

What's Inside

Garrison news,
pages 2 & 3

First Rock town hall

National Prayer
Breakfast

Teen opportunities

Speak out

Helping heroes heal

At your service

Community events
pages 4 & 5

Project Dream Pillows



Darby celebrates
Black History Month

USAG Livorno AFAP
conference

Community news,
pages 6 & 7

Last chance survey

Movie schedule

Community notes

Sports,
page 8



Cougars grapple
for Europeans

The Rock battles elements, Taliban

Able Company bringing hope to Pech Valley

Story and photos by
Sgt. Brandon Aird
173rd ABCT Public Affairs

KUNAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan - The sound of water dripping through the roof was a constant reminder of the weather outside Forward Operating Base Able Main. A stray cat seeking shelter was purring softly as it curled up in the loose roof insulation, enjoying the warmth of the rising heat.

Two paratroopers, covered from the waist up in mud, unsuccessfully tried to divert a small pond of water that had built up above their building. Water was seeping through the sandbags and running inside the bunker.

Three days of rain had turned the FOB into a field of mud. The puddles contained their gear safe, the paratroopers went back to the job at hand.

These Soldiers never stop patrolling the newly constructed Pech Road. Night and day, through rain and snow, they diligently patrol the \$7.5 million road bringing security to an area known for violence.

They make up 2nd Platoon, Able Company, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment (Airborne), known as "The Rock."

"We're responsible for over a hundred villages," explained Capt. Louis Frketic, Able Co. commander.

Able Co. works side-by-side with the Afghan National Police and Afghan National Army to help bring security and development to the area.



A paratrooper of 2nd Platoon, Able Company, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment (Airborne), walks next to a creek during a patrol to Omar in Kunar Province Afghanistan.

"We've put a tremendous amount of effort into connecting with the people," Frketic explained.

One of the key ways Able Co. is accomplishing that task is through humanitarian-aid missions and assisting the Kunar Provincial Reconstruction Team as it rebuild infrastructure in the province.

"We literally do one to five humanitarian-aid missions a day between our platoons or facilitating the [Kunar PRT]," said Frketic. "We've done at least 500 since we got here. It's astronomical. We've given out building supplies, food, Qurans, prayer rugs, clothing - pretty much the entire spectrum of HA."

One of the biggest projects in the area has been the construction of the Pech Road.

The Taliban doesn't want the region to prosper under the new government. Able Co. has been engaged in over 150 firefights with Taliban, al-Qaida and other anti-Coalition militants since its arrival last May.

Although the violence has not allowed international aid agencies to operate consistently in the Pech Valley, it has not stopped Able Co. or the Kunar PRT from offering humanitarian aid or continuing self-help projects, according to Frketic.

Able Co. launches these efforts out of three FOBs along the Pech Road. The bases are strategically placed enabling the Soldiers to engage more villagers and cover a larger area. FOB Michigan is the front line home of 2nd Platoon.

"Normally, on any given day we have two patrols," said 1st Lt.

Kareem F. Hernandez, 2nd Platoon leader. "In the morning we usually go check on the elders. To make sure they're doing alright and see if they need anything."

Hernandez and the ANP have built good working relationships with the village elders and area populace.

After three days of rain and six inches of snow, 2nd Plt. and a squad of ANP walked 45 minutes to visit the village of Omar. The patrol was conducted so Hernandez, ANP and the village elders could discuss future projects and security in the area. The rapport built in the meeting allowed for some humor.

"Two weeks ago we were in South Omar and some guy started shooting at us from a house," explained Hernandez to the village elders. "Halfway through the firefight, the house he was in caught on fire from a rocket.

"The guy actually set his weapon outside against a tree and started throwing buckets of water on the house."

The village elders laughed when Hernandez told him the story saying, "The people up in South Omar are crazy."

After the meeting, village elders walked Hernandez down the mountain and promised to visit him soon at FOB Michigan.

During the walk, the sun had finally poked its head through the clouds and the snow had started receding, emulating the relationships between Soldiers and villagers.



Paratroopers from 2nd Platoon walk in the snow during a patrol to Omar in Kunar Province Afghanistan. The 2nd Platoon engaged village elders in Omar about upcoming shuras and humanitarian aid delivery. "I want to give cold weather clothes to the poorest families in Omar," said 1st Lt. Kareem F. Hernandez.

Garrison news



First Rock town hall

The families of 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry (ABN) took advantage of a rare opportunity on Tuesday when they met with Lt. Col. Fenzel and Command Sgt. Major Weik at a First Rock town hall meeting. Both men were home on R&R leave and met with the group to update the families on the Soldiers' mission and answer questions that have emerged since their video teleconference in December.

More than two dozen family members listened as the command team discussed the battalion's effort to win the hearts and minds of the residents of Paktika Province. By living among the villagers during the harsh winter months and providing necessities like coats and shoes, First Rock hopes locals will turn away from the Taliban.

The men also described improvements to the FOBs and outposts the Soldiers call home. The addition of roads to some of the most inaccessible locations has not only improved morale, but also the receipt of mission essential supplies and mail from the home front. Also noted was the Soldier initiated modifications to Humvees. The addition of a swing arm in the turret and bullet proof glass around the gunner help protect Soldiers. They also discussed the recent arrival of winter survival gear and five of the new Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles. (Photo by Laura Kreider, Outlook Staff)

Students learn of post opportunities



Maj. Gen. Frank Helmick, SETAF commander addressed assembled students on the opportunities available on Caserma Ederle. "You guys are in this room for a reason. You are all leaders. You did not have to take leadership positions," he said. "You can be anything you want to be."

Story and photo by Sgt. Justin Nieto
SETAF Public Affairs

keep working hard and going that extra mile and it can be you up here in 20 years. You can be anything you want to be."

Students from the Vicenza High School got an earful Friday about the numerous chances to help the Vicenza Military Community and themselves from various employees and Soldiers here.

The students gathered at the Davis Family Readiness Center to receive their briefings from Morale, Welfare and Recreation, the Teen Volunteer Program, Teen Army Family Action Plan, American Forces Network, Community Recreation Division and the teen opportunities with Community Youth Services.

"You guys are in this room for a reason," said Maj. Gen. Frank Helmick, SETAF commander and special guest speaker for the students. "You are all leaders. You did not have to take leadership positions in your school, but you did.

"And for that, I am very proud of you all," said Helmick. "You

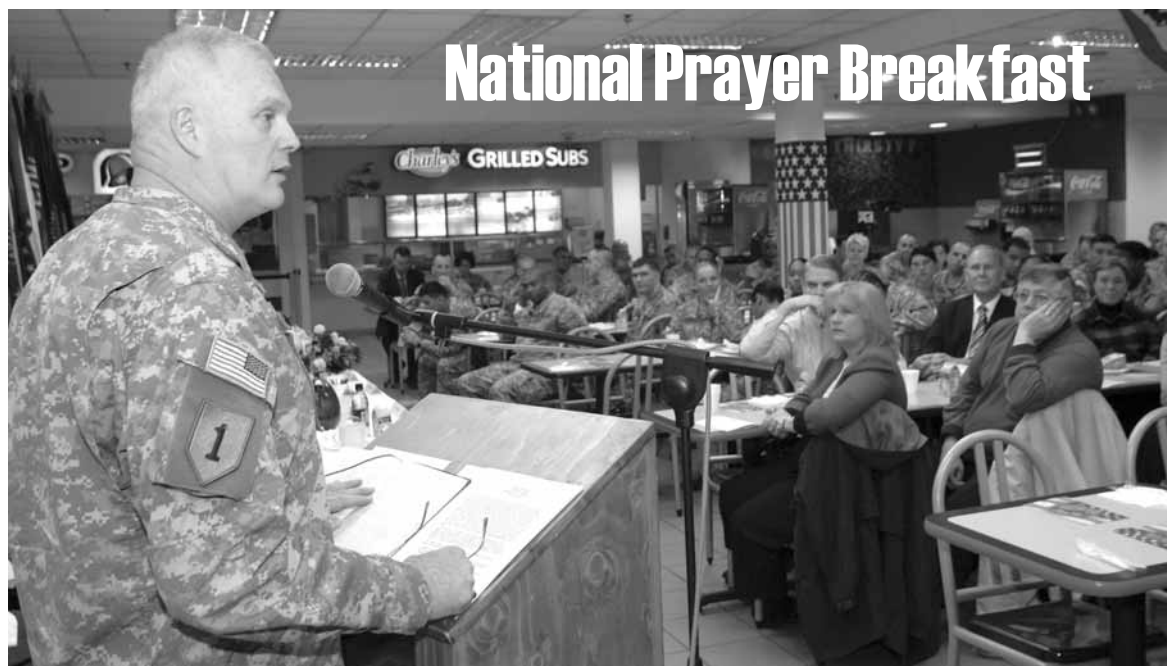
Michael Morris, a youth program director, thinks the event will have a very positive effect for the students.

"This was actually initiated by Melissa Helmick, the general's wife, and it came to us and we thought it was a great idea," said Morris. "It is a great way to inform the students of the avenues available to them on the installation."

Anna Vallery, a junior at the VHS, agrees.

"It is an honor to be here, really," said Vallery. "It gives me more insight into the chances available to us and also gives us a chance to interact with other leaders in our school and community."

"Everyone here is in a leadership position and that is pretty important," said Drew Owens, in his freshman year at VHS. "This is a chance for us to help out our community and that means a lot to me."



National Prayer Breakfast

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Joel Harris, deputy V Corps chaplain, addresses Soldiers and Vicenza community members during Vicenza's second annual celebration of the National Prayer Breakfast at the post exchange food court Thursday. Harris compared faith to a sporting event. "To run the race, to stay in the game, faith has to have a focus on the goal," said Harris. "Put your faith on the frontline - that's what God made you for." (Photo by Spc. Crystal Abbott)

Speak Out

"What do you rate as the best community service and why?"

By Laura Kreider



Melissa Johnson
Family member

CYS Sports. My kids have a great time doing sports and they offer a good price for what you get.



Sgt. Thomas McDonald
13th MPCompany

All the personnel of these agencies. They always have an answer for me.



Staff Sgt. William Langer

3/68th Transportation
It's the post office. The ability to receive packages and letters has an incredible effect on morale.



Erika & Sydney Snyder

Family members
The child care services. They offer a wide variety of programs.



Sgt. Richard Negrete

3/68th Transportation
Autoskill center, because I love cars and I don't know much about them but they are always willing to help.

Garrison news

Helping heroes heal

Wounded warriors see WTU near completion, arrival of new passenger van

Story and photos by Gary L. Kieffer
Outlook Editor

There have been considerable renovations on the buildings

across the street from the dining facility. The USO and Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers, have moved their operations into the buildings as well. New decks providing wheel-chair access have sprung up, surrounding the buildings. All of this is being done to help our wounded Soldiers on the road to recovery.

“Building 9A is complete and we are already moving Soldiers into their new rooms,” said Staff Sgt. Patrick Chaplin, Warrior Transition Unit squad leader. “The other building will be complete by the end of February.”

There will be 36 rooms, a

combination of single and double quarters, housing a total of 56 Soldiers and two cadres. Soldiers already assigned to the WTU have started moving into the new quarters.

One of these Soldiers, Sgt. Justin Varnes, moved into a new single room. “It’s a really nice space, much better than the regular barracks,” Varnes said. “Not having a roommate is great, but I’d love to have more of a kitchen area, rather than just a fridge and microwave.”

“We’ve got lots of storage area here,” said Pfc. Thomas Bryant, moving into a double room. “I like it a lot. I even have a signal for my



Sgt. Justin Varnes (Right) instructs a mover on where to place his goods as he moves into his room at the Warrior Transition Unit.

cell phone. Better than hanging out the window in the last place I lived.”

For now the available rooms will be occupied by WTU Soldiers. As more rooms become available, they will be filled by whatever Soldiers are in need of a room. WTU Soldiers have priority, and others will be relocated, said Staff Sgt. Chaplin.

“These rooms are just too nice to leave them empty,” Chaplin said. “We have Soldiers that may need a temporary place before they get authorization to move off post or to other quarters. But our WTU Soldiers always get priority.”

In addition to the new barracks, the WTU has taken delivery of a specially fitted Mercedes van to shuttle WTU Soldiers to appointments.

The van is a nine-passenger vehicle, outfitted with a hydraulic lift in the rear to raise a wheelchair bound Soldier in into the van and

be secured, all without leaving the chair.

“This van provides our Soldiers with more mobility and ease of getting around for appointments and such,” said Chaplin. “We can get them to their appointments comfortably and in a secure manner with ease in this new van.

“Learning to drive it was a big adjustment, this is a big truck,” Chaplin continued, “but it’s great for transporting our Soldiers.”

Taking care of wounded Soldiers is why the WTU was set up. Allowing them the time and a place to heal is a step in the right direction. “The community is all behind us,” commented Chaplin. “We are very happy with the support. The Soldiers are happy, and that makes me happy. Anything we need, the Ederle community is right on it.”

The WTU will be officially opened on Feb. 22.



(Top) Renovations are nearly complete on the new Warrior Transition Unit facility, which will include not only barracks, but the USO and B.O.S.S. (Above) Sgt. Justin Varnes sets about unloading the boxes containing all his belongings, as he moves into one of the new single rooms in the WTU barracks.

(Above) Staff Sgt. Patrick Chaplin (L-R) and Sgt. Steven Lourigan, WTU squad leaders review the workings of the hydraulic lift for wheelchair-bound Soldiers on the newly arrived Mercedes van. This nine passenger vehicle will aid in transporting wounded Soldiers to necessary appointments in comfort and security.

The Outlook

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At your service

Mark Christensen, chief, Client Services, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, is the go-to guy for all your tax questions. Christensen and his staff run the Vicenza Tax Center, which is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.

If you have a complicated return, drop it off and they'll get back to you. Call DSN 634-7041 for details.

Christensen will also answer your tax questions live Feb. 13 on AFN 106FM. Call the studio line at DSN 634-7585 or 0444-71-7585 from off post in the 9 a.m. hour, or you can call in your questions between 6-9 a.m. and deejay Spc. James Kever will tape your questions and Christensen will answer them during the 9 a.m. hour.

When tax season is over, Christensen helps the community with legal issues.



Mark Christensen

Community events

Someone in Bamberg loves you

Project Sweet Dreams gives children something to hold on to

Story and photos by
Amy L. Bugala
USAG Bamberg Public Affairs

A Bamberg Child and Youth Services program is giving children and their deployed parents something to hold on to this Valentine's Day... each other.

"Project Sweet Dreams" gives children the opportunity to make and send a personalized pillow to their parent downrange and to receive one in return.

Project coordinator Kim Kozel, CYS school liaison officer, is hoping the exchange will help lessen the distance that is felt between children and their deployed parent, especially at bedtime.

Kozel and the School Ages Services staff helped the children make the pillows by creating transfers of their photos and artwork and ironing them onto pillowcases.

The message on the pillow says, "Someone in Bamberg loves you!" Tucked into each individually wrapped package are a tin of sweet treats and a note requesting a picture of the child's parent.

The Valentine's Day packages mark the first phase of the program according to Claire Aljunaibi, school age services director. Approximately 50 pillows have already been mailed downrange.

"The program will come full circle when the child receives a pillow with their parent's photo on it," Aljunaibi said.

The project helps ease a child's mind during a long separation because a pillow is something tangible to a child. It gives children something to hold and to hug, explained Aljunaibi.

Prior to mailing, the children grabbed their pillows and wrapped their arms around them, getting in as many hugs as possible before packing them away.

"We're going to send these downrange to your dads," Kozel said to the children.

"Or moms, Miss Kim," replied Winnie Tataw. This 7-year-old had a lot to say about her pillow, which much to her delight, is on its way to Afghanistan, to her mom, Sgt. Glory Tataw, 173rd Brigade Support Battalion.

Kozel explained how the idea of organizing the project in Bamberg came to her last fall. Having never personally experienced a deployment she admits she can't imagine what a Soldier must feel while being separated from their child for so long.

After sending her daughter off



to her first semester of college, she understood, and her thoughts turned to the Soldiers downrange.

She says for parents, the pillows are a nice way to collect your thoughts before going to bed, to leave the day behind and focus on what is away from you.

She knows Soldiers must have a whole lot to worry about in addition to a longer separation from their child but now relates by calling her experience "my educational deployment."

She is grateful she is able to see her daughter at the end of every college semester.

The first picture from a parent downrange just recently arrived. Kozel quickly created pillows for Sgt. 1st Class Alfredo Woods, equal opportunity advisor, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team and presented them to his 7-year-old twin sons, Kamron and Kareem Woods.

The message on the matching pillows says, "Someone in Afghanistan loves you." After presenting the pillows to the twins, she explained to the other children that more would be arriving soon.

Kozel looks forward to receiving the pictures and helping create sweet dreams for all the children. "It gives me a sense of doing something that's very, very small when the (Soldiers) are doing something so big for us," she said.

"Project Sweet Dreams" is an ongoing program sponsored by USAG Bamberg Child and Youth Services in support of the deployed Soldiers and their families at Warner Barracks.

For more information, contact Kim Kozel at DSN 469-7891 or e-mail, kimberly.kozel@eur.army.mil.



(Top) Tiffany Waller sends a few extra hugs with her pillow. (Above) Kamron and Kareem Woods are the first to receive a "Sweet Dreams" pillow with their father's photo on it. "Someone in Afghanistan loves you," the pillows say. (Left) Kim Kozel, school liaison officer and Claire Aljunaibi, school ages services director prepare the packages for mailing downrange. The majority of the pillows should arrive before Valentine's Day.

Community events

Camp Darby AFAP can help change lives

Story by Joyce Costello
USAG Livorno Public Affairs

With national elections around the corner, politicians are taking their stance on many important issues. At Camp Darby, community members identified issues that they believe are important at the Army Family Action Plan Conference Jan. 30-31.

Evelyn Watkins, Army Community Service director, described the AFAP as a process to let Army leadership know from a community members view what is working and how to fix what is not.

"The military family is the key to our military's readiness," said Watkins. "They deserve our full support and with the AFAP conference we can be the voice of the Army family."

U.S. Army Garrison Livorno commander, Lt. Col. Steven Cade, added that communities don't survive without families.

"When family members and community members engage in the AFAP process, they become part of the solution and their hard work makes the community a better place to live," said Cade.

For Christine Noonan, this was her first time to be an AFAP delegate.



AFAP Delegates worked for two days with subject matter experts to identify issues that have an impact on the quality of life during Camp Darby's AFAP conference. (Photo by Elena Baladelli, 7th ATC Photo lab)

"This was very empowering and made me feel my input would actually help change Camp Darby," said Noonan.

"I volunteered to be a delegate because I believe it's important that community members work on projects in their area.

"Besides, I think you can't complain about a service or issue unless you become part of the solution," she said.

The Camp Darby community submitted 86 issues for the AFAP.

Each work group presented their top three issues and recommendations to the garrison commander.

Community wide, the top three issues are:

1. Dental allocation in joint environment

Recommendation: Reassess formula by which the permanent dental assets are assigned in a joint environment.

2. Dining facilities on small overseas installations

Recommendation: Require every overseas installation to provide a military dining facility or to subsidize a dining establishment which offers a variety of nutritious meals at the BAS rate.

3. Department of Defense Dependent Schools staffing policy

Recommendation: Rewrite the current DoDDS staffing policy to be based on program standards and not enrollment numbers to allow students on smaller installations the same quality of education of those on larger installations.

The delegates also gave special kudos to the library, fitness center and ACS, declaring them the top customer service providers.

For more information on these and other issues and results check the USAG Livorno website www.usag.livorno.army.mil and binders located at ACS, the library and the post office.

Darby dates

Sweetheart Ball

Feb. 16 at 6 p.m. at the Darby Community Club, enjoy a classy night out with that special someone in your life.

Drop the kids off at the Child Development Center parents night out and dance the rest of the night away.

The event is open to couples and singles. Tickets are sold in advance at the DCC.

Story hour

Feb. 21 at 8:15 a.m. in the Livorno Unit School Classroom, come listen to a selection of children's books highlighting Black History Month.

This week's main selection is "Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad in the Sky" by Fairy Ringfeld.

Feb. 27 at 10 a.m. at the Camp Darby Library, preschoolers and their parents can listen to a selection of children's books highlighting Black History Month.

Gospel extravaganza

Feb. 23 at 7 p.m. at the post theater, enjoy musical performances by Jubilation Gospel Choir and St. Jacobs Gospel Choir. Entrance to the event is free.

Winners of the schools art contest will be announced.

Italians who wish to attend the event, must submit their name and birth date to blckhistory@gmail.com by Feb. 21.

Basketball tourney

Feb. 29 at 3 p.m. in the Fitness Center, come see if the experience of the Old School team is able to defeat the physical prowess of the New School team. The event is free.

Books for Africa

The fourth grade has decided on a service project. They learned that there are a lot of refugees in Djibouti who want to learn English.

Therefore the fourth graders are collecting used books to send to Africa.

Drop off gently used children's or adult books at the Livorno Unit School.

Black History Month celebrates multiculturalism

Story and photos by
Joyce Costello
USAG Livorno Public Affairs

This year's Black History Month celebration theme "Origins of Multiculturalism" comes from the work Carter G. Woodson did in 1915 when he established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. He helped define the origins of multiculturalism and said, "Those who have no record of what their forebears have accomplished lose the inspiration which comes from

the teaching of biography and history." Each Black History event at Camp Darby highlights and shares an element of how African-Americans have contributed to American society.

The kick off to Black History Month was the community food tasting on Feb. 1 at the Darby Community Club.

Dishes that are often termed soul food; like collard greens and ham hocks, macaroni and cheese and ribs, were served next to African specialties and dishes from the Caribbean.

Toni Daigle, who grew up in Eritrea, made a traditional dish from her homeland called Zigani. Daigle said she cooked the meat in a spice called berbéra and served it on a type of bread called injera.

"This is my mom's traditional recipe and when I cook it, I feel good because it reminds me of home," reflected Daigle.

"Sharing this with the community is special, because it's a big part of who I am and where I came from," she said.

Sgt. 1st Class Gwen Humphrey, a Soldier with the 3/405th Army Field Support Brigade also cooked a dish she



Livorno Unit School elementary students take a closer look at a puzzle to identify who it is. The middle school students read a speech by Martin Luther King Jr. during a school assembly and after each had read their own part, they placed the backside of their speech down to form an image of Rev. King.

learned from her mom.

"I remember my mom always making homemade southern biscuits and rolling them with her hands," said Humphrey. "When she cooked, all of us kids would gather around and she would tell us what she learned from her mother and grandmother. She will really be glad when I tell her that I am carrying on what she taught us."

Humphrey added that while many different cultures may

make cabbage or biscuits, each heritage cooks it differently with seasoning variations and cooking techniques.

"It's important to me that I share my experiences with my children so they can carry on the tradition and teach any future grandkids," smiled Humphrey.

"It doesn't matter if I live in North Carolina or Camp Darby, Italy, food is a strong part of my culture that I can share," Humphrey added.



Livorno fourth grade students discussed the designs used by the Masai tribes in Kenya and the Zulu tribes in southern Africa.

Here's your last chance to tell us How do you find out what's happening on post?

In order to better serve our community, we at the USAG Vicenza Public Affairs office, AFN and DMWR Marketing offices are asking community members to please fill out the survey below and place it in the box provided in the community mail room, or fold it in half, tape it closed and put it in the mail box.

1. How do you get your local Caserma Ederle information? Rank by priority 5 = Always; 4 = Usually; 3 = Sometimes; 2 = Seldom; 1 = Never; 0 = Don't know what this is.

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Outlook newspaper _____ | MWR Channel _____ |
| MWR marquee by PX _____ | MWR posters _____ |
| Outlook Web site _____ | MWR marquee by Burger King _____ |
| AFN Radio over air _____ | MWR bulletin boards _____ |
| AFN Radio on decoder _____ | InfoX newsletter _____ |
| AFN Television _____ | InfoX in person _____ |
| AFN TV Channel 14 _____ | InfoX over AFN radio _____ |
| AFN Web site _____ | MWR event flyers _____ |
| HomeFront News _____ | Lionnet _____ |
| Vicenzamwr.com _____ | Command e-mails _____ |
| Weekly Highlights _____ | DoDDS newsletter _____ |
| Command Channel _____ | SETAF Web site _____ |

2. Do you have access to the Internet at home/barracks? Yes No

3. Please rate 5 (high) to 0 (N/A) what issues below are of most interest to you and/or your family:

- Local sports On post movies/entertainment Travel/ITR trips
- Off post entertainment Information about updates to post facilities
- Changes in office operating hours/days, etc. Job opportunities
- DoDDS school issues Family life issues Religious issues Currency rates
- Higher Education information Unit information Health & Safety issues
- Recreational activities Classifieds Command news Weather

4. What is your status? Soldier DoD civilian Spouse Contractor Retiree

5. Are you male or female?

6. What is your age group? under 18 18-26 27-35 36-45 45-55 56+

7. Where do you live?
 Villaggio Private rental Government rental Barracks

Dorothy Spagnoulo is Out & About, her column will return next week.

8. Is there anything not listed you'd like to see coverage of by AFN or the Outlook?

9. How far in advance do you prefer to hear about an event?

- One week before the event Two weeks before
- Three weeks before Four weeks before the event
- More than a month

10. Comments?

Where do you return this survey? Boxes are set up in the CMR, you can mail it to: USAG Vicenza Public Affairs, Unit 31401, Box 10, APO AE 09630-1401, or you can drop it off at AFN, MWR Marketing (located above the Thrift Shop in the back) or USAG Vicenza Public Affairs, Bldg 3, first floor, on the right.



**Sell your stuff for free on
Marketplace**
www.vicenzamwr.com/marketplace

New Look | New Categories | New Login

Same Great Deals --- Marketplace is back



Now Showing

Caserma Ederle Theater		
Feb. 13	The Mist (R)	6 p.m.
Feb. 14	Bee Movie (PG)	6 p.m..
Feb. 15	I am Legend (PG-13)	6 p.m.
	Fools Gold (PG-13) (1st Run)	9 p.m.
Feb. 16	The Golden Compass (PG-13)	3 p.m.
	Fools Gold (PG-13) (1st Run)	6 p.m.
Feb. 17	The Golden Compass (PG-13)	3 p.m.
	I am Legend (PG-13)	6 p.m..

Camp Darby Theater		
Feb. 14	I am Legend (PG-13)	6 p.m..
Feb. 15	Meet the Spartans (PG-13) (1st Run)	6 p.m.
Feb. 16	I am Legend (PG-13)	6 p.m.
Feb. 17	The Golden Compass (PG-13)	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

I am Legend - Will Smith, Alice Braga. Robert Neville is a brilliant scientist, but even he could not contain the terrible virus that was unstoppable, incurable...and manmade. Somehow immune, Neville is now the last human survivor in what is left of New York City...and maybe the world. But he is not alone. He is surrounded by "the Infected"—victims of the plague who have mutated into carnivorous beings who can only exist in the dark and who will devour or infect anyone or anything in their path. Rated PG-13 (intense sequences of action & violence) 122 min.

Community notes

Condolences

On behalf of the Vicenza military community, SETAF Commander Maj. General Frank Helmick and Vicenza Garrison Commander Col. Virgil Williams express condolences to the families of Vincent Figliomeni and Fabrizio Ertolupi for the tragic loss of their sons Francesco and Matteo, both 19 years old, Feb. 8.

The teenagers were two of the four victims killed as the result of a single car accident near Camisano Vicentino Friday night.

Vincent Figliomeni is the SETAF political advisor. Fabrizio Ertolupi works at the Troop Issue Subsistence Activity for the Directorate of Logistics. The funeral was scheduled for 3 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 12 at the Church of Saint Nicolo' in Camisano Vicentino.

MOMS Club Events

Everyone is invited.

Infant Playgroup: Feb. 15, 11 a.m., EDIS. *Babylandia:* Feb. 22, 1:30 p.m. Pyramidi Mall. *MOMS Club monthly meeting:* Feb. 25, 10 a.m. at the chapel.

For more information regarding MOMS Club and our activities email momsclubofvicenza@yahoo or contact Deanna at 0444945105 or Amber at 3347008443.

MWR joke contest

MWR is running a contest on the Army website and you could win a Flip video cam recorder. Authorized MWR patrons over 18 including MWR employees...can enter. Go to www.ArmyMWR.com and check the topic of the day. Send us your joke or humorous comment about the day's topic.

Fitness Center closures

In the main post fitness center, male and female locker rooms and the front cardio room will be closed.

Cardio equipment will be relocated to the racquetball court. The changes are due to the renovation of this facility and began on Feb. 8. Fitness classes have been relocated to the fitness studios above the Body Shop. For information call 634-6240.

Taste of Italy

Enjoy a "Taste of Italy" with ITR trips; Parmigiano Reggiano Feb. 16 and Chianti Feb. 23. Call for reservations 634-7094

PWOC meetings

The Protestant Women of the Chapel invite you to join them every Tuesday morning at the Post Chapel from 9:15-11:30 a.m. Join Bible study groups. Childcare provided for infants 6-weeks through age 5. Wednesday evening study group are at the post chapel

from 5:30-6:30p.m. Contact Antoinette Samuel at asamuel.csamuel@hotmail.com.

Family fun night

Family fun night is back at Club V. Feb. 22, 6-8 p.m. with pizza and a beverage. Adults \$5 and kids 5th grade and under \$2.50 plus dancing with the DJ. Call 634-7685 for information.

Bank positions

The Community Bank in Caserma Ederle is looking for a teller supervisor and a banking center service supervisor.

You can use the "Careers" link at www.DoDCommunityBank.com for a detailed job description, the qualification requirements and to apply (online).

Candidates must be a U.S. citizen and a dependent of a U.S. military service member or of a DoD civilian stationed in Italy. Community Bank, operated by Bank of America, is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

Parent Child Dance

Saturday, Feb. 23, 6 p.m. Club V turns into "Never Never Land" for the annual Parent Child Dance.

Tickets can be purchased at the MWR Tax Relief Office; \$15 for adults and \$10 for children. Price includes dinner, photos, keepsakes and dancing. Sales will end on Feb. 20. Call 634-5087.

CYS Parents' Advisory Group meeting

The CYS Parents' Advisory Group will meet Feb. 20 at noon in the Davis Soldier and Family Readiness Center.

On the agenda: current status and plans for future CYS renovations, upcoming team and individual sports to be offered, review of Army Family Covenant programs and services, CYS responses to parents' questions and concerns expressed since last PAG meeting. POC is Eric Weisel 634-8347.

VFW meeting

VFW Post 8862 will hold a business meeting Feb. 14, 5:30-6:45 p.m. at the Italian retiree center *La Rondine* on Via Calvi. Support for the veterans, soldiers, family members, military community and other important topics will be discussed. For directions, more information or to join call Post Commander Tom Buffington at 634-7857/0444-71-7857.

Black history contest

Students in grades 6-12, test your knowledge of Black history and win prizes. The Vicenza Post Library will host a competition to be held every Tuesday and Thursday during February, Black History Month.

Each week students can stop by the library and pick up questions from different subject areas.

All questions can be answered by using resources found in the library. Contact the library for additional information.

Note: some Vicenza middle and

high school teachers may offer extra credit points to students who participate in the competition. Check with your teachers. Call A.R. Jones at 634-7291 for more information.

Flowers for Valentines

The Vicenza Flower Shop is now collecting advance orders for Valentine's Day. Place your orders by calling 634-7317 or by stopping at their shop.

Discover Trento

ITR takes you on tour of Trento, capital of Trentino, not far from the Dolomites and the numerous lakes that can be found near by. Trento is a city of art that has a strong Renaissance mark. Visit the Castle Buonconsiglio Call for reservations, 634-7094.

ACS classes

Learn to choose the financial services and best institutions to meet your needs, Feb. 12, 3-4 p.m. Classes offered by Financial Readiness and reservations required. New to Vicenza? Join Benvenuti Feb. 19-22 for fun, culture and adventure as you learn what to expect living here in Italy. Acing the interview on Feb. 20 and resume builder on Feb. 13 and 27 can help you in your job search. Call 634-7500 for reservations.

Contract jobs available

Become an Adventure Series trip leader. Duties include identifying family friendly activities in the Veneto region, coordinating the activities, transportation, preparing necessary trip documentation and driving participants to and from activities. Must have a valid SETAF driver's license.

TMP moved

The DOL transportation motor pool has relocated to Torri storage facility (Via del Primo Maggio Gate.) Those needing to re-dispatch or draw a vehicle, request border clearance, or any other TMP service should now go to Torri.

Mass transit service is available to the TMP and other Torri facilities. All telephone numbers and email addresses for TMP remain the same.

EEO manager needed

The EEO Office is recruiting for collateral duty Special Emphasis Program managers to assist with identifying and analyzing barriers to employment and career advancement for minorities, women and the disabled, and sponsoring career enhancement activities.

Individuals must have their supervisor's approval and will receive formal training. Call Cynthia Pierson, EEO Officer, DSN 634-7976

Child Find

The Vicenza Elementary School is conducting an on-going search for children, 3-6 years of age, who may have needs in the following five developmental areas: motor, adaptive, communication, cognitive, or social/behavior. This program is called Child Find.

For further information and

meeting times call Ann Gasparini, DSN 634-7710 for an appointment.

Job seminars

IntelligenceCareers, Inc. has a recruiting team coming to Italy, conducting seminar/workshops that provide an insider view on how the U.S.A. job market works.

A major focus is on the defense industry. Also discussed will be opportunities in commercial industry and government.

Learn where the jobs are, who has them, what makes for a successful defense career strategy, and how to use the Internet to find a new job.

Check the following dates to determine which would be the best location for you to attend.

March 25: Vicenza Seminar

March 26: Aviano Seminar

These seminars and events are sponsored by IntelligenceCareers, Inc.

Robin Hood

The MCT production of the musical "Robin Hood" will hold auditions for students ages 6-17 at Soldiers' Theatre on March 31 at 3:30pm with cast announcements and rehearsals to follow immediately.

Students must have after school from 3:30-7:30 p.m. free from other obligations Monday through Friday. Not all students are scheduled the entire time.

Participation in Missoula Children's Theatre is free and open to all authorized students. Parents are encouraged (required for 10 year olds and younger) to attend the auditions.

For a complete schedule of rehearsals and further information, call Soldiers' Theatre at 634-7281.

Nurse/dietitian/nutritionist

Choctaw Archiving Enterprise is responsible for managing the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Overseas Program to U.S. military beneficiaries at U.S. installations throughout Europe.

They have a full-time opening for a nutritionist/dietitian/nurse in Vicenza. Must be a U.S. citizen.

Experience in prenatal, maternal or infant nutrition required. Registered dietitian preferred. Experience with WIC desirable. Must have current driver's license.

For consideration, please e-mail your resume and cover letter to: wicjobs@choctawarchiving.com or fax to: (210) 525-1398 or mail your information to:

Choctaw Archiving Enterprise
Attn: WIC Overseas
2161 NW Military Hwy, Suite 214
San Antonio, TX 78213

Writing group

If you have always wanted to write a book, have written one or even had one published, this new writing group is for you.

The purpose of this group is to provide mutual encouragement and feedback on current or proposed writing projects.

If you are interested, contact Bruce Hoag: b.hoag@p-advantage.com or 339-378-1797

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).

8:30 a.m.: Catholic Reconciliation

9:30 a.m.: Catholic Mass

11 a.m.: Protestant worship

Upcoming events

Noon: Community service
5 p.m.: Catholic service

Vicenza Cougars grapple for Europeans

Story and photos by
Laura Kreider
Outlook Staff

The European tournament is close at hand and the Vicenza High School played host to nearly 90 wrestlers from throughout Italy and Germany Saturday in the Southern European Sectionals at the VHS gym.

Especially for the youngest wrestlers, this was a very good experience.

"This is my first year wrestling. I think I competed 12 times so far. It's a good sport," said Darren Eldredge, after winning his first match during the sectionals against the Ansbach wrestler Brian Chao in the 140 pound weight class.

"I was surprised to win, but I think I can do it again, we get better as a team every match, every time we wrestle. What I think I have learned from this match is that you never give up and always try your hardest, and you get better every time," he continued.

The goal for each of the contestants was being one of the top two in each weight class, to advance to the Europeans.

"We have seven schools participating; coming from Rome, Naples, Aviano, Sigonella, Ansbach, Patch and Vicenza. The top two finishers in each weight class qualify for the European finals next weekend in Wiesbaden, Germany," explained George Hanby, VHS coach.

One of these wrestlers from the Cougars is Kyle Kaus, who wrestles in the 171-pound weight class.

After an intense match against Jared Jones from Ansbach, he knew he made it.

"It is proving to be a very physically and mentally demanding day," Kaus expressed after his achievement.



(Above) Cougars' Tim Loney (Right) pushes down on Jason Pinover, Patch Barracks. (Below, right) After an intensely fought match, Cougars' Darren Eldredge turns and pins Brian Chan, of Ansbach.

"I want to thank my coaches and my mom for being behind me all year and for my teammates for pushing me through this past weekend practice. I am looking forward to going to Germany next weekend," he added.

While talking about his match, Kaus explained how experience can help while competing on the mat.

"It was a good match. He [Jones] is a tall guy. He tried to use a lot of strength, but I remembered my technique and I used the moves. A lot of wrestling is more of the reactions of what they [opponents] are doing and having a feel for what is going on," said Kaus.

The Cougar wrestlers' team

consists of 16 members of which 12 are sophomores.

"This is a real young team this year," underlined Hanby. "They work real hard together. Some have more experience than others," he continued.

Most of them will return next year as juniors and another large number are going to be here as seniors, according to Hanby.

"I am really looking forward to a couple of great years here coaching the Cougars," Hanby said.

Vicenza is sending Kyle Kaus, Marc Bowman, Shaun Mahadeo and Zach Bishop to the European tournament in Wiesbaden, Germany on Feb. 15-16.



(Above) Referee Bob Unger (left) keeps a close watch for a pin during the match between Jared Jones of the Ansbach team, (center) and the Vicenza Cougars' Kyle Kaus. Kaus won all three of his matches and will advance to the European tournament in Wiesbaden.

Sports shorts

CYS baseball season

Registration for CYS baseball ages 3-14 will be through Feb. 27. There are limited slots available so register early.

Children born between 1994-1999 have the opportunity to play in an Italian baseball league April 12-June 7. Practice begins March 31.

You must register and should bring a health assessment that is valid through the season, and payment of \$46 with you to register at CYS Central Registration. Call 634-7219 for information.

Cycling classes

Keep your bike in shape so you can keep in shape too. ODR offers cycling maintenance classes and local bike rides. Check out these classes:

Brake maintenance Feb. 13, 5:30-7 p.m., and overall bike check, Feb. 27:5:30-7 p.m.

Join local mountain bike ride levels II and III, Feb. 9 noon-3 p.m. plus an all level local bike ride Feb. 23, 3-7 p.m.

Call ODR for complete information, 634-7453.

Soccer tournament

The sports office is hosting a 5 vs. 5 soccer tournament on Feb. 15-16. Mandatory coaches meeting is Feb. 14, 3 p.m. at the Fitness Center. Call 634-7009 for information.

Heliskiing

ODR takes you to the top with heliskiing in Interlaken, Switzerland Feb. 15-18. In this high adventure activity you can experience the thrill of heliskiing during the day then enjoy an evening exploring this beautiful village.

Reservation required so call 634-7453 for information.

Baseball coaches clinic

This is not a clinic for children.

Dates: March 10-12

Cost: free

Location: Villaggio CYS Training area and baseball field

Age: 16 years and up

Target audience: Adults and youth in the community who are interested in coaching baseball for CYS Sports and Fitness.

How to register: call Georgia at 634-6151 and sign up or email her at georgia.salyer@eur.army.mil. Sign up now thru the start of the clinic.

Coach John Noce will be returning to Italy to teach our local coaches how to coach baseball. He is a former MLB coach with more than 30 years experience. This is a once in a lifetime chance to be taught key points of coaching baseball by a former MLB coach.