

Darby Digest

www.usag.livorno.army.mil
April 12, 2012



**Hunting for the
golden egg**
Page 3

Community events
Page 4

Out & About
Page 6

**Italian Soldier
receives ARCOM**
Page 8

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facebook page



Darby Digest: Your source for local news, information & culture



April 12, 2012
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Lt. Col. Kevin Bigelman
U.S. Army Garrison Livorno
Commander

Command Sgt. Maj. Felix Rodriguez
Command Sgt. Maj.

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**Front Cover Photo by
Joyce Costello**

The fire department escorts the Easter Bunny to the Camp Darby Spring Fest April 7.

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If the goose laid the golden egg, why is the Easter Bunny hiding it on Darby?

The Camp Darby community celebrated spring with their Italian guest at the annual Easter egg hunt April 7. Italian and American children enjoyed hunting for eggs, playing games and eating a free barbecue. [Click here for more photos.](#)

Photos by Joyce Costello



By Joyce Costello

USAG Livorno Public Affairs

The Camp Darby community celebrated spring with their Italian guest at the annual Easter egg hunt April 7. Maj. Victor Bowman, director of emergency services, thanked over 200 people who came out despite the looming clouds threatening to burst.

“The kids like this tradition of hunting for eggs and it is a great opportunity to bring together the American and Italian communities for an occasion that fosters camaraderie and friendship,” said Bowman. “A special thanks to all of those who volunteered- you made a big difference.”

Better Opportunities for Single Service Members President, Senior Airman Vaftanak Kang, said BOSS members enjoyed hiding the eggs and helping out with the event.

“It’s nice to be able to help make sure the American and Italian kids have a good time, plus it’s a chance for BOSS to show the community that we care,” said Kang.

“I’ve been volunteering for this event for four years and I think that when the kids see the Easter Bunny- they scream with joy as if he were Santa,” added volunteer Sharon Carter.

The annual Easter egg hunt is part of the Spring Fest which is organized by Camp Darby’s Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation.



Community events

Army Emergency Relief

You can help make Soldiers and their families Army Strong. Talk with your units AER rep about donating today.

Job Openings

- ◆ The Girl Scouts is hiring a temporary full-time Finance Manager. The Job will run from April 23-July 6 and pays \$12-16 an hour. Call 050 548696 or DSN: 633-8696 for more info.
- ◆ NAF has positions open for Recreational Aid and Lifeguard (pool). Call 050 54 7032 or DSN 633-7032.

Volunteer Opportunities

The Girl Scouts is looking to fill the volunteer positions that work with adults for next year. They need a secretary to take notes at monthly meetings, and a volunteer to chair the monthly meetings. Free training will be provided in a fun weekend in Tirrenia June 15-17, food provided. Call 050 548696 or DSN: 633-8696.

Navigating USAJOBS

Employment Readiness Seminar

Jane Spencer will hold a USAJOBS seminar for up to 4 participants on April 24 at 5 p.m at the library. Sign up by calling DSN 633-7000.

Save a chicken April 16

On all non-training holiday Mondays from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in front of the Exchange (PX) the Army team is selling hamburgers and hotdogs. Proceeds will go towards the Army Birthday celebration.

Vet visiting Camp Darby

633-7438

Vicenza Veterinarian will be at Camp Darby for appointments on April 26 from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Make an appointment for your beloved pet today by contacting DSN 635-4841.

Beach Splash

633-7775

- ◆ April 19, for US personnel only 2 umbrellas & 1 cabana can be rented. You can also purchase beach and pool season passes. There will be door prizes, music & Free refreshments
- ◆ April 20, local national personnel can rent umbrellas and cabana for the summer season.



The Darby Beach Splash
Price list 2012

Darby Resident Pass		Beach Daily Entrance Fees	
Single		Adult	\$3
Beach Only	\$65	Child (6-12 years)	\$2
Pool Only	\$75	Child (5 years & under)	Free
Beach & Pool	\$110	<small>Note: purchasing seasonal passes for cabana rental is an add-on fee.</small>	
Family		Pool Daily Entrance Fees	
Beach Only	\$130	Adult	\$7
Pool Only	\$150	Child (6-12 years)	\$5
Beach & Pool	\$215	Child (5 years & under)	Free
Beach Rentals		For Tourists Only	
Umbrella, Rows 1-13	\$410	Sea Pines Aquatic Pass - Single	\$40
2nd Umbrella, Rows 1-13	\$510	Sea Pines Aquatic Pass - Family	\$85
Umbrella, Rows 9-13 (E1-E6)	\$220		
Cabana	\$450		
Beach Parking*		<small>Note:</small>	
Car (weekends)	\$5	A limit of 2 umbrellas and 2 cabanas can be rented per family for the season, depending on availability.	
Car (Monday-Friday)	\$3		
Moped or Motorcycle	\$2		
Bicycle	Free		

* Parking does not include entrance.

For US Personnel only.
For more info visit www.livornoMWR.com.
Facebook: Camp Darby MWR



2012
★ America's Armed Forces ★
KIDS RUN

Join the America's Armed Forces Kids Run!

May 19
9 - 11 a.m.
Start line: Front of Fitness Center

Register online at www.americaskidsrun.org
from April 9 thru May 18

For more information about this run, contact:
CYSS at 633-8084 or the Youth Center at 633-7629.

MWR
U.S. Army Child, Youth & School Services

& happenings

Sports & Fitness

633-7438

- ♦ 70.3 Half Iron Triathlon Challenge 2012. This program is not based on speed, it's based on endurance and heart! You'll do the swim, bike and run over the course of 14 days (May 7- 20). Register April 18 – May 4.

ITR

633-7589

- ♦ Genova Aquarium April 13
- ♦ Florence April 14
- ♦ Cinque Terre Trip April 21
- ♦ San Gimignano/Siena April 28

ODR

633-7775

- ♦ Canoe Trip on the Scolmatore Canal April 14. Spend the day canoeing on this canal located on the Pisa/Livorno border in two-man aluminum canoes.
- ♦ Hanging ropes course April 21. There are 5 acrobatic courses, 2 for children over 110cm tall, and 3 for adults and youngsters over 140cm tall.

Friends of Camp Darby

- ♦ April 17- Lunch Bunch at ChiChiBo at 12 p.m. in Tirrenia. We will meet at the library parking lot at 1130 and carpool for those who are interested.
- ♦ April 21- Wine Club & Spa trip (limit 18 people so RSVP asap!)
- ♦ April 25- Thrift Store Grand Re-Opening- come help us celebrate!
- ♦ April 27- WEA Scholarship and Senior Scholarship application deadline.
- ♦ May 5- Truffle Hunting trip- 30 euro per person, (20 people max- 10 people min). Lunch is included

Religious Activities

633-7267

- 9:40 a.m. Catholic reconciliation
- 10 a.m. Catholic Mass
- 11:15 a.m. Protestant worship
- 11:15 a.m. Catholic CCD

AAFES Movies

- April 13- 6 p.m. The Grey (R)
- April 14- 6 p.m. Chronicle (PG-13)
- April 15- 1 p.m. The Hunger Games (PG-13)
- April 20- 6 p.m. Safe House (R)
- April 21- 6 p.m. Wrath Of The Titans (PG-13)
- April 22- 1 p.m. Journey 2: Mysterious Island (PG)



USAG LIVORNO

AQUA ZUMBA/FITNESS

May 14 – August 29

Every Monday, Wednesday & Friday
from Noon – 12:45 p.m.

at the Camp Darby Pool

Cost: \$4

Aqua Zumba/Fitness is a great, low impact form of exercise but is very beneficial for everyone. Come join us!

Your first class is FREE!

STRONG B.A.N.D.S.

BALANCE • ACTIVITY • NUTRITION • DETERMINATION • STRENGTH

1 Award featured fitness | 2 Get your band and wear | 3 Yes, the Strong B.A.N.D.S.

Get certified as a CYSS Adult Sitter



April 24, April 26, May 1 & May 3
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
at the Youth Center

Learning objectives include
CPR & First Aid
Behavior Management
Appropriate play activities
Emergency plans



Register by April 18 at Parent Central Service
For more information, call 633-7618

OUT & ABOUT- EXPLORE YOU

SAGRA & FESTIVALS

Jazz Wide Young in Pisa

Every Wednesdays in April, the ExWide club in Pisa will be hosting the Jazz Wide Young music show. The jazz concerts will feature young and brilliant jazz artists, both from Italy and the rest of world.

April 18, Ibrido Hot 5

Info: www.exwide.com

Firenze Tango Festival 2012 in Florence

April 25- May 1

Florence will be hosting the 10th edition of Firenze Tango Festival. The 10th anniversary will be a special event for tango dancers from all over the world, with a big staff of first class teachers, long milonga nights in a great location with two dance floors, tango orchestras and live cortinas, tango shows, classes with registration limit, search partner service for workshops, transfer to lessons, large Festival Team helping for any need and making you feel welcome – a really great and international tango party is waiting for you during wonderful spring days in Florence.

The event will take place at the Obihall Theatre and at the Affratellamento Theatre.

For further information: www.firenzetangofestival.com

Corradino D'Ascanio exhibit at Piaggio Museum in Pontedera

Until May 12

The exhibition celebrates the 120th anniversary of the Vespa designer's birth as well as the 30th anniversary of his death.

Info: www.museopiaggio.it

Stories from the Other World: The Universe inside and outside ourselves

Now until July 1, the exhibition will recount how man learnt to approach, explore and understand our universe, a world very distant from our daily experience.

The visitor will see how, over time, our deeply human, ancestral curiosity, springing from our wonder as we contemplate the marvels of Nature, developed, became structured, and divided into separate disciplines, culminating, after a process lasting many centuries, in what we now refer to as the modern sciences of physics, astrophysics, and cosmology.

Info: www.storiedallaltromondo.it

Excursion from Castellare to Foc

Pennechio

April 14

Take a hike on the mountains of Pisa. The event last all day and cost 10 euro. It is necessary to book in advance.

Info: www.vadoevedo.it

31st Strapazzata in Pisa

April 25

This is a non-competitive race for families.

Info: www.pisamarathon.it

Livorno Harley Davidson chapter

The Livorno Harley Davidson chapter is organizing a wine tour on May 5. Info: 347 52069180

They are also going to attend to the Saint Trope Eurofestival Harley which will take place May 10- 12. Info: 3355613442

Livorno Harley Davidson chapter

The Livorno Harley Davidson chapter is organizing the Run of the Butteri (South of Tuscan Cowboys). This tour is going to take place 25 April 2012.

Info: Caroti Marco 3926504063 carotimarco@yahoo.it;
Azzarone Leo 3299834442 leo.71@tiscali.it

Culture Week

The Culture week will take place from 14 to 22 April 2012. During this period admission is free to state museums, monuments and archaeological sites. A wide range of initiatives is waiting to be enjoyed: special and new site opening hours, guided tours, and restorations in progress or recently completed concerts, shows, cinema screenings, recitals, exhibitions, conventions, conferences, educational initiatives for young people.

Info: www.beniculturali.it

Americans in Florence.

Sargent and the American Impressionists in Florence from 02th March 2012 at 09:00 a.m. to 15th July 2012 at 08:00 p.m.

From 2nd March to 15th July 2012 the exhibition "Americans in Florence. Sargent and the American Impressionists" will be displayed at Palazzo Strozzi in Florence.

Info: www.palazzostrozzi.org

The International Handicrafts Trade Fair

From 21 to 29 April 2012 there will be the 76th International Handicrafts Trade Fair at the Fortezza da Basso in Firenze. The event hosts the most important master craftsmen of history inside a privileged space, where tradition and innovation merge to create ex-

tremely valuable handmade products.

Every year, here you can admire the works of the ancient Florence workshops, as well as remote arts which are being rediscovered through the fair itineraries, following a harmonious path among the Italian regions and the countries of the whole world. Opening Times: everyday from 10am to 11pm (on the 29th April, the last day: closing time at 8pm)

Info: www.lmostraartigianato.it/en/the-fair.html

Antiques Market in Lucca

This weekend Lucca will host the Antiques Market, organized by the Consorzio del mercato Antiquariato of the city of Lucca. About 230 antiques dealers meet in the historical centre of Lucca to expose antiques, as furnishings, clothes, books and other objects.

Where: P.zza Antelminelli, P.zza S.Giusto, Piazza S. Giovanni, Piazza Bernardini, Piazza S. Martino, Via del Battistero

Opening hours: Saturday from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm - Sunday from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm

Info: www.luccavirtuale.it/rubriche/mercato_antiquario/index2.html

Dates and times could be changed at the last minute;

*It is advisable to double check the information.
Jazz Wide Young in Pisa*

Italian Soldiers receives Army Medal

By Joyce Costello

USAG Livorno Public Affairs

The headlines that an Italian Soldier received an Army medal, while rare may not seem to striking at first glance, but the story behind how Lt. Col. Kevin Bigelman, US Army Garrison Livorno commander, presented Lt. Col. Vittorio Biondi, Italian “Folgore” Brigade, the Army Commendation Medal on April 3, 2012 is one that goes back to World War II.

On Dec. 26, 1944 in the small hilltop village of Sommocolonia, Buffalo Soldier’s with the 92nd Infantry Division were fighting a battle against the Germans. Lt. John Fox remained in his forward observer position as his unit made its way back to the town of Barga. With German Soldiers advancing on Fox’s tower, he called artillery on his position in order to take out as many of the enemy troops as possible. That village was home to Biondi’s family.

Biondi, an avid military historian, was fascinated by the battle of Sommocolonia and wrote a book about it. Fate eventually paired Biondi up with the Camp Dabry Public Affairs Office in 2010 during their search for a historian guide to talk about the battle site with service members for African American heritage month. Over the next few years, Biondi would speak to Camp Darby service members and their families during the many trips to battle sites, museums and memory rooms along the gothic line.

However, that is not how Biondi’s name ended up being submitted for the Army Commendation Medal. Rather three American civilian from academia played a role: Dr. James Pratt from Cornell University, who is working on a book that will include the names, gravestone photos, and personal photos (as available) of 366th infantry soldiers who died in Italy and whose remains were repatriated to the U.S., Anne. Saunders, a Research Associate at College of Charleston, who translated Biondi’s *La Battaglia di Sommocolonia* into English and published an English-language book titled “A Travel Guide to World War II Sites in Italy: Museums, Monuments and Battleground” and Solace Sheets, an American writer who bought a home in Sommocolonia in the 70’s, learned about the story of the battle from local villagers and spent many years searching for survivors of the battle.

Pratt, whose father’s battalion fought in the Sommocolonia battle, met with Wales, Saunders and Biondi in 2010 in Sommocolonia. These three civilians were so touched by Biondi’s efforts to preserve the connection of the village to the U.S. Army and relatives of the American veterans that fought in the area, that they researched how to submit someone for a military award and sent the Department of Army form 638 (Recommendation for Award) to the commander of the Army Reserve Personnel Center in St. Louis, Missouri.

When the award recommendation was returned denied, they didn’t stop. They followed the trail of the stories of the U.S. troop’s visiting Sommocolonia and the gothic line until they



Photo by Joyce Costello

(Left) Lt. Col. Kevin Bigelman, US Army Garrison Livorno commander, presented Lt. Col. Vittorio Biondi, Italian “Folgore” Brigade, the Army Commendation Medal on April 3.

reached U.S. Army Garrison Livorno Commander, Lt. Col. Kevin Bigelman. Much paperwork later with help from the U.S. Embassy in Rome, the award was approved and a small contingency from Camp Darby went to Biondi’s duty station at the Italian Folgore Parachutist school in Pisa, Italy to present the award to Biondi in front of his Unit.

“Biondi has worked tirelessly to preserve the memory of the sacrifices made by the Buffalo Soldiers of the 92nd Division during World War II,” said Bigelman. “Biondi’s efforts have contributed significantly to the preservation of the memory of the U.S. Army’s accomplishments in Italy during World War II and to a sense of shared history between the U. S. Army and citizens of Italy.”

“It was a big honor for me to receive this award and I am happy to be able to keep the memory of this battle and division alive,” said Biondi.

Col. Gianluigi De Matteis, commander of the Italian Airborne Training Center added they were much honored have one of their own receive this award.

As those who remember the battles from World War II pass away, it is often up to the dedicated historians to collect the stories that are slowly being forgotten. Biondi’s efforts to ensure those memories have been kept alive and passed on to the Soldiers following in their footsteps truly reflects Biondi’s dedication, loyalty, and selfless service are in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon him, the Brigata Paracadutisti FOLGORE, and the Italian Army.