



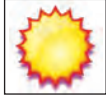
The Outlook

November 25, 2010

U.S. Army Garrisons Vicenza & Livorno

www.USAG.Vicenza.Army.Mil

Vol. 43, Issue 46



35/24 33/28 37/32
Friday Saturday Sunday
Chance of Snow Fri., Sat., Mon.

ATMs on post will be turned off Friday night at 10:30 p.m. except those at Chapel Gate at Shoppette, which will turn off at 4 a.m. The ATM on Villaggio will remain on. The ATMs will be turned on again Saturday.

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Happy Soldiers and families celebrate the end of deployment for majority of 173rd ABCT

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Officials explain how they brought a lot of troops home in a short amount of time



Italian, US militaries swing 1st ever Verona landing

By Annette Fournier
Outlook Editor

What do you do when you have a plane full of redeploying Soldiers, hundreds of anxious families waiting to see them, and no place to land? That was the problem Caserma Ederle personnel faced during the recent redeployment and it took the efforts of many Italian and U.S. Army, Air Force and civilian agencies to find a solution.

The problem started when a plane returning Soldiers from deployment tried to land at the Aviano Air Base, about 100 miles northeast of Caserma Ederle in early November. Aviano, as an Italian Air Force



Photo by Barbara Romano

base, is the usual place military flights would land, since civilian airports are not equipped to manage military flights and for

security reasons.

However, on Nov. 6, foggy weather and the recent movement of aviation

equipment combined to make it impossible for a flight full of Sky Soldiers to land at their

See VERONA, Page 2

Caserma Ederle and Italian airport personnel at Verona-Villafranca Airport cross the tarmac to welcome home a group of 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team Soldiers Nov. 15. Landing at Verona was a first for U.S. military personnel stationed at Vicenza.



Photo by Laura Kreider

Home at last: Family members and friends greet their homecoming Soldiers Friday night, welcoming the paratroopers home just in time for Thanksgiving. The 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team completed the movement of the majority of troops back to Vicenza Monday, although small groups continue to arrive. Groups of Soldiers arrived into Vicenza Nov. 17, two groups Friday, two groups Monday and another small group Tuesday. See more photos of the homecomings on page 4 and at the USAG Vicenza Flickr page at www.flickr.com/photos/usagvicenza. Learn more about the re-deployment process on page 8.

MyCAA creates new guidelines

By Sasha Sibilla
Outlook intern

All spouses currently participating or planning on applying for the Military Spouse Career Advancement Account Program fall under new rules and eligibility criteria due to changes that took effect in October.

"The new MyCAA is open to spouses of active duty and activated Reserve members in pay grades E1-E5, W1-W2, or O1-O2, who desire to pursue their professional and educational goals," said Reid Buckland, Employment Readiness

program manager. "Overseas assignments are the perfect time for spouses to focus on their career and education and with the new MyCAA, spouses can use up to \$4,000 with a \$2,000 fiscal year cap towards these goals."

Stricter requirements and standards of the new MyCAA call for funding limited to only Associate's degrees, certifications, and licensure programs. The programs or certifications must be completed by the spouse within three years from the start date of the first course.

See MYCAA, Page 3

Vicenza teen organizes book drive to benefit African children

By Annette Fournier
Outlook Editor

Literacy in Africa is not what your average 13 year old is focused on, but for A.J. Persinger, helping children on another continent away has become a mission.

The Vicenza Middle School eighth-grader is organizing "Operation Book Swap" and is asking the community to look through their bookshelves and boxes to find books to send to children in Africa.

He's also spearheading a book swap for kids in

See BOOKS, Page 3



Meet the Mayors hosts biggest turnout in event's history

Story and photo by Laura Kreider
Outlook staff

USAG Vicenza hosted the "Meet the Mayors" information fair at Caserma Ederle Friday, featuring more than 50 towns from the Vicenza province.

For the third year in a row, a combination of authorities including mayors, deputy mayors, council members and representatives set up booths on the ground floor of the Arena, where the many community members who attended the event had the chance to enjoy local specialties, collect informational materials such as brochures, posters and fact sheets highlighting festivals, and talk to the representative of the town where they live or might like to visit.

"It has been the biggest turnout, the most successful of the past three years," highlighted Shay Morris, Host Nation Community Relations program manager.

"The community, all those who attended, got something that they didn't expect."

The mayor of Monteviale, the town famous for its annual roast pork festival, brought an entire roast pig, about 30 kg., to share again this year.

The other towns offered a variety of typical Italian gastronomic specialties such as sopressa, polenta e baccalà, extra virgin olive oil with bread, cheese, biscuits, panettone and a variety of wines.

After the open house, a traditional Thanksgiving meal was served to the mayors and town representatives in the Arena's upstairs lounge.

Before the luncheon, Garrison Commander Col. Erik Daiga addressed the Italian guests, thanking them for their participation and friendship.

"All the local mayors were ecstatic," said Morris. "They enjoyed the Thanksgiving meal that was prepared after the presentation, and are looking



Sgt. 1st Class Ralph Darland, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, and his children, Michael, 4, and Nicole, 8, look closely at a publication on display at the Grancona booth.

forward to the next initiative."

All the participants were then invited to try their hand at bowling as a final's day activity.

Commenting on the day's activities, the councilor of Sossano, Giovanni Fattori, said "this was my first experience, including bowling, and it was fantastic."

VERONA: Italian military steps in to support diverted Aviano Air Base flights

Continued from Page 1
usual destination.

"I got a call at 2 a.m. saying there were with issues with the landing at Aviano," said Randy Clark, chief of plans and operations for the Directorate of Logistics. "That started us moving to find a solution and Verona (Villafranca Airport) is the next closest military air base."

Although it has never been done before, the Italian military officials requested special support from the Verona-Villafranca Airport in Verona to land the plane there. The airport is both civilian and military and has the appropriate equipment to facilitate the landing.

"That was a very long day," said Lt. Col. Danilo Colombo, the Italian Air Force liaison



Photo by Barbara Romano, JMTC Photo Lab
DOL's Greg Hutcheson, Arrival/Departure Airfield Control Group officer in charge, talks with Primo Maresciallo Massimiliano Sabato of the Personale Air Terminal Operation Centre at Verona -Villafranca Airport Nov. 15. The men coordinated the airfield operation procedures and synchronized combined US and Italian military efforts.

to SETAF/USARAF. "The base commander at Villafranca was able to approve the first two flights," he said, but for every other flight, he had to get permission from his chain of

command in Rome.

USAG Vicenza's DOL tracks every flight and had to secure permissions on the American military side to divert flights. That involved working with

the U.S. Air Force and Army commands both in Europe and the United States to work out all the details.

"There were a lot of firsts on this one," Clark said. "Normally all these arrangements are handled by different organizations, but because of the complications of working in Italy, they asked DOL to handle all the arrangements (on the American side). This has involved us building a lot of relations with the Italian authorities at Verona and it has all been going really well. The support they've given has been great and the brigade has been really happy with it."

Colombo praised the commanders and personnel of the military portion of the Verona-Villafranca airport,

saying, "They gave the maximum support. Normally they don't work on Saturday or after a certain time, but they called in the emergency team to handle the flights."

That first flight was followed by several more over the next three weeks, with the most recent landing Monday due to ongoing foggy weather at Aviano.

As to the Italian military personnel at Verona, Colombo said, "They were happy to support the Soldiers because they know very well that they were in theater for a long time. They did a very good job."

Caserma Ederle leadership plans to visit Verona-Villafranca Airport in early December to officially thank the airport and their personnel.

Speak Out

What are you thankful for?



Bonnie D'Andrea
Family member

"My family, health and peace."



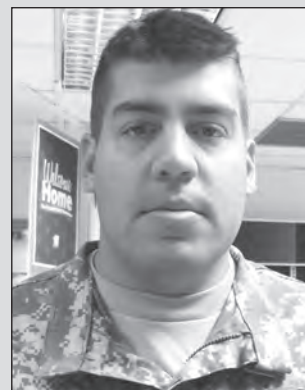
Spc. Devin Harvdegen
Unit unspecified

"I'm thankful for my awesome dad."



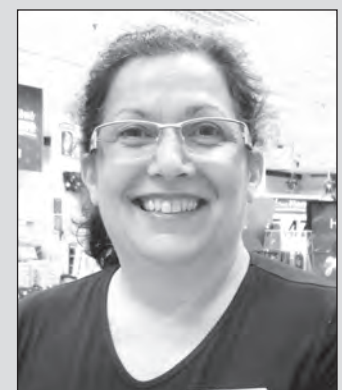
Sophia Santos
Family member

"My family and especially for my dad who just came home safely from Afghanistan."



Sgt. Bart Starr
2nd Bn., 503rd Inf. Regt.

"I'm thankful to be alive."



Ornella Zanotelli
AAFES employee

"I'm thankful that I have a job and that my house hasn't been damaged by the flood."

by Sasha Sibilla

Angel Tree gift program shows 'real meaning' of holidays

Story and Photo by Laura Kreider
Outlook staff

Army Community Service officially kicked off the holiday season Nov. 17 with the Angel Tree Ceremony at Davis Hall.

The Angel Tree program lets community members support families in the Vicenza military community by selecting an angel from the tree and purchasing a gift, said Allie Vallery, Army Volunteer Corps program manager with ACS.

This year, 152 angels are looking for sponsors. Angels can be selected at trees in the ACS lobby or in front of the entrance to the PX. The deadline to return gifts is Dec. 10 and they can be turned into the AAFES Customer Service Center or the ACS Lobby in

Building 108.

"I think this program brings us together as a community as we share with each other gifts and joy as an Army family," said Capt. Jose Mendez, USAG Vicenza Headquarters and Headquarters Company commander, who attended the ceremony with his family. "It also shows our children the importance of sharing and the real meaning of the Christmas traditions."

Jose, Mendez's 11-year-old son said, "It is important that all kids have a present for Christmas," while his sister April, 7, added that she hoped "All the children will be happy and share their toys with each other."

David Stanley, 11, whose dad just returned from deployment with the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team also expressed his thoughts.



April Mendez, 7 (center) and her brother Jose, 11, pick up some angels while their dad, Capt. Jose Mendez, looks on during the Angel Tree Ceremony, which officially started the Holiday Season Nov. 17 at Davis Hall.

"This is a good program so that older kids can give and the younger kids can continue the Christmas spirit when they grow up," he said.

The event also showcased several decorated Christmas trees that will be

auctioned during the Holiday Fest Dec. 4 in the Fitness Center. The money raised from the auction will help buy gifts for any missing angels.

For information on the Angel Tree program, call 634-7500.

MYCAA: New rules outline spouse's scholarship use

continued from Page 1

"Central Texas College is just one of the 3,000 accredited schools participating in the MyCAA program," said Sue Andrews, Central Texas College Regional Student Services Officer. "Spouses following a degree plan can earn an Associate's degree in many fields and also complete certifications such as the Emergency Medical Technician Course leading to National certification."

Other options available are the Criminal Justice degree and certificate program and the Early Childhood Education program," Andrews said.

"Interested students can come by the Education Center and speak with a college representative."

Other program options are available from the University Maryland, University College, also located in the Education Center.

In addition to on-site Colleges representatives, interested participants can find information on how to register and apply for MyCAA at www.militaryonesource.com.

BOOKS: Children invited to swap books at school

continued from Page 1

kindergarten through eighth grade to have some new reading materials for the holidays.

The idea started after A.J. watched a television program featuring education and availability of reading materials for children in Africa.

"I like books and seeing the kids not having anything, I thought it wasn't fair. At our school, we have books and art supplies and a nice building, but a lot of them don't have that."

A.J.'s mother, Nitza Persinger, recalls watching the TV program with her son and discussing it with him afterwards.

She said, "It's amazing, the amount of things we have. We're very lucky. On the show, the kids were so eager just to get their hands on a piece of paper. One little girl had her walls just covered with newspaper sheets because she wanted to read - it was really moving."

The details are still being worked out as to where exactly the books will go, but A.J. already has one contact in Ghana. Luckily, he has connections. His father, Sgt. 1st Class William Persinger, is the NCOIC of the U.S. Army Africa Secretary General Staff, and enlisted, along with his wife, as a volunteer for the book swap.

"He is starting the project by donating 73 of his own books," said Sgt. 1st Class Persinger. "He is a Boy Scout, a member of the Middle School Student Council and volunteers three hours a week at the Relocation office in ACS."

A.J., who has participated in a lot of community service projects, has never led one himself but was inspired by attending the Junior Leadership Seminar in February in Germany. The conference teaches teens how to be better leaders, A.J. said. Only one student per grade at Caserma Ederle was selected.

Students interested in the program had to submit an application and letters of recommendation and answer questions about leadership in front of a panel of teachers.

"JLS is a DoDDS-Europe sponsored six-day event for seventh and eighth grade students," said Teresa Taylor, the VMS program sponsor.

The program is intended to foster students' leadership strengths and skills, she said. The application deadline for 2011 has passed, but this year four students from Vicenza will be selected instead of two.

JLS-graduate A.J. will have his hands full with the book swap, which is Monday to Dec. 9 (weekdays only) from 12:30-1:30 p.m. in the VMS/VES Multipurpose room. Children ages kindergarten through eighth grade can bring books in good condition and exchange them for an equal number of books. If they choose to take fewer books than they bring, any extra books remaining after the exchanges will go to the Africa shipments.

Community members can donate specifically to the Africa book drive by leaving books in the drop boxes at Army Community Service's Davis Hall and at VMS & VES.

For book swap information, contact ajspy@hotmail.com. For information on the Junior Leadership Seminar, contact Taylor at 634-5702 or at Teresa.Taylor@eu.dodea.edu.

Book Swap

Kids can exchange books Monday to Dec. 9 (weekdays only), 12:30-1:30 p.m., in the Vicenza Elementary & Middle School Multipurpose room. Extra books will be donated to African children. To donate to the African book drive, use drop boxes at ACS' Davis Hall or in the VES/VMS.

The Outlook November 25, 2010 Vol. 43, Issue 46

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At your service



Volunteer Spotlight

Spc. Ruth Mingle volunteers with the Soldier and Family Assistance Center and the Warrior Transition Unit helping Soldiers. Mingle is also a wounded warrior.

"Most of my volunteer work consists of helping Soldiers, such as planning therapeutic trips in the local area and areas around Vicenza. As these trips are planned, we consider the state of mind each Soldier and their disabilities, which in turn, helps us to decide where we should go. I have really enjoyed doing these things because it shows them that we appreciate their service and sacrifice. I volunteer because I thought it would not only be a good way to interact with people, but also being there to help out where needed."

Community members interested in volunteering opportunities should call 634-7942 for information.

Community Camera

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



Photo by Laura Kreider



Photo by Laura Kreider

They're back!: The majority of the troops who had been deployed with the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team to Afghanistan have returned to Vicenza. The last large group rolled into Caserma Ederle Monday afternoon. A few small groups are continuing to arrive. Above, Sgt. Joseph Duehning, C Company, 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, welcomes back his company commander, Capt. Peter Leszczynski Nov. 17.

Above, A Soldier grins at loved ones while waiting to be released Friday night.



Photo by Grant Sattler

Two Soldiers run to greet their homecoming friend and fellow Soldier Monday at USAG Vicenza's Deployment Support Center in Bldg. 300A.



Staff Sgt. Stephen Green is welcomed back by his wife, Estelita, who holds Kiersten, 3, at the Deployment Support Center Nov. 23.

Photo by Laura Kreider



A couple shares a hug Monday afternoon at the Post Fitness Center gym.

Photo by Grant Sattler



Photo by Laura Kreider

FMWR visit: Nancy Wrightsman, assistant director of the CYSS Child Development Center, shows Maj. Gen. Reuben Jones, commanding general of the Army's Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command, the new Child Development and School Age Centers' playground during a tour Nov. 16. Jones visited five installations in Europe to review programs and meet with leaders, said Josh Gwinn, director, Vicenza Family and MWR.



Photo by John Hanson

USARAF project: U.S. Army Africa's John Hanson snapped this photo of Lt. Col. Luke Arikosi, Uganda People's Defense Force, pointing out the high water mark next to tracks in northern Uganda. Hanson from G-4 Programs and Policy Branch and another U.S. Army logistician conducted a four-day assessment of Ugandan railway infrastructure at the request of the Uganda People's Defense Force's Engineer Brigade.

Darby Dates

Visit the community calendar for upcoming events and details at www.usag.livorno.army.mil

Tree Lighting Ceremony

Join the community for caroling, the tree lighting and a visit from Santa on Dec. 3, at 5 p.m. in the main square.

Holiday Bazaar

Find the perfect Italian gifts for everyone on your holiday list at the Holiday Bazaar Dec. 3 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Darby Community Club.

FRG holiday party

Listen to Christmas carols and stories, grab some snacks and hot apple cider and enjoy some holiday spirit with your family Dec. 9 at the school cafeteria beginning at 3 p.m.

School's Winter Concert

Enjoy the sounds of the holidays at the Livorno Unit School Winter Concert on Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. at the school.

Wellness Center

Holiday gift cards for the Wellness Center are now available at the Fitness Center.

ACS classes

Join ACS for these classes:

- ◆ Insurance Basics, Tuesday at noon;
- ◆ Budgeting for the Holidays, Dec. 2 at noon;
- ◆ Good Credit Scores, Dec. 7 at noon;
- ◆ Card Making, Dec. 8 at 11:30 a.m.;
- ◆ Reentering the work place, Dec. 8 at 4 p.m.;
- ◆ Consumer rights, Dec. 9 at noon.

Call 633-7084 to sign up.

SAS/YS

SAS/YS is hosting:

- ◆ Resumes for teens, Dec. 7;
- ◆ CYSS Christmas field trip on Dec. 21.

ITR trips

Join ITR for these upcoming trips: Florence Noel Trip on Dec. 4; Bologna Motor Show, Dec. 11; Milan International Fair, Dec. 11; Pisa Market, Dec. 12; Vicenza shopping trip, Dec. 18 and Wine Tasting, Dec. 19.

Darby Community Club

- ◆ Right Arm Night, Dec. 10 at 4 p.m.
- ◆ New Year's Eve Bash, Dec. 31

Religious Activities

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
* Don't miss the Mouse Christmas play on Dec. 12 at 11:15 a.m. and on Dec. 15 at 6 p.m.



The Camp Darby community enjoyed an early Thanksgiving when the USAG Vicenza South of the Alps Dining Facility staff cooked up a feast Nov. 19. More than 400 people enjoyed the traditional Thanksgiving meal. "We don't have a dining facility and many community members had expressed interest in having a home-style Thanksgiving meal, so we worked with the Vicenza dining facility to make it happen," explained Lt. Col. Kevin Bigelman, USAG Livorno commander. "It doesn't matter where in the world you're stationed during the holidays, the military has a way of coming together."

Above, Vicenza commissary personnel and Darby service members scoop out servings for the dining guests. Right, a Camp Darby service member serves a diner. Far right, Ulderico Strucco, DFAC employee, shows what's for dinner.

Photos by Joyce Costello



Combined Federal Campaign-Overseas is chance to give back

By Lt. Col. KEVIN BIGELMAN
USAG Livorno commander

Each year, service members and other federal employees have the opportunity to support charitable causes that are important to them by making a donation through the Combined Federal Campaign. The generous men and women serving in the five overseas combatant commands contributed more than \$15.6 million through the CFC-O during the 2009 campaign.

We are halfway through the 2010 CFC-Overseas campaign. I want to ensure everyone has a 100-percent-informed opportunity to give.

Therefore, I ask you to support your component managers, community area project officers (CAPO's), and key persons in their efforts to raise funds for those less fortunate. The CFC-O is an established campaign with trusted results that assists more than 2,400 charities.

If you have given, thank you; and for those who have yet to contribute, please make your donation today.

Visit www.cfcoverseas.org for additional information or call 633-7510.



Giuseppe Ricci, Camp Darby Commissary director, presents gift certificates and a turkey that were donated to the Camp Darby community to assist service members with financial need during the holidays during a small ceremony Nov. 17 at the commissary. Accepting on behalf of the community are, from left: Lt. Col. Kevin Bigelman, USAG Livorno commander, Maj. Paul Fritts, USAG Livorno chaplain, and Command Sgt. Maj. Felix Rodriguez, USAG Livorno command sergeant major.

Helping families during the holidays

Story and photo by
VINCENZO LETO
USAG Livorno Public Affairs

A few families received extra assistance toward their Thanksgiving grocery bill because of donations to the Camp Darby community.

Three food companies, S&K Sales, SARVIS Inc. and WEBSCO, donated 25 turkeys and six \$25 gift certificates through the local commissary to assist

families with financial need.

Giuseppe Ricci, Camp Darby Commissary director, presented the donations to the U.S. Army Garrison Livorno Command group during a small ceremony Nov. 17 on behalf of the companies.

"There are the kind of small but significant gifts to remind us that there are many folks back home who care about our troops and support us," said Rodriguez after the ceremony.

Basketball League starts:

The 2010-2011 Soldiers and Civilians Basketball League's season started Tuesday. The community is invited to games On Monday at the post gym. At 6 p.m. it's Do Work! vs. All In! and at 7 p.m. D Co. 2-503rd plays Push Da Rock. Other teams in the league include 464th MP Platoon, 14th Trans., USARAF and Team Loyalty.

Photo by Laura Kreider



sports and fitness programs. Take a survey at www.surveymonkey.com/s/CYSS_Survey.

Snow sports workout

Skiers and snowboarders can join Coach Ice Ski for a workout in preparation for the snow season. Workouts will take place at the fitness center Tuesdays at noon. Call 634-6240 for information.

Volunteers needed

The Mako Sharks Swim Team hosts its final home meet Dec. 12, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Caserma Ederle Post Pool. They are seeking volunteers to serve as timers and other administrative duties. No prior training is required. For info or to volunteer, contact John Casey at john.j.casey@us.army.mil or call 0444-912-612 and leave a message.

CYSS coaches needed

Potential coaches must pass a background check, and will receive training and certification.

Unit & rec play

Basketball: 11:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, fitness center.

Volleyball: 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays, fitness center.

Men's Soccer: 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, soccer field.

Women's Soccer: 5:30-7 p.m. Tuesdays, field. Call 634-7009.

Sports Stats

4K Turkey Trot Results

Male Category	
Edgardo Confessa	13:55
Massimo Zaccara	14:11
Tyler Holderby	14:26
Female Category	
Ornella Magnaguagno	17:46
Stephanie Tutton	18:13
Araceli Murphy	18:52

2010 Basketball Season

Monday:	6 p.m. Do Work! vs. All In!
	7 p.m. D Co. 2-503rd vs. Push Da Rock

Local festivals & shows

I Giardini di Natale - Christmas market:

Saturday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 3:30-7 p.m. in Asiago, Piazza Carli, about 37 miles north of Vicenza. Sunday at 4:40 p.m. Cavalese Band performs; sample local products in Piazza II Risorgimento.

"Mixed Fry" play:

Saturday, 8:30 p.m. in Vicenza, Ca' Balbi Theatre, Via M. Da Montegalalo. Performance by amateur theater group of La Fraglia, an institute for disabled people. To request an English script, e-mail leahy_anna@yahoo.com.

Antique market:

Sunday, Piazzola sul Brenta, Villa Contarini about 16 miles east of Vicenza. More than 700 vendors and food booths.

FREE concerts, exhibits & events

Quilts & Quilts exhibit:

Ongoing through Dec. 8 in Bassano del Grappa, Palazzo Bonaguro, Via Angarano 77, about 22 miles northeast of Vicenza. Exhibit open Monday-Friday 3-7:30 p.m.; Saturday & Sunday 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m.

Fotoberfest - photo exhibits, in Vicenza:

- ♦ Fashion Cafè, Contrà Mure Pallamaio 6, 7 a.m.-7 p.m., closed on Sunday. "Travel journal" by Mariangela Anaclerio, ongoing through Tuesday.
- ♦ Novearti bookstore, Piazza Biade 11, Tuesday - Saturday 9 a.m. - noon & 3:30-7:30 p.m.; Monday and Sunday 3:30-7:30 p.m. "Photos between the lines" by Valentino Follador, ongoing through Sunday.
- ♦ Radio Varsavia, Contrà Piazza del Castello 3A, Tuesday - Saturday 9 a.m. - noon & 3:30-7:30 p.m.;

"Manhattan" by Adalberto Zanella, ongoing through Tuesday.

- ♦ Tao - Pietre, arte & alchimia, Stradella S. Barbara 1b; Tuesday-Saturday 9 a.m. - noon & 4-7 p.m.; Monday 4-7 p.m. "Places I've done time" by Luke Wynne, ongoing through Saturday.

- ♦ Il Grottino Pub, Piazza delle Erbe 1, daily 5 p.m.-2 a.m. "Alaska" by Samuele Boldrin, ongoing through Sunday.

Naturae 2010 photography exhibit:

Ongoing through Sunday, in Vicenza, Lamec, Basilica Palladiana, Piazza dei Signori.

Archaic Reminiscences - sculpture exhibit:

Ongoing through Sunday. Friday and Sunday, 3:30-7 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m.-noon and 3:30-7 p.m. in Vicenza, S. Lorenzo Gallery, Corso Fogazzaro 86.

Explore the sky:

Astronomical Observatory of Arcugnano, Tuesday, 8:30 p.m., Via S. Giustina, 127, about five miles south of Vicenza. View the sky and the planets in great detail with the observatory's telescope.

Conservatory students in concert:

String and Jazz Ensemble Saturday at 5 p.m. in Vicenza, Pedrollo Conservatory, Contrà San Domenico 33.

Concerts

Shakira: Saturday in Torino, Palaolimpico.

Kings of Leon: Dec. 3 in Bologna, Futurshow Station.

Remix - American Dance Company: Dec. 7-9 in Vicenza, Teatro Comunale. Tickets on line at www.mioticket.it/tcvi/default.asp?language=3.

30 Seconds to Mars: Dec. 8 in Bologna, Paladonna.

Ian Anderson plays Jethro Tull: "Jethro Tull at Christmas" Dec. 10 in Vicenza, Teatro Comunale.

Tickets on line at www.mioticket.it/tcvi/default.asp?language=3.

Voca People: Dec. 13 in Milan, Teatro Dal Verme; Dec. 15 in Florence, Teatro Saschall.

Randy Crawford and Joe Sample Trio: Dec. 22 in Florence, Teatro Verdi.

The Harlem Gospel Choir: Dec. 23 in Milan, Europauditorium.

Sade: May 6 in Assago, Milan, Mediolanum Forum.

Bon Jovi: July 17 in Udine, Stadio Friuli. Tickets on sale now.

Tickets are available in Vicenza at Media World, Palladio Shopping Center or online at www.greenticket.it/index.html?imposta_lingua=ing or <http://www.ticketone.it/EN/>.

Sporting events

Renault International Roller Cup:

Dec. 8 in Modena, Palapanini. For more information in English and tickets, visit www.ticketone.it/EN/.

ODR trips

Arabba Ski/Snowboard: Dec. 4, 6 a.m.-8 p.m. Head to the Dolomites for a ski day in Arabba, Italy. A complex of lifts lead up to an extensive network of intermediate and expert runs above the village. Cost: \$35.

Bolzano and Merano Christmas Markets: Dec. 4, 6:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Enjoy one of the most famous Christmas markets in Italy which hosts local craftsmen and food products. Cost: \$55; Free for children 2 and younger.

Ski/Snowboard Wax Class: Dec. 8, 5:30 p.m.-7 p.m. Learn to wax skis & snowboards. Cost: \$20.

Folgaria Ladies Day ski/snowboard: Dec. 11, 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Ladies ski free on this Trentino resort with 22 lifts and 800-meters of vertical descent. Cost: \$25.

See the Outdoor Recreation schedule online at www.VicenzaMWR.com.

Sports Shorts

CYSS volleyball

Teens ages 11-13 are invited to join the Middle School Volleyball program. Call 634-6151 for info.

All-Army Volleyball

Applications are now being accepted for the men's and women's All-Army Volleyball Teams (sand and floor). Apply by Dec. 15 for coach positions and by Feb. 1 for athletes. Find more info at www.allarmysports.armymwr.com.

Basketball & cheering

Enroll kids ages 3-15 for basketball and cheerleading by Dec. 8 at the CYSS Parent Central Services Office at Davis Hall. Space is limited. CYSS registration must be valid through the end of the season (Jan. 12 - Feb. 26). Practices begin in late December. Call 634-6151 for info.

CYSS sports survey

Let CYSS Sports and Fitness know your thoughts about youth

Now Showing

Ederle Theater

Thursday	Harry Potter & Deathly Hallows* (PG 13)	1 p.m.
	(* Special time for holiday schedule)	
Friday	Alpha and Omega (PG)	6 p.m.
	Harry Potter & Deathly Hallows (PG 13)	9 p.m.
Saturday	Harry Potter & Deathly Hallows* (PG 13)	3 p.m.
	Devil (PG 13)	6 p.m.
Sunday	Harry Potter & Deathly Hallows (PG 13)	3 p.m.
	Devil (PG 13)	6 p.m.
Weds.	Alpha and Omega (PG)	6 p.m.
Nov. 25	Alpha and Omega (PG)	1 p.m.
	Camp Darby Theater	
Friday	The American (R)	6 p.m.
Saturday	Devil (PG 13)	6 p.m.
Sunday	Alpha and Omega (PG)	1 p.m.
Dec. 3	The Town (R)	6 p.m.

Admission: Age 12 and older, \$4, younger than 12, \$2. The Ederle theater box office opens one hour prior to show.

View MOVIE TRAILERS and more online at www.shopmyexchange.com/ems/euro/vicenza.htm or www.aafes.com/ems/euro/livorno.htm.

Looking to buy or sell items? Check out MWR's Marketplace at www.mwrmarketplace.com

Kids' holiday shows

The community is invited to the schools' holiday presentations. All shows will be in the VES Multi-Purpose Room.

Tuesday: The second and third grades present "Humbug" 1:30-2:15 p.m. and 6:15-7 p.m.

Dec. 2: The Cougar Cub Choir performs "Welcome Home to Vicenza!", dedicated to returning Soldiers, from 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Dec. 7: The kindergartens and first grades present "The Littlest Reindeer" from 9-9:30 a.m. and 6-6:30 p.m.

Dec. 14: The fourth and fifth grades present "A Christmas Carol" 1:30-2:30 p.m. and 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Holiday festival

The Holiday Festival is Dec. 3-5, beginning with the Tree-Lighting Ceremony Dec. 3 from 3:30 p.m.-7 p.m. in the Post Theater parking lot. The Cougar Cub Choir performs at 4:30 p.m. and the tree is lit at 5 p.m. There will be carnival rides and refreshments available, and children's crafts and a bazaar in the fitness center gym from 3:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.

The festival continues Dec. 4, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., and Dec. 5, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., with the fitness center bazaar and rides and refreshments at the Post Theater parking lot. A silent auction for a pre-decorated Christmas tree will be Dec. 4, with bidding 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The horse and carriage rides will not be available Dec. 5.

Parking lot closure

The Post Theater parking lot will be closed Dec. 1-5 for the Holiday Festival and preparations.

Arts & Crafts Center

Learn the Art of Chocolate Dec. 4 with the Arts & Crafts Krafty Kitchen Class. Create a personalized stocking Dec. 8.

Book Club

The Book Club discusses the "People of the Book" by Geraldine Brooks on Dec. 2 from 7-9 p.m. at the library. Bring a snack to share.

Family Game Night

Families are invited to Family Game Night Dec. 8, 6-7 p.m., at the Post Library. Bring your favorite board game or play on our Wii, and enjoy refreshments. Call 634-8419 for more information.

Art exhibit

CYSS will host the Boys and Girls Club of America's annual Fine Arts Exhibit Dec. 6 - 31 at the Post Library. Stop by the library and vote for your favorite artwork.

VES SAC Meeting

The School Advisory Council for Vicenza Elementary School will meet Dec. 9 at 3:00 p.m. at VES. All interested community members are invited. For more information e-mail missyhuggins@hotmail.com.

DoDEA survey

Parents with children in DoD schools are asked to complete the DoDEA 2010 Customer Satisfaction Survey by Dec. 15. A high response rate provides schools with valuable information about

their programs. Visit www.dodea.edu and click on the link at. No internet access? Contact the school for more information.

AFTB Level III

AFTB Level III - Making a Difference through Leadership, is Dec. 7-9 from 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Expand your leadership and communication techniques and learn about mentoring, leadership styles, running meetings and managing group conflict. For more info, call 634-7500.

Scholarship deadline

The deadline to apply for the Army Emergency Relief Overseas Spouse Education Assistance Program (term 3) is Dec. 13. Spouses of active-duty Soldiers pursuing their first undergraduate degree and residing with the Soldier overseas are eligible. Applications are available at www.aerhq.org/. For more info, call 634-8524 or stop by the AER office in ACS.

Sale for active-duty

The Thrift Store is having a 50-percent-off sale for all merchandise (except consignments) for active-duty Soldiers Wednesday and on Dec. 8 and Dec. 15. The sale includes military clothing and transformers. To receive the discount, Soldiers must be in uniform or show an active-duty ID.

Improve your GT score

Take the FAST class and improve your GT score. The class is Monday-Dec. 10, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m.- 4 p.m. with lunch from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Call 634-8933 or e-mail Lourdes.fernandez@europe.ctcd.edu.

Chapel holiday schedule

Hanukkah celebration Wednesday, 5:30 p.m.
Spanish Catholic Mass (Our Lady of Guadalupe) Dec. 11, 7 p.m.
Advent Penance service Dec.

13, 5:30 p.m.

Protestant Children's Christmas Musical Dec. 17, 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 24

Catholic Children's Christmas Pageant, 3:30 p.m.

Catholic Family Mass, 4 p.m.
Protestant Candle Light Service, 7 p.m.

Catholic Midnight Mass, midnight

Dec. 25

Catholic Mass, 10 a.m.

Dec. 31

Catholic New Year's Eve Mass, 5:30 p.m.

Gospel Watch Night Service, 10:45 p.m.

Chapel children's choir

The Chapel Children's Choir is looking for children ages 5-15 to perform in the Christmas musical. Practices are Sunday afternoons at 2 p.m. at the Chapel Annex. The performance is Dec. 17. Children do not have to be members of the chapel to participate. For more info, contact Dana Brue at 327-131-6510 or dana.brue@us.army.mil.

Job announcements

Central Texas College is seeking an education counselor aide substitute. Applicants must have a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college. Contact jennifer.mcneese@europe.ctcd.edu or call 634-892.

AAFES is seeking a supervisory senior store associate at the Vicenza Main Store. Apply by Sunday. Call 634-7729 or check the employment section at www.aafes.com.

Holiday Show

Tickets are on sale for the Soldiers' Theater's production of "Making Spirits Bright", a song and dance review of holiday favorites. Shows are Dec. 3-12, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for youth. Call 634-7281 or visit the theater for reservations.

Health Center

The Health Center will be open Saturday from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

AUSA membership

Those interested in joining the Mediterranean chapter of the Association of the United States Army can e-mail osvaldo.delhoyo@us.army.mil. For more info, visit www.ausa.org.

Security reminder

During this holiday season, be especially vigilant of your safety and security. If traveling, be aware of the situation along your travel route, whether traveling by ground or air. Think about the safety, security, and well being of your family and friends and report unusual or suspicious activity to authorities.

Country night

Every Thursday is Country Night at the Lion's Den from 8 p.m. until closing.

Heritage Month

The Native American Heritage Month celebration is Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. in the Teen Center Gymnasium. Call 634-6061 for more information.

Holiday shipping dates & apptmts

The deadlines for holiday shipping are: Friday for space available; Dec. 3 for parcel airlift; and Dec. 10 for priority and first class mail. People shipping more than five packages can make an appointment between 8-10 a.m. to receive personal service. Call 634-7032 to schedule.

VCC luncheon

Join the Vicenza Community Club for the Winter Wonderland Luncheon Dec. 15 from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Arena. Cost is \$15 per person. Pay and RSVP online at www.vccitaly.org by Dec. 10.

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-May at Vicenza High School)

10:45 a.m.: Catholic religious education (September-May at 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 Bible study. Dinner provided. No child care.

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

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: Call 634-7519 (0444-71-7519) for info.

Jewish: Call Paul Levine at 345-907-2108.

Latter Day Saints: Call Chance Wilson at 327-869-8107. Sunday services, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. downtown. Scripture study held Mondays, noon-1 p.m. at the chapel.

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



Photo by Laura Kreider

SOTA serves lunch, community: Warrant Officer Charles Drafall, USARAF G-2, (right) prepares a plate for Sgt. Reid Erickson, HHC, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, and his son, 11-month-old Michael, while Chief Warrant Officer Joachim J. Consiglio, USARAF G-4, assists at the lunch booth organized by the South of the Alps Warrant Officer Association on Caserma Ederle Nov. 17. Many Soldiers and community members made donations during the event. The SOTA event raised money to donate to the local Italian Community in Vicenza for flood repairs. SOTA also donated \$200 to the USO Nov. 22 to provide Thanksgiving dinner for Soldiers and will present \$200 to the Youth Center in December. "Our association is all about taking care of the local community any way we can," Consiglio said.

DON'T BE LATE: E-mail briefs to editor@eur.army.mil noon on Monday, or by 4 p.m Friday if Monday is a holiday.

Coming home: How they get from there to here



Photos by Barbara Romano, JMTC Photo Lab

A plane carrying Soldiers from the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team arrives at the Verona-Villafranca Airport Nov. 15. From before the time Soldiers even depart Afghanistan, every step of the journey is tracked and reported back to Caserma Ederle so personnel can prepare for their arrival.

Editor's note: This is the fourth in a series of articles about reintegration for homecoming Soldiers and their families.

By Annette Fournier
Outlook Editor

“They’re on their way.” That’s what every family member, fiancé and friend is waiting to hear when the end of a deployment rolls around and troops are scheduled to return to their home station.

That message starts a pins-and-needles waiting period for Soldiers and families until the troops arrive back safely. So what has to happen in the hours leading up to the joyful returns?

A whole lot happens, said Capt. Clayton Cole, plans officer for reception and reintegration with the USAG Vicenza Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security, who helps coordinate the many players involved in any redeployment.

For the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team’s redeployment, Soldiers go from their area of operation to Forward Operating Base Shank, Afghanistan, to catch a flight. From there, they head to

Bishkek Manus Air Base, Kyrgyzstan, and from there to Germany or Italy, sometimes with a stop-off midway. Finally, after checking in equipment and briefings, the Soldiers take buses back to Caserma Ederle. At each location, a 173rd liaison officer communicates the timetable and status of Italy-based troops’ return to the Caserma Ederle staff, who pass the message on.

“We start calling people twenty-four hours out so they can get ready,” Cole said, “and then notify people again, when they’re on the ground and again when they are about twenty minutes out. We meet every day to share information.”

Cole said for every group arriving, the Installation Operations Center staff calls more than 70 people involved in the arrival, who contact their teams. The 173rd Family Readiness Group handles family notifications.

“As things continue to change, we adjust accordingly,” said 1st Sgt. Mitchell Rucker, 173rd ABCT Rear Detachment. “At times you will see all of us together with Blackberries in hand e-mailing someone outside our circle and then cross talking to each other to make sure we



Sky Soldiers are welcomed Nov. 15 at the Verona-Villafranca Airport by Col. Marcus De Oliveira (right), U.S. Army Africa chief of staff, 1st Sgt. Mitchell Rucker (middle) and Master Sgt. Timothy Shuler, both of the 173rd ABCT.

cover all of our bases. Of course there are always the unexpected surprises that bring unique challenges. You will often times see the Directorate of Logistics, 14th Transportation Battalion and the brigade leadership together in talking it all out until it makes sense.”

The players include DOL to handle cargo, track aircraft and arrange for transport, the Army Community Service for reception activities, Housing to ensure barracks and housing are ready and the 14th Trans. Bn. to help with transportation needs. The Carabinieri and military police provide escorts, the Italian military assists with airport arrangements as necessary and post

leaders help welcome the troops home. The 173rd, DPTMS and other agencies are also involved throughout the homecoming.

“The relationship the brigade has with the command group, DPTMS, DOL, Housing, ACS and 14th Trans is incredible,” Rucker said. “Sometimes I forget that we are separate units. It has been an awesome experience for me to have worked with such a professionals.”

It all culminates in an excited crowd at Caserma Ederle, who often arrive hours in advance toting balloons and signs, ready for that final moment when they hug their Soldiers, breathe sighs of relief and go home.



Soldiers, staff from the Directorate of Logistics and Italian personnel at the Verona-Villafranca Airport work together to unload cargo and prepare it for shipment to Caserma Ederle. The DOL tries to ensure baggage is sorted and in place at Vicenza before Soldiers arrive so they can pick up their bags and go home without extra hassle, said DOL’s Randy Clark, chief of plans and operations for DOL.

Before heading back to Vicenza, Soldiers turn in their weapons and gear, and receive briefings about reintegration.



Troops get their first glimpses of Caserma Ederle in a year. Their journey to Italy includes traveling from their area of operation to FOB Shank in Afghanistan, then to Bishkek Manus Air Base in Kyrgyzstan, followed by a flight to Germany or Italy, and finally a bus ride to post.



Above and right, family members greet their homecoming Soldiers. Every group is met by post leaders, friends and families.



SPORTS SHORTS: For sports announcements, see page 6. E-mail briefs and sports announcements to editor@eur.army.mil.