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# Local civil affairs troops train as combat lifesavers with Italians

Story and photo by  
Master Sgt. BOBBY J. WHITE  
7th CSC Public Affairs

Soldiers of A Company, 457th Civil Affairs Battalion, hosted their first Combat Lifesaver Course with Italian reserve officers at Longare Feb. 26-28.

The training included prevention of hot and cold weather injuries, casualty evaluation, treatment of various types of wounds and administering intravenous fluids. It also included a demonstration of various methods to evacuate casualties.

As part of the unit's international partnership with the Italians, 10 members of the Unione Nazionale Ufficiali in Congedo d'Italia participated in the training alongside the Soldiers of A Co., 457th CA Bn. UNUCI is the reserve officers association of Italy, which provides professional development, training and organizes physical activities.

"This is a very particular activity not only to prepare us for a tactical theater but also to be ready for a civil protection emergency during an international or local

See JOINT TRAINING Page 3



Sgt. David Heath of Company A, 457th Civil Affairs Battalion, demonstrates the insertion of a nasopharyngeal airway with Italian Capt. Roberto Cricca, Ufficiali in Congedo d'Italia Verona branch member, Feb. 26 at Longare.

# First female general visits 173rd troops

## Mohammadzai speaks to women in Logar Province for International Women's Day



General Khatol Mohammadzai, the first female parachutist and general in the Afghan National Army, greets the TF Bayonet's command group March 8. Lt. Col. Kyle Lear, 173rd ABCT deputy commanding officer, presented Mohammadzai with the title of honorary Sky Soldier.

Story and photos by Spc.  
DANIEL D. HAUN  
TF Bayonet Public Affairs

International Women's Day, March 8, is a global day celebrating the economic, political and social achievements of women past, present and future. In some places like China, Russia, Vietnam and Bulgaria, it is a national holiday.

General Khatol Mohammadzai, the first female parachutist and general in the Afghan National Army, spent the day speaking to the Task Force Bayonet command group and women of the Logar Province, Afghanistan.

She recognized the vital roles that women possess in the military.

"The whole world knows the military

See GENERAL Page 3

# VA home loans remain valuable yet underused GI benefit

By MOLLY BLAKE  
CinCHouse.com

Susan Petersen laughs when she talks about her first house.

"We bought in 1992 and it literally cost \$40,000," said the Marine spouse, smiling. "It doesn't sound like a lot but we couldn't have bought it without the VA loan."

It's been almost 20 years since Petersen and her husband Jon, a KC-130 pilot, bought that Havelock, N.C., home and, despite a vast difference in rank and pay, when they recently upgraded to a four-bedroom Colonial walk-up in Northern Virginia, "The VA loan fit what we needed this time around too," said Petersen.

Made available in the years following WWII, the VA loan is largely credited with hatching middle-class America and is still a beneficial tool. Today's market is similar to post-WWII and ripe for VA loans: vets don't have a ton of cash to put down, interest rates

are low, it's a buyer's market, and scores of homes are up for grabs.

**Today's market is similar to post-WWII and ripe for VA loans: vets don't have a ton of cash to put down, interest rates are low, it's a buyer's market, and scores of homes are up for grabs.**

Despite its significant history, it's still a misunderstood and widely underused program—less than 10 percent of eligible military take advantage of the VA loan.

Ed Sexton, a real estate agent in Yuma, Ariz., and former Marine, says he's seeing an increase in the number of VA loans—a far cry from just four years ago when military clients could easily

See VA EASES Page 2



## VA eases tough real estate market

continued from Page 1

score a cheap conventional loan. Today, however, many would-be buyers, military and civilian, wash out when lenders demand healthy credit scores and hefty down payments.

“If we didn’t have both VA and FHA (Federal Housing Administration) loans right now the real estate market would certainly be a lot tougher than it is,” said Sexton.

### Like a conventional loan

The VA loan works similarly to a conventional loan:

1. The buyer finds a house.
2. The buyer secures a lender (i.e.; USAA, Navy Federal or other bank, savings and loan or mortgage company).
3. The buyer is certified as eligible for the VA loan (typically the lender has access to the web-based system to certify eligibility).
4. The buyer completes the loan application and closes.

The difference between the VA and a conventional loan is simple, and yet very powerful says Terry Jemison of the Veteran’s Administration.

“What the government is doing is reducing the lender’s risk by promising the full faith and credit of the United States government behind a portion of the loan, which may make the loan more attractive to lenders,” explained Jemison.

The amount of the loan the government will guarantee is called entitlement, and is basically a form of insurance for the lender should a buyer default on the loan.

### No red tape

Petersen and Mike Roberts, another recent VA loan patron, say the government-run program is surprisingly devoid of red tape, fees and bureau-

**The difference between the VA and a conventional loan is simple, and yet very powerful says Terry Jemison of the VA.**

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cratic delays. Both say the process is streamlined, simple, and most importantly, saved them money.

### Still cheaper

“We still had to pay the VA funding fee, but since we only had 5 percent available to put down, it was still cheaper than paying PMI (private mortgage insurance),” said Roberts.

The funding fee, which reduces the program’s cost to taxpayers, is 2.15 percent for first-time users who don’t put any money down. That fee drops if, like Roberts, you put even some money down.

### Crunching the numbers

Roberts spent time crunching numbers before settling on the VA loan for his Crofton, Md., house. For example:

- VA loan with zero down payment:**
- \$200,000 house
  - 6 percent interest rate on 30-year fixed mortgage
  - \$4,300 funding fee (spread out over the course of the loan)

- Monthly mortgage payment (with tax, insurance etc.) = \$1,474.88

### Conventional loan with zero down payment:

- \$200,000 house
- 6 percent interest rate on 30-year fixed mortgage
- Zero down so PMI is required
- Monthly mortgage payment (with tax, insurance etc.) = \$1,615

### Conventional Loan with 20 percent down payment:

- \$200,000 house
- 6 percent interest rate on 30-year fixed mortgage
- 20 percent down on the house to avoid PMI
- Monthly mortgage payment (with tax, insurance etc.) = \$1,209

### Mortgage poor

Besides doing the math to determine the best financial option for the individual buyer, JJ Montanaro, a certified financial planner with USAA, reminds veterans not to buy a house just to wind up

“mortgage poor” every month.

“Make sure you have a cash cushion and an emergency fund,” said Montanaro. “Buyers need to be prepared with all the potential financial issues that come with owning a house.”

### Refinancing option

Vets can also take advantage of a VA refinancing option in order to reduce monthly mortgage payments with a better interest rate.

As for eligibility, see a detailed list of qualifications at <http://www.homeloans.va.gov/elig2.htm>.

When WWII ended, Congress saw its chance to make amends for its disastrous treatment of vets in the years following WWI. The VA loan falls under The Serviceman’s Readjustment Act of 1944, more commonly called the GI Bill.

It was drafted in an effort to stem a potential onslaught of unemployable and undereducated veterans returning from WWII. While civilians were attending universities, working and establishing credit, Soldiers were fighting in Pacific and European battlefields.

### Most valuable legislation

The Veteran’s Administration was tasked with ensuring the returning vets had ample opportunities to catch up to their civilian counterparts.

The bill, signed into law by President Franklin Roosevelt in 1944, is widely viewed as one of the most valuable piece of legislation ever passed by Congress. He stated that it gave “emphatic notice to the men and women in our armed forces that the American people do not intend to let them down.”

The Obama administration recently announced an increase in the VA budget, the largest in 30 years.

## Speak Out

March is Women’s History Month. What woman, besides your mother, most influenced your life?



**Lauren Dawsey**  
CDC

*“The last dance teacher I had in college. I learned a lot of commitment and determination from her.”*



**Yuchabel Harris**  
11th grade, VMHS

*“Oprah, because she inspires me to make the world a better place by giving and sharing our wealth and knowledge.”*



**Yvonne Leible**  
ACS

*“My grandmother, Herminia Perez. She is the most caring person I know. She always puts others before herself.”*



**Ann Van Steenburgh**  
Family member

*“Florence Nightingale because she showed that you can be a woman and a leader.”*



**Mary Yandura**  
ACS

*“Lydia Thomas ... was very inspiring. She was a woman of color and president and CEO of a non-profit agency, ... making major differences in the lives of many Americans. I hope the same will be said of me.”*



## General urges women to strengthen one another

continued from Page 1

females are real heroes. They left their families behind and came to Afghanistan or to any other country, and are working shoulder to shoulder, and side by side their male counterparts," she said.

Mohammadzai said that women must work to empower other women.

"These women can make other women braver, and tell them what they do. Just as you made me brave today, and convinced me to come to Logar province, you can convince other ladies to come to the military and work with their male counterparts. Women can work alongside males in the community," she said.

Mohammadzai spoke of unity and the female Afghan community.

"Even though we are away from each other, I am in Kabul and you are in Logar, we are not far away in our hearts," she said. "I am part of your body, as one of your hands. When you need me, I'll be here to help."

You have to work diligently in this community, she said.

"Becoming a general, especially in Afghanistan as a female, is not an easy thing. I wanted to do this. I wanted to work hard for it and show the other Afghan females that a female can be a general in this community," she

said.

This diligence is required not only as a commanding officer, but also as a parachutist, said Mohammadzai.

"As a parachutist, or as a jumper, you have to be a storm, you have to be an earthquake, you have to be something that can move the whole world with your jump," she said. "We have all proved ourselves in the sky as parachutists."

Mohammadzai said her first experience with parachuting was not without anxiety.

"The first time I jumped, I screamed so hard, thinking that the parachute was just there, not moving anywhere. There was nobody there to help me, and I thought I was just standing there not moving. I was so lightweight that all of my fellow parachutists were already on the ground and I was still in this sky," she said.

"When I reached the ground it was so comfortable and very nice; that was the only time, the first jump and the last jump, that was very comfortable. I didn't tell my family ... when my mom found out she was crying and screaming, asking what kind of job I had chosen," she said.

"Every time I was jumping, my mom could not sit in the house. She would go crazy running and walking around, praying to God for my safety. At the time I

didn't understand because I didn't have kids. Now that I have kids I understand both the pain in life, and how sweet kids are," said Mohammadzai.

Mohammadzai thanked her mother for playing such a vital role in her life. "It was the prayer of my parents, my mom, that made me reach what I am today," she said.

Prayer and hard work pushed her forward, she said.

"I had to work very hard; sometimes I was even scared for my life. I still went ahead and did it," she said.

Mohammadzai said she grew brave because of all her hard work.

"If you receive, or get, or achieve something difficult, then you are so proud and always happy. If you get something easily, then you are always looking to the ground, you don't think that you worked hard for it, you just got it. I'm so proud and I can talk to anybody bravely because I worked hard," she said.

Mohammadzai left with parting words igniting a call to action for the women present.

"We should work to make our male co-workers understand that women can do something like this," said Mohammadzai.

"I know males and females because I've worked with both and understand," she said. "The reality is that women deserve more respect than what they are given."

## Everyone's favorite Beagle is back

By SAMANTHA SMITH  
Contributing writer

Almost 60 years after the Peanuts comic strip first appeared in American newspapers, Charlie Brown's adorable beagle Snoopy continues to delight young and old alike.

Snoopy!!! The Musical, now showing at Soldier's Theatre, is a fun romp into that fictional world created by Charles M. Schulz. Charlie Brown, Linus, Sally, Lucy, Peppermint Patty and even Woodstock make their appearances in this lively adaptation of the original comic strip.

As the curtains part, we see Snoopy's giant red doghouse at center stage. Bursting out in the first act, waving to the crowd like a movie star,

Aaron Talley as Snoopy, perfectly conveys the air of superiority and smugness that is Snoopy's trademark.

Lazing about on his doghouse, refusing to "sit, fetch, roll over, play dead," and generally behaving badly, Snoopy gets a lot of laughs during the show.

There are many memorable musical numbers, including "I Know Now," performed by Elizabeth West, Sgt. 1st Class Kim Gilleran and Bizzy Buffington as Sally, Lucy and Peppermint Patty. In the song, they wish they could live life all over again with the vast knowledge they have attained thus far.

That includes the knowledge that you "can't bounce a snowball" or "bend a cracker, no matter how hard you try."

Charlie Brown, played by Cpl. Joshua Balog, laments the loss of the puppy that needed him in his solo, "Where Did That Little Dog Go?"

Linus, played by Lorenzo Felisatti, camps out in the pumpkin patch to wait for "The Great Pumpkin" as Snoopy sits nearby wearing sunglasses so as "not to be recognized."

A smiling Sonia Elia plays the mute Woodstock, flitting around onstage while carrying informative signs for Snoopy's puppet shows and delivering his rejection letters from publishers who think his stories stink.

Sunday's matinee performance was heavily attended by the under-10 crowd, and all of whom were glued to their seats and clearly enjoying the musical comedy.

"I liked all of it," said 2nd-grader Micah Dorrel after the show. His sister, Sarah concurred, noting "Peppermint Patty and Lucy were my favorite."

Tickets are still available for weekend performances through March 21. Stop by or call the box office at 634-7281 to reserve yours.

Snoopy!!! The Musical is Soldiers' Theatre's entry in the 2010 IMCOM-E Tournament of the Festival of Plays.

### Community Review

## Joint training boosts combat mindset, supports troop readiness

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crisis," said Italian 1st Capt. Antonio Scalia, vice president of the Unione Nazionale Ufficiali in Congedo d'Italia Verona branch.

"Using medical prevention techniques to sustain life on the battlefield through training is the best way to enhance the combat mindset and maintain Soldier readiness," said Sgt. Laura Derry, a combat lifesaver trainer at A Co., 457th Civil Affairs Battalion.

About 20 Soldiers and UNUCI members took part in the three-day training at the Longare conference facility to learn battlefield medical treatment techniques.

At the conclusion of the training, U.S. and Italian participants tested their knowledge and skills in written and practical exams.

The biggest challenge was overcoming the language barriers in the joint training, said Lt. Col Michael O'Connor, the commander of the 457th CA Bn.

### The Outlook

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At your service

### Army Emergency Relief



Dawn Perry is the 2010 Army Emergency Relief Campaign coordinator.

With help from the assistant coordinator, Tamela Faulkner, she is charged with ensuring 100 percent of the community is notified about the campaign.

"With the largest unit downrange it is imperative that we have support this year," said Perry.

She said due to limited manpower, "we need our community to pull together and make this a successful campaign drive, which in turn directly helps our community. We are asking for assistance from everyone in the community."

Perry can be reached at [dawn.perry@eur.army.mil](mailto:dawn.perry@eur.army.mil) or 634-7902 or CIV 0444-71-7902.



# Community Camera

A snapshot of events making news in and around the U.S. military community in Vicenza...



## Mystery mix:

Cadet Master Sgt. Aryn Jefferies-Cade, the battalion public affairs officer, stirs a non-alcoholic blend in the grog bowl during the annual 10th Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Battalion Dining Out at Club Veneto March 4. Among the colorful ingredients were Worcestershire sauce, lemon juice and chocolate syrup. Cadet 1st Lt. Thomas Nantz, executive officer, and Battalion Commander Cadet Capt. Jayson Richard look on. After VMHS principal Lauri Kenney welcomed cadets, parents and guests, the evening continued with the grog bowl ceremony and dinner.

Photo by Laura Kreider



## Hair check!

Cadet Master Sgt. Aryn Jefferies-Cade, the battalion's public affairs officer, feels her hair for the grog concoction. After drinking the grog, cadets had to hold their cup upside down over their head to prove they drank it all.

Photo by Laura Kreider

## It's an honor:

Soldiers from the 613th Military Police Company, an Army Reserve training unit from Puerto Rico assigned to Caserma Ederle's Directorate of Emergency Services, stand at attention as they receive certificates of achievement and coins during an award ceremony at the installation's flag pole March 3.

Photo by Laura Kreider



Photo by Laura Kreider

## Funny faces:

Fara McKinley (right) views Carnevale masks on display during a Vicenza Community Club luncheon at the Arena Feb. 17. Attendees learned about masks during the Mardi Gras-style luncheon. The March luncheon is set at the Arena Wednesday from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. The theme is Wine Tasting with Ca' Bruzzo. The cost is \$15. E-mail required reservations to [vccreservations@gmail.com](mailto:vccreservations@gmail.com) by Friday.



Photo by Laura Kreider

## Two years and counting...

Vicenza Health Center Commander Col. Kimberly Armstrong and Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Junod, detachment sergeant, attach streamers to the unit guidon at the health center Feb. 26. Commander of Europe Regional Medical Command Brig. Gen. Keith Gallagher recognized the unit for being 100 Days DUI-Free, for a total of 743 days DUI/DWI free. "This is a result of the leadership and commitment to Army values by the staff of the Vicenza Health Center," said Armstrong.



Photo by Laura Kreider

## Bling, bling:

Staff Sgt. Gloria Skeete puts on the 1/2 ct princess cut diamond bridal set she won in an AAFES sweepstakes at the PX jewelry section March 2.



Courtesy photo

## Helping hand:

USAG Vicenza Public Affairs specialist Anna Terracino (right) assists a performer during a March 7 La Fraglia performance at the Ca' Balbi Theatre. La Fraglia is a local center for the disabled.



## Gospel choir fetes Black History Month

Photo and story by CHIARA MATTIROLO  
USAG Livorno Public Affairs

The Livorno "Jubilation Gospel Choir" performed at the Camp Darby Theater Feb. 24 in celebration of African American History month.

The choir was founded in 1998 by Luca Del Tongo, who spent three years with the American Church in Florence. Since then, the collaboration and cultural exchange with neighboring American communities continues to grow, he said.

"This is the third time that we performed at Camp Darby," said Del Tongo, the choir's artistic director. "It is always challenging for our choir to be judged by such an expert audience, those who grew up with a strong tradition for gospel."

Gospel music originated in African American Christian churches in the United States and was a way for church members to share their faith in God and spread the Gospel.

"Singing Gospel really filled my life with joy of living, happiness and sense of sharing," said choir member Sara Scassa.

"The choir did an excellent job by interpreting the feeling of gospel music," said Capt. Howard Mclymont, 3/405th Field Support Brigade. "It was really good to see how much both the artists and the public enjoyed the music together."

Jubilation Gospel Choir's next concert will be held in Verona April 17. For more information on the group, visit [www.jubilation.it](http://www.jubilation.it)

Sara Scassa sings gospel during a concert in honor of African American History Month Feb. 24 at the Camp Darby Theater.



## Darby Dates

### Karaoke Night

Sing along with Bibi at Karaoke Night every Thursday at the Community Club. Call 633-7855.

### Texas Hold'em

Come to Texas Hold'em March 19. Free pasta for all players. Call 633-7855 for details.

### Learn to make homemade bread during ITR trip

Visit a lovely Agriturismo March 20 and learn how to make homemade bread and schiacciata the old fashioned way—in a stone oven. Call 633-7589 for information.

### Paintball

Enjoy the game of paintball March 20. Call ODR for more information at 633-7775.

### Housing crisis information

Would you know what to do in a housing crisis?

Let us teach you Monday. Call 633-7084.

### Multicultural spouses meeting set

Obtain valuable information on medical services, employment, immigration and naturalization services, driver's license and more March 17. Call 633-7084.

### Don't be a victim of identity theft

Learn how to keep your identity safe and what to do if it is ever stolen March 18. Call 633-7084.

### Darby religious activities

For details, call the chapel at 633-7267 (050-54-7267).

**9:40 a.m.:** Catholic Reconciliation

**10 a.m.:** Catholic Mass

**11:15 a.m.:** Protestant worship

**10 a.m.:** Protestant Sunday school

**11:15 a.m.:** Catholic CCD

Christian Men's Bible study is every Thursday at **5 p.m.** in Mertz Hall at the Darby Chapel.

Protestant Women of the Chapel Bible study meets Tuesday from **noon to 1 p.m.** and Wednesdays from **5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.**

Choir practice is at **9:30 a.m.** on Sunday before Mass.

\* The chapel is collecting cardboard, robes, children's plastic swimming pools and cardboard rolls from paper towels and toilet paper.

## Friends of Darby empower local woman

By CHIARA MATTIROLO  
USAG Livorno Public Affairs

Friends of Camp Darby sponsored a women's contest and presented their \$300 recognition award during their monthly meeting March 2 at the education center.

Amber Gaglione was presented the Women's Empowerment award for winning an essay contest and being successfully evaluated three times by the club board.

"All awards must be used in pursuit of further education from an accredited institution of higher learning or for education-related expenses," said Bethy Vallejo, vice president of Friends of

Camp Darby.

"I am currently working toward my masters in school counseling," said Gaglione, who is scheduled to graduate in May 2011. "This is actually a degree I have been working on for quite some time due to PCS and requirements of my school being difficult to meet overseas."

Gaglione said the award comes at a perfect time and that

it will take care of the tuition costs for her next class. She said there are many good reasons for women to continue their education.

"It is important to have something that is our own that we can feel successful in, and that makes us happy," Gaglione said. "In addition, I think it is important to find our passion. I am passionate about helping others and working with kids. Being a school counselor is a career where I feel I can fulfill my passion."

The Women's Empowerment award is presented quarterly.

Anyone who is eligible to be a Friends of Camp Darby member can apply, according to Vallejo.



**Amber Gaglione** received \$300. She is working toward her master's in school counseling.

## Garrison men serve local ladies on Women's Day

By JOYCE COSTELLO  
USAG Livorno Public Affairs

Across the globe, countries celebrate International Women's Day March 8.

Camp Darby joined in the celebrations to recognize and honor women service members, civilians and Italian employees with a special luncheon.

"As a single mom, it's nice to be able to sit down to an elegant lunch and be served," said Staff Sgt. Stacie Fowler, USAG Livorno Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment.

Michela Ferrara, USAG Livorno HHD, explained the history of the celebration to the ladies who had never heard of the holiday.

"In the early 1900's a group of women workers were killed in a garment factory fire in New York City because the managers had locked the doors to keep the ladies from taking cigarette breaks," said Ferrara. "In Italy we celebrate with a bouquet of mimosas and a meal catered



Photo courtesy of Arturo Bazzocchi

Sal Gomez, USAG Livorno Human Resources supervisor, serves lunch to female guests during a March 8 International Women's Day celebration at Camp Darby.

by men."

Among the men serving the 100 ladies was USAG Livorno Command Sgt. Maj. Felix Rodriguez, who said it was an honor to be able to celebrate them.

"We respect our women and want to show by example how it is important to a culture to teach respect," said Rodriguez.

March is also the month the military celebrates Women's History Month.





## Visiting villas:

**VILLA VALMARANA "AI NANI"**  
Via dei Nani 2/8 - tel 0444 321803  
Opening times: Nov. 3-March 15 open Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m.-noon; 2-4:30 p.m. and March 16-Nov. 2 from Tuesday to Sunday, 10 a.m.-noon; 3-6 p.m. Admission is 8 euro; free for children under 12. The villa consists of three buildings--the residence, guesthouse and stables. The residence was probably built in 1669, the guesthouse and stables were built later by F.Muttoni. The residence and guesthouse are famous for their frescos painted by Giambattista and Giandomenico Tiepolo in 1757. The villa is very well preserved. For more information in English, visit [http://www.villavalmaranaflats.com/english/Frameset\\_HOME\\_eng.htm](http://www.villavalmaranaflats.com/english/Frameset_HOME_eng.htm).

Courtesy photo

## Local festivals & shows

This month Italians celebrate *La Festa del Papà*, or Father's Day March 19.

It is the same day they celebrate St. Joseph, the Father of Jesus. Stores all over Italy will offer specially wrapped gifts for families to buy for fathers.

Typical sweets are the St. Joseph's Day cream puffs or *Zeppole di San Giuseppe*. These are more common in southern Italy but can also be found in some local *pastry stores* (pastry stores), including shops near the installation.

**105th Saint Joseph Festival and Spit-Roasted Quail Fair** March 12-14 in Villaganzerla, nine miles south of Vicenza. Carnival rides, fair trade market, craft show, painting and photo exhibitions, food stands and raffle.

■ Friday at 9 p.m.: the 3rd Country Music Festival

■ Saturday at 9 p.m.: live music and dancing with I Mirage Orchestra

■ Sunday at 4 p.m.: Caribbean dances contest and Caribbean night music and dances at 9 p.m.

**Spring Wind Festival-Japan in Vicenza** ongoing through March 21. Free events: include:

■ Contemporary Japanese Art Exhibition: Today 10 a.m.-1 p.m. & 3-7 p.m.; tomorrow 3-7 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. - noon; Sunday 4

**Typical Father's Days sweets found in pastry shops are St. Joseph's Day cream puffs or Zeppole di San Giuseppe. More common in the south, they can be found at local shops near the installation.**



-8 p.m. Galleria Primo Piano Arte Studio, Contrà S. Barbara 21.

■ Japanese Art and Tradition: kimonos, origami, suiseki, ningyo dolls exhibition. Thursday and Friday from 3-7:30 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3-8 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3-7 p.m. SS.Filippo and Giacomo Church, Piazza S. Giacomo.

■ Suiseki Exhibition Thursday-Friday and Monday-Wednesday, 3-7 p.m. SS. Filippo e Giacomo Church, Piazza S. Giacomo

■ Bonsai Exhibition Saturday 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3-8 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3-7 p.m.

■ Japanese sweets tasting Saturday at 5 p.m. in Piazza dei Signori. SS. Filippo e Giacomo Church, Piazza S. Giacomo.

■ Kimono dressing class: Sunday at 10 a.m., S. Corona Courts, Contrà S. Corona.

■ Origami Workshop: Sunday, 11:45 a.m. and 3 p.m., SS. Filippo e Giacomo Church, Piazza S. Giacomo.

■ Guided excursion with snow shoes kicks off Sunday at 7 a.m., in Val Venegia. It departs from Zugliano at 7 a.m. Participation fee: 17 euro. Call 388-7508449 to sign up. For assistance, call Anna Terracino at 634-7169 or e-mail [anna.terracino@eur.army.mil](mailto:anna.terracino@eur.army.mil).

■ Primula walk, a 5-10 or 12K non-competitive walk, is set Sunday at Magrè, Schio, Via S. Leonzo 14, 16 miles northwest of Vicenza at 8 a.m. Cost is 2 euro.

**International boat show:** March 18-21, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. in Venice at the Maritime Station, Cruise Terminal and at the Arsenal. Admission fee is 13 euro. Sailboats and motorboats, sporting events, workshops, nautical fashion and exhibitions. For information in English, visit <http://www.festivaldelmare.com/default.asp?lang=en>.

**The Odeon Theater** in Vicenza, Corso Palladio 176, features movies in English through the winter. Hachiko shows Monday at 5, 7, and 9 p.m. Tickets cost 6 euro. Visit [www.mymovies.it/cinema/vicenza/6217/](http://www.mymovies.it/cinema/vicenza/6217/).

## Free local events

**Galileo, Venice and the Moon-historical/scientific exhibition:** through April 5 in Bassano del Grappa, Palazzo Bonaguro, Via Angarano, about 22 miles northeast of Vicenza. Open Thursday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 3-6 p.m. Closed on Easter.

Admission is 3 euro, 2 euro for children 10-18 and senior citizens over 60. Free for children under 10.

**Teddy Bear - live alternative rock:** Friday, 9:30 p.m. in Poggiole, Equobar, Via Marosticana, 350.

**Indian classic music and dances:** Saturday, 5 p.m., in Vicenza, S. Chiara Chapel, Contrà Santa Chiara.

**Iaria Pastore Trio - live jazz:** Sunday, 9 p.m., in Marostica, Panic Jazz Club, Piazza degli Scacchi, about 18 miles north of Vicenza.

**Explore the sky** at the Astronomical Observatory of Arcugnano Tuesday at 8:30 p.m., located at Via S. Giustina, 127, about five miles south of Vicenza.

View the sky and the planets in detail with the observatory's telescope.

**Jazz Not Dead Festival:** Tuesday at 10 p.m. in Vicenza's Bar Sarteia, Corso S. Felice e Fortunato 362.

**Gary Thomas Quartet live jazz:** Wednesday at 10 p.m. in Marostica's Panic Jazz Club, Piazza degli Scacchi, about 18 miles north of Vicenza.

## Concerts

**Saxon:** Monday in Milan, Trezzo sull'Adda, Live Club; Tuesday in Bologna, Estragon.

**Cranberries:** Wednesday in Milan, Assago, Mediolanum Forum; July 3, in Mestre, Parco San Giuliano.

**Kevin Costner & Modern West:** March 31 in Milano's Smeraldo Theatre.

**Alicia Keys:** May 2 at the Verona Arena.

**Whitney Houston:** May 3

in Milan, Assago, Mediolanum Forum; May 4 in Rome's Palalottomatica.

Tickets can be purchased in Vicenza at Media World in the Palladio mall or at [www.greenticket.it/index.html?imposta\\_lingua=ing](http://www.greenticket.it/index.html?imposta_lingua=ing) or <http://www.ticketone.it/EN/>.

## ODR trips

**Ski and snowboard trips** in March include: Obereggen Saturday, Cortina March 20 and Val Gardena March 27. Register online at <https://webtrac.mwr.army.mil/webtrac/Vicenzarectrac.html>

Visit **Lake Como** Saturday with ODR. Kids ages 0-2 are free. Trip includes transportation, cruise and guided tour. Call 634-7453.

Check out the trips coming in the ODR new Spring and Summer Schedule available online at [www.vicenza.mwr.com](http://www.vicenza.mwr.com).

## Now Showing

### Ederle Theater

<b>Thursday</b>	Leap Year (PG)	11 a.m.
	Precious (R)	6 p.m.
<b>Friday</b>	Leap Year (PG)	6 p.m.
	Youth in Revolt (R)	9 p.m.
<b>Saturday</b>	Alice in Wonderland (PG)	3 p.m.
	Youth in Revolt (R)	6 p.m.
<b>Sunday</b>	Leap Year (PG)	3 p.m.
	Alice in Wonderland (PG)	6 p.m.
<b>Wed.</b>	Alvin & Chipmunks Squeakquel (PG)	6 p.m.
<b>March 18</b>	Youth in Revolt (R)	11 a.m.

### Camp Darby Theater

<b>Friday</b>	Shutter Island (R)	6 p.m.
<b>Saturday</b>	Sherlock Holmes (PG-13)	6 p.m.
<b>Sunday</b>	Alvin & Chipmunks Squeakquel (PG)	1 p.m.
<b>March 18</b>	Avatar (PG-13)	6 p.m.

Admission: Age 12 and up \$4, under 12, \$2.

The Ederle theater box office opens one hour prior to show.

**View MOVIE TRAILERS and the schedule online at <http://www.aafes.com/ems/euro/vicenza.htm> or <http://www.aafes.com/ems/euro/livorno.htm>.**

**Looking to buy or sell items? Check out MWR's Marketplace at [www.mwrmarketplace.com](http://www.mwrmarketplace.com).**



## Correction

In the March 4 issue of the Outlook, photo credit for a front page photo of the new middle school at Villaggio was incorrectly given to Mark Fitzsimmons. The photo was taken by TCMO's Robert Fitzsimmons, who also wrote the construction update article.

## Easter sunrise service

The community is invited to the annual Easter Sunrise service, hosted by the post chapel, at Hoekstra Field April 4 at 7 a.m.

The guest speaker is IMCOM-E Chaplain Douglas Kinder. Uniform is civilian casual and dressing warm is advised. Uniform for Soldiers on duty is ACUs.

The dining facility will open for breakfast at 8 a.m., following the service. For more information, contact [douglas.thomison@eur.army.mil](mailto:douglas.thomison@eur.army.mil) or 634-7472.

## MyCAA halts funding, local counseling open

Effective immediately, the MyCAA program is temporarily halting operations. This pause will not affect approved financial assistance documents.

According to the MyCAA Web site, program officials are reviewing procedures, financial assistance documents and the overall program. Customers are encouraged to check back for updates.

For additional advice and counseling, military spouses can call Military OneSource toll-free at (800) 342-9647 or visit [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com). Military spouses from the U.S. military community in Vicenza can also contact Reid Buckland, ACS ERPM, at 634-6884/7500 for assistance and counseling.

## Find out your state's voting deadline

Voting season has begun for certain states and will continue forward until the general election in November.

Voters are urged to visit their unit voting assistance officer for the specifics and to visit [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov) and <http://elections.nytimes.com/2010/senate/?th&emc=th>.

The FVAP offers everything you need to know about voting. Additionally, the NY Times site

provides cut-off deadlines for submission of votes. Each state also has its own Web site.

## Bake sale set

The Warrant Office South of the Alps Chapter is having a bake sale March 21-22 in front of the PX from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Funds raised will go to local charities.

For information, call CW4 Roberts at 634-7750.

## DFAC lunch honors local women

In recognition of their volunteer efforts throughout the community in support of EO and EEO initiatives, the installation's Equal Opportunity Office is honoring 10 women from the Vicenza community during a luncheon at the dining facility Thursday at 11:30 a.m.

## UMUC springs into action

With MyCAA temporarily on hold, UMUC springs into action to provide alternate means of financing classes.

UMUC is offering a 0 percent interest tuition payment plan, allowing students to make payments over the term or up to six months.

Many other scholarships are also available. Don't miss the following classes for Spring Session 2:

ITAL111, 112 & 212 - Italian 1, 2 and 4

HIST217K/317K - History of Venice

IFSM304 - Ethics in Computer Age

MATH103 - College Math

WRG391 - Expository Writing

LIBS150 - Library Skills

Registration runs until March 21; classes run March 22-May 15.

For more information, call 634-7055 or e-mail [vice@ed.umuc.edu](mailto:vice@ed.umuc.edu).

## Calling all Peanuts fans

Snoopy!!! the Musical weekend performances continue. Tickets cost \$15 for adults, \$12 for students and children. Colorful costumes, creative choreography, comic book sets and dynamic music enliven the show. This musical is Vicenza's entry for the 2010 IMCOM-E Tournament of the Festival of Plays. Call the Box Office today at 634-7281.

## MOMS Club events

■ Thursday: Bunco 7 p.m.

■ Friday: Out and About 9:30 a.m.; Moms Night Out 7 p.m.

■ Monday: Lunch Playdate 11:15 a.m.

■ Tuesday: Toddler Playgroup, 10-11:30 a.m.

■ March 18: Park Playdate 4 p.m.

■ March 24: Pre-school Playgroup 4 p.m.

■ March 26: Infant Playgroup 11 a.m.

■ March 29: Monthly Meeting 10 a.m.

■ March 30: Toddler Playgroup 10-11:30 a.m.

E-mail [momsclubofvicenza@yahoo.com](mailto:momsclubofvicenza@yahoo.com).

## Register now for student trip to Paris

The youth program will head to Paris, France, for spring break. The trip for grades 7-12, includes a visit to Normandy and Paris, sightseeing and entry to Disneyland, plus shopping in Kaiserslautern, Germany. Cost is \$200. Registration begins Monday. Call 634-7659 for information.

## Sign up by tomorrow for Saturday Art Day

Family Art Day is Saturday at the art center from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

The event is free and most suitable for families with children ages 3 and up, but everyone is welcome. Sign up by Friday. Call 634-7206.

## Bowl for \$2

March Mania hits the Arena, every Monday-Friday 1-10 p.m. Bowl for only \$2 per game and rent shoes for \$1.75.

## Ladies bowling special

Ladies Tuesday Morning bowling specials from 9-11 a.m. First game is \$3 and includes shoes. Additional games are \$1.50. Bring your friends and bowl together.

## Bingo offered at Arena

Play B-I-N-G-O March 15 at the Arena. Sign-ups start at 5:45 p.m. Pack of Cards is \$15.

## Celebrate St. Paddys with Lucky Friday

Lucky Friday takes place Friday at 8 p.m. Celebrate St. Paddy's Day with the Lion's Den crew, including R&B/hip hop music plus green beverage specials.

## Get help with volunteer management

Every Wednesday in March from 8-11 a.m. community members can receive assistance with the **Volunteer Management Information System** in the ACS computer lab. Get help registering, logging or updating hours.

## Highly Effective Families workshop

Join the two-day workshop "7 Habits of Highly Effective Families" Thursday and Friday. Experience the life transformation that fosters productivity and family relationships. Call 634-7500.

## Strong Relationships through Play workshop

Build "Stronger Relationships through Play" by participating in the hands-on workshops sponsored by the Family Advocacy Program. The next activity is set March 12, 3:30 p.m. Call ACS to register.

## Art center happenings

Acrylic painting class begins March 20 at the art center. Study the use of colors and how to show light and depth in your paintings.

Students will learn in a group with beginners thru advanced painters. Classes are March, 20 and 27, 3-5 p.m. and April 17 and 24, 3-5 p.m. Register before March 18. Call 634-7074.

## Get live weather news

Your source for inclement weather info airs on 106.0 FM. On your TV decoder box, turn to channel 14 and channel 2 in Villaggio.

## Community Calendar Highlights

**Monday-Friday:** DoDDS Terra Nova Testing

**Wednesday:** St. Patrick's Day

**March 19-22:** Training Holiday

**March 26:** No School for Students (Full Day CSI)

**March 31:** Info-X

**April 4:** Easter Sunrise Service

**April 5:** Italian Holiday (Easter Monday)

**April 9:** No School for Students

**April 9-12:** Training Holiday

**April 12-16:** Spring Break



## Songs for Soldiers:

Recording artist Leigh Jones performs for a WTU and BOSS group at a mini-concert and meet-and-greet at Fort Belvoir Community Club May 6. Don't miss the free "I AM Strong" Tour with Leigh Jones at the Arena March 22 at 7 p.m. The concert and comedy show is designed to raise awareness about the prevention of sexual assault and harassment among Soldiers and military Family members. B.O.S.S. Soldiers will also receive a free water bottle and T-shirt.

"I love to meet these men and women face to face and shake their hands and look right into their eyes and just thank them for all they have done for us," said Jones, who will be joined on the tour by hip-hop band Animate Objects, professional comedians and Soldier talent. "We are so, so lucky to have them in our lives, so to be able to do a small thing like this is a big deal."

Photo by Tim Hipps

**DON'T BE LATE: E-mail briefs to [editor@eur.army.mil](mailto:editor@eur.army.mil) noon Monday or by Friday at 4 p.m. if Monday is a holiday.**

## Religious activities

### Chaplain Crisis Line

To speak with a chaplain after hours call **634-KARE** (634-5273).

### Sunday services

8 a.m.: Sacrament of Reconciliation, or by appointment

9 a.m.: Roman Catholic Mass

(Daily Mass is held weekdays at noon)

9 a.m.: Protestant Sunday school and AWANAs (September through May in Vicenza High School)

10:45 a.m.: Catholic religious education (Sept.-May in Vicenza High School)

11 a.m.: Protestant worship

1:30 p.m.: Full Gospel Pentecostal worship

5 p.m.: Contemporary Christian service

### Mondays

Noon: LDS scripture study

### Tuesdays

9:15 a.m.: Protestant Women of the Chapel

### Wednesdays

3 p.m.: Praise Dance practice

3:30 p.m.: Middle School Club Beyond meets in VHS cafeteria September-May

5 p.m.: Contemporary Praise band practice

5:30 p.m.: PWOC evening Bible study (beginning Sept. 8. Child care offered for children ages 6 weeks to 4 years)

5:30 p.m.: High School Club Beyond meets at the Teen Center September-May. Call 340-139-4073.

5:30 p.m.: Catholic choir practice

6:45 p.m.: Gospel choir practice

### Thursdays

9:30 a.m.: Catholic Women of the Chapel

5:30 p.m.: Gospel service choir rehearsal

7:15 p.m.: Gospel service Bible study

### Faith group contacts

**Islamic:** Spc. Kasimov, 329-034-3511.

**Jewish:** Sandy Schoenberg at 634-6202 or [sandy.schoenberg@eur.army.mil](mailto:sandy.schoenberg@eur.army.mil).

**Latter Day Saints:** Scripture study is held each Monday, noon-1 p.m. at the chapel. Sunday services, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. downtown. Call Sean Peterson at 335-821-9492.

Call the Caserma Ederle chapel at 634-7519 (0444-71-7519) for religious activities.





## Petty fun:

MWR's Dennis Petty tries for a strike during a March 3 mixed bowling league event the Arena. Participants, four persons on each of the 10 teams, meet every Wednesday for the 16-week session.

Photo by Viki Frey

## Swim assessments

SKIESUnlimited will conduct swim assessments for youth interested in swim lessons Tuesday through March 19 from 4:30-5:30 p.m., March 24-26 from 3:30-4:45 p.m. and March 30-31 from 3:30-5:30 p.m.

All assessments will take place at the post pool. The first session of swim lessons will be April 21-May 14. Levels offered will be determined based on assessments. Enrollment will begin April 1. Youth must have a current assessment to enroll. For more information, call 634-8051 or e-mail at [kelli.covlin@eur.army.mil](mailto:kelli.covlin@eur.army.mil).

## Mako Sharks seeking volunteers

Are you interested in volunteering with the swim team? Did you swim in school, or do you just love to swim?

The Mako Sharks are looking for adults in the community who would like to become involved with a summer conditioning program or the fall competitive season. Mako swimmers, ages 6 to high school, compete in the European Forces Swim League. To coach a swim clinic or volunteer one or more days a week, contact John Casey at 0444-91-2612 or [john.j.casey@us.army.mil](mailto:john.j.casey@us.army.mil).

## Team Dynamite:

The Vicenza Juniors Team Dynamite travelled to Bamberg, Germany, March 6-7 to compete in the CYSS IMCOM-E Juniors European Basketball Tournament. Team Dynamite played well, but took two losses against Grafenwoehr, and Hohenfels, according to team officials. The team, made up of male and female members from Caserma Ederle, earned the right to travel to Germany by winning their final game in Vicenza Feb. 27. "The team had a great season and they should be proud of what they accomplished this year. I was very proud at each and every practice and game," said Coach Burke.

Courtesy photo



# Walk 4 Freedom

## Deployment support event kicks off Saturday with run

By LACY WOLFF

Army Wellness Center Vicenza

The Operation Walk 4 Freedom deployment support program officially kicks off Saturday at the Caserma Ederle Fun Run, with open registration anytime after in the Army Wellness Center.

Community members can win prizes in the program which compares "miles" earned to the number of miles it takes to walk to the Middle Eastern theater, a distance of roughly 3,800 miles. The concept is based on the idea that the closer the community "walks" to the Middle East, the closer they come to the conclusion of the various deployments.

The Walk 4 Freedom Program allows the participant to earn miles both by walking or through participating in a variety of activities intended to contribute to overall health and well being. The miles are tallied at the Army Wellness Center quarterly and all of

the participants who submit their miles will be entered in a drawing for prizes, including: two Outdoor Recreation trips for two, two framing classes at the Art Center, two pottery classes at the Art Center, four 30-minute massages at the Fitness Center, 40 fitness class tickets, a 2GB IPOD Nano and more.

The Walk 4 Freedom program provides an exciting opportunity for community members to develop strengths in several areas while also supporting our Soldiers downrange, said Megan Hallam, USAG Vicenza Health Promotion Officer. The Walk 4 Freedom program is developed and established to foster support for our community during deployment. It is intended to be multi-dimensional in approach so members can earn miles in ways that health them build and maintain holistic health.

"This initiative is an integrated effort among various agencies and programs in Vicenza," Hallam said. "The Vicenza

Health Promotion Council has been working together to inform community members about Comprehensive Soldier and Community Fitness."

Comprehensive Fitness includes 5 domains: physical, social, emotional, family, and spiritual fitness. The program is based on the idea that when Soldiers, DoD civilians, and family members spend time working on each of these domains it creates a more resilient and healthy person. The program is comprehensive and designed to allow participants to explore many avenues to accomplish holistic wellness, Hallam said.

"The chapel community is truly excited about Operation Walk 4 Freedom," said Douglas Thomison, Vicenza Family Life chaplain. "Via this program, the traditional thoughts of mind, body, and spirit come alive."

For more information on Walk 4 Freedom, call 634-8186.

## Lion Strong program kicks off Saturday

Get "Lion Strong" with the fitness center's new incentive program, kicking off Saturday.

It is a self-directed honor system in which participants log their activities into the computer located near the front desk.

The program is available to all U.S. ID cardholders age 18 and above. Registration required. Awards are given for 50-, 100- and 200-point achievements.

Visit [www.vicenzaMWR.com](http://www.vicenzaMWR.com) for details or stop by the fitness center.

## StraVicenza marathon kicks off March 21

The annual StraVicenza marathon will take place March 21 at 10 a.m. Event includes 1.5K, 4.5K and 10K marathons. The start and finish will be at Campo Marzio. Register at the StraVicenza point, Loggia del Capitaniato in Piazza dei Signori, Friday from 4-8:30 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3:30-9 p.m., and in Campo Marzio on March 21 from 7:45-9:45 a.m. Cost is 4 euro or 2 euro for kids under 14. Fee includes bib number, snack and medical coverage.

The Web site, in Italian only, is [www.stravicenza.it](http://www.stravicenza.it).

## DODGE BALL Soldier League Standings

Team	Win	Loss	Game Scores
46th MP Po Po's	2	0	<b>March 3</b>
Cup Cakes	0	3	Lame Ducks: 6 vs. Cup Cakes: 0
Lame Ducks	2	0	AFN Vicenza: 6 vs. Health Clinic: 0
AFN Vicenza	2	1	<b>March 4</b>
Two Tons of Irony	1	2	AFN Vicenza: 0 vs. Lame Ducks: 6
Health Clinic	0	2	Two Tons of Irony: 0 vs. Po Po's: 6

During the March 6 tournament play, the Lame Ducks were named champions. AFN Vicenza came in second place and the 46th MP Po Po's came in third. Complete tournament results to be announced.

Unit/recreational volleyball open play takes place at the fitness center every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.