

The Signature

Happy Thanksgiving

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Naval Air Station Sigonella, Sicily

Friday, November 22, 2002

Spirited Sigonellans lend a helping hand

By SN Michelle Watkins

Staff writer

Hugh smiles spread across the faces of the elderly residents of Casa di Riposo S. Maria Di Geso (Rest Home of Saint Marys of Jesus), as they greeted their visitors.

Approximately 20 volunteers came from Sigonella to help spruce up the old nursing home that was built in 1860. Volunteers not only came from AIMD work centers; including Avionics Division, Power Plants, Staff Division and Airframes Division, but their were also spouses and a Seabee from Public Works.

"If it helps the nursing home, than that makes us feel good," stated Mary Jane Reyes-Ford. Those who volunteered put in several hours of work, and in the end left with smiles. The work consisted of planting flowers, weeding, sanding and painting balconies.

According to Lt. j.g. Jose Peralta, what makes the Community Relations (COMREL) Program special is that it allows Sigonellans to share their free time helping a local community. To him, one of the highlights of the day was seeing how happy the staff and the residents were to see them on the grounds. "The people cannot do what we are doing for them. They appreciate us making the place better for them," said MMC(SW) Arnell Filipinas.

The trip to the Caltagirone nursing home is just one of the many COMREL projects for the AIMD COMREL team. They plan on going back and adopting the home. "Based on their motivation and eagerness to make the nursing home grounds look better, I believe the desire of those that participated is to have the nursing home under us," said Peralta. "It is great to see that there are unselfish folks willing to share a few hours of their busy day and dedicate it to the under privileged."

According to Lilly Fascella, Chaplain's Assistant, those at the home were happy to have company, and see how Sigonellans were helping them.



Volunteers plant flowers at Casa Di Riposo Santa Maria, home for the elderly in Catagirone. Approximately 20 Sigonellans volunteered to help.

Pappalardo awarded for his leadership and support



Photo by JO1 Craig Coleman

Santo Pappalardo, right, receives a Letter of Appreciation from Steve Monteleone, NASSIG Fire Chief, during a recent award ceremony. Pappalardo, senior fire and emergency services dispatcher, has trained, guided and supported each new dispatcher for the past four years and has been at the department 21 years.

For a job well done

DoDEA wants SDS opinions

By JO1 Craig Coleman

Assistant Public Affairs Officer

Parents, students and teachers at Stephen Decatur School have a new opportunity to create a positive educational environment. The Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) is conducting a customer satisfaction survey and needs the input of everyone involved to make SDS a better school.

The survey, which continues through Dec. 13, should take approximately 20 minutes to complete according to DoDEA. Marjorie Lewallen, Stephen Decatur Secondary School Principal, said that the purpose of the survey was two-fold. "One is to receive input from parents on how successful they think the DoDEA schools have been in meeting their child's needs," she said. "The other is to learn those areas in which parents believe schools need to improve."

DoDEA wants parents who have multiple children enrolled to fill out a survey for each child.

The survey consists of 14 questions drawn from surveys across the U.S. "The questions center around parental opinions on academics, extra curricular activities, communication, technology usage, assessment and possibilities for improving the schools," Lewallen said. "Parents are also asked to grade the school in how well it meets specific goals," she continued. Students in grades four through 12 will also fill out the survey.

The DoDEA Customer Satisfaction Survey is available online for the first time through the departmental homepage (www.odedodea.edu/). Lewallen invites parents who do not have internet access to use computers at the school. "Filing is easier as one fills out the form and with one click of the button returns the survey," she said. Paper copies of the survey are also available from the school, but respondents must mail the completed forms to DoDEA in Arlington, Va.

Once all surveys are tabulated results will be sent to all DoD schools. The survey is based on a Phi Delta Kappan/Gallop Poll of the Public's Attitude Toward Public Schools."



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Italian phrase of the week...

Voglio spedire questo pacco tramite corriere.



I want to send this parcel by courier.

SECURITY BLOTTER



Helping make the community aware

CRIME STOPPER'S HOTLINE 624-6389

Nov. 12 - Nov. 17

The following incidents were reported and categorized as follows:

- Traffic accidents without injuries - 6
- Traffic accident with injuries - 1
- Car break-ins - 6
- DUI - 0
- DUI's 2002 - 32
- DUI's 2001 - 33

The

Signature

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Direct Line



Capt. Tim Davison, NASSIG
Commanding Officer



Vandalism is a crime. It is not funny nor is it cute. Vandalism hurts the very people we are here to serve...each other. People feel angry, sad, and frightened when something of theirs — a mailbox, a garden, a car antenna — is destroyed for no reason. Vandalism indirectly claims other victims, for example, a child is injured because a stop sign was stolen, a person can't reach 9-1-1 because the public phone is broken.

Maybe you've heard that vandalism is just mischief and doesn't really hurt anyone. That's not true. **Schools** that have to spend money on broken windows have less money — or no money — to spend on sports equipment or student activities. **Taxpayers (the parents)** have to pay the costs of replacing damaged swings, basketball hoops, and streetlights. **Families** have to replace those torn-out roses or that knocked-down mailbox.

Most vandals are young people — from grade schoolers to teens to young adults — who damage property for one or more of the following reasons: boredom, anger, revenge, defiance and alliance.

In our housing areas, we have established a curfew from 2300 to 0600 for children less than 17 yrs not accompanied by an adult. A 2100 curfew is established for the housing playground areas. These hours are appropriate for the housing complex. The Mineo Teen Center has their own hours of operation but in all cases they close before 2100. The NASSIG Housing Department, at the request for Security, is planning to build a small security guard shack (post) in the vicinity of the Mineo community center to help regulated curfew and vandalism problems we are having.

Some of the vandalism that has taken place in the Mineo housing area include:

- Bus Shelter Plexiglas broken by rocks
- Broken sprinkler heads
- Rocks thrown on top of community bridge way roof - tiles broken
- Rocks thrown on ball field courts
- Tennis nets and posts/basketball nets damaged
- Plants and trees broken or stripped
- Stucco plaster in front of housing office carved out/chipped out
- A/C units heat exchanger fins kicked in
- Drainage stand pipes/downspouts kicked in
- Dumpster fires
- Drinking fountains broken
- Fencing around ball fields damaged
- Swinging fence doors to ball courts broken

We will be implementing the SNAP (Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program) in the near future. I believe this will help address some of the concern the communities are having. If we continue to watch each other's backs, we will have a better place to live and play. As always, we are working some other law enforcement initiatives at Mineo, for example, to reduce some of the juvenile issues occurring. We will be increasing the neighborhood bike patrols to increase our visibility and presence in the housing areas which we hope will decrease the number of incidents.

Remember, there are six things vandalism is not:

1. Not cool
2. Not a game
3. Not lawful
4. Not smart
5. Not pretty
6. Not cheap

Parents — please be responsible. Please ask your children, teenagers and young adults the 5-W's...who, what, where, when, and why. Who are they going to be with? What are they going to do? Where are they going? When will they be returning? Why are they doing this activity at this time of night? Be involved. Let them know you care. Be a part of their lives both at school and at home.

We want to continue taking pride in our base, our homes and in our families. We can accomplish this with **your** help!



NJP Results

An E-4 was awarded 45 days restriction, 45 days extra duty, forfeiture of \$734 pay per month for two months, reduction in rate (suspended six months), and recommendation for advancement to E-5 withdrawn. The member violated Article 111-Drunken or reckless operation of a vehicle.

An E-3 was awarded 30 days restriction, 30 days extra duty, forfeiture of \$619 pay per month for two months (one month suspended), and reduction in rate (suspended six months). The member violated Article 92-Failure to obey a lawful order and Article 134-Sentinel or lookout: offenses against or by.

Vita Tax Volunteers Needed

The Naval Legal Services Office (NLSO) is looking for volunteers to help Sigonellans file their taxes. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) needs active duty members and civilians interested in providing the economic benefits of free tax preparation and filing to shipmates. Interested persons can either sign up at NLSO or call LN1 Ignacio, Tax Officer, at 624-5258

Help Your Child

You can help your child who attends Stephen Decatur Elementary, Middle, or Secondary schools simply by joining the Parent Teacher Student Association this year. The PTSA is totally dedicated to supporting your child in our schools. Currently, the classes are in competition to see which can get the most parents to join, and any class that gets 100 percent participation earns a pizza party. Help your child and join the PTSA today. The cost is \$5 per parent. Membership forms were sent home, but if you need another form, check with your child's teacher or e-mail the PTSA at sdsptsa@yahoo.com.



Sweet Potato Casserole

By Bea Cook

Contributing writer

3 cups mashed sweet potatoes (two 29 ounce cans - drained)
3 sticks of butter/margarine
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup milk
2 eggs, beaten
1 tsp. vanilla
2/3 cup flour
2 cups brown sugar
2 cups pecans

Mix mash potatoes in a bowl, mix in one stick melted butter, sugar, milk, eggs and vanilla. Pour into 9"x13" glass dish and set aside.

Topping: Mix flour, brown sugar and pecans in a bowl. Add two sticks melted butter and pour entire mixture over the sweet potato mixture. Bake for one hour at 350 to 375 degrees.

The Pulse

Your Right To Privacy

As a beneficiary of the Department of Defense Military Health System (MHS) and TRICARE, one of the basic rights that you have, aside from the right to receive quality health care, is the right to keep private your health care information. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 established health care standards or "privacy rules" that all U.S. military and civilian health care providers, hospitals and organizations are required to follow to protect the privacy of health care information from unauthorized disclosure or use. TRICARE will implement the new privacy rules on April 14, 2003.

Under HIPAA privacy rules, the MHS is required to inform you about how your personal health care information is used, provide guidance on your privacy rights, and limit use and disclosure of your personal health care information to the minimum required. To increase beneficiary awareness regarding these new privacy rules, beginning in November 2002, a copy of the MHS Notice of Privacy Practices will be sent to each TRICARE sponsor listed as eligible in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System. Beneficiaries will be asked to acknowledge receipt of this privacy notice during their first scheduled appointment after April 14th at their local military treatment facility (MTF).

"The MHS has always had privacy and patient confidentiality standards in place to limit unauthorized access or disclosure of personal health care information," said Navy Cmdr. Sam Jenkins, HIPAA Privacy Project Officer, TRICARE Management Activity.

"These new privacy rules provide TRICARE beneficiaries with additional safeguards for ensuring their health care information is adequately protected and appropriately used by the MHS and TRICARE to provide quality patient care," Jenkins said. Permissible uses of health care information include treatment, payment for services provided and operations such as patient billing or appointment scheduling.

Under the privacy rules, you have the right to receive a notice of MHS privacy practices from the MTF; access, review and receive a copy of your personal medical record or health care information on file at the MTF; request a change or correct an error in your medical record; know how, when and to whom your medical information is disclosed; file a grievance with the MTF regarding a privacy concern; and finally, provide written instructions on your personal preferences regarding use and disclosure of your personal health information.

Beneficiaries who have questions or concerns regarding their privacy rights may contact their local MTF privacy officer for assistance. A copy of the MHS Notice of Privacy Practices is available on the TRICARE Web site at www.tricare.osd.mil/hipaa. Additional information on TRICARE and the HIPAA privacy rules is available at this site.

U.S. Naval Hospital Sigonella's Privacy Officer is LT Jeremy Green, at 624-3789.

S.A.F.

Dogs: 2
Cats: 0
Puppies: 0
Kittens: 4



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



From the Fleet

USS Oklahoma City Collides With Vessel

From the Navy News Service

GAETA, Italy (NNS) – No Sailors were injured when the U.S. Navy submarine USS Oklahoma City (SSN 723) came into brief contact with another vessel while transiting the western Mediterranean Sea east of the Strait of Gibraltar Nov. 13.

The accident occurred in international waters at approximately 1:30 p.m. (GMT). At the time of the incident, the submarine was proceeding to periscope depth.

Preliminary reports indicate the Oklahoma City's sail made brief contact with another vessel's hull. The submarine surfaced and located a merchant vessel in close proximity. Oklahoma City attempted to make radio contact with the other vessel. However, the other vessel did not respond and did not appear to need assistance, and departed the area. Oklahoma City continued to search the area for other vessels in the vicinity. Oklahoma City will return to port for further inspection of damage and repairs.

There were no injuries aboard Oklahoma City, and the damage appears to be limited to the submarine's periscope and sail area. An investigation is underway.

Another Milestone Passed on Road to Ronald

By Journalist 1st Class Scott Boyle, PCU Ronald Reagan Public

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. (NNS) – "Today, this ship's pulse beats a little stronger, as more than 2,600 Sailors begin to move aboard," announced PCU Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) Commanding Officer Capt. Bill Goodwin Nov. 7, against a backdrop of 18 Sailors in service dress blue uniforms with sea bags.

Today, the ship is "open for business", an important milestone on the road to commissioning. The crew move aboard, or CMA, was a daylong celebration of progress and anticipation for the crew members.

According to Goodwin, these Sailors signify the lifeblood of the ship. They are now living, eating and sleeping on the ship for the first time.

Michael Reagan, eldest son of President Ronald Reagan, joined Sailors and guests from the U.S. Navy League Hampton Roads and Santa Barbara councils on the carrier's hangar deck to witness the ceremonial "open for business" ribbon cutting. After the ribbon cutting, the Sailors, representatives from each department on the ship, hoisted their sea bags and marched through the now "opened door" past Reagan and Goodwin.

"I am honored to be here," Reagan said during his remarks. "To be on this ship, with my father's name on the back, is just an unbelievable thing for all of us."

CMA signals the beginning of the ship's transition from construction to commissioning. "It is an important part of history. It is the reason I joined the Navy - being a part of something special," said Ship's Serviceman Seaman Apprentice Lamuwyl Matthews, a ship's store clerk.

In preparation for the day's events, 7,000 pallets of supplies and \$2 million worth of food had to make the journey from warehouses to the ship, to stock the ship's galley, store and laundry. Their doors are now open, treating the first Ronald Reagan Sailors to a glimpse of what their shipmates can expect for the next 50 years. The first lunch was a feast of crab legs, oysters, shrimp and steak. Aviation Maintenance Administrationman 1st Class (AW) Paul Fulsom, the very first Ronald Reagan Sailor, was the first crew member to dine in the ship's galley.

There are several more steps to go before Ronald Reagan is ready for commissioning. The final step will be completed May 10, 2003, when Ronald Reagan is commissioned and joins the fleet. Michael Reagan had a message for the Sailors moving aboard the ship and looking toward commissioning, "Remember what [Ronald Reagan] stood for," he said. "Remember it as you serve the country." For more information about

the ship and Sailors who serve aboard USS Ronald Reagan visit the ship's website www.reagan.navy.mil.

CVW-5 Sailors On the Line

By Lt.j.g. Nicole Kratzer, Carrier Group Five Public Affairs

ABOARD USS KITTY HAWK, At Sea (NNS) — When most people think about the flight deck of an aircraft carrier, they envision young men and women in a rainbow of jerseys, directing and launching aircraft. Beyond that image though, it takes a great deal of work just to get an aircraft off the flight deck.

One critical component of that flight-line effort for Carrier Air Wing 5, America's only permanently forward-deployed air wing, comes the brown-jerseyed Sailors of the line division.

The men and women that work in the line division are also known as plane captains or PCs. Very often, these Sailors are extremely junior non-rated airman, almost directly out of the Recruit Training Command.

As a PC, however, they are responsible for ensuring aircraft are safe for flight. In the opinion of Aviation Electrician Chief Steven Koester, the line division leading chief petty officer for Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron (HS) 14, "It's the single most important job of any division in any command."

Becoming a PC does not happen overnight, however. Since most members of the line division only have an average of three weeks or less of follow-on school after boot camp, the squadrons provide a lot of on-the-job training.

"When a new Sailor arrives in my shop, he gets joined at the hip with a qualified and experienced PC," Aviation Electronics Technician Senior Chief Wayne Scott, the leading chief petty officer for Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 195's line division, said.

Part of the training that is required is personal qualification standards (PQS) in areas including flight deck familiarization, foreign object damage, brake riding and fueling procedures. When a trainee and instructor feel comfortable, the trainee will start doing hand signals and engine startup sequences during launches under the watchful eye of his instructor. Once the PC trainee has all of his PQS signed off, he must go through a series of both practical and written tests to assess his knowledge. After passing his examinations, a PC must then go before a board, which will make the final determination on whether he is ready to become a qualified PC.

The members of the board will ask various questions, ranging from his technical knowledge of aircraft components, to procedures for daily turn-around inspections, to aircrew emergency procedures. If the board is satisfied with his knowledge and is confident in his abilities, he becomes a qualified PC.

As part of the nation's forward-deployed naval forces, a PC's day is a long one. In the opinion of Scott, he said, "These Sailors do more by lunchtime than most people do by Wednesday."

Usually, the day starts around 5:45 a.m. When they arrive in their shop, each PC will be assigned an aircraft for the day. Before that aircraft can be launched, the PC has to ensure that all the maintenance discrepancies are rectified, that the aircraft is washed to prevent corrosion damage due to salt water, the oil levels have been checked, and the cockpit is set up for the pilot.

"We're kind of like a Quick Stop," Aviation Electrician Airman Ryan Gerber from VFA-27, said. An hour before an aircraft is scheduled to take off, the PC must be on the flight deck ready to coordinate the launch. Before the pilot even gets to the aircraft, the PC will do a walk around to ensure there is no corrosion, cracked parts, loose wires or missing fasteners. When the pilot comes topside, the PC will salute and shake his hand, turning over the aircraft to the pilot. In Scott's eyes, "That's where operations and maintenance shake hands and meet."

Even though the aircraft is turned over, a PC's job isn't done. They are then responsible

for coordinating engine startup and ensuring that everyone involved in the launch is safe. Since pilots aren't equipped with rearview mirrors, a PC has to act as his eyes during the startup sequence.

"Safety is our primary concern," Aviation Electronics Technician 3rd Class Ronald E. Jones, from HS-14, said. "We need to watch out for other people, and maintain a visual on everyone that comes near the aircraft." The PC is in total control of the entire startup sequence, and if something goes wrong, the troubleshooters will signal the PC, and not the pilot. Once the PC is confident, however, that the aircraft is successfully started and ready for launch, he will turn the aircraft over to the aviation boatswain's mates in the yellow jerseys for taxi and takeoff.

"That aircraft won't fly unless the PC gives his okay," Koester said. "Not even the skipper can override his decision."

For the line division in HS-14, they have an even larger responsibility. They also coordinate takeoffs and recoveries, a job not required of any other line division in the air wing.

Although a helicopter does not require a catapult to launch or arresting wires to land, they still need to ensure the flight deck and surrounding area is clear of obstructions. For jet aircraft, this job is only entrusted to senior pilots specially trained as landing signals officers. In the helicopter community, however, this becomes the job of landing signalman enlisted or LSEs.

LSEs perform all the hand signals and safety checks necessary to successfully launch and recover a helicopter. Although their jobs are different from a plane captain's, according to Jones, it's better to be a PC before becoming an LSE.

"When you're a PC, you learn more about the aircraft and its systems," Jones said. "Having that knowledge makes being an LSE easier."

Despite their immense responsibilities, their hard work and dedication sometimes get overshadowed in the fast paced environment of a forward-deployed air wing.

Births

Calling All Voices

Good or bad, loud or soft. Help add to the celebration of the Christmas holiday. The Sigonella chapel is preparing a "Cantata of Carols" from around the world. Rehearsals will be held at the NAS I Chapel. For more information, please contact Isidoro at 624-4295. Join us for the joy of it. Christmas is a wonderful time to sing!

Drop Boxes

There will be designated boxes for Holiday Dinner for Military Family Members. The boxes will be in the following designated locations: NAS I and II Chapels and both commissaries on NAS I and Mineo. For more info, call 624-2059 or 624-4295.

Postal Help

In an effort to better service Post Office customers and utilize current technology, NAS Sigonella and Naval Station Rota Spain have been selected as test sites for automated mail sortation. All personnel receiving mail via either test sites must insure they utilize their five digit Zip Code and plus four (plus four = your individual box number). If you have a three digit box number, insert a 0 prior to your box number making it a plus four number, example:

Rank/Rate John Doe
PSC 812 BOX 312
FPO AE 09627-0312

Driver Improvement Course

There will be an AAA Driver Improvement Course on Nov. 23. The class will start at 9 a.m. and will last until 5 p.m. in Hanger 407 training classroom. Anyone ordered to attend or wanting to attend can contact MA2 Edward Poole at 624-2776 or email at poolee@nassig.sicily.navy.mil.

DeCA scholarship

DeCA is proud to announce, starting Nov. 1, the 3rd Annual Scholarships for Military Children program will start accepting applications. This program is administered by the Fisher House Foundation, and supported by industry partners of DeCA Commissaries. Each commissary will provide a \$1,500 scholarship for a military dependents, high school senior in their community. Information for this scholarship is available at your local commissary or can be found at the DeCA website, www.commissaries.com. Applications must be returned to the local commissary by Feb. 21, 2003.

Hospital Closure

The NAS Hospital and Flight Line Clinic will be closed Nov. 28 due to Thanksgiving holiday. For emergencies you can contact the hospital quarterdeck at 624-3842 or call 624-4685. All medical facilities will reopen the next day at 10 a.m. As always, emergency services will be available.

Santa's Helpers

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society is having its annual Santa's Helpers at the Nearly New Shop, Dec. 7 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., for children and 1 to 2 p.m. for adults. Your children can come to the Nearly New Shop and pick out a gift for their loved ones for only .25 per item. Santa's Helpers will there to assist young shoppers and help wrap their special gifts. Also, between 10 and 11 a.m., both a lucky boy and girl will win a prize. Refreshments and drinks for all who participate. If you are interested in volunteering to be Santa's Helper or for more information, please call NMCRS at 624-4212.

Jingle All The Way-a-Thon

On Tuesday, Dec. 10, the elementary and middle school students of Stephen Decatur will have the opportunity to participate in the Jingle All The Way Walk-a-Thon! Students will be given detailed information at a school assembly the week of Nov. 25 and will bring home information and pledge sheets. Student will get pledges for every 1/4 mile segment that they can walk. Be looking for the detailed information to come home and help your child get pledges. Then encourage them to walk, walk, walk on Dec. 10. If you can volunteer on that day to help around the course, please e-mail the PTSA at sdsptsa@yahoo.com. We appreciate your support!

Retirement

OS1 Charles Visage of NCTSI DET 4 will be having his retirement ceremony Nov. 25, at the NAS I theater. Visage has been stationed on Sigonella for 10 years.

PRT's affect Staying Navy!

Did you know that (3) failures of the Physical Fitness Assessment (PFA) within a (4) year period forces the Chain of Command to pull the Recommendation for Retention and Advancement from a member. This is done by a Special Evaluation. What this means is that a member can NOT reenlist or extend if they are not recommended for Retention. Best rule of thumb- Stay Fit to Stay Navy!

By **Alberto Lunetta**
Deputy PAO

Italian News

SICILIAN CULTURE AND LIFESTYLE

Mineo hosts Olive oil festival

Plan to attend the *Sagra dell'Olio d'Oлива* (Festival of Olive Oil) that will be held in Mineo on Nov. 23 and 24. Mineo is best known for its *Tonda Iblea* olive variety from which an exquisite certified olive oil is extracted. Tonda Iblea olives have been cultivated in the Monti Iblei (Iblei Mountains) area for about six thousands years. Ancient commercial agreements show that oil trade flourished in the towns of Buccheri, Mineo and Chiaramonte Gulfi. Olive oil was so important that it has even been used as a form of currency in buying and selling livestock and other necessary goods.

The festival will kick off at noon on Nov. 23 in viale delle Rimembranze (near the main square) and will feature numerous stalls offering local produce, handicrafts, clothing and entertainment.

Festivalgoers can enjoy the taste of newly crushed oils through olive oil tasting. Tours to the local *frantoi* (stoned olive crushers) will also be offered. To reserve call Anna Rocuzzo at 339-4086238.

Traditional Sicilian delicacies will be specially prepared for the festival. They include a wide selection of both delicious pastries such as *sfinci*, *capiddi d'angilu* (deep-fried pastries), *gnocculi co meli* (biscuits with honey and cinnamon) *Cassateddi fritti ca' ricotta* (deep fried cakes made of a sweet dough filled with dried ricotta cheese and honey) and savory dishes such as *cuccia* (boiled grain and chickpeas dressed with olive oil) *'mpanati* (double crusted Pizzas stuffed with spinach, cauliflower or potatoes and cheese) *insalata d'aranci* (orange salad dressed with garlic, olive oil and chili pepper), *pasta co' maccu* (pasta with broad beans), *chiappiteddi* (sun dried tomatoes) *ciurietti a cuosti* (boiled cauliflowers fried with flour) *bruschette* (grilled bread with chopped tomatoes and garlic) and lots of *aulivi* (olives).

A folklore show will be performed on Nov. 23 at 8 p.m.

Elephant Square in Catania closed

As reported in *La Sicilia*, starting Nov. 20, piazza Duomo or Elephant Square, the "historic heart" of Catania, will be totally closed for a major resurfacing effort. Traffic will be detoured around the *piazza* while crews resurface the last section of the square. The plan is to place lava rock paving on the square and throughout via Etna to replace the old cobblestone pavement. The project will last about two months. Traffic volume in the sur-

rounding road network, an area that is usually overloaded, especially during rush hours, is expected to increase. City buses will also be re-routed.

Catania City officials said 144 traffic signs were placed to lead drivers through the construction area.

Local Police will also help diverting motorists along an alternative route including the following roads: via San Giuseppe al Duomo, via Roccaforte, via Santa Maria del Rosario and via Raddusa.

"The via Etna repaving and restyling project has been undertaken not just for aesthetic reasons but also for safety. We are also trying to expedite the resurfacing project to be ready for the Saint Agata festival celebrations in February," Catania Mayor Umberto Scapagnini said while apologizing for any inconvenience.

Concerts in Catania

On Nov. 22 at 9 p.m. and 24 at 5:30 p.m., a classic music concert will be held at the *Teatro Massimo Bellini* (Opera house) in Catania at 9 p.m. Conductor Enrique Mazzola and pianist François-Joël Thiollier will play Olivier Messiaen, Maurice Ravel and Paul Dukas music.

Antonella Catanese Quartet will perform Jazz music in Biancavilla at the Eurojazz Club in via dei Susini n.16 at 9 p.m.

On Nov. 24 at 10 p.m., several local rock bands will perform an "Tribute to Freddy Mercury Concert." The tribute concert celebrating the great rock star and *Queen* front man will be held in Catania at the

Rock Fly Pub in via S. Euplio n.112.

The Mercury Band will also perform a Freddy Mercury tribute con-



Photo courtesy of La Sicilia

As Catania prepares for the February celebrations in honor of its patron Saint Agata, major repaving work is being carried out in piazza Duomo (Elephant Square), the city "historic heart." Starting Nov. 20, the square will be totally closed to traffic for about two months. Traffic will be detoured to adjoining side roads. Catania City officials apologized for any inconvenience and said 144 traffic signs were placed to lead drivers through the construction area.

cert in piazza Indipendenza on the same night at 8 p.m. in Paternò.

Waxy O'Connor's Pub in Catania, located in piazza Spirito Santo n. 1, will host a series of concerts that will begin at 10 p.m.: *Butijah* (Nov. 23), *Joe Mariani* (Nov. 24), *Check Sound* (Nov. 25), *Lisa's back in town* (Nov. 26), *Azimo* (Nov. 27) and *Acky Breay* (Nov. 28).



<p>Week at a glance</p>	Friday, Nov. 22	Saturday, Nov. 23	Sunday, Nov. 24	Monday, Nov. 25	Tuesday, Nov. 26	Wednesday, Nov. 27	Thursday, Nov. 28	<p>Week at a glance</p>

For information on community events call MWR at 624-5271.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES: You will find that you are able to clear up a number of small but important details. You must try to lay your cards on the table. Talk to your mate and tell them how you feel. Be sure to organize events that will keep the children busy. You can pick up wonderful buys if you really look hard this week.

TAURUS: Risky ventures may turn in your favor. Emotional deception is evident. You will have to face each issue separately and in person. You can make professional changes and direct your energy into making all the right moves. Go after your goals.

GEMINI: You can deal with large institutions or government agencies successfully this week. Visitors are likely to drop by and chances are, they may even stay a little longer than you want them to. Go after your goals and don't be afraid to ask for assistance. Put financial speculation with family members or friends on the back burner for now.

CANCER: Try to get everyone involved in an outing or get together; it will help bring you closer together. Try to understand both sides of the issue before taking sides in a friend's argument. Friendships will be ruined if you let too many people get involved in any disputes. Secret affairs may only cause complications in your life.

LEO: Arguments with employers or colleagues will be to your detriment. Think twice before you speak. You may want to plan physical activities that will help burn off some of their excess energy. You will find the excitement gratifying.

VIRGO: Calm down and take a step back. Risks will not be profitable. Finish those changes you've been talking about making to your residence. Your ability to get the job done will result in added responsibility and possible promotion.

LIBRA: Visitors may be likely to drop by. You need time to make things better if you have offended someone. Reevaluate your motives concerning an employment change. Hobbies will be good for your emotional well-being.

SCORPIO: You'll find it easy to charm members of the opposite sex this week. Travel and learning should be on your agenda this week. You may have the day off but your thoughts will be on your work and your cash situation. Family may not want to get involved but an entrepreneur will.

SAGITTARIUS: Changes in your residence may be financially favorable. Direct your energy into physical exertion. Residential moves will be favorable. Opportunities for travel must be carefully considered.

CAPRICORN: Depression may be likely if you're away from home. Comfort is a necessity. Check your motives. Travel will promote new romantic encounters and additional cultural knowledge. Hidden assets can be doubled if you play your cards correctly.

AQUARIUS: Your practical approach to life may charm someone who has been observing you. Tempers will mount if you are too pushy at work. Arguments with children or friends may leave you steaming.

PISCES: You need a change and you need to earn more cash. You may have some difficulties with someone you live with. Major job changes or opportunities to get ahead professionally are apparent. Sudden changes regarding work and colleagues are apparent.



THE MOVIE CONNECTION



Theater Schedule

Friday, Nov. 22

5:30 p.m.: The Tuxedo (PG-13)**
8 p.m.: The Banger Sisters (R)

10 p.m.: Trapped (R)**

Saturday, Nov. 23

11 a.m.: The Santa Clause II (G)
2 p.m.: Swim Fan (PG-13)
4:30 p.m.: Stealing Harvard (PG-13)
7 p.m.: Ballistic: Ecks vs. Sever (R)
9:30 p.m.: The Four Feathers (PG-13)

Sunday, Nov. 24

12 p.m.: The Santa Clause II (G)
2:30 p.m.: The Tuxedo (PG-13)
5 p.m.: Native American Dancers

Monday, Nov. 25

5:30 p.m.: Swim Fan (PG-13)*
8 p.m.: Trapped (R)

Tuesday, Nov. 26

5:30 p.m.: City By The Sea (R)*
8 p.m.: The Banger Sisters (R)

Wednesday, Nov. 27

5:30 p.m.: Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets (PG)**

9 p.m.: Ballistic: Ecks vs. Sever (R)

Thursday, Nov. 28

3:30 p.m.: Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets (PG)

6 p.m.: The Four Feathers (PG-13)

Friday, Nov. 29

5:30 p.m.: Ballistic: Ecks vs. Sever (R)

8 p.m.: Trapped (R)

10 p.m.: Red Dragon (R)**

Saturday, Nov. 30

11 a.m.: Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets (PG)

2 p.m.: The Tuxedo (PG-13)

4:30 p.m.: Barbershop (PG-13)**

7 p.m.: Red Dragon (R)

9:30 p.m.: The Banger Sisters (R)

Sunday, Dec. 1

1 p.m.: Stealing Harvard (PG-13)

3:30 p.m.: The Santa Clause II (G)

6 p.m.: The Four Feathers (PG-13)

*** Future Re-release **Sneak Preview *Last Showing, (PNO- no children admitted)
(All times and movies are subject to change. For more information on the schedule, call the movie hotline at 624-4248).

Barbershop (Rated PG-13)

This ensemble comedy tells the story of a day in the life of a barber shop on the South Side of Chicago, as a \$50,000 reward offer for information about a recent heist sends the shop, which is already ordinarily a hub of speculation and rumor, into a spin, as the barbers try to figure out clues to the crime by the hair cuts they give that day. Cast: Ice Cube, Anthony Anderson, Sean Patrick Thomas.

Red Dragon (Rated R)

Will Graham had a promising career as an FBI agent, specializing in serial killers. Then he encountered and apprehended Dr. Hannibal Lecter, and the experience almost cost him his life. Now there's a new serial killer on the loose, and there's only one person the FBI can turn to for help in tracking him down, Graham. And there's only one person Graham can turn to for help as well... Cast: Anthony Hopkins, Edward Norton, Ralph Fiennes.

TRIVIA

In the cartoon Peanuts, what is Snoopy's uncle's name?
In what constellation is the center of our galaxy in?
What color is the wrapper of the Zero bar?
Who has won the most poles in the Indy 500?
What color was the rain that fell two hours after the A-bomb hit Hiroshima?

(Answers on page 7)

Best Sellers-- Thermos



Nissan Wide Mouth Food Bottle
Nissan Travel Companion
Nissan Travel Tumbler
Nissan 1-pint Carbonated Bottle
Nissan Ultimate Desktop Mug





They did what?
Please come forward!

A woman in Canada called the police with a complaint that she had been burnt in a drug deal. She claimed that a man had sold her a rock of crack cocaine, but when she brought it home, it "looked like baking powder." The police dispatched a narcotics agent to her house, who tested the rock and verified that, despite its appearance, it was indeed cocaine. The woman was promptly arrested for drug possession. The RCMP (Royal Canadian Mounted Police) are encouraging anyone who thinks they may have been fooled into buying fake drugs to come forward.

Off the Rack!
A Vow to Cherish

I rate this movie a whole box of Kleenex, don't believe me, watch the movie for yourself. Award winners, Barbara Babcock and Ken Howard star in the moving love story that is guaranteed to change families for the better.

John Brighton (Howard) and his wife Ellen (Babcock) are faced with a merciless illness that would either confirm their love or destroy their marriage. Careers and family are thrown into a whirlwind as life becomes more desperate.

John pulled in all directions by a selfish brother/business partner, a new jogging partner, and a spiritual mentor; searches his soul for the true meaning of commitment and the vows he made many years ago.

This movie is very moving and powerful as it examined the effects of Alzheimer's on the family and how each member attains the courage to persevere, finding fulfillment and strength of character through God.

My favorite part is when John seats on the bed next to his sick wife and resays his vows. This was one of the most touching and powerful scenes in the movie.

Both Babcock and Howard truly put on a wonderful performance that I soon forgot that it was a movie and not real life. A Vow to Cherish is a compelling story about the power of faith, hope, love and family.



By SN Michelle Watkins



Photo by PH3 Jessica Price

Candyland



Photo by PH3 Jessica Price



Photo by Lt. Steve Curry



Comes



Alive!



Photo by Lt. Steve Curry



Photo by PH3 Jessica Price



The Holidays are here and I want to know... “What can I do to help”?

By Cynthia Cambia

Contributing writer

Everyday we find ourselves questioning what more we can do to help our community. We feel gratification when we opt to help out our neighbors and friends. Being stationed overseas we sometimes close ourselves off to the rest of the society trying to get accustomed to our new surroundings.

Yet, this is the time we can benefit from leaning on our friends and neighbors. Holidays are here and unfortunately not all of us are able to go home to our families. Here is the perfect occasion to lend your helping hands and support your extended family. We implore you to come and volunteer for Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society. The following are just some happenings at NMCRS you can volunteer for:

- Santa's Helper
- Budget for Baby (instructors)
- Choices (instructors)

Santa's Helpers on Dec. 7, at the Nearly New Shop from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (for children), 1 to 2 p.m. (for parents). NMCRS holds this event annually for children and parents. We provide drinks and refreshments for all

that participate. Children will come into the Nearly New Shop and pick out gifts for all their loved ones and only pay .25 per item. Being able to pick out a gift all by him or herself (or with a Santa's Helper) for that special person gives a child happiness and joy. Also, during the first hour we will give away a toy for a lucky boy and a lucky girl. This is where you come in, please come help wrap the gifts, be a Santa's Helper and guide children around, put items out in the store, or hand out refreshments. We look forward to seeing you there as a volunteer or with your children.

Budget for Baby is a NMCRS class held the first and third Friday of every month for expectant parents. We give parents the tools and guidelines to help budget for new baby. The Budget for Baby class provides the family with the knowledge of current and future costs from baby furniture to college in 20 years.

Upon completion of this class NMCRS gives each attending family over \$70.00 worth of baby items and a hand knitted item in The Baby's First Sea Bag. We would like to see all expectant parents come to our class.

If interested in teaching this class, this would be an ideal chance to perfect your public speaking. This is generally a small class and provides an opportunity to enhance your professional skills or acquire a new skill. If teaching a class for two to three hours isn't what you were looking for, we also need instructors for C.H.O.I.C.E.S. (a new addition to INDOC for our single sailors). C.H.O.I.C.E.S. is a stand-alone program that teaches single sailors the prevention of an unplanned pregnancy. NMCRS has a 30-minute presentation in this class regarding budgeting issues.

A personal note that I would like to add is how much I have enjoyed volunteering for Navy Marine Corps Relief Society. I have been here nearly three years, and only just started volunteering with NMCRS. I only wish I had started volunteering sooner. I volunteer with people who have heartfelt caring about the volunteers, sailors in need, and have the professionalism that workplaces that I have worked for should aspire to. Navy Marine Corps Relief Society 624-4212, please call NMCRS and find out how much you can impact our community.

NEX holidays give more mix-ups for home layaway procedures

Article courtesy of NEX

When making a home layaway there are a few things to remember. To first start a home layaway there are several procedures that must be done.

The following procedures apply to home layaway:

1. The sponsor/family member who initiates a home layaway must complete a Home Layaway Agreement, and Pay Adjustment Authorization. E5 and below must also complete the Unit Commander Supervisor Verification Form.

2. Once approved and a home layaway is made, the sponsor/family member will sign the register receipt to home layaway agreement.

Participants must also meet certain criteria before putting items on layaway. The sponsor's PRD/EROS must be at least 15 months from date of purchase, if the full 12-month pay back is desired. The payment schedule may be shortened to allow collection of the last installment two months prior to the members PRD/EROS. Every effort needs to be made to obtain PRD/EROS listings from local commands to aid in determining customers time remaining on their assignments. Most commands publish a monthly prospective loss list identifies personnel in receipt of orders.

Also the sponsor/family member must not be on the bad checklist. Additionally, each activity will call the STAR card customer service number to verify customer's status. If the status provided by STAR is "Delinquent", "Account Stopped" or "Barred", the home layaway application will not be approved.

Sponsor/family member must also possess a valid NEX ration card or be a retired resident with a valid military retiree's limited privilege card.

Categories of merchandise with a retail value of \$200 or more are authorized for home layaway. Merchandise authorized includes:

Major appliances like refrigerators, stoves, freezers, washers, dryers, cameras, treadmills, sporting workout equipment, consumer electronics, personal computers and related peripherals, lamps, mirrors, framed art, furniture, bedding, carpets, bicycles, gas grills, patio/outdoor furniture, and children's furniture/accessories.

Prior to approving any new home layaway, the current outstanding balance of any existing home layaways must be computed to ensure the sum of the outstanding balance of the old and new will not exceed the authorized limit.

A minimum 10% down payment will be collected at the time of purchase and the remaining balance divided into equal monthly installments payable on the same date each month. The down payment may be increased to prevent the patron from exceeding the outstanding balance limitation. After computing the outstanding balance, a one-time fee of 5% (non refundable) of the outstanding balance will also be collected.

Due to the used nature of a returned home layaway, a cancellation fee will be collected based on the following table. This fee is a percentage of the total value of the merchandise purchased.

Age of layaway	Amount of cancellation
one to 60 days	10 percent
61 to 120 days	25 percent
121 days and over	50 percent

Additional depreciation may be charged depending on condition of merchandise. Home layaway accounts will be delinquent if payments are not received within 15 or 30 days of the installment due date. When payment is not received within 15 days of the installment due date, a delinquency letter will be prepared and mailed/delivered to the member.

When payments are not received within 30 days of the installment due date, a letter will be prepared and sent to the sponsor's Commanding Officer, seeking assistance in collection. Home layaway accounts become defaulted after 60 days of the installment due date.

Customers who have any overdue payments will not be allowed to establish any new merchandise until their account is paid up to date. Excessive abuse will result in revocation of home layaway privileges by the GM.

Before repossession action is initiated the customer will be called to let them know what action is going to be taken. If repossession action is initiated, Command assistance will be sought to conduct the repossession. GM's will commence repossession action 60 days after the customer has been delinquent.

Every effort is taken to ensure the member or his/her family is notified of the delinquency. Phone calls and notification of their Command Master Chief are to be used prior to any repossession actions. However even though customers may be delinquent, they will be treated with care.

Once merchandise has been repossessed it will be priced for the amount of balance due and sold "as is."

“911, Please hold.”



By Lt. Steve Curry

NASSIG PAO

Sometimes in our lives we might be in a life-threatening situation where we would have to call for help. Calling 911 can mean the difference between life and death.

At the Naval Hospital Sigonella, located on NAS I, procedures are in place, which are continually reviewed by hospital personnel, that ensure timely emergent medical care. When one calls 911, security dispatch takes the call and contacts security, fire and/or EMS personnel as necessary. For those living in Mineo, an ambulance will be dispatched from the NAS II Flight Line Clinic since it is the closest ambulance that can reach the scene. In that instance, the Naval Hospital Emergency Department (ED) will send an ambulance as a back-up to the Flight Line Clinic.

The distances between NAS II and Mineo are equivalent to those seen in rural areas of the U.S. This is an important point to realize since many of our personnel come from urban regions of the U.S., and are accustomed to much shorter ambulance response times. Ambulance response times between NAS II and Mineo are regularly reviewed, and have consistently been found to be within the standard of care for rural EMS systems in the US.

In order to augment the EMS response to Mineo, the Medical Officer of the Day (MOOD) and/or Security will notify an off-duty medical professional who lives in the

Mineo Housing area to offer assistance until the ambulance arrives. This tremendously reduces the delays in getting the proper medical care to our shipmates.

The ambulance personnel, all of whom are Navy Hospital Corpsmen and nationally registered Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT), step into action. They will follow the driving procedure that ensures a safe transit and the quickest on-scene response. These EMT professionals work under the guidance and license of the Emergency Physician assigned to Naval Hospital Sigonella. Once at the scene, the EMTs will relay information to the MOOD prior to transport. Once the patient is stable, they will transport the patient to the ED for further medical evaluation and treatment.

NASSIG Security and the Hospital are currently upgrading their communication systems. When completed, the upgrades will provide for better integration of services, and insure that EMS and Security resources are sent to the right place at the right time. Also, our NASSIG Security and Fire Department are taking advantage of NAVHOSP's offer to train their people to be better "First Responders" since they may be the first on scene in a medical situation.

It's pretty simple. You need medical help. You call 911. At Naval Air Station Sigonella, you get the response you or your family needs in a safe and expeditious manner.

SIG SPORTS

Turkey Trot Fun Run Results

Overall Winners		
Men	Joe Pope	18:27
Women	Christina Koenig	20:48
Men's Open		
	Scott Freshour	18:27
	Scott Rodberg	20:14
	Marc Kennedy	20:16
Women's Open		
	Amy Smith	25:21
	Sara Lyman	27:15
	Laure Hale	27:32
Men's Senior		
	Drew Kenny	19:10
	Stephen Zentz	19:58
	Jim Bonnet	20:26
Women's Senior		
	Brenda Clukey	23:25
	Christine Mastropozia	25:49
	Alice Atkinson	26:52
Men's Masters		
	Mike Blount	21:24
	Eugene Reed	22:07
	Don Duril	23:06
Women's Masters		
	Debbi Bertolancini	30:43
	Carol Dolan	33:53

Volleyball

League Standings
1st Place PWD
2nd Place COMSTA
3rd Place Khaki

Tournament Standings
1st Place Khaki
2nd Place PWD
3rd Place VP-16

Little Sig makes big splash

By **JOC(SW/AW) Tom Updike**
Contributing writer

The Sigonella youth swim team has come a long way since earlier in the year when a group of parents got together and decided to work towards the goal of joining the European Forces Swim League (EFSL). The team has maintained 30 strong swimmers this year, and competed with regional teams that include overseas military bases from Aviano, Vicenza and Naples. Sigonella currently has swimmers representing age groups from 8 to 16 years old.

The base team worked hard all summer, raised money and met the requirements to be part of the EFS. The swim team coach, Rich McKeown, says the EFSL competition is a good measuring stick for our swimmers. Additionally, he says being part of a swim team means athletic opportunities for students. "It gives kids that are interested in swimming a fair shot at high school letters or even college scholarships," said McKeown. Although Sigonella has swimmers at many different levels, it's the young swimmers who have made the biggest impact



with the EFSL. McKeown works hard to ensure the swimmers master the basic strokes and techniques. "There is almost no such thing as a good swimmer who starts after high school, you have to get the basics at a young age."

Nine of the team members have posted times low enough to compete in the European Championships in Munich, Germany. Qualifying times are posted on the EFSL web site at the beginning of the year, and set the mark for those who get an opportunity to swim in the same pool where Mark Spitz won his record seven gold medals in 1976.

The team selected the name Swordfish after being approved by the EFSL. Team President, Stacey Kelly, would like to see even more participation by Stephen Decatur students. "I like to see even more high school age students active in swimming. It's good exercise, we have a lot of fun, and for those who meet the minimum standards an opportunity to earn a letter in athletics."