

## What's Inside

Garrison news,  
pages 2 & 3

Speak Out

Garrison breaks  
ground on new school

Holiday greetings

At your service

Counseling services

Soldier Samaritans

Headphones can kill

Community events,  
pages 4 & 5

Blue-star program in  
Schweinfurt

Community  
camera

Camp Darby's new  
commissary

Soldiers' Theatre  
readies Christmas  
production

173rd holiday party

Community news,  
pages 6 & 7

Out & About



Movie schedule

Community notes

Sports,  
page 8

Three-point basketball

Pilates classes

Self-defense class

# Ambush Alley: Road to Zerok Combat Outpost

## Recounting tale of ambush

Story and photos by  
Spc. Micah E. Clare  
4th Brigade Combat Team PAO

**ZEROK COMBAT OUTPOST, Afghanistan-** It's known to Coalition forces as "Ambush Alley."

Despite the imminent threat of attack by insurgent fighters along the winding, narrow road surrounded by steep hills and large rocks on the way to Zerok Combat Outpost in northern Paktika Province, nothing it throws at them can deter the courage of the paratroopers of 1st Battalion (Airborne), 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team.

Staff Sgt. Timothy Hamilton, a mortar team squad leader, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, remembers one such attack on Aug. 27. A day he will never forget.

The HHC convoy was moving from Forward Operating Base Orgun-E to Zerok COP on a mission to secure a nearby pass while the battalion command group convoy traveled through. As the convoy stopped to send a dismounted team into the hills, the attack began.

Hamilton stepped out of the passenger side of his vehicle to set up a mortar firing position with his Soldiers, when he heard a roaring noise somewhere behind him.

"I heard a big explosion," Hamilton said. "I whirled around just in time to see a [rocket propelled grenade] impact into the truck behind me. I immediately jumped back into my truck."

On cue, a hail of small arms fire came raining down on the convoy from the same direction. The gunners went into action immediately.

"My gunner opened fire with the [M-240B machine gun]," Hamilton

said. "The enemy firing positions were so close though; his machine gun broke down after it was directly hit three to four times, so he switched to his M-4 and emptied about six magazines at the attackers."

This was when Spc. Dillon Bergstad, a .50 caliber machine gunner, took a round through his upper arm while firing from the company commander's vehicle.

"Suddenly I was knocked down," Bergstad said. "It felt like somebody pushed me over and I fell back into the truck. When I got back up, I looked around, but didn't see anything at first, so I thought nothing had happened."

He kept firing, and remembers killing several enemy fighters at close range.

As the convoy started moving forward to get away from the side attack, they started taking even heavier contact from the front.

Four RPGs hit the company commander's truck.

"Every time we stopped, another pane of armored glass was 'spider webbing' as round after round cracked against it," Bergstad said. "I couldn't believe the intensity of this attack, they just wouldn't stop coming. These guys weren't joking around."

Hamilton, back in his vehicle, felt something hit him in the back of his helmet.

"It felt like a jackhammer," he said. "It slammed my head down and right about then I heard another thump and a searing heat on my neck."

Two rounds had punched through his truck. One had hit his helmet and another had grazed his neck. He could see a dent on the floor where that bullet had missed his thigh by inches and hit the floorboard.

It was during this time that the



Paratroopers from 1-503rd, 173rd ABCT, conduct a dismounted patrol along with an improvised explosive device clearance convoy through Ambush Alley, Nov. 3.

first sergeant's gunner, Pfc. Thomas Wilson was killed.

Even though the loss of their teammate was awful, the rest of the platoon still had to concentrate on getting out alive, Hamilton said.

"We just couldn't believe it," Hamilton said. "In the moment, you kind of have to forget about it and just focus."

The attackers retreated after about 10 minutes of sustained gunfire and the paratroopers quickly worked to tow the severely damaged trucks and bring everyone back to Zerok COP. Three vehicles needed to be towed back, and the other vehicles had broken glass, blown out tires and other damage.

Once there, both Hamilton and Bergstad were treated by medics, who were amazed to find their wounds very minor.

Hamilton had barely escaped having his neck pierced and his thigh penetrated; Bergstad had a bullet lodged just under the skin near his bicep, which was easily removed with little damage.

"I realize I could have lost my dome," Hamilton said. "I was incredibly lucky."

In his three deployments, Hamilton, a husband and father of two, says this is the worst ambush

he's ever been in. He was able to count 34 bullet strikes on his truck, including the two above his head that nearly killed him.

Three days later, the HHC convoy was mission ready once again, patrolling on the way back to FOB Orgun-E.

Since August the 1-503rd paratroopers have made many more trips through ambush alley and have been attacked on most of them.

It doesn't make any difference to the 173rd Sky Soldiers though.

Sometimes Hamilton looks up at the bullet holes above his head and sees the sunlight shining through them.

"When I see those holes, I think to myself, a few more inches," he said. "It would have been a completely different story."

Despite the loss of a comrade, he still knows they have a job to do.

"We'll just keep rolling through," he said.

Bergstad, looking over the ambush site from his turret, says he now sits a little lower in his seat than before.

"Still, somebody's got to patrol this area," he said. "It might as well be us."



Spc. Dillon Bergstad, a .50 caliber gunner, HHC, 1-503rd, 173rd ABCT, sits in his turret after a long convoy through Paktika Province, Afghanistan, Nov. 9. Bergstad was shot through the arm while firing at attackers three months ago.

# Garrison news

## USAG Vicenza breaks ground for new schools, childcare facilities

USAG Vicenza Public Affairs  
Press Release

A groundbreaking ceremony was held Nov. 27 on Caserma Ederle's Villaggio della Pace for the construction of new elementary and middle schools and childcare facilities.

The elementary school, (about 13,935 square meters) will have a capacity for up to 1,050 students and the middle school (about 6,225 square meters) will seat another 270.

The child development center, and school age services facilities will have room for 348 children. These facilities will occupy about 4,088 square meters, and contain modern, well-equipped playgrounds, separate rooms for homework, computers, art, the performing arts and a large multi-purpose room that can be used for sports as well as assemblies. A

demonstration kitchen for cooking projects is also planned.

The facilities will replace the aging buildings on Caserma Ederle with modern, environmentally responsible structures and sports fields in the American housing area. About 100 of the older row houses will be demolished to provide space for the campus.

Later projects will include a new high school at the same site. The projects will ultimately lead to more green space on both Villaggio della Pace and on Caserma Ederle.

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) announced the award for a new school complex Sept. 25 to construction company CMC di Ravenna, from Ravenna, Italy.

The amount of the award is \$50 million (€45 Million). Construction is to begin this winter and is scheduled to be complete summer 2010.



School children join in with the dignitaries, including Gen. David D. McKeirnan, commanding general USAREUR, Maj. Gen. Frank Helmick, SETAF commander and Russell Hall, IMA-Europe director, to turn over the first shovels of dirt for the groundbreaking of the new school and childcare facilities on Villaggio. (Photo by Paolo Bovo, 7th JMTTC Photo Lab)

# Play it safe or go for it?

## Holiday greetings for the politically correct world

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.)  
Bill Phillips

Special to the Outlook

Well, it's that time of the year

again. That dangerous time when you can offend someone merely by your greeting.

Dare I greet you with a Merry Christmas or would you be offended?

If I know you are Jewish, I would greet you with a Happy Hanukkah.

If you are Muslim, I would wish you a Happy Eid Al-Adha.

A Wiccan would appreciate a Happy Winter Solstice greeting and if you celebrate Kwanzaa I would give you the appropriate greeting.

The problem comes with the fact that the vast majority of Americans celebrate Christmas and, unless you know that a person is of another faith group, it is common to go ahead and greet them with a cheery Merry Christmas.

I don't know what your experience has been, but I find that most people of faith are not offended by the wrong greeting. They usually just make the correction and you go ahead and get the greeting right.

If, on the other hand, you want to play it safe, the best greeting is probably Happy Holidays.

Of course even that can be problematic since the word holiday is derived from Holy day and was originally a religious term.

As an Army chaplain I am here to encourage and assist everyone in the practice of their faith.

My own preference in the greeting dilemma, is to celebrate our diversity rather than aim for the lowest common denominator of not offend anyone. Each of us must decide how best to handle

the situation.

However, in the spirit of diversity, please check out some of the special religious celebrations happening this holiday season.

**HANUKKAH:** Begins on Dec. 4 and Jewish members of the community are invited to a Hanukkah celebration at the November's home on Sunday Dec. 9. For more information contact Dr. or Mrs. November at 328-054-9709 or november6@msn.com.

**VICENZA NOEL:** Come and join us for a "Vicenza Noel" on Dec. 9 at 6 p.m. at the Caserma Ederle Chapel. It will be a celebration of music and carols to bring in the Christmas season, including special music from the Children's Choir, the Contemporary Praise Band, the

Catholic and the Protestant Choirs.

**EID AL-ADHA:** is a religious festival celebrated by Muslims worldwide as a commemoration of the Prophet Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son for God. Eid al-Adha will be celebrated on/about Dec. 20. For more information, please call Mohamed Noeman at DSN 634-6306.

**Christmas Eve masses:**  
*Christmas Eve Vigil Mass* 4 p.m. Dec. 24

*Christmas Midnight Mass:* midnight Dec. 24

*Christmas Eve candlelight service:*

Protestant candl light service. 7 p.m. Dec. 24

*New Year's Eve:*

Watch Night Service 9:30 p.m. Dec. 31.

## Speak Out

### "What are you going to ask Santa to bring you for Christmas?"

By Laura Kreider



Sixth grade

I am going to ask for an iPod, some DS games, a DVD and some CDs.



Second grade

I will ask for everybody to have a Merry Christmas, because it feels good to help others.



First grade

I am going to ask Santa for a Nintendo DS for Christmas.



Second grade

I will ask Santa a laptop because my dad does not let me use his computer.



Second grade

What I would like for Christmas is a Hannah Montana Barbie doll because she is cool and a laptop because they are funnier than popcorn.

# On front line for suicide prevention

By Diana Bahr  
USAG Vicenza Public Affairs

The statistics were startling to the audience gathered in the Ederle Theater Wednesday:

- 30,000+ people die from suicide each year.

- In the U.S. suicide is the ninth leading cause of death. But in the Army suicide is the third leading cause of death.

- On average in the U.S., there are 11-12 'completed' suicides per 100,000 people. In the Army it's approximately 13 completed suicides per 100,000.

A suicide threat or an attempt means that the individual feels they have exhausted alternatives for a solution to their pain – not that the individual wants to die, according to Chaplain (Maj.) Bill Schneider, Vicenza Family Life chaplain, who was the presenter for the Suicide Awareness training class.

"Most people just want the pain to end. They feel hopeless and helpless and just want to end the pain," he said.

The most common reasons for wishing to commit suicide are breakups of relationships or death of a loved one, according to Schneider. Other reasons include distress over financial situations, lack of a support system (close family/friends), worry over job or school performance and effects of drugs or alcohol.

Whatever the reason, suicide should not be an option, he

stressed during the class, and we should all be on the lookout for signs of trouble in our family, friends and coworkers.

"Be up front with them," he told the audience. "Come and ask them if they're considering suicide. They want and need to know that someone cares; that someone is there to listen and help."

Schneider then went on to talk about suicidal indicators. These may include talking or hinting about death or suicide; a preoccupation with death; giving away prized possessions; and making suicidal plans.

We're all on the front line for suicide prevention, he said, if we think a friend, loved one or co-worker is thinking about suicide, it's up to us to take steps as leaders and friends to prevent the needless loss of life.

If you think you know someone who may be thinking about suicide, talk to them, or encourage them to contact the chaplains or a health provider.

The Vicenza post chaplains are available Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. The new number is 634-KARE (5273), 0444-71-5273.

In Livorno, call the chaplains at 633-7257, 633-8336, or 050-54-8336 or 7257.

In Bamberg, you can reach the chaplains at 469-8853 or 24-hour duty chaplain at 469-7492.

Schweinfurt chaplains may be reached at 354-1570 and the 24-hour duty chaplain is at 016-227-04691.

## Myths, Facts about suicide

**Myth—Improvement in a suicidal person means that the danger is over.**

**Fact—**Beware of people who are taking medications. Also, a period of calm may follow a decision to commit suicide.

**Myth—People who talk about suicide rarely attempt, or commit suicide.**

**Fact—**Nearly 80 percent of those who attempt or commit suicide give some verbal warning of their intentions.

**Myth—Suicide is an act of impulse with no previous planning.**

**Fact—**Most suicides are carefully planned and thought about for weeks.

**Myth—December has the highest suicide rate.**

**Fact—**Nationally, December has one of the lowest suicide rates. Spring/summer months have the highest suicide rates.

**Myth—Talking to someone about suicidal feelings will cause them to commit suicide.**

**Fact—**Asking someone about their feelings makes them feel relieved that someone recognized their pain.

**Myth—All suicidal persons are mentally ill.**

**Fact—**Any person is capable of committing suicide.

# Wearing headphones are you listening?



By Christopher Sheets  
Safety & Occupational Health  
Special to the Outlook

Many of us wear headphones

listening to music during a variety of activities; however, caution should be used anytime we wear headphones.

Recently, a 16-year-old was killed while riding a bicycle to school because he was unable to hear the approaching school bus and turned into its path. This type of accident does occur, maybe not frequently, but it has devastating results. Riding a bicycle with headphones on along a roadway is just plain dangerous. However, the same affect can be associated with a number of activities such as roller skating, running, skateboarding, and walking while wearing headphones.

Before anyone begins an activity they should always

consider potential hazards and assess the risks associated with the hazards. If you cannot hear an approaching vehicle because of headphones then do not use them. Would you play football with headphones? How about basketball? Why not? Simple - because you would not be able to hear what was happening around you (situational awareness).

Be smart and remain alert. Know your situation and the potential hazards around you. It could save your life or the life of another. U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza Policy Memorandum 06-32 prohibits the wearing of portable headphones while jogging, running, bicycling, skating or skateboarding on roads and streets on DOD installations.

# SETAF Samaritan Soldiers aid motorist

Story and photo by  
Sgt. Justin Nieto  
SETAF Public Affairs

Two Soldiers, both on their way home from work, stopped to help an injured motorist Nov. 6, near Marola, Italy.

The Soldiers, Pfc. James Pattison with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 173rd ABCT and Pvt. David Gustafson with Headquarters Support Company, SETAF, were heading toward Gustafson's home in Grumulo when they hit some heavy traffic.

"As we got to the intersection, Pattison and I noticed at about the same time that there was a civilian lying in the road next to a moped scooter and another vehicle was parked on the side of the road across with its window broken out," said Gustafson.

Richard Boudreau, a retired master sergeant, was on the scene trying to direct traffic around the accident and help the injured motorcyclist.

"We asked him if there was anything we could do to help," said Pattison. "It's in our nature to help people, so we wanted to at least ask."

"He gave me a rapid explanation and I asked if there was any medical personnel onsite," continued Gustafson. "When we saw there were none, we realized we had to help in whatever way we could.



(L-R) Pfc. James Pattison HHC, 173rd ABCT and Pvt. David Gustafson with HSC, SETAF, were able to lend assistance due to their training.

"I judged the situation, and began to run through my training for evaluating a casualty," said Gustafson, who quickly assessed the man had a mild concussion, a broken hand and possible ankle injury.

"These Soldiers were trained in first aid and they utilized this knowledge in assisting in making the injured driver comfortable, and providing traffic control on this very busy road until the ambulance and police finally arrived," said Boudreau.

"The ambulance arrived shortly after the Carabinieri, who arrived about 15 minutes after Pattison and me. We gave the medics a quick sit-rep through the interpreter and then moved the scooter (measuring the location for the Carabinieri) to give

them more room to work," said Gustafson.

Shortly after, the paramedics cleared the scene with the victim, and Pattison and Gustafson stayed on scene to relay what information they had to the Carabinieri about the accident scene.

"Pattison and I just have this need to help people when they need it," said Gustafson. "Pfc. Pattison and I stopped only because of our will to help others. Neither one of us had any concern for the nationality or any other factors of the situation.

"We saw someone who was hurt and knew that the help we could render would not be as good as a paramedic," said Gustafson. "But something was better than nothing."

## The Outlook

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## At your service

Catherine Hurst, Deployment Support Assistant Coordinator, at the Davis Soldier and Family Readiness Center, is at your service 8a.m. - 5p.m. Mon - Fri. Hurst has lived in Vicenza for three years during which time she has become an avid mountain bike rider. After volunteering as a translator in the TIPS program at ACS Hurst officially joined federal service eight months ago.

"I organize on-post and off-post activities for spouses of deployed soldiers, to get them doing activities they wouldn't do themselves while giving them insight into services available on post."

Activities start this month and are a great way to meet new people, take in new sights and learn new things. To contact her: E-mail Catherine.hurst@eur.army.mil or DSN 634 6192.



Catherine Hurst  
Deployment support

# Community events

## Blue Star program still shining in Schweinfurt

Story and photo by  
Mark Heeter

USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs

**SCHWEINFURT, Germany** – The Blue Star Card program – the Schweinfurt Child and Youth Services version of the overall Army Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command 15:12 initiative – continues to roll on here.

“It’s the Army’s way of providing extra support to families affected by the extended deployment,” said Kris Davis, a CYS program operations specialist for U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt.

For Schweinfurt families, that means being able to save \$17,000 since August, when Blue Star started, in costs for regularly scheduled child care, according to Davis. And the Blue Star card has resulted in an additional \$10,000 in family savings for sports programs, she noted.

“This is a tangible way that Army leadership is showing that they appreciate sacrifices that our

families and Soldiers make,” Davis said, noting that the program is designed to benefit families and children of deployed Soldiers, but has since been extended partially to garrison and rear-detachment families as well.

“Perhaps the biggest benefit is relieving some of the stress that families are going through with deployment. We really want to make that as easy and painless as possible,” said Michael Payne, the newly arrived Schweinfurt CYS coordinator.

“The CYS team here has done a tremendous job in helping to support needs of the community during a difficult and stressful deployment,” Payne said.

The Blue Star card program has been in effect long enough for program officials to evaluate which programs to continue – and where adjustments need to be made.

One change was deciding that the Child Development Center and School Age Services would no longer remain open Thursdays until

8 p.m. The adjustment now allows the staffs to provide free child care to families on day three of reintegration.

“It’s a far better utilization of the caregivers’ time to be supporting that as opposed to a program not being utilized in the community,” Payne said.

The extended Thursdays were not heavily used by families, so officials reviewed how to better serve deployed and reintegrating families, Davis said.

“It’s really diverting some of our resources ... to provide that care,” she said. “It was our least-used program.”

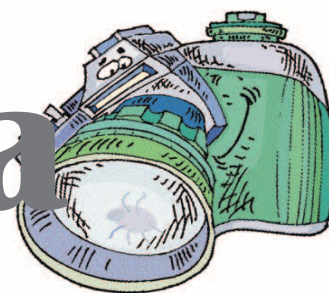
Davis also reminded customers of two important points: Blue Star programs continue for families of the deployed 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry; and parents should consider the timing of their requests to use hourly care.

“There’s usually more availability in the afternoons than in the morning” she said. “They have more than one option.”



Jailyn Morgan (left) and Kaleb Scott practice their fishing skills at the Schweinfurt Child Development Center, as part of the garrison’s Blue Star program.

# Community camera



Nearly 60 fourth-graders assembled for the flag presentation from the 2-503rd, 173rd ABCT.

## Flying the flag

Story and photo by  
Laura Kreider  
Outlook Staff

About 60 fourth-graders attended a flag presentation held at the Vicenza Elementary School Nov. 28.

During the event, Sam Ostlund presented the fourth-graders with an American Flag that was flown over Afghanistan the first day of school by his father Lt. Col. William B. Ostlund, from 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry (Airborne), 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team.

Recently, the VES received the flag and a certificate that Sam read to all the fourth-graders assisted by his teacher Barbara Ozkurt.

“The Paratroopers of The Rock, 2-503rd Inf (Airborne), 173rd ABCT, while in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, proudly flew this symbol of our great nation over Camp Blessing, a remote camp in the austere and rugged Hindu Kush Mountains, in Kunar Province, Afghanistan,” Ostlund read to the assembled classes.

“I think it was special that my dad flew the flag on the first day of school and sent it to my class,” said Sam Ostlund after the event.

“He is always thinking of me and my friends. I liked the ceremony because I had never been in a ceremony with a flag before and it felt good to share the flag with all the other fourth-graders.”



## CG addresses 173rd ABCT town hall

Maj. Gen. Frank Helmick, Southern European Task Force commander, listens to spouses of deployed 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team Soldiers during a town hall meeting in the post theater Nov. 30. Topics ranged from how the Army interacts with family members through various programs to a question and answer session with the commander to address any issues arising on and off post. (Photo by Sgt. Justin Nieto, SETAF Public Affairs)



## Santa visits 173rd ABCT holiday party

Alex Presyler, (left) awaits her turn to talk to Santa, while Braden Womack explains his list from Santa’s lap. The 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team held a holiday party at the Club Veneto Dec. 2. The party was for all family members and Soldiers belonging to the 173rd ABCT. The event featured an arts and crafts station for the children, the chance for Family Members to make a DVD to send to their deployed Soldiers and plenty of food. (Photo by Spc. Kathryn Jorgenson, SETAF Public Affairs)

# Community events

## New Commissary in Camp Darby's future



The new commissary will be approximately 26,325 square feet (2,446 square meters) with a sales area of 12,848 square feet (1,194 square meters). The facility will include administration offices, employee break rooms, cashier office, a deli area, all new refrigeration display cases, walk-in coolers and freezer, new décor package and larger patron parking,

Story by Joyce Costello  
USAG Livorno Public Affairs

The Defense Commissary Agency has awarded a construction contract Muratori Riunti Scarl (CMR) for a new commissary to be built at Camp Darby, Livorno Italy.

DeCA public affairs officer Gerri Young said, "the €5,275,000 (\$7,226,028) contract was awarded on Sept. 29, by the Naval Facilities Engineering Command Europe and Southwest Asia to Coop is now fully funded.

"The contractor, is the Italian contractor who was responsible for the construction of the Vicenza commissary," Young added.

"I make sure that the contract is being carried out in accordance with the agreement and that the specifications are being met," said Ensign David Hallam, the resident officer in charge of construction.

"We (ROICC) oversee the entire

phase of construction from the ground breaking to the ribbon cutting. We make sure that the customer is satisfied and that there is a good customer-client relationship," Hallam said.

Adding, "the benefit of doing a job like this is that we're building something for the community and that gives a sense of satisfaction."

"The new commissary will be approximately 26,325 square feet (2,446 square meters) with a sales area of 12,848 square feet (1,194 square meters). The facility will include administration offices, employee break rooms, cashier office, a deli area, all new refrigeration display cases, walk-in coolers and freezer, new décor package and patron parking," said Young.

Mobilization and construction is anticipated to begin between late December 2007 and early January 2008. The target completion date will be in late spring 2009.

## 'Tis the season at Soldiers' Theatre

By Ross Daniels  
Soldiers' Theatre director  
Special to the Outlook

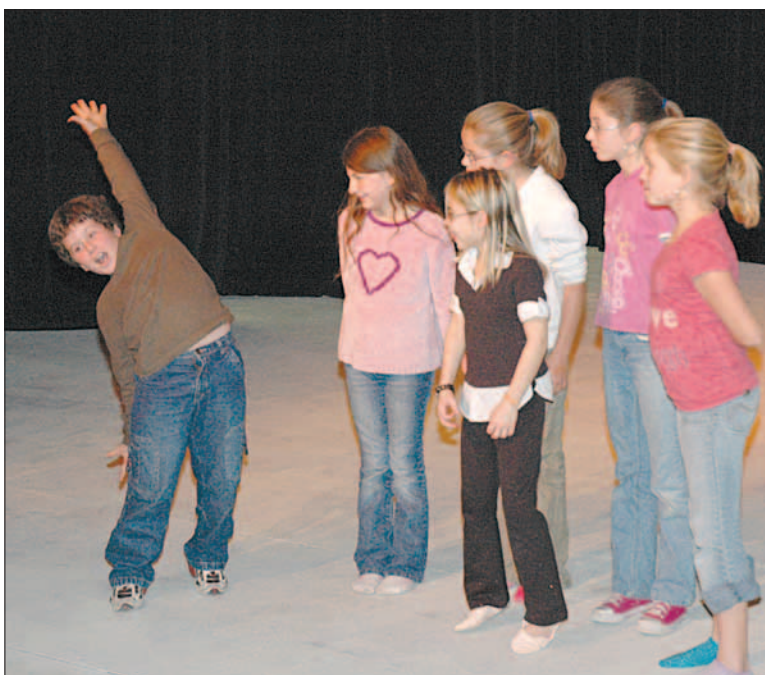
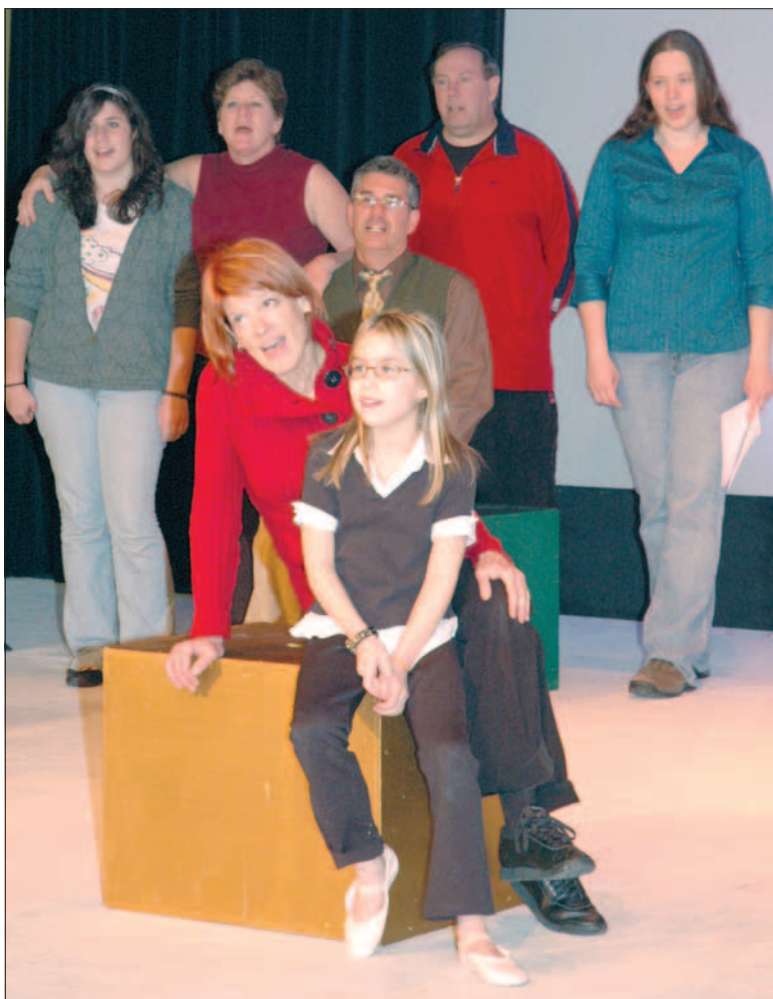
Christmas cheer comes to Soldiers' Theatre with the holiday production of *A Classic Christmas*. Featuring a cast of 30 performers, the show opens with the musical *The Gift of the Magi*, adapted from the popular O'Henry story with music and lyrics by Peter Ekstrom. Performing in *The Gift of the Magi* are Rosie Malone and Nathan Nelson.

Musical direction is by Ciriaco Colella. The second act of *A Classic Christmas* features songs, dances, and stories and includes a

mini version of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* with newcomer Richard Breen as Scrooge and Antonio Segura as Tiny Tim.

Other highlights of the show include a lovely rendition of Irving Berlin's *Count Your Blessings*, sung by newcomer Karri de Jesus Rivera, a reading of Dylan Thomas' *A Child's Christmas in Wales*, performed by John Keating, and an original dance choreographed by Linda Dahlstrom and featuring Italian performers Giulia Grant, Lorenzo Felisatti, and Leda Kreider.

Military and civilian organizations on post are encouraged to attend the Soldiers' Theatre holiday production. The



The show is a beautiful way to kick off the holiday season. He says, "There will be a special surprise segment of the show that will warm the hearts of all who attend."

Home-made desserts and drinks will be served at intermission at all performances. The show runs Dec. 8, 13, 14, and 15 at 7:30p.m. with a special 2pm matinee on Sunday, Dec. 9.

Tickets are already sold out for Dec 7. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for students. Box office hours are Tue-Fri from 11a.m. to 1p.m. For additional information on *A Classic Christmas*, call Soldiers' Theatre at 634-7281. Soldiers' Theatre is located at Bldg. 11, across the street from AFN.

# Out & About

By Dorothy Spagnuolo

## Christmas markets

**Vicenza:** In Giardini Salvi until Dec. 24 stalls open on weekdays from 3-8 p.m., weekends 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Also find an ice-skating rink set up open weekdays 3 p.m.-midnight; weekends 10 a.m.-midnight until Jan. 10;

Traditional market Dec. 9 on Contra' Santa Lucia and on Corso Fogazzaro; monthly market in Piazza dei Signori open sunup to sundown;

Christmas market in the main squares Dec. 15, 16 and 22-24; craft market in Piazza Castello Dec. 15-24; the Epiphany market Jan. 4-6 in the main squares;

Medieval market in Piazza delle Erbe, with vendors in medieval costume Jan. 5-6.

**Venice:** In Campo Santo Stefano find 30 vendors selling their Christmas ware. Open every day from 10:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. til Dec. 23.

**Asiago:** Christmas and Epiphany market on Dec. 7-9, 15, 16; and from Dec. 22 - Jan. 6, open 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 3:30-7:30 p.m.

**Bassano:** Christmas market, over 40 chalets between Piazza Garibaldi and Piazzotto Montevicchio open everyday from 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m. closed on Monday mornings until Dec. 24; also find a train for the

young and old alike to take a ride around the city center on Dec. 8, 9, 15, 16, 22 and 23; in Piazza Liberta' enjoy an antique roundabout.

**Bussolengo:** Christmas village open everyday 9 a.m.-7:30 p.m. closed the mornings of Dec. 3, 10, 17 to open at 3 p.m. Closed all day Dec. 25.

**Trento:** In Piazza Fiera the market is open Sunday through Thursday 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; Friday-Saturday 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m., last day Dec. 24 open 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Bolzano:** Market in Piazza Walther until Dec. 23 open Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Food stands open until 8 p.m. each day.

**Bressanone:** Market in Piazza Duomo until Jan. 6. Open weekdays 10:00 a.m.-7:30 p.m., weekends 9:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Closed all day Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

**Brunico:** Market open weekdays 2:30-7:30 p.m., weekends 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m. from Dec. 22-Jan. 6 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m.

**Merano:** Open weekdays 10:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m., weekends 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m. until Jan. 6.

**Milan:** Dec. 7 is a special date in Milan, the day of its Patron Saint, the mythically energetic Ambrogio. The popular event related to this

day is the centuries-old market where the feast day of Saint Ambrose is celebrated in and around Piazza Sant' Ambrogio. The market called 'Oh Bei, Oh Bei,' *how beautiful, how beautiful*, because of the cries stall-holders used in bygone days to attract customers, offers mainly bric-a-brac items and candies. The market will be held Dec. 6-9 from sunup to sundown and has over 400 vendors. As at all markets, which can get very crowded, it is wise to keep an extra watch on your personal belongings.

## Nativity scenes

In a sure sign that the holiday season is fast approaching, the city of Verona has already set up its traditional comet-star, a 70-meter-high, 78-ton sculpture that typically stretches from the Arena onto Piazza Bra. The international show of nativity scenes sponsored by UNESCO, now in its 24th year you will be able to see some 400 nativity scenes from around the world all of which will be set against a backdrop of music and lights. Countries represented in the nativity display include France, Spain, Slovenia, Switzerland, Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic, Portugal, Peru', Africa, Latin America, South Korea, China and Japan.

The show is divided into four main sections - the life of Jesus; the art and tradition of the nativity scenes in the Veneto region, a mechanical nativity realized by the artist Divo Pettrossi; the Spanish dioramas. Open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. every day, including holidays. Entrance fee: 7 euro. The show will end on Jan. 20.

After visiting the nativity scenes in the Arena, a short distance from there is another nativity exhibition on Via Marin Faliero: this is the 17th edition of the international exhibition of nativity scenes by artistic artisans, on display are over 90 scenes which are divided into four sections: traditional, artistic, original and three-dimensional.

Open Sundays 9 a.m.-noon and 2:30-7 p.m. until Jan. 13. Christmas Day open 9 a.m.-noon and 3:30-7 p.m. There is no entrance fee.

For directions see [www.presepiverona.it](http://www.presepiverona.it).

## Christmas concert

Kimberly Ann Covington will perform in Vicenza's Teatro Astra on Dec. 16 at 9 p.m. Tickets cost 22 euro plus commission and are available from the music stores in Saxophone and Panta Rhei.

## Jesolo sand nativity



Story and photo by

Laura Kreider

Outlook Staff

On Saturday, Dec. 8 at 4 p.m., the Sixth Sand Nativity will be inaugurated inside an octagonal-shaped pavilion in Piazza Marconi in downtown Jesolo.

The sculptures made of sand from the beach of Jesolo are created by international level artists - Mark Anderson (England), Daniel Belcher (USA), Damon Farmer (USA), Lars Borst (Holland), Vladimir Kuraev (Russia), Pavel Zadanyuk (Russia), Alexey Dyakov (Russia) and Radovan Zivney (Czech Republic). Amongst the artists is the Artistic Director Richard Varano (USA).

The 2007 nativity event will depict eight works:

The Journey to Bethlehem, The Annunciation, No Room at the Inn, The Angel and Shepherds, Joseph's Dream, The Visitation, The Birth of Jesus, The Three Magi.

This year, the sculpture in the "Peace-bearers" section will be dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi. Last year's event honored Pope John II.

The first Sand Nativity was created in 2002 as part of Jesolo's New Year's celebration.

Because of the unexpected and extraordinary response of visitors waiting in line hundreds of meters long during the holidays, the event has become a tradition since then.

The event will take place from Dec. 8 to 13 Jan. 13, 2008 and will be open to the public every day from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m., and on Saturday and holidays, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Entrance is free, donations are accepted.

This year's donations will be offered to two projects: the first is the construction of a new pediatric center in Cameroon and the second is providing some food and medical support of a center that houses 600 children in the Ivory Coast.

For information, e-mail [turismo@jesolo.it](mailto:turismo@jesolo.it) or call the Jesolo Tourism office at 0421-359 131 or 0421-359 124.



A Christmas market is hosted every year in front of the Duomo, (in the picture) the main church located in downtown Bressanone, a city in the Trentino Alto-Adige region.

This year the market will be open until Jan. 6. It is closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. (Photo by Laura Kreider, Outlook Staff)

## Now Showing

### Caserma Ederle Theater

<b>Dec. 5</b>	3:10 to Yuma (R)	6 p.m.
<b>Dec. 6</b>	The Kingdom (R)	6 p.m.
<b>Dec. 7</b>	Sydney White (PG13) Good Luck Chuck (R)	6 p.m. 9 p.m.
<b>Dec. 8</b>	This Christmas (PG) 1st Run The Game Plan (PG)	3 p.m. 6 p.m.
<b>Dec. 9</b>	This Christmas (PG) The Game Plan (PG)	3 p.m. 6 p.m.

### Camp Darby Theater

<b>Dec. 6</b>	The Kingdom (R)	6 p.m.
<b>Dec. 7</b>	3:10 to Yuma (R)	6 p.m.
<b>Dec. 8</b>	Good Luck Chuck (R)	6 p.m.
<b>Dec. 9</b>	Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium (G)	2 p.m.

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

### Movie Synopsis

**THIS CHRISTMAS** - Laz Alonso, Chris Brown. This year, Christmas with the Whitfield's promises to be one they never forget as all the siblings come home for the holiday. As the Christmas tree is trimmed and the lights are hung, secrets are revealed and family bonds are tested. As their lives converge, they join together and help each other discover the true meaning of family.

**THE GAME PLAN** - Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson, Roselyn Sanchez. A 'serial bachelor,' Kingman is living the ultimate fantasy: he's rich, famous and the life of the party. But this dream is suddenly sacked for a loss when he discovers the 7-year-old daughter he never knew he had—the product of a final fling he had, years prior, before parting ways with his young wife.

[www.vicenzamwr.com/marketplace](http://www.vicenzamwr.com/marketplace)

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# Community notes

## Signup to vote

Voting signup station from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in the food court Dec. 13. Stop by and get your federal post card application.

## Holiday mail dates

To ensure delivery of holiday cards and packages to the U.S. by Christmas, mail must be sent by the dates below:

- Dec. 11-Priority and First class mail
- Dec. 20-Express mail

## Kron Platz ski trip

Join Outdoor Rec for skiing at Kron Platz, Dec. 15 from 6 a.m.-7:30 p.m. The \$25 cost includes transportation. Equipment is available for check-out from ODR. Reserve your spot by Dec. 12.

## Balsamic Vinegar Tour

Travel to Modena for a guided tour of a traditional balsamic vinegar factory Dec. 15 leaving at 6 a.m.

Call ITR at 634-7094 by Dec. 14 to reserve your seat.

## Fitness Center entrance closure

The main and east side entrances of the Sports and Fitness Center are temporarily closed due to construction work.

Access to the facility can only be made from the west end cardio room area alleyway.

## Teen Center renovations

The Teen Center pavilion gym will be closed for renovations until Dec. 7. but the main center will remain open for 9-12 grades.

## Tree lighting ceremony

The whole community is invited to celebrate the beginning of the Holiday season with the Tree Lighting Ceremony, Dec. 6, 3 p.m. - 7 p.m., in Club V and in front of the Post Theatre.

Enjoy pictures and story-time with Santa and Mrs. Claus, horse-drawn carriage rides, and delicious refreshments.

Please remember that pets are not allowed at community events and it is best to keep small children a safe distance from the carriage horses to ensure that everyone have an enjoyable time at the season's celebration.

## DFAC reopens

The South of the Alps Dining facility will reopen to civilians and non-meal card holders, beginning

Friday Dec. 7.

## Army Community Service

Dec. 5, 6, 10, 11, 12 and 13, 11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m.: Seven Habits for Effective Military Families - Learn techniques to better cope with being separated from your loved ones during the holiday season.

Dec. 11, 3-4 p.m.: Banking and Credit Union Information. Learn how to choose the financial services or institutions that best suit your needs.

Dec. 12, 3-4:30 p.m.: Cooking with Kids and Travel the World with Freddie FAP. Freddie FAP visits England.

Find the complete ACS event schedule online at [www.vicenzamwr.com](http://www.vicenzamwr.com), click on ACS, or call 634-7500 for details.

## Library Story Hour

Gingerbread men. Penguins. Reindeer. Read about them all in the post library's December Story Hour.

Story hour is Tuesdays at 11:15 a.m. (PreK-K) at post library, Thursdays at 11:15 a.m. (PreK-K) at Villaggio Youth Center, and Thursdays at 3:30 p.m. (school age youth) at the post library.

Call 634-7291 for details.

## Jingle Bell Fun Run

Run for the Jingle Bell fun of it Dec. 15 starting at 6 a.m. on the North 40 Track. Dress up in festive costume and be eligible for wonderful prizes.

Sign up by Dec. 12. Call Sports and Fitness at 634-7009.

## 2007 National Fine Arts exhibit

Child & Youth Services, in conjunction with the Vicenza Schools, will host the 2007 National Fine Arts Exhibit in the post library, through Dec. 14.

## Have a safe, sober holiday

The Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program staff will be holding a Drugged and Drunk Driving prevention event Dec. 11 in the post exchange food court from 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

## Commissary notes

Please allow an extra 48 hours for special orders (cakes, deli meat/cheese platters, fruit and vegetable trays) during the holidays.

We anticipate an increase in these items during this time and will need additional preparation time.

If you wish to order boneless prime rib roasts for the holidays, place your order by Dec. 17.

We will have two deliveries prior to Christmas: Dec. 18 and 21.

## American Red Cross classes

For a limited period, this course will be offered for free to the Youth of the Camp Ederle community. Visit our office for more details on this course or those listed below.

Dec. 8: Babysitter's Training is from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Cost is \$25.

Tuesday, Jan. 8: Volunteer Orientation 1-3 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 10: First Aid 5-9 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 12: Adult, Child and Infant CPR 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 26: Babysitter's Training 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

For more information call American Red Cross, Vicenza, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Davis Hall Bldg 108, Room 47, DSN: 634-7089 or COMM: 0444-71-7089.

Call the Vicenza Red Cross at 634-7089 to register or for details.

An emergency communications caseworker can be reached 24/7.

## Angel Tree donations

The Angel Tree program has several angels on the tree at the Davis Soldier & Family Readiness Center and PX.

They are also accepting donations if you don't want to take an angel (coloring books, crayons, books, wrapping paper etc.).

Remember if you have taken an angel a child is counting on you. All gifts need to be turned in at Davis Soldier & Family Readiness Center or PX customer service area by Dec. 7. There are drop boxes at both locations.

For further details call 634-7500.

## USO classes

*Beginning Italian*, Level 1: cost \$112; starts Jan. 7-Mar. 10.

*Stocking Contest*: pick up a free stocking from Capitol Motors, decorate it and then return it no later than Dec. 21 for a chance to win a \$50 AAFES Gift Card.

*Mediterranean Cooking Classes*: cost \$296 for 8 sessions (ingredients included in price); starts Jan. 18-May 2.

2007 USO Overseas holiday drawing: enter to win a new Volvo C-30 T5 at [www.uso-overseas-holiday-drawing.com](http://www.uso-overseas-holiday-drawing.com) <<http://www.uso-overseas-holiday-drawing.com>>; last day to enter is Dec. 10; winner to be announced Dec. 14.

For more information call DSN: 634-7156/CIV: 0444 71 7156 or stop by the USO.

## U.S. Army Health Center holiday hours

Dec. 21, Friday Open 8 a.m.-noon (closed for the rest of the day for holiday party)

Dec. 22, Saturday Open 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Dec. 23, Sunday, Closed

Dec. 24, Monday, Closed (USAREUR Training Holiday)

Dec. 25, Tuesday, Closed (Christmas Day)

Dec. 26-30, Wed-Sun, Normal duty hours.

Dec. 31, Monday, Closed (USAREUR Training Holiday)

Jan. 1, Tuesday, Closed (New Year's Day)

Jan. 2, Wednesday, return to normal schedule.

For urgent concerns when the clinic is closed, or for medical emergencies at any time, you may go directly to the San Bortolo Hospital Emergency Room. (You may contact the Patient Liaisons at 0444-75-3300 or 0444-928166, DSN 634-8384).

Pregnant patients with any concerns can always call the Benincaso Pavilion at 0444-71-6667 (DSN 634-6667).

Patient requesting an ambulance should call 0444-71-7114 from off-post, or 114 from any DSN phone on post

For any further information call the clinic patient advocate at 634-7952 (commercial 0444-71-7952), or e-mail [VZHCPatRep@amedd.army.mil](mailto:VZHCPatRep@amedd.army.mil).

## Christmas caroling

The Vicenza Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts will be Christmas caroling in Villaggio on Tuesday, Dec. 11 from 6:15-7:30 p.m.

Join us for songs, hot chocolate, and cookies. We will leave the YS building in Villaggio at 6:15 p.m. Hope to see you there. (Rain cancels this event.) For more information, call Nancy Hacker at 349-5209980.

## Garrison awards ceremony

Ceremony will be held at the Post Theater 1:30 p.m., Thurs. Dec. 6.

## Education Center

Register early for term III. Registration begins on Dec. 10. Term III runs from Jan. 21, to March 15, 2008. All Soldiers using Tuition Assistance must go to the [www.GoArmyEd.com](http://www.GoArmyEd.com) website to enroll.

Contact the Education Counselor for information and assistance at 634-8933 or [vicenza.edcenter@us.army.mil](mailto:vicenza.edcenter@us.army.mil).

Registration in progress for the *Gateway to Italian* conversational language courses which runs from Jan. 28 March 21. For more information call: Angelo Sibilla at DSN 634-7698 or [angelo.sibilla@europe.ctcd.edu](mailto:angelo.sibilla@europe.ctcd.edu).

The Education Counselor Office is open Mon.-Fri. 8:00am to 5:00 pm (Closed noon to 1p.m. for lunch). Call the Education Counselor for more information at DSN 634-8933 or [vicenza.edcenter@us.army.mil](mailto:vicenza.edcenter@us.army.mil)

The Army Learning Center computer lab and study lounge is open Mon.-Fri. from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. to noon and 1p.m. to 5 p.m. Call 634-8926 or [vicenza.alc@us.army.mil](mailto:vicenza.alc@us.army.mil) for more information.

The Testing office is open Tuesday through Friday from 8 a.m. -4:30 p.m.

Closed noon to 1 p.m. for lunch (schedule may vary depending on exams).

Academic and military testing is available. Call 634-8126 or [vicenza.testing@us.army.mil](mailto:vicenza.testing@us.army.mil) for more information.

## Tax clerks needed

The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate will hire two individuals to serve as clerks at the Tax Center. The positions will begin in January, 2008 and end in April, 2008.

Tax clerks will receive IRS and computer training and then prepare and electronically file state and federal tax returns for at the Tax Center.

Interested persons may contact Mark Christensen at [tax@eur.army.mil](mailto:tax@eur.army.mil) or DSN 634.8483 for position information, and should contact CPAC for information about submitting an application.

## Religious Activities

### Ederle Chapel

For details call the chapel at: 634-7519 (0444-71-7519).

### Weekday Mass

Mass is now held at noon Wednesday-Monday.

### Saturday services

**4-4:30 p.m.:** Sacrament of Reconciliation, or by appointment  
**5 p.m.:** Roman Catholic Mass

### Sunday services

**9 a.m.:** Catholic Mass  
**10:45 a.m.-noon:** Catholic Religious Education  
**11 a.m.:** Protestant worship  
**1:30 p.m.:** Full Gospel Pentecostal worship and Children's church  
**4 p.m.:** Lutheran Services  
**6 p.m.:** Contemporary worship

### Muslim services

The khutba and prayer will take place in the post chapel conference room Fridays, just after noon.

### Chanuka Party

Tuesday, Dec. 4 is the first night of Chanukah. Candles and menorahs are available from Dr. and Mrs. November. A Chanukah party within walking distance of the base will be held at 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9. Live musical entertainment, latkes, kosher hot dogs, and more will be part of the festivities. Contact the Novembers at [november6@msn.com](mailto:november6@msn.com) for more information.

### Club Beyond

For details about Club Beyond youth activities, contact the chapel or Jocelyn Cary at 340-385-3476.

### 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

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

## Estate Claims

Anyone having any claims on or obligations to the estate of Capt. Christian P. Skoglund of G-Co., 52nd Aviation Regiment, V Corps, should contact the summary court officer, Chief Warrant Officer Michael Snelling, at 632-4619 or [michael.snelling@aviano.af.mil](mailto:michael.snelling@aviano.af.mil)

Anyone having any claims on or obligations to the estate of Chief Warrant Officer Davidangelo F. Alvarez of G-Co., 52nd Aviation Regiment, V Corps, should contact the Summary Court Officer, Chief Warrant Officer Michael Snelling, at 632-4619 or [michael.snelling@aviano.af.mil](mailto:michael.snelling@aviano.af.mil)



Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk.

## Three-point basketball starts

A Three point basketball competition is scheduled Dec. 7 at 6 p.m. at the fitness center. Deadline to sign up is today, Dec. 4. Everybody in the community – men and women, American and Italian – is invited to join in the fun and compete. (Right) Members of the community participate in a previous shoot-out competition that also took place at the post fitness center. (Photo by Laura Kreider, Outlook Staff)



## Pilates delivers better breathing, posture

Story and photo by  
Laura Kreider  
Outlook Staff

As part of the sports activities at the Vicenza Fitness Center, the Pilates class is offered once a week and has a full room of followers, many of which have been doing it for almost two years.

Currently the class is held upstairs as soon as you enter the post gym every Friday during lunchtime.

“Starting at noon and going on for 45 minutes, gives the opportunity to those who attend to come here, take the class and go back to work,” explained Luisa Dal Toso, Pilates Instructor.

Pilates focuses on basic principles including breathing, centering and flowing movement, according to Dal Toso.

“The purpose of the class is to correct the posture and also to reinforce the so called *powerhouse* concentrating on the abdomen to reach the complete muscle-toning,” Dal Toso said.

No previous experience or skills required. Those who would like to participate in one class can start anytime after registering at the front desk at least 15 minutes before class or through the Fitness Center.

Dal Toso explained that the class is for everyone, because everyone can do it at their own individual level and even for beginners the class does not have an aggressive impact.

Classes are held at the facility on Fridays from noon to 12:45 p.m.

Other classes available at the facility are Body Pump, Body Sculpture, Body Combat, Body Step, Tae Kwon Do and Yoga.

All fitness classes cost \$3 per single session, or \$25 with the 10-point punch card.

The cost of Yoga is \$5 per class while Tae Kwon Do is \$55 per month or \$8.50 per single session.

For details on classes and registration, stop by the Fitness Center or Body Shop or call DSN634-7616.



## Self-defense class offers confidence, techniques



Special Agent Rick Overman, from the Criminal Investigation Division, (right), teaches some basic techniques of the program during the demonstration while other participants look on. For information about the program, contact Tammy Wilbur-Hoistad at 634-7314 or Catherine Hurst at 634-6192. (Photos by Laura Kreider, Outlook Staff)



Alessia Boone, (left), a participant in the Women's Self-Defense demonstration, learns how to react and protect herself following some basic techniques taught by Special Agent Rick Overman, from the Criminal Investigation Division. The demonstration took place at the Caserma Ederle post gym to introduce the upcoming program sponsored by Deployment Support and Sexual Assault Prevention that will kick off in January. “The demonstration helped me to understand how to react and protect myself in some situations where you need to know at least some basic techniques of self-defense,” said Alessia Boone. “I plan on taking the course in January.”

## Sports shorts

### More free bowling

Ederle Lanes adds two more nights of free bowling. You now get free lane rental on Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays and bowl up to three games per person.

Shoes are still only \$1. Call Ederle Lanes for information 634-7013.

### Italian soccer league

Play adult community soccer for free Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7-8:30 p.m., until April 1. Round up all your soccer friends and enjoy this opportunity to play in the Italian soccer league.

### Three point basketball

Shoot your best three point shots in the basketball competition, Dec. 7, 6 p.m. at the fitness center, games begin at 6:30 p.m. Men and women, American and Italian—everyone is invited to join in the fun and compete.

### New Year's Day Folgaria ski trip

Join Outdoor Rec for skiing at Folgaria, New Years Day, from 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. The \$15 cost includes transportation. Equipment is available for check-out from ODR. Reserve your spot by Dec. 26.

### Panarotta ski trip

Join Outdoor Rec for skiing at Panarotta, January 19-21, from 6 a.m. - 6 p.m. The \$200 cost includes transportation. Equipment is available for check-out from ODR. Reserve your spot by Jan. 5.

### Folgaria ladies day ski trip

Ladies, get free lift tickets Dec. 15 at Folgaria, courtesy of Outdoor Rec.

Folgaria is an excellent ski area for beginners.

Call 634-7453 for details.

### Walk-4-Freedom

Earn 200 Walk-4-Freedom miles. Quarterly fitness assessments will be conducted at the Post Fitness Center on Thursday, Dec. 13 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Participants will earn 200 miles for completing their assessments. You can pick up new mileage logs and turn in your mileage count.

If you have any questions, contact the Health Promotion office at 634-8828 or health@setaf.army.mil.