

The Signature

Vol. 19 No. 24

Naval Air Station Sigonella, Sicily

Friday, June 21, 2002

Happy Anniversary Sigonella

By SN Michelle Watkins

Staff writer

NAS Sigonella was originally known as Naval Air Facility (NAF) Sigonella. It was established by Capt. Walter J. Frazier, Sigonella's first commanding officer, in the early 1950's when it became obvious that there was no more room for expansion at the existing Naval Facility Halfar, Malta, due to the loading of U.S. Navy P-2 Neptunes.

Land for Sigonella was made available under the terms of an agreement with the Italian government on June 25, 1957. Fleet Aircraft Squadron FASRON 201 out of Halfar was then disestablished on July 1.

The initial building of Sigonella began in Sept. 1957. The administrative area was built on NAS I in 1958. The building which is now occupied by the Housing Office was the original the Administration building, however the commanding officer in 1970, decided that his office should be located on NAS II near all the base operations. Both the commanding and executive officers moved to the new Administrative building where it is located today.

Sigonella celebrated its first birthday with an "All Hands" party on NAS I, June 15, 1958. The base has continually displayed good neighbor policy. Three times that month, base personnel fought a fire at a small private farm, made an emergency flight from Naples to Malta to deliver blood plasma needed to save the life of a Maltese baby dying of severe malnutrition, and three-hospital corpsmen saved a young Sicilian boy who was drowning near one of the local beaches.

By the end of Aug. 1959, the NAS II airfield was available for day flights only, and logged 24 flights by Aug. 31. During the same year, an automatic 200-position telephone switchboard was connected; however there was a manning shortage, so the switchboard was manned only during regular working hours.

In April 1959, the Mt. Etna Softball League began with seven teams

Anniversary continued on page 3



Photo courtesy of NASSIG

Naval Air Station Sigonella was originally established as a Naval Air Facility on June 15, 1959. This year marks the 43rd birthday of NAS Sigonella. The first service members arrived in March 1959, but had to stay in Catania. Service members had to take daily trips to NAS I to work until housing became available. Sigonella made many changes to improve the quality of life for base personnel and their families.

Carabinieri and NASSIG excel in joint force security



Photo by JOSN Bridgette Bolt

From left, members of the Italian Air Force, Carabinieri, and NASSIG Security take time from their day to show their working relationship is an important for all who are stationed here.

By JOSN Bridgette Bolt

Editor

The Carabinieri have been in existence since the 1800's, originally as a part of the Italian Army, but recently separated to become their own entity of the Italian Armed Forces. They serve as Military Police in Italian territory and act as national police, with general law enforcement power. They maintain the law and order throughout Italy in coordination with local police and magistrates.

Since 1927, the Carabinieri have been tasked with airport security, not only for Italian air bases, but for civilian ones as well. The year of 1959

marked the start of Naval Air Facility (NAF) Sigonella and a joint security effort between Italian and U.S. forces. Those cooperative bonds and relationships have grown between the two forces to accommodate the needs of this day and age. Sigonella has undergone many changes, transitioning from NAF to a Naval Air Station (NAS), and even more with increased threats throughout the world.

U.S. and Italian law enforcement agencies, officials and personnel work together as a joint force to complete several important missions, however, it is important to remember that this is Italian soil, and

all Italian laws, rules and regulations must be obeyed. According to Article II of the NATO SOFA agreement, it clearly states that members (including active duty, family members, civilian employees, and contractors) shall respect host country laws.

"Cooperate with the Italian law officials the same as you would back home in the states," says MACM (SW) Richard Jones, Security Department leading chief petty officer and acting command master chief of Naval Air Station Sigonella.

"If you are on base or out in town and are pulled over by the Carabinieri or any other law official,

you are obligated to pull over and comply," said Jones.

A lollipop is a hand-held wand with a circle at the top, one side is green and the other is red. If waved at with the lollipop, always stop. A good rule of thumb is to decrease speed anytime you see a marked vehicle, be alert and be ready to stop. By Italian law, if you do not stop for the lollipop, you have already committed a crime and may face various charges or a monetary fine.

According to NAS II Carabinieri division officer, Master Chief Annibale Lizzio, the reasons Italian

Security continued on page 2

Gear up to ride safely

By JOSN Bridgette Bolt

Editor

If you're a current motorcycle owner and would like a discount on your insurance, or if you are thinking about owning a motorcycle and aren't currently endorsed on your state-side drivers license, listen up!

Sigonella now offers a new and improved Motorcycle Safety Course. The classes usually run once a month and are free!

The two day course will not only teach the basics of riding a bike, they also teach street bike riding to make riding safer in our Italian surroundings.

"This is a serious, but very fun course," says Rick Dolan, motorcycle safety program coordinator. Dolan is one of the instructors for our course here at Sigonella, but he is also certified as an instructor through the Motorcycle Safety Foundation.

Statistics show by completing the motorcycle safety course, you reduce your risk of an accident, and if you are in an accident the injuries are much less severe.

Gear needed to attend the safety course is a motorcycle (no riding experience required), long sleeves, full coverage gloves, helmet, face shield or eye protection (a shield on the motorcycle does not meet requirement), pants and boots that cover the ankle.

After completing the course you'll receive a certificate to present to your insurance company for discounted rates, and the staff will help you get the endorsement put on your state-side drivers license so you're riding legally upon returning to the states. If you haven't already taken this course, than rev up that engine and get started by calling x5630.



Inside this Edition

Birth Announcements... page 2

Navy News... page 3

Italian News... page 4

Liberty Call... page 5

AFN Lineup... page 8

Il Mercato... page 11

Italian phrase of the week...

Sei qui da molto tempo?



(Have you been
here long?)

SECURITY BLOTTER



Helping make the community aware

CRIME STOPPER'S HOTLINE 624-6389

June 10 - June 16

The following incidents were reported and categorized as follows:

- Traffic accidents without injuries - 19
- Traffic accident with injuries - 1
- Car break-ins - 0
- DUI - 0
- DUI's 2002 - 13
- DUI's 2001 - 33

The

Signature

The *Signature* editorial office is located at:

Naval Air Station Sigonella, Sicily
PSC 812 Box 3020
FPO AE 09627.

Telephone: 095-86-5440; DSN 624-5440

Commanding Officer
Capt. Timothy L. Davison

Public Affairs Officer
Lt. Amy Derrick
aderrick@nassig.sicily.navy.mil

Deputy Public Affairs Officer
JOC(SW) Priscilla Kirsh
pkirsh@nassig.sicily.navy.mil

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Direct Line



Capt. Tim Davison, NASSIG
Commanding Officer



With our Summer Hire program getting ready to start I have received numerous questions regarding the base policy on student employees utilizing the Group Home to Work transportation system. We are currently reviewing the ridership policy and working toward a solution that will meet the needs of our Summer Hires and servicemembers while keeping within the bus service regulations as set forth by the Department of the Navy. We do however, remain firm with the policy that students and underage family members will not be allowed to use the bus service. Too many disruptions and incidents involving children have occurred and are not conducive to good order and discipline. We anticipate having a system of issuing Summer Hire passes and /or rider ID cards in the next week or so.

Moving on to another issue of good order and discipline involves an incident that recently occurred between some of our Sailors and the Carabinieri, an incident that could have had tragic results. Although the legality of our Sailors actions are still being addressed by both the Italian court system and our U.S. lawyers, and many of the specifics cannot be discussed, I will state that I am extremely disappointed in their behavior. When the Carabinieri direct you to stop, then you stop and you do not give them a hard time. It is as simple as that.

What will be the outcome of this incident, I cannot say because the facts are still being reviewed, so disregard any scuttlebutt. What I can say is that we are held to a higher standard, one that founded on the U.S. Navy's core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment. The Sailors involved in this recent incident not only violated Italian laws, but violated our Navy's core values. Our nation depends on the men and women who serve to be responsible, to be mature and dedicated to the mission of defending our country, its assets, and the principles of freedom and democracy for which we stand. This profession is not just a "job," and it certainly is not a game. I believe our young Sailors who are facing the reality of their actions understand that now, however, it should have been understood beforehand. We all need to take a step back and evaluate our actions and behaviors, at work, home and while on liberty. The truth to the old adage, "Think before you act," still remains.

The Pulse

Communication is key to good healthcare

By Maj. Gen. Leonard Randolph Jr., deputy executive director TRICARE Management Activity

One of the greatest barriers to communications between physicians and patients is time. No one seems to have enough of it these days. However, there are things you can do to enhance communications and make the most of the time you spend in your doctor's office. Listen to your body. Take time to make a self-assessment, and before your appointment, consider writing a diary of the symptoms. Focus on descriptive terms for your symptoms, such as intense, dull, pulsating. Try to relate the symptoms to your activities, time of day and how they compare to other past experiences. Many clinicians find it helpful when a patient can relate a "pattern of experiences." Try not to feel embarrassed. Clinicians are highly trained professionals, and must keep patient information confidential. Since there is usually a pattern of symptoms relating to an illness, the clinician often has an insight into how the illness occurred. They may even expect to hear the patient state a potentially embarrassing phrase in order to make a diagnosis. Failure to tell all of your concerns (embarrassing, or not) to your clinician can result in a missed diagnosis with poor outcomes. In the military community, fear of reprisals for having a mental or sexual health problem may be a concern for the patient. A patient's illness can affect the unit's military readiness, and possibly the patient's career.

Fortunately, military clinicians have the same sacred patient relationship as civilian providers, and keep patient confidentiality as their first priority. Not receiving proper treatment may cause more harm to a unit's medical readiness, and negatively affect the patient's long-term health. The clinic staff may ask (multiple times) why you are here to see the doctor.

This question helps make sure that all the proper equipment is available in the exam room. If you only wish to speak to the clinician, just answer that you have several symptoms and are not sure of the problem. Bring a list. Always keep a card in your wallet with a list of your allergies and current medications in case of an emergency. Double-checking your prescription list with your clinician is always important. A list of questions or concerns is usually helpful during your visit. As a patient, you may feel rushed, or your train-of-thought may be interrupted. Relying only on memory for symptoms or concerns from the past weeks or months may not be as accurate as a list, and it can help to check with family members about your family history.

The use of a list can also be helpful when talking to a different physician. Communicating consistent information will keep everyone current on your health care. Tell the clinician all the medications and supplements that you are taking. There are many supplements on the market that claim to improve health. Vitamins, herbs, over-the-counter medications, diet pills, etc., can interact with your prescription, and may even be the cause of your symptoms. For example, simple nose spray can raise the blood pressure, while high dose vitamin K can affect one's blood-thinning prescription. Checking with your pharmacist is also very important when taking supplements.

Don't believe everything you read. The internet is a fascinating tool for information (good and bad). Anyone can write articles for the internet, and they do not require any proof for their claims. Bringing in articles from any source to the physician's office can help aid in discussion. However, if the clinician seems cautious, please understand that they may not trust the source of information or may have more insight into your particular case.

Give yourself time to heal and stay healthy. The best physician plan in the world will not work if the patient is too busy to comply. Taking time off for the rest prescribed can be difficult for "indispensable people;" ask for additional assistance whenever you can. Timers for medications are not only for the elderly, they can help anyone taking medications.

Scheduling time for lifestyle changes is just as important. Any change takes time, especially if it involves exercise. An exercise prescription may be the best treatment the patient ever takes.

Keep the plan simple. The physician may discuss or hand-out a lot of information. Ask questions of the physician in order to clarify the instructions. Request a telephone consult or schedule a follow-up appointment sooner, if you have questions or concerns.

Good communication is critical to a good relationship with your clinician, and helps make you a true partner in determining which treatments you might need, and how to maintain your good health.

Congratulations to the following NAVHOSP personnel on advancing

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| HM1 Danny Janolo | HM2 Michael Weaver |
| HM1 Fernando Trujillo | HM3 Jason Altmiller |
| HM1 Williams, Keith | HM3 Melissa Bush |
| HM2 Samuel Appiah | HM3 Anthony Crawford |
| HM2 Hollie Bray | HM3 Ryan Gird |
| HM2 Carl Holzhauer | HM3 Douglas Newberry |
| HM2 Dina Mitchell | HM3 Lee Pope |
| HM2 Tori Parker | HM3 Jennifer Snow |
| HM2 Sylvia Sayles | |



SECURITY

continued from front page

law officials may use the lollipop and direct a driver to stop are: a crime may have been committed in the immediate area and they are looking for property or suspects, officials are conducting random checks for things such as vehicle registration papers and proof of insurance, and if you are driving an Armed Forces International (AFI) plated vehicle, they may be looking to see if the driver is indeed the registered owner or a person authorized to drive an AFI plated vehicle due to the fact that some American cars are popular to steal.

When you see the lollipop and/or an Italian law enforcement officer, slow down and make a safe and immediate stop. Have your ID, registration, insurance and Italian translation (of your state side drivers license) ready to present to the official. If you do not have any of these items you could face a fine. "The fine for not carrying an Italian translation is about 30 euro," said Lizzio.

"The request for Sailors and their families to comply with the law is a simple request. Our Security Department enjoys an outstanding relationship with the Carabinieri and other Italian authorities. We remain appreciative of their efforts, especially after Sept. 11, and look forward to many more years working together in the future," said Jones.

Cooperation and respect for all law officials whether they are American or Italian is key to a good tour for all NAS Sigonella personnel and their families.

Births

May 31, 2002

Lesly and Raul Montalvo
Mia Elizabeth Montalvo
20 inches, 6 pounds 9 ounces

June 2, 2002

Rhonda and Joseph Landon
Jonathan Chandler Manning Landon
22 1/2 inches, 10 pounds 9 1/2 ounces

June 3, 2002

Julbraniel and Gregory Maxie
Janiya Denise Maxie
18 1/2 inches, 7 pounds 1 ounce



Coconut Shrimp

Bea Cook

Contributing writer

Summer is here, so get those parties started! These summertime recipe is sure to be a hit.

- 1/2 pound large shrimp — butterflied
- 1 cup sweetened coconut flakes
- 1 cup plain bread crumbs
- 1/4 cup corn starch
- 1/2 cup Pina Colada mix
- 3 tablespoons Captain Morgan spiced rum
- 1 tablespoon powder sugar
- 1/2 cup sorn starch
- Vegetable oil for deep frying

Preparation: Mix bread crumbs, 1/4 cup corn-starch, and coconut in a deep bowl and set aside. Combine Pina Colada mix, powder sugar and Rum in a small mixing bowl and set aside. Place 1/2 cup corn starch in a separate bowl. Heat oil for deep frying. Oil is ready for frying shrimp with it reaches 375 degrees. Coat shrimp first in corn starch, then into the Pina Colada mix, then dust shrimp in bread crumbs, coconut mixture. For second coating, place back into the Pina Colada mix, then again into coconut, and then the bread crumb mixture. Place prepared shrimp carefully into hot oil. Fry until golden brown, remove from fryer and drain.

S.A.F.

Dogs: 5
Cats: 2
Puppies: 0
Kittens: 12



Call 624-3200 for the Stray Animal Facility if you are looking for a particular animal (ie. Breed, size, color or age).

From the Fleet

Distance Learning Program Earns E-Gov Award

By Joy White, CNET Public Affairs

PENSACOLA, Fla. (NNS) — Innovations in the development and distribution of education and training initiatives by the Chief of Naval Education and Training (CNET) are being honored at the National Electronic Government Conference and Exposition with the presentation of the E-Gov Explorer Award to the training command.

The Explorer Award is one of several E-Gov Awards, which honor agencies which enable better government service through streamlined processes and innovative approaches. Rear Adm. John H. Townes III, the Vice Chief of Naval Education and Training, will accept the award on June 25th at the conference in Washington, D.C.

"We're proud of our efforts to provide Naval personnel and their families the tools needed for life-long learning opportunities in the areas of both personal and professional growth," said Sandra Drummer, CNET Learning Strategies division director.

The Navy E-Learning program delivers, tracks and manages more than 2,000 electronic courses at no cost to the user for more than 1.2 million active duty Sailors, Marines, Department of the Navy civilian employees, reservists, retirees, and family members of active duty military.

Selection criteria for the E-Gov awards included how well the nominated initiatives solved problems and streamlined processes to make the technology user friendly; how well the programs increased productivity and/or saved resources such as time and funds; and how well they improved the quality, timeliness and accuracy of service.

"Navy E-Learning now offers more than 950 Information Technology (IT) courses, 477 soft skill courses - such as financial, management and communications, and 51 military courses via the Internet and will continue to expand," said Drummer.

Since Navy E-Learning opened in May 2001,

Drummer says the team worked a variety of challenges. "One challenge faced daily is personnel and policies that have said what you can't do," she explained. "The team endeavors to think beyond what is and consistently works toward what can be accomplished. New technologies and new ideas sometimes need new policies, business processes, cultural changes and nurturing to make them a reality."

For more information on Navy E-Learning, go to www.navylearning.navy.mil.

Pentagon Project: Under Budget, Ahead of Schedule

By Linda D. Kozaryn, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Early morning on June 11, many daily commuters on Route 27 hit their brakes as they passed the site of last year's Sept. 11 terrorist attack on the Pentagon. Some even stopped. For the first time since then, the lights were on inside the reconstructed building.

"For 273 days, every single night, we've had spotlights on the outside of the building," said Walker Lee Evey, renovation program manager. "In many instances, we had people working up on the side of the building in those spotlights. Tonight, the lights go off. The story outside the building is over. We've completed that work; the story now moves to the inside of the building," he said.

In another 92 days — by Sept. 11, he said at a Pentagon news briefing — offices destroyed at the point of impact in the attack would be furnished, occupied and back in business.

"We have already moved about 2,000 people back into the building, in portions of Wedge 1 and Wedge 2," he said. These areas were badly damaged by fire, smoke and water during the attack.

The original estimated cost for the project was about \$740 million, Evey noted.

By negotiating prices and achieving top contractor performance, the estimated cost

has dropped to \$501 million. To date, the project has cost \$400 million. Savings will be used to further improve force protection.

The project already includes installing more concrete and masonry walls with added rebar reinforcement in areas that previously had only wallboard. Photo luminescent signs will direct people to exits.

Additional standpipe feeds for the water sprinkler system are being installed. More half corridors are being added to provide more ways for people to get out of the building.

"There's a great deal of interest in being paid toward what we're doing and the success we're achieving," Evey said. "In general, there are three things that characterize construction: cost overrun, schedule delay and litigation. On our program, we have not had cost overrun, schedule delay or litigation. That makes us a little bit odd."

Evey attributed the project's speed to the workers' personal motivation and dedication. "People don't really pay that much attention to what their title is, what their job is, what they've been specifically told to do or what the normal constraints are in the way they operate," he said. "Everyone's there to make that project successful. They pitch in. They work. They help. They support one another and it's been very effective."

In all, Evey said, more than 3,000 people worked on the program.

"Every single one of them gave tremendously of themselves. You couldn't have asked more of any worker, ever, anywhere."

Public support for the program has been phenomenal, Evey added. About 220 students at Moorefield Middle School in West Virginia raised and donated \$10,000.

Students at Parkside Elementary School in Spotsylvania County, Va., raised \$515 during a penny pitch and used it to buy pizza for the construction workers.

ANNIVERSARY

continued from front page

participating. The Italian Air Force helped get the games underway by assisting with the construction of a softball diamond on NAS I.

Signonellans enjoy themselves on Navy Beach. Navy Beach was created for Sigonella personnel the summer of 1962. The beach had parking spaces, bathrooms, dressing rooms, a picnic/camping area, a snack bar and a well.

The first Boy Scout Troops, Troop 71 began on May 10, 1963. One of their first activities was a campout at the Navy Beach. Cadette Girl Scout Troop 96 was organized later in 1967 for Junior High School girls.

On July 1965, the first swimming pool, totaling 1,840 square feet was built, and you can still swim in it today at NAS I. Commanding Officer Capt. L.E. Doner arrived to the pool's ribbon cutting ceremony in a Sicilian cart drawn by Julietta, Weapon's donkey mascot.

While commanding officer, Capt. John H. Caldwell opened a four-lane bowling alley on Aug. 22, 1966. There was also an archery target adjacent to a golf course, called the Rocky Hollow Golf Course which was replaced by the hospital built in 1993. It was better equipped to handle the health care needs of the Sigonellan population with more room and a bigger dispensary.

The Navy Neighbors, now called the Enlisted Wives Club was formed in 1966. The first function was a fashion show at the theatre in cooperation with a clothing shop in Catania.

On March 17, 1969, the local Fiat automobile agency treated 150 Sigonellans to a St. Patrick's Day cocktail party in Catania.

Sigonella's first base paper the *Initiator* began publication in Feb. 1960. It was succeeded in June 1962; by NAF Acts, a monthly publication. The newspaper was cut back to quarterly issues in April 1965. In Sept. 1974, the weekly publication, the *Praetorian* became Sigonella's third newspaper. The base paper became the *Signature* and was published out of Naples on a bi-weekly basis. However in Jan. 1995, it became a weekly publication and is still printed locally.

In the 1980's, the designation Naval Air Station was assigned to Sigonella. The base has since been going through changes and improvements to adapt with the times and continue to improve quality of life for Sailors and their families.

Letters to the Editor

Thank You For the Support

Recently, I represented the Navy and Sigonella in a series of International Decathlons. I just wanted to say thanks to the community for all the support it has provided for me along the way. From the occasional, "good luck" yelled to me as I ran by, to the extra training time from the Security Department, and the endless support of MWR and its equipment. The response and support has been great as well as needed for me to succeed. So, thanks goes out to Sigonella, Security, MWR, and others for their hard work behind the scenes and of course my wife whose patience made it all possible.

--A Grateful Sailor



DRMO Closure

DRMO will be closed July 4 and 5, in observation of Independence Day. They will reopen again July 8, at 7:30 a.m. For more information call x2642 or visit DRMO's web page www.drms.dla.mil.

New Web Site

Naval Hospital Sigonella is proud to present the Family Centered Care Website. All active duty and family members are encouraged to check out this site, especially if you are expecting a baby or have a baby up to one year old. This is a great site with links to women's health issues as well. Just go to www.sig.med.navy.mil and click on Family Centered Care.

New Check-out Procedure

PSD will no longer issue the base check-out sheet to transferring personnel. Personnel should see their departmental LCPO for their check out sheet. Commands can now monitor who receives the base check-out sheet and the dates the sheets will be issued.

New Coverall Policy

Coveralls as well as the other military working uniforms are authorized in the new Commissary/NEX Facility as well as the NAS I Galley. Supervisors are encouraged to speak to their personnel on the proper wearing of the uniforms as well as the requirement to maintain a clean and neat military appearance at all times. Additionally, coveralls may be worn with the sleeves rolled up in accordance with the Uniform Regulations (Pages 1-134/135, 18. Coveralls (Navy), b).

New 7 Day Hours

The hours of operation at the NAS II 7 Day Store will extend by one hour effective June 24. The new hours will be:

*Mon. - Sat. 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Sun. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.*

SIG SPORTS

By Doug Hasselbring, Athletic Director

Results:

Body Building Competition



Photo courtesy of MWR

Women

- 1st place – Lillian Abuan
- 2nd place – Viola Shivers
- 3rd place – Kisha Madison

Men's Lightweight

- 1st place – Ken Williams
- 2nd place – Ted Samuels

Men's Middleweight

- 1st place – Anthony Russo
- 2nd place – Brooks Nelson
- 3rd place – Don Durnil

Men's Light-Heavyweight

- 1st place – Karlton Meadows
- 2nd place – Gabriel Cantu
- 3rd place – Brian Conigliaro

Men's Heavyweight

- 1st place – Vince Rock
- 2nd place – Carl Smith
- 3rd place – Irvan Higgins



Photo courtesy of MWR

Hockey

Congratulations to the Sigonella In-Line Hockey Club in taking home the championship cup for the recent "I Trofeo Dello Stretto" (Trophy of the Straits). Sigonella defeated all teams from Catania, Palermo, Messina and Reggio Calabria in a two weekend event held in Messina and Reggio Calabria. Sigonella's goal tender, Michael Kilbane, was also recently honored by the club as the tournament MVP.

Upcoming Events:

South Beach X-Treme Triathlon: June 22

Come out and watch the contestants swim 500 meters, kayak 5km and run 2km! Then, you can kick back on the beach and enjoy the rays. Participants and their fans will enjoy a free BBQ with ice cold soft drinks. Don't worry...MWR will transport you to and from the beach. Simply meet the vans at the NAS I Gym by 9 a.m. The vans will return to the NAS I Gym at 4 p.m. Bring plenty of sunscreen. Camel Packs are recommended. For more information, call the pools at x5335 or x4334.

European Exercise Tour: July 1-Aug 30

Climb, run or walk your way around Europe without leaving the Fitness Center. Win prizes for just working out! For more information, call x5335 or x4334.

Freedom Fest Pool Follies: July 4

Jump in and play some silly games in the NAS I Pool! Celebrate our great heritage without melting in the sun. Fun for kids of all ages! For more information, call x4334.

By **Alberto Lunetta**
Community Relations

Italian News

SICILIAN CULTURE AND LIFESTYLE

Oktoberfest kicks off in Palermo

Make plans to attend the "2002 Birra Festival" (Beer Festival) an amazing German Fest patterned after the world-famous Munich Oktoberfest. It runs from June 21 through 30 in Palermo and it is hosted at the Fiera del Mediterraneo, a pavilion complex located in the port area.

Delight in German culture and cuisine during this nine-day event featuring great live rock, blues and jazz music that will kick up your heels every night at 9:30 p.m., mouthwatering traditional German food, a wide variety of beer on tap and arts and crafts booths.

A Harley Davidson motorcycle meeting will also be held on June 23.

Festival hours are: 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. Saturdays and Sunday: 6 p.m. to 2 a.m.

For more information check website www.birrafestival.com, e-mail to info@birrafestival.com or call 095-537176 or 091-362576.

St. John the Baptist Festival begins in Acitrezza

From June 23 through 25, Acitrezza will host an intense religious festival in honor of San Giovanni Battista (St. John the Baptist) the city patron saint. During the celebrations, religious processions will be held throughout the historic center of the town and along the seaside. Spectacular performances such as the "U pisci a mari" (The fish in the sea) pantomime and the "Calata dell'Angelo" (Descent of the Angel) will also be staged.

The Parrocchia di San Giovanni Battista (St. John the Baptist Parish) is the hub of this religious festival and it preserves the wooden statue depicting San Giovanni Battista and the saint's relics.

Prince Stefano Riggio, the founder of Acitrezza, built

the Parrocchia di San Giovanni Battista to replace another church erected in 1678 and dedicated to San Giuseppe (Joseph) which was destroyed by one of the worst earthquakes ever reported in Sicily as it flattened much of the Ionian Coast from Messina to Catania.

Riggio was sent to Catania by the Vicerè di Sicilia (viceroy of Sicily) from Palermo to support the local population that was threatened by an Etna eruption between 1669 and 1670. The prince was so fascinated by the amazing landscape of the Faraglioni Riviera that he wanted to build a city along the coastline.

Shortly after that erection of the church, the people of Acitrezza asked for the making of a statue depicting San Giovanni Battista. Historians have conflicting opinions on who carved this beautiful sculpture. Some believe that the sculptor was a trizzoto (Acitrezza resident) named Castorina while others think it was somebody named Lo Faro. Legend says that the artist shut himself up inside the Palazzo del Principe di Acitrezza (Palace of the Prince of Acitrezza) for three months and carved the statue taking as a model a member of the Giletti family from Acitrezza. Yet stories say that whoever chiseled this mesmerizing wooden statue never left the palace during the making of the sculpture. He even would accept food only if it was lowered from the palace's roof whose tiles were temporary removed. Therefore, nobody saw the statua (statue) until it was completed. When the sculpture was finished, it was placed in small niche above the main altar named "Cammaredda," where it is still preserved up to today.

It's been over 300 years and trizzoti still celebrate with deep devotion their patron saint.

Festival Schedule

On June 23, the eve of the main festival day, after the holy mass celebrated at 7 p.m., the saint relics are brought in procession (around 8 p.m.) escorted by the city band through the following roads: Marina,

Provinciale, up to the "Casa Cantoniera," Spagnola, Muscarà, Ferretti, Provinciale, Capparelli, Grasso, Tunisi, Capparelli, piazza (square) delle Scuole, Dietro Chiesa, Leopolda and back to the Parrocchia di San Giovanni Battista.

June 24 is the highlight of the celebrations. Festival starts at 10 a.m. with the moving unveiling of the statue.

At 10:30, the archbishop of Catania celebrates holy mass at the St. John the Baptist Parish.

In the afternoon, a spectacular folklore pantomime named the "U pisci a mari" (the fish in the sea) is staged in the Umazza district on the southern side of Acitrezza at 5 p.m. It symbolizes an ancient rite of propitiation for swordfish fishing. The pantomime starts with a group of actors playing the fishermen in castoff dresses (a straw hat, a red shirt, tattered shorts, and a yellow sash; yellow and red are the colors of the saint) and tied together by a rope reaching the pier dancing and singing among a large crowd. Three performers hop on a boat that is decorated with flowers, and yellow and red ribbons. The fourth actor a skilled swimmer, who plays the swordfish, jumps into the water. The fifth performer plays the "Raisi," (the crew leader) who places himself on the highest point of the pier and gives directions to capture the fish. Once the swordfish is sighted, the "Raisi" shout phrases in ancient Sicilian inciting the fishermen to get it. They chase the fish and after several attempts, the fish is caught. The fishermen hoist it aboard and try to butcher it. But the swordfish manages to escape twice. The fishing goes on and the fishermen capture the swordfish again (this time it is a real one, usually a dead shark or tuna fish). But once again, while the fishermen praise the tastiness of the fish, the fish escapes disappearing into the sea. The fishermen give up in despair, argue and overturn the boat. The pantomime is over. This performance represents the ongoing fight that man engages with the forces of nature to provide the food for his survival.

The Acitrezza Sea becomes a wonderful natural backdrop for this entertaining show, which has been handed down from generations of fishermen. Later at 7 p.m., a solemn procession starts from piazza Giovanni Verga. Devotees screaming "Viva San Giovanni" (Long live St. John) escort the statue depicting the saint through the following roads: Provinciale, Fontana Vecchia, Lungomare Ciclopi, Porto Nuovo (stopping at the pier where the Stele of S. Giovanni Battista is placed, flowers will be offered to the saint), Magri, Gibuti, Gondar, Guarnaccia, Grasso, Tunisi, Capparelli, Piazza delle Scuole, Largo Medusa and back to the Parrocchia di San Giovanni.

At 8 p.m., the "Calata dell'Angelo" (Descent of the Angel) is staged. This performance features the descent of an angel that pays homage to the touring statue of the

saint on behalf of the city districts.

At the end of the tour (around 11:30 p.m.), devotees perform the "a cussa" (the run) which consists of covering the last route of the procession (via Provinciale) running while carrying the statue.

A spectacular firework show ends the festivities while the statue is placed back into the Parrocchia di San Giovanni.

On the last day of the festival, June 25, holy mass is celebrated at 11:30 a.m. at the St John Parish.

In the evening at 7 p.m., a procession leaves from piazza Giovanni Verga. The saint is paraded through the following roads: Provinciale, Ricca, Muscarà, Ferretti, Spagnola, Livorno, Scalazza (stopping at the Church of S. Maria la Nova), Dusmet, Calabretta, Marina, Vico Musumeci. During the procession, the "Calata dell'Angelo" (Descent of the Angel) and a spectacular run while carrying the statue are also performed.

At midnight a fireworks show ends the festival.



Photo courtesy of Parrocchia di San Giovanni Battista

This magnificent 17th century wooden statue depicting San Giovanni Battista (St. John the Baptist), the Acitrezza patron saint, is carried in procession throughout the city's historic center and along the seaside during a three-day religious festival that runs from June 23 through 25. The festival also features religious and folklore performances.



HOROSCOPES

ARIES: You can look into new jobs but don't count on getting help from someone who may have promised you assistance. Any financial limitations will probably have to be dealt with on your own. Be careful what you consume this week. Stress coupled with diet will add to stomach problems.

TAURUS: Avoid being overly opinionated or you will alienate friends. Try to channel your energy into professional endeavors. Be cautious of making any residential changes this week. Financial limitations will not be as adverse as they appear. Get help setting up a reasonable budget.

GEMINI: You won't get the reaction you want from your mate this week. Any intimate relationships with colleagues will lead to gossip that could easily affect your position. You should teach children some of your unique creative talents.

CANCER: You may have some difficulties with someone you live with. Travel will be exciting. Unforeseen changes in your location are apparent. Problems with gas, oil, or water in your home may disrupt your routine. Double-check before you go out.

LEO: You may divulge private information without realizing it this week. Be cautious not to get involved in office chatter that will cause problems for others. You need an energetic outlet that will help you dissipate your anxiety. Try out for a local sports team such as volleyball, tennis, lawn bowling, or whatever interests you.

VIRGO: Friendships could be terminated quickly if disappointments occur. Try to calm down emotionally about personal financial matters. Your inability to take advice from others may have cost you dearly in the past. Learn from your mistakes or you could lose again.

LIBRA: You can gain approval, get kudos, and ask for help if you put a little heart into your speech or request. Rewards, gifts, or money from investments or taxes can be expected. You are best not to retaliate if members of your household are trying to pick a fight.

SCORPIO: Your health may suffer if you don't control your present situation. Your personal partner may be less than willing to accommodate you this week. Try to be there for them if they need assistance, but don't protect them to the point where they don't learn a valuable lesson.

SAGITTARIUS: A change of attitude has probably disrupted your home environment. Verbal abuse may lead to walkouts; don't make any rash statements you may regret later. Don't let friends or relatives rule your life. You can help them more than they can help you.

CAPRICORN: Try to bend to their wishes if you want to avoid conflict. Abrupt changes concerning your professional position are evident. You can surprise members of your family, which in turn will bring you a pat on the back.

AQUARIUS: Red tape could be impossible to clear up this week. You may as well work on projects that will allow you to make progress. In-laws or relatives may oppose your personal intentions.

PISCES: Accept the inevitable, and opportunities for advancement will follow. Stay out of other people's affairs. Don't make any rash decisions that may affect friendships. Don't hesitate to come right out and ask for the pertinent information.



THE MOVIE CONNECTION



The New Guy (Rated PG-13)

A high-school loser gets expelled and sent to prison. While there, his cellmate, Luther (Eddie Griffin), gives him some pointers on how to become cool in order to reinvent himself at another school. Everything is going fine until his scheme is busted by a bully from his old school. Cast: DJ Qualls, Eddie Griffin, Eliza Dushku.

Deuces Wild (Rated R)

The summer of 1958 forever changed the Brooklyn landscape. The Brooklyn Dodgers moved to LA and a new breed of gangs threatened to take control of the streets. Midnight rumbles escalated into gunfights and drug pushers threatened to move into the neighborhood, but one gang would not back down-the Deuces were committed to protecting their block. Cast: Brad Renfro, Stephen Dorff, James Franco.



TRIVIA

Before 1850, what were golf balls made of?
How old was Mary Stuart when she became Queen of Scotland?
What is the only animal born with horns?
What is the most corrosive food item to silverware?
Where is the world's largest cathedral located?

(Answers on page 7)

Best Sellers--Camping Gear

Greatland 3-Room Dome Tent
Eddie Bauer Junior Sleeping Bag
Coleman Remote Control Battery Lantern
Eddie Bauer Insta-bed (Double)
Coleman 4-Pole Dome Tent



They did what?

The city of Paks (pronounced pa:ksh) was a little village in the 1600s. The village had trouble with a neighboring village. They kept sending their cows to graze on Paks land. One attacked a herdsman, beat him badly, and took his cows. This was not just any herdsman; it was the son of the mayor! The result was a small battle between the two villages. The mayor ordered his men to fabricate a cannon to blast the enemy to smithereens. They did not have the necessary tools and materials to build a cannon. "No matter," said the wise mayor, "chop a tree down, and create the cannon from its trunk!" The Paks created the first wooden cannon in history. The gunmaster loaded the cannon with gunpowder, put a large rock projectile in the barrel, pointed the weapon towards the enemy village and fired it... KABOOM! 20 people near the cannon died, and many others were seriously wounded. However the mayor survived, and immediately issued a victory message for his people, saying: "If we have so many dead, how many can there be of the enemy?"

Off the Rack! ★★

Miss Congeniality ★★

Gracie Hart (Sandra Bullock) is the leading role in this comedy playing a take no flack, tomboy at heart, beer-drinking klutz who's employed as an FBI agent.

The FBI find themselves hot on the case of a serial killer called "the citizen." Though Hart is in the doghouse with her boss from another case in which she disobeyed orders and compromised others, she is the only agent who "looks the part" and must go undercover as a beauty pageant contestant. The problem is, Hart is anything but a beauty pageant kind of girl, which is why beauty consultant Vic Melling (Michael Caine) comes in to teach her how to walk in heels, wear a dress and chew with her mouth closed; as well as be a believable Miss New Jersey.

Though Benjamin Bratt is the supporting actor in this film playing her partner, it's the interaction between Caine and Bullock that will really keep you laughing.

Hart is a critic when it comes to beauty pageants claiming it's a cop out to use your looks in lieu of getting a real job. However, somewhere between the pizza and facials with all the other girls, Hart finds herself feeling compelled to protect them from the killer she is there to apprehend.

This light-hearted comedy has fun filled humor such as the evening gown event where Hart trips and falls on her face. This is a fun movie for the whole family and I rate it four stars.



By JOSN Bridgette Bolt

AFN Sigonella television schedule

CET	Friday, June 21	Saturday, June 22	Sunday, June 23	Monday, June 24	Tuesday, June 25	Wednesday, June 26	Thursday, June 27	Friday, June 28	CET
00:00	ESPN News	ESPN News	Sports cont.	Sports cont.	ESPN News	ESPN News	ESPN News	ESPN News	00:00
00:30	Movie: <i>Dance with Me</i>	Movie: <i>A View to a Kill</i>			Movie: <i>Battle Hymn</i>	Movie: <i>Enemy of the State</i>	MLB	WNBA	00:30
01:00			Saturday Night Live	Headline News					01:00
01:30				Seinfeld					01:30
02:00				Spin City					02:00
02:30	Movie: <i>What the Deaf Man</i>		It's Showtime at the Apollo	Entertainment Tonight	Movie: <i>Strategic Air Command</i>	Movie: <i>Biz Business</i>			02:30
03:00		Movie: <i>Heart of Fire</i>		WWF Superstars					03:00
03:30			Late Friday	America's Black Forum			ESPN News	ESPN News	03:30
04:00	Headline News			Meet the Press	Headline News	ABC World News	Headline News	Headline News	04:00
04:30	ABC World News		Entertainers		ABC World News	ESPN News	ABC World News	ABC World News	04:30
05:00	ESPN News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	ESPN News	NBC Nightly News	Headline News	ESPN News	05:00
05:30	NBC Nightly News	ABC World News	Hour of Power	ESPN News	NBC Nightly News	Sesame Street	NBC Nightly News	NBC Nightly News	05:30
06:00	Sesame Street	ESPN News	Creflo Dollar	Sesame Street	Sesame Street	Richard Scarry	Sesame Street	Sesame Street	06:00
06:30		NBC Nightly News	Coral Ridge Hour		Sagwa	Wheel of Fortune			06:30
07:00	Teletubbies	Dragon Tales	Christopher Closeup	Harold and the Purple Crayon	Wheel of Fortune	Oprah Winfrey	Blues Clues	Teletubbies	07:00
07:30	Wheel of Fortune	Clifford	Cafe Video	Wheel of Fortune	Oprah Winfrey		Wheel of Fortune	Wheel of Fortune	07:30
08:00	Oprah Winfrey	Mary Kate & Ashley	Little Bear	Oprah Winfrey		Port Charles	Oprah Winfrey	Oprah Winfrey	08:00
08:30		The Odd Parents	Reading Rainbow		Port Charles	Guiding Light			08:30
09:00	Port Charles	Jackie Chan	Familj Movie:	Port Charles	Guiding Light		Port Charles	Port Charles	09:00
09:30	Guiding Light	Lizzy McGuire		Guiding Light	General Hospital	General Hospital	Guiding Light	Guiding Light	09:30
10:00	General Hospital	Junkyard Wars	Rugrats	General Hospital	General Hospital	Headline News	General Hospital	General Hospital	10:00
10:30		This Old House	Outward Bound	Headline News	Headline News	Judge Judy	Headline News	Headline News	10:30
11:00	Headline News	Motor Week	At the Movies	Judge Judy	Judge Judy	Today	Headline News	Headline News	11:00
11:30	Judge Judy	Entertainment Tonight	Headline News	Today	Today		Judge Judy	Judge Judy	11:30
12:00	Today		Army Newswatch				Today	Today	12:00
12:30		WWF Smackdown							12:30
13:00									13:00
13:30									13:30
14:00	Arthur	My Wife and Kids		Winnie the Pooh	Mighty Ducks	Disney's Mouseworks	Rugrats	Arthur	14:00
14:30	The Proud Family	King of Queens		Wild Thornberries	The Weekenders	Croc Files	Squigglevision	The Proud Family	14:30
15:00	7th Heaven	Enterprise	WWF Superstars	Horrible Histories	In the Mix	Bonehead	Pokemon	7th Heaven	15:00
15:30				Even Stevens	The Amanda Show	Jeopardy!	Men in Black		15:30
16:00	Jeopardy!	Law & Order	Andromeda	Jeopardy!	Jeopardy	Headline News	Jeopardy!	Jeopardy!	16:00
16:30	Headline News			Headline News	Headline News	ESPN News	Headline News	Headline News	16:30
17:00	CNN	Headline News	Sports	ESPN News	ESPN News	Headline News	ESPN News	CNN	17:00
17:30	Headline News	Navy/Marine Corps News		Headline News	Headline News	The Steve Harvey Show	Headline News	Headline News	17:30
18:00	The Simpsons	NFL Europe		60 Minutes	7th Heaven	Bernie Mac Show	Dharma & Greg	The Simpsons	18:00
18:30	Malcolm in the Middle					Dark Angel	Titus	Malcolm in the Middle	18:30
19:00	World Records			The West Wing	American Bandstand		Fraiser	The Bachelor	19:00
19:30						Roston Public	Scrubs		19:30
20:00	Alias			NYPD Blue			ER	Alias	20:00
20:30									20:30
21:00	Headline News		NASCAR	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	21:00
21:30	Tonight Show w/ Jay Leno	MLB		Tonight Show w/Jay Leno	Tonight Show w/Jay Leno	Tonight Show w/ Jav Leno	Tonight Show w/Jav Leno	Tonight Show w/ Jav Leno	21:30
22:00									22:00
22:30	Late Show w / Letterman			Late Show w/Letterman	Late Show w/Letterman	Late Show w / Letterman	Late Show w/Letterman	Late Show w / Letterman	22:30
23:00									23:00
23:30				ESPN News	ESPN News				23:30