



# The Outlook

Feb. 6, 2007

U.S. Army Garrisons Vicenza & Livorno

www.USAG.Vicenza.Army.Mil

Vol. 40 Issue 5

## Vicenza elementary students take a *D.A.R.E.*



Sgt. Joseph Willie (right), USAG Vicenza Office of the Provost Marshal, Drug Abuse Resistance Education officer, teaches fifth-graders in the first class of the 10-week D.A.R.E. Program, which started at the Vicenza Elementary School Jan. 25. At the end of the class 'Darren the Lion,' (alias Cpl. Travis Quinn), also with the PMO, danced and gave children some D.A.R.E. stickers, hats and frisbees. The D.A.R.E. program has been reintroduced to the community, and includes classes on 'Bullying,' 'Inhalants' and 'Role Models.' See page 4 for story. (Photo by Laura Kreider, Outlook staff)

## Strikes may close gas stations

The Vicenza military community is advised that a possible strike by gas station owners may occur Tuesday through Thursday, according to local media.

Additional, unplanned and unannounced strikes may occur Feb. 25-March 3, and March 25-April 3.

Please keep these dates in mind and keep your gas tanks topped off.

In the event of a strike, AFN will run a scroll across the bottom of its screen on AFN decoder channel 14 (off post); AFN Atlantic Prime (on post/villaggio), on AFN radio, and the Command Information Channel.

## How to find information for post closures, delays

American Forces Network South  
Press Release

You wake up on a Wednesday morning and find it has snowed several inches overnight. What do you do?

Turn on the television and go to the local AFN channel to see what the scroll on the bottom of the screen says about possible closures and delays.

Each AFN station across Europe has a dedicated satellite channel focused on its specific community.

While the programming comes from AFN Prime Atlantic, the channel's news breaks and spots focus on the military community and surrounding areas.

If you live in Villaggio or in the barracks and have a cable system, the AFN channel dedicated to Vicenza is AFN Atlantic Prime. If you live off post and have a satellite decoder, it is channel 14.

Maybe you prefer to tune into AFN's 106FM, *The Eagle*, and hear what the morning deejay says about late openings, post and school closures.

For more information, visit [www.afneurope.net](http://www.afneurope.net) and click on "Vicenza."

## Chapel gate receives security facelift

By John Buchanan

USAG Vicenza Physical Security Officer

In order to increase the security capabilities of the Chapel gate, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, along with the USAG Vicenza Directorate of Public Works, have been installing new security equipment at the gate.

When this project is finished, it will not only improve gate operations, but it will also include a new parking and traffic direction plan around Finance and Human Resources offices and the Chapel parking lot and the intersection at the gate.

This will not change the PT running route across the intersection.

The major changes include the directional flow of traffic through the finance area, the accessibility of traffic from First Street onto Olson Avenue and the exit lane used in the evenings that allows vehicles to leave the installation.

What won't change are the hours of operation – vehicle entry on weekday mornings from 5:30-6:30 a.m. and 7:30-9 a.m. and vehicle exit in the evenings from 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Entering post in the morning will remain the same: you will be greeted by a guard who will check the installation pass or ID card and then you will either be stopped by a contract guard for a vehicle inspection, or you will be directed around the inspection point and across the new active barrier to your destination.

Exiting post in the evening will be a little different: you will enter the exit lane across the new active barrier – the same lane that you entered post on in the morning, drive out the gate and then turn right onto Viale Della Pace.

Traffic signs will be tactically positioned to give the right-of-way to vehicles entering and exiting the gate corridor and for the first two weeks. A military police officer will be assisting the traffic as they enter the exit lane in the evenings.

The next stage of the project will include changing traffic signs, directional signs and parking lines.

This will occur Feb. 15-19. At this time, several roads and parking areas around the gate will be closed.

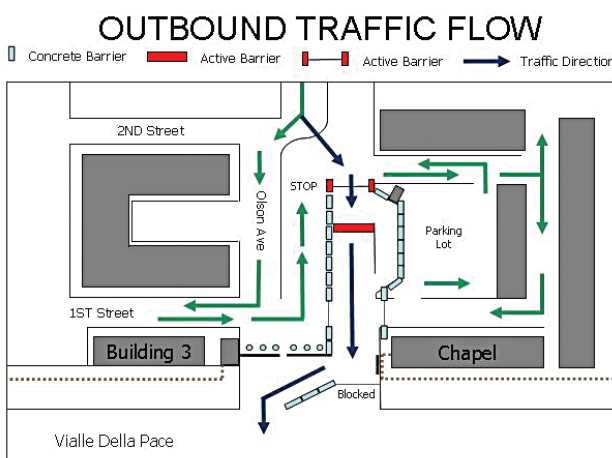
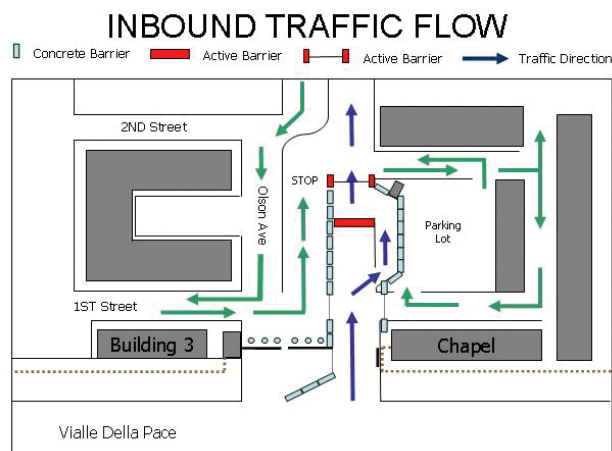
The access roads leading to the Chapel and the finance building will be blocked and all parking in the Chapel parking lot, finance building and along the access roads will be restricted. The gate will be open as normal during these four construction days – please exercise caution around the construction activities.

The final stage of the project will occur within a few days

after the traffic flow is modified but will not include closing the roads. The final stage includes placing concrete barriers and cables along the entry and exit lane. Community members may experience minor traffic disruptions as the barriers are maneuvered into position so we ask that people be careful.

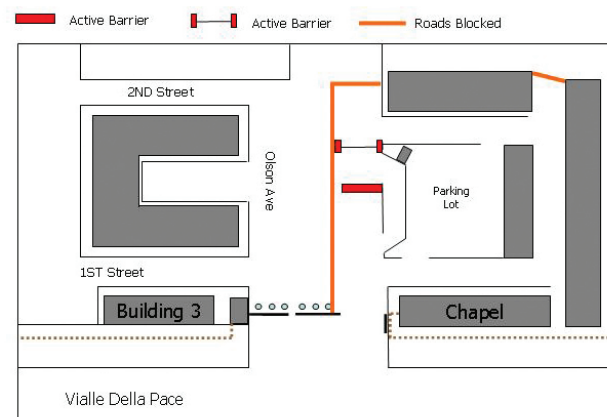
The finished project will greatly increase the security at the gate, while only creating moderate changes in and around the Chapel and finance area.

For questions regarding this project, or the operation of the gate after the project is finished, contact the USAG Vicenza Physical Security Officer at 634-6744, from off post at 0444-71-6744, or MP Operations Division of the Office of the Provost Marshal at 634-8891, off post at 0444-71-8991.



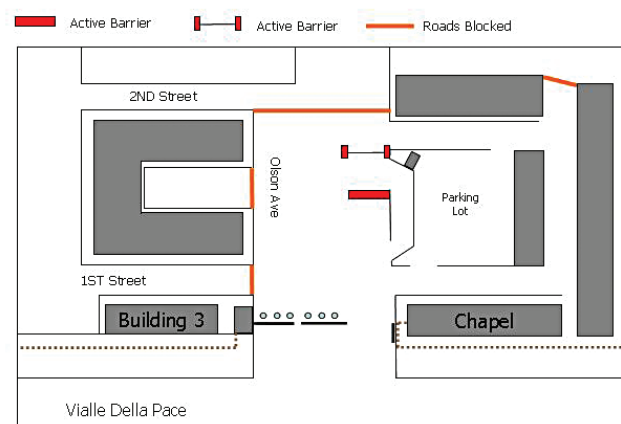
### Feb. 15 only

No parking inside of the blocked road area



### FEBRUARY 16 thru 19

No parking inside of the blocked road area





## New banking option arrives for Vicenza military community

Story and photo by Diana Bahr  
USAG Vicenza Public Affairs

Community Bank opens its doors for business Thursday offering a full-service banking option for community members, according to Shannon Studders, Community Bank manager. The building is located in the parking lot adjacent to Burger King and the post exchange, along Olson Avenue and banking hours are 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. and six automated teller machines are conveniently located around post.

"There are a lot of people on Caserma Ederle who have had Community Bank accounts in the Pacific or in Germany," said Studders. "So they are already familiar with our services."

Bank of America currently operates the Overseas Military Banking Program under supervision from the Defense Finance and Accounting Service.

Among the services offered are checking, savings, certificates of deposit (CDs),

personal and auto loans and more.

Authorized customers include U.S. government personnel (military, civilian, contractors and family members), private organizations and approved individuals.

This is the first office to be open in Italy. Throughout the rest of 2007, Community Bank will open branches in Livorno, Naples, Sigonella and Aviano.

Community Bank, operated by Bank of America, is contracted by the Department of Defense to provide stateside-like banking services exclusively to the military community.

This relationship benefits customers by ensuring a wide range of services tailored for the unique requirements of servicemembers stationed overseas.

A grand opening for Community Bank is set for Feb. 15 at 10:50 a.m. where a ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place and refreshments offered to the community.

For details on what Community Bank offers, call the office at 0444-25-241.



Community Bank officially opens its doors to the public Thursday. The bank is located on Olson Avenue, adjacent to the Burger King parking lot. Hours of the bank are 9 a.m.- 4 p.m., and automated teller machines are located at the post exchange, Shoppette, commissary, Chapel Gate, Ederle Inn and the Villaggio Shoppette.

## Insurance companies give refunds for deceptive sales to military

By Elaine Wilson  
Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs

Life insurance companies are being held accountable for their improper sales practices to military members.

Four companies in the past three months have agreed to a multi-state settlement agreement after Texas Department of Insurance investigators uncovered a pattern of deception to young troops.

Under the agreements, the companies will refund more than \$70 million to more than 93,000 consumers, including about 71,000 servicemembers, according to Texas Department of Insurance news releases.

The first settlement, reached Aug. 3, came after a 20-month investigation by Texas and Georgia, together with the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, into the sales practices of three Waco, Texas-based companies: American-Amicable Life Insurance Company of Texas, Pioneer American Insurance Company and Pioneer Security Life Insurance Company.

State regulators and federal agencies claim that the life insurance companies "targeted young recruits and misled them into believing they were buying an investment product." The servicemembers were actually purchasing an expensive term-life product that was coupled with a side fund and called the "Wealth Builder" or "Horizon Life," according to the release.

The second settlement, reached Oct. 17, involves the Boston Mutual Life Insurance Company.

In 2004, TDI investigators learned that several Boston Mutual agents were soliciting and selling life insurance to low-ranking soldiers in the Fort Hood, Texas, area by misrepresenting the insurance as a savings or investment plan, said Jim Hurley, TDI spokesman. The activity led to the multi-state examination of the company's sales to military personnel.

The company will refund a total of \$427,529.57 to 1,784 military members who bought life insurance policies between Jan. 1, 2002, and April 30, 2005.

"Servicemembers need to be skeptical and shop around if interested in purchasing life insurance," said Tim Haight, acting chief, Client Services Division, Fort Sam Houston Legal Assistance Office. "Educate yourself. The best place to start when considering investments or additional insurance is to get sound advice from a certified financial planner."

The companies are notifying servicemembers with current or lapsed policies affected by the agreements, Hurley said. Consumers who feel they are affected but have not received notification can call the companies' consumer service center at 800-736-7311.

For more information, refer to the Web site for the Texas Department of Insurance at: [www.tdi.state.tx.us](http://www.tdi.state.tx.us)

## Groundhog Day: Using yesterday's lessons to improve tomorrow's outcome

By Chaplain (Col.) Dave Smith  
SETAF Chaplain

The movie "Groundhog Day" made famous a very little-known holiday in February. As far as holidays go, we celebrate Presidents Day in February, a day where we recognize all U.S. Presidents' birthdays. For servicemembers and their families, it brings pleasure because we receive a three-day, or possibly, a four-day weekend.

Being from Pennsylvania, I enjoy the folklore and weather-lore around another holiday, Groundhog Day.

Each year, since the early 1800s, the town of Punxsutawny, Penn., claims that a small rodent – a groundhog – can forecast the weather for the next six weeks. So, on Feb. 2, Punxsutawny Phil came out of hibernation.

As the lore goes, if Phil sees his shadow it means that we will have six more weeks of winter. If Phil does not see his shadow, spring will come early. (He didn't see his shadow.)

Even though we may not get a three-day weekend to celebrate Groundhog Day, at least we get an inside track on the weather forecast. I have not placed much credence nor have I cared much about the

weather forecasting of a groundhog. (Actually, Phil's predictions have held fairly accurate through the centuries.)

However, the movie, "Groundhog Day" suggests something else of importance.

The main character seems to live the same day over and over, learning something from the previous day's experience, until he is able to change the outcome of the next day for the best.

I have heard Soldiers claim – especially while deployed – that they live a groundhog day – where each day is like the day before.

This may be a reality. However, even if our days' activities seem redundant, we can learn from each day and use our learning toward the next day.

It is like running in circles. Each lap we should learn something that will help us to run the next lap better.

For what is at the end of the race? "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize." (1 Corinthians 9:24)

Even if it may seem as if we are running in circles and that each lap is the same, make each lap count. Learn from the previous day so as to make a difference for tomorrow. Run toward the prize.

## Take precautions when driving in fog

Command Safety Office  
Press Release

Because much of the Veneto Region is in a valley, driving in and around Vicenza, and throughout the region, can be very dangerous during the fall, winter and spring months because of the blankets of fog that suddenly appear.

Limited or reduced visibility is one of the most dangerous hazards of winter driving. Pockets of dense fog can reduce visibility down to 50 feet or less.

You can avoid accidents by driving according to the road and weather conditions and by driving defensively.

### Driving tips:

- ◆ If possible, don't drive, or move off the road until the fog lifts.
- ◆ Reduce your speed and don't out-drive your headlights. Slow down.
- ◆ Keep your headlights on low beam or dim, and use fog lights if available.
- ◆ Be alert for pedestrians, bicycles, scooters and slow-moving vehicles.



The vehicle in this photo has its fog lights on, which not all vehicles have. If your vehicle does not have fog lights, do not turn on your high beams, they are counterproductive. (Photo by Diana Bahr, USAG Vicenza Public Affairs)

## Changes made to MEDEVAC system

U.S. Army Health Clinic Vicenza  
Press Release

Effective Jan. 2, the MEDEVAC bus to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center will depart and return in front of the commissary.

Long-term parking for those utilizing the government bus transportation will be permitted at the commissary, but only through a personal request from the patient movement coordinator, at 634-7777, or 0444-71-7777 from off post.

A special parking pass has been created for MEDEVAC patients only.

The bus schedule remains the same: Depart Vicenza on Mondays and Thursdays at 7:15 a.m., return to Vicenza on Tuesdays and Fridays at

approximately 9 p.m.

The MEDEVAC office now offers updated information packets to help during your stay in Germany.

The packet includes base maps and information on billeting facilities, taxi services, and more.

For details, call Dakasha Leonard at 634-7777, or 0444-71-7777 from off post. The MEDEVAC office hours are 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Wednesday and Fridays, from 1-4:30 p.m. on Thursdays.

The patient movement coordinator is available however, for emergencies and by appointment outside of the regularly scheduled hours. These hours are subject to change without advanced notification.



# NSPS: Frequently asked pay questions, answers

Directorate of Human Resources  
USAG Vicenza

**Editor's Note:** Throughout 2007, Vicenza and Livorno General Schedule employees will be transitioning to the National Security Personnel System. Supervisors of GS employees and GS employees will be affected by this transition, and training to prepare for NSPS is available. This is the second part of a three-part series on transitioning to NSPS.

## Q: What types of pay increases will employees receive under NSPS?

A: There are several ways employees can receive a pay increase under NSPS: Rate range adjustment; Local Market Supplement adjustment; Performance-based increase Promotion; Reassignment or other placement action; and Accelerated Compensation for Developmental Positions.

## Q: What constitutes an employee's adjusted salary under NSPS?

A: Worldwide base rate, plus local market supplement, plus performance based pay adjustment, equals an employee's adjusted salary.

One-time performance based bonuses and cash awards are in addition to the total pay.

## Q: Will we still get Within-Grade-Increases (WGI)?

A: Under NSPS and the pay-banding system, there are no "steps" similar to the GS

system. Instead, pay increases and/or performance bonuses are based on your performance.

Upon conversion to NSPS, many employees will receive a salary increase equal to the amount they have earned towards their next within grade increase.

After an organization has converted to NSPS, money that would have been used for WGIs will become part of the money available for performance payouts.

## Q: What are the criteria for being eligible to receive the WGI buy-in upon conversion to NSPS?

A: Employees are eligible for the WGI buy-in if they are below the top step (Step 10) of their assigned grade; have an acceptable rating of record; and are not on pay retention.

## Q: How are pay bands structured?

A: Under the NSPS classification system, every GS position within the department will be assigned to a career group, pay schedule, and pay band. Many of the factors used to classify positions under NSPS are the same as those contained in the old system, such as complexity and level of work.

There are four career groups: Standard Career Group; Scientific & Engineering Career Group; Investigative & Protective Services Career Group; and Medical Career Group.

There are typically four pay schedules: Professional/Analytical; Technician/support; Supervisor/Manager; and Student.

There are typically three pay bands for

each pay schedule: Expert; Journey; and Entry/Development.

## Q: What is a "rate range adjustment" and who gets one?

A: Each pay band has a rate range - minimum level and maximum level.

Each rate range can increase, decrease, or remain the same depending on market drivers (specific labor market, occupational, or other demands).

Rate ranges are reviewed at least once a year, but adjustments can be made at any time during the year.

New rate ranges for all pay schedules are effective the first full pay period beginning in January of each year.

In order to receive an increase to the minimum rate, employees must not be at the maximum of the pay band's new rate range and must have a rating above unacceptable (Level 1).

## Q: Who has the authority to make decisions on rate range adjustments? Who has the authority to make decisions on rate range adjustments?

A: The Secretary of Defense has the authority to set and adjust rate ranges. The Secretary of Defense has the authority to set and adjust rate ranges.

For more information on NSPS visit the Army's NSPS Web site at [cpol.army.mil/library/general/nsps/](http://cpol.army.mil/library/general/nsps/), or contact Dave Hamilton, director, Vicenza Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, at 634-7537.

## NSPS News

To register for your specific training class, go to the Civilian Human Resource Training Application System Web site at [www.atrrs.army.mil/channels/chrtas](http://www.atrrs.army.mil/channels/chrtas).

### Employee Training

Employee training is a one-day class and takes place in Vicenza Feb. 6, 7, 12 and 15 in the Hall of Heroes.

In Livorno, employee training takes place Feb. 26-28 in the Sgt. Maj. Shield Conference room.

### Supervisor Training

Supervisor training is a two-day class and takes place in Vicenza Feb. 20-21, 27-28 and March 1-2.

In Livorno, supervisor training takes place March 1-2 in the Sgt. Maj. Shield Conference room.

### NSPS Town Hall

USAREUR will be holding NSPS Town Hall meetings in Vicenza Feb. 13 at 10 a.m.-noon and 1-3 p.m. in the Ederle Theater.

The NSPS Town Hall meeting for Livorno will be Feb. 14 at 1-3 p.m. in the Darby Theater.

## Ask AFTB

# Follow proper procedures when you hear Reveille, Retreat

**Editor's Note:** Ask AFTB is a new feature by the staff of Army Family Team Building dedicated to helping those new to the Army lifestyle learn military customs and courtesies.

You are walking out of the post exchange, it's 5 p.m. and suddenly you hear music over the loudspeaker. You know it is an Army song, but what, and what do you do?

This music is called Retreat, and it's partner, played at 6 a.m., is called Reveille. Playing these two songs is how the Army signifies the beginning and end of the duty day, and is one of the great traditions of our Army.

If you are a civilian, stand quietly and face the flag, which is located in front of SETAF Headquarters by the Chapel Gate. This also means no talking on your cell phone. If you are driving in your vehicle, pull over and stop at the first place it is safe to do so, and remain in your vehicle until the music is finished.

If you are a Soldier, you probably already know what to do. Stop what you are doing and salute the flag. If you are driving, pull over, get out of the vehicle, face the flag and salute if in uniform, or stand at attention if not in uniform, until the music is over.

For more information on Army Traditions, Customs and Courtesies, contact AFTB at 634-8526. We have fun and informative classes on a variety of Army life topics.



Soldiers and civilians render the proper courtesies during Reveille. (Photo courtesy of SETAF Public Affairs)

# Tax center offers free filing, advice

By Mark Christensen  
Chief, Client Services  
Office of the Staff Judge Advocate

[tax@eur.army.mil](mailto:tax@eur.army.mil)

◆ Go to the Web site: [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) for forms, publications, and more information.

The Vicenza Tax Center offers free filing and advice for the community.

Taxpayers filing a simple 2006 return can come to the Tax Center on a walk-in basis for assistance, or can drop-off documents for preparation.

Walk-in services are available Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.- 12 p.m. and 1-4 p.m.

## Important Tax Information

- ◆ 2006 Tax returns are due April 16.
- ◆ If you are outside the U.S. April 16, your filing deadline is June 15.

**However, if you owe money on your taxes, you must pay the tax by April 16, to avoid any penalty or interest, even if you are outside the U.S. on that day.**

◆ If you served in a Combat Zone, your tax filing date is 180 days after you depart the Combat Zone, or your regular filing date (April 16 or June 15), which ever is later.

- ◆ Send e-mail questions to:

## Complicated State and Federal Income Tax Returns

Individuals with complicated tax issues may drop off their tax documents any time the Legal Assistance office is open, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - noon and 1-5 p.m. Complicated returns will be prepared in the order received, and will normally be completed within five business days.

Our telephone number is 634-7041, or 0444-71-7041 from off post.

## Do-It-Yourself

Individuals with less than \$52,000 of adjusted gross income can electronically prepare and file returns for free at the IRS website, [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). Click on the **2007 Free File** link.

Servicemembers can electronically prepare and file 2006 returns online for free at Military One Source Web site, [www.militaryone.com](http://www.militaryone.com), under the **Free Tax Service** link.

# The Outlook

Feb. 6, 2007 Vol. 40, Issue 5

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# D.A.R.E. returns

Story and photos  
by Laura Kreider  
Outlook Staff

The Drug Abuse Resistance Education program (D.A.R.E.) was founded in 1983 by Los Angeles Police Chief Daryl Gates and since then it has developed a curriculum and studies to approach different age groups – from kindergarten to high school – with the purpose of teaching them about drug awareness.

“After a couple of years without a D.A.R.E. officer, the D.A.R.E. program is being reintroduced to the Caserma Ederle community,” said Sgt. Joseph Willie, a Soldier with the USAG Vicenza Office of the Provost Marshal, who has been a D.A.R.E. officer for the past six months.

The first class took place at Vicenza



From left to right: Sgt. Maj. Dawn Rippelmeyer, Office of the Provost Marshal, ‘Darren the Lion,’ and Sgt. Joseph Willie, D.A.R.E. officer, cut a cake to kick off the D.A.R.E. program at the Vicenza Elementary School Annex Jan. 25.



Pvt. Daniel Phillips, a Soldier with 1st Brigade, 503d Infantry (Airborne), sports a tattoo on his neck. “My recruiter had to take pictures of my tattoos and have them checked by the recruiting commander,” said Phillips. “They had to make sure the tattoo on my neck wasn’t too far forward.” (Photo by Pfc. Crystal Abbott, SETAF Public Affairs)

By Sgt. David Hopkins  
SETAF Public Affairs Office

A sharp needle pierces your flesh, stabbing cleanly through the outer layer of skin before penetrating into the second layer, the dermis. The needle stops for a millisecond, deposits a dot of ink and retracts at a rate of 3,000 times per minute. You just received the beginnings of a tattoo, but that tattoo may not be all you received.

The dermis layer of skin contains blood vessels, nerves, hair roots and sweat glands, and anything penetrating this layer can get into the bloodstream and be carried through the body.

Pathogens such as syphilis, staphylococcus, HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C are some of the things that can travel through the body from the dermis.

“Hepatitis C is one of the biggest things

Elementary School Jan. 25, followed by a cake-cutting ceremony where about 60 fifth-graders discussed issues and asked questions after participating in their first lesson.

“We learned a lot about drug resistance and what to do and not to do,” said Jeremy Petersen, at the end of his class. “We also learned D.A.R.E.-solving techniques.”

The 10-week program now consists of a curriculum that teaches several new classes important to students.

“Some of the new curriculum classes include ‘Bullying,’ ‘Inhalants,’ and ‘Role Models,’” said Willie.

“The curriculum also uses the D.A.R.E. decision-making model, which puts children in certain everyday adolescent situations and they have to solve the problem,” he continued. “It is a great teaching tool that they can use not only in D.A.R.E., but in their every day life.”

In addition to the fifth grade, the program will also be addressed to sixth and seventh-graders, who will form a substantial group of about 200 children in the community.

The program is going to be a lot of fun and exciting, according to Willie.

“We want to connect with the children on their level, so they will have more fun learning about all the harmful drugs out there. During the class, I grab their attention just being loud, full of energy, making them clap, stand up and bringing my buddy, Darren the Lion. I try to get close to their level, talk about video games, and play stations,” he said.

He also underlined the role of parents and family as important key players in the program. Family discussions can help reinforce the main issues taught by D.A.R.E.

“Sometimes children will go home and talk to their parents and educate them on something they may not know about. It is a very big role for the parents to participate in



Fifth-graders raise their hands during the first class held at the Vicenza Elementary School annex Jan. 25. During their first day, children learned about the significance of D.A.R.E. and also how to solve problems in everyday adolescent situations. The students participated in the event with their teachers, along with USAG Vicenza Command Sgt. Maj. Keith Filipp and Adeal Frater, deputy director for Directorate of Emergency Services, who spoke and took some questions from the audience.

the program and encourage their children, just going home and talking to them about the topics they have learned. They can also call me at 634-8521,” he said.

The community also has the opportunity to support the program, especially when fundraising time comes around, said Willie.

“Teaching today has been really

rewarding,” Willie highlighted. “The children will learn so much from this program and walk away with a vast amount of knowledge they didn’t have before.

“Right now, they [children] don’t know me that well; it will take awhile to get used to me. But they will learn how to trust me and I hope to become one of their friends.”

## Body art can come at a grave price

### Army tattoo regulation

Tattoos are now permitted on the hands and back of the neck if they are not “extremist, indecent, sexist or racist.”

Army Regulation 670-1, which was modified via a message released Jan. 25, also now specifies: “Any tattoo or brand anywhere on the head or face is prohibited except for permanent make-up.”

If an individual with visible tattoos chooses to enlist in the Army he must have the tattoos checked through channels before he will be able to enlist.

“My recruiter had to take pictures of my tattoos and have them checked by the recruiting commander,” said Pvt. Daniel Phillips, a Soldier with 1st Brigade, 503d Infantry (Airborne). “They had to make sure the tattoo on my neck wasn’t too far forward.”

Phillips, who has tattoos on his neck and hand, also had his tattoos checked to make sure they were not offensive and then he was able to ship out to basic training.

“Many people enjoy covering their bodies with tattoos,” said Madson, “but they need to think about all the risks before getting one.”

### Tips for a safe tattoo

To ensure a safe tattoo make sure you ask the tattoo artist some questions prior to scheduling. This could be the difference between contracting a disease or not.

Reputable tattoo artists follow cleanliness guidelines to ensure your safety and their reputation, but the individual seeking the tattoo

needs to take the responsibility of making sure the guidelines are being met and for taking care of the new tattoo.

◆ Only get tattoos from licensed tattoo artists.

◆ Check that the tattooist uses disposable needles or uses an antiseptic solution, such as alcohol, to soak and sterilize the needle between clients. Be warned that some needles are very difficult to sterilize due to design.

◆ New ink bottles should be used for each new client.

◆ The person who receives a tattoo must be sure to care for the tattooed area properly during the first week or so after the pigments are injected so it does not become infected.

◆ Another concern is the increasing variety of pigments and diluents being used in tattooing – more than 50 different pigments and shades, and the list continues to grow.

Although a number of color additives are approved for use in cosmetics, none is approved for injection into the skin.

Many pigments used in tattoo inks are not approved for skin contact at all. Some are industrial grade colors that are suitable for printers’ ink or automobile paint.



Colorful tattoos adorn the arms of this brigade Soldier. (Outlook file photo)





Above: A little boy enjoys a piece of cake as Caserma Ederle kicks off celebrations to honor the contributions of African Americans during African American History month Friday in the post exchange food court.

# Caserma Ederle event kicks off African American History month

Story and photos by Diana Bahr  
USAG Vicenza Public Affairs Office

The larger-than-usual crowd gathered in the Vicenza food court Friday wasn't just there for lunch, but to pay tribute to the thousands of African Americans who have helped shape our great nation.

February is African American History month and Caserma Ederle kicked off a month of events with a short speech by Capt. Gerald Vaughn, USAG Vicenza, Headquarters and Headquarters Company commander.

"Throughout history, African Americans have courageously worn our nation's uniform while defending peace and liberty around the globe," said Vaughn. "The United States military was a pioneer organization that led the way for the rest of our nation with reforms and acceptance of racial diversity. Our military history is filled with examples of African American Soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines who have led the way from the Civil War to today's Global War on Terrorism."

Vaughn ended his short speech with a quote from former secretary of state and chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, Gen. Colin Powell, who said, "I am a direct descendant of those Buffalo Soldiers and the Tuskegee airmen and all the black men

and women who have served the nation in uniform. I will never forget my debt to them." This month should be a reminder to all of us in uniform and our families of the proud and rich heritage of African Americans," concluded Vaughn.

Vaughn was then joined by Master Sgt. Tamika Anderson, SETAF Equal Opportunity advisor, who helped him cut a cake to celebrate African American History month.

The big event for African American History month is scheduled for Feb. 22 at 1 p.m. in the Ederle Theater.

Command Sgt. Maj. James Diggs, European Regional Medical Command will be the guest speaker and the Vicenza Gospel Choir will perform.

For details on these events, contact Master Sgt. Tamika Anderson, SETAF Equal Opportunity advisor at 634-7093.

Other African American History month events on post include:

Story Time at the post Library Tuesday, 11:15 la.m. and Thursday at 3:30 p.m., and Thursday at 11:15 a.m. at the Villaggio Youth Center.

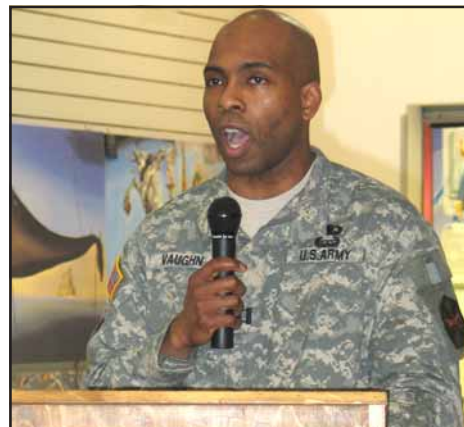
Featured books include: *John Henry* by Julius Lester.

*Rapa Tap Tap: Here's Bojangles-Think of That!* By Leo and Diane Dillon.

*Learning About Bravery from the Life of Harriet Tubman* by Kiki Mosher.

The South of the Alps Dining Facility will serve up a specialty lunch to coincide with the Feb. 22 celebration held at the Ederle Theater featuring mouth watering dishes like fried catfish, barbecue ribs, baked and fried chicken, barbecue pig and pork hocks.

Feb. 25 the DFAC will serve a special brunch from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. of shrimp gumbo, steamship round of beef, crab legs, lobster, ribs and fried chicken.



Far left: Master Sgt. Tamika Anderson (left), SETAF Equal Opportunity advisor, and Capt. Gerald Vaughn, USAG Vicenza Headquarters and Headquarters Company commander, cut a cake in the post exchange to officially kick off African American History month Friday.

Above: Capt. Gerald Vaughn, USAG Vicenza Headquarters and Headquarters Company commander, speaks to the crowd gathered in the post exchange food court to celebrate the kick off of African American History month Friday.



Above: The Army Family Team Building Volunteer Program manager speaks to the participants of AFTB Level I training held Jan. 10-11. Below: Rooms leads the group in a discussion.

## Students learn surviving, thriving in the Army

Story and photos by Kelly Thomas  
Senior instructor  
Army Family Team Building

Seven Caserma Ederle women learned what it takes to survive and thrive in the Army, thanks to a class offered by Army Family Team Building Jan. 10-11.

Congratulations to Lucie Garner, Melissa Gonzalez, Patti Johnson, Teresa Masso, Jennifer Rodriguez, Amanda Rux and Genalyn Wichern for completing AFTB Level I, "Surviving and Thriving in the Army."

AFTB offers courses designed to help families develop the skills they need to thrive in today's Army.

Level I is geared for those new to the military and teaches participants items such as military acronyms and terms, military customs, chain of command and basic military benefits and entitlements.

AFTB programs don't just help families succeed within the military life – they also offer workshops on

basic problem solving, expectations, family financial readiness, supporting their child's education, and helping families succeed in or outside of the Army environment.

The next challenge for these ladies (and anyone else who is interested) are the Level II classes offered Feb. 20-22 from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. or Feb. 28-March 1, 6-9 p.m.

The daytime class offers free childcare, but childcare spaces are limited and participants need to register early.

AFTB Level II training, "We're in the Army Now," expands on AFTB Level I training, but Level I is not a prerequisite for this course.

Emerging leaders, or anyone interested in building their personal, management and communication skills, as well as increasing their knowledge about Army life, are encouraged to attend this training.

Promotion points are also available for taking AFTB classes. For details about AFTB, or to register for a class, call 634-8526/7500, e-mail [afb.vicenza@setaf.army.mil](mailto:afb.vicenza@setaf.army.mil), or stop by Davis Family Readiness Center, bldg 108.

Online courses are available through [www.myarmylifetoo.com](http://www.myarmylifetoo.com), click on AFTB training link.



At left are the most recent graduates of the Army Family Team Building Level I class taught Jan. 10-11.



# Out & About



By Dorothy Spagnuolo

## Markets and exhibitions

**Vicenza's** monthly antique market is Feb. 10 in the main squares downtown from sunup to sundown.

**Camisano's** weekly Sunday market is from 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

**Pozzoleone:** The 259th annual St. Valentine's market starts Feb. 10 and markets for all tastes can be enjoyed.

Feb. 11 an antique market takes place and is open 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

Feb. 11, 17, 18: An outdoor exhibition-market displaying the latest agricultural machinery, farm animals, alongside a market with 300 stalls selling clothing articles and bric-a-brac is open 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m. on each date.

North of the parish church are art and photo exhibits, furniture, sports equipment and other markets open Feb. 10 and 16 from 8:30-11:30 p.m. and Feb. 11, 17 and 18 from 8:30 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.

**Vicenza:** 'Spazio Casa,' a furniture exhibition, is Feb. 10-18 and more than 350 exhibitors present a wide range of furniture, furnishing accessories, lighting, rugs and curtains.

There is also an area dedicated to the future wedding couple, which will include clothing, wedding accessories and other items that is open weekends, 9:30 a.m.-8 p.m.; Monday, Tuesday 3:30-8 p.m., other days 3:30-10 p.m.

Entrance fee is 8 euro. The grounds are located near the Vicenza ovest autostrada exit;

**Padova:** 'E' Sposi' is a wedding exhibition taking place Feb. 9-11 at the exhibition grounds.

Find everything for the wedding couple, from clothes to flowers to hairdressers to makeup.

Open Feb. 9 and 11: 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Feb. 10: 10 a.m.-10 p.m.; entrance fee is 8 euro.

**Verona:** *Luxury & Yachts* show in the exhibition grounds Feb. 10-18, open Monday-Friday, 3-8 p.m. Weekends from 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

Expect an entrance fee.

**Milan:** 'Miniaturitalia' This 3rd-time Italian exhibition of doll houses and miniatures is held in the Michelangelo Hotel, located on the left side of Milan's Central Railway station Feb. 10-11.

Dealers come from Belgium, England, Germany, Spain. An American exhibitor with a large variety of miniature teddy bears will also be on site.

For details on dealers, times, tickets and location visit the Web site: [www.miniaturitalia.it](http://www.miniaturitalia.it)

## African Museum

A visit to the *Museo Africano* in **Verona** offers the visitor a unique picture of the African continent. Just recently it has added to its collection, an African art show open until May 6.

Located along *Vicolo Pozzo* it is open Tuesday-Saturday 9 a.m.-noon; Sunday 3-6 p.m., closed Mondays. There is a small entrance fee.

## Carnival time

**Malo:** Carnevale parades are held Feb. 11, 18 and 20. Malo is 17 km from Vicenza

Entrance fees: adults, 5 euro; children under 13 free.

**Venice:** Feb. 9-20 - Venice marks it's official opening Feb. 11 in St. Mark's Square with the 'Flight of the Angel,' at noon.

**Casale di Scodosia:** The 59th edition of this town's festivities takes place Feb. 11 and 18, with the

float parade and antique cars at 2 p.m., led by a band and majorettes. A market and make-up tent are also available.

Casale di Scodosia is located 30 miles southwest from Vicenza.

## Folk music

The town of Vo' presents its 12th edition folk music concert, 'Vo on the Folks 2007.'

Feb. 10: The first concert features Tony Mac Manus from Scotland;

Feb. 24: Listen to the Motion Trio from Poland;

March 10: Alan Kelly from Ireland performs;

March 24: It's the turn of Beltuner from France.

The concerts are held in the Community Hall of the town with a start time of 9 p.m., the entrance fee is 11 euro.

Vo' is located 19 miles southeast from Vicenza.

## Padova ballet

A ballet on ice is set for Feb. 16 in the Verdi Theatre in Padova at 5 p.m. *Il lago dei cigni*, (Swan Lake), a ballet in two acts will be performed by the State Theatre of Ballet on Ice from St. Petersburg.

Tickets cost 6 euro and are available from any branch of the bank *Cassa di Risparmio di Padova* and *Cassa di Risparmio di Rovigo*.

## Up and down bridges

Get your sneakers ready for the Venice marathon, 'Su e zo per I ponti,' a non-competitive run held April 15.

Runners follow a route characteristic of the city, which leads them through *calli, campi, and ponti* (streets, squares and bridges).

Runners receive a commemorative medal upon completing the event.

# Now Showing

## Caserma Ederle Theater

<b>Feb. 6</b>	CLOSED	
<b>Feb. 7</b>	Catch and Release (PG13)	7 p.m.
<b>Feb. 8</b>	Let's Go to Prison (R)	7 p.m.
<b>Feb. 9</b>	The Messengers (PG13) (First Run)	7 p.m.
	Man of the Year (PG13)	9:30 p.m.
<b>Feb. 10</b>	Unaccompanied Minors (PG)	4 p.m.
	Deja Vu (PG13)	7 p.m.
<b>Feb. 11</b>	Unaccompanied Minors (PG)	4 p.m.
	The Messengers PG13)	7 p.m.
<b>Feb. 12</b>	CLOSED	
<b>Feb. 13</b>	CLOSED	

## Camp Darby Theater

<b>Feb. 8</b>	The Pursuit of Happyness (PG13)	6 p.m.
<b>Feb. 9</b>	Unaccompanied Minors (PG)	6 p.m.
<b>Feb. 10</b>	Turistas (R)	6 p.m.
<b>Feb. 11</b>	The Holiday (PG13)	2 p.m.

## Movie Synopsis

**CATCH AND RELEASE** - *Jennifer Garner, Timothy Olyphant.* After the sudden death of her fiancé, Gray Wheeler finds comfort in the company of his friends: lighthearted and comic Sam, hyper-responsible Dennis, and, oddly enough, his old childhood buddy Fritz, an irresponsible playboy whom she'd previously pegged as one of the least reliable people in the world. As secrets about her supposedly perfect fiancé emerge, Gray comes to see new sides of the man she thought she knew, and at the same time, finds herself drawn to the last man she ever expected to fall for.

**LET'S GO TO PRISON** - *Dax Shepard, Will Arnett.* Felon John Lyshitski has figured out the best way to get revenge on the now-dead judge who sent him to jail: watch the official's obnoxious son, Nelson Biederman IV, survive the clink. John strikes gold when Nelson is wrongly convicted of a crime and sent to the pen he used to call home. He gleefully gets sent back to become Nelson's cellmate and to ensure that his new buddy gets the "full treatment."

**THE MESSENGERS** - *Kristen Stewart, Dylan McDermott.* A family moves into a run-down sunflower farm. As the farm begins to revive after years of disrepair, the family begins to notice uncomfortable and alarming changes in their father's behavior.

**UNACCOMPANIED MINORS** - *Wilmer Valderrama, Dyllan Christopher.* A blizzard shuts down the airport on Christmas Eve, as two "Unaccompanied Minors" are on their way to their father's house. Spencer and his sister, Katherine, are ushered to the airport's Unaccompanied Minors room. With the airport's peevish passenger relations manager, his assistant and airport security guards hot on their trails, these UMs learn to ditch their differences and help each other flee the clutches of airport authority.

**TURISTAS** - *Josh Duhamel, Melissa George.* A group of young backpackers' vacation turns sour when a bus accident leaves them marooned in a remote Brazilian jungle that holds an ominous secret.

Admission: Adults age 12 and over \$4, children \$2.  
The Ederle Theatre box office opens one hour prior to show time.

## Classified Ads

**Editor's Note:** Caserma Ederle community members may place free classified ads (**not personal or personal services ads**) on the MWR Web site: [www.vicenzamwr.com/marketplace](http://www.vicenzamwr.com/marketplace).

Every Tuesday at noon, MWR sends the ads to *The Outlook* for the next publication.

**The Outlook and Directorate of MWR are not responsible for any errors in the advertisement.**

Photos accompanying the advertisement will not appear in *The Outlook*. Because *The Outlook* has limited space available, editing of the classified ad may take place.

**The Outlook does not take classifieds; sellers must place ads on [www.vicenzamwr.com](http://www.vicenzamwr.com).**

For details on an item you see listed here, visit the MWR Web site: [www.vicenzamwr.com/marketplace](http://www.vicenzamwr.com/marketplace).

**Liquid Cooled gaming computer:** Intel, Core 2 Duo processor, 1,500 Euro, OBO.

**2006 Yamaha R1:** Like new.

**Yorkie puppy wanted:** Female preferred.

**12 inch TV:** \$30.

**Chain emergency ladder:** \$20.

**98 Nissan Almera:** \$2,000, OBO.

**Snow chain tires:** Excellent condition-never used, \$59.

**Coffee Table:** 42" square/107 cm. \$125.

**Electric heater:** Excellent condition. \$25.

**Delonghi Espresso machine:** 2 cup, \$39.

**Double stainless kitchen sink on white cabinet:** W 100 cm \$45.

**Overhead white metal cabinets w dish rack:** 90 cm, \$20.

**Sharp fax (telephone/copy) machine:** Excellent condition, \$75.

**2003 530I BMW:** Great condition. \$29,000, OBO.

**AFN Decoder:** Looking to buy an additional decoder.

**Transformer:** 300 watts

**Small puppy wanted:** Looking for chihuahua-type breed, prefer a female.

**Rosetta Stone Italian Level 1+2:** Used. \$200.

**1992 BMW 320i:** Reliable, but needs some work. \$4,000.

**BMW 735i Sedan:** Silver, 4-door sedan. \$2,700.

**Army PT Shirts:** 3 long sleeve, and 3 short sleeve, Med. Great shape. \$20.

**Engagement ring:** 1/4 karat diamond. 14k white gold. \$500.

**JVC 29" Flat Screen TV:** Less

than a year old. \$250 OBO.

**Viewsonic DLP 2000 Lumen projector w/Elite screen:** Never used. \$799.

**1991 Mercedes 300 CE, AWD:** Gray, excellent condition. \$5,000, OBO.

**1998 Lancia:** Loaded ,good condition \$3,000, OBO.

**1999 Chrysler 300:** Excellent condition, 5,000 euro.

**Graco stroller:** Good condition, \$50.

**Girls 20" bike:** Like new. \$25.

**110v car buffer:** \$8.

**Men's white PBA bowling shoes:** Like new bowling shoes, size 9.5, \$8.

**Siemens cell phone:** \$5.

**Paintball gun sets with masks:** \$10.

**Hose reel:** New. \$5.

**2000 Ford Explorer XLS:** Good condition, \$6,500.

**1999 Kawasaki Vulcan 1500:** Good condition.

**Pet sitter wanted:** Feb. 16-19 and March 2-4.

**2001 Ford Escape:** Green, 56K miles. \$8,000.

**Robosapien V2 Robot:** \$140.

**Car wanted:** Reliable automatic.

**'97 Audi Quattro:** S6 plus, \$11,000.

**110w microwave:** Good condition, \$30.

**Diamond ring:** 1/2 carat, yellow gold, \$800.





# follies

Left and center: People wearing colorful masks throw confetti from floats during last year's Mardi Gras parade held in Malo. Malo is a small town about 20 km from Vicenza, which schedules several parades during Carnival. This year they take place Feb. 11, 18 and on Fat Tuesday, Feb. 20.

Story and photos by Laura Kreider  
Outlook Staff

As the saying goes, "A Carnevale ogni scherzo vale." When it's carnival time, anything goes. Anything that is, including masks.

Masks were and are an absolutely necessary accessory in the traditional Venetian carnival, which is considered the darnival par excellence, maybe because the Carnival of Venice dates back to 1094, and later on in 1296, a document from the Venetian Senate declared that Mardi Gras, the last day before Ash Wednesday, was a holiday.

In the old times, Venetians used to put on a mask between October and June (with some breaks and also during important holidays).

Nowadays, carnival is shorter than during the 17th century, but people from all over Europe still wear costumes, go to parades to meet other people, dance and celebrate those 10 days prior to Lent.

During this time, not only Venice but many towns and cities throughout the peninsula plan several events, including floats parades and other related events, such as costume contests and masked balls in the main squares, concerts, dances, public parties and theatre happenings especially in the Shrovetide carnivals.

Among cities with long traditions, some are renowned for their distinguished *Carri Mascherati*, carnival floats, such as the ones held in *Viareggio*, in Tuscany, located on the Tyrrhenian coast about 25 km. from Pisa.

The 2007 carnival held in Viareggio is celebrated "in the name of peace, love and solidarity."

Huge floats, of which the biggest ones can reach 20 meters in height, 14 meters in length and about 40 tons in weight, will carry about 200 people in costumes who dance and throw confetti to the crowd from their float. This carnival was created in 1873, and it is still



a work of art to which the local artisans dedicate the whole year between carnivals.

All the floats and puppets that participate in the carnival parades, both here in Viareggio, or in other locations across the country, satirize public and political figures, social current issues and movie and television stars.

Dates for Viareggio and its 134th celebration are Feb. 11, 18, 20 and 25.

Visitors need to purchase a ticket, which costs 13 Euro for adults, 9 Euro for children ages 11-12 years, but is free for children up to 10 years old.

For more information check the Web site - also in English - [www.viareggio.ilcarnevale.com](http://www.viareggio.ilcarnevale.com).

Some other locations - in the *Vicenza* area - also schedule float parades. One of them, in a town about 10 miles from Vicenza, is *Malo*, which celebrates its 83rd edition this year.

In Malo, the first preparation for carnival celebrations was discussed in 1868 when the Veneto region was liberated from Austria and the newly formed City Hall Committee published a document about the carnival program.

But only in 1924, though, appeared the first official parade with the participation and a contest of the participating floats.

Malo held its first 2007 parade Sunday but another three are parades are set for Feb. 11, 18 and 20.

The entrance fee is 5 euro for adults, children under 13 are free. The fee also includes a drink, either hot chocolate or *vin brule'*, a hot spicy wine.

Also, *Bassano del Grappa*, about 35 km east of Vicenza, schedules carnival parades and costume contests. This year, the parade is held twice, Feb. 17 at 9 p.m. and Feb. 18 in the afternoon.

In the nocturnal version, the parade takes place in *Viale Parolini*, a long avenue not far from the squares, and a big party follows in the main square, *Piazza Garibaldi*.

The next day in the afternoon the pageant will begin in the same area, but will continue progressively through the squares and narrow streets in downtown.

In Garibaldi square you'll also find "*Il Magico mondo delle giostre*", the amusement park's magic world dedicated to children, with a huge slide and a small train for the little ones.

Last but certainly not least, visiting Venice is also a lifetime experience.

Every year, a different theme characterizes the carnival. This year the city in the lagoon honors the tricentenary of the birth of one of its most famous natives: *Carlo Goldoni*, a writer and playwright who brought some modern elements into the 1700s theatrical comedy.

In some of his comedies, Goldoni described some of the characters, such as Harlequin and *Colombina*, who are still popular Venetian masks. An article he wrote in his memoirs inspired this year's events.

Children look at the crowd from their float as part of the 2006 procession.



Left: One of the elaborate costumes which may be seen during the events planned near St. Mark's Square in Venice. This woman is dressed all in white with a unique headdress featuring pearls. Below: A masked group introduces the floats in the 2006 Bassano Carnival parade.



Right: A participant in last year's Carnival poses for a picture wearing a costume of a Crusader. Wearing masks was popular in Venice in the 1700s. Venetians used to put on a *Bauta* (mask) between October and June. It was ideal to remain anonymous.



Venice's carnival celebrations begin Feb. 9, but the official opening takes place in St. Mark's Square with the 'Flight of the Angel' Feb. 11 at noon. The Flight of the Angel is a traditional event that became popular in the mid-1500s, when a Turkish acrobat walked on a rope from a boat up to the top of the Bell Tower. Beginning Feb. 9 at 3 p.m. a Grand Historical pageant will depart from *S. Pietro di Castello* Church in the direction of St. Mark's Square. The event is historical and it is called Marie's Parade. But carnival is not only in St. Mark's Square. Children will find "Enchanted Wood" in *Campo San Polo*, one of the biggest squares of Venice after St. Mark, *Cannaregio* - a Venetian district - will host music, while the closing grand fireworks end the events on Fat Tuesday at 11 p.m. on the *Bacino di San Marco* - St. Mark's waterfront. For information about the 2007 Venice Carnival visit the Web site [www.carnivalofvenice.com](http://www.carnivalofvenice.com). Vicenza's Information, Tours and Registration has a trip to Venice by bus Feb. 17. It leaves at 8 a.m., returns by 7 p.m. Cost for adults is \$34; children ages 3-12 pay \$25, no charge for under age 3. Fee includes transportation and escort assistance. Highly recommended for families with children: baby backpacks, as the streets will be crowded and Venice is not stroller-friendly. For details call ITR at 634-7094.