

Darby Digest

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Camp  Darby's premier weekly newsletter



America's army – the strength of the nation

This year we proudly celebrate the United States Army's 236th birthday. For 236 years, the nation has entrusted the army with preserving its peace and freedom, and defending its democracy.

Since 1775, American soldiers have been the strength of our nation. Our soldiers are driven by the ideals of the warrior ethos and commit themselves to succeed in any mission our nation gives them. Our soldiers believe that our constitution and the freedom it guarantees are worth fighting for. They sacrifice their personal comfort and safety to answer a higher calling: service in the cause of freedom, both at home and abroad.

In this profession of arms, we are an Army driven by innovation and creativity. As such, we look beyond where we are today to prepare and train our soldiers for the future operations in this ever-changing world.

We are committed to constantly modernizing our technology and equipment to ensure we retain our fighting edge. In all these efforts, we still must remember that we are an army of people – not just soldiers, but families as well.

From the beginning, the Army has relied on the strength of its families. Since the time Molly Pitcher took over her husband's cannon at the Battle of Monmouth, Army family members have been crucial to our success as an army. Now, they play an increasingly important role in the readiness of our all-volunteer force.

Please join us in celebrating the Army's 236th Birthday at the Fun Run on Monday, June 13 at 7:30 a.m. in the Parade Field. On June 14, the Darby Community Club will hold a special Right Arm/Wing Man night in celebration of the birthday beginning at 4 p.m.

KEVIN A. BIGELMAN
LTC, FA
Commanding



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Lt. Col. Kevin Bigelman
U.S. Army Garrison Livorno
Commander

Cover photo by Elena Ballardelli

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Honoring fallen World War II Soldiers



Soldiers of the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team based in Vicenza and U.S. Ambassador in Italy, David Thorne pay their homage to the Soldiers who lost their lives during World War II during the annual Memorial Day ceremony at the Florence American Cemetery May 30. (Photo by Elena Baladelli, 7th Army Joint Multinational Training Command)

By Chiara Mattiolo
USAG Livorno Public Affairs

On Memorial Day, the Florence American Cemetery held a ceremony honoring those who lost their lives during World War II. Among the Military and civilian authorities participating in this year's celebrations was the U.S. Ambassador in Italy, David Thorne. He said the first place he has ever been in Italy was with his father as a young boy visiting the American Cemetery in Nettuno near Rome, where he learned the importance of honoring those soldiers who lost their lives for the freedom of others.

"Those young soldiers gave their lives to grant freedom to people they didn't even know," said Thorne. "With their unselfish dedication to the cause they fought and lost their lives, it's imperative for the generations to come to find some time to pay tribute to the fallen soldiers."

Many veteran groups also took part to the celebrations along with those who wished to pay their respects.

"We have attend this celebration every year for the last 40 years," said Valerio Bianchi sitting next to his wife Carla. "This is our way to demonstrate our gratitude towards these young soldiers who lost their lives for our freedom."

Carla Bianchi added that she can still recall the great feeling she had when the American troops arrived in Florence and began to distribute food and bread to everyone.

"I remember for us it was really hard at that time even to get a piece of bread, we were entitled one loaf of bread per family and most times that was really not sufficient" Carla said.

According to John Luncheon, American Cemetery Superintendent, the cemetery is open daily to the public from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 with a staff member on duty in the Visitor Building to answer questions and escort relatives to grave and memorial sites.



Carla and Valerio Bianchi have been attending the Memorial Day Celebrations at the Florence American Cemetery for the last 40 years. (Photo by Chiara Mattiolo, USAG Livorno Public Affairs)

Italian-American Carnival

Darby Day is June 17

RIDES ARE FREE

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

for Darby Residents

June 17-26, 2011

Open every night from 7 pm until midnight!



Entertainment:

June 17 8:30-11:30 pm

Live music Sixtysix Blues Band in the fest tent

June 18 8:30-11:30 pm

Live music Grass Circle Band in the fest tent

June 19 8:30-11:30 pm

DJ music in the fest tent

Harley Davidson Display

June 20 8:30-11:30 pm

DJ music in the fest tent

June 24 8:30-11:30 pm

Live music D8Dimension Band in the fest tent

June 25 8:30-11:30 pm

Live music Grass Circle Band

Car Tuning Display & Competition

June 26 8:30-11:30 pm

Live music Sixtysix Blues Band



**Rides..Games..
Food..Music..**



www.livornomwr.com

Produced by USAG-Livorno, Family & MWR Marketing 2011,Carnival2011/Carnival.indd

COMMUNITY EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

June 11-

ITR Trip to Florence

Spend a day in Florence at your leisure! Cost is \$45 for adults, \$39 for children 3-10 years of age. Information, Tours & Registration Phone: 633-7589

June 12-

ODR Gorgona Trip

Cost for transportation is \$10.00 per person. Gorgona is the northernmost island in the Tuscan Archipelago. The island is currently being used as an agricultural penal colony and can only be visited by guided tours. Enjoy the day hiking through the island with a guide. The entire hike is about 6 km and takes around 3 hours. Cost for boat ride to be paid to vendor is 62 euro for adults and 35 euro for children. (date is subject to change). Register with Outdoor Recreation NLT 11 June. (Dates are subject to change) ODR Phone: 633-7775



June 13-

Army Birthday Fun Run at 7:30 a.m. in front of HQ Front on the Parade Field. All welcome.

June 14-

Special Right arm / Wing man night for Army Birthday beginning at 4 p.m. at the DCC.

Sponsorship Training at 9 a.m. at Army Community Service. Learn to be an awesome sponsor.

Phone: 633-7084

Finance Club- at noon at ACS. Learn the basics of investing and personal finances. Phone: 633-7084

June 15-

Special Story Hour at the Post Library for kids ages 3-5 years to celebrate Father's Day at 10 a.m.

June 15-

Play Group at 11 a.m. children 0-3 years, meets every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month. Play group is a highly interactive group that provides your child with opportunities to enhance their social, emotional, physical and intellectual development, as well as educating parents on children issues. ACS Phone: 633-7084

Multicultural Spouses Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at ACS.

CYSS SKIES Unlimited Spring Dance Recital at 6 p.m. Eighteen students ages 3-12 from Camp Darby will be performing. The recital will be held at the Livorno E/M School Auditorium.

June 16-

DoDDS / ISF Last day of school

Budgeting for Summer at noon at ACS. A budget can help you plan so you can enjoy a fun and financially stress-free summer. ACS Phone: 633-7084

USAG Livorno Quarterly Awards Ceremony at 2 p.m. at the DCC. Please come out to recognize and congratulate our stellar performers who are getting awards this quarter.

ODR Arno Boat Trip- Experience the famous Luminara di San Ranieri festival from a boat in the Arno river. Cost is \$10.00 for transportation, cost for boat ride and fish dinner is 40 euro for adults and 30 euro for children. Reservations with Outdoor Recreation are required NLT June 13. ODR Phone: 633-7775

'La Luminara' Festival of Lights at 7 p.m. An excellent annual celebration, the city of Pisa lights more than 70,000 candles along the Arno River, as Pisans pay homage to their patron saint, San Ranieri. Cost is \$15 for adults; \$10 for children 3-10 years of age. ITR Office Phone: 633-7589

June 17-

Darby Day at the Italian/American Carnival from 5:00-7:00 pm. All rides are absolutely FREE for all ID cardholders during this time.

OUT & ABOUT - EXPLORING THE WORLD

FAMILY

June 11-12- 53rd International Dog Show Opens at 10 a.m. in Ipodromo of San Rossore

June 16, Luminara di San Ranieri in Pisa This year is 850th celebration of the patron saint of Pisa held along the Arno river in the evening.

June 17- La regata boat race along the Arno River in honor of Saint Ranieri.

Vincigliata Adventure Park- Bridges, jumps and nets will have the whole family hanging up in the trees. Fiesole-Florence http://www.treeexperience.it/home_eng.html

SPORTS

Friday, June 10- World Wrestling Entertainment at 8 p.m. at the Mandela Forum, advance purchase required at www.mandelaforum.it

Saturday, June 11- 9.8Km at 6:30 p.m. at the Elementary School (Piazza Garibaldi) in Castellina Marittima (PI)

Saturday, June 11- 11, 5 and 2 Km walks at 4:30 p.m. in Veruciano (LU) tel. 0583.94694

Sunday, June 19- 18, 12, 6 Km at 8 a.m. at Santa Colomba Bientina (PI) tel. 339.6811202

SAGRA/FESTS

June 10-12, Festival of Friendship Music and animation in Quattro Strade in Crespina comune.

June 10-12, Wild Boar Festival Agnano Pisano

June 11-12, Tuscan Soup Festival Cascine di Buti

June 18-26- Montelupo ceramics festival www.festaceramica.it

June 25-26- Maccheroni of Cigerani festival Comune di Fosciandora - via Roma 6 - 55020 Fosciandora www.comune.fosciandora.lu.it

MUSIC

Saturday, June 11- Musica in Maschera: Traviata by Giuseppe Verdi Enchanting opera arias and ballet with orchestra, singers and dancer in mask and eighteenth century costumes at Auditorium Theatre Al Duomo, Via de' Cerretani, Florence, Tel. 328.3562380

Lucca's Summer Music Festival- June 26- Blink 182

July 14- Elton John

July 15- Joe Cocker & B.B. King

July 16- Amy Winehouse

July 18- Ben Harper

July 19- Liza Minnelli

July 21- James Blunt

www.summer-festival.com/

MARKETS

June 11-12 Pisa Antique market- in the historic center

June 11-12 Bolghieri (LI) Antique market in city center

June 11-12 Bargai (LU) Antique market in city center

June 18-19 Lucca Antique market in Piazza Antelminelli (within old city walls)

Porcellino Market- Florentine arts and crafts Every day in Florence

July 2-3 Antique Market in Arezzo in the city center. www.arezzofieraantiquaria.org

CULTURE

Dance at Teatro Verdi- June 12 at 9:30 p.m. ASD Civlone Latino will perform The Nightmare Before Christmas

Palazzo Blu- Women of Italy looks back at the women in Italy for the last 150 years. Entrance is free and runs until June 26. www.palazzoblu.org/

57th Puccini Festival- July 15-August 27 in Torre del Lago Puccini www.puccinifestival.it/

Pisa Tatoo convention June 24-25 at the Pisa Stazione Leopolda

La Luminara Pisa, Italy

By Joyce Costello
USAG Livorno Public Affairs

There is always something fun to do in and around Pisa during the summer. One of my families favorite events is the annual *Luminara* of Saint Ranieri which takes place every June 16. With only candle lights illuminating the river front, it is very romantic to stroll up and down until the firework display starts sometime after 10 p.m.

Last year, when my young daughter saw the *Luminara*, she thought she was watching 70,000 lightening bugs flirting up and down the Arno River.

If you arrive early, you can explore one of the side alleys off the river front which are filled with small *piazza's* and a surprising array of cuisine in the university section.

After strolling up the strand, my daughter and I enjoyed watching large crosses filled with candles and boats

float down the river while enjoying a perfect almond *gelato*. Fortunately, the floating displays are monitored carefully by the coast guard.

There is a fun street level atmosphere with vendors selling local specialties of *torrone* (a sweet nougat with nuts), *brigidini* (an anise paper thin cookie) and *porchetta* (a whole roasted herb pork sandwich).

My daughter begged for neon jewelry and shiny balloons from street vendors, while I contemplate the ten minute walk from the river front to the Leaning Tower of Pisa, which is also decked out in candles.

Finally when it seemed my daughters sugar high was about to end, the sky is filled with bursts of color. Fireworks never cease to bring forth the ohhhs and ahhs.

While the event runs well into the night, I'm relieved to know the next days event: the Regata di San Ranieri, isn't until later in the afternoon.

How to get to Luminara:

Driving along the Arno River after 9 p.m. is no longer possible and parking is nonexistent or extremely far away from the town center so let Camp Darby's Information, Tours and Recreation do the driving. You'll depart Camp Darby at 7 p.m. and return at midnight. For additional information on scheduled trips contact ITR at DSN 633-7589.

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