

Outlook

Vicenza and Darby Military Communities

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SKY SOLDIERS FLY HIGH

**COUNCIL LEAVES USAG
VICENZA**

**WHITE TRUFFLES IN
SEASON AT DMC**

VMC RUNS FOR RESILIENCE



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On the cover

A paratrooper lands in a field during a combined U.S.-Italian airborne operation near Mantua, Italy, Oct. 30. This allied jump marks the first time that Americans have jumped with the Italians on this drop zone. See the whole story on page 15.

Photo by Sgt. **A.M. LaVey**, 173rd Airborne Brigade PAO



The U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza received an invite from Mayor of Isola Vicentina Francesco Gonzo, and we provided a four-person color guard to participate in Celebration of Italian Armed Forces Day & National Unity event Nov. 4. The color guard partnered with Italian formations to conduct commemorative ceremonies at the monuments of the Fallen Soldiers in four locations beginning at Isola Vicentina and concluding at Torreselle.

In attendance 1st Sgt. Martin Cruz, Staff Sgt. Joseph Hicks and Sgt. Jose Carrasquillo from Headquarters and Headquarters Company U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza and Staff Sgt. Raphael Vasquez from 464 Military Police Platoon.

Photos by **Anna Ciccotti**/USAG Vicenza PAO



Speak Out

What are you doing for Thanksgiving?



Talli McMullin

Family member

"I will be meeting my wonderful step brother and spend my first Thanksgiving with my sister home."



Myreta Davis

DoDDS

"Of course there will be a turkey with trimmings, but we may also do an overnight in Milan! We've yet to see the 'Last Supper' after living here more than 20 years. That's a shame we intend to fix!"



Staff Sgt. **Charles Lee**

2nd Bn., 503rd Inf. Reg.

"My wife Kristin and I will be traveling to Ireland to visit the island of Skellig Michael and other sites."

By Laura Kreider



U.S. Army photo by Kerstin Kling

Michael D. Formica, incoming region director, Installation Management Command Europe, receives the command's colors from Lt. Gen. David D. Halverson, commander, U.S. Army Installation Management Command and assistant chief of staff for Installation Management, during a change of responsibility ceremony, Nov. 4, in Kaiserslautern, Germany.

IMCOM-E changes region director

By **Troy Darr**

Installation Management Command Europe

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Installation Management Command Europe welcomed a new region director during a change of responsibility ceremony Nov. 4, at the Vogelweh military complex here.

Kathleen Y. Marin relinquished responsibility of Installation Management Command Europe to Michael D. Formica.

The ceremony and passing of the command's colors was presided over by Lt. Gen. David D. Halverson, commander, U.S. Army Installation Management Command and assistant chief of staff for Installation Management.

With three years as the region director, Marin managed the transformation of IMCOM Europe with her strategy of "Consolidate, Divest and Invest."

"Installation Management Command Europe is the Army's home in Europe, and like any community, our success depends on people," said Marin. "People are our most precious asset, and success in our communities rests on this fact. Not the equipment, buildings, or material resources, but quite simply people."

"People to care for our children at the Child Development Center while parents are on duty.

"People to ensure our barracks and homes are kept warm and electricity running for that Thanksgiving dinner.

"People to stand guard at our gates on cold nights while

we sleep safely in our beds.

"And people to safeguard all those holiday packages from Amazon.

"It has truly been the highlight of my career to be the region director from IMCOM Europe, and it has been my privilege and honor to serve with you, our IMCOM professionals," she said.

Marin and her husband, Stephen, plan to retire to Oregon. Formica becomes the fourth region director of IMCOM Europe having most recently served as the assistant deputy chief of staff, G-3/5/7, for Training and Doctrine Command at Fort Eustis, Va.

"I am honored to be given the opportunity to lead this great team of quiet professionals," said Formica. "To Lieutenant General Halverson - thank you for your faith in my abilities; I am proud to be a member of the IMCOM team.

"I enthusiastically accept the mantle of leading this team to support our Soldiers and their families in U.S. Army Europe and U.S. Army Africa enabling readiness to win in a complex world. To the Army professionals, Soldiers and civilians, within IMCOM Europe, I look forward to leading you as together we execute this mission."

During the ceremony, Halverson thanked the command teams from IMCOM Europe's seven garrisons for their efforts in taking care of Soldiers and their families.

Formica will officially take the leadership of IMCOM Europe Jan. 11. Deputy Region Director, Col. Anthony Haager, will serve as the acting region director from Nov. 4-Jan. 11.



Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges (center, facing camera) passes the U.S. Army Europe colors to Command Sgt. Maj. David S. Davenport Sr., USAREUR senior enlisted advisor, during the ceremony in which Hodges accepted command of USAREUR, in Wiesbaden, Germany, Nov. 5. The traditional flag-passing symbolizes the transition of command from one leader to another.

USAREUR welcomes new commander

Story and photo by **Sgt. Daniel Cole**
U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs

WIESBADEN, Germany — Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges accepted the U.S. Army Europe colors and command of USAREUR from Lt. Gen. Donald M. Campbell Jr. in a ceremony here, Nov. 5. Prior to coming to USAREUR Hodges served for two years as commander of NATO's Allied Land Command in Izmir, Turkey. The traditional ceremony included the inspection of a formation of Soldiers representing each unit under USAREUR's command by Gen. Phillip M. Breedlove, NATO Supreme Allied Commander — Europe and commander of U.S. European Command, alongside Campbell and USAREUR Chief of Staff Brig. Gen. Markus Laubenthal.

To signify the passing of command, USAREUR Command Sgt. Maj. David S. Davenport Sr. passed the USAREUR colors to Campbell, the outgoing commander, who in turn gave them to Breedlove for presentation to Hodges as the incoming commander. Breedlove then addressed attendees, speaking about USAREUR's achievements under Campbell's command, thanking the general and his wife Ann for their support of the Army during a more than 36-year career, and forecasting growing success for USAREUR under Hodges' leadership.

"All great units require a carefully chosen leader to replace departing ones, and the Army has done us an incredible service, again, by selecting general Ben Hodges to assume the coveted reigns of USAREUR," Breedlove said. "Ben comes to us with an incredible reputation and proven multinational experience that will fit perfectly in this unit."

Following Breedlove's comments Campbell, whose retirement ceremony took place just before the change of command, addressed his Soldiers one last time. He praised their dedication to the USAREUR mission and assured them that their future is in good hands.

"I think the luckiest Soldier here today is my good friend Lieu-

tenant General Ben Hodges. You are joining a great team of teams," said Campbell. "To the USAREUR teams: know you are gaining a great proven leader in Ben Hodges."

The ceremony was capped by Hodges, who addressed the assembled Soldiers for the first time as their new commanding general. He spoke of USAREUR's continual progress in building capable joint and combined forces in Europe, and said his three enduring priorities — leader development, readiness and enabling partners and alliances — will assure the continued success of EUCOM and those alliances.

"The alliance has steadfastly maintained its core purpose — Article 5 (of the NATO Treaty, which outlines the concept of) collective defense — an attack on one is an attack on all," Hodges said. "U.S. Army Europe will continue to be ready, reliable and forward stationed to underwrite that guarantee of collective defense. We've been here for 65 years doing just that, and we will continue to be prepared to win in a complex world."

A native of Quincy, Fla., Hodges graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in May 1980 and was commissioned in the infantry. Following his first assignment in Germany as a lieutenant he went on to command infantry units at the company, battalion and brigade levels. He has also served in many joint and staff positions, including as a tactics instructor at the Army Infantry School; as chief of plans for the 2nd Infantry Division in Korea; as an Army Congressional Liaison Officer; as task force senior observer-controller at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La.; as Coalition/Joint-3 for the Multi-National Corps-Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom; as chief of staff for the XVIII Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg, N.C.; as director of the Pakistan Afghanistan Coordination cell on the joint staff; as chief of legislative liaison for the U.S. Army; as director of operations for Regional Command South in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom; and as aide-de-camp to the Supreme Allied Commander Europe.

Army celebrates American Education Week

Vicenza Education Center

FORT KNOX, KY - Army Continuing Education joins forces with educators from across the country to celebrate American Education Week Nov. 17-21. A special observance of Education Support Professionals Day will occur on Wednesday, Nov. 19. This year's theme "Army Continuing Education - Army Strong, Education Stronger" reinforces the Army's commitment to provide quality education for Soldiers worldwide. In 1919, representatives of the National Education Association and the American Legion met for the first time to discuss the fact that 25 percent of the country's World War I draftees were illiterate. The representatives sought ways to generate public support for education, which ultimately resulted in the knowledge and capabilities-based force the Army is today.

The Army Continuing Education System offers a variety of programs to assist Soldiers in establishing and achieving education goals. No longer tied to the traditional classroom style of education, Soldiers can now earn a degree through a variety of distance-learning programs sponsored through the local Army Education Center. Once a degree plan is established, Soldiers can apply for tuition assistance and enroll in classes anywhere



Photo by Julie M. Lucas, USAG Vicenza PAO

Reid Buckland, Education Services officer, speaks with Sgt. Ivan Deoliveria, 106th Finance Detachment about educational opportunities.

in the world, 24/7, via the GoArmyEd portal. These programs take into consideration the Soldiers' demanding operational assignments and personal time, whether leisure or with family.

Stop by your Vicenza or Del Din Education Centers for more information on ACES programs and services or call 634-8933 at Vicenza, 637-2101 at Del Din or 633-7073 at Camp Darby. While there, ask about American Education Week related events.

You are cordially invited to enjoy a cup of coffee and snacks while you visit with representatives from University of Maryland University Colleges, Central Texas College, University of Oklahoma, Embry Riddle Aeronautical College and

the Veterans Administration. Use this opportunity to discover all of the services we offer to advance your educational goals.

The Vicenza Education Center is interested in offering programs and services that best meet your needs. In order to make this possible, we need your input. Please take 5 minutes of your valuable time to complete the Education Needs Assessment Survey by going to:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/QJ-QCYK3>

If your coworkers and adult family members are also interested in pursuing an education or using our services, encourage them to fill out the survey also.

VMC invited to 'Meet the Mayors'



Photo by Laura Kreider, USAG Vicenza PAO

USAG Vicenza PAO

The sixth annual Meet the Mayors event is planned for Tuesday, Nov. 25 from 4-6 p.m. in the Golden Lion conference center on Caserma Ederle and everyone in the Vicenza military community is invited to attend.

Mayors, council members, and cultural and tourism representatives from some 120 Italian townships in the Vicenza and Padova provinces have been invited to join this informal fair, said Anna Ciccotti, USAG Vicenza community relations officer, who is planning the event.

The fair will give Soldiers, civilians and their families a chance to find out about the places where they live, while giving local Italian leaders an opportunity to meet and talk to base leadership.

"Meet-the-Mayors has the opportunity to bring our two communities together and instill a sense of

Soldiers, family and community members learn about local events and foods from the area at a previous Meet the Mayors event. Last year's event featured more than 50 city mayors, with translators on hand to help.

community pride and awareness of the cultural heritage and natural beauty of one's place," Ciccotti said.

Mayors and their reps are excited to come and meet the American families living in the greater Vicenza area and provide a wealth of information on their towns and tips to help them get to know their communities in depth.

For Italians, Meet the Mayors is a unique occasion to gather and showcase Americans that proud heritage that is on display all around throughout the seasons in the form of festivals, museums, historic sites, markets and shops selling arts-and crafts products, typical wines and regional foods.

Members of the American community can come out and get to know the towns around post where in fact most families

have found their new home in Italy and see what they have to offer practically on our doorstep. They can engage their "Sindaco," ask questions about local activities and learn directly from the first citizens what makes each town special and worth a day trip.

It is a fun, relationship-building tradition that brings forth also a subtle yet friendly competition between the towns in attendance, Ciccotti said. "Each mayor can rightfully boast about the beautiful art, natural resources, foods and wines of his/her town and at the end of day they all win," she said.

"Meet the Mayors last year was a very worthwhile, memorable experience for me," said Julie Gresco, Plans Analysis and Integration Office, USAG Vicenza. "I learned about the history of comunes and

sampled locally produced goods. I was offered samples of goods to enjoy at my leisure and books that captured the attractions within the comunes as a memento. I am definitely looking forward to this year's event," Gresco said.

At previous events representatives from local towns took part, bringing giveaways, maps, brochures and pamphlets. Many guests also offered an amazing sampling of local culinary specialties for the delight of attendees.

A team of volunteer interpreters recruited within the garrison will be on hand at the informational tables for one of the most-popular event here in community. At the end of the public forum, the mayors will join post leadership for informal networking reception.

EQCC tours Auto Skills Center

DPW Environmental Division

An Environmental Quality Control Committee was held at the Auto Skill Center of Caserma Ederle Oct. 17.

The EQCC is a quarterly meeting required by Army Regulation 200-1 and AER 200-1 and it is chaired by the garrison commander and co-chaired by the deputy garrison commander. Attendees are directors and Environmental Compliance officers of the different Vicenza Military Community Organizations, as well as Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division.

The main purpose of the EQCC meeting is to have an interactive meeting with the GC and the various stakeholders of the Vicenza Military Community in order to discuss topics related to environmental programs and share ideas on how to improve the overall management for a more sustainable and clean environment.

Col. Robert L. Menist Jr., garrison commander, opened the EQCC and James Lessard, chief, DPW Environmental Division, reminded the attendees that the Environmental Division is constantly pursuing Pollution Prevention initiatives and working towards the Infrastructure Sustainment and Revitalization as part of the USAG-Vicenza Campaign Plan 2015-2020.

Charles Decelle, manager of the Auto Skill Center, guided the attendees through the facility and explained the types of hazardous waste that are generated with the different activities performed by the customers while fixing their personal owned vehicles. The plastic bottles for motor oil are a considerable source of waste, and it would be ideal to replace the plastic bottles with oil drums connected to a dispenser system, similar to the ones currently in place at Del Din motor-pools and at the Caserma Ederle AAFES Car Center.

Decelle talked also about the mixed waste fuel drum, which is used to collect the fuel pumped out from cars that were refilled with the wrong fuel. Decelle explained that some Soldiers refill by mistake their cars with gasolio (diesel in Italian) instead of Gasoline. Menist recommended providing further information to the newcomers briefing in order to avoid the fuel issue with POVs.

Lessard talked about the Pollution Prevention initiatives that could be implemented in the Auto Skill Center, such as the replacement of the old solvent base parts washer with the new ultrasonic detergent base parts washer, or the rag laundry service which is already in use in some of the 173rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team units and it is meant to reduce the amount of hazardous waste genera-

Photo by **Julie M. Lucas**, USAG Vicenza PAO



Used oil is collected and stored at the Auto Skills Center, where a tour was taken last month by the Environmental Quality Control Committee. The tour showed how the center is reducing the impact by their recycling efforts.

ted during the motor-pool activities. Lessard reminded the attendees to always think about new opportunities, procedures and products that could make a difference in terms of pollution prevention. Menist also stressed the fact that the involvement of whole community is a key point to improve people's behavior in relation to the respect of the environment.

U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza CSM bids farewell



By **Paul J. Stevenson**
USAG Vicenza PAO

Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Council congratulates a Soldier during his retirement ceremony in September. Council's next assignment will take him to Fort Bliss, Texas.

The walls have been stripped bare and freshly painted, and most of the personal mementos that once decorated the office of the U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza Command Sergeant Major's office are packed away.

The peaceful atmosphere gave Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Council time to look back on his time spent in Italy. Council, who relinquishes responsibility as the USAG Vicenza Command Sgt. Maj. Nov. 14 will soon be leaving for a new assignment at Fort Bliss, Texas.

In reflecting on his tenure as the Garrison Command Sgt. Maj., Council said he was fortunate to hold such a satisfying and rewarding job that he liked; one in which he wanted to go to the office every morning.

"One of the things I enjoy is helping

people," Council said. We can't get enough of helping Soldiers and their family members, DA civilians and the local national workforce, both in Vicenza and Camp Darby.

"When you talk about taking care of their Soldiers and their family members - I was really impressed by how uniformed members, civilians and local nationals work together, hand in hand, to make this community great. Also, the partnership we have with the Italian Army - there is a strong coalition there."

Council said he's seen many changes in the VMC since his arrival more than two years ago.

We've certainly experienced some closures and consolidation of services just as the rest of the Army is drawing down," he said. "We've turned over facilities that we're no longer using.

Sadly, we also closed the beach in Camp Darby," Council added, referring to the last known DOD-operated beach remaining in Europe, a facility operated for more than half a century for U.S. service members.

But Council quickly points out the changes weren't only about closures and consolidation. In July of last year, the opening of Caserma Renato Del Din was a pivotal event for the Vicenza Military Community.

"We opened the state-of-the-art facilities at Del Din to primarily house the 173rd Infantry Brigade Combat (Airborne) and U.S. Army Africa," he said of the installation considered Europe's newest and most modern military base. "Besides the master design to make it a walking installation, one of the primary benefits to the Soldiers living there is the Warrior Zone. Del

Din has the best Warrior Zone in Europe, and stands as a prime example of how we care about, and take care of our Soldiers.”

Council also talked fondly about a program designed to assist female Soldiers.

“We recently instituted a female to female initiative to get mentors for our junior female Soldiers,” he said. “We have events where we bring in senior female Soldiers to share their experiences while going up through the ranks, and they provide advice on how to avoid some of the pitfalls.”

Besides the hard work of Soldiers, DA Civilians and local national employees, Council sees the local area as what sets Vicenza, Italy, apart from many other installations. It’s also part of what makes Caserma Ederle one of the Army’s best duty assignments.

“From Verona, the city of Romeo and Juliet, to the Leaning Tower of Pisa, some of those attractions people from the states spend thousands of dollars to come to, I can see them first hand,” Council said. “That’s an experience of a lifetime.”

Council offers simple advice to those who find themselves assigned to the U.S Army Vicenza: get out, explore and enjoy the opportunities available



Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Council, third from left, finishes a five kilometer fun run for Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October 2014. Council will complete a two-year duty in Vicenza in November.

here. The key to a memorable experience is getting out learning the culture. And as he prepares to leave Italy to join the 1st Armored Division, Council said it is with fond memories of service members, families and sense of community shared within both the Vicenza and Darby communities.

“I want to thank everybody in the (local) communities and the organizations for all the support they’ve given me and my family, and for all the memories I’ll be able to reflect upon for the rest of my life,” he said. “What I’m going to miss is how the community is like one family. Not just me and my family, but how when all newcomers come in, they are embraced by their organizations and made to feel at home.”

Photos by Julie M. Lucas



Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Council, far left, poses with coaches and boxers of the Vicenza Military Community boxing team after a match. Council, a boxing enthusiast, was instrumental in bringing the first ever boxing match versus Italian boxers to the military community.

VMC community runs for resilience

ACS Family Advocacy Program

More than 350 U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza community members met at the Ederle track for the first Run for Resilience 5 kilometer race in honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month on Oct. 3. Registered participants donned their running bibs and glow lights, received a short safety briefing, followed by some encouraging words from the Garrison Commander Col. Robert L. Menist Jr., who reminded everyone that ending domestic abuse is everyone's responsibility. Despite the chilly morning everyone was energetic, spirited, and united in the effort to put a stop to domestic violence. When the race gun went off, the runners sprinted around the marked 5K course and made their way back to the finish line. Prizes were awarded for the first, second, and third place finishers, the Family with the most participation and the unit with the most participation. Finally participants were given a bag with contact information for the Family Advocacy Program 24/7 phone line and refreshments provided by the USO and the Sergeant Majors Association.

Chief of Army Community Services Julia Sibilla, took the lead in planning the Run for Resilience. It was important to Sibilla



A member of the Vicenza Military Community receives a gift bag following the Run for Resiliency Oct. 3. More than 350 participants showed up for the run. Awards and door prizes were given out. The Fox family had 8 members participating in the race.

to provide a positive and healthy event to promote stopping domestic violence. She partnered with many community agencies, including Family and MWR Sports Fitness and Aquatics, Emergency Services, AFN and the USO.

AFN did live radio coverage during the event, and the Family Advocacy Program manager Caraline Someck, had the opportunity to emphasize October's theme of "relationships should be safe, respectful and positive." Someck provided some statistics and gave upcoming FAP events in October, such as ScreamFree Marriage, Couple's Meditation, and the FAP Ice Cream Social. All events are geared towards helping Families create safe, respectful, and positive relationships. While the month of October was Domestic Violence Awareness Month, ending domestic violence is a year-round endeavor. Call FAP at 0444-71-5878 for domestic violence victim advocacy support.

Photos by Julie M. Lucas



A Vicenza Military Community member congratulates a member of his unit crossing the finish line at the Run for Resiliency Oct. 3. DENTAC won the award for largest percentage with 75 percent showing up for the run.



Participants show up for the Run for Resiliency Oct. 3. The run was in support of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Truffle season returns to Tuscany



A presenter speaks with a participant at a truffle festival. A few markets will be available to indulge.

Story and photos by **Amy Drummond**

If the truffle market at the Volterragusto festival is any indication, this year's tartufo bianco or white truffle harvest will be a bountiful one. According to truffle experts, the heavy summer rains have made the Tuscan soil even more fruitful for these rare tubers.

For those who haven't tried truffles, they are a fresh, woody smelling, earthy tasting mushroom-like delicacy. The white truffles or *tartufo bianco* of San Miniato and other parts of Italy are among the most highly desired and most valuable on the world market.

According to *san-miniato.com*, "Truffle collection is regulated by strict controls and a regional law that defines how they are gathered and marketed. They are gathered selectively and in moderation, and production is limited due to the brevity of their season. In fact, the value of the white truffle of San Miniato lies in its rarity."

Black truffles, also known as Périgord truffles, are also harvested from late fall through winter. They are the second most sought after truffle in the world market. There are several other varieties of truffle harvested at different times of the year, such as the black summer truffle or burgundy truffle. These varieties are

generally not as aromatic or highly prized as Alba and Périgord truffles.

The months of October through December are the only harvest times for the white truffle, also known as the Alba truffle. This is the perfect time to try truffles for the first time or to indulge one's appetite for the finer things.

Most truffle festivals offer mushrooms of all types, truffles and related products such as truffle oil, butter, honey, pasta, sauce, salt, salami, cheese and numerous others.

When truffles are not in season — and if you live in other parts of the world, such as the United States — truffles are considered a delicacy to be used on special occasions or reserved for the rich. But this time of year everyone in Italy can afford a little taste of this treasure of Italian fine cuisine and culture.

If truffles aren't your cup of tea, these markets also offer other seasonal and regional delights such as extra virgin olive oil, wine, pecorino cheese, honey and local crafts just to name a few.

For more information on San Miniato and its famous white truffles visit <http://www.sanminiatorpromozione.it/>.

The first of the San Miniato festivals is Tartufo al Pinocchio a San Miniato Basso (Truffle Pinocchio in San Miniato Basso) Nov. 8-9.

The festival season culminates in the Mostra Mercato Nazionale del Tartufo Bianco di San Miniato (National Exhibition of the White Truffle of San Miniato) held on three successive weekends in November and the first weekend in December — Nov. 15-16, 22-23, 29-30, and Dec. 6-8 — in the historical center of San Miniato. This festival is in its 44th year and is generally recognized as the largest open-air food tasting of truffles and gourmet foods in Italy. For a full program of this event (only available in Italian), go to http://www.sanminiatorpromozione.it/documents/22431/31331/programma_tartufo_2014_san_miniato_fm.pdf.

A smaller festival, *Mostra Mercato del Tartufo Bianco Delle Crete Senesi*, or Crete Senesi White Truffle Market can be found in San Giovanni d'Asso 15-16. To make a full day of it, a steam train can be taken to the village from Siena on Nov. 16. Information on the train ride can be found at <http://trenonatura.terresiena.it/treno-vapore.html#0911>.

If you are in the mood to travel further abroad, the Fiera Internazionale Del Tartufo Bianco D'Alba (International White Truffle Fair of Alba) is under way through Nov. 16 in the town of Alba in northwestern Italy. For more information, go to <http://www.fieradeltartufo.org>.

Master Sgt. John Davis said "Many people pay thousands of dollars to see just a small portion of what you see every day."



White truffles, known as the Alba truffle, are harvested during October-December and a variety of products are available at local festivals.

Camp Darby prepares for AFAP conference



Pat Harris, right, takes notes and poses questions during the Army Family Action Plan meeting held at Camp Darby Post Library Oct. 24 while Rose Plant and her daughters listen.

Story and photo by **Chiara Mattiolo**
DMC Public Affairs

Camp Darby Family members took part in an Army Family Action Plan meeting to highlight and discuss major issues and concerns about quality of life, to be presented at the annual conference to be held in Vicenza and where Darby will have a delegation of representatives.

“The Army Family Action Plan provides a way for military communities to let Army leadership know what works, what doesn’t, and an opportunity for members of the community to provide input into how they think problems should be resolved,” said Jane Spencer, Darby military Community ACS specialist.

AFAP is ongoing and is a critical venue to express concerns and issues within Military life and to offer creative and cost effective solutions to resolve issues.

Issues will be solved locally when possible, if not they will be sent up to higher authorities to help find a solution.

“In some instances there is quick resolution and swift implementation of issues that can be addressed at local levels or may be a miscommunication; others can take time and are addressed at a much higher level,” said Spencer. Members of the military community can access the following link to explore some of the past issues and to find out where they are in process of resolution.

<https://www.myarmyonesource.com/skins/aos2/display.aspx?ModuleID=a10586da-73a1-4402-9107-58b7bf046a21>

“Here you will also be able to review many of the changes occurring as a result of community suggestions and ideas that were previously submitted,” said Spencer.

According to Spencer most participants and delegates have shared they feel a sense of empowerment and active roles in producing realistic solutions that work to enhance the military overall.

Camp Darby single service members ‘Dine on a Dime’



Story and photo by **Chiara Mattiolo**
DMC Public Affairs

Darby Military Community Single Service Members met at the Darby Community Club to cook the sauces and preparing the salad to share at their dinner meal on Oct. 27.

Chef Jim Fiore provided cooking demonstration for all and Service Members were able to share an Italian Meal.

Mixed salad, *spaghetti alla carbonara*, *penne al pomodoro*, *schacciata* and dessert, was

the menu for this month's dine on a dime.

"Dine on a Dime is a financial readiness and budgeting course offered to single and unaccompanied service members interested in saving money on groceries, planning meals and learning how to eat healthy on the cheap," said Jane Spencer, Financial readiness specialist at the ACS.

According to Spencer, service members seem to enjoy coming to learn and to socialize with one another

"We continue to seek input from the service m In the picture: Chef Jim Fiore prepares spaghetti alla carbonara for Dine on a dime dinner Oct. 27 embers to develop programming to incorporate the unique needs of a blended and site location," Spencer said.

We own it... We'll solve it... Together.

SHARP
SEXUAL HARASSMENT/ASSAULT RESPONSE & PREVENTION

**WE ARE THE FORCE BEHIND
THE FIGHT TO ACHIEVE
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Speak Out

What are you doing for Thanksgiving?



Staff Sgt. **Summer Robinson**
405th AFSBn, Italy

"I am going to bring my family to Edelweiss in Garmisch."



Spc. **Patric Hoffman**
Livorno Health Clinic

"I am going to attend the clinic Thanksgiving lunch and hope to sign with BOSS for a ski trip."



Harry Cogorno

Darby Community Club
"I am going to my in-laws."

Venice is...



See the story on page **34**

173rd Airborne conducts Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise



Members of the Italian 6th Alpini Regiment conduct room clearance with First Rock Paratroopers while maneuvering from building to building. 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Paratroopers at San Giorgio, Urban Assault Course, in Brunico, Italy, conducted an Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise. This exercise tests First Rocks ability to plan and execute full-spectrum operations on short notice as the U.S. Army Contingency Response Force in Europe. The 173rd Airborne Brigade provides ready troops to deploy within 18 hours, anywhere in the U.S. European, Africa, or Central Command areas of responsibility.

By 2nd Lt. **Steven R. Siberski**

VICENZA, Italy— Paratroopers from the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade, received a no-notice deployment alert the morning of Oct. 23, in order to test the battle-readiness of the organization with an Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise.

An EDRE is designed to test the systems of the battalion, from initial alert of personnel, to execution of the mission, and puts into motion all of the steps required to rapidly prepare paratroopers for deployment at a moment's notice.

As the U.S. Army's Contingency Response Force in Europe, members of the Battalion must be prepared to deploy anywhere in the U.S. European, Africa or Central Commands' areas of operations within 18 hours.

For the leaders of the organization, this type of training exercise is important to maintain readiness.

"In a compressed timeline, with a stressful environment, we discover the true readiness of our organiza-

tion," said Maj. Matthew Leclair, executive officer.

At 6 a.m., as most of the troops were heading to physical training, unaware of the events to come, leaders and members of the Battalion Operations Section were preparing to call them to action.

"When the subordinate leaders receive the warning order, that is when the sequence begins," said Sgt. Maj. Mark Cashman, battalion operations sergeant major.

After the initial notification, the paratroopers grabbed their pre-staged gear and loaded buses to Aviano Air Base, an U.S. Air Force base 150 kilo-

meters northeast of Caserma Ederle, where the battalion is based.

At every step, leaders of all levels were observing responses to the stresses and responsibilities of the exercise, as it relates to leading paratroopers into combat, simulating real stressors faced in a combat environment.

"At first we were real surprised when we got the call, but as the day has gone on, everyone has calmed down, and the platoon has developed a poised attitude," said 2nd Lt. Jacob Ahle, a platoon leader within the battalion. "We are very excited to work together for the first time, and to have the opportunity to train like this as a team."

Once the paratroopers arrived at Aviano, they immediately began rehearsals, conducted the required training and donned their parachutes. They then loaded up on C-130 Hercules air craft, and jumped straight into the mission.

And one week later, the battalion did it again.

This time, instead of driving to Aviano, the troops loaded up on buses and drove to the San Giorgio Urban Assault course, located in Brunico, Italy, to train with American military police and Italian soldiers from the 6th Alpini Regiment.

Participating paratroopers ran through the course, clearing each building of simulated enemies and searching for IED materials.



Staff Sergeant Robert Neese, Kennel NCOIC, 92nd Military Police Company, and his Patrol Explosive Detection Dog, Kika accompany First Rock Paratroopers and assist them in room clearing exercises. 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Paratroopers at San Giorgio, Urban Assault Course, in Brunico, Italy, conducted an Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise.

This portion of the exercise, conducted in an urban environment at night, gave junior leaders of the battalion an opportunity to gauge the strengths of their units, as well as to discover the areas where they needed to improve.

Forced to move long distances, with limited food and sleep, an EDRE is a tool for the unit's leaders to be able to gauge how units are able to perform as a team.

Even with little information and preparation, each Platoon was capable of successfully reaching the objective and effectively completing the mission due to consistent training exercises, and established Standing Operating Procedures.

"Elite fighting forces, such as 1st Bn. 503rd Inf. Reg., are always ready to



Company A (Attack), 3rd Platoon, Platoon Leader 2nd Lt. Sean McIlroy, right, establishes communications with Headquarters after linking up with members of his Platoon. 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Paratroopers at Aviano Air Base, Italy conducted an Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise.

act, and fight on our nations behalf. In today's world, we find ourselves consistently surrounded with uncertainty. At any moment our forces may be called into action, and operational readiness is key to being on the forefront of national security. 'Sky Soldiers' of the 173rd Airborne Brigade take pride in being ready to answer that call" said Leclair.

173rd Airborne Brigade, Italian Folgore paratroopers break in new drop zone



American and Italian paratroopers exit a U.S. Air Force C-130 Hercules aircraft during a combined airborne operation near Mantua, Italy, Oct. 30. This allied jump marks the first time that Americans have jumped with the Italians on this drop zone.

Story and photo by Sgt. **A.M. LaVey**
173rd Airborne Brigade PAO

MANTUA, Italy — American paratroopers joined their Italian allies for a combined airborne operation to break in a new drop zone, Lory II, here Oct. 30. Paratroopers from the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade led the charge to find this new training opportunity.

"Last July, we were told to look into alternative drop zones so that we could jump closer to Caserma Ederle," said Sgt. 1st Class Stuart N. Sword, a battalion operations noncommissioned officer. The drop zone in Mantua allows the battalion to maintain airborne proficiency in about half the time it takes to commute to Aviano Air Base, he said.

Continued on next page

The battalion operations team began by engaging allied Italian army units located in northern Italy, looking for both a drop zone and a departure air field nearby.

"It took about three months of planning," said Sword. "We reached out to our partners from the 8th Engineer Battalion, Folgore Parachute Brigade and the Villafranca airport, both in Verona, and the Office of Defense Cooperation down in Rome."

Jumping in the Verona area also allows more combined training opportunities.

"It's a great opportunity to showcase our interoperability with our Italian counterparts here in northern Italy and it presents a strategic capability in terms of the overall Army Contingency Response Force," said Sword.

"In addition, it's closer to where their headquarters are and makes it easier for them to meet and train with us."

The nearby jump also allowed more Families and local Italians to observe the combined training.

"We are friends, brothers and sisters: we don't forget that 70 years ago American Soldiers fought for the freedom of Italy," said Fabio Zacchi, the



Lt. Col. Patrick Wilkins, left, commander, 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade, assists an Italian paratrooper pack his parachute after a combined U.S.-Italian airborne operation near Mantua, Italy, Oct. 30.

vice mayor of Poggio Rusco, a nearby community.

After the combined operation, the Italian paratroopers were presented with the U.S. Parachutist Badge and a certificate of appreciation.

"This sort of training is absolutely important and I want to continue it," said Lt. Col. Patrick Wilkins, the battalion commander. "It's our privilege to be here, on this soil, in this country."

Future combined training with the Verona-based units is scheduled, including things like demolition.

"The biggest opportunity that has

come out of this has been increasing our relationship with the Italians," said Capt. Michael C. Agbay, a battalion operations officer. "It was a pretty good event for our guys and theirs to work and intermingle with each other."

The 173rd Airborne Brigade, based in Vicenza, Italy, is the Army Contingency Response Force in Europe, and is capable of projecting forces to conduct a full range of military operations across the U.S. European, Central and Africa Command's areas of responsibility.

Female Soldier breaks glass ceiling encourages others to do the same



By Staff Sgt. **Matt Graham**
USARAF PAO

For 29 years Col. Frances Hardison has been doing what she loves, serving as a Soldier.

That's exactly what she told a crowd gathered at the monthly Female 2 Female event in Vicenza, Italy Oct. 30. The program is geared toward young, female Soldiers who are just starting out in their careers.

"It's important for women to understand where we came from, how far we have gone, and how much further we can go," said Hardison, the director of personnel for U.S. Army Africa.

Hardison has been working in the Adjutant General corps for her entire career. She achieved the rank of staff sergeant

before her boss at the time suggested she consider going to officer candidate school.

From the time she came in as a human resources private, in 1985, to serving as the G1 for U.S. Army Africa, she has seen the Army come a long way, in both the opportunities it provides to Soldiers in general and females in particular.

“Back in 1990, I was working for the DC-SPER (Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel), who was a field artillery officer, and he knew I was taking college courses and he said ‘Hey Fran, have you ever thought about OCS?’ and I was like, what is officer candidate school?,” said Hardison.

At that time, she was a staff sergeant who only had about six years in the Army. She was working towards a degree because that’s what was expected as part of career progression.

She began to ask around about OCS. After learning more about the school and the idea of going from enlisted to officer, she believed her boss thought too highly of her.

“So I thought, ‘this guy thinks I can be an officer. He must not know who I am. This is big,’” said Hardison.

Hardison’s boss strongly urged her to take a test, the officer selection battery. She only intended to humor her boss and did not seriously consider passing the test. To her surprise, without any preparation, she passed the first time.

“I took my results to my colonel and I told him that I passed,” said Hardison. “He then said ‘Oh great! I need you to fill out this application.’”

Not knowing much about the other branches, she selected the adjutant general branch as her first choice on her application.

“What was different about back then and how they do it today is that you knew before leaving for school what branch you were going to be assigned to because they would put you in a class with students in your same prospective branch,” said Hardison.

She began her career as an officer in the Army after getting her branch of choice and graduating the course.

“I had a pretty typical path for an AG (adjutant general) officer. I have served in every step of the process for bringing Soldiers into the Army,” explained Hardison.

“I served in a recruiting battalion, a MEPS (Military Entrance Processing Station), a reception company before they (the Soldiers) started initial entry training, and



U.S. Army Africa G-1 Col. Frances Hardison speaks to a group at a Female2Female networking event Oct. 30 at the Golden Lion. Hardison joined the Army 29 years ago as a private and became an officer seven years.

also a reception company where new Soldiers arrived at their permanent duty stations.”

Hardison feels that her experience and serving in these various positions helped prepare her for her position as the director of the personnel office at U.S. Army Africa. Hardison also talked about how one specific job helped her more than all the others.

“All those assignments were pretty special to me, but there is one in particular that was outside my career field that stands out the most,” said Hardison. After serving as a company commander for the reception company for the 2nd Infantry Division in Korea, her name was submitted for a second command of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company. This was another instance where Hardison felt she did not have an actual possibility of being selected for this job.

“That gave me leadership skills to carry on through my next assignments,” said Hardison. “I was scared going in. I was going up against about five applicants, and the others were all male infantry officers who were coming out of command in the line companies. I was the only non-infantry and the only female; I didn’t think I had a chance.”

She did have a chance. In fact, she was exactly what they were looking for as a commander of the company that was responsible for the division staff, which at the time numbered more than 800, including her boss, the division chief of staff,

and his boss, the commanding general. What makes being selected for that command even more significant is that she was the first female to ever serve in that position. As far Hardison knows, she is the only female to ever serve as the commander for the Headquarters and Headquarters Company for the 2nd Infantry Division, which has since been transformed to a battalion and the position to a lieutenant colonel.

“When I was in units where I was the only female, I still had to keep up, and I did,” said Hardison.

Looking at the current state of the Army and the way mindsets are changing regarding females, Hardison thinks it’s great that they are now looking at the possibility of females attending ranger school. She said she doesn’t think she could pass the course now, she would have jumped at the chance as a lieutenant or captain.

As one of only two female directors in U.S. Army Africa, she wants all females to know about the opportunities that are out there. That’s why she speaks at events geared toward young, single female Soldiers, such as when she was the featured speaker for the Female 2 Female event.

“The Army will open doors for everyone. You just have to step through them,” said Hardison.

Photos by **Julie M. Lucas**/USAG Vicenza PAO



VHS students participate in annual powder puff game

VHS girls play powder puff football against each other Oct. 9. The juniors beat the seniors and freshmen beat the sophomores.

By **John-Luca Harbeson**
CYS

Students from Vicenza High School gathered Oct. 9 to participate in a rite of passage for many high school students: the Powder-puff Football game. Every year the Garrison's Child, Youth and School Services and Club Beyond help Vicenza High School organize the Powder-puff event in which the VHS women face off by grade to play flag football while the male students dress up as their cheerleaders.

The four-game tournament gave each team the opportunity to play two games. To start, freshmen challenged juniors and sophomores played seniors. After a strong showing by the seniors and juniors, the upperclassmen teams played each other in the championship while the freshmen and sophomores battled in the consolation game. The juniors came out victorious in the championship, beating the seniors 6-0. Freshmen beat the sophomores 12-0. "It was a great experience. It was an amazing feeling to overcome the seniors in the championship game," said Charlene Caldwell, a VHS junior.

This year's Powder-puff athletes were coached and cheered on by their peers. Many of the cheerleaders were male students sporting vintage VHS cheerleading uniforms which added to the excitement of the evening.

"Cheering was great! It was something new and fun for me," said VHS junior Jasper Araza.

There was a great turnout of parents, siblings, and community members; the VHS Booster Club sold food to raise money for their scholarship fund. Thank you to the Vicenza military community for coming out to support and celebrate the Vicenza Powder-puff Football tournament.



Photo by **Lori Encke**

VHS boy cheerleaders line up for a photo after cheering during the annual Powder puff football game Oct. 9.



Photo by **Lori Encke**

A VHS girl attempts to run the ball during the annual Powder puff football game Oct. 9.

WINNERS OF THE IMCOM ARMY EUROPE CHAMPIONSHIP

WINNER A Co 173rd - Vicenza

RUNNER UP A Co 52nd Sig - USAG Stuttgart

3RD PLACE USAG Health Clinic - USAG Grafenwoehr
MVP - 2LT Matthew Zarek, Vicenza

CURRENT PROGRAMS/EVENTS

2014 USAG-V Nov-Jan:

Unit/Rec Basketball League, Tuesday, Wednesday, 6 p.m., 7 p.m., Thurs TBD

ONGOING SPORTS ACTIVITIES

CMTY Basketball Team try outs 6:45-8 p.m., every Tuesday at Ederle Gym, Thursday at Del Din Gym

CMTY Boxing Team, Ederle training Mon-Fri 6:15-8 a.m., Fitness Center

Racquetball Challenge - Ederle Fitness Center, Mon-Fri 5-8 p.m.

Basketball open play, Ederle Fitness Center, Mon, Wed Fri 11:45-1:30 p.m.

Rugby open play, Ederle grass field, Tues and Thurs 6-8 p.m.

Tennis open reservation, Ederle, Mon and Wed. 6-9 p.m.

Soccer open play, Ederle turf field Tues and Fri 6:30-9 p.m.



Blue Devils' Hannah Ross, left, passes the ball in mid-field during the game against Stuttgart Nov. 8. Vicenza tied 1-1, but the game was determined by the penalty kicks and Vicenza lost.

The 2014 IMCOM Europe Junior Soccer Championship

was held on Caserma Ederle Nov. 8-9.

Despite the inclement weather, six teams including Ansbach, Aviano, Bavaria, Hohenfels, Stuttgart and Vicenza participated in the sport event.

On Saturday Vicenza Blue Devils won against Ansbach 3-0 and lost 3-4 vs. Stuttgart after the penalty kicks.

The semifinals and finals took place Nov. 9 on the artificial turf field.



Vicenza player Matthew Jackson, #10, throws the ball from the corner during the second half while Stuttgart goalie Jack Buckley gets ready to block it.



Vicenza goalie Christian Baxter blocks one of the penalty kicks at the end of the game against Stuttgart held on Caserma Ederle turf field Nov. 8.

Photo by **Laura Kreider**, USAG Vicenza PAO

Happy Halloween



Librarian "nuns" Cinzia Siciliano and Susanna Martini hand out candy at the Darby Military Community Library following a Halloween book reading for young children on Oct. 31. Installation wide Trick-or-treating and trunk-or-treat was very successful this year because of the wonderful weather. Several activities for youth including basketball and other ghoulish games entertained young and old at the DMC Fitness Center. A "Dorm of the Dead" haunted house was open to all brave souls willing to enter. Adults could party away late into the evening at the Darby Community Club costume party with live music.

Photo by **Chiara Mattiolo**, DMC PAO Office



Vicenza Community members participate in the "Spooktacular" followed by Trunk-or-Treat sponsored by USO Vicenza at the Arena and North 40 Track & Field area Oct. 30. Many of the participants wore costumes and enjoyed fun activities, free food and live music. Children also had fun with face painting, bouncy houses, and getting plenty of candy.

Photo by **Laura Kreider**, USAG Vicenza PAO



Vicenza community youth participate in the 'Duck Match' (Crossing of the River Jordan) one of the Biblical-themed games during the Fall Festival held on Caserma Ederle Spiritual Life Center Oct. 31. Many Chapel Gospel Service volunteers assisted with all the fun activities, preparing the food and the Trunk-a-Verse-Treat rotation for the children.

Photo by **Laura Kreider**, USAG Vicenza PAO



Youth from the Vicenza Military Community participate in a Halloween carnival at the Youth Center on Villaggio Oct. 31. The event featured games, prizes and candy as a kick off to trick or treating.

Photo by **Julie M. Lucas**, USAG Vicenza PAO



Princesses, witches and mermaids attend a party at the Caserma Ederle library Oct. 29. After listening to Halloween stories, the attendees made a craft.

Photo by **Julie M. Lucas**, USAG Vicenza PAO

U.S. Army Health Center Vicenza Commander Col. Andrew Barr hands out candy on Oct. 31 to visitors to the clinic. The staff dressed up for the holiday.

Photo by Sgt **Inhong Lee**, U.S. Army Vicenza HC



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Venice Tours
 Signed, Stacey W. Bronwyn Collins and Brit Stones. Australia
<http://seeitalytours.com/>



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I have several wine damigians from Venice and the surrounding Islands. I have sold them in the US for up to \$150 each. If you are interested I will take a picture with your keg and a gondola to add to it's value. They are mostly 54 liter green kegs for only \$40 each. 3 for \$100.

Call 348 854 2505



BELLINI Canella



See the story on page **32**

Community news briefs

Free turkeys

The first 50 Soldiers of E5 and below or spouses of deployed Soldiers (with ID) are welcome to a free turkey, courtesy of the Sergeant Morales Club on Nov. 22 at 10 a.m. at the Commissary, first come, first served.

CPF closure

The Central Processing Facility will be closed on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 13-14, to return to BLDG 393. They will reopen for business Nov. 17. The following offices are affected: In-processing, Out-processing, ID Cards, Passports, Soggiornos, Finance (In/Out processing, separations and travel), First Sergeant Barracks Program, and Ration cards (for civilians only).

Retirement Services briefing

A Retirement Services Briefing to be conducted Dec. 6, at building 205, the Hall of Heroes on Olsen Avenue from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Sign in begins at 7:30 a.m. This event is open to Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard Reserve and National Guard personnel who have retired or are planning on retiring in the near future. RSVP by Dec. 5 at: <https://einvitations.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?i=219021&k=00604B097956>.

205 (Hall of Heroes), Olson Ave, Vicenza, Italy. Gate closure

The entrance lane to the main gate (Gate 1) at Caserma Ederle will be closed from 6-9 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 22. The exit side of Gate 1 will remain open. The Housing Gate (Gate 4), will be open for entrance traffic during this time-frame.

New TMP location

TMP service will no longer be provided at the industrial complex at Torri di Quartersolo. The new garrison TMP will now be located at building 272 on Caserma Ederle. Building 272 is near the POL point and the Hall of Heroes on Ederle. This relocation moves non-tactical services closer to customers serving on Ederle and Del Din Snow chain use

The Italian "Codice della Strada" allows local jurisdiction/road owner to require vehicles to have snow chains on board or equipped with winter tires.

These requirements apply to all the Autostrade and some local roads. The ordinances are available at the official web site of Polizia di Stato: <http://www.polizia-distato.it>

The ordinances are typically valid from Nov. 15-April 15 (even if snowfall is not in progress). However, weather conditions or local requirements may warrant their use as specified in the ordinance.

Traffic police enforce compliance with all road ordinances for the time frame/conditions indicated by the requirements. Police will check for snow chains on board or winter tires with the MS insignia. Fines for non compliance range from €84-335.

Airbag recall

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration posted a statement urging about 4.7 million owners of Toyota, Honda, Mazda, BMW, Nissan, and General Motors vehicles to act immediately on recall notices to replace defective Takata airbags. "The message comes with urgency, especially for owners of vehicles affected by the regional recalls in the following areas: Florida, Puerto Rico, Guam, Saipan, American Samoa, Virgin Islands and Hawaii," it stated.

Vehicle owners can check by Vehicle Identification Number on www.safercar.gov/vinlookup to see whether their vehicles are subject to an open recall that needs to be addressed.

Read more at <http://ohsonline.com/articles/2014/10/21/nhtsa-urges-millions-of-car-owners-to-replace-defective-airbags-immediately.aspx>

Del Din parking closure

Beginning 3 Nov, the Eastern parking garage on Del Din, building 14, will be closed for approximately 30 days while pigeon netting is installed and it is cleaned. No vehicle will be allowed to be parked while this is taking place. Once that building is finished, they will move to the Western parking garage. Notices are being posted that vehicles will need to be moved before that date.

Drivers Testing Class

The Driver's Orientation class will be conducted on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 2 p.m.

The change in schedule will allow personnel attending the orientation be given the opportunity to take the Driver's License test the following day.

Vehicle Registration hours update

The Vehicle Registration Office is open Monday through Friday continuously from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Call 637-7820/7822/7823 for assistance.

SFL TAP to offer services on Del Din

The Soldier for Life Transition Assistance Program (formerly known as Army Career and Alumni Program or ACAP) is presently offering services at its Liaison office on Caserma Del Din. The office is in Building 10, Room 1025. The schedule is: Tuesdays, SFL TAP counselor, 9 a.m. to noon, education counselor, noon to 3 p.m.; Wednesdays, SFL TAP counselor, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Thursdays, financial counselor, 9 a.m. to noon, and VA benefits adviser, noon to 3 p.m. The staffing schedule is subject to change; please call 634-7188/7189 or email: usarmy.vicenza.imcom-europe.mbx.acap@mail.mil to confirm. The SFL TAP Center in Building 126 on Caserma Ederle is open Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Del Din GCU accepts check deposits

The Caserma Del Din Global Credit Union ATM located in the in the Community Mail Room can now accept check deposits if the bank card being used is either a GCU debit or ATM card; participates in the AFFN network or participates in the Accel/Exchange network. Call 0444-71-7470 or 634-7470 for details.

Safety recalls

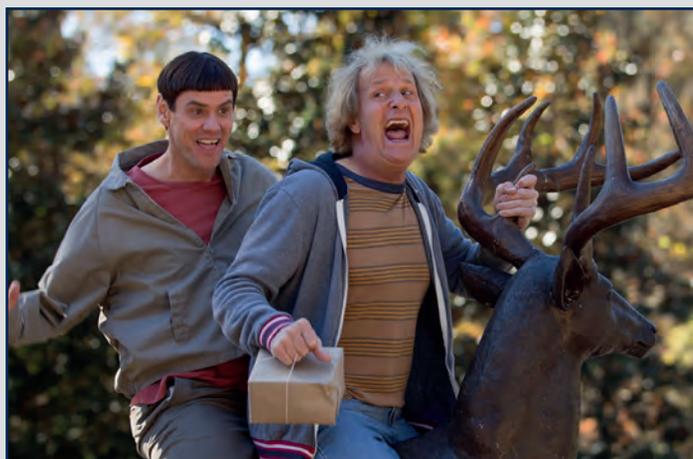
The Consumer Product Safety Commission publishes product safety recalls to <http://www.cpsc.gov/>

Cane Creek recalls Bicycle Shocks due to risk of injury. Sanus Simplicity Television Wall Mounts recalled by Milestone AV Technologies due to impact hazard. Cost Plus World Market recalls Modular Storage Bars due to injury hazard. Call Garrison Safety with questions or concerns at 634-8109/8023/7045.

IACS office hours

The Pass and Badge office located in Building 4B near the MP station on Caserma Ederle is open for service workdays from 8:30 a.m. till noon and from 1-4:30 p.m. Call 637-7680, 637-7681 or 637-7682 for assistance.

At the movies



DUMB AND DUMBER TO

Twenty years after the dimwits set out on their first adventure, they head out in search of one of their long lost children in the hope of gaining a new kidney. Stars Jim Carrey, Jeff Daniels. Rated PG-13.

Admission: 3D first run (*), adult, \$8, under 12, \$5.25; 3D second run, adult \$7.50, under 12, \$5; first run (*), adult, \$6, under 12, \$3.25; second run, adult \$5.50, under 12, \$3.

Advance tickets: On sale Monday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the PX Food Court entrance, except on federal holidays. Up to 50 percent of seats will be on sale; the remainder go on sale one hour before show time at the theater box office.

Film ratings and reviews are available at www.imdb.com

Ederle Theater

Nov. 13	7 p.m.	As Above so Below (R)
Nov. 14	7 p.m.	Dumb and Dumber to (PG-13) *
	10 p.m.	The Giver (PG-13) *
Nov. 15	3 p.m.	Alexander and the Bad Day (PG-13) *
	6 p.m.	Dumb and Dumber to (PG-13) *
Nov. 16	3 p.m.	Dolphin Tale (PG)
	6 p.m.	Dumb and Dumber to (PG-13) *
Nov. 19	11 a.m.	The Equalizer(R) *
	7 p.m.	Annabelle (R) *
Nov. 20	7 p.m.	Dumb and Dumber to (PG-13) *
Nov. 21	7 p.m.	Hunger Games: Mockingjay (PG-13) *
	10 p.m.	Gone Girl (R)
Nov. 22	3 p.m.	Book of Life (PG) *
	6 p.m.	Hunger Games: Mockingjay (PG-13) *
Nov. 23	3 p.m.	Big Hero 6 (PG) *
	6 p.m.	Hunger Games: Mockingjay (PG-13) *
Nov. 26	11 a.m.	Book of Life (PG) *
	7 p.m.	Gone Girl (R) *





Family and

Vicenza Military Community



Vicenza Tree Lighting Ceremony

Nothing announces the beginning of the holidays like the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony. Kick-off the holiday season on Dec 4 with great music and holiday atmosphere on No-Name Street. Fun begins at 4 p.m. with:

- Music performances by the High School Choir and Band
- ANA Alpini Choir
- Children's activities in the Arena
- Photo op with Santa following the tree lighting

Family and MWR Thanksgiving Hours

Some facilities will be closed additional hours during the Thanksgiving holiday. Look for Thanksgiving holiday hours for all Family and MWR facilities at: www.vicenza.armyMWR.com

ODR Trips

- Nov 15 Zagreb Express, Croatia
- Nov 15 Caving the Buso della Rana
- Nov 19 Ski & Snowboard Tuning Workshop
- Nov 20 Cooking Class: Special Thanksgiving Menu
- Nov 22 Bologna & Ferrara
- Nov 27 Thanksgiving Lunch in a Local Farmhouse
- Nov 29 Innsbruck Christmas Market

For more info about these trips, contact ODR at 634-7453.

Adult Photo Workshop Tips & Tricks

Learn some basic tips and tricks to photo editing, storage and other ideas on Nov 19, 1-2:30 p.m. at the Arts & Crafts Center. Register by November 18 for this popular class.

Music Café

Enjoy light snacks and refreshments while listening to local musicians jam or bring your favorite instrument and jam along at the next Music Café Nov 21, 7:30-10:30 p.m. at Soldiers' Theatre.

5K Turkey Trot

Earn your Thanksgiving Dinner at the Vicenza Turkey Trot 5K run/walk on Nov 22. Participate for a chance to win a turkey, burn some calories, and have some fun! For more info, visit www.vicenza.armyMWR.com.

Wreath Making

Learn some basic ways to create a personalized wreath for the holidays on Nov 22, 12:30-2:30 p.m. at the Arts & Crafts Center. For more information, contact 634-7074.

'Home for the Holidays' Annual Holiday Show

Perfect for the entire Family and guaranteed to get you in the holiday spirit, 'Home for the Holidays' is the annual Christmas musical revue of contemporary, traditional and comic holiday music in a fast-paced choreographed show.

Show dates:

Dec 5, 6, 12, 13	7:30 p.m.
Dec 7, 14	2 p.m. matinee

Call the box office for reservations at 634-7281 or stop by Soldiers' Theatre.



Register using MWR Online Services for:

Vicenza Trip & Classes

Vicenza CYSS Activities



Darby Military Community



Darby Christmas Tree Lighting

Come over to the Darby Community Club as we begin the holiday season in the Darby Military Community with the traditional tree lighting ceremony on Dec 5 at 5 p.m.

This community-wide event features:

- Tree lighting
- Christmas carols
- Refreshments
- A visit from Santa!

Turkey Trot 5K Run / 2 Mile Walk

Bring the whole Family out to have your chance of winning your Thanksgiving turkey on Nov 22. Turkeys awarded to: Overall male 5K winner, Overall female 5K winner, Others awarded by random draw. Call the Darby Fitness Center at 633-7438 for more info.

Dine on a Dime

Single and unaccompanied service members interested in saving money on groceries, planning meals and learning how to eat healthy on the cheap are invited to Dine on a Dime on Nov 17, 4:30-6 p.m. in the Yellow Ribbon Room.

Group Exercise Instructors Wanted

Do you have what it takes to motivate, encourage and guide people through their exercise class routines? If you have what it takes but don't have certifications we can help. Certification programs are held all over Europe. In exchange for volunteer service, the Fitness Center can help underwrite the expense of certification classes. Drop by the Fitness Center to learn more.

ODR Trips

Contact Outdoor Recreation to register at 633-7775/7589:

- Nov 15 | Gigli Mall Shopping Trip
- Nov 22 Ferrari Museum
- Nov 27 Florence
- Nov 29 Rome Express
- Dec 6 Bologna Motor Show
- Dec 13 Florence Noel
- Dec 21 Gardaland Magic Christmas
- Dec 27 Rome

Children's Story Hour

Story time, designed for children aged 3-7, meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the Children's Room of the library. Come join us for stories and activities.

Family and MWR Thanksgiving Hours

Some facilities will be closed additional hours during the Thanksgiving holiday. Look for Thanksgiving holiday hours for all Family and MWR facilities at:
www.darby.armyMWR.com

CYSS Intro to Tumbling Gymnastics

Tumble and roll your way into these introductory classes. Attend either or both of these free clinics on Nov 14 & 21. Snacks available immediately after the clinic ends. Parents are encouraged to stay and help their child "strike a pose." For more info or to register, call CYSS Sports and Fitness at 633-7521.



Register using MWR Online Services for:

Darby Trip & Classes

Darby CYSS Activities



Darby Facebook Page

Chapel activities

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.: Gospel service

5 p.m.: Contemporary Christian service

Tuesday

9 a.m.: Protestant Women of the Chapel

6 p.m.: PMOC and PWOC Bible study. Dinner provided; no watch care

Thursday

9:30 a.m.: St. Mark's Catholic Women

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

Camp Darby

Sunday Services

10:30 a.m.: Protestant worship and children's service

Catholic Mass: Call the Chapel at 633-7267 to confirm times

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

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

For DMC activities call 633-7267

Call 634-7519 or 0444-71-7519 for information on Vicenza Chapel activities

Chaplain Crisis Line

To reach a Chaplain after duty hours, call **634-KARE (634-5273)**

The Outlook Religious Activities page provides announcements and may offer perspectives to enhance spiritual or religious resiliency in support of Army Comprehensive Fitness programs. Comments regarding specific beliefs, practices or behaviors are strictly those of the author and do not convey endorsement by the U.S. government, the Department of Defense, the Army, Installation Management Command or the U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza.

VMC faith group contacts

Bahá'í Faith: Call 348-603-2283

Church of Christ: Call at 388-253-9749 or 324-623-7921 or send email: vicenzaitalychurchofchrist@gmail.com

Jewish: Call 634-7519, 0444-71-7519 or 327-856-2191

Latter Day Saints: Young Men/Young Women meeting is every Tuesday at 6 p.m. at the Spiritual Fitness Center. Sunday services, 9:30 a.m. in Vicenza. Call 634-7897, 380-431-7633 or email: lescall@gmail.com

Muslim: Call 634-7519 or 0444-71-7519

Trinity Church Vicenza: An International Presbyterian Church congregation. Call 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.

Friday: Potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. with Walk in the Word following. Call 0444-581-427 for more information or if you need transportation.

MUSIC ACTIVITIES AT THE CHAPEL

Tuesday, 5 p.m.: Contemporary Praise band practice

Wednesday, 5:30 p.m.: Catholic choir practice

Wednesday, 6:45 p.m.: Gospel choir practice

Thursday, 5:30 p.m.: Gospel choir rehearsal



Listen to Me!

at Army Community Service



Every 2nd Tuesday of the Month
from 9:30 - 11 a.m.
* Except Federal Holidays

Don't burn bridges, learn to build them.
Make conversations come alive!

Sign up to reserve your seat.

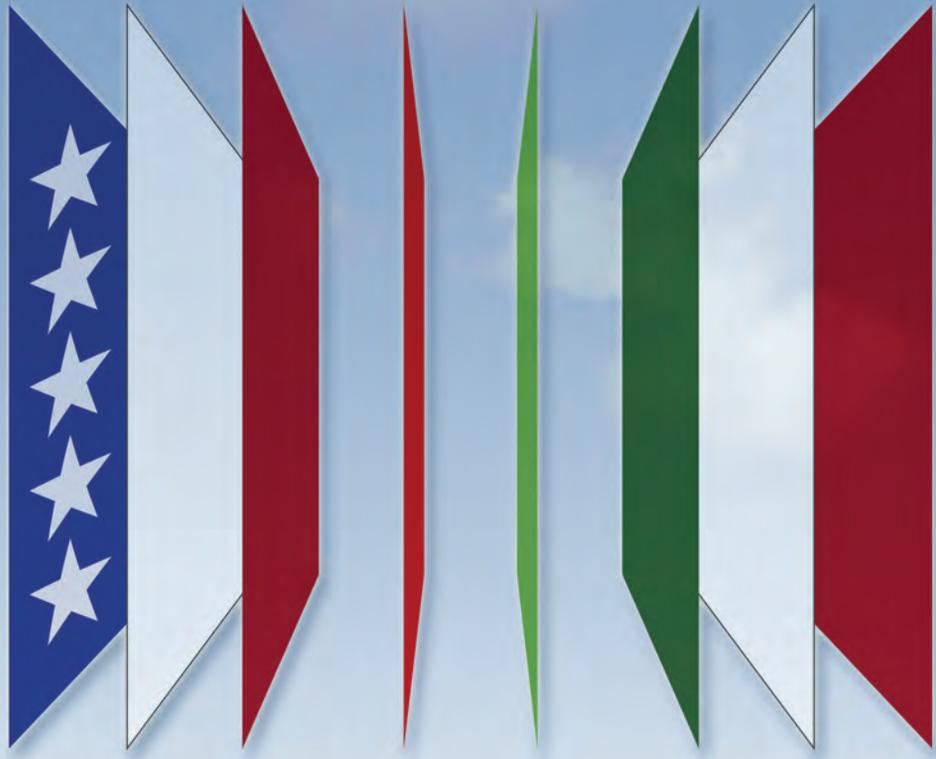


For more info call 634-7500. | www.vicenza.armyMWR.com



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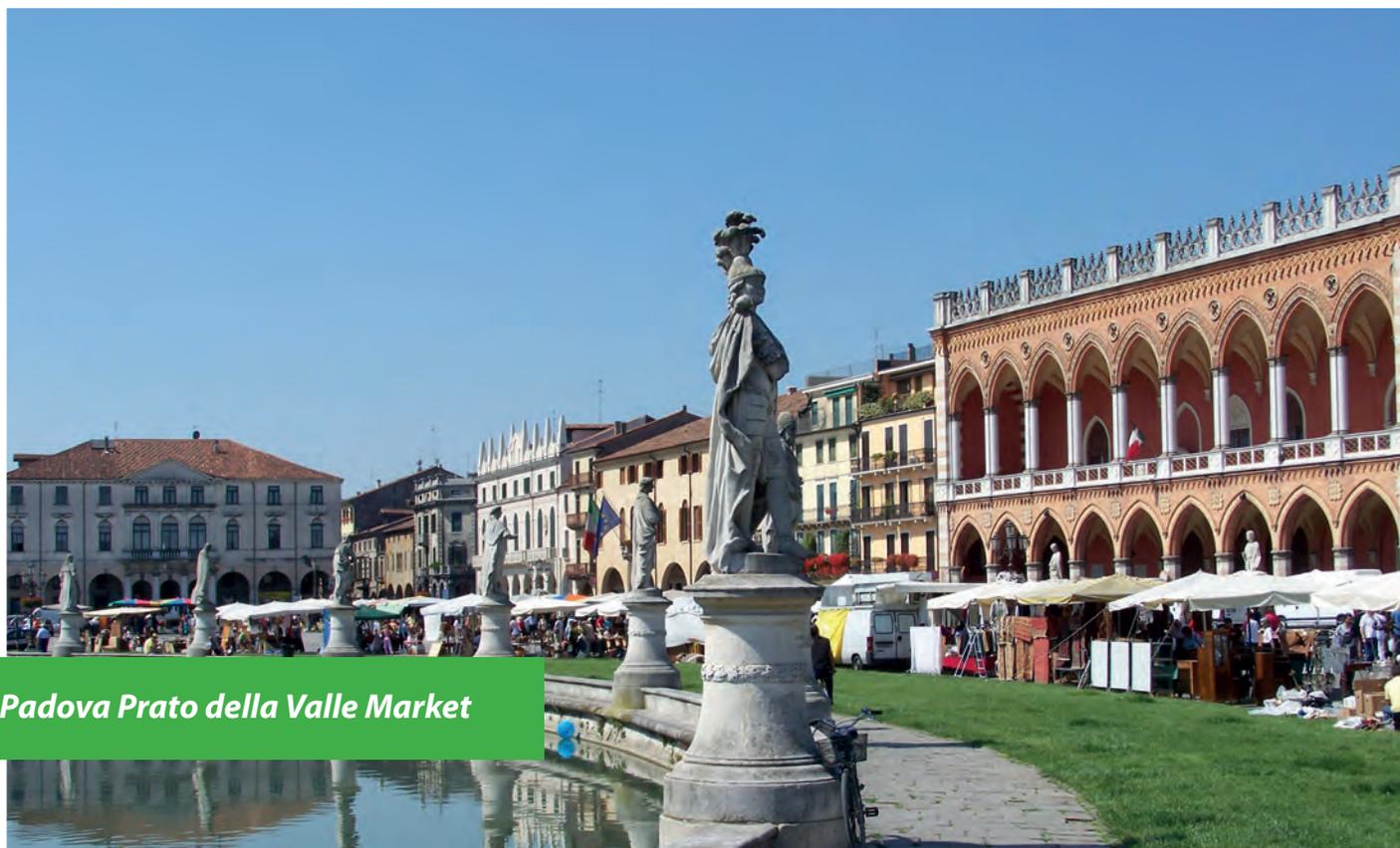
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https://twitter.com/OTG_Vicenza



Padova Prato della Valle Market

VENETO

Arts and Crafts Tour downtown Vicenza

Nov. 15, 3-7 p.m.; guided tour in the historical center of Vicenza; discover how traditional craftsmanship have survived over the centuries; visit an historic Bottega, a shop that offers a private collection of headwear from all over the world; the tour ends with an aperitif under the millenary cellars of the Palladian Basilica; the tour is in English and departs at 3 p.m. from Piazza Matteotti; cost: €24, €12 for children (6-12); free for children younger than 6.

<http://www.livinginvicenza.com/sponsored/arts-crafts-walking-tour-downtown-vicenza-2242>

Motor-Expo Vintage autos, motorcycles, bicycles and vintage parts trade fair

Nov. 15, 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m. and **Nov. 16**, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., in Cassola, Bassano Expo Center, Via Valsugana 22; entrance fee: €7, free for children younger than 12.

<http://www.vicenzae.org/ita/eventi/icalrepeat.detail/2014/11/15/11817/-/motor-expo>

Maruni e vin novo Chestnut and New Wine Festival

Nov. 16, from 2 p.m., in Brogliano, about 13 miles northwest of Vicenza; 3:30 p.m. entertainment, live music, face painting.

<http://www.vicenzae.org/ita/eventi/icalrepeat.detail/2014/11/16/11808/-/maruni-e-vin-novo>

Veronafil Stamps, coins, postcards, old prints, books, and collectors' items exhibit

Nov. 21, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; **Nov. 22**, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Nov. 23, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., in Verona, Viale del Lavoro 8, about 38 miles west of Vicenza. Free entrance. For more info in English, visit <http://www.veronafil.it/informazioni.aspx>

Mostra Felina International Cat Fashion Show

Nov. 22-23, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., in Cassola, Bassano Expo Center, Via Valsugana 22; entrance fee: €8; reduced €5 for children ages 6-12 and senior citizens older than 65; free entrance for children younger than 6.

<http://www.vicenzae.org/ita/eventi/icalrepeat.detail/2014/11/22/11818/-/mostra-felina>

Festa de La Cincionella Co' la Rava **Sausage with turnip festival**

Nov. 22, 6-11:30 p.m., and **Nov. 23**, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 p.m., in Chiampo, Piazza Papa Giovanni XIII, about 16 miles west of Vicenza; the Cincionella co' la rava is a specialty local sausage one of the typical products related to the culinary traditions of the Veneto region; food booths open at 6 p.m.; local products and crafts exhibit and sale; live music.

<http://www.livinginvicenza.com/agenda/cincionella-co-la-rava-local-festival-in-chiampo-1625>

Mercatini ed eventi di Natale **Christmas markets and events**

ASIAGO

I Giardini di Natale **Christmas Market**

Piazza Carli and surrounding streets; food booths featuring local specialties and typical Christmas sweets and craft.

Nov. 15, **Nov. 22**, and **Nov. 29**, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 3-7 p.m.

Nov. 16, **Nov. 23**, and **Nov. 30**, 10:30 a.m.-7 p.m.

Dec. 6, **Dec. 8**, and **Dec. 13**, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 3-7 p.m.

Dec. 7, **Dec. 14**, and from **Dec. 20** to Jan 6, 10:30 a.m.-7 p.m.

http://www.asiago.it/it/eventi/art_giardini_di_natale_i_mercatini_di_natale_di_asiago/

BASSANO DEL GRAPPA

Nov. 22-Dec. 23

In Piazza Libertà, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays, 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; Thursdays and Saturdays 2-7:30 p.m.; Mercatino della ***Befana (Befana's market)** in Piazza Libertà; **Nov. 17-Jan. 8**.

In Piazza Garibaldi, daily 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m. (closed on Mondays morning)

**The Befana is a kind, ugly and old hunchback witch. She is dressed in rags and travels straddling a flying broomstick, carrying a self replenishing sack full of presents for children*

BUSSOLENGO (Verona)

Natale Flover Village, **Nov. 3-Jan. 15**, 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; closed on **Dec. 25** and **Jan. 1**; entrance fee: €1 only on Saturdays and Sundays from **Nov. 3-Dec. 15**; free entrance on weekdays.

<http://www.natale-mercantini.it/mercantini-di-natale-del-veneto/#>

SCHIO

Panni Alti **Vintage Expo**

Nov. 28, 6-9 p.m.; **Nov. 29**, 10:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m.; **Nov. 30**, 9:30 a.m.-8 p.m.; in Schio, Spazio Shed, Via XX Settembre, about 16 miles northwest of Vicenza; vintage brand name clothes and accessories; posters, toys, records and 50 Christmas stands; free entrance on **Nov. 28**; €3 on **Nov. 29-30**.

<http://www.vicenzae.org/ita/eventi/icalrepeat.detail/2014/11/28/10184/-/panni-alti-vintage-expo>

THIENE

Tempo di Natale **Christmas Time**

Nov. 29, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; **Nov. 30**, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. in Thiene, at the Thiene Castle, Corso Garibaldi 2; Christmas gift ideas; Italian crafts, food, furniture, and clothes exhibit and sale; health and wellbeing info; Christmas ornaments workshops for children; entrance fee: €5; €0.50 for people younger than 18.

<http://www.vicenzae.org/ita/eventi/icalrepeat.detail/2014/11/29/11810/-/tempo-di-natale>

VERONA

Nov. 20-Dec. 22, in Piazza dei Signori, Nuremberg Christmas market, Sundays-Thursdays, 10 a.m.-9:30 p.m.; Friday, Saturday, and holidays' eves: 10 a.m.-11 p.m.; wood stands feature holiday gift ideas, vin brulè (hot spiced wine), holiday sweets, typical German bread and sausages.

Nov. 20-Dec. 22, Cortile Mercato Vecchio and Cortile Ex-Tribunale, Sundays-Thursdays, 10 a.m.-9:30 p.m.; Fridays, Saturdays, and holidays' eves: 10 a.m.-11 p.m.

<http://www.tuttomercatinidinatale.it/mercantini-natale-verona.html>

Antique markets Nov. 15 - 16

Verona: Nov. 15, 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m., in Piazza S. Zeno, about 38 miles west of Vicenza.

Asiago: Nov. 16, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Via Trento e Via J. Scaiaro, about 34 north of Vicenza

Godega di Sant'Urbano: Nov. 16, 8:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m., Via Roma, about 78 miles northeast of Vicenza

Montagnana: Nov. 16, 8 a.m.-sunset, in Piazza Vittorio Emanuele II, about 27 miles south of Vicenza

Padova: Nov. 16, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Prato della Valle, about 24 miles southeast of Vicenza

Soave: Nov. 16, 8 a.m.-7 p.m., in Piazza Antonio Marogna and Corso Vittorio Emanuele, about 23 miles west of Vicenza.

Antique markets Nov. 23

Treviso: 7:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m., Via San Liberale, about 56 miles east of Vicenza.



Dolcemente Pisa

TUSCANY

Mostra Mercato Nazionale del Tartufo Bianco National White Truffle Exhibit and sale

Nov. 15-16, Nov. 22-23, and Nov. 29-30, in San Miniato (Pisa); white truffle and many other local specialties exhibit and sale; old trades exhibits; Slow food workshops; **Nov. 15**, 10 a.m.–8 p.m. antique market in Piazza Dante.
<http://www.sagretoscane.com/cerca?q=&category=&area=7&city=&date=13&page=1&post=216>

Mostra Mercato Nazionale del Tartufo Bianco National White Truffle Exhibit and sale

Nov. 15-16, 9 a.m.–11 p.m., in San Giovanni d'Asso (Siena); food booths featuring a variety of truffle specialties and other typical products; local crafts exhibit and sale; shows and live music.
<http://www.comune.sangiovannidasso.siena.it/on-line/home/articolo3014353.html>

Sagra del Cinghiale Wild Boar Festival

Nov. 15-16, in Chianni (Pisa); food booths at noon and at 7 p.m.
Nov. 15: 9:30 p.m. live music
Nov. 16: 3 p.m. clown and magic show in Piazza del Ca-

stello; wild boar hunters' parade accompanied by the local music band; face painting and balloons twisting
<http://www.sagretoscane.com/cerca?q=&category=&area=7&city=&date=13&page=1&post=216>

Mercatino compro, baratto, vendo Flea market

Nov. 16, 8 a.m.–8 p.m., in Marina di Pisa, Lungomare Tullio Crosio; sell your articles and buy/exchange collectors' items.
http://www.eventiesagre.it/Mercatini_Usato/21066058_Compro+Baratto+Vendo.html

Dolcemente Pisa Sweetly Pisa

Nov. 22-23, 11 a.m.–8 p.m., in Pisa, Stazione Leopolda, Piazza Guerrazzi; taste the best Italian pastries, cakes, tarts, ice creams, coffee, chocolate, wines, and liquors; entrance fee: €3; free for children younger than 12.
<http://www.sagretoscane.com/cerca?q=&category=&area=7&city=&date=13&page=1&post=931>

Esposizione colombofila Dove exhibit

Nov. 29-30, 9 a.m.–6 p.m., in Empoli (Florence), Exhibit Center, Piazza Guido Guerra; exhibition of doves, canaries and birds of prey. Free entrance.
www.colombofilatoscana.it

Mercatini ed eventi di Natale Christmas markets and events

FLORENCE

Nov. 21-23, 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Mercato dei Saperi e dei mestieri, Flavors and Trades exhibit and sale in Piazza Santa Maria Novella

<http://www.natale-mercatini.it/mercato-di-natale-di-firenze/#>

MONTECATINI TERME

La Casa di Babbo Natale Santa Claus Village

Nov. 14-16, Nov. 21-23, Nov. 28-30, Dec. 5-8, Dec. 12-14, Dec. 19-Jan. 6; Santa Claus and elves Village at the Terme Tamerici Castle; Christmas ornaments workshops for children, pony rides, food booths; entrance fee: €8; reduced €7 for children younger than 12.

<http://www.lafabbricadibabbonatale.it/>

MONTEPULCIANO (Siena)

Nov. 22-23, Nov. 29-30, Dec. 5-8, Dec. 12-14, Nov. 19-Jan. 6, visit the Christmas Village in Piazza Grande, Piazzetta Danesi and Via San Donato; games, workshops, and entertainment for children.

<http://www.natale-mercatini.it/mercatini-di-natale-della-toscana>

SIGNA (Florence)

Nov. 29, 2-7 p.m.; **Nov. 30**, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., in Via Mazzini, Piazza Repubblica and Piazza Cavour; Italian, French and Austrian Christmas decorations and gift ideas.

<http://www.natale-mercatini.it/mercatini-di-natale-della-toscana>

Antique markets Nov. 15-16

Certaldo (Florence): Nov. 16, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Piazza Boccaccio and Via 2 Giugno

Lucca: Nov. 15-16, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Piazza Antelminelli, Piazza S. Giovanni, Piazza San Giusto, Via San Giovanni, Corte Bertolini

Marina di Grosseto (Grosseto): Nov. 16, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Via XXIV Maggio

Quarrata (Pistoia): Nov. 16, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Piazza Risorgimento

Antique markets Nov. 22-23

Castiglion Fiorentino (Arezzo): Nov. 23, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Piazza del Municipio

Montevarchi (Arezzo): Nov. 23, 9 a.m.-7 pm., Via Isidoro del Lungo, and Via Poggio

Prato: Nov. 22-23, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Piazza San Francesco

CONCERTS



Peter Gabriel

Hardcore Superstar – Nov. 18 in Livorno, Nov. 19 in Padova

Quidam Cirque du Soleil – Nov. 19-23 in Assago (Milan)

One Republic – Nov. 17 in Assago (Milan)

Ed Sheeran – Nov. 20 in Milan

Peter Gabriel – Nov. 20 in Turin; Nov. 21 in Casalecchio di Reno (Bologna)

Counting Crows + Lucy Rose – Nov. 22 in Padova

King of Pop – Michael Jackson Tribute Show – Nov. 22 in Mestre

Billy Idol – Nov. 23 in Milan

Patti Smith – Dec. 1 in Bergamo, Dec. 2 in Parma, Dec. 5 in Udine, Dec. 6 in Vicenza

Jesus Christ Superstar – Dec. 2-7 in Florence, Dec. 30 – Jan. 1 in Bologna

Elton John and Band – Dec. 4 in Assago (Milan)

New Found Glory – Dec. 6 in Milan

Sharon Van Etten – Dec. 6 in Bologna

David Crosby Solo Acoustic – Dec. 9 in Lucca, Dec. 10 in Como

Glenn Miller Orchestra – Dec. 13 in Padova

Stromae – Dec. 15 in Assago (Milan), Dec. 17 in Rome

Spirit of New Orleans Gospel Choir – Dec. 22 in Castelnuovo di Garfagnana (Lucca)

Harlem Gospel Choir – Dec. 23 in Bologna

Gran Concerto di Natale – Christmas Concert – Dec. 27 in Padova

The Original USA Gospel Singers and Band – Jan. 11, in Bolzano

SPORTING EVENTS

WWE Live – Nov. 15 in Bolzano

Supercross and Freestyle Motocross – Nov. 22 in Genova



By Susan Hedblad

BELLINI Canella

It's time to start thinking about what drinks to serve guests during the holidays.

What is more festive and Venetian than a Bellini?

It's genuinely fresh and captures the peachy hues of sunsets over the lagoon. The low alcohol content makes it a perfect accompaniment for brunch and as an aperitif, though I admit to having served it after dinner as well- refreshing and light.

I spoke with Bellini Canella owner, Lorenzo Canella and with his sisters, Alessandra, Nicoletta and Monica, to learn about Bellini and to discover how Bellini came to be what it is today.

Is Bellini really Venetian, or is this just marketing folklore?

"No way! The Bellini's beginnings were truly in Venice soon after the end of World War II.

A barman tried mixing Prosecco, a local sparkling wine, and the juice from a locally grown white peach.

He began serving it to some of the customers and it became an overnight success. They called it "Bellini" because the pink color reminded them of the color that a famous Venetian painter, Giovanni Bellini, often used to paint the robes of saints in the many paintings that adorn churches throughout Venice."

The Bellini slowly gained fame, thanks to the many famous personalities that became fans after discovering the Bellini cocktail in Venice. It wasn't easy to drink a Bellini then: the cocktail was available for a few short weeks each summer, prepared only when these delicate white peaches had reached full maturity.

In 1988, Luciano Canella, a successful entrepreneur and wine maker, well known for his wines and for his Prosecco, had the idea to bottle the Bellini, making it available for Bellini lovers all over the world. A long research ensued to capture the characteristic flavor of a freshly made Bellini with the recipe's original ingredients, in a bottle.

"So thanks to our father's intuition and perseverance, Bellini can now be enjoyed throughout the world."

Can you tell me what Bellini is today?

"Our family winery, Canella, is in San Donà di Piave, a town



near Venice, where we make the Bellini with only local ingredients. The white peach, the main ingredient, is cultivated by us in two orchards close to the Venetian lagoon. The peaches are left to fully ripen so that they develop the maximum sugars and aromas. They are extremely delicate and easily bruised, so the harvest is done by hand in small crates. The pulp juice is extracted immediately after harvest and mixed with the prosecco spumante. Just a few drops of raspberry give the Bellini the signature peach color that inspired that Venetian barman so many years ago. So there you have it.

Bellini, the quintessential Venetian cocktail, prepared with local ingredients, maintains its legacy in Venice through its presence at important events like Carnevale, the Redentore festival, the Mostra del Cinema and last but not least at the New Years celebration in Piazza San Marco, where thousands of Venetians and tourists gather to admire the fireworks and to make a toast with Bellini in the world's most beautiful Piazza."

How can we stay in touch?

"We are a tight knit family, active in every aspect of the business. We spend a good



deal of our time presenting and sharing Bellini, here in Italy and throughout the world. My sisters just returned from the USA, spreading Bellini love, just one of many countries where we are present. We've made so many great friendships through our product, and a wonderful way to stay in touch has been through Instagram. It's the best way to share happy moments with a Bellini in hand. Perhaps your Thanksgiving could include a very Venetian cocktail, and if it does, please share it with us on Instagram. Happy Holidays to you and your readers!"

Follow Bellini Canella on Instagram @bellini_canella
www.bellinicocktail.it



Venice *is...*

Venice is a city to be discovered in every season, but there is something magical about the months of December and January.



Story by **Susan Hedblad** | Photo by Izabella Vegh

There are fewer crowds, fog mutes the steps of the passerby, and the city seems to finally take a deep breath, inviting visitors to another place in time. With cold weather setting in, a walking tour through Venice with pauses to warm up in the local osterie for cicchetti, the Venetian version of tapas, can make for a memorable day, but here you can browse events and ideas to make the most of a winter visit.

December is a month to savor the city without hordes of tourists. The holiday season officially begins on December 8th, with the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a national religious holiday.

The most important event is of course, the Christmas celebration, where Venetians flock to churches for midnight mass. Saint Mark's Basilica, the most majestic of them, but normally kept quite dark, is lit with a thousand candles, creating incredible hues and reflections from the mosaics' gold tiles. Incense and echoes of organ notes flow from the Basilica into the square.

Here are other noteworthy events and ideas for the month of December in Venice:

Historical Markets

In Campo San Maurizio from 19-21 December, Venetians crowd to this once a year antique market looking for unique last minute Christmas gifts. The vendor serving chestnuts and hot spiced wine is a must. The largest market which runs through the entire holiday season is in Campo San Polo. Here you can find all kinds of Venetian artisan crafts, small gifts, candies and antiques.

Love 2014: New Year's Eve in Venice

For the 4th consecutive year, Venice dedicates its New Year's celebrations to Love. At the stroke of midnight, the celebration will culminate in a huge toast and a vast kiss in unison, as a message of love, peace and brotherhood throughout 2015. During the evening there will be live music and spectacular fireworks over the lagoon at midnight.

Historical Naval Museum

Visitors to Venice tend to flock to St. Mark's Square and the Rialto market area, yet there are so many other great places to discover. Recently the Naval Museum in Venice has been reorganized and expanded. Maritime and history buffs will enjoy the 4.000 square meters of exposition with ancient maps, boats and artifacts that trace the history of the sea-going Venetian Republic.

On Saturday and Sunday, the adjunct Boat Pavilion hosts some of the larger boats and vessels: ancient ceremonial gondolas, military, working and race boats. Inside the Arsenale, there is also a WWII Motozattera and a submarine Class "Toti". Info at www.marina.difesa.it/en

Hanukkah in Venice

The Festival of Lights comes late this year, on December 16 and its conclusion coincides with Christmas Eve on December 24th. Hanukkah in Venice is celebrated in the Ghetto, in the Cannaregio Sestiere, the first segregated Jewish community in Europe. Visit the Campo di Ghetto Nuovo, for the lighting of the Venice Public Chanukah Menorah. In the quarter you can locate kosher food finds, like Frittole di Zucca Barucca. Pumpkin, which arrived in Italy after the discovery of the Americas, proved so popular with Northern Italian Jews that in Venice it's called "Zucca Barucca" ("Holy Pumpkin," from the Hebrew "Baruch," "blessed"). It is a delicious fried treat prepared especially for Hanukkah. Info at www.jewishvenice.org

Some tips

There are many sources on the web and guides that can provide ideas for walking itineraries, restaurants, sights and museums.

Before you plan your day in Venice, check the weather. Even if it may not rain, the city is always at risk for flooding. The city of Venice has a website where you can see the tide forecasts, also in English. www.comune.venezia.it

A train from Vicenza is the most convenient way to arrive in Venice, although the return trains can be a problem if you plan on a late evening return. The cheapest parking can be found in Via Righi, about a half mile before the bridge crossing to Venice. A short bus ride will take you into Piazzale Roma. More conveniently located parking can be found in Piazzale Roma, just after crossing the bridge into the city.

New Mobile App OTG Outside The Gate



Where?

- Just Outside the Base
- Just Outside your Home
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What's happening?

- In English and Italian
- Merchants & Restaurants
- Services & Groups

Find?

- Google Maps, Bus & Taxi

How Much?

- **FREE**

What's Next?

- **Outlook** Newspaper Integrated
- International Orders Online

OTG APP can be downloaded from



APP Store (iPhone, iPad): Outside the gate

<https://itunes.apple.com/it/app/otg-outside-the-gate/id892325012?mt=8>
and look for the circular logo.

If in your smartphone is installed the application for reading QR codes is sufficient to read the code below to directly enter the download area.



Play Store (Android): Outside the Gate

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=uk.co.solus.otg>
and look for the circular logo.

If in your smartphone is installed the application for reading QR codes is sufficient to read the code below to directly enter the download area.