

What's Inside

Garrison news,
pages 2 & 3

Where's my tax
rebate?

Have a new addition
to the family? Don't
forget DEERS

Speak Out

Meningitis
symptoms, vaccines

NCO Induction
ceremony



Former SETAF
commander passes
away

At your service

Community
events,
pages 4 & 5

Art Center
renovations
underway

Freddie Fap visits
Japan

Darby hosts NCO of
the Year
competition

USAFE woodwind
quintet visits school

Community
news,
pages 6 & 7

Out & About

Movie schedule

Community notes

Sports, Leisure
page 8

Civilian fitness
program begins

Chosen Company increases presence in Nuristan

Story and photo
by Sgt. Henry Selzer
173d Airborne Brigade Combat
Team Public Affairs

NURISTAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Just after sunrise on the first day of March, Soldiers of 2nd Platoon, Chosen Company, 2nd Battalion, 503d Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, set out for a long day of patrolling the mountains around their base in search of any signs of enemy activity in the area.

Third squad set out from Forward Operating Base Bella and began traversing the steep mountains of the valley of Jamachgal-Khwar.

They completed their patrol late in the afternoon after what looks like a three-kilometer (1.86-mile) trek on a map, but in reality it was much longer.

The Soldiers of 3rd squad conduct these patrols to put boots on ground in the hard-to-reach areas of the valleys and show the Afghans the Soldiers are available for assistance.

“The purpose of these patrols is to keep the enemy off balance and provide FOB Bella with more security,” said Staff Sgt John Oftinoski, 2nd Platoon squad leader.

By conducting the patrols in the valleys surrounding their FOB, the Soldiers of 3rd squad are providing



Staff Sgt. John Oftinoski (front,) listens carefully to his radio as Soldiers of 2nd Platoon, Chosen Company, 2nd Battalion, 503d Infantry (Airborne), pull security during a patrol in the Jamachgal-Khwar Valley, Nuristan Province, Afghanistan.

the base with more separation from the enemy and strengthening relationships with Afghans in the area.

“We like to make our presence known and let the locals know that we are not going anywhere and we

are here to help,” said Spc. James Schmidt, gunner and radio-telephone operator for the squad.

Although the Soldiers did not see much activity during the day's patrol, it helped them become more familiar with the area they

will be protecting throughout the summer.

“As the summer gets closer and enemy activity becomes more frequent, the length and amount of patrols we will be conducting will increase,” said Oftinoski.

173d BSB Armorers conduct workshop with ANA

By 2nd Lt. Monika Comeaux
173rd Brigade Support Battalion

NANGARHAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan - A small group of mechanics from the Afghan National Army's 5th Kandak, 2nd Brigade, 201st Corps participated in

a small-arms repair workshop at Forward Operating Base Fenty, March 3. The class was taught by the armament section of Company B, 173d Brigade Support Battalion, 173d Airborne Brigade Combat Team, to increase the competency level of the ANA mechanics in

weapons maintenance.

Participants familiarized themselves with the proper weapons clearing steps, disassembly, reassembly, functions check procedures and how to identify faults on the U.S. M-4 rifle and M-249 and Russian-made PKM machine guns.

“It seems they knew almost everything we showed them on the PKM. They were more interested in the American weapons,” said Chief Warrant Officer Jean Belizaire, an armament maintenance technician and officer-in-charge of the armament section.

“They [the Afghans] are surprisingly quick to learn our techniques for troubleshooting and inspecting weapons systems,” said instructio Sgt. Micaiah Ragins, a small arms/artillery repairer.

The ANA does not have separate weapon maintenance technicians in the 5th Kandak; it is the job of the mechanics to maintain the weapons if they break, explained Fazal Dod, an ANA mechanic. ANA soldiers mostly carry AK-47s and PKMs, but being familiar with U.S. weapon systems was also helpful in enhancing their general weapon repair skills.

The ANA mechanics were amused and surprised at some of the features they found in the M4 and M249.

They disassembled and reassembled the American weapons, trying to break them down to the smallest components.

Ragins explained that removing the gas tube on the M249 can be quite a challenge for both U.S. and ANA troops if they don't know the trick to it.

“It was a surprise how many small springs and pins there are in these American weapons,” said Dod.

“I think it is a great thing. We are here to help them any way that we can,” said Belizaire. “For my guys, this is one of the ways they can help, to make the Afghan more proficient in repairing weapons. It's something they can look back on and say, ‘yep, I helped the ANA.’”



Soldiers from the armament shop of Company B, 173rd Brigade Support Battalion, teach Afghan National Army mechanics about weapons maintenance at Forward Operating Base Fenty, Afghanistan, March 3. (Photo by 2nd Lt. Monika Comeaux)

SETAF commander announced

Brig. Gen. William B. Garrett III has been selected to serve as commanding general for SETAF, according to a Chief of Staff of the Army release March 13.

Brig. Gen. Garrett, who will replace Maj. Gen. Frank G. Helmick, most recently served as Deputy Director for Operations, National Military Command Center, the Joint Staff, in Washington, D.C.

Maj. Gen. Helmick's follow-on assignment has not yet been announced.

Aldo Moro gate inbound closure

The Aldo Moro entrance (Gate 1) INBOUND will be closed Saturday, March 22 from 6 a.m. until noon. During this time Gate 4 (Housing gate) will be open.

Soldiers inducted into time-honored corps

Spc. Crystal Abbott
SETAF Public Affairs

"No one is more professional than I. I am a noncommissioned officer, a leader of Soldiers."

These words, the beginning of the NCO creed, were recited by participants at the NCO induction ceremony March 5 to remind the new NCOs what their duties and responsibilities are.

Twenty-eight Soldiers who were promoted to the rank of sergeant in the last year were officially inducted into the NCO ranks, representing units from throughout the Vicenza military community.

"For the brand new NCOs [this ceremony] is a milestone in your Army career," said guest speaker, Command Sgt. Maj. Roderick D. Johnson, 5th Signal Command command sergeant major. "For the more senior NCOs, this ceremony reminds us all of how special our job actually is."

While addressing the Soldiers, Johnson warned them how difficult it can be to go from Soldier to leader.

"You were being led, now you're leading. There is a relationship change," said Johnson. "You go from being a subordinate with peers, to leaders with subordinates, some whom were once your peers."

The induction ceremony ended in the crossing of the gauntlet.

Finally, each NCO received a copy of the Army NCO guide and a signed copy of his or her charge as an NCO.

"These NCOs have taken an oath today, not only to this audience but also to the NCOs who have preceded them, that they will provide outstanding leadership," said Command Sgt. Maj. Nicolino Parisi, command sergeant major of the 509th Signal Battalion. "By doing so, the sacrifices of our noncommissioned officers who served before us will not have been in vain."



Sgt. Jakob Melton, a Soldier with the 173d Airborne Brigade Combat Team rear detachment, walks through the gauntlet at the NCO induction ceremony March 5. The gauntlet serves as a reminder to the new NCOs that as they walk their career path, their fellow NCOs will always be there to evaluate, mentor, train and help them. Wherever they go, another NCO will be there watching them, prepared to assist. (Photo by Barbara Romano)

Proper registration of DEERS, ID cards is crucial

By Kathryn L. Morse
TRICARE Service Center
Special to the Outlook

All military and civilian members of the Vicenza military community who are eligible for military ID cards should be enrolled in the Defense Enrollment and Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS).

This applies to all newborns and inprocessing families (military and civilian) with children who are too young to have a military ID card.

Babies born in the Vicenza military community will be given a pseudo Social Security number when they are enrolled in DEERS at the ID card section in the Central Processing facility.

This pseudo Social Security number needs to be updated when the permanent Social Security number arrives from the U.S. government.

To update the DEERS system with the permanent Social Security number, the parents need to provide the ID card office in the

central processing facility proof of the permanent Social Security number (the original official Social Security Card not a copy of the card).

After updating the DEERS system, the parents then need to visit the TRICARE service center (room 21) in the health center to update the health center computer system.

Many young children in the Vicenza military community are not in DEERS or, if they are in DEERS, are still listed under their pseudo Social Security number.

The TRICARE service center requests that parents who have not notified the ID card office and the health center of the permanent Social Security number to please do so as soon as possible so that



Andrew Atreyu Grueneberg was the first child born on Caserma Ederle in 2008. (Outlook file photo)

information in both systems are kept current.

If you are not sure if your child has their permanent Social Security number in the two systems, visit the TRICARE service center at the Vicenza Health Center to check.

The TRICARE service center is open Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Thursday hours are 1-4:30 p.m.

Former SETAF commander passes away

Retired Lt. Gen. Robert C. McAlister, a former SETAF commander, passed away Feb. 26 at his home in Melbourne, Fla.

McAlister, a West Point graduate, commanded SETAF from July 1971 to April 1973.

Other assignments included assistant division commander of the 4th Infantry Division in Vietnam; chief of staff, Allied Force Southern Europe; and chief of staff, U.S. European Command.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Martha McAlister, and their five children, Pauline Herz, Mary McAlister, Robert C.



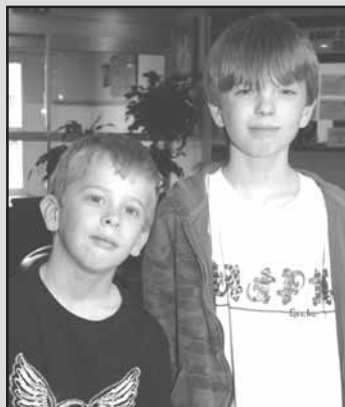
Retired Lt. Gen. Robert C. McAlister

McAlister Jr., Edmund S. McAlister, Samuel E. McAlister, seven grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

Speak Out

"What is your favorite part of the Easter holidays?"

By Laura Kreider



Travis and Preston Beyer
1st and 4th Graders

Being with family and friends hunting Easter Eggs.



Becky Boone
Family member

My husband will hopefully be home on leave this Easter, so I will be looking forward to spending time with him and our son.



Mishal Cotugno
8th Grader

My favorite part of the Easter holidays is that I get to spend time with my family.



Sgt. Bruce Wise
Golf Company 52nd Aviation Regiment (V.I.P.)

During this time I enjoy the food, especially Easter candies.



Zoey Perkins
1st Grader

Collecting the eggs from the Easter Egg Hunt at my house.

Boy's death focuses attention on meningitis symptoms, vaccination

By Maj. James A. Madson
Vicenza Health Center
Preventive Medicine
Special to the Outlook

The death of a 10-year-old boy from meningitis March 4 was widely reported in the local Italian news media. The youth, originally from Berkina Faso, Africa, lived and attended elementary school in Marola, a town near Vicenza, and the proximity of the case raised concern in our own community.

There are many forms of meningitis. Generally the disease is separated into viral and bacterial. Viral meningitis is a relatively common but rarely serious disease process. Bacterial meningitis is a severe bacterial infection that can cause meningitis (inflammation of tissue around the brain and spinal cord), bloodstream infection, and other localized infections.

Although the disease is not common in the United States and Western Europe, in those who get it, symptoms develop and progress rapidly.

Meningitis is characterized by fever, headache, and stiff neck. Other symptoms may include nausea, vomiting, and mental status changes.

Meningococcal bacteremia is a bloodstream infection characterized by sudden onset of fever and in severe cases a petechial rash (small red or purple spots on the skin) or

purpuric rash (red or purple discolorations on the skin).

Meningitis can lead to loss of a limb, permanent neurologic impairment, or death.

The meningococcal bacteria spread by direct contact with large droplet respiratory secretions (coughing, sneezing, kissing and mouth-to-mouth resuscitation).

Casual contact with the public is not a high risk category. People who are massed together such as at college or basic training, or are close household contacts of persons with meningococcal disease, are at greatly increased risk of infection.

Vaccination against meningococcal disease is not a requirement for travel to any country except Saudi Arabia, but is recommended for persons traveling to the meningitis belt in Africa during the dry season, December through June.

Advisories for travelers to other countries will be issued when epidemics of meningococcal disease caused by vaccine-preventable serogroups are recognized (for information on specific countries, see the CDC Travelers' Health Web site at www.cdc.gov/travel. Italy is not under an epidemic advisory.

Meningococcal vaccination is a requirement for Department of Defense Dependents Schools' students age 11 years and older.

The FDA has approved meningococcal vaccination for certain children down to age 2 years.

If patients meet the criteria listed below, no appointment is needed for vaccination. If you or your child do not fit into the categories below, but still wish to have the vaccination, you will need a prescription from your physician.

Parents may bring their children into the health center for vaccination Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays 8 a.m.-noon and 1 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Adults who desire the vaccination should walk-in on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays between 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Stop by the front desk and let them know why you have walked in.

Recommendations for different age groups are:

Infant or child

Meningococcal vaccination for certain high risk children ages 2 through 10.

High risk children include children who travel to, and United States citizens who reside in, countries where meningitis is hyper endemic or epidemic, persons with terminal complement deficiency or



A Soldier receives a vaccination from a member of the Vicenza Health Center. Parents may bring their children into the health center for vaccination Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays 8 a.m.-noon and 1 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Adults that desire the vaccination should walk-in on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays between 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. (Outlook file photo)

properdin deficiency (immune system disorders), and persons with a damaged spleen (e.g. sickle cell disease) or whose spleen has been removed.

Pre-teen or adolescent

Meningococcal vaccination is routinely recommended for all 11 through 18 year olds. If your child did not get this vaccine at their 11 or 12 year old check-up, vaccinate as early as possible.

Adults

You should get the vaccine if:

- ◆ You are a college freshmen living in a dormitory

- ◆ You are a military recruit
- ◆ You have a damaged spleen or your spleen has been removed
- ◆ You have terminal complement deficiency

◆ You are a microbiologist who is routinely exposed to *Neisseria meningitidis* (the causal pathogen)

◆ You are traveling or residing in countries in which the disease is common.

◆ You were exposed to meningitis during an outbreak.

If you have further questions you may call the preventive medicine section at 634-8010/8011.

Calling all graduates

The Vicenza military community is holding a graduation recognition ceremony June 10 from 10 a.m.-noon at Soldiers' Theatre.

If you earned a post-secondary credential (certificate, associate, bachelor, master's or doctorate) from any U.S. Department of Education accredited or Italian-equivalent institution in the academic school year from fall 2007 through fall



2008 may participate.

Students also may be within 12 semester hours of earning their degree to participate. Family members may walk for deployed graduates.

Reserve by 5 p.m. May 8 by bringing a copy of your degree or transcripts to the education center. Contact Robert Cruce at 634-8744 or 0444-71-8744 from off post, or e-mail robert.cruce@eur.army.mil.

Tax man explains how tax rebate works

Mark Christensen
Chief, Client Services
Office of the Staff Judge Advocate
Special to the Outlook

Much attention has been paid to the upcoming tax rebate, a rebate the IRS says will be mailed or electronically deposited into accounts in May and June this year.

Eligibility for the rebate is based on whether you filed a federal 2007 tax return, your 2007 tax obligation, and the number of children you claim.

The IRS will issue the rebate to eligible taxpayers who filed a 2007 federal tax return by April 15. Overseas taxpayers and taxpayers serving in a combat zone must file a federal return by April 15 in order to qualify for the rebate. Filing deadline extensions based on living

overseas or serving in a combat zone do not qualify taxpayers for the rebate or exempt them from filing a return to qualify.

Anyone who wants to receive the rebate should file a return by April 15.

The rebate is an advance on your 2008 tax liability, and is the result of a decrease in the income tax rate and an increase in the child tax credit.

If you do not get the rebate for any reason, the amount you could have received will be credited to your tax obligation when you file your 2008 tax return.

One way to estimate your rebate is to go to www.kiplinger.com/tools/rebate. Have a copy of your 2007 tax return to refer to and answer the questions to get an estimate of your rebate amount.

Individuals with a low taxable income amount, perhaps due to combat zone tax exclusion, can file a return to ensure eligibility for the rebate.

The tax center on Caserma Ederle is prepared to file returns for deployed Soldiers, and has an e-mail address where tax documents can be sent for return preparation, it's tax@eur.army.mil.

To date, the tax center has prepared approximately 25 returns for deployed Soldiers using this system, and can help ensure state and federal tax returns are filed promptly and accurately, and maintain eligibility for the rebate.

The tax center is open for walk-in services Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Send questions via e-mail at tax@eur.army.mil, or call 634-7041, or 0444-71-7041 from off post.

The Outlook

March 18, 2008 Vol. 41, Issue 11

SETAF Commander
Maj. Gen. Frank G. Helmick

USAG Vicenza Commander
and Publisher
Col. Virgil S. L. Williams

Acting Editor
Diana Bahr
Photojournalist
Laura Kreider

The Outlook is an unofficial publication authorized and provided by AR 360-1.

All editorial content of The Outlook is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza Public Affairs Office in building 3 on Caserma Ederle in Vicenza, Italy. Telephone DSN 634-7000, FAX 634-7543, off post at 0444-71-7000, fax 0444-71-7543. E-mail: editor@eur.army.mil

The Outlook is published weekly by the USAG Vicenza PAO, Unit 31401, Box 10, APO AE 09630. It is printed by Centro Stampa Editoriale SRL, Grisignano (VI) 0444-414-303.

Editorial publication is an authorized section for members of the U.S. Army overseas.

Contents of The Outlook are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, Installation Management Command-Europe, U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza or the U.S. Army Southern European Task Force.

Submissions: Send all submission for publication to editor@eur.army.mil. Submissions should be made via e-mail and must be received by Wednesday at noon for the following week's publication.

The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions for style, brevity and clarity. Circulation is 3,000 per week.

At your service

The Family Advocacy Program, located in Davis Soldier & Family Readiness Center, second floor, helps prevent/reduce incidences of domestic violence, child abuse/neglect and spouse abuse, and promotes healthy families.

Among the free classes it offers the community are: parenting classes and individual parenting topics; stress management, domestic violence intervention and prevention, infant play groups, crisis intervention and conflict



Family Advocacy staff (left to right) Andreina Howard, Sam Giles, Carolyn Parse Rizzo and Tammy Wilbur-Hoistad. Not pictured are Sandy Schoenberg and Beth Eastman.

resolution, emergency placement care, adult safe house and the new parent support program.

The staff may be reached

at 634-7500/7489, or 0444-71-7500/7489 from off post. The sexual assault response coordinator is available 24/7.

Community events

Art Center renovations mean more space in same footprint

Story and photos
by Laura Kreider
Outlook Staff

Among the 100 quality-of-life projects set to be completed before the Soldiers return from

Afghanistan, the Art Center renovation will soon reopen and offer a state-of-the-art facility for the multiple artistic activities within the community.

"We redid the mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems,"

said Tom Perkins, Army Corps of Engineers, who is responsible for the project. "Everything will be American Disabilities Act-compliant including the handicap ramp."

The renovation includes remodeling of the entrance, framing studio and the activity room.

"What I really like about it was the fact that I think there were 25 or 26 rooms inside this building and the building was totally dysfunctional," said Perkins.

"With the new design we used every square inch of the building to create an attractive, useful space. The building is now designed for what it is supposed to do, which is very important," Perkins continued.

In addition to the new layout, some of the highlights are new floor tiles, modern steel beams, which according to Perkins will add some strength to the interior and a new arched entry way that gives the reception area an old-world feel.

"When you walk in the door, the

first thing you see will be this big brick arch, which leads you down the corridor and basically signifies the strength of Veneto and Tuscany," Perkins explained.

In the new spacious corridor, customers will see free-swinging 16-panel glass doors that lead into the framing studio.

"The framing studio area is nicely laid out, and now we have a tremendous amount of room. We can maintain the flow of traffic and, by moving the entrance to the corner, there is more usable wall space," he said.

Along the corridor is a specially lit gallery that will showcase community artworks.

"It's going to be a place you walk into and feel inspired to be creative," said Kelly Golden, USAG Vicenza community recreation division arts and crafts director.

"Each art studio has been redesigned to be more spacious, bright and functional," she continued. "We have got new

furnishings and state-of-the-art equipment for framing, sewing, paper crafts, pottery, kids' crafts and woodworking."

The new activity room will also have former clients doing a double-take as the room will have a small kitchenette area with a double sink, a large refrigerator and a counter, two huge storage closets and a built-in speaker system.

"I anticipate the multi-crafts studio will be a big hit for birthday parties and all kinds of cooking and crafts classes," said Golden.

"The room is big and bright. We plan to have Internet and power in the middle of the room and on the ceilings," she said. "This way we can use projectors or computers for presentations or art classes."

The completion of the first section will be at the end of April. The woodworking center closes April 1 for minor renovations like floor cleaning, painting and some new equipment and is expected to reopen by the end of June.



Above: Construction workers put the finishing touches on the steel beam and ceiling in the Vicenza Art Center. In addition to the new layout, some highlights include new floor tiles, elimination of the rabbit-warren of rooms and a new activity room. Right: Tom Perkins (right), Army Corps of Engineers project manager for the center, talks to a worker who is vacuuming up debris on the floor of the new framing studio. Behind Perkins is an opening for large wooden doors with 16-panel glass windows.



Freddie FAP takes children on journey to Japan

Story and photos
by Laura Kreider
Outlook Staff

About 20 children participated in the Freddy FAP monthly event held at Davis Soldier and Family Readiness Center March 12.

"Each month the children visit different countries," said Sandy Schoenberg, Army Community Service Family Advocacy Program special activities coordinator.

"Today they had the chance to design their own Japanese garden using a variety of materials," she said.

"They had the opportunity to use their imagination and have been very creative," she added.

At the end of the event the participants were offered green tea with Japanese crackers.

Next Freddy FAP event

is scheduled for April 9 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. at Davis Soldier & Family Readiness Center.

Reservations are required, call 634-7500 or 0444-71-7500 from off

post.



Christy Davis assists her children, Anthony, 3 and Andrea, 5 build a Japanese garden during the Freddie FAP visits Japan event March 12.



Children enjoy themselves making Japanese gardens March 12 at Davis Soldier & Family Readiness Center when Freddie FAP took them to Japan.

Personal values key to Darby competitors

By Joyce Costello
USAG Livorno Public Affairs

March 3-7 found three high-speed noncommissioned officers from the Surface Deployment and Distribution Command 598th Transportation Terminal Group, 839th Transportation Battalion and 838th Transportation Battalion spent a week pushing themselves physically and mentally to see who would earn the coveted title of "NCO of the Year."

The competition promised to be as close as each nominee brought her own talent and experience to the event.

Sgt. 1st Class Buffie Brown, 838th Trans Bn, who came from Rotterdam, Holland, is a cargo specialist with more than 19 years in the military. A former drill sergeant at Fort Story, Va., Brown has a no-nonsense attitude and was focused during the competition.

Staff Sgt. Ruby Betancourt, 598th Trans Group, is a human resources specialist who won NCO of the Year at Aberdeen Proving Grounds in 2005.

Betancourt, a nine-year veteran, hails from the Bronx and wears a gold recruiter's badge. She has a competitive spirit and was the first to find all four land navigation points correctly and make it back to the starting point.

Sgt. 1st Class Juanita Maximin, 839th Trans Bn is a transportation management coordinator and made her rank in eight years. She aspires to become the first African-American female sergeant major of the Army.

Maximin had the highest physical training score completing 100 sit-ups and 68 push-ups in the allotted two minutes.

The three Soldiers were nominated by their sergeants major.

They took a written test covering basic leadership and military knowledge without references or assistance.

They were evaluated according to the warrior skill checklist on their ability and confidence level to

complete the task effectively.

They performed land navigation, M9 qualification, went through an NBC defense chamber and spent three to five minutes answering questions in front of the board.

Chief evaluator for the entire competition was 598th Group Command Sgt. Maj. James Riddick.

"I think traditionally, these competitions are one of the better things we do in the Army," Riddick said.

"Our units don't have a lot of Soldiers and we work with mostly civilians, so competing in this competition can help the NCOs in their career progression," she added.

One unusual aspect of the



Sgt. 1st Class Juanita Maximin, 839th Transportation Battalion, concentrates on zeroing in on her target during the M9 range. (Photo by Elena Baladelli, 7th ATC Photo Lab)

competition was the Soldiers helping each other out when it was noticed someone was in trouble.

"It's personal values," responded Betancourt. "We are all in this together and the best will come out on top, so there's no reason to not help out a fellow NCO."

Maximin added, "If we don't win, we still helped the next person to do their best."

"We are all friends and coworkers," said Brown. "It is part of our nature as NCOs to help other NCOs."

During the award ceremony Riddick said the results were close with only five points difference between first and third.

"I believe this was

such a close race because all of the Soldiers were very qualified," he said.

Final results had Brown taking third place, Betancourt placing second and Maximin winning.

Maximin, upon hearing she won, cringed for a second at the thought of going through another week-long board.

She said the board always left her shaking, especially with the members firing off questions in a seemingly random order from all sides.

"Wow, it has been exhausting and it took a lot of work and help from my fellow NCOs and sergeant major," exclaimed Maximin. "I am excited and nervous about going to the United States for next board two months from now."

Maximin received an Army Achievement Medal, a trophy and a four-day pass from the 598th Transportation Group commander and her battalion commander, and a gift bag with donations from Global Credit Union.



Staff Sgt. Ruby Betancourt, 598th Transportation Group, takes a drink of water in the gas chamber during the NCO of the Year competition. (Photo by Joyce Costello)

performance March 4.

Studying music and playing an instrument helps develop the right side of the brain, according to school music teacher, Pete De Luca.

"By providing this musical

performance, children can develop creative senses and improve their teamwork," explained De Luca. "I always tell the students that band is spelled 'W-E'."

Band member and French horn player, Tech. Sgt. Brian LeDoux, has a 15-year-old son and understands the importance of music in the school.

"Music has many applications that are relevant to a school curriculum," said LeDoux. "Music can help you notice patterns in

language, math and to develop team work."

After performing an animated version of *Peter and the Wolf*, the quintet held a special clinic for members of the school band.

De Luca said his students were able to get top-quality instruction from the group, and could ask questions that highlighted some of the finer points of being a musician.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Julia Hinderliter added that the members of the quintet were impressed with the enthusiasm, professionalism and knowledge of the Livorno students.

The quintet went on to visit Caserma Ederle and Aviano Air Base schools as part of the program "Music in Our Schools" month.



Staff Sgt. Julia Hinderliter (left) of the Sembach, Germany-based U.S. Air Force Europe "Winds Aloft" woodwind quintet plays with the Livorno Unit School flutists.

Darby Dates

City sightseeing tickets

Discover the wealth of history of Italian cities on board the "Hop On - Hop Off" buses. Get on and off as often as you want for the entire day. Discover the lovely cities of Pisa, Florence and Rome at discounted prices.

For details or to make a reservation, contact ITR at 633-7589/8231 or from off post at 050-54-7589/8231.

Auto skills Center

The Camp Darby Auto Skills Center now offers a new range of services to include oil changes and other automotive maintenance services.

For details, call 633-7009, or 050-54-7009 or from off post.

Send video messages to deployed Soldiers

While the Yellow Ribbon room is in transition stop by and send a message using the computers that are equipped with web-cams, Viditalk and instant messaging capabilities.

Call ACS for additional information at 633-7084 or 050-54-7084 from off post.

Camp Darby ITR Trips

April 5: Florence day trip, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Transportation is \$45 for adults, \$39 for children (ages 3-10).

Visit the Accademia, the Uffizi gallery or shop on your own. No tour scheduled.

April 8: Venice, 5 a.m.-10 p.m. Transportation is \$65 for adults, \$59 for children (ages 3-10). Built on 117 small islands, Venice has over 150 canals and 400 bridges. Need 5.20 euro for the train.

April 9: Cinque Terre, 8 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Transportation is \$39 for adults, \$34 for children (ages 3-10). Cinque Terre lies along the Italian Riviera. The five villages are connected by trails that hug the coastline, with breathtaking views.

April 10: Rome, 5 a.m.-10 p.m. Transportation is \$55 for adults, \$49 for children (ages 3-10). Go at your own pace to see this city of sights and wonders. See the Vatican museum and the Sistine Chapel.

Hotel booking service

Our database currently holds more than 40,000 hotels in all price categories everywhere: Italy, Europe, the USA and Asia.

For more information or to make a reservation, contact ITR at 633-7589/8231 or from off post at 050-54-7589/8231 for any of the trips above.

Harlem Globetrotters in Italy

The Harlem Globetrotters will be touring Italy in May.

The group are very popular here the tickets are going to be hard to come by if not bought early.

Their schedule is:

- May 5: Trieste
- May 6: Verona
- May 7: Cremona
- May 8: Milan
- May 9: Torino
- May 10: Cantu'
- May 11: Cagliari
- May 12: Sassari.

Games begin at 9 p.m., tickets range from 25 to 35.50 euro depending where they play.

Tickets available online from the Web site www.ticketweb.it. It's in Italian only but easy to understand.

Musicals

Grease, performed in Italian, at the Palasport in Mestre March 21 at 9 p.m.

Tickets cost between 26 and 46 euro and are available online from www.ticketone.it.

The musical *Cats* can be seen in Trieste in Politeama Rosetti hall.

By Andrew Lloyd Webber, the musical to be performed in English, with most of the cast from London's West End, takes place from May 25 to June 1.

Tickets cost from 16 to 65 euro and are available from the store Vicenza.com located downtown Vicenza on 67 Corso Palladio.

Exhibition

In the Ceramic Museum in the town of Nove, there is an exhibition of decorated ceramic eggs. The exhibit closes March 31, hours are Tuesdays-Saturdays, 9 a.m.-noon and Sundays 3:30 to 7 p.m., entrance is 3 euro.

Upcoming concerts

- Kiss in Verona Arena May 13;
- Glenn Hughes in Bologna May

26 and May 27 in Milan; Bruce Springsteen in Milan June 25;

- Iron Maiden in Bologna June 27;
- Celine Dion in Milan July 3;
- R.E.M. in Perugia July 20, in Verona July 21, in Naples July 23, in Udine July 24 and Milan July 26;
- Metallica in Bologna July 22.

Explosion of the cart

Florence: Easter Sunday, March 24, is one of the most important days of the Florentine calendar.

It's the day they celebrate *Scoppio del carro*, the explosion of the cart. This is a tradition that dates back to the First Crusade, when the Crusaders conquered Jerusalem July 15, 1099.

Events — before noon on Sunday, a highly-ornate cart is pulled by four white oxen adorned with flowers from SS. Apostoli church to the city's duomo, Santa Maria del Fiore. The cart is followed by people in traditional costumes, trumpet players and flag wavers.

After Mass, a rocket in the shape of a white dove, which is attached to a line running from inside the church to the cart, is lit.

The spark of the rocket ignites an array of fireworks attached to the outside of the cart and the show fireworks and smoke goes on for minutes.

There is a saying that if the dove's route encounters an obstacle the farmers will have a scarce harvest.

Easter treats

In a country still bound to tradition and to the produce of the land, Italian tables at Easter obviously favor a combination of seasonal and symbolic ingredients.

These items welcome in the spring as much as they celebrate the Christian feast of Easter.

Tender green vegetables play an important role, whether they appear in delicate savory tarts as starters

or in the form of sauces or stuffing for first courses.

The most classic tart is the *Torta Pasqualina*, layers of puff pastry covering a ricotta and artichoke mixture with the added surprise of whole eggs baked into the filling.

Tender spinach leaves can be used instead of the artichokes, and the effect is again that of springtime freshness.

The first course for an Easter dinner is often composed of rich egg pasta, such as ravioli stuffed with a mixture of ricotta, parsley, parmigiano, or a subtle dish of lasagna filled with asparagus, another of the seasonal delights.

The main course will almost inevitably be lamb, at its most tender and succulent at this time of year.

Whether in the traditional guise of roast leg of lamb, flavored with rosemary, thyme, and white wine, as a visually impressive *corona di carré d'agnello*, rack of lamb shaped into a guard of honor, or in a mouth watering casserole with artichokes, it provides a delicious high point for a family occasion.

For dessert, Italians can enjoy a slice of 'Colomba,' a delicate dove-shaped sweet cake that originally came from Lombardy.

This yeasted dough comes with fragrant candied fruit and a crunchy topping of almonds and sugar, nowadays you can also find the 'modern' colomba with a chocolate, lemon, cream, or other filling.

To finish off the meal, a glass of sweet dessert wine is often served.



Top: Stores across Italy sell *uova cioccolata*, chocolate eggs that are usually hollow and contain games inside. Below: *Colomba* on sale at a local *pasticceria*. *Colomba* is a delicate dove-shaped sweet cake that originally came from Lombardy. This yeasted dough comes with fragrant candied fruit and a crunchy topping of almonds and sugar. (Photos by Diana Bahr, USAG Vicenza Public Affairs)



Now Showing

Caserma Ederle Theater

March 19	The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything (G)	6 p.m.
March 20	The Great Debaters (PG13)	6 p.m.
March 21	First Sunday (PG13)	6 p.m.
	Sweeney Todd: Demon Barber of Fleet Street	9 p.m.
March 22	Horton Hears a Who (G)	3 p.m.
	Sweeney Todd: Demon Barber of Fleet Street	6 p.m.
March 23	Horton Hears a Who (G)	3 p.m.
	First Sunday (PG13)	6 p.m.

Camp Darby Theater

March 20	First Sunday (PG13)	6 p.m.
March 21	Semi-Pro (R)	6 p.m.
March 22	Sweeney Todd: Demon Barber of Fleet Street	6 p.m.
March 23	The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything (G)	2 p.m.

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

Movie Synopsis

Sweeney Todd: Demon Barber of Fleet Street - *Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham*. Story about a grisly revenge by Benjamin Barker, a man unjustly imprisoned by a lecherous judge. Barker returns as barber Sweeney Todd and exacts revenge.

The Great Debaters- *Denzel Washington, Forest Whitaker*. A brilliant but volatile debate team coach who uses the power of words to shape a group of underdog students from a small African American college in the deep south into a historically elite debate team. A controversial figure, Professor Tolson challenged the social mores of the time and was under constant fire for his unconventional and ferocious teaching methods as well as his radical political views.

New Look | New Categories | New Login

Same Great Deals --- Marketplace is back

Get in the know with AFN radio

Col. Virgil S.L. Williams, USAG Vicenza commander, will talk about issues concerning the community Wednesday in the 8 a.m. hour on AFN "The Eagle."

Tune into 106FM on your dial, or channel 142 on your AFN decoder and find out the dirt on recycling and other environmental issues on Caserma Ederle.



Col. Virgil S.L. Williams

Army Emergency Relief campaign

Army Emergency Relief unit key leaders will be in the post exchange food court Friday 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Eggstravaganza, free barbecue

Eggstravaganza is Saturday at 1 p.m. on Hoekstra Field.

Children can participate in a candy egg hunt, craft activities, bounce house and a visit from the Easter bunny. FMWR hosts a free barbecue at the new B.O.S.S. lounge afterward.

Call 634-5087 for details.

DFAC hours for Sunday

South of the Alps Dining Facility will serve a special breakfast meal March 23 in conjunction with the Chapel's community sunrise service.

Hours of operation for March 23 are: Breakfast 8-9:30 a.m., a special brunch will run from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and dinner is 5-6:30 p.m.

Auto Skills closure

Auto Skills Center will be closed for staff technical training from March 17-20.

Red Cross events

March is Red Cross month and volunteer orientation is held the first Tuesday of every month.

March 29: Adult CPR and First Aid, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sign up for this class at the American Red Cross office, DSFRC, Rm 47, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Call 634-7089 or 0444-71-7089 from off post. An emergency communications caseworker can be reached 24/7.

Intercultural spouses program

Join other spouses to learn more about the different cultures that make up our Army family. Next

meeting is March 21, 10 a.m. - noon, in Davis Soldier and Family Readiness Center. Call 634-7500 for reservations.

MOMS Club events

Exercise: Walk the Track. Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m., track, weather dependent

Easter party and egg hunt: March 19, 11 a.m.

Park Day: March 28, 10 a.m.

MOMS Club monthly meeting: March 31, 10a.m. at the chapel.

For more information regarding MOMS Club and activities e-mail momsclubofvicenza@yahoo.com or call Deanna at 0444-945-105 or Amber at 334-700-8443.

Ed Center Term 4 schedule

UMUC registration begins March 28. Classes run March 31-May 24.

For details contact UMUC at 634-7055 or 0444-7170 from off post, e-mail: vice@ed.umuc.edu.

Talent show date corrections

CYS is sponsoring a Youth and Teen talent show April 17 and 18. If you sing, dance, act, read poetry, do magic or gymnastics, or if you and your pet have a special trick, sign up now at the Middle School program, Teen Center or CYS central registration.

The Youth show is for ages 6-12 and Teen show is for ages 13-18.

Deadline to sign-up is April 4. Call CYS at 634-7206 for details.

Robin Hood auditions

Missoula Children's Theatre, a professional children's theater group, works with children ages 6-17 to perform a full musical production.

Auditions are March 31, 3:30 p.m. at Soldiers' Theatre.

Rehearsals will be after school 3:30-7:30 p.m. Children must be free of other commitments during this

time frame. For details call 634-7281.

Texas Hold'em tournament

Cash prizes for the top three players at the Texas Hold'em tournament sponsored by Club V, March 22. Sign up begins at 5 p.m.

Mantua with ITR

Mantua is a beautiful historic city surrounded by lakes. Enjoy a lunch of the city's famed Tortellini, March 26. Call ITR for reservations at 634-7094.

Adige River ride

Ride along the beautiful Adige River from Mori to Mattarello with Outdoor Rec. This all-level ride departs ODR at 11:45 a.m. March 29. Call 634-7453 for reservations.

Parco Faunistico Cappeller Trip

CYS heads to Parco Faunistico Cappeller (wild animal park) for a special deployment field trip, March 29, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Cost is \$28.50 which includes park entrance, regular hourly care and a sack lunch.

Deployment care cards can be used for the hourly care portion. Trip is for all SAS ages, CYS-registered children.

Call 634-8253 for information.

Job opportunities

There is an immediate full-time opening at the TRICARE Service Center in the Vicenza Health Center for a TRICARE Medical Service coordinator.

For details regarding the position and qualifications, go to the Web site: www.saic.com.

The non-appropriated funds office has the following vacancies. Deadline to apply is March 20:

Full-time position for director, Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation; part-time position for an administrative assistant; part-time child and youth program associate in the homework lab. CYS also has caregiver positions available.

Stop by the office for an application or e-mail your resume to: Vicenza.naf@eur.army.mil.

For detailed information about these and other positions visit the Web site: cpolrhp.belvoir.army.mil/eur/index.htm or call 634-7290/7349.

Family members may also go to the Employment Readiness office located in Davis Soldier & Family Readiness Center, 634-6884.

Youth services spring break

Spend spring break in Garmisch and Heidelberg socializing with other teens April 7-10.

Join in Heidelberg's version of the "Amazing Race" and have time for shopping.

For details call 634-7659. Sign up deadline is April 3.

Woodshop closes for renovation

The Woodshop will close for renovation April 1. All projects must be completed and removed from the shop before this closure.

For details, call Arts and Crafts office at 634-7074, 0444-71-7074 from off post.

Run, jump, swing with CYS sports and fitness

CYS Sports and Fitness is offering track and field April 14-May 22. Practice is held Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Tennis runs April 15-May 20. Practice is Tuesdays 6-7 p.m.

Enrollment runs March 17-April 10 at Central Registration for ages 6-12. Call 634-7219 for information.

Couples' Challenge IV

Back by popular demand, Family Advocacy Program brings you "Couples Challenge IV" March 27, 5:15-7 p.m.

Couples' Challenge is based on the board game "Cranium" and is free, but advance sign up is required.

Call 634-7500 or 0444-71-7500 for details.

Lifeguard certification

Sports and Fitness offers lifeguard skills and certification classes April 7-11, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. daily. Youth must be 16 or older.

Cost is \$140. Call 634-5181 to register before April 4.

New to the Army?

Army Community Service's Army Family Team Building course teaches Army etiquette, protocol, and traditions in the AFTB Level I evening course March 25-27, 6-9 p.m.

Learn about your benefits, how to interpret your LES, decode acronyms and understand chain of command, rank and structure of the Army. Call 634-7500 for reservations.

Holy week services

Caserma Ederle Easter sunrise service is March 23 at 7 a.m. under the pavilion at Hoekstra Field.

The guest speaker is Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Steven Horning, 173rd Rear Detachment chaplain.

The dress is civilian casual and is followed by a breakfast at the South of the Alps dining facility.

In case of inclement weather service will be held in the chapel.

Direct questions to 634-7519, or 0444-71-7519 from off post.

Other Holy week events include: March 20, 6 p.m., Protestant Holy Thursday Service in the chapel activity room.

March 20, 5:30 p.m., Catholic Holy Thursday service in the chapel sanctuary.

March 20, 7:30 p.m., Lutheran Maundy Thursday service in the chapel sanctuary.

March 21, 4 p.m., Catholic Good Friday service.

March 21, 6 p.m., Lutheran Good Friday service.

March 22, 9 a.m., Catholic Holy Saturday service.

March 23, 7 a.m., Easter sunrise service on Hoekstra Field.

March 23, 9 a.m., Catholic Easter Mass.

Purim activity

Thursday evening the Novembers host the reading of the Megillah of Esther for the holiday of Purim. Contact them at 328-054-9709 or november6@msn.com

Religious activities

Caserma Ederle Chapel

For details regarding any of these services or events, or for information concerning our other activities, call the chapel at 634-7519 (0444-71-7519).

Chaplain Crisis Line:

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

Saturday services

4 p.m.: Sacrament of Reconciliation, or by appointment

5 p.m.: Vigil Mass

Sunday Services

9 a.m.: Roman Catholic Mass

9 a.m.: Protestant Sunday school and AWANAs (Sept. thru 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

4 p.m.: Lutheran worship

6 p.m.: Contemporary Christian worship

Monday

Noon: Weekday Mass

3:05 p.m.: Middle School Club in the high school cafeteria. (Sept.-May)

5:30 p.m.: High School Club in the Teen Center. (Sept.-May)

For details contact Jocelyn Cary at 634-7890 or 349-385-3476 or vicecb@yahoo.com.

Tuesday

9 a.m.: Protestant Women of the Chapel (PWOC)

Wednesday

Noon: Weekday Mass

Noon: Protestant Men of the Chapel (PMOC) Bible study (at DFAC)

Noon: LDS Study

5:15 p.m.: PWOC evening bible study

Thursday

9:15 a.m.: Catholic Women of the Chapel (CWOC)

Noon: Weekday Mass

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

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

Friday

Noon: Weekday Mass

Noon: Muslim Khutba and prayer

Faith group POCs

Islamic POC is Mohamed Noeman at 634-6306.

Jewish POC is Dr. Stephen or Nancy November at 328-054-9709 or november6@msn.com.

Latter Day Saints (LDS) POC is Dr. Matt Ghiz at 349-500-7989.

Darby Chapel

For details call the chapel at: 633-7267 (50-54-7267).

SETAF ceremony for retirees

The following individuals will be retiring from the Vicenza military community:

Sgt 1st Class Mario **Gilbert**, Headquarters Support Company, SETAF, 20 years, Germano Paulo **Mogentale**, USAG Vicenza Directorate of Logistics, 28 years, Nevio **Toich**, USAG Vicenza DOL, 22 years, Maurizio **Agnoli**, USAG Vicenza Directorate of Public Works, 35 years, Claudio **Chinotto**,

USAG Vicenza Directorate of Public Works, 34 years, Antonio **Martinello**, USAG Vicenza Directorate of Public Works, 19 years, Brig. Gen. Salvatore **Bordonaro**, Italian Base commander and Brig. Gen. Alfonso **Napolitano**, NATO Liaison Engineer, Directorate of Public Works, 33 years.

The community is invited to the ceremony held Thursday at 4 p.m. on Hoekstra Field.

Civilian Fitness program okays OJT

By Betsy Walters
Health Promotion
coordinator
Special to the Outlook

You can't control such risk factors as your family history or your age, but lifestyle choices are controllable, and these choices make you either a player in the game of health and fitness or a spectator on the sidelines.

You are either moving toward high levels of health and fitness, or you are moving towards premature death, as wellness author Don Ardell often says.

Everything you do, think and feel has an impact on your state of health. Realize that you play a powerful role in your own health and you should take responsibility for your own health.

People who are healthy:

- ◆ Enjoy life more
- ◆ Manage stress better, have better coping skills
- ◆ Have more stamina
- ◆ Are more productive at work
- ◆ May receive lower rates on insurance premiums
- ◆ Take less sick leave
- ◆ Are more enthusiastic and have a positive outlook on life

All of these benefits are available to you through a personal wellness program.

Department of the Army civilians have such a program; it's the Civilian Fitness program.

The Civilian Fitness program is a part of Army Health Promotion Regulation, 600-63.

With their supervisors' approval, civilian employees may take up to three hours of excused absence per week for up to six months to exercise during normal work hours.

Enrollment for the next cycle of the Civilian Fitness program takes place March 25 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 4:30-5:30 p.m. and a fitness assessment will be performed at the same time.

The assessment includes:

- ◆ Medical considerations and health history review



A Civilian Fitness program participant has her blood pressure taken as part of the initial health assessment.
Photos by Laura Kreider, Outlook staff

- ◆ Blood pressure screening
- ◆ Body composition
- ◆ Cardio and respiratory endurance test
- ◆ Flexibility test
- ◆ Fitness prescription

Participants are enrolled for 6 months from April 1 through Sept. 30.

Final assessments will take place in September and are mandatory.

Interested eligible civilians should contact Betsy Walters, USAG Vicenza Health Promotion coordinator, at 634-8828 or health@setaf.army.mil for an enrollment packet.

Enrollment packets may also be downloaded at the Web site at www.chppmeur.healthcare.hq.usareur.army.mil/Default.aspx?tabid=65, click on the Civilian Fitness link.

Right and below: Caserma Ederle Sports and Fitness Center offers numerous fitness classes to suit all fitness levels. To find a class to suit your needs, go to the Web site: www.mwrvicenza.com and look under Sports and Fitness.



Sports Shorts

Sunday Volksmarches

Every Sunday Outdoor Recreation takes you to local Volksmarches for just \$3. The bus leaves and 7:30 a.m. and returns at 1 p.m. If you need a jogging stroller or a baby backpack, both are available for check out. Sign up deadline is the Wednesday prior. Call 634-7453.

Fun Run/Walk

The "April Showers" Fun Walk/Run will be held April 12 at the North 40 track.

Sign up by April 8.

Pre-brief is 9:45 a.m. and the race begins at 10 a.m.

Racquetball tourney for all levels

A racquetball tournament is set for April 18 and 19 for beginners, intermediate and advanced players.

A mandatory coaches meeting is April 18, 6 p.m.

Softball officials clinic

Softball officials clinic is April 14-18. This course offers certification for the following positions: official, scorer or time keeper. All coaches should also attend.

Adult frisbee football league

Frisbee football league for adults begins April 16.

There is a mandatory coaches meeting April 10, at 3 p.m. or 6 p.m.

Call 634-7009 for information on any of these programs.

CYS track and field

CYS Sports and Fitness is offering track and field training April 14-May 22 for ages 6-12. Youth must be a member of CYS and have a current health assessment to participate.

Practice is held Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Get ready for the big meet May 17.

Call 634-6151 for information.

CYS tennis

Tennis season begins April 15 and runs to May 20. Practice will be on Tuesdays 6-7 p.m.

Enrollment is March 17-April 10 at Central Registration for ages 8-12. Youth must be a member of CYS and have a current health assessment to participate.

Call 634-6151 for information.

Lifeguard certification

Sports and Fitness will offer lifeguard skills and certification classes April 7-11, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. each day.

Class is open to ages 16 and older. Call 634-5181 to register before April 4. Cost is \$140.