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A visit to the Ferrari Museum is a highlight to a day in the Emilia-Romagna region of Italy. (Photo by Karin J. Martinez)

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Wear Blue Campaign

Everyone shares a responsibility for the safety and well-being of children.

Join Army Community Service during the month of April to continue the prevention and awareness of Child Abuse by wearing the color blue every Wednesday in April.

(April 4, 11, 18 and 25)

Fighting fascism



CASERMA EDERLE — Dr. Roger Sabbadini addressed the audience March 14 at the post theater here during this stop on a lecture tour. Sabbadini visited the Vicenza Military Community to share the story of his recently published book "Unavoidable Hope." The book tells the story of the life of his father and his struggles in fascist Italy as a member of the Jewish faith. The story continues with his father's struggles in America as a refugee and, ultimately, his experience as a Soldier in the U.S. Army and fighting fascism and Nazism through World War II.

(Photo by Laura Kreider, VMC Public Affairs Office)

Host nation employees may apply now for third session of AMICI

By Anna Ciccotti

VMC Public Affairs Office

VICENZA — Selections are underway for the third class of Italian professionals who will participate in the workforce enrichment program focusing on American Military Italian Civilian Integration.

Slated to start around mid-April, AMICI (which means "friends" in Italian) has become increasingly popular within the U.S. Army community in Italy since its debut in March 2017.

This is a competitive program open to all permanently assigned, appropriated and non-appropriated funded host nation employees of the U.S. Army in Italy working within the Vicenza and Darby military communities, according to Anthony James, AMICI initiative coordinator for the garrison's directorate of Plans, Transportation, Mobility and Security.

"The intent is to allow the host nation workforce to develop a greater appreciation of the U.S. Army mission here, and gain a better understanding of how their individual role contributes/fits in the big picture," said James.

Garrison Commander Col. Erik M. Berdy endorses the program that was created for Italian employees.

"The installation team is comprised of Soldiers and civilian professionals, with the largest portion of the civilian workforce being Italian. They work for the U.S. government here on Italian soil in support of our Soldiers, families and U.S. national security initiatives. It's an extremely unique and significant relationship that is the foundation for our team's success," Berdy said.

"The AMICI program, which I fully support, was designed specifically for our Italian employees, so they can gain an appreciation for just how important they are to the U.S. Army's mission in Europe. I have high expectations for our AMICI graduates to take what they have learned and use it to inform others, to improve their part of our organization ... all for the betterment of the team."

Once selected, participants receive a training calendar that will engage them in 10-15 days of

See **AMICI**, page 6

Healthcare benefits, services change prompts Darby town hall meeting

VICENZA — United States Army Garrison Italy is organizing a town hall meeting to share information about TRICARE and International SOS healthcare services and benefits with service members, civilians, retirees and their family members.

The town hall is scheduled for March 27, beginning at 1:30 p.m., in the Darby Military Community post theater.

Leaders from U.S. Army Health Clinic Vicenza, along with representatives from TRICARE and International SOS, will share information and answer questions about upcoming changes to the way Camp Darby area residents will access their healthcare.

The garrison, clinic and TRICARE teams are committed to helping beneficiaries through this transition smoothly by equipping the community with information and tools needed to be empowered in managing their healthcare.

Residents are encouraged to send questions in advance to ensure representa-

tives have the information and handouts ready to share. Questions may be sent to: usarmy.usag-italy.medcom-rhc-e.list.vzhc-patient-representative@mail.mil.

Throughout the coming year, the Camp Darby area host nation patient liaisons will work to help TRICARE beneficiaries learn how to begin relying more on TRICARE and International SOS for assistance with healthcare services.

TRICARE and International SOS will share information about scheduling appointments, real-time language translation services by phone to assist patients during scheduled and emergency medical visits, getting medical records translated and more.

As part of the Prime Remote benefit, International SOS provides many of the same great services that the Camp Darby patient liaisons have been offering.

Visit the TRICARE Overseas website www.tricare-overseas.com for more information about beneficiary services and resources.



Warrior strong

BAUMHOLDER, Germany — Staff Sgt. Adrian Fuentes receives an award from Michael D. Formica, Region Director, IMCOM-Europe. The Soldier represented U.S. Army Garrison Italy at the 2018 IMCOM-E Best Warrior Competition that kicked off March 12. (Courtesy photo)

Protecting personal information: When is too much - too much?

By Will Poole
U.S. Army Africa G6 Cybersecurity Branch

VICENZA — Last week I received an email from a local store, offering a 15 percent discount between now and the next 15 days. Since I plan to purchase some outdoor garden products in preparation for spring, this was perfect. I went to the website and was requested to log-in to get a coupon. So far, no problem.

Unfortunately, I had forgotten my password so I clicked the “Forgot Password” link and was directed to another page that asked me for User ID, address and date of birth, presumably before I could change or retrieve my password.

DATE OF BIRTH???

That was too much. I promptly closed the website and resigned to making my purchases without the 15 percent discount. But that’s okay, because my privacy information is more important to me than a discount. Giving away my sensitive personally identifiable information to have an online password reset crossed the line. Truth is, this store had already collected my *Codice Fiscale* (Social Security number equivalent) and my name, address and telephone number when I signed up for the store card.

To be fair, it is absolutely normal for online organizations to gather information about customers for legitimate business motives. They generate statistics about their site visits and customers so they can better market to the clientele visiting their web sites and provide a positive browsing experience. In fact, according to the United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team (CERT), organizations apply information gathered about users visiting their web sites to support their marketing techniques.

Normally when we visit a website, certain information is automatically sent to the site. This includes your IP address (each computer on the Internet is assigned a specific numerical address), domain name (the Internet is divided into different domains and can be identified by looking at the last part of the URL (i.e., .mil, .edu, .com), and your software details.

Many websites use “cookies” that can also determine other sites or pages you have browsed. Armed with that informa-

tion, companies can target you with specific advertisements aimed at products in which you have shown interest. Cookies are information that a web site stores on a users’ computer so a particular website can remember users and keep track of users’ preferences. However, it is possible to limit cookies that are collected during your browsing. The following website provides tips on how you can evaluate your browser’s security settings:
<https://www.us-cert.gov/ncas/tips/ST05-001>.

As previously mentioned, most websites use cookies responsibly and for legitimate purposes; however, some sites collect information for malicious purposes. This is usually accomplished via misrepresentation — meaning a malicious site pretends it is a legitimate site and may trick users into providing addresses, credit card information, Social Security numbers and a host of other personal information. The good news is that we can limit the amount of information that is collected on us by using common sense, instinct and good technical precautions and protection.

Before providing valuable personal information, it is advised that you review the site’s Privacy Policy. You may want to verify that the site does not share your information with other businesses and that you won’t be added to other mailing lists by default.

If the site does not have a Privacy Policy, you might reconsider providing personal information.

If you do provide personal information verify that the website is encrypting the traffic. Many browsers will display a visible lock icon. Also, look at the URL and make sure it says HTTPS versus HTTP. To learn more about website security, see <https://www.us-cert.gov/ncas/tips/ST05-010>.

Always be wary of providing personal information. Remember that “less is better,” and always deal with reputable companies. Pay attention to the websites you are visiting and make sure your computer is up to date with anti-virus protection.

If something feels wrong and you are suspicious when being asked to provide personal information, leave the site and/or call the company to verify.

Exchange honors Vietnam Veterans with commemorative pins March 29

ITALY Exchange — In partnership with the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration, Army & Air Force Exchange Service at Italy Exchange will honor all who served during the Vietnam War with free lapel pins marking the war’s 50th anniversary.

Any Vietnam-era veteran who served on active duty between Nov. 1, 1955 and May 15, 1975, regardless of location, is invited to visit the Exchange 11 a.m.-1 p.m. March 29, National Vietnam War Veterans Day, to receive their commemoration Vietnam veteran pin. Complimentary Vietnam Veteran bumper stickers will also be available at the event.

“The Exchange is privileged to partner with the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration to offer this token of our nation’s appreciation to those who served during the Vietnam War,” said Exchange General Manager Susana Sobrino. “Too few of those who served during Vietnam received the homecoming their distinguished service deserved. We are truly honored to be a part of this commemoration.”

The U.S. began commemoration of the Vietnam War’s 50th anniversary in 2012 and will continue through Veterans Day 2025.

The Exchange is a 50th Anniversary Vietnam War Commemorative Partner, planning and conducting events and activities that recognize Vietnam Veterans and their families for service, valor and sacrifice in conjunction with the commemoration.

Those unable to come to the Exchange for a lapel pin on March 29, visit <http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/events/> to find an upcoming event or find a Commemorative Partner in your area at http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/partners/partner_map/.

Anyone who needs assistance locating an opportunity to receive a lapel pin on behalf of a grateful nation, please contact the commemoration office at 877-387-9951 or whs.vnwar50th@mail.mil. For more information, contact the Italy Exchange at DSN 634-8550.

Speak Out

By Laura Kreider and Chiara Mattirola

What do you like to do on a rainy day?



Sabrina Pani
USAHC-Vicenza

“Crochet, knitting and cross-stitching are my favorite!”



Curtis Callender
Sports, Fitness & Aquatics

“Relax and watch movies at home.”



Amelia Hoogerwerf
Child & Youth Services

“Cuddle up with a cup of coffee and a good book.”



Sonia Benassini
DMC Operations

“Watch Harry Potter movies.”



Sgt. Dennis Khang
529th Military Police Co.

“Training, because it ain’t training if it ain’t raining!”



Airman First Class Maryin Enholm
731st MUNS

“Drink hot chocolate and watch movies.”

VFW Corner: VA restores 'forever' GI Bill benefit and more

VICENZA — Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8862 strongly supports the additions and changes recently initiated by the Department of Veterans’ Affairs for veterans to potentially restore and utilize their education benefits.

A provision was added to the Forever GI Bill that allows student veterans whose benefits were wasted at schools that abruptly closed to seek restoration of those benefits. Also added was an extension of benefits for students pursuing STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) degrees, full eligibility for Purple Heart recipients; removal of the expiration date for veterans who left service after January 2013, and many other provisions for veterans, families and survivors. For more information check out www.benefits.va.gov today.

To check whether you are eligible to join the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization, contact recruiter Bob Helie at 327-085-2787 or e-mail rahelie@hotmail.com.

VFW meetings are held the second Thursday of each month at La Rondine on Via Paolo Calvi, Vicenza, at 5:30 p.m. Maps are available at the retirement services office, Building 305.

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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

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Support troops aid brigade in winning battle

Story and photo
by Lt. Col. John Hall
173rd Airborne Brigade PAO

POSTONJA, Slovenia — To fight a modern war takes more than infantry, artillery, reconnaissance and engineers. Even a highly deployable fighting force like the 173rd Airborne Brigade has to get to the battle and be sustained in the fight.

This means having riggers pack parachutes and rig the equipment to be dropped, mechanics to keep vehicles in top condition, and fuelers to keep those vehicles running, and the “water dogs” to purify thousands of gallons of water a day to keep the paratroopers fighting.

When Sky Soldier combat forces are decisively engaging the enemy, support troops must be prepared to defend themselves, even as they are helping the Brigade to win the battle. Every paratrooper is a warrior who can employ any weapon. This is accomplished with realistic training: in rain and mud, digging fighting positions, stringing wire, and developing a battle plan to defeat any enemy who dares to approach their perimeter while they are packing chutes, turning wrenches, cooking meals and pumping fuel.

In February, the 173rd Airborne Brigade Support Battalion traveled to Pocek Range in Postonja, Slovenia, where six different companies completed live-fire base defense training in day and night environments. The BSB, commanded by Lt. Col. Christopher Baker, deployed the battalion to the Slovenian training area where they created a defensive perimeter, dug in fighting positions for the M2 .50 Caliber and the M240 heavy machine guns, and support by fire positions for their quick reaction forces.



Captain Beverly Nordin and Command Sgt. Maj. James LaFratta, 173rd Airborne Brigade Support Battalion operations officer and command sergeant major, make decisions about the employment of heavy machine guns as their paratroopers conduct a base defense live fire in Slovenia.

“We have a unique opportunity to train here in Slovenia on force-on-force, as well as live-fire conditions with our Brigade Support Battalion,” said 173rd Airborne Brigade Commander Col. Jay Bartholomees. The 173rd BSB is partnering with Soldiers from the Slovenian Army to conduct Exercise Lipizzaner IV along with Company E of 54th Brigade Engineer Battalion.

“This training area has been incredible for us,” said Baker. “We are partnered with the Slovenian Army’s 157th Logistics Regiment. We are training in a valley where we can conduct multiple scenarios using multiple weapon systems, with the added ability to maneuver on the terrain.”

When the paratroopers arrived, the

ground was snow covered and frozen. Undaunted, they unpacked their entrenching tools, shovels and determination to prepare for the coming fight. In a matter of hours, the positions were improved, camouflaged and manned with paratroopers drawing up range cards and identifying targets.

“This entire exercise is great because they have tied in every aspect of multi-echelon training from the individual paratrooper skills all the way up to testing leaders in their ability to think under fire,” said Bartholomees. “They are working individual marksmanship, improving their fighting positions, (and) supporting call for fire missions and ultimately, testing the company as well as

the battalion level mission command system.”

Employing the “crawl, walk, run” training model, the companies trained on infantry tactics, crew drills and communication as they worked through dry fire and blank fire, leading to the intent of the training, the base defense with smoke, artillery simulators and live ammunition. The pounding of the heavy machine guns provided the base line, the rat-a-tat-tat of the M4 provided the rhythm, and the vocals of the warriors calling out enemy movement and their destruction completed the arrangement. When all enemy forces were destroyed, guns were silenced and paratroopers evaluated their performance.

Bartholomees said conducting unit area defense is just one mission-essential task of these support Soldiers.

“They have all of their companies out here, to include the rigger company out of Aviano. Each of the companies are rotating through their defensive positions, just as they would in a brigade support area, supporting our fight. As the Brigade Combat Team pushes the fight forward via airborne assault and air assault, the brigade support area is set up by our 173rd Brigade Support Battalion, and they are prepared to defend their positions while supporting the forward fight.”

Since the exercise wrapped up, the 173rd Brigade Support Battalion has been back in the rigger shack, carefully packing the parachute for the next jump, and the mechanic is in the garage maintaining services on fighting vehicles. In the back of their minds, they are not only thinking about getting Soldiers to the fight, but also how they, too, will be required to defeat the enemy in the deep fight – with heavy machine guns, individual weapons and hand-to-hand combat if necessary. (See related photo, page 5)

Vicenza community celebrates women's history

Story and photos by Laura Kreider
VMC Public Affairs Office

VICENZA — The Vicenza Military Community celebrated Women’s History Month with an event hosted by the 207th Military Intelligence Brigade on Caserma Ederle at the Golden Lion March 14.

The United States has observed Women’s History Month since 1987, when the U.S. Congress designated it as such.

Each year, a theme gives a special opportunity to recognize and celebrate women whose lives exemplify that theme, which this year was: “Honoring Women Who Fight All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.”

As part of the program, Maj. Michelle Martinez, executive officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, U.S. Army Africa, was the guest speaker for the event.

“We are here to celebrate the countless women who have challenged the status quo, made lasting reforms, and presided over their countries for decades, ushering in prosperity and cultural revolutions,” she said in her opening.

Martinez said, throughout history, women from all over the world have achieved success despite their circumstances and reached goals against all odds.

One example Martinez cited was Marie Curie, a Polish and naturalized French physicist and chemist who

lived in the late 1800s.

“We can thank her [Curie] for her contributions to current day X-ray machines. She was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize in physics, and the first person and only woman to win it twice in two different sciences. Mrs. Curie’s road to success was one with many obstacles. She was rejected from several universities just for being a woman,” Martinez added.

Martinez stressed that, even after completing school and contributing significantly to science and physics, she was still never seen as an equal to her male counterparts, simply for being a woman.

After describing other models of women fighting forms of discrimination, Martinez highlighted the crucial role women have played in the security and success of the U.S. military from the Revolutionary War to current conflicts.

“Women serve throughout our military as commanders, pilots, security forces, submariners, drivers and gunners during battle convoy missions, medics and in so many other ways too countless to mention,” she said. “They stretched the limits of their boundaries within the military by doing what they could do for their country, which

was evident in World War I, when more than 400 Army nurses made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.”

Martinez mentioned other significant contributions such as 1st Lt. Reba Whittle, a flight nurse during World



Major Michelle Martinez addresses the audience at the observance at the Golden Lion March 14. Martinez is the executive officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, U.S. Army Africa.



The Vicenza Middle School Choir performs at the Women's History Month observance.

War II; Silver Star recipient Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester who deployed to the front lines of Iraq and Afghanistan; and Gen. Ann Dunwoody, who became the first four-star general in U.S. Army history.

Martinez explained she has seen progress during her 20-year-service career, especially in the past couple of years when both the Army and Marine Corps have opened all combat positions, without exception, to women for the first time in history.

In closing her address, she said that when women feel like giving up their dreams because of difficulties they have to face, they should take a look at stories of successful women who helped our society become more inclusive and accepting.

“I don’t know about you, but these examples of pioneering and ambitious women inspire me to strive for greatness every day. Thank you to all women — past, present and future — who dedicate themselves to making this world a better place.”

The Women’s History observance also included a performance by the Vicenza Middle School Choir, a presentation of awards to essay contest winners, and reading of the 1st place “Patriot’s Pen” essay by 8th-grader Aliuna Schorn. Closing remarks by Col. Richard Conkle, 207th MI Bde. commander, and a cake cutting concluded the observance.

US Army trains Nigerian infantry soldiers

Story and photo
by Capt. James Sheehan
U.S. Army Africa Public Affairs Office

JAJI, Nigeria – Twelve U.S. Army Soldiers deployed to Nigeria Army’s School of infantry to train more than 200 Nigerian soldiers for seven weeks, Jan. 15-Feb. 22.

Facilitated by U.S. Army Africa, eight Soldiers from the Security Assistance and Training Management Organization, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, teamed up with four Soldiers from 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, New York, to share ground combat tactics with the Nigerian Army’s 26th Infantry Battalion.

“We brief them the mission, conduct the lane and follow it up with an assessment,” said Capt. Stephen Gouthro, officer in charge of the training course. “Sometimes, the assessment is brutal. We do not sugarcoat it. If there is a better way to conduct a mission, they need to know. Honest and direct feedback is best.”

“We’ve seen movement to contact on a particular objective,” said USARAF’s commanding general, Brig. Gen. Eugene LeBoeuf, referring to a maneuver he observed during a visit to Jaji. “We’ve seen platoon-level movement principles being guided by our [U.S. Army] cadre in terms of their combat experiences, but also bringing in the Nigerian Army’s experiences.”

The U.S. Army training team developed the comprehensive seven-week course following an invitation from the Nigerian government.



Sgt. First Class Saul Rodriguez (left), trainer, U.S. Army Security Assistance Training and Management Organization, teaches maneuver tactics and the importance of noise discipline to Nigerian infantry troops on a patrol during a seven-week training course taught by U.S. Soldiers to the Nigerian Army 26th Infantry Battalion.

Instruction included offensive and defensive tactics such as reacting to contact, countering an improvised explosive device, and seizing an objective.

Training also offered operational planning geared toward young Nigerian lieutenants, to include leadership skills, orders production, and the one-third/two-thirds planning rule (i.e., if there are six hours to plan a mission, officers should plan for two and give their soldiers at least four hours to conduct their own planning and preparations).

“[The infantry training course] is an opportunity for us to contribute to the capacity building of our partner nation,” LeB-

oeuf said. “To further their skillsets and to take that into the field, into the fight.” Gouthro agreed.

“The significance of this training cannot be underestimated,” said Guothro. “We developed the training program according to the Nigerian Army’s needs. We will push them because their life may depend on it.”

The 26th Infantry Battalion could be Nigeria Army’s next unit to deploy to the Borno State, an area in northwest Nigeria and a location that’s seen frequent attacks from the violent extremist organization, Boko Haram.

Last year, Boko Haram (which roughly

translates to “Western Education is Forbidden”) killed more than 350 Nigerian civilians, according to the Nigerian Senate.

Aside from militaristic ambush attacks, Boko Haram is known for suicide bombings, burning villages and kidnapping women and children. In 2014, the group gained notoriety in the western-world by then First Lady Michelle Obama tweeting to “bring our girls home,” referring to 200 girls abducted by Boko Haram in the Nigerian town of Chibok.

The Nigerian Army, along with support from the Multinational Joint Task Force, has made great strides in containing and degrading the downsized terrorist group. Last month, 700 abducted civilians were freed from Boko Haram’s grasp, according to Aljazeera.

At the end of February, Maj. Gen. Rogers Nicholas, Nigeria Army theatre commander, said Boko Haram is completely defeated and on the run, according to local Nigerian News.

LeBoeuf said the Nigerian Army is “a tremendous and professional land force.” “(They are) highly engaged in different operations. Not only countering Boko Haram and ISIS-West Africa, but also contributing stability forces to peacekeeping operations throughout the continent [of Africa],” he said.

This infantry training has significant implications outside of on-the-ground tactical maneuvers. The bilateral military-to-military training carries diplomatic weight showcasing U.S. commitment to its African partners and Nigeria’s commitment to countering violent extremist organizations.

Reserve Soldiers help NATO allies work together at Dynamic Front

Story and photo
by Lt. Col. Jefferson Wolfe
7th Mission Support Command PAO

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany – A small group of Army Reserve Soldiers had a large effect on Exercise Dynamic Front 18, helping to coordinate artillery fire missions between multiple countries.

Seven Soldiers from the 2500th Digital Liaison Detachment, based in Vicenza, traveled to Camp Aachen on Grafenwoehr to work with NATO’s Allied Rapid Reaction Corps for the exercise.

“What a digital liaison detachment does is move in and integrate with the coalition partners’ higher headquarters and provide mission command interface to seamlessly integrate coalition partners in the spectrums of field artillery, air defense, operations, logistics and intelligence,” said Col. Christopher Varhola, commander, 2500th DLD.

The unit created a common operating picture between the NATO allies and the United States by tying the two digital systems together, he said.

“Our purpose is to ensure interoperability between the NATO ARRC and U.S. units,” said Capt. Matthew McDaniel, operations officer for the 2500th.

As a communications liaison unit, the Soldiers worked closely with a number of countries, including Germany, Spain, Poland, Canada and the United Kingdom, he said.

“What we really do is take all the mission command (computer) systems, broken down by warfighting function, and establish a digital link to ensure that there



Capt. Matthew McDaniel and Sgt. Robert Corbeil, 2500th Digital Liaison Detachment, examine the Common Operating Picture for exercise Dynamic Response 18, March 6, on Camp Aachen in Grafenwoehr, Germany.

is a common operating picture between U.S. units and NATO multinational allies,” McDaniel said.

NATO uses a computer system called Integrated Command and Control to provide map-based information to support the commander’s decision making, while the U.S. forces use the Command Post of the Future. Because of the difference in systems, the DLD helped bridge that gap, said Warrant Officer Class 2 Adam Flatman, a soldier from the United Kingdom who worked closely with the DLD.

“We understand limitations between our two nations’ systems, but actually being able to do that on this exercise and practice what we can pass between us has been priceless, really,” he said.

As a CPOF operator, Sgt. Robert Corbeil had to wade through a lot of infor-

mation and ensure it is accurate so the artillery fire hits the correct target.

“That way, we won’t destroy something we’re not supposed to,” Corbeil said.

Having them embedded in the Combined Joint Operations Center facilitates face-to-face interaction that allows both countries to check the fidelity of data as it passes between the two systems, Flatman said.

“I think it will be a suggestion that goes on from now on – to have them as a standing element in the CJOC,” he said.

The speed at which 2500th DLD Soldiers can integrate into a staff is essential to its mission success, McDaniel said.

“The biggest challenge we face is trying to understand how to integrate and understand how other units do their procedures, what their standard operating procedures are ... so everybody’s always on the same page and the commander has a clear picture of what’s happening on the battlefield,” he said.

Working with other nations has been rewarding, Corbeil said.

In addition to the Soldiers in Grafenwoehr, the DLD had Soldiers working from home station in Italy during their

Battle Assembly weekend, Varhola added.

“With Reserves it can sometimes be a challenge because we have limited man days — the proverbial two weeks a year and one weekend a month — so the challenge we have is to maximize our contribution as part of USAREUR with the limited days we have,” he said. “What we did for this exercise, we sent a six-person package to be physically part of the ARRC.”

That six-person forward element embedded with the ARRC, but the rest of the unit used mission command computer systems from its home station in Vicenza to plug into the exercise, Varhola said.

“So, over the course of a normal weekend, as opposed to training six people, we were able to have a total of 41 people contribute and be part of a major USAREUR exercise at no extra cost to the Army,” he said.

The essence of what a DLD does is eliminate distance through the use of the mission command systems, he added.

“The distance cannot be a challenge, because that’s what we’re designed to overcome,” Varhola said.

Dynamic Front 18 included about 3,700 participants from 26 nations, including the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States, with staff augmentees and observers from Belgium, Bosnia Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Finland, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Macedonia, the Netherlands, Spain and Ukraine.



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.

VHS senior named Youth of the Year

VICENZA — By means of a highly competitive selection process, Errett Bainum, 17, was chosen among several local outstanding youths as the 2018 United States Army Garrison Italy Military Youth of the Year (MYOY).

The Boys' and Girls' Clubs of America Youth of the Year program has been honoring our nation's most awe-inspiring young people on their path to great futures and encourages all children to lead, succeed and inspire.

Bainum is a true example of an extraordinary young man and was selected for his leadership, dedicated service to the Vicenza Military Community and to the Vicenza Teen Center, as well as his academic excellence and devotion to a healthy lifestyle.

Bainum is currently a senior at Vicenza High School. His academic achievements have earned him a place on the Honor Roll with distinctions for several years and a spot in the Math Honor Society. At the Teen Center, the youth is an active member in the Keystone Club, a teen-led club dedicated to community service and leadership.

He is also involved with the American Red Cross, plays on the varsity soccer team and with a local Italian Soccer Club, and is vice president of the VHS Student Council.

Bainum will graduate in June and attend The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina, this fall with the goal of becoming a commissioned officer in the U.S. Air Force.

As winner of the local MYOY, Bainum will now move on to compete against other European Army sites. If selected, he will compete for the title of Europe Region MYOY against top competitors from the Air Force and Navy.

This year's Europe Region MYOY event will be hosted by USAG Italy – Vicenza's Youth Program on April 27.

Following the April MYOY event, the overall winner will compete in the overseas celebration for a spot to continue through the process of competing at the National MYOY Competition/Celebration.

If selected as the 2018 Overseas MYOY, Bainum will receive a \$10,000 scholarship renewable up to four years.



Bainum



Night fire

POSTOJNA, Slovenia — Paratroopers assigned to 173rd Brigade Support Battalion, 173rd Airborne Brigade, engage targets with the M2 machine gun during a nighttime live-fire exercise as part of Lipizzaner IV at Pocek Range in Postonja, March 13. Lipizzaner is a combined squad-level training exercise in preparation for platoon evaluation, and to validate battalion-level deployment procedures.

(Photo by Paolo Bovo, 7th ATC RTSD-South)



Don't forget to set clocks ahead one hour on Sunday, March 25.
Daylight Saving Time begins in most Western Europe countries, to include Italy, at 1:59 a.m. that day.

There will be a continental breakfast following the service
Civilian Attire: Dress warmly

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

Celebrate Easter Together

April 1 2018 at 0700
Hoekstra Field

SUNRISE SERVICE
EASTER SUNDAY 0700



If you have any questions, please contact the Ederle Chapel at 637-7575

Health & Wellness

Protect your family against tick-borne illnesses this spring

SEMBACH, Germany — Spring fever is in the air and as temperatures start to rise, humans aren't the only ones coming out of hibernation. Spring also lends itself to the return of ticks and tick-borne illnesses.

Ticks can carry several potentially deadly diseases. Two of the most common are Lyme disease and tick-borne encephalitis. According to Public Health Command Europe officials, these diseases are common throughout Europe and in countries to the east and are contracted when a person is bit by a tick.

PHCE says that prevention is the best defense against both Lyme disease and TBE.

"If you are going to be in grassy or woodland areas during tick season, wear long sleeves and pants, preferably clothing that is permethrin-treated. They also suggest wearing insect repellent containing DEET on exposed skin," said Col. Rodney Coldren, PHCE Chief of Preventive Medicine.

You should also check yourself, loved ones and pets for ticks after a trek through the outdoors.

If you do happen to locate a feeding tick, prompt and proper removal is important, Coldren said.

"Ticks should be removed using tweezers, pulling back slowly and steadily with firm force in the reverse direction from which the mouthparts are inserted, similar to removing a splinter. Once the

tick is removed, cleanse the bite area with alcohol and apply antibiotic ointment."

Ticks that have been removed should be saved for identification and testing. Military personnel and Department of Defense civilians should place the tick in a sealed ziplock bag and take it to the local military medical treatment facility. It will then be sent to PHCE to be tested for TBE and Lyme disease.

PHCE says that a person with Lyme disease may develop fever, headache, fatigue and a skin rash. This rash is sometimes referred to as a "bull's-eye" rash because it is red and circular in appearance.

If the disease is left untreated, it can worsen and cause swelling of the brain, facial paralysis, and pain and numbness in the hands and feet. It also can cause enlargement and inflammation of the heart; intermittent bouts of arthritis in large joints (commonly the knees); and problems with sleeping, concentration and short-term memory.

In most cases, Lyme disease can be treated with antibiotics. But in a small percentage of patients, problems with joint and muscle pain, fatigue and memory defects can persist for months to years after treatment. Early treatment with antibiotics can usually cure the disease, but left untreated it can cause persistent chronic problems and physical disability.

Tick-borne encephalitis can affect the central nervous system and causes symptoms similar to Lyme disease, headache,

fatigue and muscle pain, but can be much more serious.

"Tick-borne encephalitis is a serious disease that affects the central nervous system. It can result in permanent disability," said Coldren.

The disease progresses in a two-phase pattern with symptoms starting seven to 14 days after the tick bite, Coldren said.

"The initial, mild phase lasts two to four days and is marked by non-specific flu-like symptoms. After a symptom-free period of about eight days, the second phase of the disease occurs in 20 to 30 percent of patients and involves the central nervous system."

These symptoms are more severe including high fever, severe headache, stiff neck, drowsiness, confusion, sensory disturbances, and motor abnormalities such as paralysis. There is no known treatment or cure for TBE.

"Last year, in U.S. European Command, two service members required hospital admissions for TBE likely acquired from off-duty activities, so we know that our population is at risk," Coldren said.



Ticks can carry several potentially deadly diseases. (Courtesy photo)

An effective vaccine for tick-borne encephalitis is available, and consists of a series of three shots given over a six-month period.

"Since TBE does not exist in the United States, there is no U.S. Food and Drug Administration licensed vaccination against TBE available," Coldren said. "However, there are vaccines that have been determined by the European Medicines Agency to be very safe and effective against TBE. These are available in Europe and require three shots over a period of time."

Because the vaccine is not FDA-licensed, it is not stocked or provided at U.S. medical treatment facilities. But Coldren said the TBE vaccine is a covered TRICARE benefit for individuals living in Europe.

"Individuals who wish to protect themselves and their families can contact their Primary Care Team to receive a referral to a host nation provider who will then evaluate them and potentially prescribe the vaccination."

For more information on tick-borne illnesses and how to protect yourself and family, talk with your primary care manager. (RHCE PAO)



New mom Bianca Brown gets to know her table mates through a baby shower game. One goal of USO/What to Expect showers is for the new moms to network and get to know each other.

USO Vicenza showers moms-to-be, new mothers with gifts, games

Story and photos
by Karin J. Martinez
Outlook Editor

CASERMA EDERLE — Heidi Murkoff, best-selling author of the "What to Expect" series, made a return appearance to Vicenza to celebrate the community's new moms and mothers-to-be in the second annual Special Delivery baby shower here.

The What to Expect Foundation, created by Murkoff and husband Erik, partners with United Service Organizations worldwide to host such events. The Foundation and USO Vicenza honored close to 100 women at the event that took place March 12 at the Golden Lion.

The number of participants was almost double from last year's event, where it topped off at 50. Participants were invited through a variety of avenues, said Lisa Wease, center manager, USO Vicenza. This included the USO Vicenza Facebook page, uso.org, community Facebook marketing through pages such as the Army Wives Caserma Ederle, News Parent Support Program, WIC and American Red Cross.

"I believe most of the moms just heard about it from their friends," Wease added.

Those who attended were treated to baby shower games, prizes, lunch, a special Q&A session with Murkoff where no questions are off limits, and a free "What



Heidi Murkoff, best-selling author of the "What to Expect" book series and founder of the What to Expect Foundation scooped up babies around the room during the baby shower at the Golden Lion on Caserma Ederle March 12.

to Expect When You're Expecting" book.

But the shower is more than a party; it's about forming bonds with other mothers. Murkoff said having a baby shower is important for new "military moms" who are often away from the support network of family, especially when overseas.

"Motherhood is the ultimate sisterhood," she said. "For these women, whether active duty themselves or spouses of active-duty (service members), the connectedness to each other is vital."

For Heidi and husband Erik, the events are a labor of love: the event here was just one of the 42 events around the world on the couple's schedule for 2018. Since the Foundation was created in 2013, they have amassed 10,000 events that include baby showers, reunions and showers for

expecting fathers.

"They deserve this," Murkoff said of the Vicenza event. "We want to celebrate them, give them a proper baby shower, and get them talking and sharing — connecting — to each other."

"The baby shower games we play are specifically designed to help the moms get to know each other," she added.

Wease said she enjoys being able to facilitate such an event in the community.

"This wonderful event allows the USO to unite new and expecting military moms in our community. Our welcoming center, as well as our program lineup, consistently strives to keep our service members and their families connected in our local Vicenza community."

Call the local USO at 0444-71-7156.

AMICI

(Continued from page 1)

knowledge-building activities spread out over four months, James said. The hands-on training and real-time understanding of the Army mission here requires participation in experiential and observational activities taking place on Caserma Ederle, Caserma Del Din, Longare, Aviano Air Base and Camp Darby.

In an effort to provide a well-rounded perspective, the activities have been grouped into four categories: Warfighter Training, Warfighter Readiness, Soldier and Family Support, and Community Connections.

"By getting out of one's comfort zone, AMICI members gain valuable insights on the daily routines of Soldiers and paratroopers as they train and work at the key locations that make Italy the Army's power projection platform in Europe," James said.

Having an opportunity to experience a "Day in the Life of a Soldier," participants travel south of their duty stations and engage in tasks outside their current job assignments. One participant of a previous session shared what he learned through the program.

"I had a chance to visit places where I had never been before — such as Camp Darby, the 173rd Airborne Brigade support facilities — and observe things I had never seen before, such as the operations for heavy vehicle drops at Aviano, and much more," said Mauro Fochesato, a Directorate of Public Works employee from the housing division. "This program also helped me understand the relationship between U.S. Army Africa and the garrison. Furthermore, it made me realize why what I do is important, and how what I do can help my organization achieve its mission."



Three AMICI participants participate in Basic Airborne Refresher training at Caserma Ederle March 28, 2017, with assistance from paratroopers of 173rd Airborne Brigade. Each participant wore a full parachute system: two parachutes (main and reserve chute), parachute recovery bag, dummy weapon with carrying bag, harness and backpack. Italian employees were given the opportunity to jump out of the 34-foot-tall jump tower for a journey suspended on a wire across the street. (Courtesy photo)

Silvia Pardini, a recent AMICI 2 graduate and executive assistant for the command group at Camp Darby, also gained some insight through participation in the program.

"The main thing I took out of AMICI was an appreciation for what these young men and women go through every day. It is not easy to be a Soldier, and I think I appreciate more now that I have seen first-hand all the training they go through," she said.

This initiative calls for support from several tenants units across the Army community in Italy, said Frank W. Lands,

deputy to the garrison commander, and this makes the program even more valuable.

"In a time of 'less with less,' this program has paid dividends," said Lands. "Two years of AMICI has resulted in developing a core of workforce 'ambassadors' that help us further our strategic goal and communication efforts internally (at the garrison) and externally (within the greater Italian community). It has also resulted in greater appreciation of the concerns of the host nation workforce that represent nearly 70 percent of our staff and are the backbone of our Ameri-

can military overseas."

With each iteration, AMICI brings together a team of Italian professionals chosen from a variety of organizations across the installations. Asked whether they would recommend it to a colleague, former AMICI graduates have no doubt.

"Yes, absolutely! It's a program that everyone should take part in, whether you have been working on post for five or 20 years. One never stops learning new things. I know people who were selected for AMICI 1 and AMICI 2 who are veterans on post. Their overall perspective has significantly benefited from it. For those who are newer to the post, AMICI is even more interesting," Fochesato said.

"I couldn't be more enthusiastic about this program, and I really enjoyed the attention and the consideration received from our Army leaders across the board.

In more than 30 years of career, this is the first time that I perceive a real and concrete interest in our host nation issues and on our opinions about the Army mission here," said Margherita Frasson, administrative assist, Child Youth Services, Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

Simone Palomba, a construction control inspector with nearly 18 years of experience at Camp Darby's Public Works added, "It is an amazing experience that generates a lot of enthusiasm in the way we approach work after the program. In a way, it is like providing a worker bee with an insight on the significance of his/her function within the hive. Truly a game-changer."

Anyone who would like to participate in AMICI must submit an application. Visit the USAG Italy website at <http://www.italy.army.mil/amici.asp>.

CIAO! Community club plays host to 20th annual conference

Story and photos
by Laura Kreider
VMC Public Affairs Office

VICENZA — What does CIAO stand for?

Normally, people would answer by saying, “It is the most popular informal way to say ‘hello’ and ‘goodbye’ in Italy.”

This is true; however, for the past 20 years, it has also been a major event hosted by the Vicenza Community Club (VCC) open to the Vicenza Military Community.

CIAO, an acronym that stands for Combined Italian and American Organization, has provided an opportunity for community members – mostly women – to spend a special day together enjoying multiple classes and cultural activities. What makes the day even more special is that it takes place March 8.

“The original idea was to schedule the event every year on

March 8, which is the day when Italians celebrate *Festa della Donna* (International Women’s Day),” said Soraya Franklin, VCC 1st vice president and one of the CIAO committee members since 2010.

Since last year, an extra day was added to provide more classes and more opportunities to take part in the four-session conference. This year, CIAO included about 20 classes, breakfast and a luncheon, and the traditional raffle with a variety of items donated by vendors and presenters.

Approximately 180 people participated in the two-day event, and some 80 of them were in attendance both days at *Dai Gelosi*, a local restaurant in Valproto.

“This is the 20th anniversary of CIAO and this year, we had more male personnel participants,” said VCC President Nitza Persinger.

“The Ciao Conference wants to expose all our military communi-

ty members to what Vicenza has to offer, for example what real Italian lasagna is or how to pair wine and food. This is a way not only to experiment with new things and knowledge, but also to meet people in the community,” said Persinger.

She explained that CIAO committee volunteers began planning the event in October of last year, meeting on a weekly basis.

Participants could pick up to four sessions per day and choose among classes such as traveling in Italy; olive oil tasting; wine and cheese pairing; wine tasting presented by wineries from the Vicenza and Verona areas; balsamic tasting; salsa dance lesson; cappuccino mug painting with Prosecco; gardening; makeup; meditation; yoga; financial and several Italian cooking classes.

“Old-timer participant” Jeanna Larsen said this was her fifth CIAO

Conference and still “one of the best events the VCC puts on.”

“It was a fabulous time with great friends, at a fantastic location learning new cooking secrets and doing a little shaking of the hips in salsa class,” she said.

Some participants came back after their experience last year. One of them, Jeanette Menon, attended both days this year.

“I really enjoyed learning about the culture surrounding us in the Veneto region. My favorite classes this year were olive oil tasting and the Antipasti & Tiramisu Cooking class,” said Menon.

Other participants recommended this event to newcomers.

“My friend participated in this event last year and (suggested I attend with her) this year,” said Ji Hye Choi, who participated for the first time.

“We had a good time, and my favorite classes were the Antipasti & Tiramisu Cooking and the Salsa and Belly Dancing.”



Giuseppe Gelosi, owner of the restaurant where the CIAO conference took place and instructor of the Lasagna Cooking Class (along with Chef Giacomo Basso, not pictured), shows one of the steps of preparing the lasagna with speck and Asiago cheese March 9.



Shae Lyda, center, teaches a salsa dance lesson on the stage at the restaurant before the luncheon at the CIAO conference March 9.



Detail of a pasta machine used during an Italian cooking class at *Dai Gelosi*, a local restaurant in Valproto where the CIAO conference was held.



Right: Lichelle Brown, one of the CIAO participants, shows the hand-painted demijohn she won, as part of the raffle items donated by vendors and presenters.



The presenter of Wine and Cheese Pairing Class, who assisted Serena Boracchi, “*Le Pignole*” winery owner, explains to attendees the difference of fresh and aged cheese and how to combine them with wines produced in a winery built on the Berici hills. Find more photos of the event at the USAG Italy Flickr site, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/usagvicenza/albums/72157693978680844>.

Are we there yet?

Make memories, mix it up in Modena

Story and photos
by Karin J. Martinez
Outlook Editor

MODENA —

Creating an itinerary for a day in the medieval town of Modena is decidedly easy, as there are several places to choose from depending upon one's travel style and desired experiences.

An itinerary that works beautifully for a small group with a variety of tastes could look something like this: balsamic vinegar and parmesan cheese tastings, a visit to the Ferrari Museum, a walk through downtown combined with a delicious lunch, and a tour of the home of one of the most celebrated tenors of the 20th century. Make sure to get on the road early so you can fit it all in — or spread it out over a weekend if you want to move a little slower and even add to the itinerary.

'God's nectar'

The first priority of the day should be a visit to one of the balsamic vinegar producers, *acetaie*, in the area. Find information about locations at the tourist office on Piazza Grande 14, or online at www.visitmodena.org.

My group chose to visit the world's oldest producer of balsamic vinegar, *Acetaia Giuseppe Giusti*. The company was founded in Modena in 1605 and is guided by the 17th generation of the Giusti family. Be one of the more than 10,000 guests who visit each year.

You'll walk among centuries-old vinegar barrels and the family museum, learn the method of creating balsamic vinegar, and sit down to taste what is sometimes called "God's nectar." Giusti was the first to put into writing the "golden rules" for creating a perfect *balsamico*: choice of grapes, quality of casks and time.

Guided tour and tasting is free, and this acetaia has a history of receiving awards for the quality of its products, so there is no way you'll go home without buying some of this incredibly tasty product for yourself! Whether it's a bottle of 12-year-old vinegar, one that's 25 years old, or a variety of flavored balsamic glaze, visitors rarely leave empty-handed. In 1929, the company was an official supplier of the Royal House of Savoy, King of Italy, and has been a supplier to the Duke of Modena and many popes of the Roman Catholic Church.

The acetaia is located at Strada Quattro Ville 155 and is open seven days a week, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Call to schedule a tour, 059-84-0135; visit online at www.visitgiusti.com, or Facebook @AcetoBalsamicoGiusti.

King of Cheese

After learning all you need to know about balsamic vinegar, it will be time for cheese tasting. And where better to taste cheese than at a cheese dairy that processes what Americans know as parmesan — but let's call it by its real name, *parmigiano-reggiano* — cheese. Also dubbed the "King of Cheese," its round shape, crumbly surface and salty taste is best enjoyed after at least 24 months of



The Modena Cathedral, or *Duomo di Modena*, is a Roman Catholic cathedral dedicated to the Assumption of the Virgin Mary and Saint Geminianus. The saint's remains are exhibited in the cathedral's crypt.



Get a glimpse of the man behind the music at the home of famous opera tenor Luciano Pavarotti. Visitors are able to see some of the Maestro's favorite costumes, pictures and videos, and countless awards in a career that spanned more than 40 years.

seasoning. Parmigiano-reggiano is believed to have originally been imported by French monks in the Middle Ages and is one of the most popular cheeses still today.

Book a guided tour at one of many dairies, all of which can be found on the comprehensive list at www.parmigianoreggiano.com, or download the free app called RPE Mobile that represents the cheese consortium. Make sure to check the hours; many are open seven days a week, but a handful are closed Sunday or Monday.

Drive to see the work of master cheese makers and taste some of the freshest parmigiano-reggiano you've ever had. You'll never look at a green can of "parmesan" again!

Cathedral, cuisine

The next stop is city center to visit the UNESCO World Heritage site, Modena's cathedral, or *duomo*, on which construction began in 1099. Two free parking areas are available close to the town

center: Piazzale Giovani di Tien An Men-Viale Monte Kosica and Ex AMCM-Viale Carlo Sigonio, as well as some street parking.

The cathedral, considered a masterpiece of European Romanesque architecture, was consecrated by Pope Lucius III in 1184, and the crypt houses the tomb of the city's patron saint, Geminianus, or Saint Gimignano. He was a fourth century deacon (approximately 390 A.D.) and became Bishop of Modena.

After paying your respects to history and religion at the cathedral and wandering through town, allow yourself time for lunch to enjoy Modenese cuisine at one of several restaurants. A few dishes in particular are local specialties: *cotechino*, *culatello*, *gnocco fritto*, Modena *prosciutto*, *tigelle*, *tortellino*, and *zampone*. (See inset) Don't forget the specialty wine of the area, Lambrusco. Made from the Lambrusco grape, the sparkling wine is created with sweet must — freshly pressed grape juice that contains skins, seeds and stems of the fruit. It can be one of two colors, a dark ruby or a pinkish rosé, and serves well as an *aperitivo* (happy hour drink) but also is tasty with tortellini and meats. To dine like a true Italian, end the meal with a *digestivo* (digestive); in Modena, ask for *nocino*, made from unripe walnuts and aged for a minimum of six months.

Italian sports cars

Modena is the capital of motorsport and is sometimes referred to as "Motor Valley" because legendary cars and motorcycles are made here. That includes Maserati, Dallara, Ducati, Pagani, Lamborghini and Ferrari. There are opportunities to see them all, but this itinerary includes only Ferrari, and the next stop

on our trip is the Enzo Ferrari Museum (*Museo Enzo Ferrari*), located on Via Paolo Ferrari 85.

This is company founder Enzo Ferrari's birthplace-turned-museum and includes the restored house where he was born. There is a permanent exhibition on Ferrari's life, and the gallery houses exhibitions of vintage cars. A separate space shows Ferrari engines, including experimental designs, 2 to 6 cylinders, 8 cylinders, the classic 12-cylinder, turbos and Formula 1's. Services here include guided tours, audio guides, book shop and store, restaurant and cafeteria, and a shuttle to Maranello. The museum in Maranello offers a look at some Formula 1 and significant road cars, as well as the factory and test track.

Ticket costs for *Museo Enzo Ferrari* are as follows: full price €15, reduced €13, and under 19 when accompanied by family member €5. A combination ticket that includes the site at Maranello is €26, €22 and €10, respectively. Hours for both are April-October, daily from 9:30 a.m.

to 7 p.m. *Note: To stay on the one-day itinerary, choose one museum or the other. Learn more at www.museomodena.ferrari.com and www.museummaranello.ferrari.com.

Opera superstar

The Luciano Pavarotti House Museum, *Casa Museo Luciano Pavarotti*, is the best way to wrap up your day as you unwind with the beautiful music of opera legend Luciano Pavarotti.

Pavarotti was born in Modena in 1935, and the world-famous tenor made his operatic debut on April 29, 1961, as Rodolfo

in *La Boheme* by Giacomo Puccini. He soared to stardom because of his voice that had rare range and clarity.

Just outside of town, about 10 km from city center and before getting back on the autostrada for home, the residence in which the Maestro lived during his final years invites guests to take a look around. Buy a ticket, get an audio guide, and immerse yourself in Pavarotti's music while wandering through his home and getting a glimpse of his everyday life. He lived there with his second wife, Nicoletta Mantovani, and their young daughter, Alice, who was 5 years old when he died in 2007.

Guests are able to peruse some of his most famous theatre costumes, photos with family and friends (a framed Pavarotti with Colin Powell and Julie Andrews on the piano!), some of his bold-colored paintings, countless awards (see a Grammy up close), and gifts from fans.

The museum is located at Stradello Nava 6 and is open every day from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Ticket price is €8; reduced (65 years old & older and ages 12-18) €6; free for younger than 12. Get more information online at www.casamuseo-lucianopavarotti.it.

Modena is easily accessible via the A22, the A1, or by train. It is approximately 100 miles from Vicenza and 140 miles from Livorno.

Let us know if you take this trip!
Post a photo on the USAG Italy
Facebook page, www.facebook.com/VMCItaly. Or tag us: #VMCItaly.

News briefs

Army Emergency Relief campaign
The Army Emergency Relief campaign kicked off March 5. The fundraising campaign runs through May 15; anyone who would like to donate should see their unit representative or contact AER at DSN 634-8524, comm. 0444-71-8524. In its 76th year, the them this year is "There for those who Serve."

Blended Retirement System
Department of the Army Retirement Services Officer Mark Overberg will conduct a Blended Retirement Services briefing March 26 at the post theater on Caserma Ederle. All service members are encouraged to attend. Two sessions will take place: 9-10:30 a.m. and 1-2:30 p.m. An 18+ years briefing will take place for retiring Soldiers from 2:30-4 p.m.
Each session will include a questions and answers session, and the Army Community Service financial counselor will be on hand.
The new system went into effect Jan. 1. Active component members with fewer than 12 years of service and U.S. Army Reserve component members with fewer than 4,320 points as of Dec. 31, 2017, are able to choose to opt in to the system if they choose. The opt-in window started will end Dec. 31, 2018.
Contact the retirement services officer at DSN 637-7747 or the ACS financial counselor at 634-8634 for more information.

Call for scholarship applications
The Vicenza Sergeants Major Association is pleased to offer scholarships to graduating high school students in the Vicenza community whose sponsor is an active, guard, reserve, or retired enlisted service member. Scholarships will be awarded based on academic performance, demonstrated leadership abilities and school/community service.
Deadline for applications is April 16. To request an application, please email Nicola.m.felder.mil@mail.mil; Subject: VSMA application request.

Federal resumè workshop
Learn how to complete the "outline format" federal resumè. Identify the

purpose and components of a federal resumè. Learn how to create an effective resumè by evaluating job announcements and using keywords for a targeted resumè. Open to all transitioning service members, family members, Department of Defense civilian employees, retirees and veterans.
The workshop takes place April 16, June 25, July 23, Aug. 28 and Sept. 20, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Soldier for Life-Transition Assistance Center, Building 126, Room K. Please bring your own writing supplies to the workshop. Seating is limited, so you must be registered to attend. Contact the SFL-TAP Center at DSN 314-637-8151/8152/8154/8153, or email usarmy.usag-italy.imcom-europe.mbx.sfl-tap@mail.mil to register.

OU on Ederle
The University of Oklahoma is now at Vicenza. An OU representative will be available every Wednesday from 2:30-5:30 p.m. in the Ederle Education Center, Building 126. OU offers three graduate programs: Master of Human Relations, Master of International Relations, and Master of Education. Additionally, the Human Relations program offers two graduate certificates: Human Relations Diversity and Development, and Helping Skills in Human Relations.
Stop by the education center or send an email to Autumn.L.Paul-1@ou.edu for more information about the programs.

Education center graduation
Every year, the Army Education Center plays host to a Graduation Recognition Ceremony to celebrate and honor the academic achievements of the military community. The ceremony will take place May 24 from 11 a.m. to noon at the Golden Lion. Anyone who has graduated in the past year or is within 12 semester hours from graduation are invited to participate.
If interested, please stop by the Army Education Center, Bldg. 126 on Caserma Ederle, or contact by phone or email: DSN 637-8141, comm. 0444-61-8141; vicenza.edcenter@us.army.mil to pick up an application.
Applications for the ceremony are due no later than May 1.



American Red Cross Month

VICENZA — In honor of the March observation of American Red Cross Month in the United States, U.S. Army Garrison Italy Commander Erik M. Berdy (front middle) cuts a cake with Megan Brown, director of Vicenza American Red Cross. Also on hand to help celebrate were USAG Italy Command Sgt. Maj. Mason L. Bryant (front right) and a group of attendees, to include some volunteers. The ARC here will offer an Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED course March 29 in Building 300A on Caserma Ederle. For more information about classes, the organization, or how you can volunteer, call DSN 637-8916.
(Photo by Mark Turney, VMC Public Affairs Office)

At the movies



Sherlock Gnomes (Rated PG)

Garden gnomes Gnomeo and Juliet recruit renowned detective Sherlock Gnomes to investigate the mysterious disappearance of other garden ornaments.

Mar 23	7 p.m.	Pacific Rim Uprising in 3D	(PG-13)
	10 p.m.	Paul, Apostle of Christ	(PG-13)
Mar 24	3 p.m.	Sherlock Gnomes in 3D	(PG)
	6 p.m.	Pacific Rim Uprising	(PG-13)
Mar 25	3 p.m.	Sherlock Gnomes	(PG)
	6 p.m.	Paul, Apostle of Christ	(PG-13)
Mar 28	7 p.m.	Paul, Apostle of Christ	(PG-13)
Mar 29	7 p.m.	Paul, Apostle of Christ	(PG-13)
Mar 30	7 p.m.	Ready Player One in 3D	(PG-13)
	10 p.m.	Acrimony	(R)
Mar 31	3 p.m.	Ready Player One	(PG-13)
	6 p.m.	Black Panther	(PG-13)
April 1	3 p.m.	Black Panther	(PG-13)
	6 p.m.	Ready Player One	(PG-13)
April 4	7 p.m.	Acrimony	(R)
April 5	7 p.m.	Ready Player One	(PG-13)
April 6	7 p.m.	A Quiet Place	(R)
	10 p.m.	Blockers	(R)
April 7	3 p.m.	A Wrinkle in Time	(PG)
	6 p.m.	Tomb Raider	(PG-13)
April 8	3 p.m.	Pacific Rim	(PG-13)
	6 p.m.	Blockers	(R)

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.



EggStravaganza!

VICENZA — The Vicenza Military Community is invited to the annual Easter Eggstravaganza event March 31 at the Caserma Ederle Track and Field. The event will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be an Easter egg hunt, photos with the Easter Bunny and more. In 2017, more than 10,000 plastic eggs were stuffed and spread throughout the field for children to fill their baskets.
(File photo, April 2017, by Laura Kreider, VMC Public Affairs Office)

This year Easter is celebrated **April 1**. Easter, *Pasqua*, in Italy is a sacred season for Catholics and is accompanied by several traditions and cultural customs. For example, on Good Friday, many communities remember the day with Passion processions.

In some Italian regions, including Veneto, Italians decorate hard-boiled eggs, especially for picnics on Easter Monday, or *Pasquetta* in Italian.

Many bars, pastry shops and supermarkets feature brightly wrapped *Uova di Pasqua*, chocolate Easter eggs. They come in many different sizes and different prices, and you can choose between milk and dark chocolate. All except the tiniest eggs contain a surprise. Some producers distinguish between chocolate eggs for children and grown-ups. Adults often find their eggs contain little silver picture frames or gold-dipped costume jewelry. The very best eggs are handmade by artisans, who offer the service of inserting a surprise supplied by the purchaser. Such surprises can vary from simple mementos to expensive gifts such as jewelry.

Typical Easter dishes are lamb and special stuffed or layered pasta dishes such as lasagna, manicotti, and *pasticcio*. You will also find special pastries such as *colomba*. The dove, a symbol of peace, gives form to this traditional sweet bread that is to Easter what *panettone* is to Christmas. It has the same consistency, without the candied fruits, and is covered with glaze and almonds.

Other typical pastries are *focaccia* and *pastiera*. *Pastiera* is more common in southern Italy but it can also be found in some local *pasticcerie* (pastry stores).

Easter Monday is another important holiday in Italy. It's more than an extra day off work. It's the unofficial start of spring and a chance to go for a picnic with friends and family. Schools and most stores will be closed.

VENETO & NEARBY

Tulipanomania
Tulipmania

Through April 29, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. (closes at 6 p.m. in March), Valeggio sul Mincio (Verona), Parco Giardino Sigurtà, Via Cavour 1. Three hundred varieties of tulips, hyacinths, narcissus allium, anemones, and other plants from Holland and Turkey. Entrance fee: €12,50; discount €10 for children age 5-14 and for senior citizens older than 65; free for children under 5.

Giardinità
Flower Festival

March 24-April 25, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Vescovana (Padova), Villa Pisani Bolognesi Sabrin, Via Roma 25. More than 70,000 Dutch tulips; flower and craft exhibit and sale; live music; workshops; cooking courses with flowers and herbs; flower arrangement courses. Entrance fee: €8; €6 for children age 6-10 and senior citizens over 65; free for children younger than 6.

Festa di San Giuseppe e Festa della Quaglia allo Spiedo
St. Joseph Festival and Spit-Roasted Quail Fair
Through March 25, Villaganzerla, about 9 miles south of Vicenza. Carnival rides, fair trade market, craft show,



Flower Festival, Noale

painting and photo exhibits; food booths featuring the traditional spit-roasted quail and other local specialties open at 7 p.m. Charity raffle; live music and dancing starts at 9 p.m.

Haru no Kaze – Vento di Primavera
Japanese Spring Wind Festival

Through March 25, Vicenza. *Haru no Kaze* means "spring wind" and symbolically indicates the arrival of spring with its wind that carries away the winter giving way to new lives. Workshops on typical Japanese food, kimono clothing, origami, ikebana, bonsai. Free classes and workshops will be held at the Youth Information Center, Contrà Barche 55, unless otherwise specified. Seating is limited for both free and paid classes. Reserve a seat by calling 345-6497944. An English-speaking operator is available.

532a Fiera di Lonigo
532nd Trade Fair

March 23-26, Lonigo, about 18 miles southwest of Vicenza. March 24, 4 p.m.-midnight; March 25-27, 9 a.m.-midnight; exhibit and sale of Vicentine products and wines; flower and plant exhibit and market; local craft displays, agricultural equipment, garden and leisure exhibit and sale; Bavarian products and beers; carnival rides.

Mondo Motori Show
Motor Show

March 24, 9 a.m.–8 p.m. and **March 25**, 9 a.m.–7 p.m., Vicenza, Via dell'Oreficeria 16. Entrance fee: €14, reduced €10; to request the reduced entrance fee, visit <http://www.mondomotorishow.it/riduzioni>. Free for children younger than 10.

Pasqualandia
Land of Easter – Flower Festival

March 31-April 2, 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Lido di Jesolo, Piazza Mazzini. Flowers, plants, crafts and holiday specialties exhibit and sale; entertainment and workshops for children. Free entry.

Fuori Mercato
Vintage, Crafts and Creative Recycling Exhibit and Sale

March 31 and April 1-2, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Vicenza, Piazza delle Erbe.

Primavera in Castello
Spring at the Castle

April 7, 10 a.m.-8 p.m., and **April 8**, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Roncade (Treviso), at the Roncade Castle, Via Roma 141. Flowers, plants and craft exhibit and sale; workshops for children and adults; food booths. Entrance fee: April 7, €5; April 2, €7.50, which includes a bottle of wine; reduced €0.50 for visitors younger than 18. Free for children younger than 6.

Noale in Fiore
Noale with Flowers

April 8, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Noale (Venice), Piazza Castello, Piazza XX Settembre. Hundreds of businesses from all over Italy display their flowers, plants, trees, patio furniture and garden tools.

La Corte Fiorita
Flower and Plant Festival

April 8, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Badia Polesine (Rovigo). Flower and plant exhibit and sale; garden and patio furniture;

local crafts and products; street artists; entertainment for children and face-painting.

39a Su e Zo Per i Ponti
39th Up and Down over the Bridges

April 14-15, Venice, 12 km non-competitive walk which crosses 43 bridges, with departure and arrival in Piazza San Marco. This spring event involves thousands of people in a walk of solidarity around Venice alleys; **April 14**: 9 p.m., a special evening as a tribute to Venice and to the march, through choral singing and surprise events; “*Su e Zo Night Live*” at the Hard Rock Café; **April 15**: 9 a.m. Holy Mass in San Marco Basilica. At 10:30 a.m., the march departs from Piazza San Marco; 12:30 p.m. folk group parade in Piazza San Marco with award ceremony for the largest groups and best folk groups; 1 p.m., parade and awards to the best folk group.

There are four official refreshment points. The event will take place regardless of weather conditions. Registration fee: €6,50 (pre-booked at www.suezo.it or appointed ticket points <http://www.suezo.it/en/punti-vendita>) or €8 (sold at the ticket booths on the day of the event at the ticket booths in St. Mark's Square, at the railway station and at the Tronchetto parking lot).

Rivoluzione Galileo. L'arte incontra la scienza
Galileo Revolution. Art meets Science

Through April 22, Padova, Monte di Pietà Palace, Piazza Duomo. Weekdays 9 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturdays, Sundays and Italian holidays, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. This exhibit aims to investigate the influence of Galileo's discoveries on art history and on people's perception of the universe. Entrance fee: €12; reduced: €10.

Andy Warhol Exhibit

Through May 1, Treviso, Casa dei Carraresi, Via Palestro 33/38. Mondays-Thursdays, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Fridays-Sundays, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. This exhibit is focused on the concept of superstars. With the help of video contributions, visitors can experiment the New York climate of the 1960s and 1970s and understand the pursuit of pop icons. Entrance fee: €12; reduced €10 (students younger than 26); €8 (children aged 6-18); free for children younger than 6.

Frida Kahlo – Oltre il mito
Frida Kahlo – Beyond the myth

Through June 3, Milan, Mudec, 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 do not follow a chronological order, as they 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 on Monday morning. Entrance fee; €13; reduced €11.

Egitto. Dei, faraoni e Uomini
Egypt. God, Pharaohs, and Men

Through Sept. 18, Fridays-Sundays, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Jesolo, Via Aquileia 123. This exhibit offers a display of Egyptian artifacts coming from the most important collections of Italian and foreign museums. Visitors not only have a chance to see, know, and analyze the Egyptian world, they can also feel it, thanks to many interactive parts. Entrance fee: €16; reduced: €12 (senior citizens older than 65; students and people with disabilities); €8 (children aged 6-12); free for



Motor Show, Vicenza

children younger than 6. Tickets include audio guide.

Il silenzio assordante di Chernobyl
Chernobyl's Deafening Silence
Through Aug. 26, 2-8 p.m. (last entrance at 6 p.m.), Vicenza, former Caserma Borghesi, Via Borgo Casale 49. Multimedia exhibit on the Chernobyl nuclear accident and its consequences. Entrance fee: €8; free for children younger than 10.

La Partita a Scacchi a personaggi viventi
Live Chess Game
Sept. 7-9, Marostica, Piazza degli Scacchi, about 18 miles north of Vicenza. Grand opening Sept. 7 at 9 p.m., Sept. 8-9, 9 p.m. This chess match commemorates the historic chess match of 1454. The game is a re-enactment of the match that Lord Taddeo Parisio held to determine the marriage of his daughter. Purchase tickets well in advance online at <http://www.marosticascacchi.it/it/partitaascacchi/ticket.html#1>.

MARKETS

- Cerea (Verona):** March 25, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Via Farfusola 6 (about 150 vendors)
- Dolo (Venice):** March 25, 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Piazza Cantiere (about 80 vendors)
- Piazzola sul Brenta (Padova):** March 25, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Via Camerini (about 700 vendors)
- Spresiano (Treviso):** March 25, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Piazza Luciano Rigo (about 100 vendors)
- Treviso:** March 25, 7:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m., Borgo Cavour (about 80 vendors)
- Valeggio sul Mincio (Verona):** March 25, 8 a.m. - 7 p.m., Piazza Carlo Alberto and downtown streets (about 120 vendors)
- Marostica (Vicenza):** April 1, 8 a.m.-7 p.m.; 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Piazza Castello (135 vendors)
- Noventa Vicentina (Vicenza):** April 1, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Piazza IV Novembre (120 vendors)
- Vittorio Veneto (Treviso):** April 1, 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Serravalle, Piazza Minucci and surrounding streets (75 vendors)

TUSCANY

Festa del Cioccolato- Choco Moments
Chocolate Festival
March 23-25, 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Lucca, Piazza Napoleone. A great variety of chocolates from the best Italian chocolatiers; chocolate shows; workshops for children; cooking shows and demonstrations. Free entry.

Irlanda in Festa
Irish Fest
March 24, 7 p.m.-midnight; Florence, Auditorium Flog, Via Michele Mercati 24 b. Typical Irish cuisine and beer; live Celtic music and Irish dancing, kick boxing, carnival rides. Free entrance to all concerts and events.

Palio dei Somari
Donkey Race
Torrita di Siena (Siena)



Explosion of the Cart, Florence

March 24: 9 p.m., Donkey race presentation; 11 p.m. drummers and flag-throwing competitions
March 25: 19 a.m., Town district participant presentation; 10:45 a.m. drummers and flag-throwers; 11:45 a.m. historical parade; 4 p.m. donkey race. In case of inclement weather, the race will be postponed to March 26.

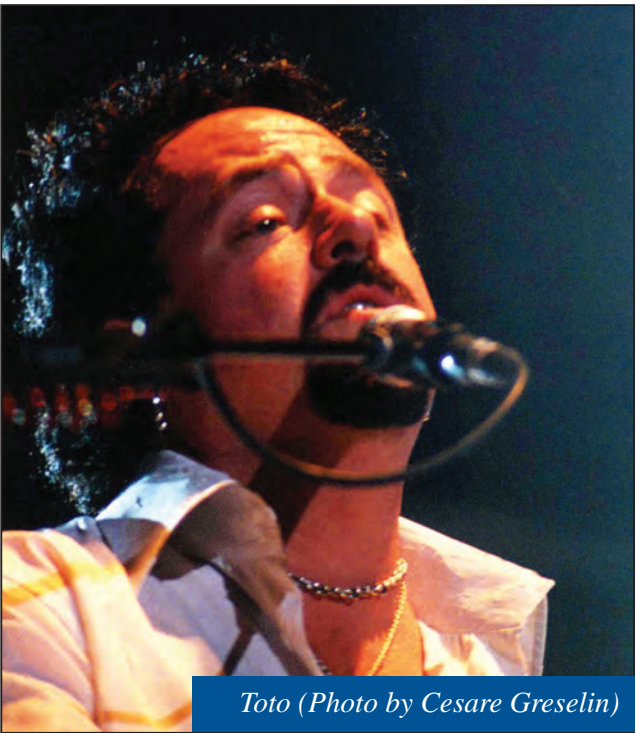
Volterragusto
Flavors in Volterra
March 24, 3-8 p.m. and **March 25,** 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Volterra, Piazza dei Priori. Exhibit and sale of local gastronomical products including the famous local white truffles, wine, cheese and chocolate. Food booths; Tuscan cigar sampling accompanied by wine, beer and chocolate; wine tasting. Free event.

Capodanno di Pisa
Pisa's New Year's Day
March 24-25. Pisa celebrates the New Year twice, on Jan. 1 and also March 25. The Pisans have not forgotten their traditions, and each year they mark the beginning of the year as was their custom between the 10th century and 1749, when New Year's Day coincided with the Annunciation, nine months before Christmas. Today, just like then, the beginning of the Pisan Year is marked by a sort of solar clock, a physical phenomenon as simple as it is spectacular and intriguing; at midday sharp a ray of sunlight penetrates the cathedral through a round nave window, landing on a marble egg on a shelf surmounting a column next to the pulpit of Giovanni Pisano, on the opposite side. **March 24,** grand opening at 6 p.m.; 9 p.m. live music and medieval dancing; 11 p.m. fireworks. **March 25,** 9 a.m. historical procession; at noon in Piazza dei Cavalieri, New Year's ceremony; 4 p.m. historical parades; 6:30 p.m. regatta; 9 p.m. concert in Piazza dei Cavalieri.

Lo scoppio del carro
Explosion of the Cart
April 1, 10 a.m., Florence, Piazza del Duomo. Florence celebrates Easter Sunday in a very special way. The Explosion of the Cart dates back more than 350 years; it is a wagon built in 1622 that stands three stories high, pulled through the downtown streets by a pair of oxen decorated in garland. According to local legend, a young Florentine named Pazzino took part in the first Crusade in the Holy Land in 1099. When he returned to Florence, he brought back three flints from the Holy Sepulchre, still preserved in the Church of SS. Apostoli. Nowadays, the ceremony starts around 10 a.m., when a priest rubs Pazzino's three flints together until they spark and light the Easter candle; this, in turn, is used to light some coals which are placed in a container on the cart. During the procession, the cart is accompanied by drummers, flag throwers and figures dressed in historical costumes. Then, around 11 a.m., the archbishop uses the fire to light a dove-shaped rocket (called *colombina*) and this in turns flies out down a wire to the outside of the church and collides with the cart in the square, setting off a spectacular firework display. Free event.

Monet Experience e gli Impressionisti
Monet Experience and the Impressionists
Through May 1, 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m., Florence, Piazza Santo Stefano 5. In this multimedia exhibit, Monet's masterpieces expand to 360 degrees on the giant display screens, allowing visitors to immerse themselves in his universe and in the beauty of the nature he painted. Entrance fee: €13; reduced: €10 for students and senior citizens older than 65; €8 (children aged 6-12); free for children younger than 6.

Sagra del Cedro e Palio delle Botti
Cedar Festival and Barrel Competition
April 2, 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Bibbona (Livorno). Local product and craft exhibit and sale; in the afternoon, bingo and other traditional games are played in the main square. Live music and sampling of local products and wines; in the afternoon, historical parade and the town's districts compete in the traditional barrel race.
(See **MARKETS**, page 12)



Toto (Photo by Cesare Greselin)

CONCERTS/SPORTS

Marcus Miller – March 26 Bologna; March 27 Milan
G3 – Joe Satriani, John Petrucci, Uli Jon Roth – April 2 Rome, April 3 Florence, April 4 Milan
Bob Dylan – April 3-5 Rome; April 7 Florence; April 8 Mantova; April 9 Milan; April 26 Jesolo; April 27 Verona
Norah Jones – April 8 Milan; April 9 Torino
Afterhours – April 10 Assago (Milan)
Roger Waters – April 17-18 Assago (Milan); April 21-22 and April 24-25 Casalecchio di Reno (Bologna); July 11 Lucca; July 17-18 Assago
Phil Rudd – May 5 Bologna; May 13 Rome
Anastacia – May 5 Brescia; May 7 Rome; May 9 Bologna; May 10 Milan
Martin Barre (Jethro Tull's guitarist) – May 9 Lugagnano di Sona (Verona)
The Vamp – May 22 Milan
Patti Smith – June 10 Rome
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)
Liam Gallagher – June 21 Milan
Pearl Jam – June 24 Padova
Sons of Apollo – June 24 Milan
Billy Idol – June 28 Padova
Santana – June 29 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
James Taylor – July 20 Lucca; July 22 (Pompei, Naples); July 23 Terme di Caracalla (Rome)
King Crimson – July 22-23 Rome; July 25 Lucca; July 27-28 Venice
Scorpions – July 23 Verona
Sting – July 28 Rome; July 29 Verona; July 30 Naples
Eminem – Sept. 7 Milan
Thirty Seconds to Mars – Sept. 8
U2 – Oct. 15 Assago (Milan)
David Garrett – Oct. 17 Rome; Oct. 19 Florence; Oct. 20 Assago (Milan)
Elton John – May 29-30, 2019, Verona
ITALIAN ARTISTS
Gianni Morandi – March 28 Assago (Milan)
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, May 18-19, May 21-22 Verona; June 9 and June 12 Padova
Vasco Rossi – June 6-7 Padova
Ennio Morricone – June 16-17 Rome
OTHER
FIM Superbike World Championship – May 5, July 6-8 Misano Adriatico (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.



(Photo by Laura Kreider,
VMC Public Affairs Office)

Mayors' Summit

CASERMA EDERLE — U.S. Army Garrison Italy Commander Col. Erik M. Berdy (standing, middle) and Italian Base Commander Col. Umberto D'Andria (right) address participants in the first Mayors' Summit held at the Golden Lion conference center March 13, as Anna Ciccotti, community and media relations officer, assists with translation. Mayors and civic leaders from 20 towns, where the majority of military families reside in the province of Vicenza, attended the event. Discussion revolved around an agenda of items to make the U.S.-Italian communities stronger. More photos of the event may be found at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/usagvicenza/sets/72157691485706912>.

Family & MWR

ENTERTAINMENT & TRIPS

Lucerne, Switzerland Express March 31, 4:30 a.m.-11:30 p.m., \$95 ODR, Caserma Ederle

Visit Lucerne, gateway to central Switzerland. Enjoy a guided tour and visit the old town and water tower. After the tour, enjoy free time for lunch and shopping on the famous *Hertensteinstrasse*. Passport required.

Darby Easter Fest March 31, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Community Center, Camp Darby

All you need is a basket and a smile for this year's Darby Easter Fest. Children will enjoy an Easter egg hunt, games, and visits/pictures with the Easter Bunny.

Easter Lunch in Sirmione April 1, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., \$90 ODR, Caserma Ederle

This Easter, let Outdoor Recreation take care of the arrangements for you. Enjoy Easter lunch in the beautiful town of Sirmione, followed by free time to take in the sights on the peninsula. Cost includes transportation, lunch and trip facilitator.

Darby San Rossore Stable Trip April 6, 8:30 a.m.-noon. \$40 for children not enrolled in Child & Youth Services Darby Childcare, Bldg. 726 Camp Darby

Sign up your School Age Center child for this trip to the San Rossore Stables. They will learn about pony care and how to ride. Trip includes transportation, supervision, light snack, time with ponies.

Florence: A Guided Tour April 7, 5 a.m.-10 p.m., \$85 ODR, Caserma Ederle

Tour the capital of Tuscany and the province of Florence. This city has a rich history as a center of trade and finance in medieval Europe and is home to numerous religious and republic revolutions. Florence is considered the birthplace of the Italian Renaissance. There will be a guided tour and, afterward, participants are free to explore the city.

Yellow Pin Bowling Friday & Saturdays, 8-11 p.m. The Arena, Caserma Ederle

Bowl a strike on your first ball with the yellow pin in the No. 1 position and receive a free game. Or enjoy some great food from the Strike Zone Snack Bar while enjoying free Wi-Fi. Each game costs \$3; \$2.50 shoe rental.

Caving the Buso della Rana April 7, 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m., \$85 ODR, Caserma Ederle

Expect to get down and dirty as you head underground to explore the dark tunnels of the Veneto's largest cave system, the Buso della Rana, with more than 34 kilometers of explored tunnels. ODR will take you to the small town of Monte di Malo, just north of Vicenza. This is a moderately strenuous activity with rocky, slick and uneven terrain. Expect to get dirty and bring a change of clothes. Trip includes transportation, facilitator, guide, instruction, equipment and picnic lunch.

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Resiliency Through Art - Midday March 27, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Art Center, Caserma Ederle

Enjoy this midday program that focuses on the process of personal expression through art in a small group setting. Participants will find art naturally therapeutic in this facilitated program. No prior art experience is needed or required. First two sessions free; following sessions will be based on studio time fee. Active-duty Soldiers free. Each session limited to eight individuals.

Darby Parent Advisory Council Meeting March 28, noon-1 p.m. Youth Center, Camp Darby

All parents are invited and encouraged to attend the CYS Parent Advisory Council Meeting. This is a great opportunity to meet and discuss questions and concerns about CYS with the CYS Parent Advisory Board and program managers. A light lunch will be served.

Preschool Story Time March 29, 10:30-11:15 a.m. Library, Caserma Ederle

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

Sketchbook Sessions March 30, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. \$5 per class (plus sketchbook) Art Center, Caserma Ederle

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

Interviewing Skills April 17, 9:30-10:30 a.m. ACS, Bldg. 108, Caserma Ederle

Learn effective strategies so that you will be prepared to make a great first impression, answer questions effectively and land your next position. Sign up no later than two days before the class. Call DSN 634-7500, comm. 0444-71-7500, for more information.

FITNESS & SPORTS

BOSS Morning Bike Rides March 30, 6-7:30 a.m. ODR, Caserma Ederle

New and experienced riders alike are invited to join, and no registration is required for the weekly morning bike rides. Bring road bicycle, helmet, spare inner tube, and water and snacks as needed.

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.

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

TUSCANY MARKETS

(Continued from page 11)

Bientina (Pisa): March 24-25, 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Piazza Vittorio Emanuele (about 140 vendors)

Castiglion Fiorentino (Arezzo): March 25, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Piazza Del Municipio

Cecina (Livorno): March 25, 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Piazza Guerrazzi and Via Cavour

Florence: March 25, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Piazza dei Ciompi

Grosseto: March 24-25, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Piazza Stefano de Maria

Montemurlo (Prato): March 25, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Piazza della Costituzione

Montevarchi (Arezzo): March 25, 9 a.m.-7 pm. Via dei Musei and nearby streets (about 100 vendors)

Prato: March 24-25, 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Piazza San Francesco

Viareggio (Lucca): March 24-25, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Piazza D'Azeglio

Arezzo: March 31-April 1, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Piazza Grande (about 1,000 vendors)

Carmignano (Prato): April 1, 9:30 a.m.-7p.m., Piazza Vittorio Emanuele II and Piazza Matteotti

Cascina (Pisa): April 1, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Corso Matteotti

Livorno: April 1, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Piazza Cavour

Orbetello (Grosseto): March 31-April 1, 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Corso Italia, Piazza Eroe dei Due Mondi, Piazza del Plebiscito

Pietrasanta (Lucca): April 1, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Piazza Duomo

San Giuliano Terme (Pisa): April 1, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Piazza Shelley and Piazza Italia

San Miniato (Pisa): April 1, 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Piazza del Popolo

Scarperia (Firenze): April 1, 8:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; downtown squares and streets

Follow us on Pinterest for more markets, concerts and other Out & About events.

www.pinterest.com/USAGItaly
See **Out & About**, pages 10-11.