



DARBY DIGEST



Your source for local news, information and culture

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December 19, 2008

www.usag.livorno.army.mil

AFN Call in show LTC Steven Cade, and CSM Felix Rodriguez, will be live on 106.0 AFN The Eagle on Dec. 24, 8-9 a.m. to answer questions you have about anything going on throughout the Camp Darby community. Email questions to james.allen@smc.army.mil

Happy Holidays and Seasons Greetings From our family to yours

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Italians donate Christmas tree to Camp Darby

By Chiara Mattiolo
USAG Livorno Public Affairs

The traditional Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony took place in Camp Darby, on Dec. 5, in an atmosphere filled with enthusiasm, joy, and participation.

As every year, since Christmas 2001, following Sep. 11 terrorist attack, the silver fir Christmas tree was donated by the Province of Pistoia as a sign of friendship and solidarity.

“This year’s holiday is particularly pleasing for me because it occurs after an epoch-making event, which represents hope for the future not only for your country, but also for the entire world,” said Nicola Risaliti, Pistoia Province Tourist Consular “I am referring to the recent elections of Barack Obama as the President of the United States of America. I am sure that his arrival at the White House will open new scenarios of peace and defeat international terrorism.”

The Installation Commander, Lt. Col. Stephen Cade, welcome his guests wishing happy holidays, and thanking the Pistoia community for the gracious donation and for their long-term friendship.

“We in the American Community of Camp Darby are truly blessed to



The McKinney family pulls the switch to illuminate the Camp Darby Christmas Tree during the Lighting ceremony Dec. 5. Sgt. Tony McKinney, assigned to 497th Transportation, came home on R&R from Iraq to surprise his family at the community wide holiday event. (Photo by Joyce Costello, USAG Livorno Public Affairs)

be in this beautiful country, surrounded by our good friends and allies,” said Cade. “This tree represents goodwill and we are committed to being worthy of it.”

Colonel Raffaele Iubini, Camp Darby Italian Base Commander added that “This traditions is the cement of friendship.”

“This time during the holidays is particularly special and it brings together our two communities, highlighting, thru the children’s presence, a sense of peaceful living together, of shared welfare, and innocence which is typical of the youngsters,” said Iubini.



Lt. Col. Steven Cade
U.S. Army Garrison Livorno Commander

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New Camp Darby commissary nearing construction completion

Story and photos by Joyce Costello

USAG Livorno Public Affairs

Camp Darby community members have been watching the construction of the new commissary site morph into something that promises to be a key establishment within the community.

According to Gerri Young, Defense Commissary Agency Europe spokeswoman, the construction on the newest Commissary is on target and is expected to open its doors in May 2009.

“The new building has almost double the retail floor space than the old building and is expanding from three to seven aisles,” said Young. “Customers can also expect to find nearly 500 new items lining the shelves.”

Additionally, the new building has internal restrooms for patrons, which the old facility did not have, and will have bistro tables in the deli area for those who would like to eat in the store, according to Giuseppe Ricci, Livorno DeCA store director.

“Our sandwich bar has always been a popular lunch destination, so the new deli will have two sections: one for customers wanting sandwiches and another for customers wanting to buy deli meats and

cheeses,” said Ricci.

Most importantly, as the commissary gets ready to transition from one facility to the other, the customers will not be impacted by empty shelves or items not stocked.

“We are very careful in our planning to bring down a separate team from our region headquarters in Germany and a few other locations to stock and prep the new store while the old store is operating so the customers are not inconvenienced by the transition,” explained Young.

The original commissary was built in 1953 and underwent an upgrade in 1991.

“This new commissary will take the store into the 21st century and reflect what a modern grocery store is like,” said Young. “We are excited about the new Camp Darby commissary and think the community will really enjoy the new store.”



Navy and Defense Commissary Agency engineers inspect the construction on the new Camp Darby commissary. DeCA hopes to take beneficial occupancy of the facility in March and open in May

**Child, Youth and School Services of Camp Darby, Italy is pleased to announce Boys and Girls Clubs of America
2008-2009 NATURE OF DESIGN
REGIONAL CLUB TECH
MUSIC TECH WINNERS:
Adrian Acosta
Chris Wheeler**

Club Tech Digital Arts Festival Celebrates Technology and the Arts

Camp Darby, Italy December 12, 2008 – Last month Child, Youth and School Services of Camp Darby, Italy hosted its Club Tech Digital Arts Festival featuring art created by its members, ages 10 to 18. The Camp Darby community can visit Youth Services at bldg. 730 at any time to enjoy original and innovative pieces highlighting the theme “Nature of Design.”

“The Club Tech Digital Arts Festival is a great way for our members to express themselves artistically and showcase the technology skills they’ve gained through the Club,” said Thomas Adderley. “It’s important our young people become tech-savvy and gain the skills needed to get into college and secure jobs. The digital arts program opens up the opportunity for our youth to try new things and potentially discover new career paths.”

The Technology Lab at Camp Darby is open every weekday to registered youth and guests. Members have been taking digital arts lessons for the past several months creating different kinds of media from flyers and posters to short ring tones and songs. We have a “Make-Under” contest scheduled for January and that will be followed by documentary film projects. The program is available to all members and the technology center is often a popular place.

The local Club Tech Digital Arts Festival competition is part of an ongoing, international celebration of Boys & Girls Club members’ creativity and tech skills in areas of photo illustration, music production, filmmaking, website development and graphic design. Sponsored by Boys & Girls Clubs of America, Microsoft and Best Buy Children’s Foundation, the contest falls under the Club Tech program which aims to provide youth with the skills needed to thrive in a technology-driven world.

Winners of our local Festival advanced to a regional competition and Adrian Acosta and Chris Wheeler will follow last year’s regional winner Matthew O’Brien and continue on to the national level. While Regional winners receive a Zune, National winners receive an expenses-paid summer trip that includes sightseeing and job-shadowing experiences. In years past, winners have visited the headquarters of Microsoft and Best Buy to get a behind-the-scenes peek at potential careers.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of America and the U.S. military have been involved in a formal partnership supporting military-connected children and youth in the continental United States and on military installations overseas since 1999. This partnership has provided the military with BGCA’s vast child and youth resources, including scholarship opportunities, funding for youth centers and annual holiday toy drives. The military’s partnership with BGCA has also provided children and youth with a large array of fun, academically-enriching programming opportunities that involve kids in everything from technology integration and scientific investigations to career planning, small-group leadership clubs and sports and fitness activities.

About Boys & Girls Clubs of America’s Club Tech Program

Club Tech was created by Boys & Girls Clubs of America (www.bgca.org) and Microsoft (www.microsoft.com) in 2000 to technology enable Clubs worldwide, transforming Clubs from “swim & gym” to “point and click.” Partnering with long-time supporter Best Buy Children’s Foundation (www.bestbuy.com/communityrelations) and Microsoft, BGCA provides technology program access to some 4.8 million youth served through Club membership and community outreach at more than 4,300 Clubs. By leveling the “virtual playing field,” kids of all ages and circumstances now have access to the same resources and skills to help them discover their world; expand creativity; perform better in school, and eventually take their technology know-how into the workplace.

Camp Darby Tree Lighting Highlights



Photos By Joyce Costello, USAG Livorno PAO

Camp Darby Tree Lighting Highlights 2



HOLIDAY SAFETY / TRiPS TOOL**By David Henry***USAG Livorno Safety Manager*

It's that time of year when the focus of everyone's attention is locked in preparation for the holidays. When busy with the tasks at hand, it is easy to forget the rules or become more inclined to go against better judgment in the interest of saving time.

Army statistics for the last fiscal year are encouraging as they show a significant reduction in overall accidents, a 16 percent reduction in accidental fatalities and a decrease in on-duty mishaps. As good as these statistics may look there was an increase in off-duty mishaps.

These reductions can be attributed in part to aggressive safety programs which target the leading accident causal factors and safety emphasis from both leaders and Soldiers alike.

However, the Army has already sustained 25 accidental fatalities in this new fiscal year. Statistics still show significant trends in the area of off-duty motor vehicle accidents. Thirteen of those 25 recorded fatalities for fiscal year 2009 are privately owned vehicle-related with two of those falling into the privately owned motorcycle category.

Another four fatalities were a result of on duty Army motor vehicles, Army combat vehicles or government owned vehicles accidents.

Of the remaining six fatalities, four were called pedestrian accidents with the pedestrian Soldiers being struck by a motor vehicle. Twenty-three out of 25 fatal accidents were motor vehicle related.

It's clear where the focus of accident prevention efforts belong – vehicular accidents deserve everyone's full attention. Excessive speed, alcohol, and failure to wear a seatbelt contributed to many of these accidents, therefore training in these areas should be priority.

Leaders should stress the use of the Combat Readiness / Safety Centers TRiPS tool prior to any leave, pass, or TDY. This tool can be found at the following URL:

<https://crc.army.mil/home/>

Products Recalled in December

- **Napoleon Propane Gas Fireplace** Inserts by Wolf Steel Due to Laceration Hazard . Delayed ignition due to a build-up of propane gas can cause the insert's glass cover to break, posing a laceration hazard to consumers.
- The Toro Company Re-announces Recalls about 900,000 **Toro Power Sweep Electric Blowers** Due to Projectile Hazards. The blower's impeller, which is a rotating component on the blower, can break, resulting in pieces of plastic flying out of the blower. This poses a risk of serious injury to the user or a bystander.
- **Meijer Inc. Recalls Toddler Girl's Hat and Mitten Sets** Due to Choking Hazard. The magnets in the hat can detach and fall out, posing a choking and aspiration hazard to young children. Magnets found by young children can be swallowed or aspirated. If more than one magnet is swallowed, the magnets can attract each other and cause intestinal perforations or blockages, which can be fatal.
- **OKK Trading Recalls Toy Army Figures** Due to Violation of Lead Paint Standard
- **9,200 Groovy Fashions™ Sassy Jammies™ Doll Clothing Sets** Recalled by Manhattan Group Due to Violation of Lead Paint Standard. Surface paints on the pajama pants contain excessive levels of lead, which violates the federal lead paint standard.
- **Hockey Helmets Recalled by Reebok-CCM** Due to Head and Neck Injury Hazard The helmet's chinstrap can unexpectedly disengage while in use. If this happens, the helmet can fall off, posing a head and neck injury risk to consumers.
- **Grease Removers** Recalled by Fantastic Distributors Due to Chemical Burn Hazard
- Regal Lager Recall to Replace **Phil & Teds Strollers** Due to Fall Hazard
- Xtreme Toy Zone Recalls **Toy Dinosaurs** Due to Violation of Lead Paint

For more information and the latest recall information visit:
www.usa.safekids.org/

DA 4755 -Hazard Reporting. Italian and English available. Anonymous or not. Online at:http://www.imcom-europe.army.mil/sites/management/so_language.asp

Italy considers lowering drunk driving rules even more

(ANSA) Rome, December 15, 2009- A spate of recent drunk-driving accidents which has inflamed public opinion is prompting the government to consider plans that would effectively ban anyone who has drunk alcohol from driving.

Under a bipartisan bill being discussed by the Chamber of Deputies transport committee, the legal blood-alcohol limit would be lowered to 0.2%, or 0.2 grams of alcohol per liter of blood.

"If you drink you don't drive and if you drive you don't drink: that must be the rationale of the bill to prevent repeated murders by drunk-drivers," said committee chairman Mario Valducci.

The current legal level for driving in Italy is 0.5%, the same as in France, Germany and Spain and already lowers than the United Kingdom's 0.8%.

Sanctions for drunk-drivers would become harsher under the bill, with an initial six-month driving license confiscation that could be made permanent in the event of repeat offences. Valducci said the possibility of applying the 0.2% blood-alcohol limit only to certain age groups was also under examination.

He added that the bill could be approved by the end of January and called for local authorities to step up random roadside alcohol checks in Italy.

Domenico Musicco of the Italian Association for the Families and Victims of Road Accidents said that Italian police currently carry out around one million alcohol tests annually compared to ten million in France.

"An Italian driver basically has a chance of being stopped for a test once every 74 years," Musicco said.

According to official statistics, alcohol is a factor in 30-40% of all road accidents in Italy, which has one of the worst road safety records in Europe.

More than 44% of all night-time road accidents occur on a Friday or a Saturday night, while drivers aged between 16 and 29 account for nearly a third of all road fatalities.

Travelers are urged to check with the MP Desk Sergeant at DSN 63-7575 for road conditions prior to traveling out side of the Camp Darby footprint. Road conditions are also posted on the board prior to exiting the military facility.

The following is a detail explanation for road condition status:

GREEN: Post operations are unaffected. 

AMBER: Roads are passable but with difficulty. Unsafe Driving conditions exist. 

RED: Roads are impassable and danger exists in operation of motor vehicles. Only emergency vehicles and mission essential tactical vehicles should travel. 

BLACK: Roads are impassable and extreme danger exists in the operation of motor vehicles. 

ONLY EMERGENCY VEHICLES SHOULD TRAVEL.

Weather updates can be found on www.usag.livorno.army.mil and click weather on the top header. The weather conditions are provided by the Air Force

Traffic fatalities in Italy last year totaled 5,669, far more than the 5,091 in Germany, 4,709 in France and 3,297 in Britain, according to socio-economic think-tank Censis.

A total of 27 people died between Friday Dec. 12 and Sunday, Dec. 14 on Italian roads. In one incident outside Milan, a 20-year-old drunk-driver mowed into a group of Italians preparing to board a coach for a trip to Switzerland, killing two and injuring 25 others.

Agenzia Nazionale Stampa Associata is an online Italian news source with top news reported in English. www.ansa.it



Camp Darby

Dec-Jan 2009

VOICE

Community News for USAG Livorno

**Army Community
Services
Bldg. 407
USAG Livorno**

Mon. Wed 8:00-5:00

Thurs 11:00-5:00

Fri 8:00-5:00

Closed Weekends

Telephone

DSN 633.7084

CIV 050.54.7084

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Stress and
the Holidays**

**Yellow Ribbon
Room Opening!**

**ACS Staff
Spotlight:
Deon Cobasky**

All-New Yellow Ribbon Room Now Open

After many months of planning, building, and interior decorating, the Yellow Ribbon Room in Bldg. 428, will finally open for business in January. The all-new facility features a full kitchen, a cozy living room with flat screen TV, VCR/DVD player and XBOX, a conference room and a fun kids room, complete with an array of toys, books, games and small scale furniture.

The building will be opening in early January and Family Readiness Group (FRG) leaders will be able to check out the key from ACS and use the facility to for official functions. All ACS classes will be held there, the first being our new Introduction to Painting class (see article below).

**Yellow Ribbon Room hours are
Tues, Weds, Thurs- 10:00-3:00**



New Introduction to Painting Class...and it's free!

Start off the new year getting in touch with your inner artist! ACS is now offering an introduction to painting class for beginner artists. Initial classes will cover the basics, starting with what supplies will be

needed (students must buy their own), proper color blending, shading techniques, and how to sketch ideas. Learn how to paint your ideas on canvas and add a little color to your life!

First Classes held:

January 6

11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

January 8

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

**in the Yellow Ribbon
Room**



Surviving Holiday Deployments with HEARTS APART

There is no question that being separated during the holiday periods is one of the most difficult times of a deployment. One of the best ways to cope with a separation is to accept that the holiday will be different with your Soldier gone, and connecting with other spouses who also have loved ones currently deployed.

Having a common shared experience with others can help alleviate negative feelings that can arise from having a loved one deployed. The HEARTS APART group at ACS is a social network of spouses who currently have loved ones deployed. The groups meet periodically for socials, lunches and fun outings like shopping trips and spa days.

If you'd like to get involved in Hearts Apart, contact ACS at 633-7084.

Visit Us Online at www.livornomwr.com





Dec 15 - Jan 15

Classes & Seminars

EMPLOYMENT READINESS

Resume Points Training

December 19, 11:30-12:00 p.m. Learn how to make yourself attractive on paper

RELOCATION READINESS

Benvenuti at Camp Darby

Monday, January 5, 8:15 a.m. New to Camp Darby and don't know where to go to get answers? Learn about Italian customs, culture, local shopping, paying Italian bills and more. Please sign up for the next Benvenuti session by calling ACS. Free childcare, but registration is required.

MOBILIZATION/DEPLOYMENT

Reintegration, Relationships & PTSD

December 17 10:00a.m.-11:00 a.m. at ACS January 7 10:00a.m.-11:00 a.m. at ACS Tips on how to better manage family relationships following a deployment. Please RSVP at ACS for this class.

FAMILY ADVOCACY

Children's Playgroup

Wednesdays, 1100 a.m. - 1200 p.m. in the Chapel Nursery An interactive and educational playgroup for service members and their families with children from birth-3 yrs.

Yellow Ribbon Room Opening in January!

The NEW Yellow Ribbon Room Now OPEN for Business! Tues., Weds., Thurs. - 10:00-3:00 New building features: Full kitchen complete with grill, crock pot, tableware, etc. Conference Room that's perfect for meetings TV with VCR/DVD player, Xbox 360 Kids Room stocked with new toys Internet and more!

Military One Source



Military Onesource provides free private services and information: • Counseling • Educational Materials • Interpretation/Translation Stateside: 1-800-342-9647 Overseas: 800-3429-6477 Overseas Collect: 484-530-5908 TTY/TDD: 1-866-607-6794 En Espanol: 1-877-888-0727

FINANCIAL READINESS

Budgeting 101

January 6, 11:30 p.m.-12:00 p.m. at ACS With the holiday season upon us, now more than ever is a great time to reevaluate your expenses.

Consumer Rights and Obligations

January 13, 11:00 a.m.-11:30 p.m. at ACS Learn what you the consumer are entitled to and what your responsibilities are during this quickie class.

Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) Information

January 21, 12:30 p.m.-1:00 p.m. at ACS Learn the benefits of TSP in this quickie class.

LANGUAGE CLASSES

Italian conversation & grammar at the Library

Mondays 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.

English as a second language at the Library

Tuesdays 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Beginners 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. Intermediate

Intervene! Act! Motivate! 24-Hour Sexual Assault Response Phone number: 335-771-4989

Phone/Internet Information and Referral

Let the new ACS Phone/Internet consultant help you make the right decision when it comes to installing phone or internet into your home.



Community Action Council

The next council will be January 14 at 3:30 p.m.. Send your issues to: usaglacs@eur.army.mil or log onto www.usag.livorno.army.mil and click on CAC.

Army Family Team Building (AFTB)

AFTB training consists of three levels: Level 1 is an introduction to the military for newcomers. Levels 2&3 are advanced courses for Family Readiness Group (FRGs) Leaders and Volunteers. All trainings are available online at: www.myarmylifetoo.com or sign up for classes at ACS.

ACS Staff Spotlight: Deon Cobasky!



Deon Cobasky is the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC).

Deon (A.K.A the "SARC Lady") is the manager for the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) program here at Camp Darby. She makes sure all victims of sexual assault are treated with respect and dignity and have

access to options they need in order to process and heal from the assault. Her responsibilities include assisting in maintaining annual training requirements, training Unit Victim Advocates, and various other pre-

vention and awareness projects. Deon is a native of Arizona and lived in Colorado for 11 years before moving to Italy. She enjoys living in Tuscany and long walks with her two beloved Daschunds, Dixie and Haus.

Hot rods and bods at Bologna Motor show

By Joyce Costello

USAG Livorno Public Affairs

Camp Darby's Better Opportunities for Single Service members got a first hand look at the hottest new cars and bikes getting ready to hit the market at the Annual Bologna Motor Show Dec. 13.

"They had a lot of exotic cars, Lamborghinis, Bentleys, Ferrari's, Porches and Maserati's that I've only seen passing me on the road," said Spc. Bridget Austin, BOSS member and 511th Military Police Platoon Soldier. "They had a great display of military vehicles, tanks and helicopters along with classic cars and my personal favorite 'crotch rockets'!"

Austin owns a Suzuki 2003 GSXR 600 and is a self proclaimed adrenaline junkie.

"I started riding when I was little around 13-14 and I had Kawasaki even though my Dad preferred road cruisers," laughed Austin. "It was a blast riding with him when I was young."

"When I found out BOSS was going to offer a trip to the Bologna Motor Show, I volunteered to drive," said Austin. "I wanted to make sure I was going!"

Austin added the motorcycle section was her favorite part of the show.

"They had a lowered, stretched racing bike and the dirt bike show was pretty cool," said Austin. "I think it's important for people to take advantage of these BOSS trips because it helps you save a lot on transportation costs, especially if you don't have a vehicle."

A great thing about the Bologna Motor Show- you don't have to speak Italian to speak car talk," grinned Austin.

(Below) The latest cars were on display at the 33rd Annual Bologna Motor Show Dec. 5-14. Citroen, Porsche, Lamborghini, Esteque and DR were among the eight world and 11 European previews. (Photos courtesy of Spc. Bridget Austin)



Next meeting: Dec. 23 at 5 pm at the Boss Lounge

Upcoming Events:

Free Christmas Dinner for Singles: enjoy a free Christmas dinner on Saturday, Dec. 20 at 3 p.m., at the Camp Darby Community Club. This dinner is at no cost to the single and unaccompanied service member. All you have to do is show up and enjoy the meal. The club will also have a Texas-Hold-Em after the dinner.

Ski for Free: ODR's Saturday ski trips begin on Jan. 10 and single service members can go free and get ski package to includes skis or snowboard and boots (also free). BOSS will pay for the trip.

Point of Contact: SPC (P) Patricia Walker patricia.m.walker@eur.army.mil

Have you checked out the new, updated BOSS board yet? Its located in front of the Post office

Getting back to “The Real” Christmas

By Chaplain (CPT) Kelly Porter
USAG Livorno Chaplain

Survived the onslaught of fake greenery, Santas hanging out of windows and overpriced yet cheaply made nativity sets? Better yet, has your wallet survived? In an era of sales marketing even the church can miss the mark when it comes to Christmas. Here’s a simple test to know whether you have fallen prey. Ask yourself, “Have I ever felt pressure to buy someone a gift, or have I felt guilty because I didn’t spend enough?”

Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than receive,” but in our warped way of celebrating His birth we’ve turned the one day into a season and turned a servant attitude into pangs of guilt-induced spending splurges. Modern Christians are as guilty as the rest.

We’ve become retail bulimics with bouts of overshopping followed by self-induced budget vomiting. One dictionary describes bulimia as being “associated with depression and anxiety about putting on weight.” Sound like the typical month of December? It sure doesn’t have to be, so say a group of pastors in America.

Advent Conspiracy (AC) was formed three years ago when pastors in Portland, OR, Houston, TX and other key cities were tired of hearing and seeing the weak response to the world’s taking over Christmas. In a December 7, 2008 Christian Today article Rick

McKinley, pastor of Imago Dei Church, stated, “Christians have not effectively conveyed the message of Christmas to the public.” He cited as an example Christian leaders who protest against retailers using the phrase, “Happy Holidays” rather than “Merry Christmas.” McKinley emphasized that retail management is not obligated to promote the gospel, the Church is so we shouldn’t be surprised when they use such statements.

If Christians are to get upset about “Holiday” versus “Christmas” and then turn

around and overspend like everyone else then what kind of message are we sending? In the end we are saying that purchasing is more important than Jesus and Jesus’ message of servanthood is lost somewhere in the noise of our shouting about those arrgh Holiday Trees.

At the AC website, www.adventconspiracy.org, you will find a simple approach to Christmas, namely, to:

Worship Fully
Spend Less
Give More
Love All

Wow, how refreshing. AC emphasizes celebrating Christmas in a whole new way. Start with Jesus, worship Him. Then, look outward and see what you can do to help others. Start small. A lot of the people we buy for don’t really need anything.

This year, buy one less gift (or ornament or wreath or mass-produced resin Santa) than you had planned and then ask others in your family to do the same. Pool the money you would have spent and give it to a charity.

AC helps people funnel their giving to supply fresh water to African villages. AC estimates Americans spent \$450 billion on Christmas last year; making clean water available to everyone in the world would only cost \$10 billion.

If not this year then in the future, instead of giving presents at Christmas, give presence: to God and to your fellow man. †

Enjoy the full publishing of
the Chapels “THE DOOR” on
the web at
[www.usag.livorno.army.mil/
sites/RS.html](http://www.usag.livorno.army.mil/sites/RS.html)

Regular Activities

- Mass 10:00
- Sunday School 10:00
- Prot Worship 11:15
- Women’s Bible Study
Tues 12:00-13:00
Wed 17:30-18:30

DSN: 633-7267
COMM: 050 54 7267
EMAIL:
kelly.porter@eur.army.mil

Wait in Patience

Part 2 of a 4 part series

By Amber Gagilone

Advent, as we have discovered, is a time of waiting. We wait for the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

How easy is it, however, to get anxious for this coming, to begin celebrating early, and to forget about the true meaning of the season?

The Catholic Church typically waits until the midnight mass on Christmas Eve to decorate. We wait to adorn the altar with poinsettias, garland, and candles. The baby Jesus is placed in the cradle on Christmas even and three Kings are brought out to the nativity on January 6th. We walk into midnight mass to a beautiful and sacred scene. Our wait is over. Slowing putting out the decorations is done, in part, to remind us of how important this

time of waiting is.

We have to remind ourselves to be patient, for the Lord will come, just as we should be patient in our own wait for the season to culminate. Using this patience, we can continue to prepare ourselves for this coming.

The time in garnishing the church in holiday decor is also done to inspire and revitalize us. It is done, almost as if by miracle, to inspire us and remind us of God's glory. How great and beautiful our church looks, how amazing and precious is the gift God has given to us of his son.

During this week, take time to take a closer look at yourself. Examine what makes you weak, where you suffer, or what afflicts you. Ask the Lord to reveal to you what it is you need to release.

Catholic Holy Day Schedule

Mass will be held at the following dates and times

4th Advent	Dec. 21, 10 am
Christmas*	Dec. 25, 10 am
Octave of Christmas	Jan. 1, 10 am

- Note: Darby Chapel is invited to attend midnight mass at Roberto Federighi's parish on 24 Dec. Service will be in both English and Italian.

Take time to share this desire with Him and wait in patience for his reply. Then, spend time in study and fellowship with the Lord, taking comfort in knowing that he will heal you.

For info. about Catholic programs, to volunteer in the Catholic congregation or schedule the facilities please see Sheri Colegrove.

Dec. Worship Theme

Advent: God's Christmas List

Sermon:

Jesus is the Everlasting Father

Text

Isaiah 9.6

Jesus has all the characteristics of God, including being our Everlasting Father. The one constant we have in life is this— Jesus was, is and will be the same. That's good news because he certainly qualifies as a great dad.

Children's church DOES NOT meet this Sunday. The children will sing in the service and will be followed by a children's sermon.

Protestant Sunday School

Sunday School resumes for the children on Dec. 21 and will continue to meet in Mertz Hall at 10 am. They are currently going through Bible Blitz and enjoying memorizing Bible verses.

Advent Services: 30 November - Christmas Eve

Advent Concludes with:
6:30 Dec 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Protestant Christmas Eve Service

A Candlelight Service is scheduled for December 24 from 6:00-7:00. Invite the community to this awesome event.



Chapel Announcements

- **Night of Praise.** Next planning meeting Jan. 8, 2009 from 11:30-12:30
- **Be a good steward** Take care of the building by:
 - *Keeping windows and doors closed. Lower utility bills means more money for ministry.
 - *Ensuring your children are picking up the restrooms and Mertz Hall after use.
 - *Helping to finish the painting. Chaplain Porter will be at the chapel Dec. 6 to complete the hallway.
- **Men's Ministry Help** launch a new men's ministry at Camp Darby. Most of the previous leadership has moved and it's time to start all over again. See Barry Speck or Chaplain Porter for more details. We're looking for a time for our first get-together.
- **Men's Ministry Leadership Conference (aka PMOC).** Although it's called Protestant Men, we will combine efforts at Camp Darby to have a more effective program. The 2009 Conference at the Sauerland Stern Hotel in Willingen, Kneippwed Germany takes place on 13-16 February. The conference will train men to lead local ministries and plan the 2009 Fall Men's Conference. Your only cost is transportation to the event. See Chaplain Porter ASAP to register.
- **Chapel Usage Policy**
The last few weeks the chapel has been left very messy. The chapel usage policy states that all groups using the building are responsible to sweep floor(s), put away tables and chairs, clean equipment and wash dishes/utensils used during their event. That hasn't been happening. The only ongoing scheduled groups using the chapel are: *Protestant Sunday School, Catholic Mass, Protestant Worship, Women's Bible Study, Club Beyond*
All other groups using the building must reserve the facility through SGT Sanda by signing the Chapel Usage Request Form, agreeing to the responsibilities in this policy.

High School Romania Service Project

Club Beyond Camp Darby is teaming with Youth Compass for the 2009 Spring Service Project. We will help to rebuild houses and roads in the town of Taut, Romania. You can reach me at jessintuscany@yahoo.com.

Stephanie Feagin is the main High School POC at stephanie.feagin@us.army.mil. Call the chapel at 633-7267 if you need to phone her. She will be unavailable Dec 23-Jan 11. She will collect checks for the Service Project and I will equip her with Event Deposit Forms to send checks and deposit monies into MCYM. She will also assist with a fundraiser while I am gone in January. Students, I really need you to work on raising as much money as you can.

Thank you!

Jessica

MCYM/Club Beyond Contractor

DSN: 633-7261 COM: 050-54-7261

Camp Darby's littlest Angels



WHAT: Tapping for the savior's birthday!!

WHEN: Dec. 19, 2008

WHERE: Post Movie Theater

TIME: 7 pm

Please come and see Camp Darby's littlest angels tapping for the savior's birthday. Please bring a guest.

News highlights from Military One Source

* **Library addition** - Our library is growing! Military OneSource has added a variety of paperback and Playaway Books in addition to our Online Library Resources. This ever-changing selection of popular fiction and non-fiction titles is free to Military OneSource users. Order directly from our Web site at www.militaryonesource.com/Library.

* **iCanAchieve Teen Weight Management Program** - In a world of snacks, study, and computers, it can be tough for teens to maintain a healthy weight. Our new program can help -- with expert coaching by phone and online tools that help teens set and achieve healthy goals. Find out more.

* **TroopTube** - TroopTube is sponsored by Military OneSource and is the only video sharing site for military families approved by the Department of Defense. Users can share videos privately with family members or publicly with the larger community. Access TroopTube through the link on the Military OneSource homepage.

* **Holiday Stress Webinar** - The holidays can be an emotionally powerful time, with special challenges for military families. Join us on December 18 or December 19 for an informative webinar on managing holiday stress.

* **In-Person Financial Counseling** - Whether you need advice for a specific debt problem or just want to learn the basics, a financial expert can help you analyze your situation and develop a plan. Learn about our new in-person financial counseling services.

We're available 24/7. You name it. We can help. This newsletter is brought to you by Military OneSource. If you'd like more useful information and resources to help you balance your work and family life, sign in to Military OneSource now!
www.militaryonesource.com

Where's my magazine subscriptions?

*IMCOM-E News Release
December 15, 2008*

IMCOM-Europe postal officials recently discovered that during the month of November 2008, the U.S. Postal Service in New York inadvertently placed numerous First Class mail articles (to include NetFlix, monthly magazines, First Class letters and large envelopes) in with the normal standard rate mail.

Consequently, this mail was mistakenly transported to Europe on the surface container (via shipping) instead of via air, which resulted in a delay of at least 30 days in the delivery of these items due to this handling error. Under normal circumstances, First Class mail takes from 7-10 days from CONUS.

Our postal experts initially became aware of the issue through a spike in customer comments (ICE Cards) seeking information about possible delays in the delivery of First Class mail items. Upon further detailed investigation with Military Postal Service Agency and the U.S. Postal Service the source of the error was revealed.

This investigation was complicated given the peak mailing system and the fact that many of these items were still arriving in theater via conventional first class means. Upon identifying the source of the handling error by the USPS in New York, IMCOM-Europe postal officials instituted measures at APOs to let the customers know of this error, though military Postal officials were essentially powerless to prevent it or remedy it once it occurred.

IMCOM-E postal officials has verified that much of these items have already arrived in theater, but have no way of ruling out whether any remaining items of first class mail may arrive via surface container in the coming days. IMCOM-Europe postal officials have been working diligently with the Military Postal Service Agency (MPSA), who is aware of the issue and is currently working with USPS to revalidate the quality control measures that will ensure this type of error does not occur in the future.

Have an issue you want answers to? Submit your issues on www.usag.livorno.army.mil under CAC and then look for answers in the next Darby Digest.

AAFES (PX)

24 Dec 1000-1700
 25 Dec - Closed -
 26 Dec 1100-1600
 31 Dec and 1 Jan - TBD

Commissary

21 December – 10:00-17:00
 28 December – 10:00 – 17:00
 24 December – 10:00 – 16:00
 25 December – CLOSED
 26 December- CLOSED
 1 Jan 09 – CLOSED

Europecar

Dec. 24 - 1 000-1300
 Dec. 25-28 CLOSED
 Dec. 29 1000-1300

Shoppette

24 December – 07:00 – 18:00
 25 December – 10:00 – 16:00
 31 December - 0700-1800
 1 Jan – 1100-1800

Fitness Center

24 December 0530-1500
 25-26 December Closed
 31 December 0530-1500
 1 January Closed

Library

24 December 1000-1700
 25-26 December Closed
 1 January Closed

Outdoor Recreation

24 December 1300-1700
 25-26 December Closed
 1 January Closed

ITR

25-26 December Closed
 1 January Closed

Auto Skills

24 December 1200-1700
 25-26 December Closed
 31 December 1200-1700
 1 January Closed

Bowling (to include Kostas)

24 December 1600-1900
 25 December Closed
 1 January Closed

Darby Community Club

24 December 0800-1900
 25 December Closed
 1 January Closed

Sea Pines Recreational Facility

Open daily 0800-1700

Marketing

22-24 December 0800-1700
 25 Dec – 5 Jan 09 Closed

FMD

25– 26 December Closed
 1 January Closed

DFMWR

22-24 December 0800-1500
 25-26 December Closed
 29-31 December 0800-1500
 1 January Closed
 2 January Closed

ACS

25-26 December Closed
 1 January Closed

CDC

24 December 0600-1730
 25-26 December Closed
 29-31 December 0600-1730
 1 January Closed
 2 January 0800-1730

SAS

24 December 0700-1730
 25-26 December Closed
 29-31 December 0700-1730
 1 January Closed
 2 January 0700-1730

YS

24 December 0800-1815
 25-26 December Closed
 29-31 December 0800-1815
 1 January Closed
 2 January 0800-1815

CYS Sports

24 December 0800-1700
 25-26 December Closed
 31 December 0800-1700
 1 January Closed
 2 January 0800-1700

CLEOS

24-26 December Closed
 29-31 December 0800-1400
 1 January Closed
 2 January Closed

CASA DE GAJYA

Closed Dec 25-26, Jan 1
 Dec 28 open 9:30-2

DOL

25 & 26 Dec 08 and 01 Jan 09
 New Years Day DOL Main Office
 Closed

IPBO Office

Dec. 25-26 and Jan 1, 6 Closed
 Jan. 2 & 5 Limited Operations
 (Italian Day of Rest)

Quarter Master Laundry

Dec. 25-26 and Jan 1, 6 Closed
 Jan. 2 & 5 Limited Operations
 Pickup Point open from 0900 -
 1400

IMMA Maintenance Shop

Dec. 25-26 and Jan 1, 2, 6 Closed
 Jan. 5 Limited Operations

Supply Management Branch (SMB)

Dec. 25-26 and Jan 1, 6 Closed
 Jan. 2 & 5 Limited Operations

ITO Office

Dec. 25-26 and Jan 1, 6 Closed
 Jan. 2 & 5 Limited Operations

SATO

Dec. 25-26 and Jan 1, 6 Closed
 Jan. 2 & 5 Limited Operations

TMP Operations and Shuttle Service

Dec. 25-26 and Jan 1, 2, 6 Closed
 Jan 5 Dispatch Open regular hours

TMP Shuttle Service

Dec. 25-26 and Jan 1, 6 No Shuttle
 Service Provided
 Jan. 2, 5, 6 Limited Shuttle Bus
 Service

* PISA AREA SHUTTLE Run:
 0600-715 MORNING RUN; LAST
 RUN DEPARTING 1815

* LIVORNO SHUTTLE OPER-
 ATING Run: 0600-0730 MORN-
 ING RUN; Last Run Departing
 1815

* NO ON CALL Service Dec 25-
 26 & Jan.1-6

ASA SHUTTLE SERVICE

* 25 & 26 Dec 08 and 01 Jan 09
 No ASA SHUTTLE
 * 2, 5, & 6 Jan 09 Regular ASA
 Shuttle Service

MAIL RUN

* Dec. 25-26, Jan 1: No Mail Run
 (American & Italian Holidays)

*Jan 2,5,6 Normal Mail Run

DEPOT NO SHUTTLE SERVICE

* Dec 25-26, Jan 1-6 NO-DEPOT
 NOON SHUTTLE OPERATING
**SCHEDULED PSC AIRPORT
 RUNS: AS SCHEDULED IF
 BOOKED**

Customs

• 25 & 26 Dec
 08 and 01, and
 6 Jan
 CLOSED

POL

* 25 & 26 Dec 08
 CLOSED
 * 1 Jan 09 POL:
 Closed
 * 6 Jan 09 POL:
 Closed

Post Office

The APO finance
 window (for mail-
 ing packages, buy-
 ing stamps) will
 NOT be open on
 Dec. 24 or 3. All
 other mail services
 on those days will
 continue as usual.
 The CMR will be
 open regular oper-
 ating hours for the
 month of Decem-
 ber.

HHC/DHR

CLOSED ALL
 DAY:
 25-26 Dec and 1-2
 Jan 09
 PENDING HALF
 DAYS:
 24 and 31Dec

**FAMILY AF-
FAIRS OFFICE**

19 Dec. CLOSED
 from 0800-1100
 24 December – 6
 January CLOSED

Free Vaccines

By Maj. Matthew Garrison

Chief Nurse, USAHC-Livorno

The USAHC-Livorno has many doses of influenza vaccination that will be expiring on Dec. 21 and would like to encourage you take advantage.

If you have not had the vaccine and wish to do so, please come in Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday 7:30-3:30 or Thursday 1 om-3:30pm for your free vaccination.

No appointment is needed and this is open to all in the Camp Darby community 6 months old and up, whether or not you are a beneficiary of the Medical Treatment Facility. If you are not able to come this week, we may still be able to accommodate you afterwards with remaining supplies of later expiration dates, but highly encourage you to come before Friday COB if possible.

If you have hardcopy immunization records, please bring them with you to be updated. If not, come anyway. Please be aware that all persons less than 18y/o will need a legal guardian present to receive the vaccination.

U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine

2008-2009 Influenza Policies

- [Prevention and Control of Influenza, Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\), 17 July 2008](#)
- [Policy Guidance for the Use of Influenza Vaccine for the 2008-2009 Influenza Season OPERATIONS ORDER 08-67 \(2008-2009 Influenza Vaccine Immunization Program\) 26 August 2008](#)

Flu Prevention Facts

- The flu can cause mild to severe illness and even death.
- Influenza usually occurs during the winter and causes 36,000 deaths per year in the United States.
- Influenza viruses cause disease among all age groups.
- Serious illness and death are highest among people 65 years and older and children less than 2 years old.
- Most healthy people recover from the flu without complications.
- Influenza is spread primarily through sneezing and coughing.
- Contaminated objects (hands, phones, shared eating utensils) can also spread the flu.
- Close contact (within 3 feet) is usually required for transmission.
- You can spread the virus for up to two days before showing symptoms.
- Once ill, you'll be contagious for about 5 days.
- The flu usually lasts 3-7 days for most people, although some symptoms can last for up to 2 weeks. Antiviral drugs are sometimes used to reduce the symptoms of influenza but viruses may develop resistance to them.
- Antibiotics are not effective against the flu because the flu is caused by a virus

Get vaccinated for flu each fall.

It's the best force protection measure against influenza.

Other ways to help prevent the flu:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick and keep your distance or stay home if you are sick
- Cover your mouth and nose when you sneeze or cough then put used tissue in the waste basket
- Clean you hands often with soap and warm water or alcohol based gels to protect yourself from germs
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth because germs are often spread when you touch something that is contaminated and then touch your eyes, nose or mouth

ITR

- Dec. 20 Christmas Shopping Pisa Market 0800-1300.
- Dec. 23 travel to Rome with ITR. At your own pace, visit some of Rome's most important sites.
- Dec. 27, Florence trip 0900-1800.

Outdoor Recreation

- Rent ski and snow board equipment at ODR at 633-7775. Are you ready for ski season?
- Ski Abetone and Monte Cimone beginning Jan. 10 with the ODR trips on Saturdays.
- Hot wax and edging services are available at ODR to prepare your skis and snowboards for the slopes! Give them a call at DSN 633-7491

Darby Community Club

- Dec. 19, USO Rock Band at the DCC. There will be two shows: 6:30-8:30p.m. and 10:30-midnight. No cost
- Dec. 20, Single Soldier/Airmen and unaccompanied personnel can enjoy a free lunch at DCC sponsored by DeCA at 3 p.m. Meal will be followed by Texas Hold'em tournament.
- Dec. 26 Texas Hold'em Tournament starts at 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 31, – Adult New Years Party at the DCC starting at 8 p.m. Tickets go on sale on Dec. 1 to celebrate the last night of the year with a buffet dinner, party favors, DJ entertainment, Spumante & cake at midnight and Continental breakfast! Don't drink and drive. Think ahead and book a room at the Sea Pines for New Years Eve. Show your New Year's Eve 2008 ticket and receive a \$15 discount on your room!

Fitness Center

- Gift certificates are great gift ideas! For those folks on your holiday list that have everything... What about a gift certificate for a massage? ...Spin class? ... Oriental Dance Class? ...Yoga? DSN 633-7440
- Oriental Dancing Classes are offered every Wednesday from 12:00 - 1 p.m. Give it a try!
- Buy tickets at the fitness center for Swedish massage, Deep tissue massage, Soft

tissue massage, Sport massage, Hot stone massage and more! Buy 3 and get 1 of the same type FREE! Call 633-7440 for more info.

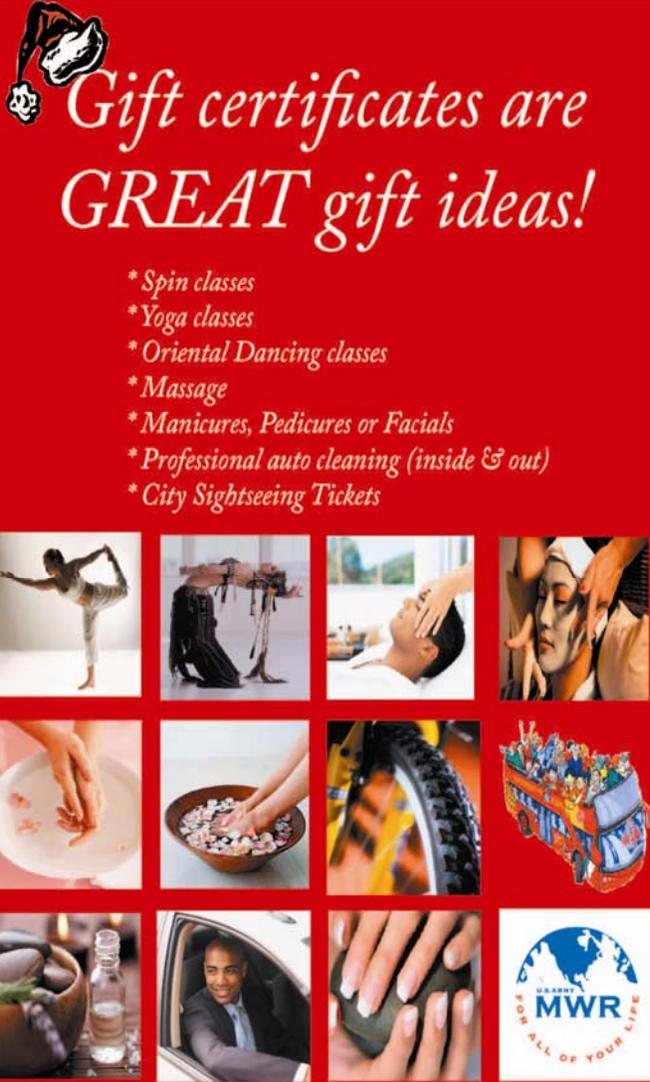
- Brand NEW contract available through the Fitness Center for facials, manicures & pedicures! For more information, call 633-7440 today!

Darby Lanes

- Looking for a place to hold your Unit Holiday Party? Call the folks at Darby Lanes. They're happy to reserve the entire center just for you!
- Units! Get your teams together now for Intramural Bowling! Which unit do you think has the best team?

Auto Skills

Is your car a mess? Check out the new cleaning and detailing service at the Auto Skills Center!



*Gift certificates are
GREAT gift ideas!*

- * Spin classes
- * Yoga classes
- * Oriental Dancing classes
- * Massage
- * Manicures, Pedicures or Facials
- * Professional auto cleaning (inside & out)
- * City Sightseeing Tickets

Ask any MWR representative for more information about gift giving certificates!

USAG-Livorno, FMWR Marketing, Gift Certificates08.indd

Events in Vicenzawww.vicenzaMWR.com**Arena Bowling Alley/bar 634-8293**

- Come out for fun at the Ultra Cosmic New Year's Eve Bowling Bash at the Arena. Dec. 31, 5-8 p.m. Family party time. Adult parties begin at 9 p.m. and go until after 2009 begins, 1 a.m. Prices per lane include 1 large cheese pizza, a pitcher of soda and party favors. Reserve your lanes by prepaying.
- Celebrate your New Year's at the Arena's second annual Masquerade Ball. Dec. 31, from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. There will be a dinner buffet, toast at midnight, R&B music and DJ. Tickets will be on sale from Dec 1- 22 for \$15 each. At the door tickets will be sold for \$20 each. There is a limit of 200 people.

ITR 634-7094

- Ring in your New Year's in Munich. Dec.31-Jan.1. Trip includes transportation and ITR Assistant.

ODR 634-7453

- Dec. 21, Paintball
- Dec. 27, Obereggen Ski/Snowboard

Events in Avianowww.aviano.af.mil**Alpine Golf Course 632-7386**

- Family Golf Sundays is every week starting at 2pm. Discounted rates for green fees and rental fees are offered. Families are urged to make tee times prior to that day.

ITT 632-3107

- Christmas Market in Slovenia, Dec. 27
- Paris for New Years, Dec. 29-Jan. 1

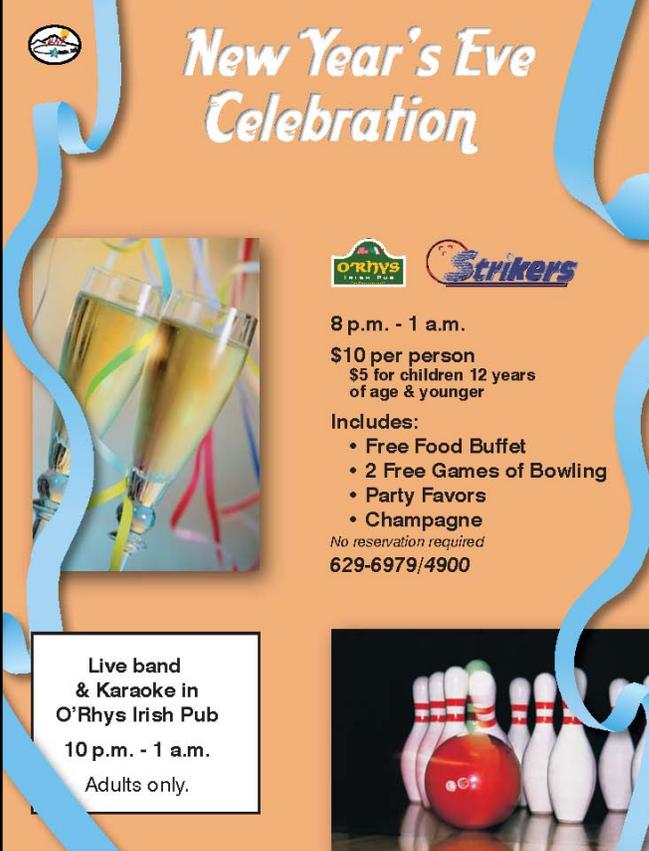
Events in Naples<http://nsanaples.mwritt.org>**ITT Upcoming Extended Tours 626-4330**

- Pozzuoli amphitheater, Bacoli water cistern and Solfatara volcano Dec. 28
- Villa of Emperor Nero's Wife, Dec. 29
- Pompeii2: Villa dei Misteri, Dec. 30
- Discover the archeological underground of Naples and the Duomo, Jan. 5

- Ancient Cuma, Jan. 1
- Vienna & Bratislava, Feb 12-15
- St. Patrick's Day in Dublin, Mar 14-18.

4th Annual Polar Bear Swim 629-6604

- Jan. 24 at 11:30 am at the Naples Support site pool. 50 meter swim for over 14 and 25 meter swim for youth under 14. Register at the Fitness Forum by January 20 and get a free commemorative t-shirt.

Naples News Years party:


New Year's Eve Celebration

O'Rhys **Strikers**

8 p.m. - 1 a.m.
\$10 per person
 \$5 for children 12 years of age & younger

Includes:

- Free Food Buffet
- 2 Free Games of Bowling
- Party Favors
- Champagne

No reservation required
629-6979/4900

Live band & Karaoke in O'Rhys Irish Pub
 10 p.m. - 1 a.m.
 Adults only.

Events with USO Rome<http://rome.uso.it>

06-39727419

- Free historical walking tour of downtown Rome last Saturday of the month. Book your spot by emailing inforome@uso.it
- Christmas in Rome Dec. 23-26 with a Hard Rock Café Christmas lunch. Get the best prices in Rome during Christmas with the USO.
- Martin Luther King, Jr. MLK Weekend Package Jan. 16-19.

Italy off the beaten path...

XIII Toscana Gospel Festival

The 13th edition of the Toscana Gospel Festival started on Dec. 7 in Arezzo with the Chicago High Spirits group, and will continue until Jan. 1, 2009. The most famous gospel groups will sing in ancient Tuscan churches and theaters with the following program:

- Dec. 20 Civitella in Valdichiana (AR), Virginia Mass Choir
- Dec. 21 Massa, First Revolution
- Dec. 22 Chiusi (SI) Inspirational Choir of Harlem
- Dec. 23 Arezzo, Talk of Da Town
- Dec. 23 Firenze, The Harlem Messengers of New York
- Dec. 26 Cortona (AR), Spirit of New Orleans Gospel Singers
- Dec. 27 Castiglion Fiorentino (FI) Joyful Gospel Singers
- Dec. 29 Arezzo, Harlem Renaissance Gospel Singers
- Jan. 1 Prato, Anthony Morgan's Inspirational Choir of Harlem

All concerts will begin at 9.30 p.m.

For detailed information on Toscana Gospel festival concerts and locations visit:

www.toscanagospelfestival.

The Circus is in town

Looking for an exciting way to entertain the kids after the presents have been unwrapped Christmas day? Why not take them to the circus?

The Oscar Togni Circus will be in Livorno from Dec. 25 to Jan. 6. with numerous show times and seatings.

On this occasion, the director of one of the most famous circuses in Italy would like to present a special offer to all Camp Darby community members. For each person acquiring a ticket, a free ticket will be offered for the same seating category on week-days, just showing a pass that can identify the person as affiliated to Camp Darby.

Reservations can made by calling 338-508-1119.

Arezzo from Nov.29 to Jan. 6

34 stands will be displayed downtown Arezzo for the traditional Christmas Market. The market includes a children area with toys and games in the central piazza Risorgimento. www.mercatodinatalearezzo.org

Firenze Dec.3 to Dec. 21 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Firenze, Piazza Santa Croce will host the traditional Heidelberger Weihnachtsmarkt, Heidelberg is twined to the city of Florence. The German tradition will be brought to Florence for the 6th time. Over 40 wooden stands will sell and display typical German Christmas products. Christmas decorations, the traditional Bunzlau ceramic, the Christmas Pfefferkuchen (spicy cookies) and much more.

CIRCO OSCAR TOGNI
 * circooscartogni.it *

**LIVORNO
 LA SCOPAIA**
 VIA DEL CROCINO (IO BRICO)
 dal 25 dicembre al 6 gennaio 2009

ORARIO SPETTACOLI
 25 DICEMBRE ORE 16,00 - 18,30 - 21,00
 OGNI GIORNO DUE SPETTACOLI
 FERIALE 17,00 - 21,00 - FESTIVI 16,00 - 18,30

**CAPODANNO
 AL CIRCO**
 MERCOLEDÌ 31 DICEMBRE
 prenotazioni 338.5081119

Italy off the beaten path...2

ICE SKATING

During the holiday season, Pisa, Livorno and Lucca set up ice skating rinks.

In Pisa in "Parco giochi la Cittadella", the rink will remain until Jan.7, it is open from 9 a.m. to midnight, with a special program for children on Dec.23 with Santa Claus on Ice, and on Jan.6 with "Befana" on ice.

In Livorno the rink will be in Piazza della Repubblica and will stay until Feb. 1. The entrance is free but you will have to pay for skates rental if you don't have your own. It will be open from 9a.m. to midnight with a short brake from 7.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. to restore the ice.

In Lucca, a 600 square meter rink will be open in Piazza Napoleone until Jan. 6.

LIVE NATIVITY SCENES

It is a strong tradition in Tuscany to celebrate the Christmas season representing the Nativity Scene with living characters. This representation involves the entire community, and the actors are dressed in antique costumes.

In Lari (PI) the special atmosphere in Lari on Dec 26, where starting at 3 p.m. the Nativity Scene will be represented. About 100 actors dressed in ancient costumes, will take part to the representation. The Nativity scene will be prepared inside the church of Madonna della Neve.

Barga (LU) will host this year on Dec. 23, the 22nd edition of the live Nativity Scene. Starting at 8:00 p.m. in piazza Garibaldi thru the medieval roads of the castle will show how life was at that time. The three kings will be on the scene at around 10:30 p.m., and their arrival will mark the end of the representation.

In San Piero a Grado (PI) the live nativity scene will be represented on Dec. 24 at 9.30 p.m. And on Dec. 26 at 5 p.m.

WOODY ALLEN IN CONCERT

On Dec. 22 at 9 p.m. the famous American director Woody Allen will be in concert with the New Orleans Jazz Band, at the Teatro Comunale in Florence. Woody Allen, and his clarinet, will be in a special European tour with his jazz band.

Tickets: presale Box Office www.boxol.it

For further information: 0577 391787

web: www.murcianoiniziative.com and

www.agenziainpress.it

NEW YEAR'S EVE IN LUCCA

The New Year's Eve celebration is the ideal time to discover the city of Lucca. The small town is even more attractive thanks to the festive colors and lights and the unique flavors of the tradition. Tourist packets are available to include Hotel accommodation, New Year's Eve dinner in a renowned restaurant in the historical centre of the town, and the prestigious New Year's Day Concert in the ancient theatre. This Year, Lucca celebrates the 150th Anniversary of Giacomo Puccini's birth with a special program on the prestigious New Year's Concert.

For more information:

Phone: +39 0583 341749 - Fax : Fax +39 0583 343688 Web : www.tamitaly.it

A VERY SPECIAL CHRISTMAS TREE

In Lucca, an 8 meter high Christmas tree made in the famous Murano colored blown glass will stand in the well known Piazza dell' Anfiteatro until the end of the holiday season. This is the first time that this unique tree is exposed in Tuscany, over a hundred thousand people visited the tree last year in Venice. For additional information check the web at www.comune.lucca.it

New Years 2009 Tuscan Style

By Joyce Costello

USAG Livorno Public Affairs

Being stationed in Italy during New Years is the perfect time to explore new ways to celebrate this world wide party.

Whether you go to the party on base or to one of the large galas in Venice, Milan, Florence, Pisa or Rome, its important to know the local New Years traditions to fully enjoy the festivities.

What to eat: Back in America if you're from the South, you'd eat black eyed peas for good luck; but, in Tuscany, you find lentils gracing the New Years meal, eaten for prosperity along side a sliced pork leg stuffed with a variety of pork parts and skin. My Italian colleagues all swear it taste great, but you can be the deciding jury on that.

What to wear: Visit the stores in Tuscany and you'll find flaming red underwear in every imaginable size and shape. Oddly enough, red underwear is worn to ward off bad luck.

What to drink: Italians will toast with a glass of white sparkling wine called Prosecco. Light and bubbly, it captures the festive mood.

What to say: At the stroke of midnight, you'll hear folks wishing each other *Auguri* or well wishes and kissing friends on each cheek.

Jan. 1st: Italians will spend the day with a big family lunch. The only thing open this day are the ski slopes.



(clockwise from top) Center of Pisa will have live music and fireworks, lentils are eaten for prosperity, party goes enjoy celebration at DCC.

Camp Darby New Years Eve Party
Doors open at 8pm. Enjoy a buffet dinner, party favors, live DJ, Spumante and cake at midnight and continental breakfast. Sea Pines Lodge is offering a special room rate of \$25 for the night of Dec. 31 upon presentation of DCC ticket. \$55 or 45 Euros for couples \$30 or 25 Euro for singles No children under the age of 16. Tickets must be purchased by Dec. 19 at the DCC. 633-7855





Dec. 20, 6 pm Australia

Luhrmann's film is set in northern Australia prior to World War II and centers on an English aristocrat who inherits a cattle station the size of Maryland. When English cattle barons plot to take her land, she reluctantly joins forces with a rough-hewn stock-man to drive 2,000 head of cattle across hundreds of miles of the country's most unforgiving land, only to still face the bombing of Darwin, Australia, by the Japanese forces that had attacked Pearl Harbor. Rated PG-13 (action violence/peril, language, thematic material) 175 min

Dec. 21 - 3 pm Flash of Genius

The Kearns were a typical 1960s Detroit family, trying to live their version of the American Dream. Local university professor Bob married teacher Phyllis and, by their mid-thirties, had six kids who brought them a hectic but satisfying Midwestern existence. When Bob invents a device that would eventually be used by every car in the world, the Kearns think they have struck gold. But their aspirations are dashed after the auto giants who embraced Bob's creation unceremoniously shunned the man who invented it. Ignored, threatened and then buried in years of litigation, Bob is haunted by what was done to his family and their future. He becomes a man obsessed with justice and the conviction that his life's work-or for that matter, anyone's work-be acknowledged by those who stood to benefit. Rated PG-13 (strong language) 120 min

Dec. 25 Closed

Dec. 26, 6 pm Body of Lies

Based on Washington Post columnist David Ignatius' 2007 novel about a CIA operative, Roger Ferris, who uncovers a lead on a major terrorist leader suspected to be operating out of Jordan. When Ferris devises a plan to infiltrate his network, he must first win the backing of cunning CIA veteran Ed Hoffman and the collegial, but perhaps suspect, head of Jordanian intelligence. Although ostensibly his allies, Ferris questions how far he can really trust these men without putting his entire operation - and his life - on the line. Rated R (strong violence, torture, language) 120 min

Dec. 27, 6 pm Four Christmases

When upscale, happily unmarried San Fran-

cisco couple Kate and Brad find themselves socked in by fog on Christmas morning, their exotic vacation plans morph into the family-centric holiday they had until now, gleefully avoided. Out of obligation and unable to escape they trudge to not one, not two, but four relative-choked festivities, increasingly mortified to find childhood fears raised, adolescent wounds reopened and their very future together uncertain. As Brad counts the hours to when he can get away from their parents, step-parents, siblings and as assortment of nieces and nephews, Kate is starting to hear the ticking of a different kind of clock. And by the end of the day, she is beginning to wonder if their crazy family's choices are not so crazy after all. Rated PG-13 (sexual humor, language) 82 min

Dec. 28 - 1400 Lakeview Terrace A young couple has just moved into their California dream home when they become the target of their next-door neighbor, who disapproves of their interracial relationship. A stern, single father, this tightly wound LAPD officer has appointed himself the watchdog of the neighborhood. His nightly foot patrols and overly watchful eyes bring comfort to some, but he becomes increasingly harassing to the newlyweds. These persistent intrusions into their lives ultimately turn tragic when the couple decides to fight back. Rated PG-13 (intense thematic material, violence, sexuality, language, drug references) 110 min

Movies are subject to change by local Theaters

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