



50/36 Friday 48/28 Saturday 45/28 Sunday

An electrical power outage is scheduled for Saturday from 5-8:30 a.m. The entire base, except building supported by generators will be affected.

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173rd ABCT Soldiers honor St. Michael with jump



Against the Dolomite mountains, paratroopers from the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team hit the drop zone, after the 173rd's jump in honor of St. Michael's Day, Nov. 28. St. Michael is the patron saint of the paratroopers, and though the holiday was actually in September, the Sky Soldiers found time in a busy schedule to make their first St. Michael's jump since 2003.

Story and photo by Spc. Michael Sword
173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team PAO

Although St. Michael's Day was almost two months ago to the day, the paratroopers of the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team made time to celebrate the Patron Saint of the Airborne with a special airborne operation at Aviano Air Base, Nov. 28.

“Today is truly a special day,” said Maj. Eddie Cook, chaplain for the 173rd. “It's the first time we've been able to do a St. Michael's jump since 2003.”

Before the paratroopers began preparations to jump, Cook handed each jumper a small medallion bearing the image of St. Michael and the patch of the 173rd, and said a few words about the significance of the day.

“St. Michael, the Archangel of God, exacts God's bidding, and we as paratroopers are called by our country to go forth and fight that which is evil,” Cook said.

Not every Soldier in the unit was able to participate. Pfc. Mark Fragoso, Attack Company, 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd ABCT, felt fortunate to be one of the lucky paratroopers.

“St. Michael is a big thing in my life and in my religion,” he said. “I'm Roman Catholic and my father's been in the Airborne for about 27 years.”

Families were able to attend and watch their paratroopers from start to finish, from putting on the main parachute and reserve, to the jumpmaster personnel inspection, to the main event: being able to jump from a C-130 aircraft in flight.

“Our Families are out with us, being able to watch the drop, which is a unique opportunity, and possibly the first time any of these families have ever been able to see their paratrooper jump,” said Cook. “We wanted to have this as a team-building event with a spiritual component, so that today is not just another airborne operation but it's truly a fun day where we can have Families see what it's like to jump, to rig up in a parachute, to be waiting on the drop zone.”

Even after seeing many jumps at Fort Bragg, N.C., the opportunity to be waiting on the drop zone is still appreciated by spouses like Teresa Latham.

“It was awesome to see the guys coming down and know that

See JUMP, page 2

Gold star Family makes connection with fallen Soldier's unit

By Staff Sgt. Bruce Cobbeldick
173rd Airborne Brigade
Combat Team PAO

The 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team's Chosen Company hosted very important guests for the past week – Family of one of their fallen. The family's trek, which began in Georgia, took a couple thousand miles to meet the platoon members of their fallen son, Cpl. Pruitt Rainey, who was

killed in action during Operation Enduring Freedom VIII, at the Battle of Wanat.

“Nearly four years ago, my team leader, Cpl. Rainey was killed and his father, Frankie Gay, coming here gives us all a chance to heal. It is reassuring for the family that their son did not die in vain,” said Army Sgt. Chris McKaig.

The visit proved to be therapeutic for the combat veterans of this famous battle, as well as Rainey's father, a man

who is making a documentary film about his son, his fellow infantrymen and their unit, the storied Chosen Company of 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, a battle-proven unit. His son's platoon mates rolled out the red carpet and embraced the father as if he was always part of their lives – and always will be.

As McKaig took the Family around the post to point out the footsteps his son took and some of the memorials dedicated

to the Heroes of the Battle of Wanat, members of Chosen Co. were all too happy to take time out of their work day, shake the father's hand and share important memories with the Gold Star Family throughout their visit.

McKaig was close to Rainey and said, “Mr. Gay's son was an integral member of Chosen Co., and those of us who were involved with the Battle Of Wanat are still very close to this very day.”

See FAMILY, page 3

New CG: Caring exemplifies spirit of holiday season

Editor's Note: Lt. Gen. Michael Ferriter assumed command of the U.S. Army Installation Management Command at Joint Base San Antonio Nov. 17. He is also Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management. IMCOM is the Army's home. Its mission is to provide Soldiers, civilians and their Families with a quality of life commensurate with the quality of their service.

One of the world's greatest leaders was a gate guard who worked at the main gate of Fort Benning, Ga. What made him so great was that he knew his job was more than checking ID cards. With his awesome attitude, he conveyed that he cared to every person passing through his lane.



Somehow he succeeded in making a difference just through his genuine message of "Welcome Home!" I talked with many people who came into contact with him — Soldiers, parents visiting their Soldiers, Civilians going to work, and visiting retirees who were stationed at Fort Benning years ago—and all agreed. He made a difference.

We've all seen this type of inspired leadership on

every installation. Showing that we care exemplifies the very spirit of the holiday season.

The great thing about being part of the Army Family is that caring goes beyond the holiday season. It is day in, day out, year-round.

Margie and I and our four kids have lived and grown as a Family on Army installations around the world. In addition to the gate guard, we've met many whose sense of service far exceeded their job description — really dedicated people at a housing office, Youth Sports coaches, and Child Development professionals, to name just a few. My Family's experience is not unique. Every Soldier and Family member can point to service providers on our garrisons who go out of their way to help.

The same sense of caring is why so many Soldiers, Family members, civilians and retirees volunteer their time and talents across the installation. Our volunteers welcome newcomers. They teach classes, mentor children and teens, and run play groups for young mothers and toddlers. They plan outings for Wounded Warriors, build houses for disabled veterans, support Survivors, help prepare Families for deployment and

throw welcome home parties.

Caring and selfless service is ingrained in our Army culture, and we are much stronger because of it.

To everyone who has extended a helping hand this past year, whether in a professional capacity or as a volunteer, thank you. Thank you for choosing to go the extra mile to make a difference for Soldiers, civilians and Families.

Let's all enjoy what the season offers, wherever we are, and enjoy time with friends and loved ones. As we celebrate, let's remember those who are deployed and extend extra support to their Families at home.

Let's also be mindful of those around us who may find this time of year more difficult. For those who need assistance, our installations provide a number of Soldier and Family support services. If you are unsure where to go, start with Army Community Service or the chaplain's office.

From my Family to you and yours, we wish you a safe and happy holidays and a blessed new year.

- Lt. Gen. Michael Ferriter

Commanding General,

Army Installation Management Command

JUMP: St. Michael keeps paratroopers safe

Continued from page 1

they were safe," she said. "It looked like they were having fun and we were having fun out here, taking pictures and trying to count which one our guy was."

After touching down, the paratroopers from the 173rd and their Italian counterparts met on a field adjacent to the Drop Zone to exchange jump wings with each other. For many Soldiers it was the first set of foreign jumps wings they've earned.

"This is my first jump with the unit, so getting Italian jump wings on the first one is pretty much a treasure," said Fragoso.

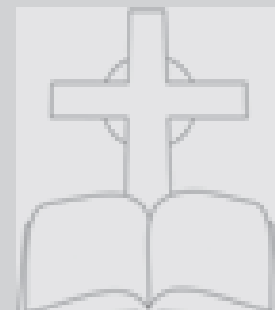
Pfc. Amber Calderone, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 173rd ABCT, who received her Italian jump wings on her first jump since graduating airborne school, agreed.

"This is my first unit, so I think it's pretty special."

To view holiday hours and closures visit:
www.usag.vicenza.army.mil and click on the link at the bottom that says Installation holiday hours under News You Can Use.

Vicenza Chapel holiday schedule

Dec. 24	7 p.m.	Protestant Candle Light Service
	11:30 p.m.	Catholic Caroling in the Chapel
	12:01 a.m.	Midnight Mass
Dec. 25	9 a.m.	Catholic Mass
	11 a.m.	Combined Protestant Service
	1:15 p.m.	Gospel Service
Dec. 31	9:45 p.m.	Gospel Watch Night Service



Speak Out

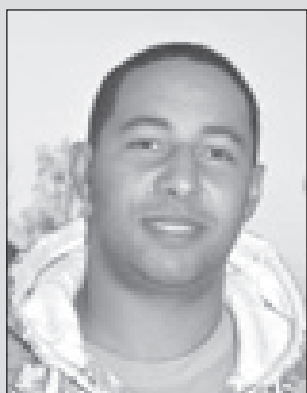
What do you enjoy most about winter?



Kris Adams

American Red Cross

"The wonderful, woolen love-handle camouflage provided by thick, comfy sweaters."



Pfc. Christopher Anderson

1st Bn., 503rd Inf. Regt

"Mostly I enjoy snowboarding."



David Besuden

Sports, Fitness and Aquatics

"I can hit the slopes in the Dolomites."



Sgt. Robert Quintero

AFN Vicenza

"I enjoy spending time outside near an open fire and of course, New Years."



Sinead Williams

Family members

"What I like most is getting hot drinks and Christmas is coming soon."

By Laura Kreider

Vicenza High School seniors hold auction, raise \$6,000

By Becky Lynch

Contributor to the Outlook

The Vicenza High School Class of 2012 recently raised more than \$6,000 at a special auction.

The Class of 2012 started fundraising last spring in order to prepare for their senior year, after a conversation with a man who was getting ready to PCS about his collection of damigianiam, known as demijohns in English. Damigiania are large glass bottles used for the production and storage of wine. He suggested if someone was willing to put in the effort to go around collecting and cleaning them that it would be possible to sell them. After his suggestion, the mission began to collect and clean them.

After working with family and friends collecting and cleaning demijohns over the summer, everyone was scratching their heads trying to figure out the best way to sell the bottles that would be the most profitable for the class. After seeking approval from senior class sponsor Darrell Hill and VHS Principal Lauri Kenney, it was decided to hold an auction and include themed baskets.

The inspiration for the baskets came from themed little rubber duckies. For example, if someone chose a Christmas duckie, they would make a donation of a Christmas themed basket or donate the items in order for us to put it together. Senior class parents and community members chose to donate items for the baskets as a way of showing their support to the senior class. Of the 95 items auctioned, 60 were themed baskets and 35 were demijohns, 12 of which were hand-painted and donated by talented artists in our local community.

Senior students took on the task of making the bid paddles used for the auction. They helped to set up for the auction and took on the roles of assisting senior parents by helping with registration, showcasing the items, registering bid amounts, acting as runners, assisting at the cashier table, helping the shoppers receive their paid goods and assisting them to the car if needed. Additionally, seniors also sold concessions to raise money for their class.

Teacher George Hanby III assisted with auctioneering.



Photo by Laura Kreider

Vicenza High School senior Ayana Hinton, holds up a princess stocking for auction, while auctioneer George Hanby III calls the bids during the senior auction Nov. 23. More than \$6,000 was raised from the event.

FAMILY: Chosen Co. Fallen Soldier's father documents Wanat battle

Continued from page 1

Gay feels that The Battle of Wanat is so important that he is making a documentary on the fierce fighting that the men of Chosen Co. faced together. Gay said he wants to show the utmost respect to the combat veterans and he is confident that anyone viewing the documentary movie will see its value to the veterans, their families, friends and loved ones.

"The Battle of Wanat was the most exciting and horrific experience of my life," said McKaig. "When I was young, I actually wanted to be a hero one day and join the Army. I now think people should be careful what they ask or hope for, because sometimes all that comes along with that is very costly."

Gay spent the week listening to others talk about his son, share their experiences and memories, and was even invited to 2nd Battalion's Ball. He walked away perhaps having lost love but he also found love on this emotional journey.

"My goal is to let these heroes tell their own story in their own words," said Gay, a father who now has other sons thinking about joining the Army. "At first, I discouraged their desire to join, but now I am all for it," he said.

Gay said, "The 2nd-503rd, 173rd's Battalion Ball was something that I will never forget for the rest of my life.

"There are no words," Gay said. "The recognition and the standing ovation that we received was something I will always remember. I try to be a strong guy, but the experience was very emotional for me."

The Army initiated the Gold Star Family Program as an important way for units and families to strengthen each other after the catastrophic loss of a family member, who made the ultimate sacrifice.

"The Gold Star Program here with the Herd is very healing. I know the Army has put a lot of time and a lot of effort in showing us the importance of this program and we had two superb hosts in Chris McKaig and Jacob Walker. Those are two, very special guys and America needs to know what kind of heroes they are. This is about them, and what they meant to each other. It's about their loss as much as it is about mine."

After spending several days with the men of Chosen Co., Gay said he wished he could have brought many of the other Gold Star Families with him to Italy.

Gay said the experience was surreal, reconnecting

with his son's unit.

"My son never told me about the valor, combat and all that they go through. What he spoke about commonly was the brotherhood that existed within Chosen Co., 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment." Gay continued, saying he realized that the Soldiers of Chosen Co. are very humble. "It was great being with these Paratroopers. It was like being around my son again.

"As a father, having lost a child, the one thing you want to know and understand is what happened. Being with the men of Chosen Co. gave me a chance to talk with them and it felt like I was talking with my son. It is a large part of the healing process, sharing feelings of loss with each other. These Paratroopers from Chosen Company are and will remain my family.

"No man should have to bury their son or their daughter, but this has been a large part of the healing process. I am glad I came. This is one of the greatest memories I can ever have," Gay said.

To view photos of the Gold Star Family visit, the 173rd ABCT's Chosen Co., go to the 173rd ABCT Facebook page at: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/173rdABCT.Sky.Soldiers>.

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U.S. Army Africa Commander
Maj. Gen. David R. Hogg

USAG Vicenza Commander
and Publisher
Col. David Buckingham

USAG Vicenza
Public Affairs Officer
Grant Sattler

Editor
Julie M. Lucas

Photojournalist
Laura Kreider

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eur.army.mil.

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At Your Service



509th Signal Battalion

Taleh Aliyev is the new S4 for the 509th Signal Battalion. His duties include property accounting and facility work order coordination in support of the battalion's tactical, strategic and base support missions.

"At the 509th Signal Battalion, we provide vital services for community; we plan, install, operate and maintain network communication system that keeps Soldiers, civilians and their dependants connected throughout Italy, Kosovo and Bosnia," Aliyev said. "Our S4 team provides logistically feasible and economically efficient services."

The 509th S4 hours of operation are 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Mondays-Fridays. They are located in building 17 and for questions about their programs or operations, call 634-6191.

To suggest a new staff member or volunteer to be featured in The Outlook, email us at editor@eur.army.mil.

Community Camera

Vicenza military community competes in 'Reindeer Games'



Team Chosen Few chugs down a cup of egg nog before beginning a run during the Reindeer Games Dec. 2.

By Chris Wolff
Outdoor Recreation manager

A holiday-themed extreme race consisting of drinking a half-gallon of eggnog then running around the track to traverse obstacles and complete several challenges took place Dec. 2 after the post Christmas tree lighting ceremony. The Reindeer games had eight-person teams leaping over hay bales, carrying logs, pulling a pickup truck, and even using paintball markers to shoot at small toys. A total of 14 teams, comprised of 112 members, took the field for the competition.

"Nothing says Christmas quite like eggnog and log carries," said Colin McFadden, Chosen Few team captain. "The Reindeer Games provided a fantastic venue for some friendly competition and the broadcasting of

Christmas cheer. We thoroughly enjoyed our time watching and participating in the Games, and are looking forward to the next challenge."

Awards were presented to the fastest teams in a ceremony in the Lion's Den. For the men's teams, first place went to team Brawndo, with Chosen Few and Chosen 1st coming in second and third.

There was strong competition in the mixed team category with first place going to Elves and Belles and the two Crossfit Vicenza teams finishing in second and third place.

The all-ladies team, The Crazy Eights, took first place in the women's category and also won the coveted Best Dressed Award.

Community members interested in competing in extreme racing can look forward to the next event, The Warrior Challenge, taking place April 27.



Photos by Julie M. Lucas

Above, The Crazy Eights, who won the Best Dressed award, help each other over a hay bale during the Reindeer Games. Below, Team Muffs and Mitts pull Santa's Sleigh, otherwise known as a truck, across the finish line.



U.S. Army Africa, garrison command teams place 'safety first'

By Mindy Anderson
U.S. Army Public Affairs Office

Did you know that U.S. Army Africa has a Safety and Health Advisory council that meets twice each year? You may wonder why this is important and what in the world could they be discussing during these meetings. According to Michael Olin, USARAF's Safety Director, they review accident trends, discuss current and future risks, and establish objectives and priorities for the command's safety program.

In a nutshell, it's an executive steering committee for all safety and occupational health issues affecting U.S. Army Soldiers, Department of the Army Civilians, contractors and local nationals in the USARAF areas of responsibility, according to Olin.

These meetings, chaired by USARAF Commander Maj. Gen. David R. Hogg, provide the foundation for development of command safety policy and regulations. "Although the primary focus of this council is command operations and command sponsored operations on the African Continent, it is also a forum for discussion of Federal Employee Compensation Act issues that affect USARAF civilian employees in garrison and during support of missions in Africa," Olin said.

The Vicenza garrison commander and installation safety manager attend the meeting to address community issues.

"The Safety and Occupational Health Advisory Council plays a vital role in indentifying safety issues that affect the entire community," said Vicenza Installation Safety Manager Frank Marcantonio. "The council provides the command with the necessary information to make plans that can help mitigate or eliminate identified hazards," he said.

For example, during the Nov. 28 meeting, recent changes to Army regulations concerning motorcycle operation were discussed. Based on those changes, licensing requirements for the Vicenza military community are:

- Military members must have a motorcycle license or endorsement issued by civil authorities of a country or by a U.S. State or territory of the U.S. and a valid Motorcycle Safety Foundation training Card.
- Soldiers who attend the MSF Basic Rider Course must complete an Experienced Rider Course or Military Sport Bike Rider Course within 12 months of completing the BRC.
- Upon completion of either the ERC or the MSRC, Soldiers will be issued a motorcycle endorsement valid for three years from the date of course completion.
- Soldiers must complete the ERC or MSRC every three years to operate and register a motorcycle.
- Civilian personnel and military dependents who have a motorcycle license or endorsement issued by

civil authorities of a country or a U.S. State or Territory of the U.S. are authorized to be issued a motorcycle endorsement to their U.S. Armed Forces Italy certificate of license or be issued a motorcycle certificate of license without having to complete a MSF Course.

Also precautions need to be made during the winter. "Snow tires or chains are required during the winter months, however, it must be emphasized that it is up to the individual local governments to determine the level or duration of the requirement," Olin said.

"(The safety committee's) recommendation is simple, first always check the weather conditions prior to departing for your chosen destination. Second, ensure your tires are road worthy and are properly serviced. Third, purchase a set of snow chains and keep them in your vehicle throughout the winter months," Olin said.

Bottom line, whether promoting motorcycle safety, cold weather driving safety, or ensuring the community is up to date on the latest health issues in Italy and Africa, safety is team effort on Caserma Ederle.

For a list of roads where chains or snow tires are mandatory, go to <http://www.poliziadistato.it/articolo/view/21073/>. To contact the USARAF Safety Office, call Michael Olin at DSN (314) 634-5165 or 0444-71-5165. To contact the Vicenza Installation Safety Office, call Frank Marcantonio at DSN (314) 634-8109 or 0444-71-8109.

Friends of Camp Darby start new programs

By Nicole Marquez

Friends of Camp Darby Wine Club Coordinator

Camp Darby is surrounded by wine country, yet many are afraid to venture into uncharted territory, break through the language barrier and embark upon a journey that transcends time. Friends of Camp Darby have a new Wine Tasting Club that is introducing many wines and wineries to eager palates. Those who were afraid to venture out need not be any longer.

Wine is a culture, civilization, cultivation, agriculture and is a part of humanity itself.

The club will begin our focus on the wine route of the Pisan Hills (La Strada del Vino delle Colline Pisane) which encompasses a diverse growing area of hills, valleys and flat lands. This area is known for its crisp white wines, Chianti DOCG and Chianti delle Colline Pisane DOCG. Both Chiantis are distinct in their characteristics, and subtle notes.

My own love affair with Italian wines was not always so. When my husband told me that we were moving to Italy I was extremely upset. I was highly allergic to wine and here I would find myself in the land of wine.

In the United States I found I could drink an organic red

from time to time, but because wine caused me so much grief and limited availability of organics in the states I had all but given up on wine.

To my amazement I found after forgetting to bring a benedryl to dinner after moving here that I was not allergic to the "Novello" I had been coaxed into drinking with my dinner. I began to find that not all wines, but most within Italy agreed with me quite well. I had no allergy, no pain, no problem. Why? As someone's grandma used to say, "The secret is in the sauce." No additives, no added sugars, no added sulfates, no added colors and of course the only secret additive; in my opinion, is love.

This beautiful country has taught me to appreciate the labor of love, time, and tradition of masterfully crafting wine and I am truly grateful. With gratitude I can finally put down my cola and toast properly.

Here at Darby we are fortunate to experience this time honored craft, and experience the tradition of Italian Wine. Quaint sprinklings of hamlets, winding roads, brilliant colors, and ancient echoes add to the charm of the hunt for the prized grape. Learn more about the Wine tasting club at www.friendsofcampdary.com. Cin cin

Book club challenges readers to leave comfort zones



Photo by Chiara Mattiolo

Camp Darby Librarian Michael McDaniel, right, and members of Friends of Camp Darby discuss the current book of the month club.

By Joyce Costello

USAG Livorno Public Affairs

Friends of Camp Darby and the Library are teaming up together to bring a book club to Darby. Interested community members will meet once a month and will propose two books each month taken from the library's list of available book club titles. According to

librarian, Michael McDaniel, a proposed book name will be drawn out of the hat for the following month's read.

"The library helps by providing a list of books for which there are 'book kits' which consists of eight-10 books that can be ordered through our online system," said McDaniel. "Currently Army Europe Libraries have approximately 180 titles in all genres at

no cost involved unless the number of readers exceeds the number of books available. At that point, members may have to order their own individual copy or wait for someone else to finish the book and then share it."

McDaniel says one of the benefits of the book club is that it's an opportunity for readers to get out of their comfort zone.

"If you never read mysteries and the book of the month is a mystery, this will be a good opportunity to get exposed to something you might not ordinarily choose," McDaniel said. "The discussion about that type of book will also be helpful in opening your eyes to other books of that genre that you might enjoy; since no one has time to read even a fraction of what's out there, word of mouth recommendations are always helpful."

Friends of Camp Darby President, Crystal Tierce, adds that they are really excited to get this club up and running.

"Our next meeting is Jan. 23 in the Army Community Service yellow ribbon room and we are reading 'Sarah's Key' by Tatiana de Rosnay," said Tierce.

Learn more about the book club at www.friendsofcampdary.com or visit the Camp Darby Library.

Fitness center wants you to lose to win

By Joyce Costello

USAG Livorno Public Affairs

The Camp Darby Fitness center is now taking registrations for their "Lose to Win" fitness incentive program. According to Ken Owen, this new program is an improved version of the former the Biggest Loser competition.

"While the Biggest Loser program focused only on weight and percentage of body fat lost for prizes, we have revamped the points system to include points for cardio and strength training as well as group exercise classes," said Owen.

He added that there will also be a fitness clinics conducted focusing on caloric need and fitness zone training where competitors can also earn points.

"We realize that while some people need to lose a great deal of weight post-holiday season, others would like to lose only

a little or maybe would just like an incentive to begin that fitness program that has never been maintained," explained Owen. "By restructuring the point system, this program can serve a wider population and give virtually anyone a chance of winning the prizes."

Community members can sign up at the Fitness Center Dec. 19- Jan. 14. The program will run Jan. 23 to March 25.

The program will start with mandatory five minute pre-evaluation and weigh-in conducted on a drop-in basis Jan. 17-18.

This program is based on a point system with weight loss, body fat, attendance to clinics and workouts are all awarded points. Participants who attend the pre and post evaluation will receive a T-shirt.

To learn more or to sign up to "Lose to Win", stop by the Fitness Center.

Darby Dates

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

Special Story Hour with Santa

Bring the little ones to a very special story hour with Santa at the library Dec. 20 at 10 a.m.

Holiday Office Closures

- ♦ The Health Clinic and Dental Clinic will be closed Dec. 23-26 and Dec. 30- Jan. 2.
- ♦ The Ed Center is closed Dec. 19-Jan. 2.

Army Community Services

633-7084

- ♦ Play group, Dec. 21
- ♦ Card Making Class, Dec. 21

Fitness Center

633-7440

- ♦ Lose to win incentive program open registration Dec. 19-Jan. 14.
- ♦ Free fitness orientation on proper techniques or how to train in the proper zone.

ITR

633-7589

Rome Trip, Dec. 23

Outdoor Recreation

633-7775

Ski season is now open. Sign up for ski trips at ODR

Bowling Alley

633-7458

♦ Christmas Eve Darby Lanes presents 'Elves and Elvis', a Christmas Music tribute to the King

♦ New hours of operation means more play time at the bowling alley and game room.

Mon-Thurs	Noon-8 p.m.
Friday	Noon-10 p.m.
Saturday	5 p.m.-10 p.m.
Sunday	5 p.m.-9 p.m.

Darby Community Club

633-7855

New Year's Eve dinner and party. Buy adults and children tickets in advance at DCC

Religious Activities

633-7267

9:40 a.m. Catholic reconciliation
10 a.m. Catholic Mass
11:15 a.m. Protestant worship
11:15 a.m. Catholic CCD
Club Beyond activities will resume after the schools winter break.

Stay informed with AFN Livorno

In the car or at home, tune into AFN for the latest news, weather and events. Radio: AFN The Eagle on 106.0 FM Mon -Fri, 6-10 a.m. and 2-6 p.m. TV on Atlantic or decoder Channel 14.

Santa Run:

Participants in the Run Santa Run dress up in costumes take part in the two-kilometer fun run downtown Vicenza. You can sign up for the run at Outdoor Recreation or call Beatrice Giometto at 0444-71-7901.



Photo by Laura Kreider

Local events

Christmas events in Vicenza:

- ♦ Magic Christmas: Saturdays and Sundays through Jan. 8. Wooden chalets in Corso Palladio, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; weekends and Italian holidays 10 a.m.-11 p.m. and Piazza San Lorenzo, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. featuring typical Christmas products from Italy and abroad.

- ♦ Santa Claus Village: ongoing through Jan. 8 in Piazza San Lorenzo, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Christmas items and decorations, Christmas plants, seasonal fruits and vegetables and free cotton candy for children.

- ♦ Ice-skating rink: open through Feb. 12, Campo Marzo, Saturdays-Sundays and holidays 9 a.m.-noon and 3-8 p.m.; weekdays 3-8 p.m. Entrance fee: Monday-Friday: €7 and €5 for children younger than 12 (fees include ice-skate rental); €3 entrance only; Saturdays-Sundays and holidays €9; €7 for children younger than 12 (fees include ice-skate rental); and €3 entrance only.

- ♦ Fairy tale Gardens: Saturday 2:30-7:30 p.m., and Sunday 10:30 a.m.-7 p.m., Giardini Salvi, Piazzale De Gasperi. Staging of the most popular fairy tales with lights, sounds, colors and more than 200 costumed people. Food booths featuring traditional Christmas sweets and local specialties.

- ♦ London Bus: ongoing through Jan. 8, 10 a.m.-midnight; Dec. 25 and Jan. 1, 1 p.m.-midnight; in Piazza Castello. Visit the typical London bus and have coffee and hot chocolate on board.

- ♦ Corri Babbo Natale Corri, or Run Santa Run, will be held Dec. 17, in Vicenza. The Vicenza Press Association and the City of Vicenza are co-sponsoring the sixth annual Run Santa Run charity fundraiser downtown 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., starting and ending at Campo Marzo, the park near the main train station. The €8 entrance fee includes a lightweight Santa suit to run in and hot chocolate and cake at the finish (€5 if you already have a Santa suit). Individuals and groups of all ages are welcome and there is special recognition

for the agency or association with the most participants. The course is under two miles and may be easily completed walking. Persons may pre-register to receive their costumes before race day, or may sign-up and pay the day of the event at 10 a.m. All the money raised goes to Italian charities. Last year the event raised about €12,000, most of it went to help the local flood victims. To register, call Beatrice Giometto at 0444-71-7901.

- Give joy at Christmas: the City of Vicenza has made an appeal for food donations for local needy families. Donations will be collected Saturday and Sunday at 30 local area supermarkets. Look for the sign "Riempimi di gioia" in local supermarkets if you want to donate.

Local Christmas markets:

Alte Ceccato, Sunday, 2-7 p.m., Viale Stazione and Via Pietro Ceccato, about 9 miles southwest of Vicenza.

Asiago, in Piazza Carli, Saturday-Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and 3-7 p.m. Food booths featuring local specialties and typical Christmas sweets.

Bassano del Grappa, ongoing through Dec. 26, Piazza Libertà and Piazza Garibaldi, about 23 miles northeast of Vicenza. Piazza Libertà, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; Thursdays and Saturdays 2-7:30 p.m.; Piazza Garibaldi, Tuesdays-Sundays 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m., Mondays 2-7:30 p.m.

Bolzano, ongoing Friday through Dec. 23, Mondays-Fridays 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sunday 9 a.m.-7 p.m., in Piazza Walther, about 120 miles north of Vicenza. More than 80 stalls in their typical little huts offer traditional seasonal gifts (handmade wooden, glass and ceramic products along with Christmas tree decorations, delicious seasonal pastries and many original gifts), plenty of food specialties available plus vin brulé or hot spiced wine. New this year: children's Christmas market where kids can take an active part baking Christmas cookies and make small Christmas decorations

and presents.

Camisano, Sunday, 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Via Roma, Via Settembre.

Gallio, ongoing through Jan. 8, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 3:30-7:30 p.m., Piazzetta Giardini, about 41 miles north of Vicenza. Wooden outdoor booths featuring local holiday sweets, hot chocolate, hot spiced wine local crafts and gift items. Entertainment with jugglers, musicians, fire-eaters, street artists, gnomes, elves, and acrobats. Shows and workshops for children, and a reindeer petting zoo.

Garda, "Christmas among the olive trees," ongoing through Jan. 8, Piazza Catullo e Lungolago Regina Adelaide; local and Tyrolean products; entertainment for children; folk music and dancing; art exhibits and local nativity set.

Verona, ongoing through Dec. 24, Piazza Mercato Vecchio. Traditional holiday sweets and craft; visit Santa Claus' little cottage. Sundays-Thursdays 10 a.m.-9:30 p.m., Fridays-Saturdays 10 a.m.-11 p.m.; "Nuremberg Christmas market": ongoing through Dec. 21, Monday-Thursday 10 a.m.-9:30 p.m.; Friday-Sunday 10 a.m.-11 p.m.; in Piazza dei Signori; wooden stands featuring holiday gift ideas, German holiday sweets, bread, and sausage.

Nativity Scenes Exhibit:

Saturday through Jan. 22, daily at the Arena in Verona, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. It features more than 400 nativity scenes from around the world. Entrance fee: €7; reduced cost of €6 for children 6-12 and senior citizens older than 60.

Mini train rides:

Saturdays, Sundays, and Italian national holidays through Jan. 8, 3-8 p.m., in Bassano del Grappa. Visit the Christmas market and downtown Bassano by train departing from Piazza Libertà. Fee €2.

Ecological skate rink:

Ongoing through Jan. 8, Bassano del Grappa, Piazza Libertà, Mondays-Fridays 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Saturdays-Sundays and Italian holidays 10 a.m.-11 p.m. Cost: €5.

FREE concerts, exhibits & events

Missionary Nativity Scenes exhibit:

Ongoing through Jan. 8, daily 9 a.m.-noon and 3-6 p.m., in Vicenza, Viale Trento 119. More than 500 nativity sets from all over the world are displayed.

Nativity sets and prayer cards exhibit:

Saturdays 3:30-5:30 p.m. and Sundays 10:30 a.m.-noon & 3:30-5:30 p.m. through Jan. 6, in Bassano del Grappa, Cappuccini Friar's Convent, Via S. Sebastiano 42.

Live Nativity scene:

In Lonigo, ongoing through Dec. 24, Piazza Garibaldi. Saturday, Dec. 17, live Nativity Scene. Sunday, free mini train rides start at 3 p.m.

Live Nativity Scene Parade:

Saturday, departs at 4:30 p.m. from San Michele ai Servi Church, in Piazza Biade.

Christmas Concert:

Sunday, 4:30 p.m., in Vicenza, San Paolo Church, Via Carducci 13.

Christmas Concert:

Sunday, 9 p.m., in Costabissara, San Giorgio's Church, Via Roma.

Conservatory student concert:

Saturday, 5 p.m., in Vicenza, Conservatory, Contrà San Domenico 33.

BOSS trips

Ski/Snowboard trips:

Dec. 21 in San Martino
Dec. 24 in Alleghe
Dec. 26 in Folgaria
Dec. 31 in San Martino
Jan. 13-16 in Matterhorn
Jan. 14 in Kronplatz
Jan. 16 in Folgaria
Jan. 21 Mystery trip
Jan. 28 in San Martino
Feb. 4 in Obereggen
Feb. 11 Mystery trip
Feb. 18 in Folgaria
Feb. 25 in Alta Badia
March 3 in Brixen
March 16-18 Solomiti Superski

ODR trips

Gardaland at Christmas:

Dec. 23
Ski and snowboard Alleghe: Dec. 24
Christmas in Strasbourg, France: Dec. 24-26
Ski and snowboard Folgaria, Dec. 26
Asiago lunch in a lodge: Dec. 28
Ski and snowboard San Martino di Castrozza: Dec. 31
Rome overnight, Dec. 31
Ski and snowboard Kronplatz: Jan. 7

Trips can be booked on WebTrac at <https://webtrac.mwr.army.mil/webtrac/Vicenzarectrac.html> or by following the WebTrac link on www.vicenzaMWR.com or at ODR.

Now Showing

Ederle Theater

Thursday	50/50 (PG 13)	6 p.m.
Friday	Real Steel (PG 13) The Ides of March (R)	6 p.m. 9 p.m.
Saturday	New Year's Eve (PG 13) Money Ball (PG 13)	3 p.m. 6 p.m.
Sunday	New Year's Eve (PG 13) The Ides of March (R)	3 p.m. 6 p.m.
Wed.	Real Steel (PG 13)	6 p.m.
Dec. 22	Money Ball (PG 13)	6 p.m.
Dec. 23	Johnny English Reborn (PG 13) The Thing (R)	6 p.m. 9 p.m.

Camp Darby Theater

Dec. 23	Shark Night (PG 13)	6 p.m.
Dec. 24	Arthur Christmas (PG)	6 p.m.
Dec. 25	Closed	1 p.m.
Dec. 30	The Thing (R)	6 p.m.

Admission: Age 12 and older, \$4, younger than 12, \$2.

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

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

Special events

The USO and Family and MWR bring you UFC Champions Saturday, 1-4 p.m. at the Fitness Center. There will be a meet and greet, demo and clinic for Soldiers, a question and answer session and a photo opportunity with autograph session for the audience. Call 634-7876 for more information.

Help the MWR reach their goal of 1,000 friends by Dec. 31. Friend them today on Facebook, Vicenza Family and MWR. The person who is their 1,000th friend will receive an FMWR fold-up chair with carry bag. As a friend of Vicenza Family and MWR you will be able to see the latest events and activities going on the Vicenza community, plus be the first to know of any changes to our events. And coming in January, Tuesday Trivia, you will win a FMWR prize if you are the first to answer our events related trivia question of the week.

Early closure

Community Bank will close at 2 p.m. Tuesday to allow employees to attend a Union Meeting.

CYSS

- A reminder, CDC building 398 will be closed Dec. 19-Jan. 2. Hourly care during this period will be on a space available basis in the Villaggio CDC. To request care, call Villaggio CDC at 634-5700.
- CYSS is hosting the Boys and Girls Club of America's annual Fine Arts Exhibit thru Dec. 30 at the Post Library. Support the youth in the Vicenza community and stop by to view and vote for your favorites. Call 634-7659 for more information.

Job openings

Vicenza Main Store is hiring a senior store associate in hardlines. To apply, go to www.applymyexchange.com. Position closes Saturday.

Arts and Crafts Center

Kids Craft Club meets Wednesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons, 2-4 p.m. starting Wednesday. Spend an afternoon during winter school break, creating with a variety of winter projects to choose from. The cost is just \$2.50 per hour. Come by the Arts & Crafts Center Wednesday-Sunday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and find the perfect gift for family and friends from local artists. We have jewelry items, wine glasses, ceramic tiles, framed photographs of Italy, soap, cards, gift tags, and more.

EFMP Athletics

The Exceptional Family Member Program is sponsoring a Thru the Zoo Yoga class, Tuesdays 3:30-4:30 p.m. Dec. 6-20 at the Physical Fitness Center exercise room. For more info or to register call 634-7500/8582.

Holiday Hours

- For all the Holiday hours of all Family and MWR facilities visit www.vicenzaMWR.com and click on the clock.

- The U.S. Army Health Center will be open for clinical operations Dec. 23 from 8 a.m.-noon. Only the birthing center will be open Dec. 24, 26, 31 and Jan. 2.

Government Purchase card training

The next class will be held Jan. 13 at the Distributed Training Facility, building 128, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Reservations are not required to attend. For questions, contact Scheryl Forsythe-Bolling at 634-3968.

Masters degrees

Interested in obtaining your master's degree? Look no further, University of Phoenix has a face to face MBA program starting in January. Classes are six-weeks long and meet one night a week. You can complete your degree in less than two years. Mention this ad and get your application fee waived. Registration closes the first week of January, so sign up today by contacting Sarah Foley at Vicenza.Campus@phoenix.edu.

Arena

- Make your plans for New Year's Eve at the Lion's Den. Ring in the New Year with the masquerade ball party 8 p.m. until midnight. Live music from Drop Simpler!, plus a DJ, food party favors and a complimentary toast at midnight. Advance tickets are \$25 and \$30 at the door. A note to gamers: you will need tickets for this event to use the game room.
- There's also a Bowling Party downstairs for New Year's Eve. Sign up before Dec. 30 for a 2-hour package that includes shoes, two hours of bowling for up to six

people, 1 large cheese pizza and 1 pitcher of soda. All for just \$35.85. Sign up at the Bowling desk.

Fuel coupons

After Dec. 31, ESSO gas stations will no longer be accepting the NATO Forces Tax-Free gas coupons. The coupon can only be redeemed at ENI (AGIP) gas stations.

CTC registration

Term 3 registration will begin for Central Texas College January 3. They are offering CJSA 1322: Introduction to Criminal Justice, on Mondays and Wednesdays, starting Jan. 23-March 14 from 5:30-8:45 p.m. In addition, two Early Childhood classes will be offered, including CDEC 1354: Child Growth and Development, on Saturdays beginning Jan. 14-28 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and CDEC 1335: Early Childhood Development: 3 to 5 Years, on Saturdays beginning Feb. 11-25 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. For more information, call 634-6514, email vicenza@europe.ctcd.edu, or visit room 206 in the Education Center.

UMUC Spring session

This holiday season UMUC is giving gift of knowledge, scholarships and more. The following classes are being offered locally: Italian 1, 2 and 3, Accounting 2, History of Venice, Child Psychology, College Math, Intro to Writing, Intro to Contemporary Social Problems, Ethics in Computers and Library Research Seminar. If you are active duty or a military spouse, apply for a \$100 textbook scholarship. Registration for UMUC's Spring Session I runs until Jan. 15. Term dates are from Jan. 16-March 11. For more info call 634-7055 or e-mail vice@europe.umuc.edu or visit www.ed.umuc.edu.

Continuing education scholarships

In May 2011 the Vicenza Community Club Scholarship Committee gave away \$25,000 in continuing education scholarships. High School seniors, VCC members working towards completing their degrees, and dependents of VCC members can apply for 2012.

If you or your children are interested in our Scholarship program, our applications will be made available January 5. You can pick up an application at the Library, through the guidance counselor at the High School, at the VCC Thrift Store, Davis Hall, and through our website <http://vccitaly.org>.

For more information on the VCC Scholarship Program contact Mari McKenzie at scholarships@vccitaly.org.

Motorcycle club

The Green Knights Military Motorcycle Club, Chapter 93, is seeking new members in the Vicenza military community. They are currently accepting new applications and are preparing for the spring 2012 riding season. A meeting will be held Sunday at the Arena at 2 p.m. The Green Knights Military Motorcycle Club is dedicated to fostering camaraderie, motorcycle safety, and community motorcycle awareness. Membership in the Green Knights is open to all military, Department of Defense civilians, family members and local nationals employed on Caserma Ederle. The Green Knights accepts members with all motorcycle types: cruiser, sport, trikes, motorcycles with sidecars and scooters. All members must have a motorcycle license endorsement and own a 200cc or larger vehicle. For more information contact chad.t.scoggins@gmail.com or corey.kerzmann@yahoo.com.

Religious activities

Chaplain Crisis Line

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

Sunday services

9 a.m.: Mass, Sacrament of Reconciliation following Mass, or during duty hours
11 a.m.: Protestant worship
1:30 p.m.: Full Gospel Pentecostal worship
5 p.m.: Contemporary Christian service

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

3 p.m.: Praise dance practice
3:15 p.m.: Middle School Club Beyond meets in Villaggio Youth Center
5 p.m.: Contemporary Praise band practice
5:30 p.m.: PWOC Bible study. Dinner provided. No child care
5:30 p.m.: High School Club Beyond meets at the Teen Center for dinner; meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. Call 340-139-4073 for information
5:30 p.m.: Catholic choir practice
6:45 p.m.: Gospel choir practice

Thursdays

9:30 a.m.: Catholic Women of the Chapel
5:30 p.m.: Gospel service choir rehearsal
7:15 p.m.: Gospel service Bible study

Faith group contacts

Islamic: Call 634-7519 (0444-71-7519) for info
Jewish: Call Paul Levine at 345-907-2108
Latter Day Saints: Call Chance Wilson at 327-869-8107. Sunday services, 1:30-4:30 p.m. at Viale Trento 246, Vicenza.
Bahá'í Faith: Call Russell Menard at 389-133-4627 or 349-708-2535.

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



Photo by Laura Kreider

Make-an-ornament: Ian Rhees, 3, looks at one of the items created with the help of his mom Rebecca, left, during the annual Ornament Workshop to kick off the holiday season held at the library Dec. 7.

Know of an event we're missing? Email the *Outlook* at editor@eur.army.mil. We gladly accept story ideas, photo and story submissions. All submissions are subject to editing.

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

USAHC surgically removes USARAF at line

By Tom Hlavacek
Special to the Outlook

One month into the new season and already one rivalry has developed between the Vicenza Health Clinic and U. S. Army Africa.

Both undefeated teams showed up in style wearing new team uniforms, but only one team was prepared to put on a show. The game was decided in the final minute with VHC leading 31-28. Floor Captain Marlon Walker directed his team to a stall tactic that proved to be the right strategy. USARAF, left with no other option, fouled Antonine Fair who hit both free throws to “seal the deal” with the final score 33-28.

Point guard Tony Rodriguez led the VHC to victory scoring three 3-pointers, playing tenacious defense, and finishing with a team high 10 points. Center Mike Hagler and forward Hasaan Reynolds netted 6 a piece.

“The three 3-pointers by Rodriguez, his pressure defense and steals by Stacy Turner at the right time were keys to



Photo by US Army Africa

Norman Fisher shooting a free throw while Health Center and U.S. Army Africa players look on, from left to right, Kendall Booker, Mike Hagler, Staci Turner, Robert Dawson and Hasahn Reynolds.

tonight’s win” said Walker.

USARAF’s veteran guard Joseph Kaminski was the leading scorer for the “Lions” with 10. Chris Dula and Eric Anderson were the next highest scorers each tallying 3 points.

The 2011 League’s final games are Dec. 14 followed by the holiday break. Contact sports staff Mark Juliano or Ricky Jackson concerning games resuming Jan. 9 and other upcoming sports and fitness events.

US Youth Soccer Boys 4th in International tourney, Swinehart captains girl’s team to 3rd place finish



Photo by Sonya Day

Members of the U.S. youth boys soccer team listen to inspirational words from their coach during a game in Rome.

By Sohrab Shaikh & Quinn Hurt
Vicenza High School freshmen

ROME — Three Vicenza High School boys and one girl traveled to Rome to compete in international boys and girls tournaments the first weekend in December. The boys placed fourth in the 10 team tournament and the U.S. Italia Girl’s Blue team placed third of four teams.

Anthony Guerra, Sohrab Shaikh and Quinn Hurt played four games over two days beating St. George in their final consolation match.

For the boys, the tournament highlights included GK Guerra stopping 26 shots. Guerra was credited for bringing the team together and giving them hope. Hurt scored against St. Steven’s international school of Rome with a half-volley pass driving the ball into the net.

Three of the players are students at Vicenza High School and another player served as captain of the girls team.

According to U.S. Italia soccer coach Heather Ierardi, Shaikh had the shot of the game in their final game against host St. George. He scored in the last minute placing the ball in the upper right goal.

In the girl’s division, Swinehart was the Blue team captain for the girl’s team. They played three games in the four team bracket.

According to Heather Ierardi, “The players participate with Americans against international teams in higher level completion.”

They will have three practice sites in January and February preparing for an international tournament in Ansbach, Germany, Feb. 18-19. For more information about these training sites or participation contact Heather Ierardi at 333-407-5288 or email: coach.heather@live.com or Carmen Frank at frankcfrank@yahoo.com.

COMMUNITY UNIT/REC OPEN PLAY BASKETBALL

Team	Win	Loss	THE THRONE	1	0
USARAF	3	0	CHOSEN 2-503rd	1	2
USAHC	2	1	21st TSC	1	3
HHC 1-503rd	2	1	C Co 1-503rd	0	4
LEGION 1-503rd	2	1	DESTINED 2-503rd	0	0

The 2011 USAG-Vicenza Unit/Recreational Basketball League matches are Mondays and Wednesdays at 6 and 7 p.m. Call the Fitness Center for specifics at 634-7009.

Sports Shorts

Lunch hour fitness

Does your lunch hour need more excitement? Come join the Fitness Staff for the “Game of the Week” each Thursday afternoon at noon. Reminisce while you play old school recess games such as four square and kickball. The new game for each week will be posted at the Fitness Center on Tuesday.

Unit & rec play

New players are always welcome. Call 634-7009 or individual POCs.

Rugby: Tuesdays and Thursdays 6-7:30 p.m., North 40 field.

Basketball: 11:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for 10 or more, Fitness Center.

Racquetball: 6-7 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays for 16 participants, Fitness Center.

Men’s Soccer: 7-9 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays for 24 or more players at the turf field behind the Ederle Inn. Email shaun.nurse@amedd.army.mil or call 636-9648/9120/9632.

Women’s Soccer: (not currently meeting) 5:30-7 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays for 12 or more players at the turf field behind the Ederle Inn. Email sr_brasher@yahoo.com or call 634-8925.

Volleyball: 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays for eight or more, Fitness Center.

Frisbee golf: 6 p.m. Wednesdays, North 40 field.

Tennis: Open play Singles and Doubles on Mondays and Wednesdays, 6 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Volunteers needed

The Mako Sharks Swim Team is looking for adult volunteers to assist. Swimmers are elementary-high school ages and compete in the European Forces Swim League. For more info., contact John Casey at 0444-91-2612 or email john.j.casey@us.army.mil. Visit <http://makosharks.homestead.com/index.html>.

Become a ninja

Check out the Ninpo Taijutsu class at the Fitness Center. Learn the ancient art of Ninja with classes every Tuesday and Thursday at 5:30 p.m. at the Fitness Center.

Chapel Dance Team

The Chapel’s Praise Dance Team is looking for new recruits to join the fun. Contact Stephanie Lewis at mrs.tallaslewis@gmail.com for more information.