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Info-X

Join Vicenza community
leaders at the February
Information Exchange,
also known as Info-X.

Upstairs in the Arena
8:30-11 a.m.
Feb. 14

New format with
information tables to
peruse and ask questions
about services/resources
in Vicenza

The Garrison Commander
will share results of the
Quality of Life survey and
take questions from the
audience

All are welcome!

*Paid breakfast option will be available

Senior leaders focus on force protection

by James E. Brooks
USAG Italy Public Affairs Officer

VICENZA — Italian and American leaders from Vicenza and Camp Darby Army communities met here Jan. 30-31 for a two-day Senior Leader Conference to discuss ways installations, military personnel, and their families can be better protected.

The conference was the first to bring the leaders of Army communities in Italy together to focus on a single topic: force protection.

"This was the first of a series of discussions focused on improving the security posture and force protection with our leaders here in Italy. We have to decide what is best and how to proceed," said U.S. Army Garrison Italy Commander Col. Erik M. Berdy.

The two-day conference was designed to stimulate discussion on a wide range of issues focused on protecting military installations from a range of threats such as terrorism, organized crime and cybersecurity. Challenged with protecting military forces and families in austere defense budget times, Italian and American leaders also face the challenge of geographic separation. Vicenza and Camp



Discussing force protection was the No. 1 priority in the senior leaders' conference. Pictured at the table, clockwise from left are: Camp Darby Italian Base Commander Col. Renato Vaira; Col. Erik M. Berdy, U.S. Army Garrison Italy commander; Vicenza Italian Base Commander Col. Umberto D'Andrea; and Command Sgt. Maj. Mason L. Bryant, USAG Italy command sergeant major. (Photo by Laura Kreider, VMC Public Affairs Office)

Darby military communities are more than 200 miles away from each other. According to USAG Italy Provost Marshal Lt. Col. Michael Parsons, this discussion is an opportunity to find common ground and uncover some best practices.

"This security forum provided a great

opportunity for the garrison staff, garrison commander, and both Italian base commanders to dedicate two days reaffirming our strong bond and partnership. The collaborative effort helped us

See **LEADERS**, page 4

Open house at Art Center



VICENZA — Seven-year-old Brayden Borjas colors his drawing during the Art Center Open House Jan. 26 on Caserma Ederle. He and his sister Isabelle, accompanied by their mother Michelle, joined many members of the Vicenza Military Community at the center to see what the facility offers, while enjoying refreshments and music. See related photo, page 12. (Photo by Laura Kreider, VMC Public Affairs Office)

Installation pays tribute to Italian WWI namesake

by Karin J. Martinez
Outlook Editor

VICENZA — A centennial celebration honoring the legacy of Italian army Maj. Carlo Ederle took place here today at the Eternal Flame in front of Building 1, and brought together installation leadership, members of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8862 and invited guests.

Ederle, for whom Caserma Ederle is named, was an artillery officer in the Italian army during World War I and was killed in action Dec. 4, 1917, on the Piave River at age 25. He is laid to rest in Verona, the city of his birth.

The ceremony, organized by VFW Post 8862 in coordination with Italian Army personnel, included deployment of the Artillery Associations of Verona, Vicenza, Padova and Venice; laying a wreath at the war memorial; and reading the citation for Ederle's Gold Medal for Military Valor, which he earned for his bravery, combat experience and exemplary duty. The medal is equivalent to the United States military's Medal of Honor. It was posthumously awarded to Ederle by King Vittorio Emanuele III of Italy.

Andrea Ederle, nephew of the hero, was an honored guest at the 100th anniversary event. He thanked everyone involved for celebrating the memory of his uncle and talked about the Carlo Ederle Foundation, which Andrea's father began in 1964.

"I have no merit in being the nephew of Carlo Ederle," he said. "But I have the privilege of

See **NAMESAKE**, page 4

School celebrates 'Read across America Day'

VICENZA — Read Across America Day, held annually on a school day closest to that date in celebration of Dr. Seuss's birthday, will be officially observed March 2 this year. Schools and libraries take a lead role in making this day happen across the United States — and for American children abroad.

At Vicenza schools, Read Across America Week will be celebrated Feb. 26-28. However, Vicenza Elementary School has already gotten a head start on the celebration with a poster contest (1st- through 3rd-place winners seen here).

Also as part of the observance, VES would like to invite community members to participate in the Guest Reader Program. Those who would like to read to elementary students on Feb. 26 may sign up now. Highlights of the program are as follows:

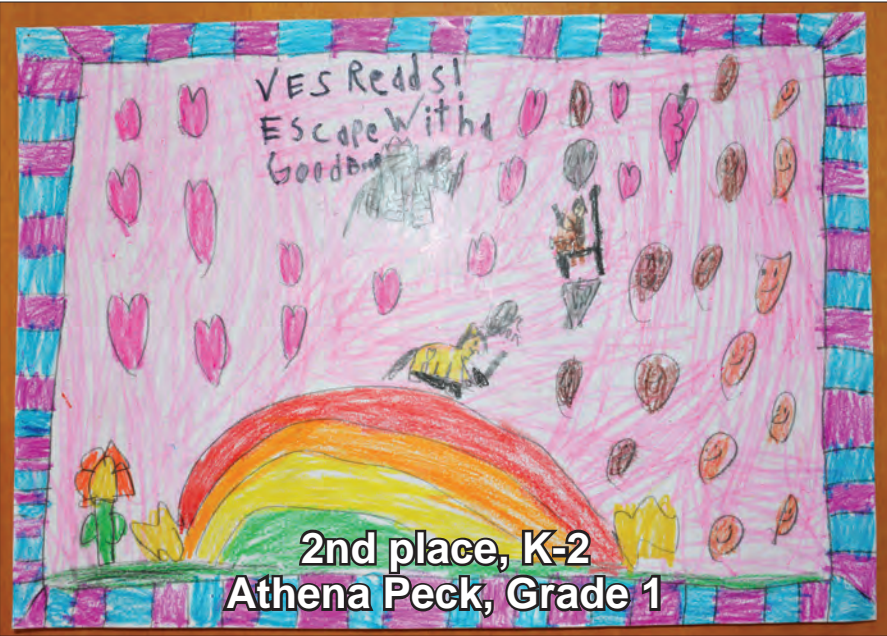
- Readers may bring a favorite children's book or read one from the school.
- Readers will read to a group of 20 to 40 students in a relaxed setting.
- You don't have to have children in the elementary school to participate.
- It will only take about 30 minutes.

Those interested should contact Hillary Gillett at VES, hillary.gillett@eu.dodea.edu.

Participants will receive a confirmation email no later than Feb. 23.



1st place, K-2
Natalie Cooper, Grade 2



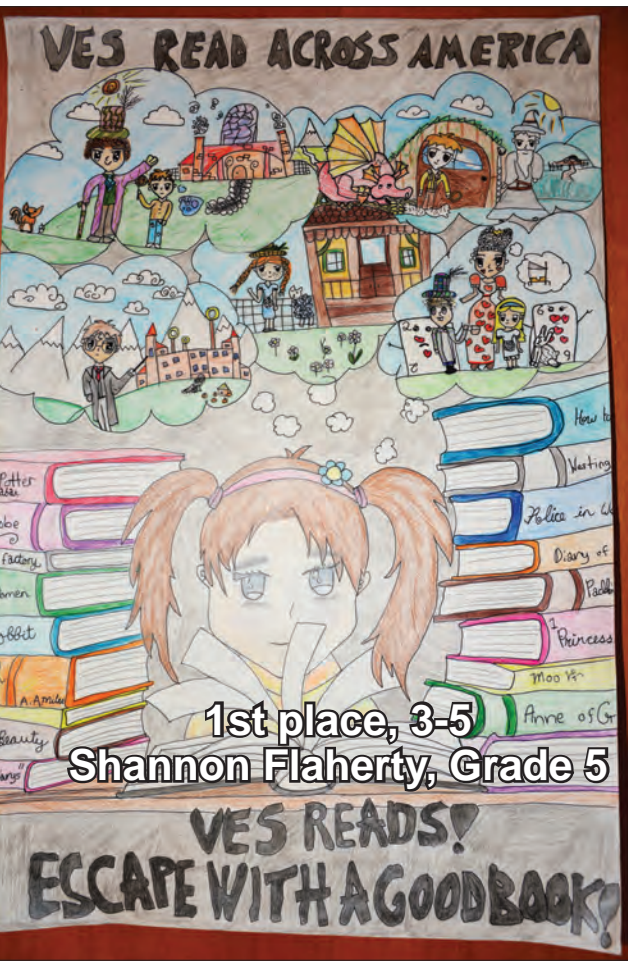
2nd place, K-2
Athena Peck, Grade 1



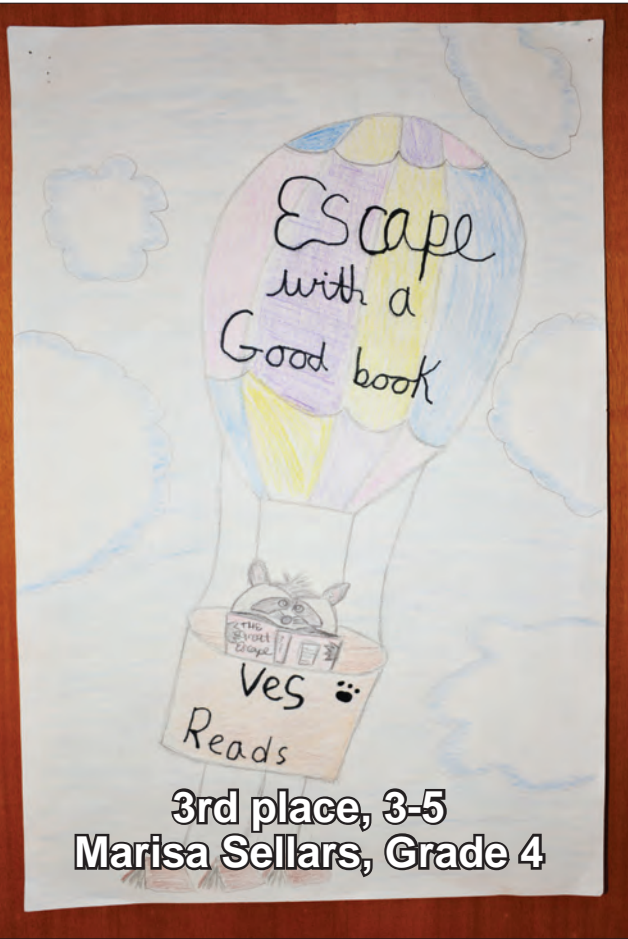
3rd place, K-2
Noah James McDougall, Grade 2



2nd place, 3-5
Hank Keirse, Grade 4



1st place, 3-5
Shannon Flaherty, Grade 5



3rd place, 3-5
Marisa Sellars, Grade 4

U.S. Army Europe Commander
**Lt. Gen.
Christopher G. Cavoli**

Acting U.S. Army Africa
Commander
**Brig. Gen.
Eugene J. LeBoeuf**

USAG Italy Commander
and Publisher
Col. Erik M. Berdy

USAG Italy Public Affairs
Director
James E. Brooks

Outlook Editor
Karin J. Martinez

Public Affairs Staff
**Anna Ciccotti
Laura Kreider
Chiara Mattiolo
Anna Terracino
Mark Turney**

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Outlook

The *Outlook* accepts submissions and wants to hear what readers want in your community newspaper!

Email content for consideration: karin.j.martinez.civ@mail.mil; call for deadline.

Anyone with questions about submissions or comments/concerns should contact the *Outlook* Editor at the USAG Italy Public Affairs Office, DSN 637-8031, comm. 0444-61-8031.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

VICENZA

FIRE AND MEDICAL EMERGENCY
DSN 117; Comm. 0444-71-7117 24 hours

POLICE EMERGENCY
DSN 112 / 114 / 115
Comm. 0444-71-7115 24 hours

DARBY

FIRE AND MEDICAL EMERGENCY
DSN 117
Comm. 051-54-7117 24 hours

POLICE EMERGENCY
DSN 115
Comm. 051-54-7115 24 hours

Anywhere in Italy — Off Post

Fire 115
Ambulance 118
Carabinieri 112
Police (local) 113

Fitness center gets new floor

CASERMA EDERLE — A new floor is just one improvement that will be made at the fitness centers across U.S. Army Garrison Italy over the next year. The floor, installed this month at the Ederle fitness center, was replaced to provide more support and stability. Pictured here, Feb. 5, are (clockwise from left): Seth Tilton, Meaghan Staudenmaier (handstand), Devon Rust, Christian Mendez, Tatiana Rosario and Nikki Hetzko.

(Photo by Laura Kreider, VMC Public Affairs Office)



Paratrooper makes history, serves proudly

by **Spc. Charlton Pope**
173rd Airborne Brigade Public Affairs Office

VICENZA— History was made in November when about 100 American paratroopers of 173rd Airborne Brigade jumped with the Serbian Army near Belgrade, Serbia. The exercise that took place Nov. 16 was the first in a step to strengthen a relationship between the U.S. and Serbian militaries, contributing to regional security and peace. Among those who exchanged foreign jump wings was the first and only female to have jumped with Serbians, 21-year-old Spc. Cheyenne Shouse of Deland, Fla. Shouse was providing photo coverage for the jump on Batajnica Airfield when a Serbian soldier challenged her and her ability to jump. The comment was overheard by Command Sgt. Maj. Wayne Wahlenmeier of 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, who promptly made arrangements for Shouse to be on the jump in order to prove just how capable and effective all “Sky Soldiers” are. Shouse has been serving in the Army for close to three years. She started her military career at Fort Jackson, S.C., where she attended Basic Combat Training. Upon completion, she moved on to Advanced Individual Training at Fort Lee, Va., where she trained to be an ammunition specialist.



The sergeant major of the Serbian paratroopers looks over the shoulder of Spc. Cheyenne Shouse, 173rd Airborne Brigade photojournalist, immediately following a historic combined jump including American and Serbian paratroopers. (Photo by Lt. Col. John Hall, 173rd Airborne Brigade Public Affairs Officer)

Proving herself dedicated and eager to learn, the young Soldier was able to volunteer to attend airborne school and, upon graduation, Shouse received her orders: she was going to Italy. Before she knew it, she was on a flight almost halfway around the world. She was assigned to Brigade Support Battalion upon arrival to the 173rd, where she worked as an ammunition

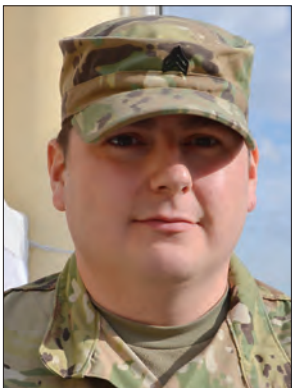
specialist until April 2017 after coming back from Air Assault School. In April, during a room inspection, her sergeant major took notice of her passion for photography. Shortly afterwards, at her first sergeant’s change of responsibility ceremony, she was called out in front of the formation and told she’d no longer be standing in formation. Instead, she’d be taking pictures of it.

From April until her recent change of duty station, Shouse worked in the 173rd Airborne Brigade Public Affairs Office, primarily as a photographer. According to Shouse, her perspective of the Army has changed since working in the new career field; from wanting to finish her contract and get out of the Army, she now wanted to see where her career with the Army will go. While in Italy, Shouse has had the opportunity to travel to about 10 different countries – not a bad accomplishment for someone who had previously only left the state of Florida a number of times small enough to count on a single hand. The Soldier speaks highly of her experiences while being stationed here. These experiences include participating in Operation Market Garden, an annual memorial jump in the Netherlands in remembrance of one of the largest Allied operations of World War II. She said she truly enjoyed her experiences in PAO -- the travel to multiple countries, and being a part of the 173rd, where she was always challenged to be a better Soldier. Shouse is headed back to the United States after her time in Italy, where she will be assigned to 3rd Special Forces Group, Fort Bragg, N.C. She will continue there in her original capacity as an ammunition specialist, and says she looks forward to the new experience and the opportunity to work in the Special Forces community further serving her country.

Speak Out

If you could have a conversation with any U.S. President, living or deceased, who would it be? What would you want to know?

By Laura Kreider and Karin J. Martinez



Sgt. Wesley Cyrus
U.S. Army Africa/SETAF
“George Washington: Is America now how you envisioned it would be when you became president?”



Spc. Sovanarith Sok
173rd Airborne Brigade
“Barack Obama: How to maintain Obamacare.”



Staff Sgt. Shalonda Cumberland
Public Health Activity-Italy
“John Fitzgerald Kennedy: Would you change your position on running for president if you had known that you would be killed?”



Capt. Michael Morgana
LST-Africa
“Teddy Roosevelt: Because he was such an epic adventurer, I’d like to just sit around a campfire and listen to him tell stories.”



Spc. John Valdespino
AFN Vicenza
“Theodore Roosevelt: What is the importance of the military and civil service?”

NAME
SAKE

(Continued from page 1)

helping to keep his memory alive [through the foundation].”

Andrea Ederle said the organization is committed to the promotion and strengthening of the values of duty, courage, selfless service and heroism, for which Carlo Ederle paid the extreme sacrifice on the battlefield. The foundation is based in a former Austrian fortress in Verona and houses a World War I museum.

“Being here on base gives our foundation the opportunity to go beyond Vicenza and Italy and reach out to our American partners, as we share the same core values. If Carlo Ederle were here today, I am sure he would remind Soldiers to stand united, abiding by those principles that shape our nations: protect peace and defend the homeland.

“This is especially true for American Soldiers,” he added. “They are peacekeepers all over the world, and Carlo Ederle would be pleased to see that Soldiers bring those values wherever they carry out their mission.”

One local Italian leader who attended the ceremony represented the Vicenza

mayor’s office. Federico Formisano, chair of the Vicenza City Council, paid tribute to Carlo Ederle while also praising American Soldiers.

“It is an honor to stand here with you in front of a monument that pays tribute to American fallen heroes – Soldiers who fought to defend peace and bring democracy after years of war. This is why I think it is appropriate that, while remembering the heroic sacrifice of Carlo Ederle, we also pay our respects to the American Soldiers who came first to Vicenza, deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, and then were killed there fighting to protect peace and democracy,” said Formisano.

Major William Orkins, executive officer for U.S. Army Garrison Italy, said he was humbled by the event.

“It is such a great honor and pay tribute to Maj. Carlo Ederle 100 years after his death,” said Orkins. “His dedication, sense of duty and selfless service remain an inspiration to both Italian and American warfighters at the installation named after him.”

Carlo Ederle was nominated for lieutenant colonel and knight of the Military Order of Savoy. He was awarded the Silver Medal of Military Valor three times and the *Croix*



A plaque gifted to Post 8862 by Ederle's nephew, Andrea Ederle. Andrea Ederle attended the ceremony in his uncle's honor.



Presidents of the Artillery Associations of the provinces of Vicenza and Padova respectively, Renato Vivian (left) and Bruno Savin, lay a wreath at the war memorial near Building 1 on Caserma Ederle. Approximately 120 representatives of the associations nearby attended the event in honor of 100th anniversary of the installation's namesake, Italian army Maj. Carlo Ederle, who was killed during World War I. Also in attendance were local Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8862 members and invited guests. More photos may be found on Flickr at www.flickr.com/photos/usagvicenza/albums/72157665258607998. (Photos by Laura Kreider, VMC Public Affairs Office)

de guerre (Cross of War) with palms by France.

Caserma Ederle was named after Carlo Ederle sometime after his death but became unoccupied. In 1955, the U.S. Army moved to the installation and the name was renewed. Names of streets in

some cities/towns also bear his name — to include Rome, Verona and, in the province of Verona, Grezzana and Bonavigo. Some military installations, monuments and classrooms at different universities were also named for the fallen hero.

At the movies

The 15:17 to Paris
(Rated PG-13)

The story of three courageous young Americans traveling on a train to Paris in August 2015, who thwarted a terrorist attack and saved the lives of the more than 500 passengers on board.



Feb. 9	7 p.m.	The 15:17 to Paris	(PG-13)
	10 p.m.	Fifty Shades Freed	(R)
Feb. 10	3 p.m.	Coco	(PG)
	6 p.m.	Fifty Shades Freed	(R)
Feb. 11	3 p.m.	Peter Rabbit	(PG)
	6 p.m.	The 15:17 to Paris	(PG-13)
Feb. 14	7 p.m.	The 15:17 to Paris	(PG-13)
Feb. 15	7 p.m.	Fifty Shades Freed	(R)
Feb. 16	7 p.m.	Black Panther	(PG-13)
	10 p.m.	Fifty Shades Freed	(R)
Feb. 17	3 p.m.	Peter Rabbit	(PG)
	6 p.m.	Black Panther	(PG-13)
Feb. 18	3 p.m.	Early Man	(PG)
	6 p.m.	Black Panther	(PG-13)
Feb. 21	7 p.m.	Black Panther	(PG-13)
Feb. 22	7 p.m.	The 15:17 to Paris	(PG-13)
Feb. 23	7 p.m.	Annihilation	(R)
	10 p.m.	Game Night	(R)
Feb. 24	3 p.m.	Early Night	(PG)
	6 p.m.	Annihilation	(R)
Feb. 25	3 p.m.	Annihilation	(R)
	6 p.m.	Game Night	(R)
Feb. 28	7 p.m.	Winchester	(PG-13)

Admission

3D first run: Adult \$8.50/Under 12 \$5.75
3D second run: Adult \$8/Under 12 \$5.50

First run: Adult \$6.50/Under 12, \$3.75; Second run: Adult \$6/Under 12 \$3.50
Schedule is subject to change without notice.

LEADERS

(Continued from page 1)

understand each other’s perspective on security. This is just another step in remaining vigilant on our No. 1 priority here: force protection,” said Parsons.

The success of Army communities in Italy rely on the strength and trust of host nation workers and military officials. This is perhaps more important in Italy than Army communities in other parts of Europe because of the Italian-American agreements to base military persons and their families here. The final authority for day-to-day operations of a U.S. Army

garrison is the Italian base commander. Vicenza Military Community Italian Base Commander Col. Umberto D’Andria says there is a true partnership between him and Berdy when it comes to operations here, especially in the area of force protection. “When it comes to protecting the Vicenza installations, there is no Italian way or American way. There is just one way. We agree and understand the need to approach situations with integration and to liaison more,” said D’Andria.

TRANSITION SUMMIT

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USAG RHEINLAND-PFALZ | MARCH 28-29, 2018

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EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

DAY 1: 3/26 BAVARIA | 3/28 RHEINLAND-PFALZ

Afterburner Military Transition Seminar
Afterburner is a strategic career planning experience designed specifically for exiting veterans; the program includes tactical job search skills that focus on the pathway to a civilian career rather than just a job. Space is limited for this session.

Military Spouse Employment Symposium
The Military Spouse Employment Symposium offers spouses a chance to hear firsthand from successful career-minded military spouses and get expert advice on growing a career in this unique lifestyle.

Networking Reception
In the evening, job seekers can build their professional network as they interact with dozens of companies at a free evening networking reception.

DAY 2: 3/27 BAVARIA | 3/29 RHEINLAND-PFALZ

Industry Briefs & Job Seeker Workshops
Connect directly with human resources experts and hiring managers to learn about career opportunities and hiring protocols in specific high-demand industries.

Hiring Fair
Connect with veteran- and military spouse-ready employers hiring for U.S. and EU-based jobs at the hiring fair.

Want more? Interactive panel discussions with employers and resume building and digital networking workshops designed to help you super-charge your transition to a civilian career are also a part of the lineup!



A 'Super' night at the Warrior Zone

CASERMA DEL DIN — Miami Dolphins cheerleader Kelly teaches Sgt. Chris Crawford a couple of dance moves during the Super Bowl LII party that took place at the Warrior Zone on Del Din. Armed Forces Entertainment brought eight Dolphins' cheerleaders and alumni players Vernon Carey and Twan Russell to the Vicenza and Darby communities as part of a recent entertainment tour. AFE is the official Department of Defense agency that provides entertainment to deployed military personnel. The organization plays host to more than 600 shows each year at 200 military installations around the world. Vicenza was the final stop of this tour.

(Photo by Mark Turney, VMC Public Affairs Office)

Leaders develop leaders at 509th

Unit creates new program to empower junior Soldiers, encourage problem-solving

by Sgt. Kadja Manuel
509th Signal Battalion

VICENZA — The pillars of Strong Europe are the guidance issued by the Army’s top leaders to accomplish U.S. Army Europe’s desired end state: a strong European collective defense. One of the pillars is Empowering Junior Leaders.

With an area of responsibility that stretches across 24 sites in eight countries, the 509th Signal Battalion needs to lead the pack when it comes to such a task. In that spirit, the battalion has a program known as JSPD, Junior Soldier Professional Development. The goal of JSPD is to develop a dynamic group of problem-solvers who can identify a problem before it happens and know how to fix it after it happens, if not prevent it all together.

A common Army saying is “NCOs [noncommissioned officers] get it done and make it happen,” but with programs like JSPD, that focus shifts to junior Soldiers. With the 509th passing responsibility to all echelons by hosting “Days of Innovation” and writing competitions, this motto within the unit will soon be “Soldiers make it happen.”

This approach to empowerment is far from traditional. Traditional leadership logic assumes that that for organizations to be great, they need a strong leader to be in control; however, leaders of the battalion have found that is not necessarily the case. If organizations focus on building strong groups of employees who are empowered and ready to lead themselves, it is much more effective.

This leadership technique moves power and responsibility to all levels, thus creating great leaders throughout the ranks. JSPD focuses more on a direct level of leadership with a small group/task-oriented perspective wherein each member is responsible and has a part in accomplishing the group mission.

The 509th hosts a series of brown-bag lunches where Soldiers discuss various readings about leadership styles. These lunches are pivotal in getting junior Soldiers in the mindset of solving problems as opposed to reporting problems.

JSPD also hosts a “Day of Innovation” each quarter. During these events, junior leaders are given an allotted time to use the eight-step Army training model to plan, train, rehearse and execute an idea that will better the organization, or better yet, the Army. The “Day of Innovation” is one of many ways to teach junior leaders the importance of influence outside of the organization.

During one of these sessions, participants came up with an idea that was adopted by battalion senior leaders: the SERF Team. This Signal Expeditionary Reaction Force is a group of signal subject-matter experts from across the battalion who all have a specific area of expertise and are deployed to assist customers. The SERF Team allowed junior leaders to bring a unique insight to the



Sergeant Kadja Manuel (standing), Headquarters & Headquarters Detachment, 509th Signal Battalion, briefs the 2nd Theater Signal Brigade command team on the 509th's efforts to empower its junior Soldiers. Manuel serves as president of the junior Soldier professional development program for the unit. (Photo by Capt. H. Hannon, 509th Signal Battalion)

forefront and improved the unit’s manpower allocation process. Another key benefit of the team is that it is led by junior Soldiers, allowing for leadership development and ownership to take place.

For the upcoming quarter, JSPD’s emphasis is communication, personal competence and writing. The curriculum is aligned with Army Doctrine Reference Publication 6-22, Army Leadership. Soldiers will discuss readings such as “Turn the Ship Around” by David Marquet and “The Three Meter Zone.” The program also hosts writing competitions.

Battalion leaders hope that JSPD will create a domino effect of dynamic leaders who can extend their influence beyond the chain of command.

“The greatest ideas in the world from the lowest leaders or highest ranking personnel don’t mean anything if you can’t communicate them,” said Col. Carl Worthington, commander, 2nd Theater Signal Brigade.

Whether it’s embodying the pillars of Strong Europe by empowering junior leaders, allotting time for Soldiers to get together and brainstorm ways to improve the organization, or just teaching Soldiers the importance of written communication and personal competence, the “Mighty 509th” is interested in leader development. As Elbert Hubbard wrote in *A Message to Garcia*, “Responsibilities gravitate to the shoulders that can carry them and power flows to the one who knows how.”



(Photo by Chiara Mattiolo, DMC Public Affairs Office)

Employee Spotlight

This week, *Outlook* puts the spotlight on **Monica Mechur**, who works for Friends of Camp Darby at Camp Darby.

Position/organization:
Manager at the Thrift Store

Overview of job/duties:
Sixteen years of management position at the Thrift Store.

"I receive and make a selection of anything to be sold in the shop from a needle to a dress, from collectible items to home appliances — basically anything one can think of. The magic in my shop is that someone’s discard can be someone else’s treasure. I take good care of displaying items in an appealing way to attract more potential customers. It is important to know that all the provisions from the shop will go back to the community."

Goals:
"My goal is to keep doing my job in the best way I can."

What I like about my job:
“The interaction with my customers and the creativity in what I do."

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To 'bee' a good speller or not to 'bee'

Vicenza students participate in 8th annual championship

Story and photos
by Laura Kreider
VMC Public Affairs Office

VICENZA— After 16 rounds, with almost 180 words given out, seventh-grader Asenath Wetzel went on to spell “seafaring” and “prominent” that were the last two words at the eighth annual Vicenza Elementary/Middle School Championship Spelling Bee. With these words she became the winner of this annual competition held in the Villaggio multipurpose room Jan. 24.

Twenty contestants competed in the finals of the event, which was sponsored by the Vicenza Parent Teacher Student Association. A previous selection took place Jan. 17, and the top 10 participants of each group advanced to the championship.

Vicenza Middle School seventh-grader Cheyenne Larson took second place, and sixth-grader Rion Buenavente came in third.

As with previous editions, teacher George Hanby acted as the official “word pronouncer” after the welcome from ES/MS principals, Allison Peltz and Stephanie El Sayed.

Also, PTSA Representative Mary Powell and Spelling Bee Sponsors Trina Downey and Teresa Taylor were on board, while official spelling bee judges were: Dr. Noni Hoag, District ELA ISS; Beth Potter, school liaison officer; retired Col. Craig Cotter; and Capt. Ariel Castro from 173rd Airborne Brigade.

Most of the contestants, including elementary students, battled up to round 10 and were excited about competing with words such as “labyrinthine,” “parenthetical” and “incongruous.” During that round, second-grader Shaun Ingram, from Downey’s class, was challenged with “vicissitudes.”

He missed it; nevertheless, he was the last second-grader who made it up to round 10.

“I had a great experience in the spelling



Asenath Wetzel, a seventh-grader at Vicenza Middle School, spells the last two words “seafaring” and “prominent” to be declared the winner of the championship. Her last opponent, seventh-grader Cheyenne Larson, misspelled “partition” in round 15.

bee,” said Ingram. “I studied every day, and my hard work and dedication paid off. (I) placed 10th overall among the middle and elementary schools. I learned how to set a goal and work towards it by studying a little bit every night,” he added.

All competitors were motivated and gave their best.

Cheyenne Larson was proud that she placed second in this year’s championship.

“I didn’t just study the list words, I also studied words not on the list and I used words that I’d heard before that were challenging,” she said.

While getting close to the final rounds, this year’s winner (Wetzel) had mixed feelings about her accomplishment.

“I was feeling excited and scared during the final two rounds,” she said,



Spelling bee winners, principals and judges pose for a picture after the award presentation. From left to right: Allison Peltz; Capt. Ariel Castro; Noni Hoag; Asenath Wetzel, winner; Rion Buenavente, 3rd-place winner; Cheyenne Larson, 2nd-place winner; George Hanby; Tabitha Huewitt, middle school assistant principal; and Craig Cotter. See Flickr for more photos, www.flickr.com/usagvicenza.

“I felt proud when I won because I had really studied hard for the bee. Besides studying the bee grade-level lists, I also read a lot of books so I could find new words to study.”

Other participants explained that parents had a vital role in assisting in preparing for the event.

One of them is third-place winner Buenavente, who felt happy about his achievement.

“I promised my family that I would be one of the top three winners and I did it,” he said.

“The reason I got to the top three is because my parents quizzed me to help me get prepared, and I am really thankful they did, because I would not have been in the top three without them,” Buenavente added.

VES students such as Charlotte Bonser, fourth grade, thought that this year’s spelling bee was a great opportunity.

“I truly think it was harder this year, competing against other great spellers. I studied for many months, and I just got nervous during the spelling bee. But I know that I have improved so much,”

explained Bonser.

Sixth-grader Michael Belfer also remarked that this year it was a little more challenging than last year.

“I would say for future spellers to breathe in and out before spelling the word and always take your time to spell the word,” he recommended after the event.

Also, an additional tip for future spellers comes from second-grader Luis Ortiz.

“When I was in the finals I was nervous but proud of myself for getting this far. Participants should try reading more books because it helps you learn more challenging words,” he said.

As winner, Wetzel is eligible to represent both schools in the European PTSA Spelling Bee in Ramstein, Germany, in March. Larson is the alternate in case Wetzel is not able to represent Vicenza in Germany.

The winner of the DoDDS European Regional Bee goes on to represent DoDDS-Europe in the National Scripps Spelling Bee in Washington in May.



Fired up!

CASERMA EDERLE — Vicenza High School cheer team captain Lauren Miller (right), 12th grade, leads the 5- to 9-year-old group during Cheer Camp held at the VHS gymnasium Feb. 3. Miller is assisted by assisted by ninth-grader Meridith Winegar. During the event, hosted by the VHS Cheer Team, approximately 40 participants had the opportunity to learn several exercises and routine utilized in the performance for parents at the end of the day. The VHS cheerleaders will perform during halftime at the varsity basketball game Feb. 10.

(Photo by Laura Kreider, VMC Public Affairs Office)

Wooden artifacts may bring unwanted guests

By Robert Szostek
U.S. European Command Customs Public Affairs Office

WIESBADEN, Germany — People who buy antiques sometimes get more than they bargained for when buying artifacts or furniture at antique shops, flea markets or swap meets. Wooden objects left outside on your patio can also attract wood boring insects.

“Antique furniture and ornamental wooden items are sometimes infested with wood boring insects such as wood worm, termites or powder post beetles,” said Julie Aliaga-Milos, USDA adviser at the USEUCOM Customs and Border Clearance Agency. “Examine any such item carefully for evidence of wood borer infestation before buying it.”

Holes or chambers on the wood surface that appear to be recently hollowed out mean you may have an insect problem. Traces of wood powder or sawdust in and around those holes are further signs of infestation.

Taking these items home can cause the pests to infest your other furniture. It could also mean that border clearance agents will flag your household goods for closer inspection and possible fumigation when it is time to move back state-side. U.S. laws ban harmful insects that are considered economic or agricultural pests from entering the States.

People with wood items that show signs of wood-boring damage will most likely be required to have them fumigated using an approved USDA treatment method before shipping them to the U.S. This can be very costly, however.

Aliaga-Milos recommended that any wooden item you want to ship to the United States be kept indoors because insects can easily infest objects that are left outside.

Not alone: 24/7 support for domestic abuse victims

By Susan I. Swisher
Family Advocacy Program Manager

VICENZA — Whether or not you've experienced domestic abuse personally, you probably know that it can have devastating consequences. Victims carry the emotional scars of abuse long after they're out of harm's way.

And abusers, if not stopped, can escalate the violence until they and their victims lose everything — family, career, self-respect and even freedom.

Here in U.S. Army Garrison Italy, the domestic abuse victim advocate (DAVA) is offered through the Family Advocacy Program as an effort to uphold the commitment to provide Soldiers and family members with a strong and supportive environment. Domestic abuse undermines the Army's promise for a quality of life commensurate with the level of service and sacrifice.

What is a DAVA? A domestic abuse victim advocate is a trained professional that offers non-clinical advocacy services and support to Soldiers and family members experiencing domestic violence. A DAVA is on call 24/7 to provide crisis

intervention, safety planning, non-judgmental support, assistance in securing medical treatment for injuries, information on legal rights and proceedings, and referrals to safe shelter, military and civilian resources.

The on-call DAVA will empower victims to make informed and independent decisions to support their recovery process.

How does a DAVA differ from a SHARP victim advocate? Basically, the difference is that if sexual assault occurs within a marriage or an intimate partnership established by living together, regardless of same or opposite sex, the DAVA can respond. SHARP provides comprehensive advocacy services to individuals exhibiting a wide variety of issues related to being a victim or survivor of sexual harassment or sexual assault, outside of the marital or co-habitant, intimate partner relationship.

The DAVA is concerned with violence, whether it is sexual, physical or emotional, within the relationship that has been established with a current spouse; a person with whom the abuser shares a child in common; or a current or former intimate partner with whom the abuser

shares a residence.

The DAVA can support individuals in gaining information or offering a Restricted Report to allow the victim to receive advocacy services without triggering an official law enforcement investigation or command involvement.

When there has already been intervention by law enforcement or the command, the DAVA can also provide the same services of support and connection to medical, legal, and community or military resources. These services are available to Soldiers, family member spouses and adult intimate partners.

The DAVA can also connect the victim with the Transitional Compensation Program.

This is a Congressionally authorized program that authorizes temporary payments for families in which the active-duty Soldier has been court-martialed or is being administratively separated for a family member abuse offense.

More information can be gained by visiting your Army Community Service center, Building 108 on Caserma Ederle, or by calling the ACS FAP Program Manager at 0444-71-7489, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Chapel Activities

Chapel Services, Vicenza
VMC Chapel, Building 29, 637-7575

Sunday schedule

9-10 a.m.	Roman Catholic
11 a.m.-noon	Protestant
1:30-3 p.m.	Gospel
5-6 p.m.	Contemporary Protestant

Protestant Women's Bible Studies

9:15 a.m.-noon	Tuesdays
5:30-7 p.m.	Tuesdays

Protestant Men of the Chapel

Bible Study	5:30-7 p.m.	Tuesdays
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Saint Mark's Catholic Women of the Chapel

9 a.m.-noon	Mondays
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Youth of the Chapel

Grades 6-12	5:30-8 p.m.
Wednesdays	

Bible/book studies

Chapel Activity Room, Building 29
6:30-7:30 p.m. Thursdays
Gospel Service/Bible Study

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

Building 395 6:30-7:30 a.m.
Mon through Fri

Jewish: Call chapel for more information.
Del Din Soldier Ministry
Call DSN 637-4690 for information.

Chapel Services, Camp Darby
DSN 633-7267, comm. 050-54-7267

Sunday schedule

9-10 a.m.	Roman Catholic
10:30 a.m.	Protestant

Protestant Women of the Chapel

Bible Study	Tuesdays
9:30 a.m.	



Stand Up | Speak Out | Stop Domestic Violence

VICTIM ADVOCACY HOTLINE

You are not alone...we can help!
24 Hour Safety Planning Support

335-805-7867



Parent & Child

Raise awareness for Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

By Mieke VanderBorgh
Contributor

VICENZA — The teen years are notorious for awkward dating and amateur romantic relationships. But as clumsy as they are, those first stabs at coupling up are super important as they lay the groundwork for patterns and expectations for relationships throughout adulthood.

Unfortunately, the early years are also a time when dating violence can begin — and it's more widespread than you may think. In fact, one in three high school students experience some form of abuse from a dating partner.

So teens, parents of teens, and anyone who works with teens: February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. Take the opportunity now to educate yourselves on how to prevent teen dating violence, and raise awareness so that others can do the same.

Teen dating violence covers the same ground as intimate partner violence in adult relationships. The violence can take the form of physical, emotional, verbal, financial, digital, sexual abuse or stalking. The difference is that the people involved are young, very young.

According to one study, more than half of the men and women who report ever having experienced physical abuse, sexual abuse, or stalking by a dating partner, had their first episodes between the ages of 11 and 24. The negative consequences go beyond setting teens up for a risk for future dating violence. Teens who have experienced abusive relationships are at a higher risk for suicide ideation and lower academic performance.

The good news is that everyone in the community can

work together to help teens form healthy, productive relationships.

Educate yourselves about the types of dating violence and warning signs. Keep an eye on your friends and be there to lend a hand — or a hint of clarity — if they need it.

Dating abuse is about the perpetrator's need to have power and control over their partner. It has nothing to do with love and caring for another person. Learn about the characteristics of a healthy relationship and work actively to interact with all people in a positive way.

Parents, teachers, and other adults that care for teens: First and foremost, lead by example. Take a good look at your own relationships, romantic and non, and make sure you are setting a good example for respectful, honest, and empathic relationships.

If there's room for improvement, now is a great time to work on making things better. In addition, make space

under the rug.

Look here for local and web resources on teen dating violence prevention and awareness:

- Teen dating violence prevention workshops sponsored by the Family Advocacy Program and offered through the Teen Center. The next one is scheduled for Feb. 22, 11:40 a.m.-12:10 p.m.

- Launching Hope workshops that help prepare parents to launch their teens into the wonderful world of adulthood. For parents of teens and preteens. Next workshop starts March 16. See the FMWR website, or call Army Community Service for more details.

- At Vicenza High School, there is a policy for addressing sexual harassment and bullying, but nothing specifically for teen dating violence. Let the high school staff know if you'd be interested in seeing a teen dating violence policy in future versions of the school handbook.

- www.loveisrespect.org
Information for teens and parents
- www.breakthecycle.org
Information for teens and parents
- <https://healthfinder.gov/HealthTopics/Category/parenting/healthy-communication-and-relationships/talk-with-your-teen-about-healthy-relationships>

Talking points for parents on how to talk to their teens about healthy relationships.

We all remember our first love. Let's do our part to make sure teens come out of those first magical — and at times ex-

cruciating — dating experiences stronger and with new healthy relationship skills to apply to their future dating adventures.

(VanderBorgh has a Ph.D. in developmental psychology. She is an expert in early cognitive development in children. She is also the Child Development Specialist/Media Educator and Family Advocacy Program Parent-Child Educator and Emergency Placement Coordinator for U.S. Army Garrison Italy.)



THIS FEBRUARY, START TALKING ABOUT HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS!



for open communication with the teens in your life. Talk to them about what a healthy relationship is before they start dating.

Continue the conversation after the dating starts. Discuss and practice respectful conflict resolution, and make sure they know where to find help if they need it.

Finally, raise awareness for others in the schools and community at large so this topic is not pushed



BOSS takes group to slopes to enjoy some down time

SAN MARTINO — The Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program in Vicenza took to the slopes in San Martino Feb. 3 with a group of about 20 skiers and snowboarders. BOSS leaders used the opportunity to focus on some life skills as part of the Life Skills Program, incorporating basic first aid, winter safety and a gear preventive maintenance class before the recreation part of the day. Capitalizing on the newly acquired credentials of Sgt. 1st Class Willie McIntosh and Spc. Nicholas Sirak, who became certified snowboard and ski instructors respectively, in December, BOSS has offered several ski/snowboard trips already this year. According to McIntosh, also the BOSS Vice President, getting Soldiers out to participate in these types of events is important. "BOSS creates an outlet for Soldiers to do something constructive. Being away from home, away from the United States, people tend not to want to get out and try something new because it's foreign. ... These kinds of events give Soldiers the opportunity to travel with a battle buddy and have the chance to experience Italy." Anyone interested in participating in BOSS events should contact their unit representative.

(Photos by Spc. Stephen Malone, 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment)



News briefs

Make VA benefits appointments

Anyone with questions about veterans benefits should make an appointment with the Department of Veteran Affairs Overseas Military Service Coordinator (OMSC). The OMSC is available on the following dates: Feb. 21-23; March 5-9; and March 22-23. Receive assistance with eBenefits enrollment, disability compensation, claims development, education benefits, housing, survivor benefits and more.

Active-duty service members, veterans, survivors, spouses and dependents may make individual appointments. Call DSN 637-8155/8156, comm. 0444-61-8155/8156. Or email julie.machak@serco-na.com or kathryn.dunbar@serco-na.com.

Apply now for VCC scholarships

The Vicenza Community Club offers three education scholarships this spring: the High School Senior Scholarship for 2018-19 academic year; Emi Fondi Scholarship for adult VCC members; and Pia Manetti Scholarship for dependents of VCC members. Spring 2018 applications are open through April 15.

For more information, visit the VCC webpage at <http://vccitaly.org/scholarships>. Or contact Rose Roorda, scholarships chairperson at scholar-vcc@vccitaly.org; call 329-815-7024.

Register for EMT training

Central Texas College is registering personnel now for an Emergency Medical Technician refresher course set to run Feb. 13-24, and Emergency Medical Basic course, which takes place

Feb. 26-May 17. The basic course leads to EMT National Registry Certification. For more information, contact the Vicenza office of CTC at DSN 637 8145, or by email: vicenza@europe.ctcd.edu.

ASIST workshop available

Registration begins now through Feb. 23 for a two-day workshop: Applied Suicide Intervention Skill Training. The workshop will take place March 8-9, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Building 305 on Caserma Ederle. To register, email name, organization/unit and phone number to usarmy.usag-italy.id-europe.mbx.usag-italy-asap@mail.mil. Call the Army Substance Abuse Program for more information, DSN 637-7245, comm. 0444-61-7245.

General support at ACS

Community members are invited to participate in Army Community Service classes and activities. Coupon Tuesday takes place each Tuesday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Share and collect coupons at Building 108.

Interview Skills Training takes place Feb. 20, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

The Family Readiness Group Academy Dedicated Leaders' Course takes place Feb. 26-28, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Follow ACS on Facebook at www.facebook.com/USAGItalyACS. Questions may be directed to the main desk at DSN 634-7500, comm. 0444-71-7500.

Soldier GT improvement class

A class for Soldiers to improve their GT (general technical) scores will take place on Caserma Ederle in Building 126, March 7-27. Classes will take

place each day from 8 a.m. to noon. Registration closes Feb. 26. For an application, call DSN: 637-8141 or email vicenza.edcenter@us.army.mil.

Student winter concert

Vicenza Elementary School's 3rd and 4th grade winter chorus concert will take place Feb. 21 at 5 p.m. in the multipurpose room at the school on Villaggio. Selections will include February holiday songs, winter-themed music, and a section devoted to Black History Month. All community members are invited.

VFW Corner

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8862 take place the second Thursday of each month. Meetings take place at the La Rondine on Via Paolo Calvi, Vicenza, at 5:30 p.m. Those who would like to join the organization should contact Bob Helie at 327-085-2787, or email rahelie@hotmail.com to check eligibility. Maps for the meeting place are available at the Retirement Services

Office, Building 305.

Medical benvenuti

The U.S. Army Health Center-Vicenza welcomes newcomers with their 'benvenuti' healthcare briefing. The briefing takes place every Wednesday, 1:15-2 p.m. in the training classroom at the health center. Tour the clinic and ask questions. Children are welcome if childcare cannot be arranged.


Financial readiness

If interested in learning about budgeting, Blended Retirement Service, money management, Thrift Savings Plan, investing or other personal financial issues, call DSN 634-8634 to set up a meeting. Personal financial counselor services are available until April 6. For appointments, call 349-166-0338.

VMC Prayer Breakfast

The community is invited to the annual prayer breakfast at the Golden Lion on Caserma Ederle, Feb. 22, at 7:20 a.m.





Every Wednesday, 1:15-2 p.m.,
in the Training Classroom
at the Health Center
(located on the 2nd floor by lab)

Come tour the clinic, ask questions
about overseas healthcare and
get started on the right foot with a
positive patient experience.

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www.facebook.com/VMCItaly
www.pinterest.com/usagitaly
www.flickr.com/photos/usagvicenza

Protect yourself against online fraud during tax season

by Will Poole

Cybersecurity Branch, U.S. Army Africa G6

VICENZA — Hearing the words “cyber” and “security,” in the same sentence, could cause some of us to say “ugh, again.” We immediately think of clicking through yearly mandatory training and threats of having accounts disabled or our identity stolen.

However, it is important to keep talking, and making it our collective goal, until everyone fully understands the issues that face us as global cyber citizens. The issues are enormous and seem to be neverending.

Daily we are seeing more news stories about cyber breaches involving personally identifiable information (PII), credit card fraud, ATM fraud, phishing, hacking, identity theft and more. As a community, we must collaborate and focus on the areas of cybersecurity that we can influence in our favor to protect ourselves and those around us.

For example, learning, and implementing, the do’s and don’ts including, but not limited to, email etiquette (phishing, bullying), home computing security (VPNs, anti-virus protection), identity theft and online fraud.

In light of those concerns, it’s important to realize that tax season is a prime time for identity theft and online fraud. During the 2016 tax season, the Internal Revenue Service saw an approximate 400 percent surge in phishing and malware incidents targeting tax filers.

Stealing your identity is usually the first step for

cyber criminals, and sending phishing emails to unsuspecting users continues to get results. Once they obtain your name, Social Security Number and date of birth they can attempt to file a tax return in your name. Cyber criminals will try to steal this information from you by accessing computing devices or various online accounts.

So what can we do?

First, be cognizant of unsolicited emails, texts and any social media posts asking for personal and/or financial information. Be wary of phony messages or websites that claim to be an IRS site or a tax preparation company. These websites can look much like the real websites, so it is important to be sure. The official website for the IRS is <http://www.irs.gov>.

Do not respond to, click on or open any links from emails that appear to be from the IRS. Even if the requests appear to come from authorized sources such as the IRS or other seemingly legitimate sources. Instead, forward it to phishing@irs.gov and delete it from your inbox.

Always remember that the IRS will NEVER request personal information via email, social media or text messages.

Second, “free money” – there is usually no such thing as free money. If you receive notices of inflated refunds, and overpayment of taxes or if contacted with promises of large refunds or a refund you are not expecting, do not give out any personal or financial information. Remember, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Third, process your electronic tax files securely —



only use a secured network and a secure computer and encrypt your tax records. If filing online, ensure the tax filing site you are using is secure and your password is strong. Never, ever use free or public Wi-Fi to complete online financial transactions, such as tax filing, banking and shopping because chances are they are poorly secured. Always ensure your computer has updated security software and is set to automatically update as new vendor security patches are released.

Everyone has a personal responsibility to do what is in our power to protect our online presence and personal data. We should protect our personal information the same way we would protect our valuables. Recognize that theft, tax fraud and online criminal activity is real and can affect anyone. During this tax season, and year round, be safe and be secure.

All members of the Vicenza Military Community are encouraged to visit the Stop.Think.Connect website at <https://www.dhs.gov/stopthinkconnect> to increase understanding of cyber threats and actions individuals can take to better protect their online presence.

Stop.Think.Connect is a national public awareness effort to empower the public to be safer and more secure online.



Valentine’s Day in Italy

This holiday is named after Saint Valentine. According to legend, during Roman times, Emperor Claudius II forbade soldiers to marry. A priest named Valentine ignored this decree, encouraging young people to be united in holy matrimony. He was imprisoned and executed on Feb. 14, 273. Legends vary on how the martyr’s name became connected with romance. The date of his death may have become mingled with the feast of Lupercalia, a pagan festival of love, or with the ancient belief that birds first mate in the middle of February.

Modern Italy perceives Valentine’s Day as a festivity imported from the United States, like Halloween and Mother’s Day.

This day is reserved for couples and lovers; family and friends do not take part or exchange gifts. In the evening, couples usually go out for dinner. Gifts may include red roses or perfume, jewelry, or the famous Baci Perugina. These chocolate-covered hazelnuts contain a small slip of paper with a romantic, poetic quote in four languages.

VENETO & NEARBY

Fuori Mercato

Craft and Art exhibit and sale

Feb. 10-11, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Vicenza, Piazza delle Erbe. San Valentino gift items, creative craft and art exhibit. Free event.

Salotto Fogazzaro

San Valentino market

Feb. 10, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Vicenza, Corso Fogazzaro (from San Biagio to Carmini Church). Chocolate, sweets, and gift ideas. Free event.

502 Fiera di San Valentino

502nd Saint Valentine Fair

Feb. 9-11 and Feb. 17-18, Pozzoleone, about 13 miles northeast of Vicenza. Food booths open at 7 p.m.

Feb. 9, from 7 p.m. carnival rides; free from 7-8 p.m.; 9 p.m. live music and ballroom dancing at the Sport Center on Via Casona. Entrance fee: €5.

Feb. 10, grand opening of this year fair at 10:30 a.m.; from 2:30 p.m. carnival rides; 7 p.m. food booths open; 9 p.m. live music and ballroom dancing on Via Casona. Entrance fee: €5.

Feb. 11, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. local products indoor exhibit and sale in Piazza Del Grano; in the afternoon, bell concert; from 5 p.m. aperitif with a DJ.

Feb. 17-18, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. outdoor exhibit of cars, motorcycles, and vintage agricultural vehicles and tools. More than 300 booths feature local products and sale; carnival rides open at 10 a.m.; 8:30 p.m. San Valentino concert; 9 p.m. live music and dancing;

Feb. 18, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. outdoor exhibit of cars, motorcycles, and vintage agricultural vehicles and tools. More than 300 booths feature local products and sale; 9 a.m.-6 p.m. guided visits to the local bell tower; in the afternoon, bell concert; from 5 p.m. aperitif with music.

Fiera di San Valentino

Saint Valentine Fair

Feb. 10-11, 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Monselice (Padova). San Valentino’s creative craft and sweets exhibit and sale; Feb. 14, 2-5 p.m. pilgrimage to San Giorgio Church; local restaurants feature special San Valentino dinners.

Fiera di San Valentino

Saint Valentine Fair

Feb. 10-14, 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Bussolengo (Verona), Piazza XXVI Aprile, Via Mazzini and Via Borghetto,



about 42 miles west of Vicenza. Educational farm; exhibit of agricultural tools and sale of local products and crafts; carnival rides.

Verona in Love

Feb. 14-18, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Piazza Dei Signori and Piazza Bra. *Se ami qualcuno, portalo a Verona* - If you love someone, bring her /him to Verona - is the slogan of Romeo and Juliet’s city. *Un cuore da scoprire*: a heart-shaped exhibit and market of romantic gift ideas, crafts and free chocolate sampling; waterfalls of heart-shaped coriandoli (confetti); bands, events, and theatrical performances will entertain visitors throughout the weekend.

HIT - Hunting Individual Protection Target Sports

Feb. 11-12, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Vicenza, Via dell’Oreficeria, 16. Admission fee: €17; reduced: €12 (children between 6 and 12 and senior citizens older than 60 or if you have a hunting license.) Free for children younger than 13.

Art & Ciocc

Chocolate Fair

Feb. 16-18, 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Asiago, Piazza Secondo Risorgimento. The best Italian chocolatiers display their creations; exhibit and sale of a great variety of chocolates; chocolate making demonstrations. Free entrance.

I Love Lego Exhibit

Through Feb. 25, Tuesday-Sunday, 9:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; Monday 2:30-7:30 p.m., Verona, AMO Palazzo Forti, Via Abramo Massalongo 7. Five different "worlds in miniature" cover dozens of square meters of exhibition space: from the ideal contemporary city to the adventures of pirates, from medieval landscapes to the Ancient Rome, up to the conquest of space in the not-too-distant future. Entrance fee: €8; reduced €4 (children aged 6-12). Special discounts for combination tickets with Botero exhibit.

Botero Exhibit

Through Feb. 25, Verona, Palazzo Forti, Via Achille Forti 1; Mondays, 2:30-7:30 p.m.; Tuesdays-Sundays, 9:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. The exhibition is divided into themed sections. The first section focuses on sculptures, passing on to versions by ancient masters, works in which Botero combines Latin American and western culture; other sections are dedicated to religion, politics, and Latin American life. Entrance fee: €14 (includes an audio guide).

Van Gogh Alive Exhibit

Through April 2, Verona, Palazzo della Gran Guardia, Piazza Brà; Mondays-Thursday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Fridays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-11 p.m.; Sundays, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Verona, Palazzo della Gran Guardia, Piazza Brà; Mondays-Thursday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Fridays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-11 p.m.; Sundays, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Explore Van Gogh’s work and life experiences during the period 1880 to 1890. Entrance fee: €14; reduced €12.

Van Gogh – Tra il Grano e il Cielo

Van Gogh Exhibit – Between Wheat and Sky

Through April 8, Vicenza, Palladian Basilica, Piazza

dei Signori, Mondays-Thursday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Fridays-Sundays, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. The main works by Van Gogh are on display, featuring over 120 works among paintings and drawings. Entrance fee: €14; reduced €11 (for students younger than 26 and senior citizens older than 65); €8 (children ages 6-17); free for children younger than 6.

Andy Warhol Exhibit

Through May 1, Treviso, Casa dei Carraresi, Via Palestro 33/38. Mondays-Thursday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Fridays-Sundays, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. This exhibit focuses on the concept of Superstars. Entrance fee: €12; reduced €10 (students younger than 26); €8 (children ages 6-18); free for children younger than 6.

Frida Kahlo – Oltre il mito

Frida Kahlo – Beyond the myth

Through June 3, Milan, Mudc, Museo delle Culture, Via Tortona 56. A full exhibition dedicated to Frida Kahlo, from the beginning of her career until the latest steps of her artistic production. The works on display are divided into five sections, including politics, women, violence, nature and death. Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 9:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; Thursday and Saturday 9:30 a.m.-10:30 p.m.; closed Monday mornings. Entrance fee; €13; reduced €11.

CARNEVALE

BASSANO DEL GRAPPA

Feb. 10, night float parade departs at 9 p.m. from Largo Parolini; Feb. 13 best children's mask contest, live music and dancing.

CASALE DI SCODOSIA (Padova)

Feb. 11 and Feb. 13, 2:30-10 p.m., float parades, live music, carnival rides, street artists, food booths feature local specialties; music and dancing. Free entrance.

CENTO (Ferrara)

Feb. 11, Feb. 18 and Feb. 25. This *Carnevale* has historical origins, as evidenced by a fresco painted by native of Cento, Gian Francesco Barbieri (also known as Guercino) in the year 1615.

CITTADELLA (Padova)

Feb. 13, float parade departs from Viale della Stazione at 2:30 p.m.; carnival rides; fireworks at 9 p.m.

CORTELLAZZO (Jesolo)

Feb. 11, Children’s carnival in Piazza I Maggio; Feb. 13, Piazza Milano, Feb. 18, float parade from Piazza Nember to Piazza Manzoni.

MALO (Vicenza)

Feb. 11 and Feb. 13, float parades from 2:30 p.m.

SCHIO (Vicenza)

Feb. 10, 8 p.m. float parade departs from Piazzale Summano; music and dancing; Feb. 11, 2:30 p.m. float parade, music and dancing; 5:30 p.m. prizes for the best masks. Food booths feature typical sweets, hot

chocolate and mulled wine; free entrance.

STRA (Venice)

Feb. 18, 2 p.m., Villa Pisani, Via Dogi Pisani 7. River float parade and entertainment.

VENICE

Through Feb. 13. One of Italy’s most beloved carnivals. The first official document with which the Carnival of Venice was declared a public celebration dates back to 1296 – an edict by the Senate of the “most Serene Republic,” making the day before Lent a holiday. For details of all the activities, visit <http://www.carnevale.venezia.it/en>.

VERONA

Verona *Carnevale* dates back to 1531, when grain prices rose due to a food shortage.
●Feb. 10, Historical regatta on the Adige river followed by a parade from Rione Filippini to Piazza Brà.
●Feb. 11, from 9 a.m. entertainment in Piazza Brà, which will continue in the afternoon in other downtown locations.
●Feb. 12, entertainment and free traditional soup in Santo Stefano district
●Feb. 13, entertainment and games start at 2:30 p.m. in Porto San Pancrazio district.

VICENZA

Feb. 10, 3:30-6:30 p.m.; Piazza delle Erbe. Face-painting and entertainment. Free event.
Feb. 13, 3-6:30 p.m.; Piazza delle Erbe, Doctor Clown show, music and face-painting; street artists and face-painting in Piazza San Lorenzo. Free event.

TUSCANY

Food Art Italy

Feb. 10-11, 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Pisa, Arsenali Repubblicani, Via Bonanno Pisano 2. Local specialties tasting; workshops; street food. Free entry.

La Città del Cioccolato
Chocolate Festival

Feb. 10-11, 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Empoli (Florence), Piazza della Vittoria; chocolate and sweets fair; entertainment for children with games, stilt walkers, and face-painting.

Sagra dell’Olio Novo
New Oil Fair

Feb. 10-11, Ghizzano di Peccioli (Pisa). Food booths feature local oil, bruschetta, and other local specialties; Feb. 10, food booths open at 7:30 p.m. and live music at 9:30 p.m.; Feb. 11, food booths open at noon and again at 7:30 p.m.; also, guided tour to Ghizzano factory with sampling of local wines and oils; 9:30 p.m. live music and dancing.

Extra Lucca
Oil, Food and Culture Fair

Feb. 10-11, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Lucca, Palazzo Ducale. Sixty-five olive oil and food manufacturers feature their specialties. Cooking shows. Free entry.

Chianti Lovers

Feb. 11, 4-9 p.m.; Florence, Fortezza da Basso, Viale Filippo Strozzi 1. More than 100 wineries feature more than 500 Tuscan wines; music; wine and local specialties tasting. Entrance fee: €15; entrance reserved to people older than 18; no pets allowed.

Winter Park

Open daily through February 25, Florence, Obihall Center, Lungarno Aldo Moro; ice skating rink, a snow tubing track and a downhill ski slope. All necessary equipment can be rented on site. For opening and prices, visit <http://firenzewinterpark.it/>.

CARNEVALE

AREZZO

Feb. 11, float parades start at 3 p.m.; live music; folk dances; circus workshops.

ASCIANO (Siena)

Feb. 11, from 3 p.m. music and entertainment; magic shows and games. Free entrance.

BIENTINA (Pisa)

Feb. 11 and Feb. 13, float parades start at 3 p.m. accompanied by local band and folk group.

CALENZANO (Florence)

Feb. 11, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; local products and craft exhibit and sale; games, costume party; street artists and entertainment for children.

FOIANO DELLA CHIANA
(Arezzo)

Feb. 11, Feb. 18 and Feb. 25, noon-7 p.m. The 479th edition of the oldest *Carnevale* in Italy; the four districts of the town compete for the best papier-mâché float. For the first time, there is an area, *Carnevalandia*, dedicated to children with bounce house, carnival rides, puppets, and Disney parades. Entrance fee: €9; free for children shorter than 59 inches; discounts for families and groups.

FOLLONICA (Grosseto)

Feb. 11, Feb. 18, and Feb. 25, from 2:30 p.m. float parades accompanied by the city musical band. Entrance fee: €5.

ORBETELLO (Grosseto)

Feb. 11, Feb. 13, and Feb. 18; from 2:30 p.m.; float parades. Free entrance.

ORENTANO – CASTELFRANCO DI SOTTO (Pisa)

Feb. 11, Feb. 13 and Feb. 18; from 3 p.m.; float parade and entertainment for children; live music, dance shows and face-painting; on Feb. 24, best float award. Free entrance.

PIETRASANTA (Lucca)

Feb. 11 and Feb. 18, float parades at 3 p.m.; Feb. 25 at 5 p.m.; live music and entertainment; Feb. 13 children’s carnival, 3 p.m.

PIOMBINO (Livorno)

Feb. 11, Feb. 13 and Feb. 18, 2:30-7 p.m. floats parade accompanied by live music, shows and entertainment for children.

PONTEDERA (Pisa)

Feb. 11 and Feb. 13; from 2:30-5 p.m.; float parades, live music and food booths. Entrance fee: €3; free for children younger than 14; free entrance Feb. 13.

PRATO

Feb. 11 and Feb. 13, from 3 p.m. More than 250 masked entertainers, live music and a cascade of confetti will create a magic atmosphere and fun for everyone.

SAN GIMIGNANO (Siena)

Feb. 11, Feb. 18 and Feb. 25, 2:30–7 p.m., float parade, with live music, dancing, confetti and entertainment for children.

SANTA CROCE SULL’ARNO (Pisa)

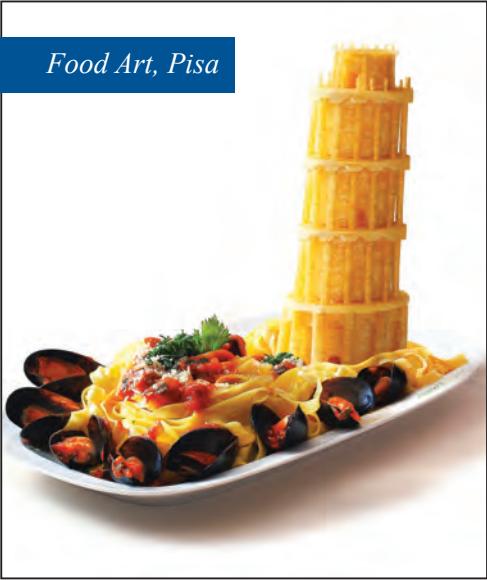
Feb. 11, from 3 p.m., Piazza Matteotti. Float parades and entertainment. In case of inclement weather conditions, the parade will be postponed to Feb. 18.

SESTO FIORENTINO (Florence)

Feb. 10 at 8 p.m., Carnevale costume party in Villa Gerini, Via XX Settembre 259;
Feb. 11 and Feb. 13; entertainment, shows, mask contest, street artists in Piazza IV Novembre. Carnevale on ice, ice-skating rink in Piazza Vittorio Veneto.

VIAREGGIO (Lucca)

Feb. 11, 3 p.m.; Feb. 13, 5 p.m.; Feb. 17, 5 p.m. Considered among the most renowned carnival celebration in Europe. It is famous for its parade of floats and masks, usually made of papier-mâché,



Food Art, Pisa

CONCERTS/SPORTS

Metallica – Feb. 12 and Feb. 14 Casalecchio di Reno (Bologna)
Dropkick Murphys, Flogging Molly, Glen Matlock – Feb. 14 Padova
Russ – Feb. 15 Milan

Popa Chubby – Feb. 18 Lugagnano di Sona (Verona)
Liam Gallagher – Feb. 27 Padova
Toto – March 10 Assago (Milan); March 23 Casalecchio di Reno (Bologna)
G3 – Joe Satriani, John Petrucci, Uli Jon Roth – April 2 Rome, April 3 Florence, April 4 Milan
Bob Dylan and his band – April 3-5 Rome; April 7 Florence; April 8 Mantova; April 9 Milan
Norah Jones – April 8 Milan; April 9 Torino
Afterhours – April 10 Assago (Milan)
Roger Waters – April 17-18 Assago (Milan); April 21-22 amd April 24-25 Casalecchio di Reno (Bologna)
Phil Rudd – May 5 Bologna; May

13 Rome
Anastacia – May 6 Brescia; May 7 Rome; May 9 Bologna; May 10 Milan
Martin Barre (Jethro Tull’s guitarrist) – May 9 Lugagnano di Sona (Verona)
The Vamp – May 22 Milan
Gun ‘N’ Roses – June 15 Florence
Iron Maiden – June 16 Florence; July 9 Milan; July 17 Trieste
Ozzy Osbourne – June 17 Florence
Marilyn Manson – June 19 Milan
Shakira – June 21 Assago (Milan)
Pearl Jam – June 24 Padova
Sons of Apollo – June 24 Milan
Billy Idol – June 28 Padova
Simple Minds – July 5 Marostica
Ringo Starr – July 8 Lucca; July 9 Marostica; July 11 Rome
Deep Purple – July 9 Verona
Lenny Kravitz – July 16 Verona; July 17 Lucca
Nick Cave and The Bad Seeds – July 17 Lucca
Scorpions – July 23 Verona
David Garrett and his band – Oct. 17 Rome; Oct. 19 Florence; Oct. 20 Assago (Milan)

ITALIAN ARTISTS

Caparezza – Feb. 9-10 Conegliano
Ornella Vanoni – Feb. 16 Padova; March 21 Bologna
Nomadi – Feb. 17 Padova
Zucchero – Feb. 26 Padova; March 2 Assago (Milan); March 3 Florence
Gianni Morandi – Feb. 28 Conegliano (Treviso); March 5 Florence; March 22 Padova; March 28 Assago (Milan)
Ennio Morricone – March 2 Florence; March 6 Assago (Milan); June 16-17 Rome
Antonello Venditti – March 8 Padova
Gianna Nannini – March 29 Casalecchio di Reno (Bologna); April 6 Conegliano (Treviso); April 7 Padova; April 11 Livorno; April 13 Assago (Milan)
Angelo Branduardi – April 10 Milan; April 20 Torino
Lorenzo Live – May 15-16, and May 21-22 Verona; March 10-11, March 13-14; March 16-17; March 19-20 Florence
Vasco Rossi – June 6-7 Padova

Harlem Globetrotters – March 3 Assago (Milan); March 4 Rome; March 5 Livorno; March 6 Torino
FIM Superbike World Championship – May 5, July 6-8 Misano Addriatico (Rimini)
MOTUL FIM Superbike World Championship – May 11-13 Imola (Bologna)

Tickets are available in Vicenza at Media World, Palladio Shopping Center, or online at www.ticketone.it and www.getticket.it.

See Markets on page 12.
Follow us on Pinterest for all of these events and more, www.pinterest.com/USAGItaly.

Out & About

by Anna Terracino
VMC Public Affairs Office

MARKETS

VENETO

Lonigo (Vicenza): Feb. 11, 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m., Via Garibaldi, Piazza XX Settembre, Via Ognibene, about 20 miles southwest of Vicenza (about 100 vendors)

Montegrotto (Padova): Feb. 11, 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Piazza 1° Maggio, about 34 miles southeast of Vicenza (about 70 vendors)

Portobuffolè (Treviso): Feb. 11, 7 a.m.-7 p.m., Piazza Beccaro, about 88 miles northeast of Vicenza (250 vendors)

Vicenza: Feb. 11, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Piazza dei Signori, Piazza Duomo, Piazza Garibaldi, Piazza Palladio, Piazza Biade and Piazza Castello (220 vendors)

Villafranca (Verona): Feb. 11, 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Piazza Castello (90 vendors)

Abano Terme (Padova): Feb. 18, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Piazza Caduti I. (about 80 vendors)

Bassano del Grappa: Feb. 18, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. (except July and August), Piazza Terraglio

Cittadella (Padova): Feb. 18, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., downtown squares and streets, about 21 miles north east of Vicenza (about 70 vendors)

Este (Padova): Feb. 18, 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Piazza Maggiore and Via Matteotti, about 28 miles south of Vicenza (60 vendors)

Godega di Sant’Urbano (Treviso): Feb. 18, 8:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m., Via Roma, about 78 miles northeast of Vicenza (234 vendors)

Montagnana (Padova): Feb. 18, 8 a.m. to sunset, azza Maggiore 150, about 27 miles south of Vicenza (60 vendors)

Padova: Feb. 18, 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Prato della Valle and Via Umberto I, about 24 miles southeast of Vicenza (180 vendors)

Soave (Verona): Feb. 18, 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Piazza Antonio Marogna and Corso Vittorio Emanuele, about 23 miles west of Vicenza, (110 vendors)

Verona: Feb. 17, 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Piazza S. Zeno, about 38 miles west of Vicenza (50 vendors)

TUSCANY

Bolgheri (Livorno): Feb. 10-11, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., downtown squares and streets

Florence: Feb. 11, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Piazza Santo Spirito and Borgo Tegolaio (about 100 vendors)

Forte dei Marmi (Lucca): Feb. 10-11, 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Piazza Dante

Montepulciano (Siena): Feb. 10-11, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Piazza Grande

Piombino (Livorno): Feb. 10-11, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Piazza Cappelletti, Corso Italia, via Fucini, Piazza Gramsci

Pisa: Feb. 10-11, 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Piazza dei Cavalieri

Pistoia: Feb. 10-11, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Via Pertini

Vicopisano (Pisa): 2nd Sunday (except August), 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Piazza Domenico Cavalca

Pontedera (Pisa): Feb. 17, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., main squares and streets downtown

Certaldo (Florence): Feb. 18, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Piazza Boccaccio and Via 2 Giugno

Florence: Feb. 17-18, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Piazza Indipendenza (about 130 vendors)

Lucca: Feb. 17-18, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Piazza Antelminelli, Piazza S. Giovanni, Piazza San Giusto, Via San Giovanni, Corte Bertolini (about 230 vendors)

Marina di Grosseto (Grosseto): Feb. 18, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Via XXIV Maggio

Ponte a Egola (Pisa): Feb. 18, 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Piazza Garibaldi and Via XXV Aprile

Quarrata (Pistoia): Feb. 18, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Piazza Risorgimento

Family & MWR Events

ENTERTAINMENT & TRIPS

Family Movie Night

Thursdays & Sundays, 6-8 p.m.
The Arena, Caserma Ederle

Every Thursday and Sunday, the Arena plays the latest family-friendly movies. For \$29.95, your family may enjoy two hours of bowling for up to six people, one large cheese pizza, six bottled beverages of your choice and free shoe rental.

Library Lego® Club

Feb. 13, 20 & 27
3:30-5 p.m.

Library, Caserma Ederle

Drop in to the library on Tuesdays and let your children explore their creativity with the library's Lego® collection. All Lego®s are provided. Open to ages 4-12 years.

Florence and Uffizi Gallery Tour

Feb. 17, 5 a.m.-9 p.m., \$95
ODR, Caserma Ederle

Florence is considered the birthplace of the Italian Renaissance and attracts millions of tourists every year. The city is also home to the Uffizi Gallery, a massive art museum housing many Renaissance works. See art from famous artists, including Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, and Botticelli. A guided tour will help you find your way through the masterpieces.

Ski/Snowboard Trip:

Solden, Austria

Feb. 24, 4 a.m.-Feb. 25, 5 a.m.
\$70 (does not include lift tickets)
ODR, Caserma Ederle

There are slopes for everyone at Solden — the wide and easy runs on the Giggijoch and on the glacier, as well as the intermediate slopes on the Gaislachkogel. Don't forget your passport.

Third Reich Tour

in Munich, Germany

Feb. 24, 4:30 a.m., \$115
ODR, Caserma Ederle

Explore Munich, Germany, in a new light. Let Outdoor Recreation take you on a tour back in time, into the world of Adolf Hitler. This tour is a must do for World War II buffs and an opportunity to immerse yourself in world history. Discover Munich's dark side, caused by one of the world's most powerful dictators of modern history. During this walking tour, participants will learn about the growth of Hitler's movement, his rise to power, and many other interesting facts. Following the guided tour, visitors will have free time to explore Munich.

Genova and the Aquarium

March 3, 6 a.m.-9 p.m., \$90
ODR, Caserma Ederle

Discover the city of Genova, one of the most important seaport cities in northern Italy. Visit the second largest aquarium in Europe, with more than 10,000 specimens. Price includes transportation, trip facilitator, and entry to the aquarium.

Bernina Express (Switzerland)

March 10, 4:30 a.m.-10 p.m., \$115
ODR, Caserma Ederle

The Bernina Express is a train that links northern and southern Europe in a beautiful way. Board the Bernina Express in Tirano and enjoy a spectacular two-hour train ride



Michelle Willis plays "Minuetto," a piece of "Don Giovanni" by Wolfgang A. Mozart, for visitors at the Caserma Ederle Art Center Jan. 26. The center offered an open house to highlight services, events and recent improvements. (Photo by Laura Kreider, VMC Public Affairs Office)

through the Alps. Afterward, enjoy free time in St. Moritz.

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

EFMP Parent Support Group

Feb. 12, 1-2 p.m.

ACS, Bldg. 108, Caserma Ederle

This group is open to all parents of children enrolled in the Exceptional Family Member Program, regardless of diagnosis. Young children may accompany parents. No registration required.

Breastfeeding Basics

Feb. 13, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

ACS, Bldg. 108, Caserma Ederle

Come learn about breastfeeding. The lactation consultant will walk participants through the basics.

Volunteer Orientation

and Registration

Feb. 14, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

ACS, Bldg. 108, Caserma Ederle

Learn how to register on and navigate the Volunteer Management Information System (VMIS). Bring a notebook and pen to take notes, and a laptop (if you have one) to follow along.

Preschool Story Time

Feb. 15 & 22, 10:30-11:15 a.m.

Library, Caserma Ederle

Join the library staff for weekly storytime. There is a different theme each week. This event is geared toward children ages 3 to 5 years old. Activities include making a craft, listening to stories and meeting new friends.

Fill Your Toolbox

Feb. 15, 1:10-2:10 p.m.

Elementary/Middle School Atrium
Villaggio Housing Areas

Family Advocacy welcomes parents and youth of elementary and middle school age to join them for a fun hands-on activity that teaches a skill both parents and youth can use. Together, make a craft to use as a tool in your emotional regulation toolbox. No registration required.

Teen Workforce Preparation Workshops

Youth Centers, Caserma Ederle

The Teen Center staff and partners will help teens get ready for that after school or summer job. Join in on the monthly workshops to build your resume and prepare for success.

Workshops schedule is as follows:

●**Certified First Aid**

Feb. 15, 2-4 p.m.

●**Introduction to Babysitting Course**

March 8, 11:40 a.m.-12:10 p.m.

●**Ethics in the Workplace**

April 12, 11:40 a.m.-12:10 p.m.

●**Interviewing Skills & Resume Writing**

May 24, 2-4 p.m.

Lunch will be provided during lunchtime classes. Open to students in grades 9-12. Call DSN 634-7659, comm. 0444-71-7659, for more information.

Sketchbook Sessions

Feb. 16, 11:30-1 p.m.

\$5 per class (plus sketchbook)

ACS, Bldg. 108, Caserma Ederle

Learn to use your sketchbook as a means to create everyday. Participants will learn simple sketching techniques and use of mixed media and watercolor.

FITNESS & SPORTS

Variety of fitness classes

Dates & time vary

\$5 per class/\$35 for 10 classes

Fitness Center, Caserma Ederle

Zumba®, Yoga, Cycling, Pilates, Power Pump, Kettlebell Strength & Conditioning, and HIT Fit. Stop by the fitness center to learn more. Purchase tickets for all fitness classes at the front desk and present to instructor.

Taekwondo

Dates & time vary

\$12 per class/\$70 for 8 classes

Fitness Center, Caserma Ederle

Self defense class based upon the Taekwondo techniques that will provide students with the tools for self defense.

BOSS Midnight Games: Indoor Soccer Tournament

Feb. 23, 6:30 p.m.

Fitness Center, Caserma Del Din

BOSS is teaming up with the Del Din Fitness Center for an indoor soccer tournament as part of our BOSS Midnight Games. Maximum of 12 teams, seven players per team. Prizes for 1st and 2nd place. Contact BOSS if transportation is needed.

For more events and information, see the FMWR calendar on the USAG Italy website: www.italy.army.mil.