unit Morale-Call PIN Issuing Resource-Europe, or UMPIRE, at <https://umpire.hqusareur.army.mil>. This Web-based system will be accessible by deployed and rear detachment unit Telephone Control Officers to request unique individual PIN numbers for deployed personnel. TCOs must have TCO appointment orders on file with the USAREUR TCO. TCOs will be able to request PINs for each deploying person in their organization for a period beginning one month before a deployment to three months after the planned end of the deployment. The system will

enable TCOs to save PIN lists as Excel files, and print out cards for each deployed person, listing his or her unique PIN and the telephone number to call to process the call.

Deployed personnel will use their PIN to access the Army in Europe Automated Attendants, the system available for morale calls 24 hours a day, every day. This automated attendant capability will allow PIN-equipped callers to connect to DSN and private telephones in the Army in Europe region.

USAREUR policy does not allow the use of government cell phones to place or receive morale calls.

USAREUR information (G6) officials said the primary reason for the new system is to ensure all authorized USAREUR deployed personnel have full, fair and equal access to morale telephone calls. At the same time, officials say, the system will save money by reducing abuse of the system, and will ensure USAREUR compliance with Department of Defense policy.

The system will phase in over a 60-day period, from Feb. 15 to April 17, to give all unit TCOs time to request, receive and distribute PINs and instruct personnel in their use. April 17, all deployed USAREUR personnel must have a PIN in order to make a morale call.

All USAREUR personnel should contact their unit TCO for further information.

<https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.asp> USAREUR, Army move to all-electronic pay forms, save tax dollars

USAREUR Public Affairs
News Release

As of Feb. 1, once-optional electronic versions of Wage and Tax Statements (Forms W-2) and Leave and Earnings Statements are standard for myPay users in U.S. Army, Europe.

These electronic versions, available for military and civilian personnel at <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.asp>, are valid for all federal and state income tax purposes.

USAREUR officials are working to verify that all deploying Soldiers have myPay access. Soldiers can establish a separate PIN to allow their spouses access to LES and W-2 information.

USAREUR is making the changes ahead of a Department of Defense initiative, scheduled to be complete by November. The DoD comptroller estimates the changes will save several million dollars and reduce the threat of identity theft for Soldiers and

civilians who currently receive paper copies.

In March 2000, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service launched myPay. The site allows servicemembers and civilian employees to manage their pay accounts, process certain pay-related transactions, and view LESs online 24 hours a day.

The myPay site employs the highest industry standards for encryption and security.

The electronic LES improves security and reduces the risk of identity theft because the Soldier controls when and where the LES is viewed, saved or printed. As a result, users' names, addresses, bank account information, and social security numbers are better protected, while providing them quicker access to pay and tax information.

According to the 266th Finance Command, servicing finance offices can still print LESs and W-2s as required by Soldiers and units.

DoDDS Southern European Wrestling Qualifying Sectionals

The DoDDS Southern European Wrestling Qualifying Sectionals will be held at the Post Gym Saturday starting at 10 a.m.

High School wrestlers from Sigonella, Naples, Overseas School of Rome, Vicenza, Aviano, Ansbach and Wuerzburg will be competing in 14 weight classes to determine the top two wrestlers in each weight class who will advance to the European Finals in Wiesbaden, Germany, Feb. 17-18.

The community is invited to come and cheer on the Cougar wrestlers. If you would like more information, contact George Hanby, coach for the Cougar wrestlers, at the Vicenza High School.



Balancing Your Life

The USAG Vicenza Chaplain's Family Life Office, in partnership with deployed SETAF and 173d Airborne Brigade chaplains, is writing a series of devotional articles based on the best-selling book, "A Purpose Driven Life" by Rick Warren.

The intent of these articles is to offer deployed Soldiers and their family members a devotional meditation which they can use for weekly discussion and to hopefully deepen their spiritual connection during the separation.

Chaplain (Maj.) Jim Sheil
Vicenza Community Catholic Pastor

Managing our life can be an exercise in frustration. There are so many demands on us and our time, that we often are not sure what to do. Surrounded by commotion and turmoil, we are living reactively rather than proactively. However, there is encouragement.

Jesus' life also was full and demanding. Most of the time people were looking for him. Some wanted his help. Others wanted to imprison or kill him. Yet, he managed to live in the midst of so many distractions in a way that has made him an example to generation after generation. What was his secret?

The gospels have many stories about Jesus going away by himself to pray. Deep in his soul he was united intimately with his father. This loving relationship was his "base of operations;" the source of his peace and strength. This habit of taking time to go away and be with our father is a worthwhile way for us to live. Even if we cannot physically remove ourselves from the noise and commotion surrounding us, we can develop the habit and practice of

quietly withdrawing to the quiet place within us where we are one with our father.

When we try this, we come to learn our father is more eager to help us than we are to accept his help.

Our time with our father does not change the world around us, but it does change us. We come to know that, whatever is going on, whatever we are facing, we are not alone.

We also come to know that each of us is the result of a thought in the mind of God; that our father creates and loves us as we are, and that we are not an accident.

This in itself goes a long way in helping us to manage our life. Our father loves us. We are worthwhile. We are deeply related to someone who is beyond what we are facing, yet at the same time intimately involved in everything that is going on around us. We have nothing to be afraid of. We can begin to approach the peace that is hidden deep within us as an image of God.

We begin to enter into a relationship; the relationship Jesus shares with his father. When we work at creating space in our life for this relationship to deepen and develop, our life seems to take care of itself.

There is real power in knowing we are not alone, that we are not apart from God. Jesus knew this in his life among us, and he invites us to share in it now in our own life.

Our life begins to manage itself, still with our consent and, from time to time, with our hard work. The really difficult part is our constant tendency to take back whatever control of our life we have given to Jesus. Gradually, though, as our life with Jesus deepens, even this gets "easier." Our life is managing of itself.

Community Action Council

This forum is to discuss issues affecting the community.

If you have an issue you wish to submit, visit the USAG Vicenza Web site at www.usag.vicenza.army.mil and click on the Community Action Council link. This link provides you the opportunity to review issues that have been previously submitted and responded to by post agencies. There is also a form available for you to submit any new issue you would like addressed. If you have questions, call 634-5222 or 0444-71-5222 from off post.

The command encourages you to identify yourself when submitting a CAC issue in order to be able to answer your concern directly.

The command also reminds the community that CAC issues submitted containing vulgar, derogatory or inflammatory language will not be addressed.

Childcare is offered during the CAC at \$4 per hour, per child, for children ages 6 weeks old through kindergarten from 8:45-11:15 a.m. Preregistration is required. Children will be cared for in the Child Development Center, building 395.

Children must be registered with Child and Youth Services Central Registration. Call 634-7219 or stop by their location in the Davis Family Readiness Center.

The CAC will be hosted at the Caserma Ederle Chapel on Feb. 22 and March 22 beginning at 9 a.m.

Issue: On Thursdays and Fridays the post exchange puts out their new merchandise. When entering the PX on those mornings it seems to be full of Italians who purchase most of the merchandise, or have it bought for them.

I am coming to the conclusion that since the PX has mostly Italian employees, that these people are putting out the merchandise and having their "friends" purchase it for them.

There is already a problem with AAFES supplying more sizes. A size small is almost always impossible to find, but with people not authorized to shop in the PX actually purchasing the limited quantities of items, shopping in the store can become frustrating.

Response from AAFES: Our associates receive extensive training on the AAFES policies regarding employee purchases, and even more training regarding who is authorized to purchase.

Our AAFES policy states that associates who are authorized ID card holders cannot shop while on duty.

Since the majority of our associates are Italians, most do not have shopping privileges, and they are aware of that. Our associates are also aware of the policy of unauthorized persons asking authorized patrons to buy for them. If an authorized patron is caught purchasing merchandise for an unauthorized person that is not a bona-fide gift, both parties could face stiff penalties, as they would be violating the Status of Forces Agreement and jeopardizing the tax free privilege given to the NATO forces in Italy.

We are re-emphasizing training on this important concern with our associates.

Issue: Over the past several years that I have been stationed here, I have noticed a steady decrease in the number of tickets issued to Italians who work on post. When I first arrived here I noticed that vehicles that were illegally parked received tickets, even though I saw several Italians throw the tickets in the trash when they received them.

I watch MP's pull over Soldiers and spouses for speeding and I assume they are issuing tickets. However, I have yet to see Italians or Carabinieri receive a ticket for the speeding.

I have personally come close to being run over by Italian drivers on post who did not slow down or bother acknowledging me even though I was on a crosswalk. This type of behavior is unacceptable and shows a double standard on this post.

Why is it that when the Italians do it, nothing happens to them. These things have happened in front of an MP, and when it's pointed out to the MPs, nothing happens.

The SOFA should be amended in order to hold Italians and Carabinieri to the same standards that Americans are.

Response from Directorate of Emergency Services: The joint patrol wrote over 250 tickets in one month. More than 100 of those tickets were given to local nationals, in money fines for speeding, by the Carabinieri.

The MP's do not have jurisdiction to cite local nationals, but they can take down the information and pass it to the Carabinieri. If a Carabinieri is seen speeding, we take down the information and pass it to the Carabinieri commander.

Issue: A few months ago I was hired to work in Vicenza as a GS employee. When I was looking for information for housing and other stuff that I needed, I only found information for active duty personnel.

This is a good thing for our Soldiers but we can't forget that we have civilians who have never been in Vicenza, and they may be a little lost. In addition, there is no transportation for the new people when we arrive here.

How can one expect for our Soldiers and civilians to be okay just staying on post for who knows how long?

Responding Agencies: Civilian Personnel

Advisory Center: One of the most readily available and convenient resources is the information available on the SITES Web site. SITES offers pertinent information about the post and also offers a phone directory for all organizations and activities, with their location, phone numbers and hours. The Web site is: <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/sites/index.jsp>

You can also obtain information from the Army Community Services Relocation Office. This is another source of information available for newcomers to obtain information about the Vicenza community.

The "Lemon Lot" is located in front of the dining facility and is run by the BOSS program. Employees must obtain a permit for their vehicles from the Vehicle Processing Center before putting their car on the lot.

Private taxis are not allowed on post.

Directorate of Logistics: The DOL has an established shuttle service between the Torri and Lerino compounds and an airport shuttle service for official travelers. Inquires for these services can be made to the TMP office at 634-6916.

Directorate of Public Works: There is no distinction between Housing Office services provided to Soldiers and eligible civilians, except that civilians (other than Red Cross directors) are only eligible for private rental quarters.

Civilians and Soldiers receive the same services in terms of available information and showing/translation services (taxi interpreter). In our Housing Office customer service waiting area, we have an online private rental data base depicting available rental unit photos, location/address, bedrooms, bathrooms, layout, square meters, monthly rental, etc., where customers can make an appointment to view the unit.

Meningitis cases confirmed in Germany

By Col. Bradley Harper
Commander

U.S. Army Health Clinic Vicenza

Over the past week there have been three confirmed cases of bacterial meningitis in focused areas in Germany.

Meningitis is an infection of the coverings (meninges) of the brain and or spinal cord. These cases were confirmed to be caused by *Neisseria Meningitidis*, a common cause of meningitis in colleges and was a major health threat in years past at basic training posts in the Army.

The Army now vaccinates all Soldiers in basic training against the most common forms of this infection, but the vaccination is generally not considered to be protective beyond five years.

Meningitis is caught in the same manner as the flu – respiratory droplets from sneezes, kissing, sharing cups, sharing cigarettes, or soiled tissues. Patients become ill two to 10 days after exposure. Exposure requires some close contact, and meningitis is less contagious than the common cold.

Signs and symptoms of meningitis infection include fever, the worst headache of your life, sensitivity to light (photophobia), nausea, vomiting, a stiff or painful neck, and severe muscle aches. The patient can also seem very

confused and feel sicker than they ever have before in their life. Small children may only have nausea and vomiting with fever.

It is a serious infection which can be fatal if antibiotic treatment is delayed. Most infections occur in early March as the influenza season is winding down, and meningitis is often misdiagnosed as a severe case of influenza.

While up to 15 percent of cases can be fatal, they are usually the first cases in the community when the health care providers' index of suspicion is low.

The European Regional Medical Command has alerted all medical treatment facilities within Europe of this concern, and I have personally briefed all our providers to be alert to this possible diagnosis in the proper setting.

Treatment consists of antibiotics that have been proven to be effective for many years. Both the Italians and Americans treat this infection in a similar manner. If someone is diagnosed with the disease, close contacts are also given antibiotic treatment, which effectively prevents clinical infection.

At this time, there have been no confirmed cases of meningitis in the military community in Vicenza this winter.

To protect yourself and your family it is always advised to wash your hands on a regular basis,

**Medical Advisory:
Meningitis
Visit the Web site
www.hqsareur.army.mil/medalart
for more information**

practice good hygiene when sneezing (sneeze into your sleeve or a tissue), and avoid close contact with anyone who is ill.

If you feel ill, don't "tough it out" and come to work.

If you have a fever over 100 degrees Fahrenheit, either come to the clinic or the Vicenza hospital [San Bortolo] emergency room downtown for evaluation.

If you are diagnosed with the disease, we will ask you who you have come into close contact with over the past week, so that we can also provide them with preventive therapy.

As with the Vicenza military community, there are no reports of cases in the local Italian community.

This information is provided to tell you what to look for, so that you can make intelligent decisions regarding your health and that of your family, without unnecessary concern.

For more information on meningitis, visit the Medical Advisory: Meningitis Web site at www.hqsareur.army.mil/medalart or contact your nearest military medical treatment facility; Vicenza health clinic – 634-7297/7484 (0444-71-7297/7484); Livorno health clinic – 633-7357 (050-54-7357).

Facts about Meningitis

What is *Neisseria meningitidis*?

Neisseria meningitidis is a type of bacteria that may be found in healthy people's throats. In some communities as many as one in five people may carry this bacteria without symptoms, though they usually only carry the bacteria for short periods.

What are the symptoms of Meningococcal disease?

Symptoms of meningococcal infection typically develop 2-10 days after exposure. Only very rarely does this bacteria cause serious illness. Individuals with these symptoms should be seen by a health care provider right away. Symptoms include:

Meningococemia (blood-borne bacterial infection): Onset of fever, chills, and feeling unusually weak and tired. A rash may be present, often on the hands and feet. Cool, clammy skin and leg and feet pain may accompany above symptoms.

Meningococcal meningitis (infection of the spinal cord lining): Sudden onset of high fever, stiff neck, headache, nausea, vomiting, and/or mental confusion and sleepiness. A rash may be present, often involving the hands and feet. In babies, the only signs of this illness may be acting more tired than usual, acting more irritable than usual, and eating less than usual. Babies with meningitis will usually have a fever, but this is not a reliable sign of illness.

Early diagnosis and treatment are very important. If symptoms occur, see a doctor immediately. The diagnosis is usually made by growing bacteria from a sample of spinal fluid. The spinal fluid is obtained by performing a spinal tap, in which a needle is inserted into an area in the lower back where fluid in the spinal canal is readily accessible. Identification of the type of bacteria responsible is important for selection of correct antibiotics.

How is this bacteria spread?

Neisseria meningitidis is not a highly contagious organism. It is spread through close contact with people who have the active disease. It can be spread by sneezing, coughing and through saliva. Close contacts with people who have meningococcal disease include those who have had prolonged physical contact (in a room together greater than 4 hours), or those who might have kissed, shared eating utensils, a cigarette, or a water bottle with someone who is infected.

Should close contacts be treated?

Yes, close contacts of infected people should be treated with a dose of antibiotics as soon as possible to prevent the possibility transmission.

What should I do if I am worried about someone who is ill?

Trust your instincts. Someone who has meningitis or septicemia could become seriously ill very quickly. Get medical help immediately or contact your medical treatment facility if you are worried about someone who is ill.



Soldier, civilian retire

Gino Menegatti and Sgt. 1st Class Jacqueline Redding pose for a photo following a retirement ceremony in their honor held at the Caserma Ederle Theater Jan. 31. Menegatti, who began working on post in 1977, retires after 29 years of service in the Vicenza military community. His final assignment was the Interagency Fleet Management System manager with the Directorate of Logistics. Redding, who joined the Army in 1984, served in her final military assignment with the 510th Postal Company. (Photo by Barbara Romano, 7th ATC Photo Lab)

Black History Month celebrations begin



Maj. Gen. David T. Zabecki (right), SETAF Rear commander, and Sgt. 1st Class Jermaine Patterson, SETAF Equal Opportunity advisor, cut the cake officially kicking off Caserma Ederle's Black History Month celebration Friday in the post exchange food court.

"It's important to have events like Black History Month, so that we may reflect and remember where we came from as a nation, and where we are going. The military, as an institution, stands head and shoulders above all other institutions when it comes to integration and equal opportunity for all who join," said Maj. Gen. Zabecki, guest speaker for the event. Maj. Gen. Zabecki was followed by Angela Bethel, who sang acappella, "The Greatest Love," to the delight of the crowd, which gave her two loud rounds of applause. The next Black History Month event is a luncheon Feb. 15 in the South of the Alps dining facility when Lt. Col. (Ret.) Lee Archer, who was a member of the Tuskegee Airmen during World War II. (Photo by Diana Bahr, USAG Vicenza Public Affairs)

The Outlook

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Submissions: The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions for style, brevity and clarity. Submission should be made via email and must be received by Wednesday at noon for the following week's publication. Circulation is 2,500.

CORRECTION

In the Jan. 10 edition of *The Outlook* on page 8, we identified incorrectly Vickie McCann in a photo with Will Butler as Tina Bagby. We sincerely apologize for the mistake and any confusion.

Outlook readership survey

The USAG Vicenza Public Affairs Office, which is responsible for production of *The Outlook*, wants to know what our readers think of the paper. Many of community members will soon find a short

questionnaire in their mail box.

We ask that you fill it out and either drop it in a mail box on post, or fax it to our office at 634-7543.

Thank you for helping us better serve our community.

Web cam now available

Technology bridges distance celebrating new family members

Photo and Story by Laura Kreider
Outlook Staff

Since the beginning of January, patients at the Vicenza Benincaso Mother and Infant Pavilion have some new equipment that can help them to be closer to home, especially during an important time of their life as it may be after the birth of a child.

"Two laptops were funded by MEDCOM [U.S. Army Medical Command]," said Capt. Myong S. Woo, officer in charge and head nurse at the birthing center.

"We are in the first phase of using one laptop and will phase in the second laptop as more people want to use it," she said.

The USO donated the broadband connection to the center, which enabled them to use the wireless technology.

Woo explained that the laptop can be used in the patient's room in the comfort of their beds.

"The main purpose of the Web cam and laptop is to bridge the gap between family members and spouses who cannot be at the delivery to see the newborn. With the Web cam, everyone can share in the joy of celebrating the new addition to their family," she continued.

Patients can also use the laptop to instant

message, send pictures via e-mail and also surf the net.

They can register for a Yahoo account ahead of time and also plan for their family members to register if they do not have an account already.

If they did not register ahead of time, staff can assist with the easy process of how to register and use the laptop.

"All they have to do is request it and our staff will be happy to train them on using it," Woo said.

The Benincaso Pavilion staff is competent on the use of the computer. Army Community Services Communication Station personnel are in the process of training the staff fully on the use of the Web cam.

Pfc. Xavier Warren, who works at the clinic and his wife Deana, just welcomed their new born son, Trenton. They were among the first people who had the opportunity to use the new equipment, and they were positive about sharing the birth of their baby with family members in the states.

"Even though the Army stations us all over the world, we are really pleased with the fact that they do everything they can to make you feel close to home," they expressed to the staff at the center. For information about the Web cam call the Benincaso Pavilion at 634-6667.

Capt. Myong S. Woo, Benincaso Mother and Infant Pavilion head nurse, helps Xavier and Deana Warren who holds their new born son, Trenton, use the laptop available at the birthing center. The laptop can be used in the patient's room in the comfort of their beds. With the web cam, everyone can share in the joy of celebrating the new addition to their family, according to Woo.

DoD plans to boost access, availability to military child care

By Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26, 2006 – The Defense Department will use a multifaceted approach to boost the availability of child care services for military families, a senior official said here yesterday.

"We project the (child care) needs as greater than what we're offering at this point," Jan Witte, director of DoD's Office of Children and Youth, told American Forces Press Service and the Pentagon Channel.

The ongoing realignment of U. S. forces from longstanding overseas bases in Europe and elsewhere to stateside installations and high operational tempos caused by the war against terrorism are placing demands on the military child care system, Witte said. Consequently, DoD wants to "jump-start" its military child care programs to provide more spaces for the children of active-duty and reserve-component servicemembers.

"Currently, we're using a multipronged approach" to increase military child care capacity, Witte said, noting DoD will

continue to build on-post facilities.

"And we're also doing some contracting with civilian centers off the installations" to address lengthy waiting lists at some military bases, she said.

DoD has also provided funds to the services to obtain modular buildings to help meet immediate child care needs. Witte estimated that more than 4,000 new child care spaces will be created through new construction and the use of modular buildings.

"They're just starting with those, and we're really hopeful that this will really be a way to get some spaces quickly," she said.

DoD now spends about \$434 million on military child care each year, Witte said. More than \$60 million in supplemental funding has been employed in the past three years to extend the hours of child care services, including weekend and evening care, and to run summer camps for military children with one or both parents deployed

overseas. She said another \$90 million in funding is earmarked to build new child care centers.

The armed services also have added many programs in the past few years, such as videoteleconferencing facilities and computer labs that assist military children to communicate with deployed parents, Witte said.

Efforts are ongoing to address an estimated shortage of about 27,000 military child care spaces remaining after the 4,000 new spaces are factored in. The focus, she said, is to increase child care services at installations experiencing high deployment rates, at bases gaining troops through overseas redeployments, or at installations affected by long child care waiting lists.

"Child care across the nation is at a premium," Witte acknowledged. "Finding those spaces at the right places is a challenge" for both military and civilian families.



Help empty the mailroom

Community Mail Room employees are ready and waiting to dole out packages to the owners. The CMR Annex, building 304, makes this very customer friendly. You can pull your car right up to the door and the CMR staff is willing to assist you, if needed in putting the parcels into your vehicle. As the Soldiers downrange get ready to return home, they are sending back many of their belongings via postal service, and this is causing an immense storage problem for the CMR.

"While we realize that some of these items, like the trunks, are very heavy," said Ron Reynolds, chief, Administration Services, USAG Vicenza. "Treat it like groceries, open the trunk and take a bit into the house at a time. We really need the spouses to come in and pick up the items as soon as possible."

It should be noted as well the returning Soldier's reintegration check list cannot be cleared by the CMR with parcels still pending receipt. (Photo by Diana Bahr, USAG Vicenza Public Affairs)

Ski, snowboard competitors sought

IMA-EURO Public Affairs
News Release

Skiers and snowboarders from throughout Europe will vie for medals in the 2006 Jeep Ski and Snowboard U.S. Forces Championship at the Hausberg Ski Area in Garmisch March 11 and 12.

The championship will feature competition in alpine ski slalom and giant slalom, and snowboard giant slalom events, in racer, professional and youth classifications. The event is open to all U.S. ID-cardholder military men and women, civilians and family members age six and older.

Entrants in the adult racer class will compete in active duty or civilian divisions, in men's or women's open (age 18-29), senior (age 30-39) or master's (age 40 and up.) Skiers earning local commander cup points for their unit must be entered in this class.

Youth class skiers age six to 17 will compete in boy's or girls minor (age six to nine), junior (age 10 to 12), and senior (age 13 to 17) categories. Youth skiers will race

on the same course as the adults and must have the ability to control their speed and turns on the steep hills of 'blue' runs. Race organizers said that helmets are highly recommended for all youth skiers.

Professional class skiers are civilian ID-cardholders who are associated with providing ski or snowboard related services – such as instructor, trip guide, and ski patrol – on a paid, compensated or volunteer basis.

Active duty military with professional credentials may compete in the racer class.

There is no entry fee for participation in the racing events.

Registration forms are available at Army Morale, Welfare and Recreation Outdoor Recreation centers or online at www.mwr-europe.com. Pre-registration ends March 8.

For more information, contact Wiesbaden Outdoor Recreation at 377-5760 or go online to www.mwr-europe.com.

The 2006 Jeep Ski and Snowboard U.S. Forces Europe Championship is hosted by Installation Management Agency-Europe Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

National History Day

VES students share creative look at history

Story and photos
by Laura Kreider
Outlook Staff

History or historia, from ancient Greek and Latin. The word historia comes from histor, a person who knows and learns after viewing an event.

Nowadays, students get to know about events through media, but they also learn through research.

Through research, sixth-grade students of the Vicenza Elementary School started their projects this past December looking for topics, information, and primary and secondary sources to get prepared for the National History Day held at the VES annex Feb. 2.

"Students worked hard throughout January collecting information, learning about their topics, and then putting together projects," said Karen Williams, VES sixth grade Social Studies teacher and coordinator of

National History Day.

This year, the projects focused on the theme "Taking a Stand in History: People, Events, and Ideas."

"All sixth graders were on hand to present their projects and answer questions about their topics. Parents, teachers, administrators, and students from other grades enjoyed the presentations and learned something about people, events, and ideas that took a stand in history," she continued.

One of the students in Williams's class, who participated in the exhibit category, Ali Bell, chose Olympia Brown because she was very interested in how she took a stand in history, according to Bell.

"Olympia Brown was the first female minister, and took a big stand in women rights," she said.

"I started working on this project back in December and then I did some research on the computer using the Internet during my computer time in class or at the computer lab on Mondays. I discovered that her sweet songs of

Vicenza Sixth Grader Ali Bell answers some questions about her exhibit on display during the National History Day held in the VES annex Feb. 2. Bell was one of the participants in the Individual Exhibit category. "I chose Olympia Brown, First Female Minister, because she took a big stand in women rights," Bell said.

freedom are still played today in some churches," Bell explained.

Other students who also used the computer were able to print some real pictures to use with their project.

"First we looked at a newspaper and we saw that there were changes being made about the women's rights in Afghanistan," said Deanna Weathers-Perez and Gabrielle Williams who participated together in the exhibit category with the topic "The Government in Afghanistan: Taking a Stand in Women Rights."

In addition to researching by going on the computer, the two students also found a couple of books at the library and found additional information in encyclopedias. They also interviewed their teacher Heather Heffernan.

They picked the Group Exhibit category because "we found that it would take great photos, good wording and creativity," they said.

Other students were also enthusiast about their projects.

"When we had to pick a category to be in, we knew we wanted to work together," said Angela Pitts who worked in the Group Exhibit category with Alicia Settle.

Together they picked a topic from the 18th century – The Boston Tea Party.

"We faced many problems after we decided on the topic, but we were

able to finish everything," Pitts added.

"The Boston Tea Party was an event in history in which the thirteen original colonies decided they did not like England taxing their tea. Some colonists decided to do something about it by dumping tea into the harbor. This event was important because it lead up to the Revolutionary War. That war would let us become the free nation we are today," they wrote in their process paper.

"What I liked was how it [the display] turned out. It looked really neat," said Settle.

After each presentation was concluded, official judging - based on some criteria such as historical quality, relation to theme and clarity of presentation - decided which projects will go on to the Mediterranean District Competition.

The categories competing included Individual Documentary, Group Dramatic Performances, Individual Exhibits, Group Exhibits and Individual Papers.

"Although all the students are worthy of recognition and so many wonderful history projects were presented, the first and second winners for all the categories competing will go on to compete with other entries from schools in the Mediterranean District," said Williams.

The following students will send their projects forward to the district level for consideration for the All Europe National History Day Event:

Individual Documentary

- Chelsey Couch

Group Dramatic Performances

- Adam Kopic and Michael Pena
- Taylor Curry, Charles Austion, Dominique Johnston

Group Exhibits

- Hannah Gann, Alex Yost, Diante' Howard, and Shaneequa Hayden
- Rebecca Inman and Melany Galabert

Individual Papers

- Mercallis JnoBaptiste
- Jona Aldan

Individual Exhibits

- Amanda Finley
- Deniz Houston

If selected at the district level, the students will accompany their projects and go to Heidelberg, Germany, for the DoDDS European National History Day in March.

"Congratulations to all our sixth graders and to the winners for jobs well done! Much fun was had with history, and much learning took place!"

"Thank you, all parents, for your support, and many thanks to Joni Rogers, Fran Hall, Beth Petty, Mark Kopic, Patricia Salerno, Henrietta Hawkins, and Heather Heffernan our judges. We couldn't have done it without you," Williams concluded.



"Parents, teachers, administrators, and students from other grades enjoyed all the presentations and learned something about people, events, and ideas that took a stand in history," commented Karen Williams, VES sixth grade Social Studies teacher and coordinator for the event.

Are your children
SmartWired

By Diana Bahr
USAG Vicenza Public Affairs

The USAG Vicenza School Age Services have been selected to be a European pilot site for the SMART Wired program. SMART Wired is a new way to approach learning that uncovers how a child learns, rather than the traditional method of teaching all children using the same method. It is a comprehensive, eight-week after school program for children ages 7-11 who are enrolled at SAS.

SMART is an acronym that stands for Successes, Mind patterns, Attractions and interests, Resources and Thinking talents. Using Smart cards, SAS staff and parents will talk to children, one-on-one and try to discover how

their individual child learns.

For example, under Successes, a child is asked to think about how a 'success' in the past can help him or her solve an issue in the future, such as how did they help a friend through a difficult situation (loss of parent, bullying, etc.) and what did the experience teach them?

As the staff, parent and children go through the Smart book they will be guided through the five stages (S-M-A-R-T) and perform a series of activities in each stage. They can go through one stage at a time, or all five at once. After every stage, what the parent, or staffer, and child have learned about the stage is recorded on a Power Card, which can be used to help the child remember how to use their SMARTs. To complement the Smart cards is a Web site

www.smartwired.org where parents can track their child's progress.

The SmartWired session for Caserma Ederle parents is scheduled for Feb. 10 from 11 a.m.–2 p.m., which includes a light lunch.

This training is designed to introduce parents to the SmartWired process, to encourage them to make sure their children participate and to learn how they can participate from home or from deployment.

During the event, the parents will be given the SmartCards, the Smart booklet, an experience of the Smart materials, and encouragement to participate with their children and with other parents.

To RSVP for the training, contact Hilda Rose at 634-8253, or e-mail Hilda.rose@setaf.army.mil.

Out & About



By Dorothy Spagnuolo

Romantic dinner and medieval event

The following events will take place in the 14th century castle in the town of Bevilacqua, province of Verona. On Feb. 14, St. Valentine's Day, there will be a candlelight dinner with live background music at 8:30 p.m. Cost is 40 euro per person including beverages.

On Feb. 28, the last day of Carnival, enjoy a medieval dinner in the company of knights, dancers and musicians, dancing in the evening. Cost is 35 euro per person including beverages; children 5-10 years of age cost 20 euro and younger than 5 are free. There is also the possibility to rent a medieval costume for 20 euro.

For both these events you will have to make a reservation, either by phone 0442-93-655 or by fax 0442-649-420. Italian spoken.

The silk route: The Birth of the Celestial Empire

La via della seta: La nascita dell'Impero Celeste, at the Treviso museum Ca' dei Carraresi, will be the first of four shows regarding China.

The exhibition starts on Saturday and is one of the most interesting and newest shows where over 200 artistic objects will be displayed. They all come from museums located along the silk route in China. The objects on display go over the historical period between 221 B.C. and 970 A.D. A part of them have never been seen by the public until now because they have been kept in Chinese vaults to protect them.

The collection displayed is the first of four shows in Treviso and is made up of drawings, bronzes, clothes, silk fabrics, earthenware and statues (among these there are four Xi'an's warriors) belonging to the Army of Terracotta Warriors found in 1974 and considered the world's eighth wonder.

The next three shows about China will be: in 2007 - The Mongols' Treasure; in 2009 - The Mings' Splendor; and in 2011 - The Manchus: the Last Empire.

Open daily from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Closed Mondays. The exhibition ends on April 30.

It should be noted that already 60,000 individuals, to include persons from other countries have already booked to see this exhibition. Entrance fee 9 euro, and an audioguide can be rented for the cost of 5 euro.

Home furnishing, agriculture and a patchwork exhibition

The exhibition *Spaziocasa* will be held in the Vicenza fair grounds Feb. 11-19. The display with over 350 exhibitors, will present a whole range of sections from modern to reproduction and garden furniture, furnishing accessories, lighting, rugs and curtains. There is also an area dedicated to weddings, which includes clothing, accessories and various articles. Open Monday and Tuesday 3:30-8 p.m.; Wednesday-Friday 3:30-10 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday 9:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Entrance fee is 8 euro. The grounds are located near the Vicenza ovest (west)

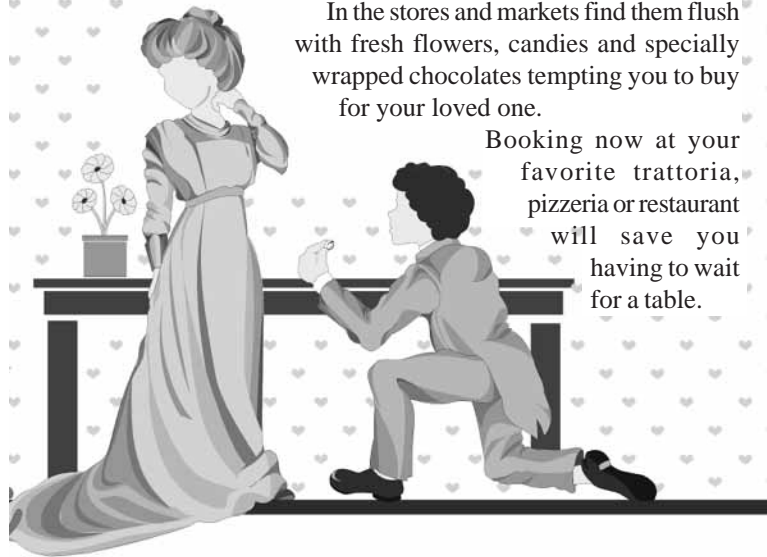
Valentines Day

In Italy, as in most other countries, Feb. 14 is Valentine's Day. The Italian language is rich in expressions, *frasi d'amore*, which on Valentine's Day are especially endearing.

In English, the expression "I love you" is ubiquitous, while in Italian *Ti Amo* is used only between lovers, never with friends, family, or inanimate objects. Instead, the expressions *Vuoi Bene* or *Ti Voglio Bene* are preferred.

In the stores and markets find them flush with fresh flowers, candies and specially wrapped chocolates tempting you to buy for your loved one.

Booking now at your favorite trattoria, pizzeria or restaurant will save you having to wait for a table.



autostrada exit. For those who do not want to drive to the exhibition grounds, the organizers of the exhibit have laid on a no-charge bus to and from the Vicenza train station on Sundays. Times can be found at www.fiera.vicenza.it

In Verona those interested in farming should visit the 107th international exhibition of the latest in machinery, services and products for agriculture and animal farming held in the Verona exhibition grounds Feb. 9-12. Open everyday 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Entrance fee is 14 euro.

In the library in the town of Valdagno there is a small exhibition of patchwork and painted material which have been prepared by members of the *Gruppo Patchwork di Valdagno*.

The library, located in 16th century Villa Valle, is open Mondays 4-7 p.m.; Tuesday and Friday 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 4-8 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 3-8 p.m. Entrance is free. The exhibition closes on Feb. 12.

Markets

The 258th annual St. Valentine's market in the town of Pozzoleone, 20 kilometers from Vicenza, will take place Feb 12-19. This market has something for everyone. On Feb. 12, an antique market will take place and is open 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.; Feb. 12, 18, 19 an outdoor exhibition-market displaying the latest agricultural machinery, farm animals along side a market with 300 stalls selling clothing articles and bric-a-brac opens 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

In a covered area just north to the parish church will be art and photo exhibits, furniture, sports equipment and more open on Feb. 12, 18, 19 from 8 a.m.-11:30 p.m. There will also be a small fair ground with rides, music groups who will play in the evening at 8:30 p.m. and food stands. As the town of Pozzoleone is small, expect crowds in the area and parking problems.

The town of Bussolengo, province of Verona will hold their St. Valentine's fair on Feb 11 starting at 10:30 a.m. with a grand opening ceremony in the main square - Piazza XXVI Aprile. The fair now in its 295th year will take place at the Foro Boario and will include a market with

300 stalls selling bric-a-brac, a small "luna park" and food stands. There will also be a livestock market.

Every evening through Feb. 20 at 9 p.m. different music groups will be playing in a *palatenda*. Some of the shows are free, others require tickets.

On Feb. 12 and 14 four individuals on their motor bikes will give a Free Style Show, at noon, 3, 4 and 5 p.m. On Feb. 11 at 11:30 a.m., 3 and 4:30 p.m. two individuals on their Monty bikes will give a Bike Trial Show, repeat performances will be on Feb. 12 and 14 at 11:30 a.m., 2:30, 3:30 and 4:30 p.m. Both events will take place in Piazza Nuova.

For the occasion of the 2006 Olympic Games, the Great Balon, an historical market held on the second Sunday of every month in the city of Torino is going to be held daily until Feb. 26. Open 8 a.m.-7 p.m. vendors come from far and wide. Bargain hunters can find everything from fine furniture to used petrol pumps.

The following markets can be found taking place on Mondays. These are open usually from 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Lonigo - 160 vendors; Montegalda - 50 vendors; Sovizzo - 34 vendors; Tezze sul Brenta - 36 vendors; Thiene - 180 vendors; and Torrebelficino - 16 vendors.

Find on the stalls flowers, fruit, vegetables, clothes, shoes, hardware and in some markets food take away.

The Italian motorcycle

A century on two wheels exhibition, being held in the Fondazione Mazzotta located on the road Foro Bonaparte in Milan, focuses on the influence of the motorcycle in the 20th century Italian society and documents how motorcycling became part of Italian lifestyle.

There are over 30 rare vintage models of bikes and photographs showing popular brands such as Moto Guzzi, Gilera and Cagiva.

Also displayed are images of riders including Tazio Nuvolari, Giacomo Agostini and Valentino Rossi. Open everyday 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; Tuesdays and Thursday until 10:30 p.m.; and closed on Mondays. Entrance fee is 8 euro.

Now Showing

Caserna Ederle Theater

Feb. 7	CLOSED	
Feb. 8	Yours, Mine & Ours (PG)	7 p.m.
Feb. 9	Get Rich or Die Tryin' (R)	7 p.m.
Feb. 10	King Kong (PG13)	7 p.m.
Feb. 11	Harry Potter & the Goblet of Fire	3 p.m.
	Walk the Line (PG13)	7 p.m.
Feb. 12	King Kong (PG13)	3 p.m.
	Derailed (R)	7 p.m.
Feb. 13	CLOSED	
Feb. 14	CLOSED	

Camp Darby Theater

Feb. 10	Aeon Flux (PG13)	6 p.m.
Feb. 11	Just Friends (PG13)	6 p.m.
Feb. 12	Chicken Little (G)	2 p.m.

Movie Synopsis

YOURS, MINE AND OURS - *Dennis Quaid, Rene Russo*. A widow and widower fall in love and get married, but the resulting combined eighteen children make for a hair-raising situation under one roof.

GET RICH OR DIE TRYIN' - *50 Cent, Joy Bryant*. An orphaned street kid (Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson) makes his mark in the drug trade, but finally dares to leave the violence of his former life behind to pursue a promising career in the music business as a rapper.

DERAILED - *Clive Owen, Jennifer Aniston*. Advertising executive Charles is just another Chicago commuter who regularly catches the 8:43 a.m. train to work. But the one day he misses his train and meets Lucinda, his life is changed forever. Lucinda is charming, beautiful and seductive. Despite the fact that each are married with children, their attraction to one another is magnetic. Lunch dates quickly become cocktails after work.

KING KONG - *Naomi Watts, Adrien Brody*. While filming on location at the mysterious Skull Island a group of filmmakers discover a giant gorilla named Kong, living in a massive jungle where creatures from prehistoric times have been protected and hidden for millions of years. It is the attention of a beautiful human woman that soothes Kong long enough for him to be subdued and shipped back to New York, where his bleak future involves being put on display in front of humans.

HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE - *Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson*. In his fourth year at Hogwarts, Harry faces his greatest challenges and dangers yet. When he is selected under mysterious circumstances as a contestant in the Triwizard Tournament, Harry must compete against the best young wizards from schools all over Europe. But as he prepares, signs begin to point to the return of Lord Voldemort. Before long, Harry is playing not just for the Cup, but for his life.

AEON FLUX - *Charlize Theron, Frances McDormand*. In the 25th century, a rampaging virus has forced the remnants of humanity into the seclusion of a final city. There is great political conflict within, however, and this is the story of an acrobatic assassin, Aeon Flux, whose latest target is the government's top leader.

JUST FRIENDS - *Ryan Reynolds, Amy Smart*. Chris is a selfish, womanizing and successful music executive. Circumstances bring him back to his home town and fate reconnects him with the "just friends" girl of his dreams. Can one escape the clutches of the "friend zone?" Is it possible to go from "just friend" to boyfriend? Chris is about to find out the hard way.

Admission: Adults age 12 and over \$4, children \$2.
The Ederle Theatre box office opens one hour prior to show time.
Tickets to blockbuster shows are presold at Baskin Robbins.

Bus Safety Tips

Teach your children these basic rules that apply whether they ride the bus or walk to school:

- Walk - Don't run.
- Don't cross the street between parked cars.
- Cross streets only at designated crossings - and wait for traffic to stop before crossing.

If your children ride the bus, teach these additional safety rules:

- In the morning at the bus stop - stand at least three steps back from the curb while waiting for the bus.
- In the afternoons at the bus stop - get off the bus, take at least three steps away and wait until the bus has left before walking home.
- Never go in front of or behind the school bus. In Europe, traffic is not required to stop for loading or unloading school buses.

Finally, make sure your children leave on time, with enough time to walk to the bus stop or school safely at their pace - late usually means rushing, which can cause accidents.

Put reflective tape or devices on children's outer clothing and book bags.

Gift of life

Camp Darby supports local community with blood drive

Chiara Mattiolo

USAG Livorno Public Affairs

Pisa hospital transfusion center personnel came to Camp Darby to support a blood drive on Jan. 20.

"We came here last night to set the room up for donations" said Marco Luciani, a doctor at Pisa Santa Chiara Hospital.

"This is a very important drive for us, we try to organize it when we have a slow flow of donations at the Hospital, just like now, after the holidays it [donations] is always slow," Luciani explained.

"This is the first time I donated blood" said Alessandro Vanni, mechanic, Field Support Battalion, Livorno "I always thought about donating, but I always had an excuse ready. This time the hospital came to my workplace, and I had no excuses.

"I am glad I donated and this is an experience I will repeat for certain," said Vanni. "This is probably the easiest and most effective way to support people in need."

Some units participated to this event as a team. AFN had a 75 percent unit participation.

"Just knowing that doing something as easy as giving a little bit of blood can possibly save a life – we were all eager to participate," said

Sgt. Chris Meadows, AFN Livorno.

The humanitarian support from the military and civilian personnel of the Camp Darby community was essential, with over 50 donations, to alleviate the problems of the transfusion center of Pisa Santa Chiara Hospital. The hospital was facing a serious lack of blood due to the decreased donations following the Christmas season.

Donating blood here poses no risk, and all blood is tested to ensure that the blood supply remains safe, according to Luciani. Pisa University is the regional medical center for this area of Tuscany, and if American beneficiaries require life-saving surgery, and blood, these are the people that ensure it is available.

"Actually, we as a community are very dependent from the medical support of the local hospitals," said Capt. Shane Eaton, executive officer, U.S. Army Health Clinic Livorno. "Even if we are a small community, we can still do something to underscore our dependence.

"The message that we want to enhance is that we want to support the local structure because they are there to support us in case of emergencies. This is actually a mutual support, beneficial to both of our structures," said Eaton.



A doctor at Pisa Santa Chiara Hospital's Transfusion Center assists Spc. Nathan Akridge, AFN Livorno, during his blood donation.

Cougar Basketball

Cougar Girls: Surrounded by Naples Wildcats, Vicenza High Schooler Kristin Issertell gets ready to score during Friday's game played at the VHS gym. Issertell scored 11 points in the game. The top VHS scorer was Chakeria Gilbert with 30 points Friday and 21 points Saturday. Naples won both games 55-45 and 57-37. "The Cougar girls fought with spirit and heart right to the end," said VHS Coach Susan Vanderbeek. "We are looking forward to the games against Aviano next week."

Cougar Boys (left): Jeriel McNealy, right, and Chris Weik, in the back, defend against Naples High Schooler Andrew Watson during Saturday's game. The Cougar boys swept the weekend beating Naples 80-78 on Friday and 76-67 on Saturday. Friday's final score was decided in the last four seconds of the game. Xavier Taylor was the top scorer for Vicenza scoring 21 points Friday and 23 points Saturday.

This weekend the VHS basketball teams head to Aviano. (Photos by Laura Kreider, Outlook Staff)