



The Signature

Signonella, Sicily

Vol. 21 No.7

Feb. 20, 2004

TOP STORIES

Congress praises the Navy Marine Corps team for its performance in Operation Enduring Freedom and for its continuing transformation. Navy and Marine Corps leadership testified at budget hearings.

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Acirciale's Carnevale (Carnival) will run through Feb. 24 animating the streets of the amazing Baroque historic center. It features decorated floats roaming the streets of the city, musicians and masqueraded dancers riding on the top of dazzling floats carriages and dance to the music African and Latino rhythms.

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Tax season has begun and the Signonella Tax Center recently opened to help Sailors file their returns.

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Due to a high number of PSC moves, the returning lifeguard staff is almost non-existent. Therefore, MWR has made lifeguard hiring and training a priority this spring.

Page 11

The beautiful Sicilian town of Zafferana offers some great sightseeing opportunities. The Signature recently took advantage of some of them.

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Welcome aboard VP-26

By PH3(SW) Betsi Currence
Staff Photographer



ATC(AW) Stuart Didsbury and AT1(AW) Mark Moss are completing work on the vertical stabilizer on a P-3 Orion. Patrol Squadron 26 (VP-26) Tritidents are homeported in Brunswick, Maine. They are currently on a scheduled six-month deployment to Naval Air Station, Signonella.

Make sure your voice is heard: Vote

By JO3 Steve Weaver
Staff Writer



It's your future. Vote for it! This is the 2003 Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) Voting Slogan Contest winner, penned by Air Force Staff Sgt. Stephanie Csornok, and it couldn't be more correct.

With 256 days left until the 2004 general election, those who want to vote should be thinking about a few things.

Registering to vote from an overseas locale early on is something to think about. "I encourage you to register to vote early this year," said Secretary of the Navy Gordon R. England in a special message to Sailors and Marines on Feb. 9. "Do it now to eliminate potential problems later. Your command's voting assistance officer has the absentee voter registration materials."

"It's actually a good time to register right now because it gives the voting office in your home state, in your home county, a chance to respond back to you," said Lt. Chris Lee, NASSIG voting assistance officer. "Because the form you fill out has a post card that they mail back to you that says they received it and you're registered to vote now."

It is also a good idea because the absentee ballot request can get lost. "We're going to try to make sure there's time to handle those cases that do come up," Lee said.

For those wondering how to fill out the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) and ultimately get registered, there are plenty of options for help. "The internet is one of the big resources," Lee said. "The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) website has a lot of useful information. Another good point for information is going to be the voting assistance officers and voting assistance representatives for the departments and tenant commands."

Lee noted that every department and tenant command will have a voting representative. "Once they have training they're going to let their people know that they are the voting representative," Lee said. "We're going to get 100 percent contact. We're going to touch everyone on the base as far as active duty military and civilian employees. Once we have a good Vote, page 10

Counseling services for Sailors at FFSC

By Alexis James
Staff Writer

Sailors and their families at Signonella don't have to worry about paying hefty prices for counseling services like so many in the civilian world. At sessions costing anywhere from \$50-\$150, non-military families and individuals spend \$7-\$11 million annually to improve their mental health. But for Navy families, Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) provides this service and others as part of the military benefits package.

People take advantage of these perks for many different reasons—for family or one-on-one counseling, for support groups or special classes. Karen Hoover, Counseling advocacy and prevention manager for the center, knows there are many reasons people might seek out the assistance of FFSC. "Their mom just died, or somebody died, or they're having marital problems, or their kid's acting out and they don't know what to do," says Hoover.

Marital problems are one of the main reasons people come in. "Navy families in general handle separations fairly well, but sometimes what they don't handle is being together full time," Hoover explains. "Couples in the Navy can be married for four, five, six years and



"Navy families in general handle separations fairly well, but sometimes what they don't handle is being together full time ... Couples in the Navy can be married for four, five, six years and never really live together for long periods of time."

Karen Hoover, FFSC

never really live together for long periods of time."

The center lets people know there's someone there, someone who can help, no matter what kind of problem they face. And asking for help isn't something to be afraid of. "People are very reluctant to come here the first time," recognizes Hoover, "and once they get in here they find out it's not as painful as (they) thought it was going to be."

The four counselors at FFSC are licensed, independent social workers. Much of their time is spent with patients, listening and offering suggestions and solutions. "I think that's a sign of mental health, to know when you've got a problem and ask for help," says Hoover. She says she's seen a lot of people who are raised with the belief that things should stay within the family and be handled there. "It's pretty difficult to ask for help," she continued.

She acknowledges that living in a small community makes it hard to open up to someone. "This is a very small base and people are worried about confidentiality," Hoover says the commands are very supportive

FFSC, page 8



Direct Line

Capt. T.L. Davison
NASSIG
Commanding Officer

Some of you might have noticed that the American flag has been flying at half-staff for the last week or so. I thought I would take this opportunity to explain why we lower our flag in honor of certain events and anniversaries.

The American flag has come a long way since 1776 when the Grand Union, as it was called then, was first unfurled at the headquarters of Continental Army. Our national "standard" has undergone more design transitions than any other flag in the world. The moniker, "Stars and Stripes," first appeared when Betsy Ross and George Washington allegedly collaborated on the "13 stars and stripes theme" in an effort to differentiate it from the British "Union Jack."

Washington said, "We take the stars from heaven, the red from our mother country, separate it by white stripes, thus showing that we have separated from her..."

The American flag is a powerful symbol of liberty and equality for all. Each state has a star on a field of blue, while each of the original thirteen colonies has a red or white stripe. United States Code Title 36, Chapter 10 dictates the proper usage and etiquette for the flag. On the admission of a new State into the Union one star shall be added to the union of the flag; and such addition shall take effect on the fourth day of July then next succeeding such admission.

According to the US Code, it is the universal custom to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flagstaves in the open. At the NAS Sigonella, we do not hold colors each day due to the fact that we are actually on an Italian Air Force Base and our airfield is operational 24/7. The U.S. Code allows us to fly our flags 24/7 providing that the flag is illuminated during the night.

By the way, the reason the flag is lowered right now is out of respect for ADM Thomas Moorer, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during the Vietnam Conflict. He was also the first admiral to have command of the Pacific Fleet and the Atlantic Fleet during his tour of duty. He retired from active duty on July 2, 1974. Admiral Moorer's leadership had a profound impact on our institution and a personal influence on many who were fortunate enough to serve under him. He displayed extraordinary courage both in combat and in the process of instituting positive change throughout our military.

The flag will be raised the day after his interment in Arlington National Cemetery on February 24, 2004.

HEALTHWATCH

MEDEVAC Transformation

By LCDR Timothy Huber and
 HM2 Brian Cooke
 U.S. Naval Hospital Sigonella

The medical evacuation program we have had in place for the last several years has undergone dramatic changes. Medical evacuations (MEDEVAC) will not be nearly as common as in the recent past. As expected, many questions such as "...can my spouse go with me?" have been brought to the attention of the MEDEVAC Office at U.S. Naval Hospital Sigonella (USNH). With the retirement of the U.S. Air Force's C-9 plane, patients who do not need in-flight medical care will travel to medical center appointments by commercial travel. Outpatient specialty referrals are the primary process impacted in the Medevac changes. Funding for MEDEVAC travel comes from the Air Force and includes 1.6 million dollars distributed by the Commander of Navy Europe (CNE) to Naval Hospitals in Rota, Naples, and Sigonella, etc. Distribution of this MEDEVAC funding is based on numbers from fiscal year 2002.

There are three main options for treatment available when specialized medical care is not available at USNH Sigonella. One option includes the local preferred provider network, which are Italian medical providers. Another option includes circuit riders, which are U.S. Navy medical providers who are at USNH Sigonella for one or two

weeks at a time to provide medical specialty services. Then finally if the first two options are not available MEDEVAC will be evaluated, as a possibility to meet treatment needs.

The MEDEVAC request is processed at the MEDEVAC Office of USNH Sigonella. Second, the Tri-Care Office determines if a local Italian provider can provide the medical specialty. If the requested specialty is in the local network, that specialist will see you, unless there are extenuating circumstances. These circumstances will be reviewed by the Preferred Provider Network Committee, a group of U.S. Navy medical providers, to determine the need for MEDEVAC to other facilities in Europe or the U.S. If the specialty is not available, they will usually approve the MEDEVAC without difficulty.

If it is determined that the illness or injury can be handled by a local Italian health care provider, the patient will then be sent to a local Italian medical facility. The Preferred Provider Network at base hospitals has been expanded and improved. The Tri-Care Office and Naval Hospital Sigonella have aggressively sought out capable and qualified physicians in the local economies. Patients go to their appointments with patient liaisons and hospital provided-transport. Patient liaisons provide assistance to patients who have concerns about language or cultural differences. By maintaining an association of local physician specialists, we can avoid long, nerve-racking trips rather than causing even more stress when a parent and child go on a trip and the spouse and other children are left behind.

Can my spouse go with me? Yes, if it is medically deemed necessary. Due to both flight availability and cost, the trip could be on a military or commercial flight. The trip will probably need to be made by the patient alone or only one parent accompanying a child, if the child is the patient. If your medical provider tells you that you will not be able to accompany your husband when he travels to Rota for an evaluation, she or he is not being mean or punitive. Medical problems are fundamentally distressing and emotional. Of course, in the event of life threatening situations exceptions will be made.

What about retirees? Unfortunately, unless there is risk of loss of life, limb, or eyesight, MEDEVAC travel for retirees will not be authorized. However, they will be able to travel as Space Available on military flights and may be allowed to stay for low cost at BEQ/ BOQ. The Healthwatch, page 8

SECURITY BLITZEN

CRIMESTOPPER'S HOTLINE
 624-6389
Feb. 2 — Feb. 8

The following incidents were reported and categorized as follows:

- Traffic accidents without injuries - 6
- Traffic accident with injuries - 1
- Car break-ins - 0
- DUI - 0
- DUI's 2004 - 1
- DUI's 2003 - 58

Commanding Officer Capt. Timothy L. Davison	Deputy Public Affairs Officer Alberto Lunetta	Staff PH3(SW) Betsi Currance
Public Affairs Officer LT. Steve Curry	Asst. Public Affairs Officer JO1 Craig Coleman	JO3 Steve Weaver AN Michelle Hartgraves
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		Rachel Morken
Editor JO1 (SW) Brian Johnson		

NJP Results

E-5 Violation of UCMJ art. 92 (failure to obey a lawful order) and (Dereliction of duty). Awarded restriction to the limits of Naval Air Station Sigonella (NAS II) for 30 days (suspended for six months); reduction to the next inferior pay grade (suspended for six months); and forfeiture of \$907 pay per month for two months.

E-3 Violation of UCMJ art. 86 (Unauthorized absence). Awarded restriction to the limits of Naval Air Station Sigonella (NAS II) for 30 days (15 days suspended for six months); extra duties for 30 days (15 days suspended for six months); reduction to the next inferior pay grade (suspended for six months); and forfeiture of \$668 pay per month for two months.

Coast Guard certification for Sailors

JO1 J.D. Walter
 Naval Personnel Development
 Command Public Affairs Office

NORFOLK, Va.—In an effort to translate Navy training and Fleet experience into US Coast Guard ratings and licenses, the Center for Surface Operations (CSO) recently announced a formal agreement between the two services. The goal of the partnership is to provide Sailors greater opportunity for professional development and to provide them with recognized certifications from the Merchant Marine community.

"This is about giving our Sailors every opportunity to excel, number one," said CSO Commanding Officer Capt. Steven Johnson, "but also about putting something in their hands to prove their excellence outside the Navy, in the industry of their choice."

Enlisted Sailors within the Boatswain's Mate, Quartermaster, Signalman, Operations Specialist, and Mineman ratings, or Seaman Striker, now have the opportunity to apply for an Able Bodied Seaman rating by using Navy course completion, training acquired through Personal Qualifications Standards (PQS), and sea duty to satisfy merchant marine training, certification, sea service, and exam requirements.

In accordance with the agreement, any Sailor within the above ratings, or Seaman Striker, completing Seaman Apprentice (SA) Training, and having at least one year of sea duty for every five years of service, will satisfy the written exam requirements, as well as the knot tying practical exam for the Able Bodied Seaman rating. Required training and sea time must have been received on or after January 1, 1990.

The partnership also determined that any Sailor having completed Re-

cruit Training, and having at least one year of sea duty for every five years of service, will be eligible for Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) Basic Safety Training (BST) certification with the exception of Immersion Suit Training. Recently, a two hour Immersion Suit Training course was approved for Sailors, at no cost on a space available basis, at certain Military Sealift Command (MSC) training facilities.

Sailors having completed Navy Final Lookout PQS 302 and Helmsman PQS 305, and having at least one year of sea duty for every five years of service, will also be eligible for STCW Rating Forming Part of a Navigational Watch (RFPNW) certification.

Essentially, Sailors who have completed SA Training, Recruit Training, Lookout and Helmsman Final PQS, and having at least one year of sea duty for every five years of service, and five years of cumulative Navy sea duty, need only to complete Immersion Suit Training and USCG Lifeboatman certification to apply for an Able Bodied Seaman rating. Sailors who are not able to attend Immersion Suit Training or Lifeboatman certification at MSC training facilities may complete these requirements through a private vendor using Navy Tuition Assistance.

Additionally, Sailors in any Navy rating who have completed Recruit Training and Immersion Suit Training are eligible to apply for entry-level endorsements in the Merchant Marine such as Ordinary Seaman, Wiper, Porter, and others.

Currently, the Center for Surface Operations is seeking additional certifications that will make it possible for motivated Sailors to progress toward

Coast Guard, page 8

May the force be with you



By Chaplain
Wesley Myhand
 Command
 Chaplain

Having lived a few years, I've seen my fair share of interesting sights. I can honestly say I have seen some mind-blowing things in Sicily! Geep herds blocking traffic, cattle walking down the middle of the highway and how about those "high-speed" lizards? Where I live in Motta, I noticed an interesting sight right in my own driveway. I saw a patch of asphalt starting to buckle and over a course of 6 months it got a few inches higher. Actually, I was thinking it was a tree root, then one day I was able to see who the culprit was. I was so excited I had to go and get my next-door neighbor! Believe it or not, it was a mass of mushrooms. I wanted to know how many there were and I spent the next half hour digging them all out. There were a huge number of them. Quite a shock to see that these mushrooms had enough strength to push up four inches of hard asphalt so that they could get to the surface. I was thinking, what determination did these plants put forth to accomplish this achievement.

How do we apply this to life? It could be many of you have goals, ideas and dreams that you want to achieve. In a round about way these are like the mushrooms. I am talking about possible life changing events. The asphalt is like the pressures of life found

in different circumstances. Maybe we feel our ideals are way out of our reach or perhaps we think that we can't do it because it is way over our heads. Sometimes our thought patterns can mislead us. This means the right mindset will help. The other wrench in the thought pattern is what others will think of us. Sometimes it is not what others think that should be important. On the other hand, when we achieve our goals let's be people of integrity.

I encourage each and every one of us to chase our dreams. Martin Luther King Jr. was a man who did. His dream was not easy. He experienced a lot of pain, rejection and heartache. I cannot imagine the weight of the world pushing down on his dreams and which ultimately cost him his life. In the process though, he left his mark in the pages of history. Our hopes, goals, ideas and dreams will not be easy to achieve. It will take a lot of work. In the meantime, I have found that nothing that truly matters is easy. It takes a lot of determination and sometimes outside pressure to accomplish what we set out to do.

Every other day I walk past the place where the mushrooms pushed up the asphalt. They left an indent in my driveway. I hope and pray we all accomplish our goals and our dreams. Who knows, they may be hidden like the mushrooms waiting to come to the surface for the entire world to see. Maybe, just maybe we will leave our mark in the pages of history.

NAS Sigonella Worship Opportunities

Catholic Mass
 Saturday 5 p.m. Chapel (NAS II)
 Sunday 9 a.m. Chapel (NAS I)
 Sunday 9 a.m. in Italian 41*
 Stormo Chapel (NAS II)
 Sunday 11 a.m. Community Center (Mineo)

Protestant Traditional Service
 Sunday 9 a.m. Chapel (NAS II)

Protestant Worship
 Sunday 9 a.m. Community Center (Mineo)
 Sunday 10:45 a.m. Chapel (NAS II)

United Pentecostal Church, International
 Sunday Noon Chapel, (NAS II)

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
 Sunday 1 p.m. Chapel (NAS I)

Church of Christ
 Sunday 3:30 p.m. Chapel (NAS I)

Jewish Shabbat Service
 Last Friday of the month 5 p.m. Chapel (NAS I)

Weekdays
 Daily Catholic Mass 11:30 a.m. (NAS I & II Chapels)
 Wednesday Protestant Bible Study
 4:45 p.m. (NAS II Chapel)
 For more details, call 624-4295 or 624-9049.

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Navy News

Congress praises Navy Marine Corps team

By JOC Walter T. Ham IV
Chief of Naval Operations
Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) — At a Feb. 12 House Armed Services Committee budget hearing, congressional representatives praised the Navy Marine Corps team for their performance in Operation Iraqi Freedom and their on-going transformation initiatives.

Secretary of the Navy Gordon England, Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Vern Clark and Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Michael Hagee testified before the committee at the posture hearing focused on the Department of the Navy's \$119.2 billion FY05 budget request.

"I think the Navy is doing a heck of a good job at transformation," said Connecticut Rep. Rob Simmons, whose district includes naval facilities in Groton. "I think it shows in your presentation."

Committee Chairman Duncan Hunter from California also expressed support for the Navy Marine Corps team's investment strategy.

"I'm glad our budget addresses some personnel issues that this committee has worked long and hard to get fixed, including the 3.5 percent pay raises, and increases to basic housing and subsistence allowances so that our service people don't face any out-of-pocket expenses when moving into private housing," said Hunter.

"I am also encouraged by significant increases for the next generation systems, such as the DD(X), the next generation aircraft carrier, and the Littoral Combat Ship," Hunter added. "These all represent solid investments in the people who are protecting us today and the hardware that they'll use tomorrow."

Rep. Susan Davis, whose district includes naval installations in Coronado, Calif., welcomed England back before the committee, and thanked the CNO and commandant for their service.

"Mr. Secretary, it's good to have you back in this leadership position, and I know that you mentioned your judgment on these two gentlemen on either side of you," Davis said. "Those in San Diego have certainly had that pleasure, as well."

Rep. Edward Schrock, a retired Navy captain whose district covers the Virginia Beach area, also praised the Navy Marine Corps leadership team.



The Navy and Marine Corps top leadership Adm. Vern Clark, Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), the Honorable Gordon R. England, Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) and Gen. Michael W. Hagee, Commandant of the Marine Corps listen to questions by members of the House Armed Services Committee concerning the Fiscal Year 2005 National Defense Authorization Budget Request for the Department of the Navy.

"I mentioned the three of you and your sense of purpose - you're an inspiration, quite frankly, to all men and women who are privileged to wear our great uniform," Schrock said. "I want to thank you all for your leadership, superbly executing Operation Iraqi Freedom, for quickly resetting your forces to surge again in support of our nation."

The CNO thanked the representatives and the American people for their ongoing support of the Navy Marine Corps team.

"I just wanted to report to you that the Navy Marine Corps team is stronger than I've ever known it to be, and I'm honored to be serving in it," the CNO said.

Clark added three carrier and two expeditionary strike groups - one-third of the Navy's ships and submarines - are deployed today, including two big deck amphibious ships transferring Marine Corps aircraft in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

England expressed his gratitude for the committee's efforts to provide the resources necessary to confront and defeat America's enemies.

"The heavy burden of liberty and freedom falls upon the men and women of our armed forces. But that burden also falls to this committee," England said. "On behalf of all those great Americans in uniform, I thank you for making sure we're properly resourced."

Sexual Assault Victim Intervention

SAVI offers a Sexual Assault Hotline staffed with trained Advocates who man the SAVI Hotlines 24/7. The number is 335-642-8312 or 335-606-6146.

NKO still needs feedback for all ratings, Web site access

By J01(SW) Brian Johnson
Staff Writer

Navy Knowledge Online (NKO), an essential piece of Task Force Excel, is still seeking feedback from Sailors about the Web site.

Specifically, NKO is seeking information about everything on the site. "They need to know if the training Sailor's receive helps them in their job, do the links work, is the information for your rating correct," said Mike Sloane, Regional Training Authority.

In the coming year there will be many additions to NKO and every Sailor will need to be familiar with the site. "We try to put out as much information about NKO as we can during indoctrination, but we only have one hour, so everyone needs to take the initiative to get on NKO and find out how it works," said Lt. Charles Puglia, base education and training officer. "During indoctrination we get everyone registered with NKO and give them a brief tutorial, however, for any Sailors that missed the training during indoctrination the NKO has a tutorial on how the Web site works."

By the end of 2004, everyone will need to be registered with NKO or they will be behind the power curve for advancement. "Expediting the Sea Warrior program which covers Task Force Excel and NKO is one of the [Chief of Naval Operation's] initiatives for 2004," Puglia said.

During this year, Sailors can expect to see some changes with the Web site, such as Five Vector Models (5VM) for officers and more enlisted rates being added to the site, Sloane explained. "[Sailors'] 5VM is their roadmap for their career, and everyone needs to see where they compare to the rest of the fleet in their rate," Sloane said. "And when you look at how Task Force Excel works, everyone needs to know how their job, or they won't have it. The workforce of the military is competitive now."

One area every Sailor needs to give feedback to NKO about is their electronic training jacket. "Everyone needs to get on NKO and check their electronic training jackets and ensure they are correct," Puglia said. "If there is some training missing from your training jacket the site explains how to get them corrected."

Another area people need to familiarize themselves with on NKO is what Training Center their rate falls under. "If you need a school it is important to know where the information is going, and where to look for new information," Sloane said.

As the year progresses many of the issues Sailors have with NKO will be addressed, such as access from ships and telling people what is new on the site Sloane said.

2004 SEABEE Ball March 13

Tickets on sale now
PRICES: E5 AND BELOW \$10;
E6: \$15;
E7 - O4: \$20;
O5 - O6: \$25;
Government Employees: \$20
UA3 - UA1: \$15;
UA4 and all UC: \$10



For more information call 624-5771

News Briefs

Craig Karges - Illusionist

An extraordinary blend of mystery, humor, will dazzle your mind and leave you wondering. A mind-blowing show - tables float, minks are read - bizarre, unbelievable. Feb. 24, NAS 1 Theater at 4:30 p.m. for kids and 8 p.m. at Crater Pub for adults. Free to all U.S. ID card holders.

Volunteer Football Coaches

MWR is looking for volunteer football coaches for Sigonella's youth ages 10 to 15 years. MWR Youth Sports Flag Football Camp will run from Feb. 18 to March 26. Practices will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Scrimmages will be held on Fridays from 3 to 4:30 p.m. All activities will be held on NAS 1 at the Little League Field behind the Hospital. For more information, please call Stacy Greer at 624-2710 or 335-7861952.

Volunteers Needed

The Navy Marine Corps Relief Society is currently looking for individuals who are E-6 and above who are responsible, caring individuals who would be able to assist us in carrying our after hours. Call Nohealani Pakola at 624-4212 or stop by the office.

Wintertime Flea Market

Don't forget the Wintertime Flea Market on Feb. 22 at the NAS 1 Gym from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Anger Management Class

Do you have a problem with your anger? Then this is the class for you. Go to the free class on March 5 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the FPSC conference room located in building 319.

Instructors Needed

Central Texas College is looking for instructors experienced in the areas of Early Childhood Professions, Criminal Justice, and Emergency Medical Technology. Call Carly at 624-6400 or email cc.sig@btmail.com.

Black Stallion News

The Black Stallions of HC-4 congratulate their newest Helicopter Second Pilot (H2P), Lt. Cmdr. Mike May. He completed an extensive ground training syllabus and an arduous flight training program that included external lift operations, day and night ship deck landings, and instrument navigation. LCDR May is well on his way to attaining the Helicopter Aircraft Commander qualification. BZ and a job well done."

Pacific Fleet 2003 Golden Anchor winners

By JOC Heather W. Hines
Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet
Public Affairs

SAN DIEGO (NNS) — Units of the U.S. Pacific Fleet Surface Force claimed 36 retention excellence awards announced by Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Admiral Walter F. Doran in a message dated Dec. 31.

On a list filled with cruisers and destroyers, USS Comstock (LSD 45) managed to stand alone in one category as the only west coast amphibious ship receiving the honor.

In order to garner the "Golden Anchor" award, commands must meet or exceed retention levels set forth by the Navy. The levels were broken down into zones, which reflect Sailors at different points in their career. Minimums for each zone were: Zone A (less than 6 years of service) 56 percent; Zone B (six to 10 years of service) 73 percent; and 86 percent for Zone C (10-14 years of service). Throughout 2003, Comstock retained 62.2 percent in Zone A and 100 percent for both Zones B and C.

In addition to Comstock, 24 Pacific Fleet surface ships claimed the award. They are USS Blue Ridge (LCC 19); USS Bunker Hill (CG 52); USS Chancellorsville (CG 62); USS Comstock (LSD 45); USS Cowpens (CG 63); USS Curtis Wilbur (DDG 54); USS Cushing (DD 985); USS Fife (DD 991); USS Ford (FFG 54); USS Gary (FFG 51); USS Hopper (DDG 70); USS Lake Erie (CG 70); USS McCampbell (DDG 85); USS



Group, Middle Pacific; Commander, Cruiser Destroyer Group 1 (Staff);

Commander, Naval Beach Group 1 (Staff); Commander, Tactical Training Group 1 (Staff); Explosive Ordnance Group 1; Explosive Ordnance Training and Evaluation Unit 1; Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5; Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 7; Mobile Inshore Undersea Warfare Unit 109; Mobile Diving Salvage Unit 1; and Naval Coastal Warfare Group 1.

Milius (DDG 69); USS Mobile Bay (CG 53); USS Monsoon (PC 4); USS Preble (DDG 88); USS Rainier (AOE 7); USS Rentz (FFG 46); USS Reuben James (FFG 57); USS Salvor (ARS 52); USS Shiloh (CG 67); USS Squal (PC 7); and USS Vandegrift (FFG 48).

Twelve shore-based commands also earned the award. They are, Assault Craft Unit 5; Afloat Training

The Energy Block

Hats off to Security. These wonderful men and women who have stood watches in Mineo have seen to it that the ball field and court lights are being secured in the evenings even though it is the residents responsibility to secure these lights before leaving. If you turn it on, turn it off. We here in the Energy Department, feel that it would be a nice gesture when showing your I.D. at the gate to just say thanks.

Ever think about how bright the lights are on the track field at the school, the field at NAS 1, Mineo, or Marina. Well the poles have four to six bulbs at 2000watts each. The ball field on NAS 1 has 50 lights. That's 100,000 watts or 100-kilowatts. In monetary terms that is \$9 an hour. If left on all day that is \$216. If these same 50 lights were left on 24 hours a day, all year round, it would cost us \$78,840. With a life expectancy of 5000 hours or a little over six months, these bulbs are in the price range of \$200.

If 300,000 Navy personnel turned off their office lights during the lunch hour (four fluorescent tubes off per person for 250 hours/year), the Navy could save more than \$1.2 million each year and reduce emissions by 51.6 million pounds of nitrogen dioxide, 124.8 million pounds of sulfur dioxide, and 13.6 billion pounds of carbon dioxide.

Let's use, not abuse



By Alberto Lunetta
Signature Staff

Italian News

Sicilian culture and lifestyle

Acireale Carnival!

Get ready to have some fun! Acireale's *Carnevale* (Carnival) will run through Feb. 24 animating the streets of the amazing Baroque historic center. It features lighted-up, decorated floats roaming the streets of the city and musicians, and masqueraded dancers riding on the top of dazzling floats carriages and dancing to the music to African and Latino rhythms.

Complementing the fun celebrations, music shows, art exhibitions and a vintage car parade are held in the historic center. *Martedì Grasso* (Feb. 24) or Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday, is the biggest and the latest day of celebrations.

History of the Acireale Carnival

According to historic chronicles, the Acireale carnival was already celebrated in the 16th century. At that time, *Carnevale* was just a game during which two teams used to playfully fight throwing citrus and eggs (a tradition that is still popular in Ivrea, a town located in north-Italy) at each other.

In 1612, the Acireale general prosecutor officially forbade this game as result of continuing damages to property and injuries to people.

In 17th century Acireale, public entertainers named *Abbatuzzi* were among the first Sicilian folklore characters. Under the authorization of the bishop of Acireale, they wore a mask to make fun of nobles or priests by pretending to read jokes from a big book. Besides, they used to take part in prank competitions.

After the 1693 catastrophic earthquake that destroyed Acireale, carnival celebrations were suspended for about 50 years.

At the beginning of the 18th century, the people of Acireale began again to celebrate the funniest period of the year. During this period, two new character masks were created: *Baroni* (barons) and *Maniti* (nannies). The first ones portrayed the dressing style of the local aristocrats while the second ones were

just indented to hide the identity of who was wearing them.

In 19th century, the *Cassariata*, a parade with grand decorated carriages belonging to the local aristocracy enriched the celebrations. From the carriages, the nobles used to throw colored sugar coated almonds at the crowd. A dangerous but spectacular tradition!

At the beginning of last century, Acireale's craftsmen began shaping floats with paper-mâché figurines.

In 1929, the city administration created a special committee that was tasked with the organization of the carnival. From that year, floats were built in a more sophisticated way. Today, figures of politicians, animals and other satirical, political and traditional topics are mounted on a mobile platform and driven in parades. An official contest, which awards the best floats, is held every year. Outdoor shows, exhibitions, contests, musical and dancing events, which culminate in Fat Tuesday with the Carnival King's stake and fireworks, will also be organized.

Floats parades schedules

Must-see allegoric and flower-decorated float parades are performed on the following days and from the following squares in the historic heart of Acireale: Feb. 21 (piazza Duomo 5 p.m.), Feb. 22 (piazza Duomo and piazza Indirizzio, 3 p.m.) Feb. 23 (piazza Duomo, 4 p.m.) and Feb. 24 (piazza Duomo, 3 p.m.). Music shows are performed every evening after the parades.

A decorated vintage cars parade will be held in piazza Duomo on Feb. 21 at 4 p.m.

Typically, parades will start from Piazza Duomo (main square) and proceed through Corso Umberto, Piazza Indirizzio (where the public gardens are located) Corso Italia, Corso Savoia and then back toward the center. For more info and detailed schedules call Acireale Tourist office at 095-895273 / 895272/ 895249 or Catania Province's Tourist Office at 095-

7306211.

Sicilian Carnival pastries

As Sicilian ethnographer Giuseppe Pirre, an expert in Sicilian popular traditions wrote, the *cannolo* or *u cannolu*, is the "crown of the carnival lunch." If you are thinking about indulging in some typical Sicilian treats, carnival is the best time for doing so. All Carnival cakes are available all year round but best purchased during this period because of the freshness of some ingredients.

Cannolo, Sicily's best known sweet, is a fried pastry filled with creamy fillings. The most popular fillings are ricotta cheese, yellow and chocolate cream. This fragrant and crunchy wafer has been popular even among the ancient Romans. According to tradition, Roman orator and statesman Cicero wrote *cannolo* is "a very sweet pastry tube made with milk and flour." It is known that the people of ancient Palermo used to give to their friends *cannoli* by the dozens during Carnival.

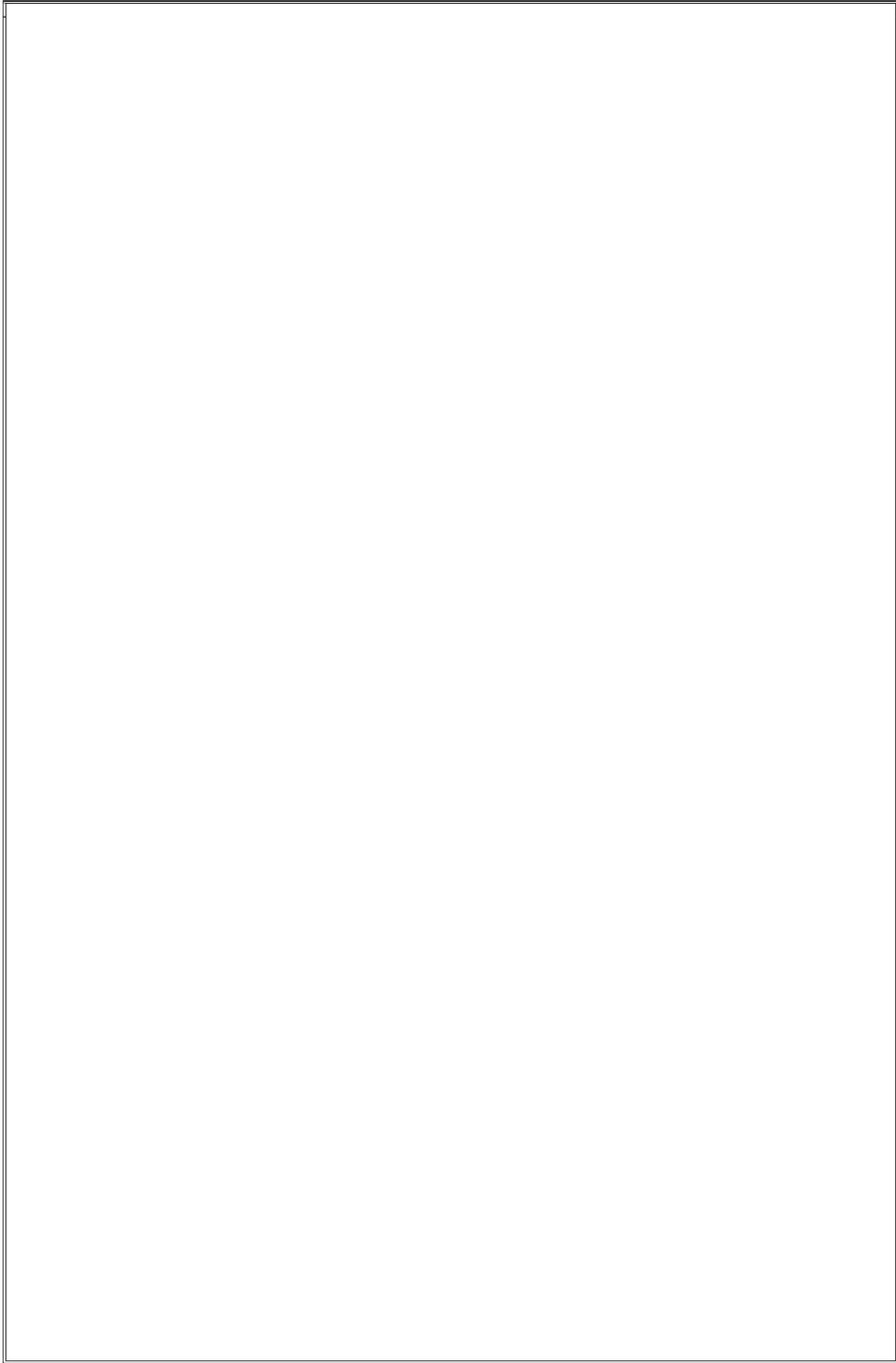
But *cannoli* are not the only special sweets associated with *Carnevale* or Carnival as there is a rich array of mouthwatering desserts that are typical of



For more than five centuries, the citizens of Acireale have been holding magnificent carnival celebrations featuring imposing allegoric floats, feasting, fun and frolic. *Carnevale*, which runs through Feb. 24, is definitely a good reason for a visit to this unique Baroque town near Catania.

this time of merrymaking and they also include *chiacchere* (gossip) also known as *nastrini* (ribbons) or *bugie* (lies) and *cenci* (rags). They are a delicious stripe-shaped, deep-fried in lard fritters and covered with powdered sugar whose origin dates back to the Roman times when they were called *fricilla*. These sweets are named lies or gossip to remember that during carnival every prank or joke is accepted.

Pignolata or *Pignocciata* is another traditional must-eat carnival dessert from Messina that you should try. It is light egg dough fried and half covered in a chocolate glaze and half in a lemon glaze that is served in mounds.





SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

						20 Feb	21
						CPR Instructor Course 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. until Feb. 22 Red Cross Call 624-5446	Modica Castle Photo Safari Call 624-3718
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
Wintertime Flea Market 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. NAS I Gym	Board Game Day Mineo Rec Center	Craig Karges: Extraordinist 4:30 p.m. at Theater 8 p.m. Crater Pub free admission	205 Playgroup 10 to 11 a.m. 205 Housing Youth Center	Photo Safari Meeting 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Golden Anchor Call 624-3718	International Polar Bear Day 11 a.m. get a free Polar Bear Ice Cream Sandwich while supplies last at Take 5	Palermo ITT Call 624-4396	
29	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Agrigento Valley of the Temples & S. Leone Beach ITT Call 624-4396	March Internural 5-on-5 Soccer Starts Today	First ever NASSIG Readathon starts Today			International Dineout: Catania by Night & Japanese Restaurant ITT Call 624-4396	Goofy Golf Tourney: 4 Person Scramble tee time 9 a.m. Il Picciolo Golf Club Call 624-2710	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
Ficuzza and Corleone Winery ITT Call 624-4396					Crater Pub Karaoke Happy Hour from 4 to 9 p.m. Karaoke from 5 p.m. to midnight.		

	Sat., Feb. 21	Sun., Feb. 22	Mon., Feb 23	Tues., Feb. 24	Wed., Feb. 25
FREE Call Fri., Feb. 20 Play BINGO at the Crater Pub. Bingo cards go on sale at 5:30 p.m. and early bird game begins at 6:30 p.m.	Visit the beautiful town of Modica, where you'll find fascinating views at every turn with Photo Safari. You'll also visit Modica's best known castle. Make sure to bring plenty of film. Call x3718 for more information on Photo Safari.	Enjoy one of the most popular tourist stops in Sicily with ITT...Taormina. After taking in the spectacular views and hearing the fascinating history, you'll visit Giardini Naxos, the beach town below Taormina. Call ITT at x4777 or x4396 for more information.	Ready for a night of Opera? See Turandot by Giacomo Puccini. Tickets go on sale at ITT on Feb. 23. First showing on March 23 at 8:30 p.m... Second showing on March 26.	Be a part of the best Carnevale in Sicily...Carneval in Acireale. Hammers, confetti and music will all be a part of the unique cultural experience. Don't forget your mask! Call ITT at x4396 or x4777 for more information.	Ladies Night from 4 to 9 p.m. Latin Night from 8 p.m. to midnight at The Crater Pub





Word Find

Mountain Ranges



- | | | | | |
|-------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------|
| ABERDARE | BALKAN | ELKHORN | ORE | SNAKE |
| ADIRONDACK | BIGHORN | GREAT SMOKEY | OWEN | STANLEY |
| AHAGGAR | BLACK HILLS | GREEN | QUEEN | TETON |
| ALASKA | BLUE MOUNTAIN | HAEMUS | RIPHAES | TIBESTI |
| ALEUTIAN | BOSTON | HILLS | RUBY | VIRUNGA |
| ALLEGHENY | CARPATHIAN | HIMALAYAS | SALMON RIVER | WASATCH |
| ALPS | CASCADE | KUN LUNSHAN | SAWATCH | WHITE |
| ALTAI | CATSKILL | LARAMIE | SIERRA MADRE | ZAGROS |
| ANDES | CAUCASUS | MAUD | SERRADO MAR | |
| APPALACHIAN | CHERANGANY | MITUMBA | SHEEP | |
| APPENNINES | DRAKENSBERG | OLYMPIC | SIERRA NEVADA | |

SCHOOL NEWS

Dr. Seuss' Birthday Celebration Read Across Sigonella

Stephen Decatur Elementary School will be celebrating the 100th Birthday of Dr. Seuss on Tuesday, March 2. There will be a parade at 9 a.m. on the track that morning to kick off this special week. In conjunction with this special day, we will be celebrating "Read Across Sigonella." This is our version of the nationwide "Read Across America" that will be going on in the USA this same week. We would like as many military personnel as possible to call the school at 624-3002 to sign up for a time to read to students this week. It can be as little as 15 minutes or as long as one hour! And we want to see lots of active duty personnel in uniform...not just parents. You can bring a book special to you to read, or we can supply you with something to read. The point is that we want students to see how important reading is to adults. Please call the school and let us know when a good time would be for you to drop by to read.

First Ever Read-A-Thon Coming to Stephen Decatur Elementary

To continue the theme "Read Across Sigonella," the PTO is sponsoring a Read-A-Thon! It will begin on Tuesday, March 2 and will end on Monday, March 8. This will be similar to the walk-a-thon that was done in the past, in that students will get sponsors to pledge money for them to read. Most will pledge a flat amount, but some may want to pledge a certain amount per page or per book read. We ask that students only solicit pledges from close friends and family. There are to be no "door-to-door" or "wake to dad/mom's work" solicitations. During this week, students will keep a record of how much they read at home and at school, BLAST, etc. They will then collect the money pledged to them and return it to school on Tuesday, March 9th. Students will be given detailed information at the kick off assembly on March 2nd and will bring home information and pledge sheets. We are asking parents to help their child get pledges, and then to encourage your child to read, read, read!

Wed., Feb. 25

TRIVIA

- 1) The Earth has how many different time zones?
- 2) In Greek mythology, which nine-headed monster grew two for every one that was chopped off?
- 3) The Mason-Dixon Line forms the border between which two U.S. states?
- 4) Which fruit is a cross between a tangerine, a grapefruit and an orange?
- 5) Who was the shortest(height) U.S. president?

(Answers on page 10)

Movie Connection

2004's Theater Schedule

<p>Friday, Feb. 20</p> <p>6 p.m. <i>Shattered Glass (PG-13)**</i></p> <p>8:30 p.m. <i>The Last Samurai (R)</i></p>	<p>Monday, Feb. 23</p> <p>6 p.m. <i>Honey (PG-13)</i></p> <p>8 p.m. <i>The Human Stain (R)</i></p>
Theater Closed Tuesdays	
<p>Saturday, Feb. 21</p> <p>1 p.m. <i>Peter Pan (PG)**</i></p> <p>4 p.m. <i>Honey (PG-13)</i></p> <p>6:30 p.m. <i>Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King (PG-13)</i></p>	<p>Wednesday, Feb. 25</p> <p>6 p.m. <i>Shattered Glass (PG-13)**</i></p> <p>8:30 p.m. <i>The Missing (R)*</i></p>
<p>Sunday, Feb. 22</p> <p>1 p.m. <i>Stuck on You (PG-13)</i></p> <p>3:30 p.m. <i>Peter Pan (PG)</i></p> <p>6:30 p.m. <i>Shattered Glass (PG-13)</i></p>	<p>Thursday, Feb. 26</p> <p>6 p.m. <i>Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King (PG-13)</i> 15-minute intermission at approximately 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Friday, Feb. 27</p> <p>6 p.m. <i>Mona Lisa Smile (PG-13)**</i></p> <p>8:30 p.m. <i>The Last Samurai (R)</i></p>

** Future Re-release ** Sneak Preview * Last Showing
(All times and movies are subject to change. For more information on the schedule, call the movie hotline at x4248)

Stephen Decatur High School, Middle school Honor Roll

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <p>HIGH SCHOOL</p> <p>9th Grade
Timothy Adams
Bianca Adorno
Kristiana Almonite
Ashliam Arroyo
Shawn Ball
Terrence Barcelona
Gabrielle Blach
Carolyn Blount
Kristin Bremer
Tiffany Brown
Clarissa Carpio
Roberta Cassar
Emily Frederick
Brittany Garlepleid
Aubrey Glesener
Andres Gomez
Dyana Gray
Sheldon Green
Ashley Haggard
Morgan Henkelman
Huey Darnell
Kamilah Johnson
China Jones
Melissa Kirk
Hailey Lamb
Whitney Lynch
Antoinette Mallery
Nyjah Melius
Lachelle Mijares
Crystal Morales
Kirstin Niedzwiecki - Smith
Paige Pendleton
Jeffrey Presnell
Patricia Richardson
Cecile Robertshaw
John David Rodil
Lewi Rosure
Bryan Scott
Katrina Wright
Daniela Zyskowski</p> <p>10th Grade
Diane Abcede
Kelli Artilles
Brian Boneau
Elena Clark
Tiffany Clay
Laura Corey
Kristian DeLaurentis
Joseph Draughn
Meagan Evangelista
Alissa Field
Cathleen Hammel
Lauren Johnson
Joshua Mendoza
Bryan Ortiz
Armin Purification
Jordan Rigor
Julian Siapno
Michael Simpkins
Rachel Smith
Sarah Smith</p> | <p>Ian Taruc
Danny Varone</p> <p>11th Grade
Rita Anderson
Lawrence Barcelon
Megan Beaton
Geoffrey Boynton
Rachel Bryan
Michael Clark
April Coutino
Dustin Covell
Christian Crowe
Jeffrey Harig
Keenan Jones
Kayce Kauschinger
Kelby Lamb
Marykay Legaspi
Robert Martin
Karina Matti
Emiel Nicholson
Elyse Palomo
Chase Pendleton
Ryan Peralta
Romeo Rigor
Jessica Riley
Daniel Vazquez</p> <p>12th Grade
Tatiana Afan-Fajardo
Lauren Blount
Darren Brinson
Rosa Fishman
Tonya James
Shanna Kelley
Jasmine Kelly
Jessica Landsittel
Lou-Anthony Limon
Heather MacNeil
Michael Maury
Kathleen Mendoza
Samantha Pena
Jose Peralta
Crystal Sampson
Danielle Wheeler
Courtney Wrinkles
Adriana Zyskowski</p> <p>MIDDLE SCHOOL</p> <p>6th Grade
Kimiko Amaya
Katherine Arcement
Zachary Arms
Christopher August
Melanie Bergeron
Kara Bermudo
Paris Biedna
Kenneth Bitar
Amber Bratcher
Patrick Burke
Bryan Jay Caolite
Vincent Castro
Diane Comstock
Donnie Gallardo
Summer Gilbert</p> | <p>Peter Guarno
Anthony Guerra
Reginald Guerrero
Elishah Hernandez
Kenard Holmes
Jacob Hutchings
Jaquan Johnson
Spencer Johnson
Kariisa Kleinschmidt
Jacquelyn La Fave
Karla Vae Legaspi
Jdlyn Lingat
Michael Magtalas
Tyler Martin
Claira Maxwell
Alex McAuslin
Kyrsten Mijares
Ashley Misuraca
Baffour Obiem
Monica O'hearn
Alyssa Ortiz
Stephanie Pena
Dave Rice
Megan Rogers
Niko Rosal
Joshua Sayoc
Douglas Senn
Chanel Simmons
Derrick Soriano
Kayla Stanick
Sara Stillwell
Jessica TeWinkel
Dean Therrien
Amanda Torres
Dennise Villamor
Elisa Volonakis</p> <p>7th Grade
John Arcarola
Victor Arroyo
Charles Artilles
Marliza Barcelona
Sofia Barry
Stephanie Boneau
Taneisha Broaddus
Donavan Brown
Gbale Brown
Natasha Burton
Jacqueline Canaday
Tyler Colman
Ryan Deese
Lindsay Fontenot
Karl Fortner
Orlando Garcia
Timothy Garcia
Paul Giacchetto
Charnee Harris
Eboneigh Harris
Christina Harvey
Taneil Holley
Joshua Johnson
Jovanna Kenney
Darby Lamb
Jordan Lazarus
Chelsea LeMieux
Kevin Magtalas</p> | <p>Gregory Monteleone
Timothy Moore
Debrisha Morris
Erica Naguit
Morghana Najour
Daniel Natividad
Ashley Ortiz
Mat Palomo
William Presnell
Venice Rigor
Jessica Ana Rodil
Michelle Sandstrom
Danielle Senn
Rebecca Smith
Nicholas Tafuri
Carol Weeks</p> <p>8th Grade
Carlo Abcede
Thomas Barry
Ariane Beltran
Samantha Blount
Nathan Boneau
Jahmal Burton
Jeleh Valerie Caoile
Brittany Corey
Ralph Cuenca
Kramer DeLaurentis
Savannah Flores
Megan Gambles
Annalisa Gasporra
Marissa Glesener
Edwin Gomez
Darnisha Griffin
Adam Guarno
Kimberly Harris
Amanda Hazelip
Sydnhisha Hepburn
Ryan Jackson
Ebony Johnson
Rebecca King
Jessica La Fave
Shayla Leathers
Kathy Mac Legaspi
Kathleen Limon
Jed Lingat
Lauren Mark
Brittany Maxwell
Vincent McFarlin
Anthony F Mckeown
Aisha Mijares
Sean Nicholson
Bernard Obiem
Jacob Ostrom
Roberta Piccirillo
Cassandra Quezada
Stewart Roberts
Kevin Rodriguez
Marc Santiago
Miah Saunders
Samatha Stanick
Alex Tilley
Brittany Trippe
Dominique Walls
Keshia Williams
Kent Williams, Jr.</p> |
|---|--|--|--|



Signonella gives back

By AN Michelle Hartgraves
Staff Writer

Throughout Europe, Sailors and civilians have donated money to the recent Combined Federal Campaign Overseas (CFC-O) drive.

The campaign named "Make a World of Difference" surpassed its target goal. The contributions, which ended in December, resulted in \$1,179,001 exceeding last years drive by \$120,000 7.6 percent more than last year.

According to Lt. Christopher Lee, NAS Signonella CFC-O Campaign Manager, Signonella is the largest single activity that the Navy has for CFC in Europe. For large activities, Signonella's participation in the drive was the highest at 59.5 percent, 10 percent higher than Rota and Naples, and 25 percent more than in 2002.

Even though the average gift and per capita gifts were lower than most European bases and commands, Lee is optimistic that next year will be better.

"If we have the same percentage of participation next year and each person pledges or gives an extra dollar per month or \$12 per year, the base will raise more than \$243,000. If everyone on the base pledges \$10 per month next year, the base will raise more than \$400,000 for the CFC. I think that NASSIG can do it," Lee remarked.

The three commands with the most signifi-

cant increases of contribution since the 2002 campaign were Helicopter Combat Support Squadron Four (HC-4) with \$29,000, Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station with \$21,000 and Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department with \$19,000.

The departments with the most participation were Executive Transport Department, Naval European Meteorology and Oceanography Det, Crash Fire Rescue, Dental, Human Resources Office and Comptroller.

"The success of these groups is directly related to the unit representatives and key workers who enabled their commands to give," Lee said. "If they had not stepped up to the plate and done their jobs, the campaign would have been a total failure."

Lee also wants to recognize EOC John Arcarola, Assistant Campaign Manager and ATI James Tinsley, Campaign Treasurer for their team effort.

He also acknowledged the support from the local Italian and American community for contributing prizes for the raffle drawings. "Without the generosity of these people, we would not have been able to sell any raffle tickets."

"Contributors in the NAVEUR Theatre took the campaign slogan to heart and truly made a world of difference," said Lt. Cmdr Margaret Schult, Navy Europe's (NAVEUR) theatre-wide CFC-O coordinator for 2003.

Healthwatch from page 2

retiree will be required to pay for any expenses incurred during that time. It is essential that all retirees requiring medical necessary travel check into the MEDEVAC office travel prior to departure, as to allow entry into our patient tracking database. Cost of treatment for retirees goes to his or her insurance company. What about emergencies? Once a patient is found to be emergent or an urgent patient the MEDEVAC corpsman will then obtain all information and act as the liaison between the provider and Theater Patient Movement Requirements Center-Europe (TPMRC). TPMRC Europe is respon-

sible for letting the MEDEVAC corpsman know when the flight will be arriving to receive the patient. The patient is then taken via ambulance to meet the flight on time.

Ultimately, the medical provider makes the final call regarding what would be most beneficial for you, the patient, in all MEDEVAC cases. Options for outpatients with a specialty referral include the Preferred Provider Network, Circuit Riders (Navy medical specialists who come to Naval Hospital Signonella for a week or more at a time), and finally MEDEVACs. For questions contact the MEDEVAC office at 624-4087/4086.

Coast Guard from page 2

a Third Mate Merchant Marine Officer's license. The most recent effort by the center to secure Merchant Marine Officer level certifications resulted in the approval of Navy Advanced Fire Fighting Training, Repair Party Leader School, and Repair Party Leader PQS 318 to meet the requirement of STCW Advanced Fire Fighting certification. Required training must have been received on or after August 1, 1996.

"While the missions of the Navy, the Coast Guard, and the Merchant Marines are distinct, we are all sea going services and can all share experiences and expertise with each other," said Johnson. "This is about giving all Sailors the opportunity to excel."

To learn more about US Coast Guard certification opportunities, log onto Navy Knowledge Online at www.nko.navy.mil and visit the Center for Surface Operations page.

Tax Center helps Signonellans get their money back

By AN Michelle Hartgraves
Staff Writer

Why dread and sweat over filing your own? Let the Tax Center on base do all the work for free and sit back and wait for the returns to be deposited into your account.

The Tax Center is a valuable tool to take advantage of according to Lt. Giovanna Mosca, Tax Officer. "Last year it was estimated that we were able to save hundreds of thousands of dollars for tax services... The cost effectiveness of it is invaluable."

Tax Season for military and family members stationed overseas automatically runs two months longer, until June 15. However, according to Mosca, waiting until the last minute to file taxes could impose a penalty if you owe money to the Internal Revenue Services (IRS).

"We do have a few who file at the last minute every year. We like to do damage control early on and let them know what the repercussions are if they file late," stated Mosca.

However, the majority likes to file in the peak season, which runs from now until mid March, so that they can get their refunds back early and keep from running into problems.

Mosca added that if you are filing jointly it is vital to have your spouse with you so that both signatures can be obtained for the IRS, unless there is a power of attorney for spouses to file taxes.

Last year the Tax Center was able to provide service to over 60 percent of the community, collecting approximately

FFSC from page 1

five when active duty members take time off work to attend counseling sessions. "Their command will know that they are here... but we don't give out (personal) information." If it's something related to a medical problem, FFSC will refer the person to mental health for an evaluation, but everything is always confidential.

Aside from counseling, the center provides other opportunities. There is a women's group that meets for enrichment and discusses women's issues. Hoover has high hopes for other programs in the upcoming year. "I want us to get some workshops, stress man-



AD1 Isaac Burgos is preparing SKSN Tarika Coli's 2003 taxes on the day of the Tax Center opening

three million dollars in refunds and processing over 2,463 returns.

The Tax Center has two returning volunteers from last year. Each volunteer is trained by the IRS for two weeks prior to the opening of the Tax Center so Signonellans can let others file their taxes in just a few minutes. Returns usually come in about two weeks.

Be sure to bring the appropriate forms when filing your taxes. They include the check-in sheet, the privacy act statement, W-2 forms, a copy of last year's state and federal returns, routing and account numbers for your bank account and other necessary paperwork.

The Tax Center's regular hours of operation are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 4:30 p.m. (by appointment only). Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 to 11 a.m. and from 1 to 4:30 p.m. (by appointment only). In addition walk-ins are taken daily from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for all 1040EZ files. To make an appointment of for information call 624-5884.

agement, anger management," she says. The center has been through a lot of changes recently, and Hoover hopes this will result in a center that is a true asset to the community. "Bottom line is we want to support people so that their personal issues are handled and they can go and do the navy mission, without worries."

And through the support they provide, the people at FFSC get something in return. "I've learned lots and lots and lots from my clients over the years," says Hoover. "Hopefully us being here helps them go on about their lives a little bit lighter because they're not carrying such a load."



SPORTS

Navy's Davidson receives nation's first Invite to ESPN three-point shootout

From Navysports.com

Navy's Courtney Davidson, who holds the school and Patriot League record with 236-career three-point field goals made, has been selected to participate in the ESPN Three-Point Shootout at the upcoming men's basketball Final Four. Davidson (New Oxford, Pa.) was the first player in the country invited to compete in the contest, which will be held April 1 in San Antonio, Texas, and aired by the ESPN network. The remaining field of additional top senior men's and women's players from around the NCAA will be announced in the weeks leading up to the event.

Davidson's 2003-04 season mark of 67 three-pointers is already the third-highest single-season total in Navy history, while her 32 in league games places her one shy of the Navy single-season record she set last year. Both of those marks also lead the Patriot League this season.

She has connected on four or more three-point field goals in nine games this season, including set or more in three of Navy's last-five games. Davidson set a career high with eight triples Feb. 1 against Lafayette, which at the time tied her for the fourth-highest total in an NCAA game this season (tied for fifth in the Feb. 10 statistics).



recognized in senior day ceremonies.

Navy will play its final two home games of the season this weekend, starting Friday at 5:30 p.m. against Colgate and concluding Sunday at 1 p.m. against Holy Cross. Prior to Sunday's contest, Davidson and the entire five-member Navy senior class will be

Baseball gets first win of season

From Navysports.com

Norfolk, Va. - The Navy baseball team turned two errors into four runs and solid pitching from a trio of hurlers into a 4-2 victory over Old Dominion Saturday for its first win of the 2004 season.

The two teams will meet in the rubber game of their three-game series tomorrow at 1 p.m. at Bud Matheny Complex. Rob Molinaro (Fr., Middletown, N.J.) is scheduled to start for Navy and Andrew Bucher for the Monarchs.

With the game knotted at zero after four innings, the Midshipmen broke through to score three runs in the fifth. Doug Silverman (Jr., Foster City, Calif.) singled to lead off the inning and went to second when Ryan McGinn (So., Arvada, Colo.) walked. The Mids attempted to advance Silverman to third with a bunt by freshman Scott Pastell (Fredericksburg, Va.) but the catcher was out at third on the fielder's choice. After Craig Candeto (Sr., Orange City, Fla.) walked to load the bases with two outs, freshman Rick Amos (Hammonont, N.J.) lofted a fly ball to deep center. Evan Chipman appeared to be there to make the catch but dropped the ball allowing McGinn, Pastell, and Candeto to cross the plate.

Results from the European Forces Swim League Southern Division Championships

- Carolyn Blount (PWD), 15, 1st 400 Free, 3rd 50 Free and 1st 100 Breaststroke.
- Lauren Blount (PWD), 17, 1st 100 Breast, 1st 100 Free and 1st 100 Fly
- Sunny Blount (PWD), 13, 1st 100 Back, 1st 200 IM and 1st 100 Fly.
- Leila Cappellano-Sarver (HC-4), 7, 26th 50 Free, 24th 50 Back and 24th 50 Breast.
- Madi Clark-Cearley (EODMU), 10, 33rd 50 Free, 27th 50 Back and 28th 50 Breast.
- Amanda Clagett (NEPMU), 9, 1st 50 Free and 3rd 50 Back.
- Heather Clagett (NEPMU), 10, 2nd 50 Free, 1st 50 Breast and 2nd 100 Fly.
- Charles Collins, 8, 12th 50 Free, 5th 50 Back and 6th 50 Breast.
- Diane Comstock (HC-4), 12, 2nd 50 Free, 2nd 50 Back and 2nd 50 Fly.
- Lexi Corkhill (TSC), 10, 10th 50 Free, 9th 100 IM and 12th 50 Breast.
- Katie Fitzpatrick (HC-4), 13, 1st 50 Free, 2nd 400 Free and 3rd 100 Back.
- James Fortner (AIMD), 13, 1st 50 Free, 1st 100 Free and 1st 200 IM.
- Kari Fortner (AIMD), 12, 3rd 50 Free, 1st 100 IM and 3rd 50 Back
- Jessica LaFave (DESC), 13, 1st 100 Free, 1st 400 Free and 1st 100 Breast.
- Jacquelyn LaFave (DESC), 11, 2nd 100 IM, 1st 50 Breast and 5th 50 Fly.
- Jessica Lee (NAVHOSP), 6, 36th 50 Free, 33rd 50 Back.
- Jeremy Lee (NAVHOSP), 8, 8th 50 Free, 13th 50 Back
- Marissa Glesener (HC-4), 13, 9th 50 Free, 3rd 200 IM and 3rd 100 Fly.
- Josiah Glesener (HC-4), 9, 22nd 50 Free.
- Andres Gomez (NEPMU), 15, 2nd 50 Free, 2nd 400 Free and 1st 100 Breast
- Edwin Gomez (NEPMU), 13, 7th 50 Free, 5th 400 Free and 7th 50 Breast
- Ivan Gomez (NEPMU), 12, 11th 50 Free, 9th 50 Breast and 8th 50 Back.
- Matthew Grothe (NAVHOSP), 12, 4th 100 IM, 6th 50 Back and 4th 50 Breast.
- Josh Grothe (NAVHOSP), 13, 2nd 50 Free, 4th 100 Free and 4th 100 fly
- Stephen Grothe (NAVHOSP), 10, 4th 50 Free and 4th 50 Back.
- Richard Hemmema (PWD), 10, 10th 50 Free, 9th 50 Back and 3rd 50 Breast.
- Zack Kazman (AIMD), 13, 2nd 400 Free, 4th 100 Breast and 6th 100 Back. And, he did all this with a cast on his right arm!
- Katelyn Kelly (Weapons), 11, 10th 50 Free, 11th 50 Back and 8th 50 Fly.
- Paris Lemos (HC-4), 11, 17th 50 Free, 15th 50 Back and 14th 50 Breast.
- Mike Maury (NAVAIR), 17, 1st 400 Free, 1st 100 Back and 1st 100 Fly.
- Anthony McKeown (NEPMU), 13, 2nd 200 IM, 1st 100 Back and 2nd 100 Fly.
- Garrett McKeown (NEPMU), 10, 1st 100 IM, 2nd 50 Back and 1st 50 Fly.
- Brooke Ostrom (MOMAU), 10, 1st 100 IM, 1st 50 Back and 1st 50 Fly.
- Jake Ostrom (MOMAU), 13, 1st 400 Free, 2nd 100 Back and 1st 100 Breast.
- Amber Schwebel (HC-4/PSD) 10, 17th 50 Free, 17th 50 Back and 23rd 50 Breast.

The Lane

Goofy Golf Tournament: Four-person scramble

Round up you team for this wacky game of golf at the Il Picciolo Golf Club on March 6. Tee time is 9 a.m. Lunch and awards included. There will be a pre-game meeting at Jox on March 4 at 4 p.m. Small entry fee plus greens fees needed. Call 624-2710 for more information.

Aerobics instructor training

Every Friday and Saturday in March you can get certified to teach spin, step, kickboxing, yoga and circuit training. Classes are limited to 15 participants so sign up today. Registration is ongoing. Call the NAS I or NAS II fitness Centers at 624-4483 or 624-5243 for more information.

3-on-3 basketball tournament

Start gathering your friends for your team so you can show off your best moves and beat the competition. The tournament will be March 29, at the NAS I Fitness Center from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sign up by March 25 at the NAS I Fitness Center. Men's and women's divisions and the top three teams win T-shirts. Double elimination tournament.



Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) deadline approaching

ITC(SW) Charles W. Wright
NTSC

"The web site you are about to enter is Public Key Enabled. A DoD PKI certificate is required to access this site." You may have already seen this phrase when accessing Department of Defense web sites.

Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) will be fully implemented for Sigonella web sites such as INFOSIG by April 1 2004, as part of an overall DoD implementation. Unclassified network users need to understand the basics of PKI or risk being denied access to important DoD information.

What is PKI?

Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) is a system that provides a trusted delivery service on a computer network. Digital PKI certificates ensure that electronic communications remain private and free from tampering. PKI also provides assurances of user identity on the Navy's networks.

Why do we need PKI?

PKI services enhance the security of electronic transactions and access to DoD information and resources. It protects unclassified but sensitive information and enhances Operation Security, or OPSEC. All commands are required to use PKI to digitally sign department e-mail messages and to authenticate the

Vote from page 1

base of people who are trained, we're going to try to get them out and about." The voting representatives will be at some of the festivals during the year, such as the July 4 "Freedom Fest," to answer questions and etc...

A March 31 training session with Polli Brunelly, Pentagon Federal Voting Assistance Program coordinator, will ensure the representatives are well trained. "She's coming personally to train 50 or 60 people on the base," Lee said. "Those 50 or 60 people are going to be the departmental and tenant command voting representatives."

To promote the voting program on base, Lee has a number of options such as e-mails and a section on the Infosig website. "One of the key things on that website is it tells people who their unit voting rep is," Lee said. "I'll be sending out monthly news related items about the voting program. Things change all the time. They were supposed to allow some people this year to vote online, but they canceled that because they couldn't assure security." In the future, voting materials will be placed in the

user to unclassified private web servers by April 2004.

Who is required to have PKI certificates?

Personnel who require access to a DoD network are required to have a PKI certificate, including active duty Uniformed Services personnel (to include the Select Reserve), DoD civilian employees, eligible contractor personnel, and eligible foreign nationals.

How will you obtain a PKI certificate?

The DOD's primary platform for PKI is the Common Access Card (CAC), which has an authentication token used to access DoD computers, networks and systems in the unclassified environment and, where authorized by governing security directives, the classified environment. CACs are issued at Personnel Support Detachments (PSD) and are called hardware certificates. Eligible users are required to provide PSD with a valid DOD email account that is currently in use by the individual (Example: John.Smith@nassig.sicily.navy.mil).

When is PKI required to be implemented?

The Secretary of Defense has mandated April 1, as the deadline for implementation. If you have not yet received your CAC card, you still have time to beat the deadline. Don't get left out of the DoD network.

post offices on base.

The actual process of registering and voting absentee is painless. "It's pretty easy," Lee said. "The key is getting with someone who can show you how. The actual 2004 [Voting Assistance Guide] has a lot of great information." The guide, available on the Internet at <http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/vag.html>, contains each state's and territory's procedures for registering and voting absentee. It also contains addresses for submitting the FPCA to the appropriate local election official.

Lee noted the importance of voting. "You definitely can make a difference," Lee said. "It's important for us as citizens. Why are we over here defending a democracy if we don't take part in the democratic process?"

For more information, contact Lt. Chris Lee, Voting Assistance Officer, MAC Brian Neal, Deputy Voting Assistance Officer, your command voting representative, visit the FVAP website at <http://www.fvap.gov>, or the Navy Voting Assistance Page at <http://www.persnet.navy.mil/nvap/>

Trivia Answers

- 1) 24
- 2) Hydra
- 3) Maryland and Pennsylvania
- 4) Ugli
- 5) James Madison, he was 5' 4"



Sunblock and training required Hot tan, good pay, fun job!

By Nilsa Diaz-Jarero
MWR

If you're looking for a fun, high-paying summer job, look no further! Cool water, warm smiles, and a hot tan are only a few of the perks of being an MWR Lifeguard. Due to a high number of PSC moves, the returning lifeguard staff is almost non-existent. Therefore, MWR has made lifeguard hiring and training a priority this spring.

MWR pools will offer both part-time and full-time lifeguarding positions for this upcoming pool season. The hours can accommodate most schedules, including student and active duty applicants. Along with flexible hours, lifeguarding pay starts at a generous rate. However, all applicants must have the proper training to safely handle over a hundred visitors on an average day.

There are two types of training courses taught every spring: a Lifeguard Training Course and a Water Safety Instructor Course. The Lifeguard Training Course is the minimum requirement for all aspiring lifeguards. Any reasonably athletic person with good swimming skills is a great candidate for this class. The course prerequisites are simple:

- You must be at least 15 years of age on or before the final day of class
- You must demonstrate that you can swim 500 meters continuously, (200 front crawl, 100 breaststroke, and 200 mixture of those two



Billy Homerich watches over swimmers at the NAS II pool.

strokes)

•You must swim 20 meters, perform a surface dive to retrieve a 10-pound brick from a depth of 8 feet, and return to the starting point with both hands on the brick.

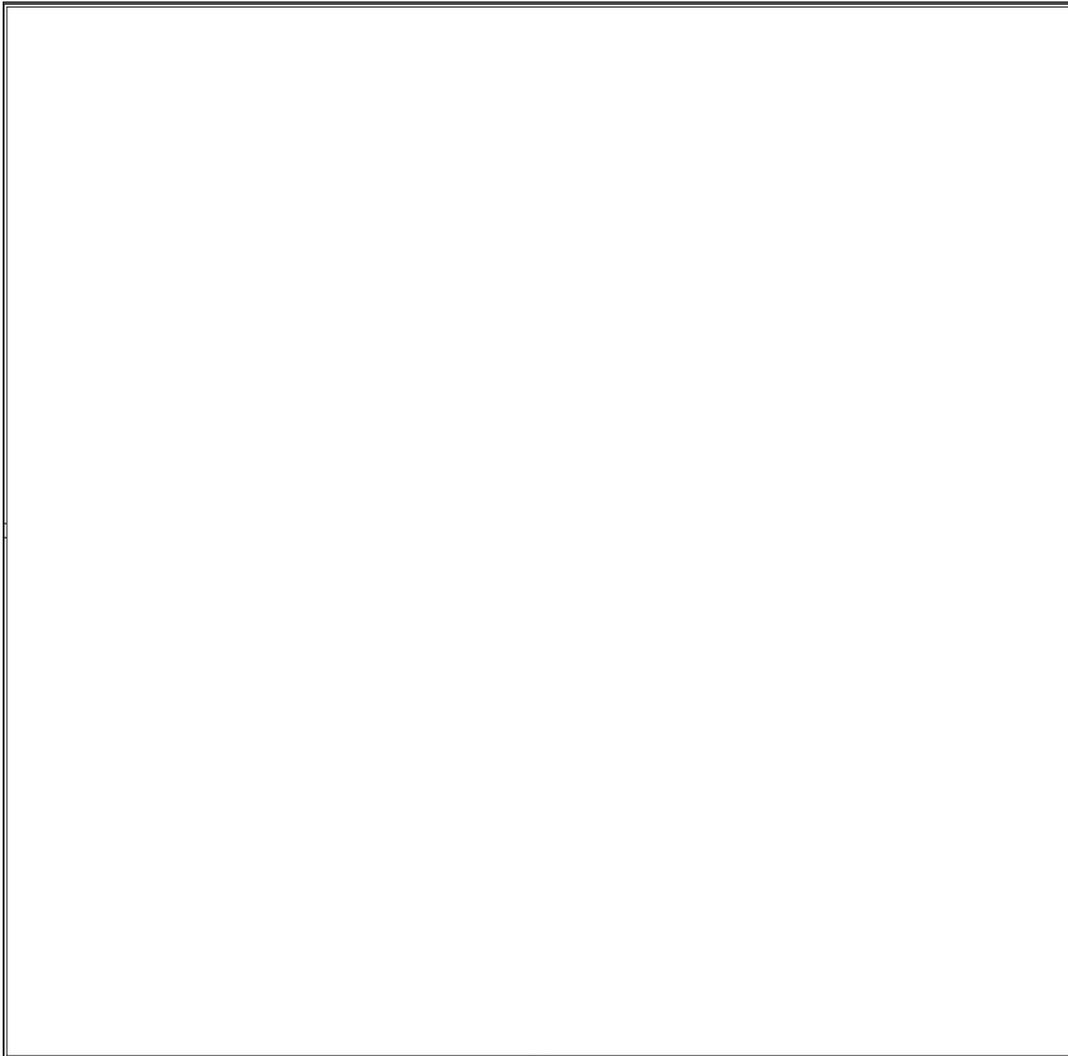
Upon request, the MWR Aquatics Manager can conduct a trial test before an interested applicant pays the non-refundable course fee, which includes books.

The Lifeguard Training Course aims to equip prospective lifeguards with the necessary skills and knowledge necessary to prevent and respond to aquatic emergencies. This 36-hour course will cover first aid, CPR for the professional rescuer, AED (Automated External Defibrillation) essentials, and Oxygen administration. However, if you desire to teach or coach, you must obtain a second certification.

The Water Safety Certification (WSCI) is designed to certify swim instructors in the Red Cross Learn to Swim program. Course participants must be proficient in freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke, butterfly, and sidestroke. Water Safety Instructors are highly valuable, thus having a higher earning potential than regular guards.

All high school students desiring certification should note the Lifeguarding Course in April. This training is scheduled to run during Spring Break. Although the course is open to all, the class will be eight hours per day for one week to give students a chance to obtain the necessary certification to become a MWR lifeguard.

For more information call 624-5271.





Wine tasting, pottery in picturesque Zafferana

By Alexis James
Staff Writer

The thought of boarding a bus and trusting it to get through the narrow, winding streets of Sicily (there are tight alleys here where the mirrors of my car actually scrape the walls) was frightening to me. But this bus was bound for pottery, wine, shopping and beautiful, quaint sites.

We wound our way to the first stop, a pottery shop in Santa Venerina. Although our tour guide urged us to pay attention to where we were so we could get back if we wanted, I doubt I would be able to chart that course again if my life depended on it. The "shop" seemed to be little more than another building in a series of connected houses, shops and bars lining the sloping streets.

But upon entering through the wide, wooden door, we found ourselves surrounded by walls of clay pots, jars, urns ... some painted, some waiting for their color and personality. And then in front of us was the artisan's table, covered in unfinished pieces of art, clay blocks and paintbrushes. The artist ex-

plained the process with our tour guide translating.

What ends up as a beautiful accessory to someone's home or at someone's wedding, starts out as a block of red or white clay. The potter makes it into the desired shape and fires it in the kiln at 1000 degrees for 10 hours, and that's only the beginning. After the painting process, it must be fired for twelve hours, since it takes six hours just to get the oven to the right temperature.

It's amazing to see the many different talents the artist manifests throughout this process. At the beginning, she uses precision to shape the clay. As we watched, she painted a jar with a simple, yet stunning image. She said sometimes she has a pattern or drawing planned out or is asked to draw something specific. In this case, she painted right off the top of her head.

After getting a slice of the local culture, we went up to a local winery and toured the wine-making facilities. One of the owners explained to us the intricate process of wine making as our tour group wound through the winery. Eventually, we ended up in the restaurant where we got to enjoy the product of the vineyards.

Not only was wine on the menu, but we also dined on a five-course meal with salad, pasta, meat and everything in between.

Our tour concluded in Zafferana, a small resort town during the summer that is quiet and chilly in the off-season. It was riposo, and the late afternoon sun cast lengthy shadows of the church over the town square. Since most shops were closed, I spent my time touring the pasticcerias. I tried to determine which pastries I hadn't tried, and which I'd like to.

By the time we headed back, I was tired and not too worried about the bus and the journey back. I just didn't look out of the windows too often.



(Left) A worker at the local winery puts wine into bottles.

(Right) A church in the Mt. Etna hill town of Zafferana.

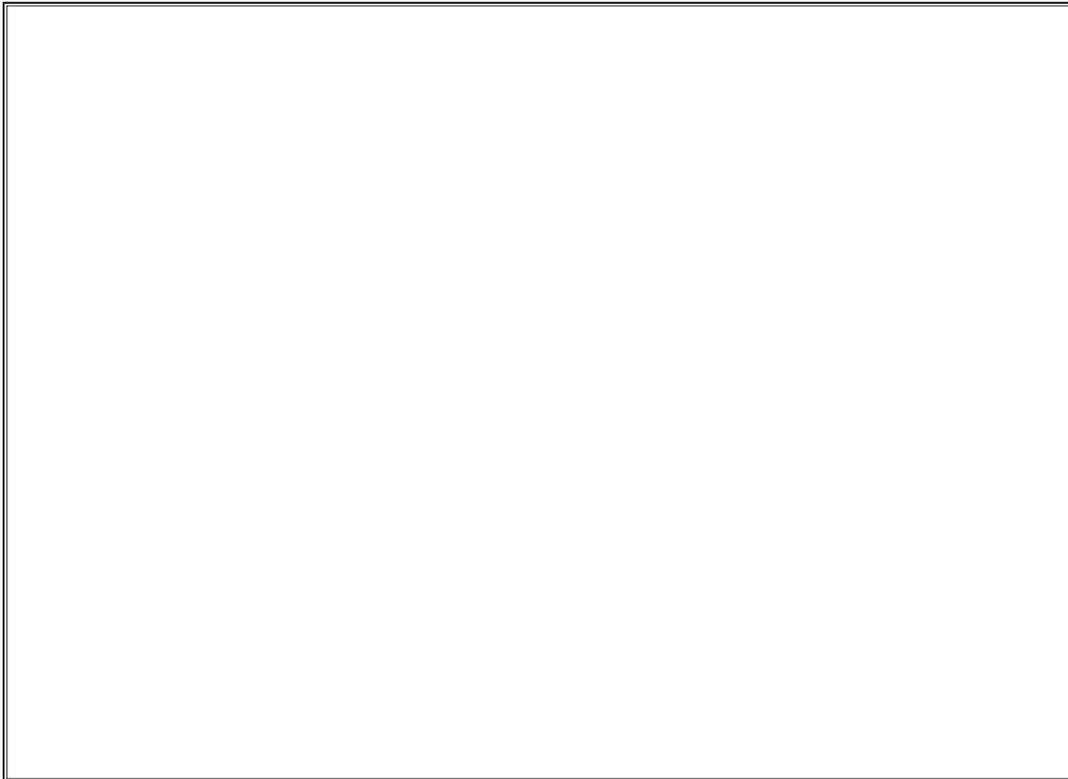




(Above) Local ceramic artist Giusi Grasso demonstrates pottery making during the ITT tour's stop at her ceramic shop in Santa Venerina.

(Above left) Grasso's supplies line one of her workspaces in her studio. Part of the trip was to the shop, which demonstrated how some of the wonderful pottery is made.

(Left) Gallons of wine wait for those who are willing to taste what a local Italian winery has to offer.





The Signature

Anyone interested in sending ads via email should leave a phone number and point of contact name at sigsignature@yahoo.com.

Ads run for two weeks and are run on a space available basis and must be sponsored by active duty military members, family members or Italian National/American base employees.

Ads must be 40 words or less. The Signature no longer accepts ads that bring profit to a business or individual, such as maid, babysitting services or home rentals. If someone would like these types of services in The Signature they can call Jerry Boritzki @ 095-307-412 to pay for an advertisement.

Paid Ads

Reduce your stress by having an American lady come clean your home weekly. Call 347-7911051.

Wanting to take a vacation but you have no place to leave your pet? Book your Pet-Sitter Today. Call 347-7911051.

Giving Italian lessons to Americans. All levels. Call Roberta Harden at 347-2702175.

Job offer as sales representative in Sigonella Main Sale Electronic Department for Video and Hi-Fi. Open to American Retired or dependent. Fax info to 082-3762859.

Automotive

Peugeot 205SX 1.4 L. Red, motor and body in excellent condition. New tires, new radiator, asking \$600. Call Orazio at 340-9026556. Italian speaking only.

1985 Volkswagen Vanagon GL. Great Condition, newly rebuilt engine. Asking \$2,000 O.B.O. Call Ross at x5966 or 349-5797648.

Toyota Avenis Verso. Seven-passenger minivan. 60,000 km. Silver Sensor for reverse parking. In excellent condition. 19,000 Euro. Call Simona at 095-7274013.

1995 Innocenti 1000cc. 5-dr, radio, bordeaux color. Original owner. Economical, great condition and reliable car. Asking \$1,200. Call Grazia at x2392 or 333-9486354.

2000 BMW 328ci. U.S. specs, 5-speed, immaculate condition. White with black leather int. All options for model year including GPS system. Only 28,000 mi. \$25,000. Call Jon at 333-4010308.

1992 VW Passat. Dark gray. Good condition. New tires and brakes. PW, PS, PL, A/C. Paid \$3,000. Asking \$2,600. Call Jeremy at x5143, 347-5081962, 095-309176 or email kriderj@nassig.sicily.navy.mil.

1996 Fiat Punto. Blue. Excellent condition. 77k. CD player. Asking \$3,400. Call Mike at x6653. Available after Feb. 27.

1989 BMW318is. Red. AFI plated. 2-dr., A/C, PW, PL, sunroof security alarm. Maintenance records. Great condition, very reliable. \$3,500. Call Jason at x9240 or x1491.

2001 Harley Davison 1200 Custom Sportster. 12,800 miles, in good condition. Concord purple/diamond ice in color. Blue Book value is \$7,700. Will take \$7,000 firm. Call x0340 or 340-7710523.

Harley Custom Softail Big Bore (95ci) w/ performance heads, Mikuni 42, Andrews TW44G gear Drive cams, fueling oil pump/lifters w/

14,000 miles on rebuild. Custom wheels, bars, lights and suspension. \$18,000 neg. Call Walt at 339-6932735.

1983 BMW 320i V6. Grey. 2dr with 176461 km. Car is in very nice condition inside and out and runs great. Pioneer CD player with pioneer speakers. Close to new tires, clutch and battery. A/C needs minor repair. Asking \$1,800. Available Mar. 10. Would like to sell and do paperwork a few days prior. Call James at x1418.

1991 Volvo Station Wagon. Manual transmission. New tires, heated seats, A/C and heat. CD player with remote control. Excellent condition, great family car. \$4,000 O.B.O. Call 1274.

1996 Chevy Lumina. 4-dr, automatic, AFI plated, EFI 3.1 V6 engine, 83,300 miles, heat, A/C. All powered, child back doors safety glass/locks, remote locking, kept in excellent condition. Asking \$4,500 O.B.O. Call x0690.

1998 Seat Ibiza 1.9. Diesel. Blue. In excellent condition. A/C, PW, new tires. Asking 4,000 Euro O.B.O. Call Carmelo at 320-0222218.

2002 Honda Hornet. 5400 KM, alarm, excellent conditions, \$6,900. Call 339-5374962.

1967 Fiat 500 Giardinetta Station Wagon. Totally restored to original condition. Suicide doors and convertible top. AFI plated. \$4,200 firm. Call x1247 or 335-7683760.

1960 Fiat 600. Totally restored to mint condition inside and out. Suicide doors. Call x1247 or 335-7683760.

1994 BMW 520L. 24V CAT. Manual full optional one owner great conditions. \$3,000. Call x5342 or 339-5374962.

Opel Station Wagon. White. 1.7 Fuel. Excellent condition. Pioneer radio, PW, A/C, gas implant, one owner, vehicle in excellent condition. 1,000 Euro. Call Alfio at x6894.

2000 Volvo S40 T (160 hp). European specs, manual transmission, mi 48900, automatic, A/C, leather, check control panel, dual front side air bags, ASD (Anti Sliding Device), ABS (4 wheel), AM/FM Stereo, oil & filters just changed. Full optional and great condition. \$10,700 O.B.O. Call Rick at x4690 (from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) or 338-5326171 after 4:30 p.m.

1993 Alfa Romeo 155. Bordeaux, P/W, ABS, excellent condition. \$2,000. Call 339-2776399 or 333-2733562.

1989 Honda Legend Coupe. Like new, 2.7/6 cyl, almost never used, 12,000km, 5-speed, met-blue-petrol, leather/lumbar seats, A/C, CD player, sunroof, alloy rims, not smoking. 6,000 Euro. Call x6886 or 347-5859182.

1999 Jeep Gran Cherokee. Silver V8, 4.7ltr, fully loaded. 23,000 Euro. Call 348-3234784.

2002 Honda motorcycle. 650cc, 5 speed, shaft drive, hard bags, fairing. Best offer. Call x2725 during working hours or 335-8010257 after working hours.

1992 Fiat Tempra 1.6. Green, A/C good tires, PW, PL. Asking \$2,000. Call 334-3429129.

1995 Saab 900 Turbo. Dark blue, A/C, PW, PL, 98,000 km. Like new inside and out. 3,200 Euro. Call Joe at x1804 or 347-7585654.

1994 Mitsubishi 3000 GT. New tires, A/C, heating, automatic, AFI plated, security alarm, AM/FM radio, CD player, motor and body in good condition. Mitsubishi no longer making this model, a steal for any car enthusiast. Asking \$6,500. Call 340-0643226 or 095-529433.



Send II Mercato advertisements to sigosignature@yahoo.com

1968 Fiat 500 Giardinetta. Beautifully preserved, totally original vintage Fiat 500 Station Wagon. Suicide doors and convertible top. Runs and drives great. Must see to believe condition for this rare example of an unusual and fun car. \$4,000 O.B.O. Call x4599 or 093-1985084.

2001 black Volkswagen Golf. TDI 130 Hp. 6 speed, excellent conditions, new tires, loaded, 20,000 miles. \$18,500. Call Andrea at x3289 or 347-8444786.

2000 GMC Sonoma SLS. V6, 15K miles, step side, 3rd door. Garaged, very clean. All options. Ready for cruising. Sport package, chip, headers, 10 spkr+sub, CD/remote. Digital pix available. Located in VA. \$16,000. Call x2524 or 335-452570.

1996 Toyota Celica Sports Car. Manual transmission, new tires, A/C, dual front airbag, ABS, AM/FM stereo with CD changer AIWA, great conditions. Asking 7,000 Euro O.B.O. Call David at 338-8431642.

1994 Ducati Monster 600. New tires, powerful and elegant, road inspected, garage kept. 3,000 Euro O.B.O. Call Frank at 347-4825239.

1983 Mercedes. Automatic. 125K km. AFI plated. Sunroof. Good island car. New tires. PW. Runs good. Asking \$1,500 O.B.O. Call x5967 or 348-2736024.

1997 Citroen Saxo. 2-dr. A/C. Cover Plates, 44,000 miles. Asking \$3,500. Call Capr Yund, 624-9251.

Opel Frontera Sport SUV 2.0ltr 4X4 2dr.—Burgundy 127,000km. Sun Roof, Removable Hard Top, New Tires, Alloy Wheels, New Battery. Perfect Condition. 6900.00 euro. Call 624-5360 mon thru fri 0800-1600hrs.

Pets

Free to good home: 7-month-old female black Lab/Shepard mix and 2-year-old female yellow Lab mix, very friendly and affectionate, chipped, spayed, and all shots current. Require loving home willing to give them the attention they need. One kennel, leashes, and toys. Call 095-7913144 or 347-8762040.

Free to a good home. Two male tiger cats, five and one-years-old. Fixed, chipped, and all shots up to date. Indoors only. Prefer to give away together.

Free accessories with cats. Call Joe at x 0122.

For Sale

Italian bedroom furniture: two nightstands with dresser and mirror. Natural wood finish. In mint condition, very nice. \$450 for everything. Call Angelina at 339-6253052 after 6 p.m.

Pair of Stage 9 Independent Skateboard trucks. Silver with 129-mm/7.75 in. axle. Brand new and have never been used. \$34. Call Will at 095-472199.

Blues Clues twin bedding. Includes reversible comforter, printed sheets, skirt, two pillow cases, one set solid red bedding, skirt, two pillow cases and three red Valances. \$75. Simmons maple wood baby crib-no mattress, \$250; oak dining table with six chairs, and extension leaf. Call x0149.

220 Appliances; iron, \$10; waffle maker, \$10; Braun coffee maker, \$10; radio, \$10; juicer, \$5; transformers, \$10; Nintendo 64 w/five controllers and games, \$40; Nintendo w/ controllers and seven games, \$35; assorted Gameboy games. Call 095-472199 or e-mail dguamo23@hotmail.com.

AFN decoder box w/satellite dish and cable, \$450; 1000 volt transformer, \$60; 1500 volt transformer, \$75; 220 alarm clock/radio/CD player, \$40; 220 blow dryer (Braun 1800 watt), \$15; 220 iron (Braun 1400 watt), \$30; medium size dog kennel, \$15. Call 335-474533.

Small computer desk/work station, \$80; Weber grill, \$15; Nokia cell phone, charger, and earpiece, \$50; Braun 220v Iron, \$10. Call x1394.

Baby night & day bottle warmer (cools and warms bottles). Computer parts: ATX 300 watt power supply, \$20; Acer Internal CD burner 24x10x40, brand new, still in box, \$45; Internal CD-ROM 32x, \$10; Intel Pentium II, \$25 and Pentium III, \$50; memory chips 64MB, \$10 and 128MB, \$20; MicroStar and SuperMicro Motherboards, \$35 to \$85; Creative SoundBlaster sound card, \$25; Ghost Recon Gold Edition Computer game, \$20. Call x3634 or 095-563634.

Pair 12" 3-way Pioneer floor speakers, \$30; Siemens and Ericson cellphone, \$25; Toshiba 13" TV, \$30; Pioneer stereo receiver, \$30; Sony five disc changer, \$25; Pair MTX4000 12" Subs w/box, \$100. Call Zack Sionakides at x6512 or 340-5930607.

Sony DCR-TRV22 Digital Video Camera Recorder bought four months ago from NEX for \$650, will sell for \$550 O.B.O. Call Gabe or Heather at x0337.

PS2 with controller, \$100; N64 with controller and Mario Kart game, \$50; 19" color TV, \$30. Call Diana at x8520 or 333-9860473.

Meade telescope, several lenses, with case. Great for watching the volcano, birds, or even Saturn. \$150. Call 095-309902.

Old Manual camera. Minolta, with case and 35mm wide-angle lens. 35mm film. Works perfectly. This is the type of camera that you learn with, you have to set the speed, the aperture, and even focus it yourself. Takes great pictures. \$100. Call 095-309902.

Four tires and rims that fit both an old Mini or an old Fiat. Four 10" tires with rims and hubcaps. Two of the hub caps are dented and one two are clean. Tires have good treads. Also a low restriction air cleaner for old Mini. \$75 for all of it. Call 095-309902 after 4:30 p.m.

AFN Decoder, \$450. Large dehumidifier, \$150. Call Christie at x1475.

Retiring Stampin' Up! demonstrator selling all of her stamp sets, pads and stamping supplies. E-mail quezadac@yahoo.com for the list.

65 gallon aquarium with oak stand for sale. Includes light fixture and fresh water pump. Only 2 years old and in good condition. Asking \$250. Call Josh or Kelly at 624-0695

American Girl Bitty Baby things for sale. All brand new still in box. Crib \$30; Changing table \$30; Girls 6x cream dress w/ snowflakes \$25; matching baby dress \$15; Girls small nightgown \$20. James 095-520-983.

Wanted

Willing to swap king-size bed with queen-size bed. Call Felix 335-569-8006 or 624-3692.

Lost

M130 series Palm pilot. It is in a black case and the top of the instrument is broken and is in the case also. It was lost in the vicinity of PSD and the parking lot across the street from PSD on NAS II. I will reward whoever returns it to me with all the info still intact. Call x6086 or

348-0399293, 320-2145256 or email allisond@psd.sicily.navy.mil.

Lost brown leather wallet with LEVIS emblem. Last seen at the Navy Exchange. Important documents and identifications inside. If found please contact ASI Jimenez @ ext. 6457 or 6454.

Yard Sale

Feb. 28 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 1000D in Mineo Housing. Italian home accessories, home decor, Precious Moments items, clothing, silk flowers, craft supplies and more.

Multi-family yard sale: Feb. 21 at 8:30 a.m. 2225D Verona Marinai Housing. Toys, baby and toddler clothes, computer desk, Italian appliances and fans, futon mattress plus lots more.

Jobs

Signonella Animal Welfare Society looking for volunteers! Many opportunities available. Call Noella-volunteer coordinator at x1536 or email s_a_w_s2004@yahoo.com.

HRO ads

The HRO announcements and application forms are now on the internet <http://www.sicily.navy.mil/positions/hro>

Materials Handler (FLO), UC-6907-07, Supply Department, Material Division, Signonella. Announcement number LN004-026615. Closing date Feb. 27.

Recreation Aid, GS-0189-03, MWR Department, Recreation Services Division, Youth Activities Branch, various location, Signonella. Announcement number SIG03-RECAID. Open Continuous.

Education AID/Technician, GS-1702-03/04, MWR Department, Child Development Center. Announcement number SIG03-EDTECH. Open Continuous.

Recreation Specialist, GS-0188-07, MWR Department, Recreation Division, Community Activities Branch, Information, Tours & Travel Section, Signonella. Announcement number SIG04-026163. Closing date March 2.

Religious Education Director (Catholic), GS-1702-05/07, Chaplain Department, Signonella. Announcement number SIG04-026294. Closing March 5.

