

Outlook

March 14, 2013
Vol. 46, issue 10

Vicenza & Darby Military Community
www.usag.vicenza.army.mil



**VICENZA COMMUNITY
RECREATION PROGRAM
BEST IN ARMY**



Contents

Training with Italian Air Assault

4-5



Training with South Africa

6-7



VMC wins Army award

8-9



Women's History Month

12-15



DMC news

17-21



Wine Down Wednesday

32-33



Out & About	22-23
FMWR Events	24-25
Community Briefs	26-27
Religious Activities	28-29
Sports & Leisure	30-33

Front Photo

Vicenza Outdoor Recreation is one of the many organizations that increase quality of life in the VMC. Learn about the Army award for best community recreation program on page 8.



The Outlook March 14, 2013, Vol. 46, Issue 10

U.S. Army Africa Commander
Maj. Gen. Patrick J. Donahue II

USAG Vicenza Commander and Publisher
Col. David Buckingham

USAG Vicenza Public Affairs Officer
Grant Sattler

Editor
David Ruderman

Staff writers
Anna Ciccotti,
Chiara Mattiolo, Anna Terracino

Photojournalist
Laura Kreider

Social media manager
Joyce Costello

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THE OFFICIAL HOMEPAGE OF U.S. ARMY GARRISON VICENZA



Speak Out

What woman, not your mother, has most influenced your life?



Cynthia Klusowski
Family member

"Most recently, Philippa Gregory. I like her books so much that I try to travel to all the places she writes about."



Bariatu Smith
Family member

"A female professor in college had a great influence on my life. She taught me to embrace challenges in a positive way."



Sgt. Werner Alonzo
1st-503rd Infantry Regiment

"My grandmother. As a kid she taught me to swim and cook."

By Laura Kreider

By Sgt. Joel Vazquez
173 ABCT PAO

Sky Soldiers hit it hard at Italian air assault school



A small team of six Soldiers from the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team travelled to Livorno, Italy, last month to train with the 1st Tuscania Special Operations Regiment.

The air assault training they encountered was not the traditional type they were used to. Whereas the typical American course comprises 10 days of training, the Italian parachutists conduct a similarly difficult course, but completed it in half the time.

The Soldiers started out at the training towers to practice basic repelling techniques, but quickly switched over to live scenarios. Each 173rd Sky Soldier took his turn repelling from the doors of a Carabinieri helicopter. It was a fast transition, but the 1st Tuscania Special Operations Regiment expects that anyone attending their training will be able to adapt to the increasing intensity, and the 173rd Soldiers were no exception. They were held to the same high standard that was expected of all personnel selected for the training.

The 1st Tuscania Special Operations Regiment is one of many fraternal military units that the 173rd partners with in Italy. They are an elite group composed of some of the best and brightest that the Italian Carabinieri has to offer.

For an Italian citizen, the process of becoming one of these elite agents is a long and arduous road. Some who apply never make it far enough to see everything the school has to offer, making the opportunity even more meaningful for Sgt. Kevin Welsh of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 173rd ABCT.

"We received training that only a select few get to participate in, and I can see why," he said.

"This training was incredible. I wish it was longer,"

Welsh said.

Though a hectic and incredibly difficult challenge, all six of the 173rd paratroopers were able to successfully graduate the five day course. Upon finishing the last class, each 173rd Soldier received a certificate of completion from the school house indicating a job well done.

"It was an absolutely amazing time training with the Carabinieri," Welsh said. "I know there are more phases to this training, and if given the opportunity I would love to continue training with them. It was that much fun."

With the success of recent training events, including this one, the 173rd ABCT and the 1st Tuscania Special Operations Regiment will continue to train together, planning more partnered training opportunities in the months to come.



Sky Soldiers from Vicenza and their colleagues move quickly to mount a hovering helicopter during air assault training in Livorno last month. Photos by Sgt. Kevin Welsh



South African Forces train with U.S. Army Africa CCP

Story and photos by Sgt. Terysa King
U.S. Army Africa PAO

Soldiers of U.S. Army Africa Contingency Command Post (CCP) hosted a familiarization visit Feb. 26-28 with six South African National Defense Force (SANDF) soldiers in preparation for Shared Accord 13, a joint peacekeeping and humanitarian exercise scheduled for July.

The visit, part of a CCP exercise, marked the first time USARAF incorporated a partner nation in an exercise before deploying to Africa, which participants saw as a beneficial factor. Col. Vuka Sean Mahlasela, SANDF's 44th Parachute Regiment commander, said the exercise helped both forces learn to cooperate with each other and improved the relationship between U.S. and South Africa. "Joint and multinational operations have become the norm of the day. The national defense forces play a very significant role in being able to operate with regional, international and multinational forces to test tactics and share skills and knowledge, as well as learning from each other as multinational forces," Mahlasela said.

Shared training included basic command and control of a multinational exercise; intricacies of joint task force operations; requirements of different logistical infrastructures; and proposed ways to run meetings, which the U.S. military calls "seven-minute drills."

Lt. Col. Kevin Saatkamp, CCP executive officer, said key tasks for the CPX were to familiarize SANDF with combined joint task force headquarters capabilities and battle rhythms; rehearse combined command post structure incorporating U.S. and SANDF personnel; and rehearse command and control procedures in a non-secure network environment. Saatkamp said some of the training was based on a scenario written by



SANDF exercise directors for SA 13. With SANDF facilitating the environment for the CPX, it gave everyone a chance to build better partnerships and capacities. "Anytime you open a dialogue with someone from a different culture, and it's a positive one based on mutual experiences being in the military, you start to build trust. That trust leads to capacity building capabilities collectively between two countries," Saatkamp said. Lt. Col. Gus Claassens, SANDF's scenario drafter and exercise concept designer for SA 13, agreed mutual trust is crucial in these exercises, and explained why the CPX is important for U.S. and SANDF soldiers. "It is important on two levels: First of all, to develop skills of our own Soldiers, compared with a first-world country, for our own purposes. Secondly, to enable international cooperation because the world is shrinking and the Army is busy getting more involved in Africa. So at one point in time we'll end up working shoulder to shoulder, so it is very important to create that commonality," Claassens said. Maj. Ivan Palacios, CCP CPX planner, said the objective of the CPX is to

enable USARAF and SANDF soldiers to establish a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities for the Combined Joint Task Force during SA 13. In the end, Palacios said, both forces benefited from the CPX, taking away valuable knowledge and experience. "They will take back to their leadership how to better synchronize and collaborate with the U.S.," said Palacios. "This is the success that was achieved during these last few days and will set us up for long-term success during SA 13 in July." On the American side, "Our Soldiers are taking away that the military decision making process is very important going into any operation, and they have learned to ask a lot of thought-provoking questions prior to execution," Palacios said. Mahlasela agreed the CPX was mutually beneficial. "We learned from each other our different ways of completing the mission. We now know when challenges occur, we will learn how to mitigate those circumstances, and it will create platforms to know each other on an individual basis and share the different skills we each possess," he said.



(Above) Maj. Albert Garcia and Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Smith of U.S. Army Africa Contingency Command Post discuss sustainment planning with Lt. Col. Light Jongilanga Tsalupondo, administrative commander for the 43rd Brigade of the South African National Defense Force (below) Col. Vuka Sean Mahlasela, 44th Parachute Regiment commander, South African National Defense Force (left), thanks Lt. Col. Kevin Saatkamp, Deputy Chief of Operations for U.S. Army Africa Contingency Command Post, while Col. Stephen Marsh, 43rd Brigade Air Operations Commander, South African National Defense Force, looks on. The CCP exercise was executed in preparation for Shared Accord 13, a joint peace keeping and humanitarian exercise. The intent for the CCP exercise was to familiarize the SANDF with Combined Joint Task Force Headquarters capabilities so U.S. and South African soldiers will have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities as a CJTF during SA13. Photos by Sgt. Terysa M. King



VICENZA'S COMMUNITY REC PROGRAM NAMED BEST IN THE ARMY

VICENZA DFMWR



The U.S. Army Installation Management Command has recognized USAG Vicenza for having the best Family and MWR Community Recreation Program in the Army for 2012.

USAG Vicenza FMWR is "highly deserving of this prestigious award. They have all worked tirelessly to support our Soldiers and Families as well as the entire community," said USAG Vicenza Commander, Col. David Buckingham.

"I have been very impressed with the Community Recreation Division and the programs they provide to the community," said garrison DFMWR director Christopher Bradford. "This award further confirms just how outstanding their team is. I appreciate the passion and effort that went into winning the title of Best in the Army."

The CRD has offered outstanding programs over the past year, among them the Blue Star Card program, Arts and Crafts Center, Sports, Fitness and Aquatics, Soldiers' Theatre, the Ederle Library, the Auto Skills Center, the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program and Vicenza Outdoor Recreation, with its travel and sports activities for the whole community, and the Warrior Adventure Quest program for Soldiers returning from deployment that is now the model for the entire U.S. Army.

"It is a tremendous honor to be a part of our Community Recreation Team and for us to be recognized with this prestigious award," said Aaron Goodman, Chief of Community Recreation.

"Everyone is working so hard to provide exceptional programs and quality customer service throughout the year. We try to give our customers the opportunity to tell us what they want, and act on their feedback," he said. "This award is truly a shared award with our entire FMWR team as well as the other agencies on post," said Goodman.



Visit <http://vicenza.armymwr.com> for a list of events and happenings within the Vicenza Military Community.



Emphasis on Traumatic Brain Injury awareness

By Abbegail Eason
U.S. Army Health Center Vicenza

Some of us grew up drinking out of the garden hose. Any of us grew up without using seat belts, car seats or helmets. However, we have come a long way in our society. The next generation is more educated on the value of injury prevention and making better choices.

Despite evidence of decreased injuries and death, there is still work to be done on preventing brain injury.

Traumatic brain injuries, TBI, can happen anytime, anywhere and to anyone. The numbers are staggering. That is why March has been designated Brain Injury Awareness month, and community health advocates, patients and families of patients will all be working to increase awareness across the Vicenza Military Community.

Vicenza High School students, for instance, have been learning about brain injury prevention and will post their art work on the subject throughout the month of March.

The Vicenza TBI team recently launched an educational YouTube channel, VicenzaTBI, to increase community awareness and resources. It will offer short videos reinforcing provider education on topics such as headaches and healthy sleep, and free audio downloads on the TBI website to help listeners relax.

You can also find Vicenza's TBI Team in front of the Commissary March 15 and 22 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. distributing informational literature.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Injury Prevention, a TBI is described as a blow, jolt or bump to the head – or a penetrating head injury – that disrupts the normal function of the brain. Injuries can result in a range of outcomes. Of the 1.7 million people who sustain a TBI, 52,000 die, 275,000 are hospitalized and 1.365 million (nearly 80 percent) are treated and released from

emergency care.

In the military, 260,000 service members have been diagnosed with TBI from 2000 through the third quarter of 2012. Perhaps most surprisingly, 84 percent of all TBIs in the military are non-deployment related.

It is important that we foster ongoing efforts in research and develop adequate support services for patients recovering from TBI and their families. Prevention awareness is the key. Wearing a helmet to protect the brain and adequate injury assessment when accidents occur are critical.

If someone sustains a head injury, what should you do? Do you know the concussion ABCs?

A: Assess the situation: Pay close attention to anyone who sustains a head injury and take the time to thoroughly assess them. If they are playing a sport, remove them from the game.

B: Be alert for signs and symptoms: These can include loss of consciousness, appearing dazed or stunned, answering questions slowly, changes in memory, headaches, nausea or vomiting, changes in vision, balance or person-

ality changes.

C: Contact a health care professional: Seek help right away, don't delay. Know where to go before an emergency occurs.

If you have questions or concerns, visit the CDC website at www.cdc.gov or talk to your local health care provider.

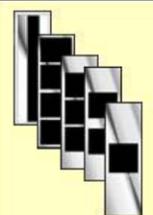
Visit the Defense and Brain Injury Center website at www.DVBIC.org.

Talk to the TBI Team at the Vicenza Health Center. Visit http://ermc.amedd.army.mil/vicenza/services.cfm?MTFinfo_id=550 for free audio relaxation downloads.

Visit Vicenza's TBI YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/user/VicenzaTBI/feed?filter=2>.



Vote for your favorite poster at the library or online at US Army Health Clinic Vicenza facebook page before March 24.



USAWOA SOTA CHAPTER

MARCH 16

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CHAPTER'S MANY ACTIVITIES

AND CHARITY EVENTS



PROFESSIONALISM - REPRESENTATION - RECOGNITION




HERITAGE FOUNDATION







Vicenza Elementary/Middle/High Schools

EARLY BIRD PRE-REGISTRATION FOR CURRENTLY REGISTERED STUDENTS

SCHOOL YEAR 2013 - 2014

When? Wednesday, March 27, 2013

Time? from 0900 to 1300 & from 1400 to 1530

Where? Vicenza Elementary School (Villaggio Area) Parents' Room (rm # 263)

School Registration is **REQUIRED** every school year.

Women's History Month Highlight

VHS web design teacher leads way for new generation

Story and photo by David Ruderman
USAG Vicenza PAO

Lori Encke initially thought she was heading toward a career in the business world, until she found out she was a natural born teacher. A native of Arcadia, Fla., Encke pursued a degree in accounting, planning to become a certified public accountant, when a senior-year project at University of Southern Florida steered her toward the path of the pedagogue.

Conducting a senior year research project that compared her choice to that of her sister, who pursued a career as a physics teacher, she discovered that teaching might be a better option. The career aptitude test data and her gut feeling kept pointing clearly to one decisive conclusion: she should teach.

When she received a job offer to teach web design, she jumped at it and took courses in programming, Java script, networking and web design to get herself up to speed.

"It was sink or swim," said Encke.

She started out teaching at Alonzo High School in Tampa, Fla., and then moved on to a position with the Hillsborough County school district as a research teacher for staff development, basically charged with bringing teachers up to speed on the proliferation of technology in education, where she found herself at the forefront of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM, integration in the classroom.

"They wanted me to be the pilot," Encke said. "Tech was not around me. The Internet came out when I was in high school. It's neat how they're looking at things differently. Now they get it," she said.

Encke has been at Vicenza High School for the past three years, where she is a computer science teacher and chairperson of the VHS technology committee. Her classroom emphasis is on web design.

"Actually, when I got here nobody wanted to take computer courses," she said.

My, how things have changed. The transition came in part from making instruction more hands-on and refining classes, tailoring them to the interests of students, she said.

"They started with engineering classes. The biggest difference I notice is our classes used to be almost a dumping grounds," said Encke.

In the intervening years technology and STEM have become bona fide pillars of the core curriculum. "It's been pushed. People want to take these courses. That's where the future is, that's where the demand is. It's so engrained in our curriculum now," she said.

DoDDS schools have been in the vanguard of creating the 21st-century, wired classroom and education model, and her students are among the prime beneficiaries, said Encke.

"We offer way more technology than any other school I've been in. The coolest thing about it is they have to take two full credit hours of career and technology education to graduate," she said.

Students take to technology the way they take to any field, as individuals, she noted.

"I've noticed a lot of kids find a niche for themselves, for the coding



niche or they're going into the programming side or the network management world. The biggest impact is making them aware of the opportunities available," she said.

"My web design class is predominantly female while the digital media is mostly boys. These girls here are so impressive. It just clicks with them," said Encke.

She tailors subject matter to her students' needs and interests, and it continues to evolve over time.

In another sign of the changing times, Encke will lead 24 students from the VHS chapter of the Future Business Leaders of America to the annual Leadership Conference in Garmisch, Germany, at the end of the month. Each student will compete in areas that range from digital video production and website design to online gaming simulation and business ethics.

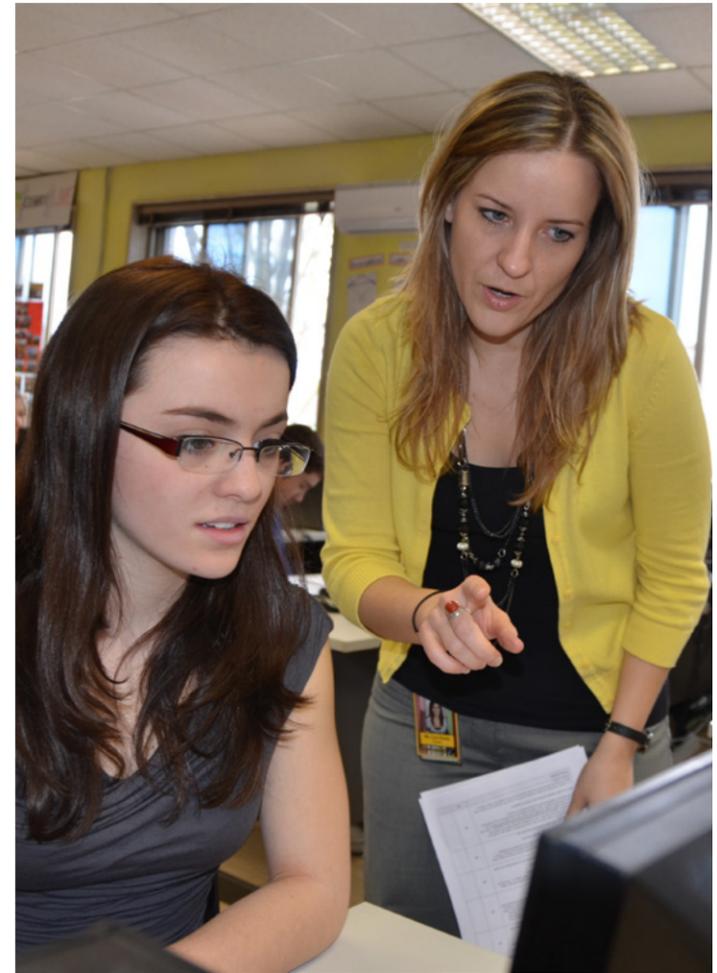
Parents are often impressed, though they may not understand just what it is their children have mastered, she said.

"The hardest part is if the parents don't understand it, it's hard to support them (their children)," Encke said.

Parents should encourage their children to try something new, to move outside their comfort zones, because they'll never know what's out there, or what excites them, until they try, she said.

Which sounds a bit like how she herself wound up as a tech teacher and a role model for the young women in her classes. Encke feels completely at home in that role as well.

"I think being a woman teaching the technology . . . that in itself sets a precedent. Just having a woman teacher. I think that's really cool," she said.



VHS science and technology teacher Lori Encke discusses the ins and outs of an audio presentation with a student March 12.

At your service

Meet Arlene Baptiste, systems navigator at ACS.

"I work in the Army Community Services building, Davis Hall, Room 24. I am the systems navigator for Strategic Resource Inc. as a contractor in support of the U.S. Army Exceptional Family Member Program," said Baptiste. She and her family arrived in Vicenza last summer from Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., where her husband was stationed and she volunteered as a financial counselor.

"The systems navigator is a community support component of the EFMP that connects Families with special needs to the systems of care they need, both on and off the installation," said Baptiste. "My primary role is to navigate families

through the available systems of care. It is an individualized program based on the family's needs. Active duty Army, Reserve, Guard families and eligible Department of Defense civilians are eligible for systems navigation assistance regardless of their exceptional family member's medical or special education condition. All services are provided at no cost to families," she said.

Baptiste can help your family by providing information about disabilities or medical conditions of concern; identifying your exceptional family member and family strengths and needs; identifying and prioritizing individual and family goals.

"I am looking forward to assisting the Vicenza and Darby communities," said Baptiste.

Baptiste can be reached at 0444-71-7912 or 634-7912.



By Laura Kreider



Ciao Conference brings community women together

Story and photos by Laura Kreider
USAG Vicenza PAO

March 8 is known in Italy as the "Festa della Donna" celebration or International Women's Day. To mark the occasion, more than 100 women from the Vicenza Military Community gathered for the annual combined Italian-American organization Ciao Conference, enjoying a variety of classes and cultural opportunities at *Dai Gelosi*, a restaurant in nearby Valproto. Participants spent the day taking part in the conference, which included transportation, classes, luncheon and participation in prize drawings.

"We had 13 classes and I think this was the most fun year, with a lot of participants," said Kym Price, who served as the event organizer for the third time.

Classes included wine tasting with representatives of the *Le Pignole* and *Maculan* wineries, cooking with Lucas, which featured the proper way to prepare *pasta carbonara*, photography tips and tricks with Erika Saari Williams, and the art of entertaining with Aly Rohling, among others.

"This is the first time I have attended this event," said Amy Morell, a newcomer who has been in Vicenza since September of last year.

"It is a great opportunity to know more about Italy and meet new people. I attended the wine tasting, the olive oil tasting and the living in Vicenza classes. They

were all really great and the lunch is really good," said Morell.

It was the second year in a row of participating for Sarah Costello, who said, "I like it all. I enjoy meeting new people and spending time with friends you already have. This year, I did the yoga and meditation class, the olive oil, the non-invasive beauty technology and the photography classes. I like to learn something new every year."

Roberto Cisco, one of the presenters, said the event gave him a good chance to meet with many members of the American community.

"This is a great experience and an opportunity to talk about the Living in Vicenza website, which is a new tool that can help anyone in the community find out about events in the Vicenza area, and tourists who speak English visiting our area," he said.

At the end of his class, Cisco formed four groups for a fun quiz about the Veneto region with a final prize for the winner.

"Participants appreciated the quiz and getting to know more about this area," he said.

"It is so much fun to watch everyone going from workshop to workshop and talking about what they learned," said Price. "It makes me proud of the job the committee did to put together a great event for the community. The feedback that we have had from the participants has been nothing but positive."



Cameraderie is the watchword of the day at the annual Vicenza Community Club Ciao Conference held March 8 in Valproto. Alex Panian (above left) and Veronica Rosas share a photo during the proceedings and Angela Everson makes a selection from the delicacies available. Smiles were evident throughout the day.



Math Night lights up family fun



Children and families join together during Math night held at the Villaggio Multipurpose Room March 6. PTSA and faculty offered an evening of fun and engaging activities for kids of all ages, all with focus on math. [Click here for more photos.](#)

Story and photo by Laura Kreider
USAG Vicenza PAO

About 150 families with approximately 250 students joined together during Math Night held at the Villaggio school complex March 6, where the PTSA and faculty offered an evening of fun and engaging mathematical games and activities for children of all ages.

"We had 20 stations such as 'my weight on other planets,' 'marshmallow geometry,' graphing art, probability and two-person strategy games," said Melissa Vinton, the PTSA's Math Night coordinator.

Students collected stamp on their Math Night activity cards as they moved from station to station.

"Math Night is fun and my favorite station is the chewing gum station," said 6-year-old Lucy Chapman.

Laney Reardon, 7, loved "making houses out of marshmallows."

"It is like a challenge for them. If they complete the card they get an incentive, like a night off homework," said Sgt.

Radia Marquis, 106th Finance Management Company, who accompanied her 7-year-old son to the event.

"I just came back from deployment and I think this is a good event for the children and for the family coming out with them to have some family time. The children can also learn, and it makes it easier to learn while they have fun," said Marquis.

"This is my first year helping because I actually arrived here about six months ago. I had lots of help from PTSA members Kelli Williams, Berni Hanley and Trina Downey, as well as parent volunteers Stephanie Talley, Gene Tramm, Susan Constable, Renuka Dayaprema and Cristina Bowers, and some VHS, VMS and VES students who helped us set up for the event," she said.

Volunteers, teachers and members of the Caserma Ederle Fire Department helped set up the event, and many parents sent donations of supplies for the evening.

"I would just like to thank all the parents who brought their kids out, despite the rain, to enjoy this wonderful learning event," said Vinton.

The Eggstravaganza

on Hoekstra Field



An Easter basket and an appetite is all you need to bring to enjoy the annual Caserma Ederle egg hunt. Activities will include: egg hunts (age 0-10 years), slides, face painting, bowling specials and more!

Saturday, March 30

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
MEDITERRANEAN POST #862, VICENZA, ITALY



BOSS & the USO will be selling food and drinks!



For more info visit vicenza.armyMWR.com or call 634-5087.

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Darby Military Community

Sisterhood is powerful

Women's history month celebrated at DMC

Story and photo by Amy Drummond
Special to the Outlook

This year's theme for Women's History Month is "Women Inspiring Innovation Through Imagination: Celebrating Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics," the educational priority known as STEM. With that in mind, the Friends of Camp Darby sponsored a Women's History Month celebration March 7 at the Education Center and invited Dr. Katie Gray to be the keynote speaker at the luncheon and cake cutting. Gray is a doctor of pharmacology, a wife and mother of two, who works for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

During the Darby Military Community Celebration of Women's History Month, Gray asked attendees to think about how the everyday things they do embody the three focal words for this year's theme; inspiration, innovation and imagination.

"This month is a time to recognize the many achievements of women over the course of American history," said Gray. "You are a hero to those in your life and you are creating history every day. You inspire, innovate and you cultivate imagination."

She reminded attendees that even the smallest things, such as deciding what to make for dinner, can involve inspiration and imagination, especially when the cabinets are bare.

Gray encouraged women to think about the STEM fields of study and the value a woman's perspective can bring to improve those fields of endeavor.

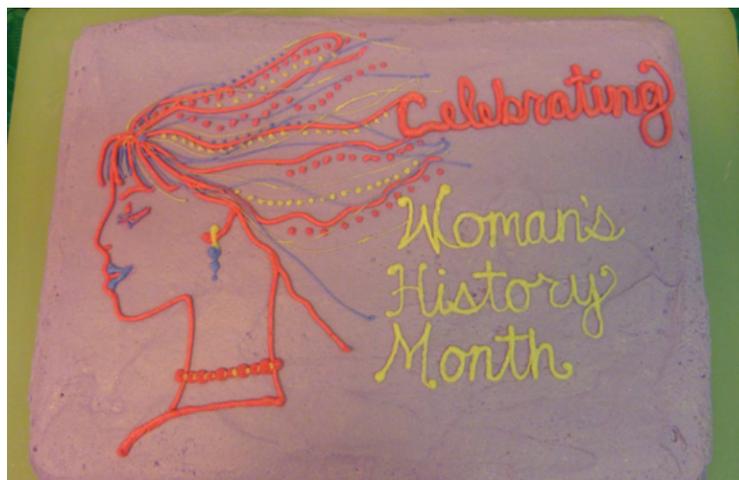
"I think the translation of core science to the marketplace screams for the attention of creative and resilient women. Women belong in STEM fields not just to further innovation, but also to make innovation a reality for the rest of us. The gift of communication makes sometimes seemingly obscure inventions the newest widget that we just can't live without," said Gray.

"Similarly, that same talent of giftwrapping can inspire young minds to pursue a field of study that they may perceive as boring. Finally, the dogged determination of a woman will find the right combination of molecules to create the greatly needed antibiotic to defeat today's superbugs."

Innovations such as Pinterest and the Internet were compared, showing how one person's, or one woman's idea can grow from a simple thought into new thoughts, ideas and innovations. These "collective brains" are an inspiration and help sprout new ideas and inventions, she said.



(Above) Jennifer Lindstrom, Friends of Camp Darby president, recounts the accomplishments of well known American women during the Women's History Month event March 7. (Below) The DMC cake celebrating women.



"I am here to remind you of the inspiration you are to those around you. And it's not just me celebrating; the whole United States is spending this entire month celebrating you and what you have accomplished," said Gray.

Following her speech, she was presented an award by the Friends of Camp Darby.

During the event participants played at identifying the pictures of 24 women who have made significant contributions throughout history, such as Marie Curie, Mother Teresa and Condoleezza Rice. Jennifer Lindstrom, Friends of Camp Darby president, identified the famous women and explained their historical contributions.

Take time this month to remember how important women are and have been throughout history, and say Thank You to the women in your life.

Darby Easter Fest

Saturday, March 30
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Darby Community Club

Join us for our annual Easter Fest & Egg Hunt.
Enjoy games, free food & the Easter Bunny!

Prior registration
is not required.

Bring your own
basket for the
egg hunt.




U.S. Army Child, Youth
& School Services



Hosted by Child, Youth & School Services
For more info call 633-7629. | vicenza.armyMWR.com



Pfc. Patric Hoffman, Livorno Dental Clinic, attends a board March 6 on his way to being selected as the Darby Military Community Soldier of the Year.

cal test of the competition, according to participants. "The hardest was without doubt the 12-mile march with a 30-pound pack. It was hard, physically and mentally, but it was also the best part," said Sgt. Kensley Bell, 598th Trans. Bde.

"I made it to the end, and even though the other competitors had already completed their march, they came back to support me. This really is incredible esprit de corps. I would have done it for anybody, but seeing this reciprocated is the best thing that could happen during a competition," she said.

Bell was the only female in the competition. She said she was honored to participate, and the competition was stiff.

Soldier of the Year Hoffman finished only eight points ahead of the runner-up Soldier.

Hoffman joined the Army eight months ago and was very proud of his accomplishment, he said.

"Right now I feel relieved, but my body is destroyed. I demonstrated to myself that I could do it and I am happy

for that. I believe anyone can do anything if they really want to," said Hoffman.

Hoffman was grateful to all the NCOs who helped him by being on his side and providing great camaraderie.

NCO of the Year Santiago has been in the Army for four years, but this was the first time he competed, he said.

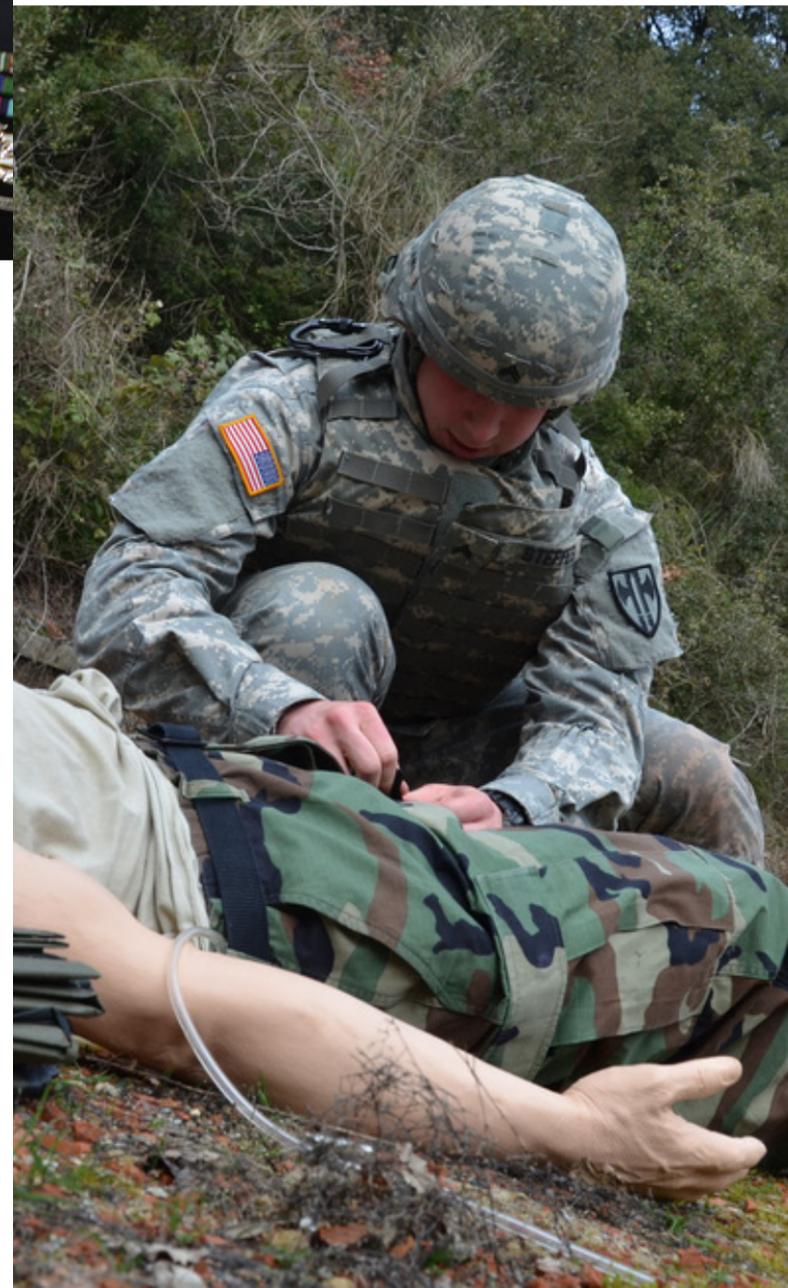
"It is all about staying ready," said Santiago. "I need to show my Soldiers the standards we have to live up to, and I think I just did it."

Santiago thanked his leadership for believing in him and Sgt. Maj. Daisy Jackson of 839th Transportation Battalion, who came out to run the 12-mile march with him as a sign of support.

"This is just a stepping stone for me. This competition pushes you forward," said Santiago.

Sgt. Kensley Bell, 598th Trans. Bde., was recognized as NCO of the Year for her unit.

The awards ceremony was held at the Darby Community Club.



[Click here](#) to see more photos



DMC names 2013 Best Warrior and NCO

Story and photos by Chiara Mattiolo
Darby Military Community PAO

The Camp Darby Soldier and NCO of the Year were selected after fierce competition in the Best Warrior Competition held March 6-8.

The Soldier of the Year winner was Pfc. Patric Hoffman of the Livorno Dental Clinic, and the NCO of the Year was Sgt. Jonathan Santiago, a radiologist at the Livorno Health Clinic.

Soldier and NCO of the Year titles are always earned through hard work. An Army Physical Fitness Test kicked off the grueling three-day competition.

"The Soldiers and NCOs have been competing non-stop for the last 72 hours and have done an outstanding job representing their units," said Master Sgt. John Davis, Senior Enlisted Advisor.

The title of Best Warrior goes only to those Soldiers and NCOs who are Army strong, boarded and tested by written exam and essay.

Among the competitive events encountered, Soldiers had to perform a daytime land navigation and a night land navigation in the woods of Valle Benedetta, near Livorno.

"I think I did well in land navigation," said Cpl. Aaron Layne, 511th MP Platoon. "I participated in the Best Warrior Competition last year, but being the navigation points are different this year, it did not really help much."

Day two of the Best Warrior Competition included competitive shooting and warrior task tests such as searching vehicles for explosive devices and tactical combat casualty care.

"This is a great training that will enhance Soldiers' proficiency and prepare them for future combat operations," said Command Sgt. Maj. Cynthia Howard, 598th Transportation Brigade.

Howard emphasized the advantages of Soldiers training to standard rather than to time constraints.

"This was a great competition, not too hard," said Spc. William Ith, 511th MP Platoon. "The best aspect of the training is the team building."

"This was a very successful competition," said Master Sgt. Tadley Peterson, one of the designated evaluators of Warrior tasks. "I noticed that Soldiers were highly motivated and performed to high levels."

The 12-mile foot march was probably the hardest physi-

Medieval Fest in Verona

Verona will play host to the Bevilacqua Medieval Festival this Sunday at the castle of the same name. Historical re-enactments, markets and performances are on the bill. See below for details.

Courtesy photo



VENETO

Father's Day – La Festa del Papà

On March 19 Italians celebrate Father's Day. It is also the day they celebrate St. Joseph. Stores all over Italy will be offering specially wrapped gift items for family members to buy for their fathers. Typical sweets are the St. Joseph's Day Cream Puffs or Zeppole di San Giuseppe

Medieval Festival

March 17, in Verona, at the Bevilacqua Castle, Via Roma, 50, about 36 miles west of Vicenza. It starts at 10:30 a.m.: children and adults can experience medieval life for a day with knights, bowmen, musicians, fire-eaters, fortune-tellers, jesters, flag-flyers, a medieval encampment and a medieval market. Local historical groups will offer old trades workshops in wax carving and precious metal creations. At noon and at 3:15 p.m. costume parade with knights, flag-flyers and medieval music; 4 p.m. medieval military training and fencing demonstrations; everyone is invited to play games and attend bow and arrow competitions and duels; 7 p.m. closure ceremony with a 1405 battle re-enactment and fireworks; admission fee: €9; €4 for children 4-10 and senior citizens over 70; free entrance for children under 4. 12:30 p.m.: medieval lunch, with knights, dancers and musicians; cost: €37; €20 children 4-6; under 4 free. It includes a guided tour visit. Reservations are mandatory, call 0442-93-655, English operators available.

Irlanda in Festa – Irish Fest

March 15, 6 p.m.-1 a.m. and March 16-17, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., in Padova, Geox Theatre, Via Tasinari 1, about 24 miles southeast of Vicenza; typical Irish cuisine and beers; live Celtic music

and Irish dances, kick boxing; free entrance to all concerts and events.

Festa di San Giuseppe e Festa della Quaglia allo Spiedo – St. Joseph Festival and Spit-Roasted Quail Fair

March 15-17, in Villaganzerla, about 9 miles south of Vicenza; Carnival rides, fair trade market, craft show, painting and photo exhibits; charity raffle; food booths 7:30-10:30 p.m.

Processo alla Vecia Fila

March 17, 4 p.m., in Monte di Malo, Piazza Don G. Montanaro, about 24 miles northwest of Vicenza.; antique farmer tradition of burning the puppet of an old lady; costume parade; live music and folk dance; food booth featuring authentic local cuisine.

Haru no Kaze – Vento di Primavera - Japanese Spring Wind Festival

March 15-24 in Vicenza. Free classes and workshops will be held at the Youth Information Center, Contrà Barche 55, unless otherwise specified. Seating is limited for both free and paid classes. Reserve your seat by calling 345-6497944. An English speaking operator is available.

Cacciatori di Stelle– Star Hunters

March 15, 8:30 p.m., in Montecchio Maggiore, Parco Marinai D'Italia, Via Veronese View the sky and the planets in great detail with the observatory's telescopes.

Via Crucis – Live Stations of the Cross, March 29, 8 p.m., in Gallio

Fiera dell'Artigianato – Art Craft Fair, March 29-April 1, 10 a.m.-8 p.m., in Vicenza, Piazza Castello.

MARKETS

Godega di Sant'Urbano- 8:30a.m.-6:30 p.m., Via Roma, about 75 miles northeast of Vicenza

Montagnana- 8 a.m. to sunset, in Piazza Maggiore 150, about 27 miles south of Vicenza
Padova- 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Prato della Valle, about 24 miles southeast of Vicenza

Antiquaria - Antiques Fair
March 16-24, in Padova, Via N. Tomaseo 59, about 24 miles southeast of Vicenza. Saturday, Sunday and holidays 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.; weekdays 3-8 p.m., Antiques and collectors' items will be for sale, including furniture, lighting, glass & tableware, vintage jewelry and fashion accessories, prints, rare books, coins, medals postcards, old advertising. Admission: €7; reduced €3.5 (children 6-14). Free for children under 6.

CONCERTS

Anastacia: April 8 in Padova; April 9 in Milan

Justin Bieber: March 23 in Bologna
Beyoncé: May 18 in Milan

Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band: May 31 in Padova;

June 3 in Milan; July 11 in Rome

Joe Satriani: May 29 in Rome; May 31 in Florence; June 1 in Padova

Bon Jovi: June 29 in Milan

Alicia Keys: June 19 in Torino (Milan); July 12 in Piazzola sul Brenta (Padova); July 13 in Rome

Leonard Cohen: July 7

in Rome; July 9 in Lucca
Elton John: July 9 in Barolo (Cuneo)
John Legend: July 8 in Perugia; July 9 in Milan

Click here for ticket info.

TUSCANY

Expo Livorno: March 15, 3-8 p.m.; March 16-17, 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Via Veterani dello Sport 8, Livorno; a wide variety of goods from local artisans, traditional products, food stands, furniture, motorcycles, bicycles and more. March 15, free entrance; March 16-17: €3; free entrance for children under 16.

Fiera del Tartufo Marzuolo -Truffle Festival: March 16-17, 9 a.m.-7p.m.; in Cigoli, San Miniato (Pisa); local products exhibit and sale; booth stands featuring many truffle specialties; historical and archaeological exhibits.

Antique markets in Tuscany this weekend

Marina di Grosseto (Tuscany), March 16-17, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Via XXIV Maggio.

Certaldo (Firenze, Tuscany), March 17, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Piazza Boccaccio e Via 2 Giugno.

Lido Camaiore (Lucca, Tuscany): March 17, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; Fratelli

Rosselli, Piazza Abba

All events listed are as reported at press time. Details are subject to change without notice.

SPORTS

Sport Expo – Youth Sports Fair

In Verona, March 16-17, 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m., and March 18, 8:30 a.m.- 1 p.m.; Viale Del Lavoro 8, about 36 miles west of Vicenza.

Palio del Drappo Verde – Race of the Green Cloth

March 17, in Verona, 10 km walk. Dating back to the year 1208, it is the world's oldest running race. Italy's great poet Dante referred to the event in his famous "Divina Commedia" as the Palio Verde. Still today, a green cloth is awarded to the fastest man and woman; the event starts at 9.45 a.m. on Via Arsenale and end in Piazza Arsenale; participants must provide a medical certificate at registration.

Sgambada de San Giuseppe – St. Joseph non-competitive walk

March 17, in Verona. 5-10-14 km walk; between 8:30-9 a.m. on Via Arsenale; entry fee: €3; registration before the race at the Padiglione dell'Arsenale (7:30-9 a.m.).



"Welcome back spring!" on Sunday, March 17

From 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. downtown and immediate areas of Vicenza will be closed to all vehicle traffic. For this special day, the City of Vicenza has organized a host of events, including at 5 p.m. a parade through the streets downtown by the group "Funkoff" departing from Piazza Castello with a final concert in Piazza dei Signori. Plus free entrance to the Basilica Palladiana, Teatro Olimpico and other museums of the city. Buses to and from downtown are free on Sunday.

Courtesy photo





VICENZA.ARMYMWR.COM

VICENZA MILITARY COMMUNITY

Book trips [online](#) on WebTrac

Featured Vicenza Highlights

Eggstravaganza! It's the annual Easter egg hunt on March 30, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Hoekstra Field. Activities for all ages include; bouncy slides, face painting, bowling specials in the Arena and more! The USO and BOSS will be on site selling food and drinks too. The event is sponsored in part by our local chapter of Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 8862.

Entertainment

Join us at the Old Soldiers' Bar in the Golden Lion Conference Center on March 19, 5-9 p.m. for Surf and Turf Night. Cost is \$30 per person and includes a 12 ounce T-Bone steak, grilled shrimp, baked potato, salad, water, a glass of wine, dessert and coffee. Make your reservation by Friday, 15 March by calling 634-7685.

ODR

On March 23 we head over to Tuscany to visit Pisa with its famous leaning tower and then a guided tour of a nearby country farm and olive oil tasting.

March 24 is the next cooking class we will be making "La Piadina" which is a typical Emilia Romagna region dish like a small pizza to fill with savory ingredients or sweet ingredients like Nutella. Class includes transportation, cooking class, wine tasting and brunch.

Get on board for the Cinque Terre Discovery Tour on March 30, as we visit the most picturesque 5 little villages on the west coast of Italy.

Call 634- 7074 for information or register for all ODR trips on WebTrac.

Arts and Crafts

March is National Arts and Crafts Month so why not learn a new craft. On March 27 learn how to take the art of paper quilling to a new level, 3-D. It is fun and easy and all materials are included in the class fee of \$35. Call 634-7074 for information. Register at the Arts and Crafts Center or on Webtrac.

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS)

It's BOSS Bowling Night at the Arena March 19, 7-10 p.m.

Soldiers' Theatre

Journey through the Land of Oz with Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tin Man and Lion in this totally hip, fun and funky favorite for the entire family. Dazzling and fanciful, the high-energy musical celebrates the pursuit of your dreams. Just over the rainbow, the magical world of "The WIZ" awaits. Show runs Sunday, Mar. 24. Show times are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$15 for adults and \$12 for youth. Call the box office at 634-7281 for reservations.

Sports, Fitness and Aquatics

4 on 4 Easter Fun Volleyball on March 22 and 23. Teams include a maximum of 8 players, age 18 and over, including the coach. Sign up at the Ederle Fitness Center and submit your roster before March 18. The mandatory coaches' meeting is Thursday, March 20 in the conference room. Call 634-7009 for more information.

CYSS

Youth ImageMakers photo exhibit is on display at the Ederle Library March 11-29. Stop by and see the talent the youth from our community have and vote on your favorite. Call 634-7659 for more information.

GET FAMILIAR WITH NEW WEBSITE

Vicenza Family and MWR wants to help our friends get familiar with our new website. <http://vicenza.armymwr.com>. To help everyone discover the features of the new site we are hosting a get familiar contest. Every day in March we will post a tip for finding information or using our website. You can join in the fun by adding your own tips. Every Friday we will hold a drawing and one Facebook Friend who has shared a new tip will win a Family and MWR prize.

DARBY MILITARY COMMUNITY

Featured Darby Highlights

Come along and celebrate spring at the Easter Fest on Saturday, March 30 at the Darby Community Club. Fun begins at 11 a.m. with an egg hunt and games. Enjoy free food and a special visit from the Easter Bunny! Bring your own basket for the egg hunt.

Join in the Darby Tennis Tournament April 1-12. Divisions include Men's Singles, Women's Singles and Doubles (can consist of any ratio of male/female). Games will begin each weekday evening at 5:30 p.m. Register at the Darby Fitness Center by March 29. Cost is \$10 per player. For more info, contact Sports & Fitness at 633-7438.

Find a partner to participate in the many mystery events of Darby's Amazing Challenge on April 27! Your team will compete in a race where you will decipher clues to guide you all around Camp Darby, utilizing services and facilities that support the community. Register now thru April 5 at Outdoor Recreation. For more information, contact Outdoor Recreation at 633-7439 or visit www.vicenza.armyMWR.com

Child, Youth & School Services

Join the Youth Center for a fun-filled evening with games galore on March 23 to include a Rockband Tournament. Register at the Youth Center or on WEBTRAC online.

Parents are invited to attend the Parent Advisory Council meeting on Wednesday, March 27 at noon. This month's agenda will include updates from Program Managers, Policy changes, CYSS Annual Survey and an update on background checks. A light lunch will be served.

Outdoor Recreation

Enjoy a day in Florence and visit the Uffizi Museum, the Accademia Gallery, shop in the outdoor market or along Ponte Vecchio or just sit and enjoy a coffee at an outdoor café on March 23. Call ODR at 633-7589 or 7775 for information or register for your trips on WEBTRAC online.

Visit Assisi, a beautiful medieval town with geranium-hung streets, lovely views and fountain-splashed piazzas on March 30. Assisi is heir to the legacy of St. Francis who is buried in the Basilica di San Francesco. Call ODR at 633-7589 or 7775 for information or register for your trips on WEBTRAC online.

Library

Are you an amateur sculptor, painter, jewelry maker, quilter, photographer or crafts maker in your spare time? Share your talent with the Darby Community! Show your work at the Library during National Library Week April 14-20. For more information, contact the Darby Library at 633-7000 or visit www.vicenza.armyMWR.com

Sports & Fitness

Sports & Fitness is looking for coaches and players for the 2013 Men's & Women's Base Softball teams. The season runs March thru September. Tryouts will be announced after coaches are selected. For more info, contact Sports & Fitness at 633-7438.

Darby
Tennis
Tournament

Join in the Fitness Center Tennis Tournament
Men's Singles, Women's Singles & Doubles*

*Doubles division can consist of any ratio of male/female

Tournament Dates:
April 2-12

Games played:
Evenings
Mon - Fri
5:30 p.m.

Register By:
March 29

For more info call 633-7438 or visit www.vicenza.armyMWR.com

Surf & Turf at the
Old Soldiers' Bar

March 19
5-7 p.m.

Community briefs

Vicenza Military Community

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

March OHA Survey

The Defense Travel Management Office will conduct an Overseas Housing Allowance Utility and Move-in expense survey March 1-31. It is intended to validate and adjust the compensation service members are receiving from OHA to live in privately leased or rented residential housing. All service members, regardless of service affiliation, who reside in off-post housing are highly encouraged to complete the survey in order to accurately gauge the amount of OHA service members are receiving. <https://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/marutil.cfm>

National Nutrition Month

March 19: Weight Management Support Group, 9-10 a.m. at the commissary.

March 26: Seasonal vegetables cooking class, noon to 1 p.m. at the Arts & Crafts Center. For more or to schedule an appointment with a dietitian, call 636-9519.

Health Center hours

The U.S. Army Health Center Vicenza will be open from 12:30-4:30 p.m. March 19-22. As ever, the Birthing Center remains open 24 hours every day.

Beware TSP app

The Apple App Store is offering a free iPhone application called TSP Funds that is not sanctioned by the Thrift Savings Plan. The app asks TSP participants for their account login information, which TSP advises could result in a security risk to member accounts. Details are at <https://www.tsp.gov/whatsnew/plan/planNews>.

[shtml#iPhoneApp](#).

EDIS screening

Have your infant, toddler or preschooler screened by a member of the Early Intervention Team or the Developmental Preschool Team April 3 at Vicenza Elementary School. To schedule an appointment for childrendup to 60 months of age call 634 5700 or 0444-71-5700.

Red Cross Reconnection workshops

The Vicenza Red Cross is conducting workshops structured to help families with reintegration after deployment. Learn how to work through anger, relate to children, communicate clearly and identify depression, stress and trauma.

Sessions meet every Tuesday and Thursday in the Red Cross Office, Building 333, from 5:30-7 p.m.

March 19: Relating to children

March 21: Working through anger

March 26: Communicating clearly

March 28: Exploring stress and trauma

April 2: Identifying depression

April 4: Relating to children

Sign up via email to vicenza@redcross.org or by phone at 634-7089 or 0444-71-7089.

VCC Masquerade Gala

The Vicenza Community Club will host its second annual Masquerade Gala March 23 at the Golden Lion from 6-11 p.m. to benefit the VCC Scholarship Program with a live auction. Tickets are \$35 per person or \$250 for a table of up to eight. RSVP by March 16 to www.vccitaly.org/news.

UMUC Spring 2 classes

University of Maryland University College Europe (UMUC Europe) Spring Session 2 offers classes on Nutrition, Understanding movies, Speech, Italian language, life and culture, math, statistics, sociology and business. New students can apply for \$700 scholarships; military

and dependents can apply for \$150 textbook scholarships. Registration runs through March 18, the first day of class. For details and assistance call 634-8927 or email vicenza-europe@umuc.edu

2013 Scholarships for Military Children

Applications for the 2013 Scholarships for Military Children Program are being accepted now. See eligibility and submission details online at www.militaryscholar.org and www.commissaries.com.

CTC Scholarship

Central Texas College is accepting applications for scholarships online through March 31. For information call 634-6514, email vicenza@europe.ctcd.edu or visit CTC in Room 6 of the Education Center

Brain Injury Awareness

March is Brain Injury Awareness Month. Please vote by clicking "LIKE" your favorite poster during the Vicenza TBI Brain Injury Awareness Poster Contest on the US Army Vicenza Health Center facebook page or at the Library. The top three local winners will get prizes! Voting ends March 24 Visit the Vicenza TBI youtube page <http://www.youtube.com/vicenzaTBI> for relaxation recordings.

VHS Booster Club

The VHS Booster Club will hold its fourth annual furniture and collectibles auction and sale March 16 at the high school gym. Preview and silent auction get under way at 10 a.m., live auction starts at 11 a.m. For information call 346-664-3347 or 334-210-4448.

Darby scholarships

Deadlines are approaching for the Friends of Camp Darby's Women's Empowerment Award and Graduating Senior Scholarship. Deadlines are April 19, so finish up and submit your applications now.

How Am I Growing?

For children birth through 5 years of age

Wed., 3 April 2013

Vicenza Elementary School

Call 634 – 5700 (0444-71-5700)

To ask for a **CHILD FIND** screening appointment

Venture Crew 3 "Open House"

Find out what we are all about and what we do.

When: Monday, 18 March 2013, starting 1500 hours.

Where: between the HS Cafeteria & DSO.

What: we will show you who we are, what we do and what we want to do.

Who: anyone high school grades and up, however you cannot be older than 20 years. You are not in HS, but are in our age group, you can join as well.

How: take some time out of your busy schedule and stop by our table. We can show you what we have to offer, and you will still be able to do after school activities, be it sports or clubs.

camping, repelling, traveling, go-carting, and much more!!!

Come check us out!!!!

If you like what you see, you can sign up right away. Everyone who signs up will receive a survival bracelet.

Now Showing

Ederle Theater

March 14	Jack Reacher (PG-13)	6 p.m.
March 15	Oz the Great and Powerful (PG) The Guilt Trip (PG-13)	6 p.m. 9 p.m.
March 16	Oz the Great and Powerful (PG) Dead Man Down (R)	3 p.m. 6 p.m.
March 17	Oz the Great and Powerful (PG) Dead Man Down (R)	3 p.m. 6 p.m.
March 20	Gangster Squad (R)	6 p.m.
March 21	Gangster Squad (R)	6 p.m.
March 22	The Rise of the Guardians (PG) The Guilt Trip (PG-13)	6 p.m. 9 p.m.

Camp Darby Theater

March 15	The Guilt Trip (PG-13)	6 p.m.
March 16	Gangster Squad (R)	6 p.m.
March 17	Snitch (PG-13) *	1 p.m.
March 22	Snitch (PG-13) *	6 p.m.

Admission: * First run, adult, \$5.50, under 12, \$2.75; regular release, \$5/\$2.50; repeat releases, \$4.50/\$2.25; special pay \$3.50/\$1.75.
The Ederle theater box office opens one hour prior to show.
View MOVIE TRAILERS and more online at
<http://www.shopmyexchange.com/ReelTimeTheatres/reeltime-landing.htm>

Religious Activities

Chaplain Crisis Line

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

Vicenza

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 a.m.: Protestant Women of the Chapel

5 p.m.: Contemporary Praise band practice

Wednesdays

5:30 p.m.: PWOC Bible study. Dinner provided. No child care

5:30 p.m.: Catholic choir practice

6:45 p.m.: Gospel choir practice

Thursdays

9:30 a.m.: Military Council of Catholic Women

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

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

Special Catholic Dates

March 17 9 a.m. Confirmation

March 23 10 a.m. Chiampo Trip

March 24 9 a.m. Palm Sunday

March 28 6 p.m. Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

March 29 6 p.m. Celebration of the Lord's passion

March 30 8:30 p.m. Easter Vigil

March 31 9 a.m. Easter Sunday

Bishop Francis Richard Spencer, the Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, will visit our Catholic Military Community in Vicenza March 16-18. During the 9 a.m. At Mass on March 17 the Bishop will

administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to the candidates from our Catholic Military Community in Vicenza; they have been preparing to receive this sacrament since last September.

Chiampo Trip: Join St. Mark's Catholic Community March 23 at 10 a.m. to visit the Santuario grotta di Lourdes of Blessed Claudio Chiampo, in Chiampo, about 25 km west of Vicenza. See the outdoor Via Crucis, Way of the Cross. see the replica of the Grotto of Lourdes, museum and gift store on the grounds. Families may choose to bring a sack lunch or have a meal at close by restaurants.

Faith groups in Vicenza contact information

Bahá'í Faith: Call Russell Menard at 389-133-4627 or Giacomo Baravalle at 348-603-2283

Church of Christ: Call CW2 Michael Bickle at 345-469-9974 or 0444-335-135 or email vicenzaitalychurchofchrist@gmail.com

Islamic: Call 634-7519 (0444-71-7519)

Jewish: Call Paul Levine at 345-907-2108

Latter Day Saints: Sunday services, 1:30 p.m. in Vicenza. Call Bob Shakespeare at 389-268-5605 or email drbob143@gmail.com.

Trinity Church Vicenza: An International Presbyterian Church (IPC) congregation. Call Pastor Rinn at 328-473-2949 or email trinitychurchvicenza@gmail.com.

Vicenza Hospitality House: A good place for anyone - single Soldiers, men, women and couples to enjoy food, fun and fellowship. Tuesday: Dinner at 6:30 p.m. with PMOC Bible Study and Women's study following at 7:30. Friday: Potluck Dinner at 6:30 p.m. with Walk in the Word following. Call if you need transportation. For more information call 0444-581-427

Call 634-7519 or 0444-71-7519 for info on Chapel activities.

Club Beyond activities

Club Beyond's **Spring Adventure** will take place April 9-13 at Durbuy Adventure Park in Belgium. Check out the camp at www.durbuyadventure.be. Cost is \$325 plus \$150 bus fare. A parents meeting will be held March 19 from 6-7:15 p.m. at the Chapel multipurpose room. Contact Vicenza Club Beyond or the MCYM International office at adventurecamp@club-beyond.org to register.

A middle school **Dodgeball Tournament** will take place March 22 from 2:45-5 p.m. at the Villaggio YS.

The **Summer Service Project** in Ostrava, Czech Republic, will provide challenging service opportunities that invite teens to put their faith into action in Ostrava, Czech Republic, June 15-21. Travel dates will vary, camping will be in tents at Landek Park with building and restoration activities at six to eight sites located 15-25 minutes away from camp. Cost is \$598 inclusive. Call 388-9348 or 0049-6221-796894 for details.

Camp Darby

Sunday services

11:15 a.m.: Protestant worship and children's service

Catholic Mass: please call the Chapel at 633-7267 to confirm times as it changes with the Priest covering mass.

Tuesday

9:30 a.m.: Protestant Women of the Chapel

Wednesday

5:30 p.m.: Protestant Women of the Chapel

5:15 p.m.: Protestant Men of the Chapel

6:15 p.m.: Choir Practice
For Camp Darby chapel activities and information call 633-7267.

The explanation of "The process of conversion and repentance," According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church

By Father Wieslaw Dynek

Lt. Col, US Army

The process of conversion and repentance was described by Jesus in the parable of the Prodigal Son, the center of which is the merciful father:

- the fascination of illusory freedom, the abandonment of the father's house;
- the extreme misery in which the son finds himself after squandering his fortune;
- his deep humiliation at finding himself obliged to feed swine, and still worse, at wanting to feed on the husks the pigs ate;
- his reflection on all he has lost;
- his repentance and decision to declare himself guilty before his father;
- the journey back;
- the father's generous welcome;
- the father's joy - all these are characteristic of the process of conversion;
- the beautiful robe, the ring, and the festive banquet are symbols of that new life - pure, worthy, and joyful - of anyone who returns to God and to the bosom of his family, which is the Church. Only the heart of Christ Who knows the depths of his Father's love could reveal to us the abyss of his mercy in so simple and beautiful a way.

LENTEN CONFESSION:

The annual Lenten season is fitting time to climb the holy mountain of Easter. The faithful, even more attentive to the word of God and prayer, prepare themselves by penance for the renewal of their baptismal promises. It is fitting that the Lenten season concludes, both for the individual Christian as well as for the whole Christian community, with a penitential celebration, so that all may be helped to prepare to celebrate MORE FULLY the paschal mystery.

Our Catholic Military community will have an opportunity to participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation/Penance this coming Monday, 26 March. Three priests will be available for confession between 1630 and 1900.

Examination of Conscience and order of the Sacrament of Confession will be placed on the table at the entrance of the chapel. They will help us to prepare for confession.

The Caserma Ederle Chapel Community invites you to its Annual Easter Sunrise Service
All are welcome!



Celebrate Easter Together

March 31, at 7 a.m.

Hoekstra Field

The South of the Alps Dining Facility (DFAC) will be open for non-hosted breakfast following the service (0745). Those interested can enjoy fellowship time there together.

Uniform/Attire: Civilian casual (dress warmly); ACUs for Soldiers on duty

If you have questions, please contact CH (MAJ) Mark Shelton mark.a.shelton6.mil@mail.mil or DSN 634-7472

Easter Fun Volleyball

4-on-4



Friday & Saturday
March 22 & 23
at the Ederle Fitness Center

Mandatory sign-up and submit your team roster by March 18.

Max of 8 players per team to include coach.
Ages 18+

Mandatory Coaches Meeting
Thursday, March 20

6 p.m. in the Fitness Center Conference Room



Questions? Call 634-7009.

www.vicenza.armyMWR.com

Sports shorts

StraVicenza Marathon

The annual StraVicenza 2-K, 4.5-K and 10-K runs will be held in Vicenza March 17 beginning at 10 a.m. with start and finish at the Campo Marzo. Register there from 7:45-9:45 a.m. Cost is €4 and €2 for children under 14. Bag storage service is available for €1. The event coincides with the **No Drive Day in Vicenza**. Participants can park in the Stadio, Via Cricoli or Via Farini parking lots and take a bus to the city center at no cost beginning at 7:30 a.m. From Caserma Ederle, take either the #7 or #1 bus from Viale della Pace and get off at the Stazione (train station). For information in Italian go to www.stravicenza.it.

Hardcourt action coming up

The Vicenza Community Men's Basketball squad takes on Isola Vicentina March 17 at 3:30 p.m. at the Fitness Center, and Dueville team at a date still to be determined. The squad will travel to Stuttgart, Germany, to compete in the 2013 IMCOM European Armed Forces Basketball Championship March 21-24.

Venture Crew 3

Check out the Venture Crew 3 info table March 18 at 3 p.m. between the Vicenza High School cafeteria and the District Office for their upcoming schedule of camping, rappelling and go-karting activities. Open to youth high school up to 20.

Softball umpires, scorers clinic

The USAG Vicenza Softball Official Clinic will take place April 2-6 beginning at 6 p.m. in the Fitness Center conference room. Umpires and scorers are needed for the season. Stop by the Fitness Center for information.

Tennis in Darby

Join the Darby Tennis Tournament April 1-12. Division play includes men's singles, women's singles and doubles, which can be any mix of men and women. Games start each weekday evening at 5:30 p.m. Register at the Darby Fitness Center by March 29. Cost is \$10 per player. For more info, contact Sports & Fitness at 633-7438.

Softball at Camp Darby

Darby Sports & Fitness is looking for coaches and players for the 2013 Men's

and Women's Base Softball teams. The season runs through September. Try-outs will be announced after coaches are selected. For details, call 633-7438.

Easter volleyball in Vicenza

Sign up for 4-on-4 Easter Fun Volleyball to take place March 22-23. Teams of no more than eight, 18 and over, including the coach. Sign up at the Fitness Center and submit your roster by March 18. A mandatory coaches meeting will take place March 20.

Meditation Monday in Vicenza

Army Community Service conducts an informal, relaxing meditation session every Monday at 12:15 p.m. in Davis Hall. All are welcome to participate.

The Outlook accepts submissions

Email news briefs by close of business on Friday of the week before publication to editor@eur.army.mil.

Sky Soldier basketball team takes silver



Congratulations to the USAG Vicenza 173rd ABCT basketball squad, which took silver in the 2013 IMCOM Army Europe Unit Level Basketball Championship held March 1-3 in Bamberg, Germany. The squad played hard, racking up an 11-3 tally in a weekend of tough competition.

ODR Wine Down Wednesday trips explore Italian culinary culture



Story and photos by Joyce Costello
USAG Vicenza PAO

It is the middle of the work week and the idea of discovering wines I won't find at my local shop makes going on Vicenza Outdoor Recreation's monthly Wine Down Wednesday trip seem doubly decadent. Add not having to drive, throw in local olive oil and other exotic fare, and I can't think of a better way to spend Feb. 27.

We on the way to the vineyards, trip leader, Lisa Xodo, tells our group about the two different vineyards we'll be visiting and points out various wild flower hiking areas that might be of interest to come visit on our own.

We arrive at Tre Colline Azienda Agricola, in the wine region of Bardolino near Lake Garda, and while waiting for wine to be poured, we taste two delightful extra virgin olive oils that have a golden color and glorious taste, which Xodo attributes to the unique microclimate and low acid content.

We start with a slightly sweet, sparkling Moscalino wine, followed by an elegant Chardonnay. The Bardolino Classico Chiaretto, which at first glance can be mistaken for a rosé, helps our palates transition from whites to reds.

The Bardolino Classico, namesake of the region, is truly a classic. The more we taste, the heavier the wine becomes until we arrive at the Bacari, which boasts a whopping 15 percent alcohol content. To say this deep, full-bodied red is incredible would not do it justice.

More surprising, the taste reminds me of a Brunello, but the price was a third of what one might expect to pay. We wrap up the wine tasting at Tre Colline with a Vigna del Sol, a sweet dessert wine similar to a Vin Santo, served with the local *cantucci*, or cookies, to dip into it.

It is hard to believe that we are moving on to another vineyard the same morning. We arrive at Ca' Bottura and had the weather not been raining, we would have most certainly sat at tables overlooking the vineyards and

enjoyed the view. The wine cellar, decorated with local artist paintings, has a buffet table of hor d'oeuvres waiting for us.

We start with a Garganega white wine that Xodo said would be good with *risotto*. The Chiaretto Bardolino that follows would make for a good aperitif, and the final wine, Bardolino Classico, would be nice accompaniment to dinner.

You can imagine after tasting all these wines, there were a variety of opinions.

Catherine Williams, who was on her second "Wine Down Wednesday" trip, said her favorite wine was the Bardolino Classico Chiaretto from Tre Colline because of its light, fruity flavor with no strong finish. Their Bardolino Classico was her runner up.

Amanda Hardy sang the praises of the Bardolino Classico from Ca' Bottura; however, both agreed there were many advantages to visiting vineyards with ODR.

"Getting out and seeing the countryside and discovering hidden treasures that I wouldn't find on my own made it worth taking the day off work and going with my friend on this trip," said Williams, who incidentally I thought looked just like Kate Middleton by the time we got to the sixth glass of wine samples.

Hardy, a native Californian who said she did not like wine before coming to Italy, was on her 10th ODR trip. It made her feel like an avid connoisseur of local vineyards, she said.

"These Italian wines taste natural and I really like how they feed you all the local products. You don't experience that in California," said Hardy.

For my part, I was happy to try new wines in the company of new friends in a relaxed wind down Wednesday.

Vicenza ODR typically has a Wine Down Wednesday trip each month. Red wine lovers should be sure to sign up for the April 17 Valpolicella and brunch trip. Sparkling wine lovers won't be disappointed on the May 15 Prosecco Valley excursion. Sign up for trips at Vicenza ODR or online at Webtrac.





2ND ANNUAL VICENZA COMMUNITY CLUB
masquerade
GALA
LIVE AUCTION

PROCEEDS FROM THE LIVE AUCTION BENEFIT
 THE VCC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

SATURDAY, MARCH 23
GOLDEN LION BALLROOM

6:00PM - 11:00PM

RSVP WITH PAYMENT BY MARCH 16TH
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TICKETS: \$35 PER PERSON
\$250 TABLE FOR EIGHT
CASH BAR
ATTIRE: EVENING WEAR

