

Darby Digest

www.usag.livorno.army.mil
March 15, 2012

**Best Warrior
Competition**

Page 3

Community events

Page 4

Out & About

Page 6

**Importance of
Art in school**

Page 8

Camp  Darby's premier weekly newsletter

See new photos everyday on our web site or share yours with us on the Camp Darby facebook page



Friends of Camp Darby visit Cheese factory Fattoria Lischeto is an organic cheese farm that produces organic Pecorino cheese, organic cosmetics, organic olive oil, and more.



New Post Office open on Darby
Photo by Elena Baladelli, photo lab



Girl Scouts help raise the flag March 11
Photo courtesy of Katie Thompson

Darby Digest: Your source for News, Information and Culture



March 15, 2012
Vol. V, Issue 11

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

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

Contributors:
Joyce Costello
Chiara Mattiolo
Barbara Ranieri
Sgt. Tony Brazier
Susanne Sperl

The Darby Digest is an unofficial publication of the U.S. Army Garrison Livorno, IMCOM-Europe and the U.S. Army authorized under the provisions of AR-360-1. Contents of The Darby Digest are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government or the Department of the Army. Private organizations noted in this publication are not part of the Dept. of Defense and those wishing to make an announcement must be registered. Submissions must include submitter's name, duty location and DSN and civilian phone numbers and ".mil" e-mail address. Send request for advertisement to: pao.livorno@eur.army.mil. The appearance of advertising in this publication does not constitute endorsement of the products or services advertised by the U.S. Army. All content in this publication is prepared, edited and approved by the USAG Livorno Public Affairs Office. The PAO reserves the right to edit submissions for style, clarity or fit. Information is accurate at the time of publishing. This publication is produced and distributed published weekly by the U.S. Army Garrison Livorno Public Affairs Office, building 303, Camp Darby, unit 31301, APO AE 09613, 633-7229/iv. 050-54-7229.

**Front Cover Photo by
Elena Baladelli**

Pfc. Aaron Layne rescues a training aid during the Best Warrior competition. Learn more on page 3

www.usag.livorno.army.mil

Best Warrior competition 2012



(Left photo) Staff Sgt. Delano Hamler (right), 839th Transportation Battalion, conducts buddy aid during Camp Darby's Best Warrior Competition. (Below) Pfc Aaron Layne tries to escape being pinned by Sgt. Jacob Nickels during the combatives section of the Best Warrior Competition. Both Soldiers are assigned to 511th Military Police Platoon. (Bottom) Soldiers get ready for a ruck march at 4:30 a.m.

Photos by Elena Baladelli



By Sgt Tony Brazier
AFN Livorno

Some titles are given at birth and some titles come by way of knockout. At Camp Darby there is one title that is being earned the hard way. Top Soldiers at Camp Darby competed in the week long competition March 5-9 for the coveted title of Camp Darby's Best Warrior.

Pushups, sit-ups and a two mile run was only the beginning.

"The pt test was good- the guys had a high level of fitness competing this year," said Staff Sgt. Dennis Profit, USAG Livorno HHD NCOIC.

The title of best warrior only comes to those Soldiers and NCO's who are army strong, boarded, tested by written exam and essay and the next day ready to roll at o'dark early.

"Tuesday morning we started back up at 4:30 a.m. on a 12 mile ruck march which was very physically demanding," said Pfc Aaron Layne, 511th Military Police platoon. "Physically, I'm doing good."

And still this was only the beginning. Warrior task tests like search a vehicle for explosive devices and tactical combat casualty care filled the rest of the morning. There was still day land navigation, night land navigation, and oh yes, day three.

"They all knew their tasks very well and executed them," said Profit. "When they got to the range and I think they shot with no hesitation."

So after some action at the range, the day continued with Combatives. The best warrior competition winners will be named the USAG Livorno Soldier and NCO of the year at a special recognition ceremony at the Darby Community Club.





Community events & happenings

Army Emergency Relief

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

Women's History Month Wine Trip

There are 15 spaces available for Soldiers and Airmen assigned to Camp Darby to go on the wine tasting trip March 23. You have to sign up with the EO leaders SSG Keathley no later than March 16. Call DSN 633-8667. After March 16- the remaining slots will be on first come, first serve to all Camp Daby community members.

Army Community Services (ACS)

633-7084

- ♦ Strategic Resources, Inc. (SRI) is seeking applicants for a regular full-time position of Advocate – VA/SAP located at the Livorno ACS. If you are interested or know someone that might be, please call ACS. The complete vacancy announcement for the position may be viewed at: <http://www.sri-hq.com/VictimAdvocacy.php>
- ♦ Ever wonder what happens to issues and concerns you submit? The Army Family Action Plan conference wrapped up four days of discussing issues important to you. Click <http://bit.ly/xjCsmA> to see the highlights and issues.

Child, Youth & School Services (CYSS)

633-7681

- ♦ Registration runs through March 31 for youth baseball programs.
- ♦ Bowling Day / Parent's Night Out scheduled for March 24. To register your child, contact Parent Central Services at 633-7681.
- ♦ Your input is vital to all CYSS programs. Don't miss the opportunity to participate at the next Parent Advisory Council Meeting on March 28 at noon in bldg 730. A light lunch will be served.
- ♦ CYSS Sports & Fitness invites children ages 3-15 years to participate in Start Smart, Teeball, Coach Pitch and Baseball. Enrollment period is March 1-31, 2012. Contact Parent Central Services at 633-7681.
- ♦ Come & celebrate the Spring Fest Eggstravaganza on Saturday, April 7 at the DCC. Fun begins at 11 a.m. with egg hunts, a visit from the Easter Bunny and a barbeque at noon. At

noon, children can dye eggs, decorate cupcakes and enjoy the many games planned for the afternoon!

Sports & Fitness

633-7438

Whether you want to coach or you're just playing for fun, register for this season's Recreation Volleyball League from March 5 thru April 5. Games begin on April 11.

ITR

633-7589

- ♦ Ducati & Lamborghini museum on March 17
 - ♦ St. Francis of Assisi on March 24
- For more information download in Fall/Winter Catalog available online at: www.vicenzamwr.com Call ITR at 633-7589 for information or register on WEB TRAC.

ODR

633-7775

Ski and snowboard trips running until the snow is gone every Saturday in March.

Darby Community Club

633-7855

- ♦ Celebrate St. Patty's Day March 17 with all things green.
- ♦ Seether live on March 25. Catch this post grunge rock band from Pretoria, South Africa as they tour in support of their 6th album called 'Holding Onto Strings Better Left to Fray'.

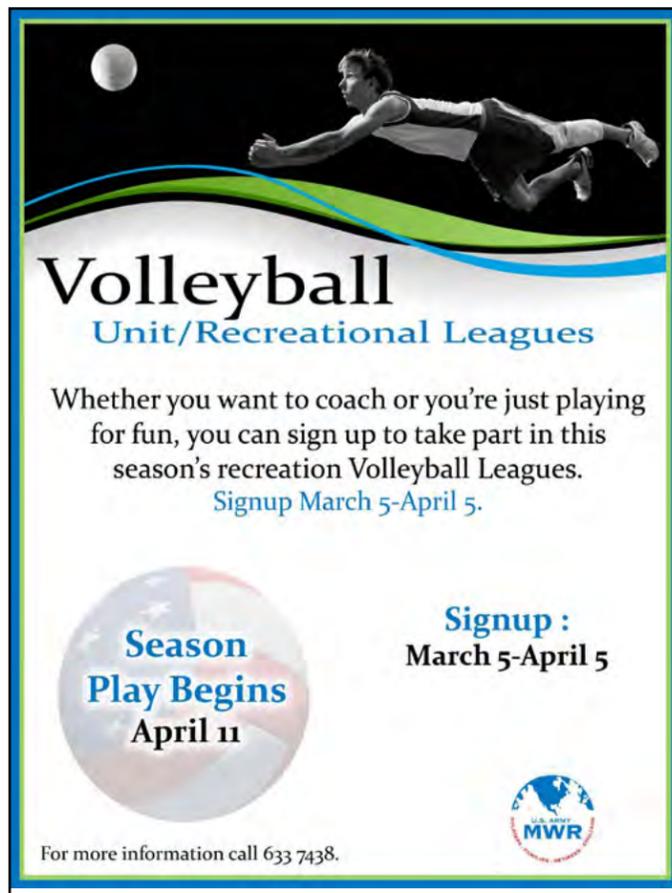
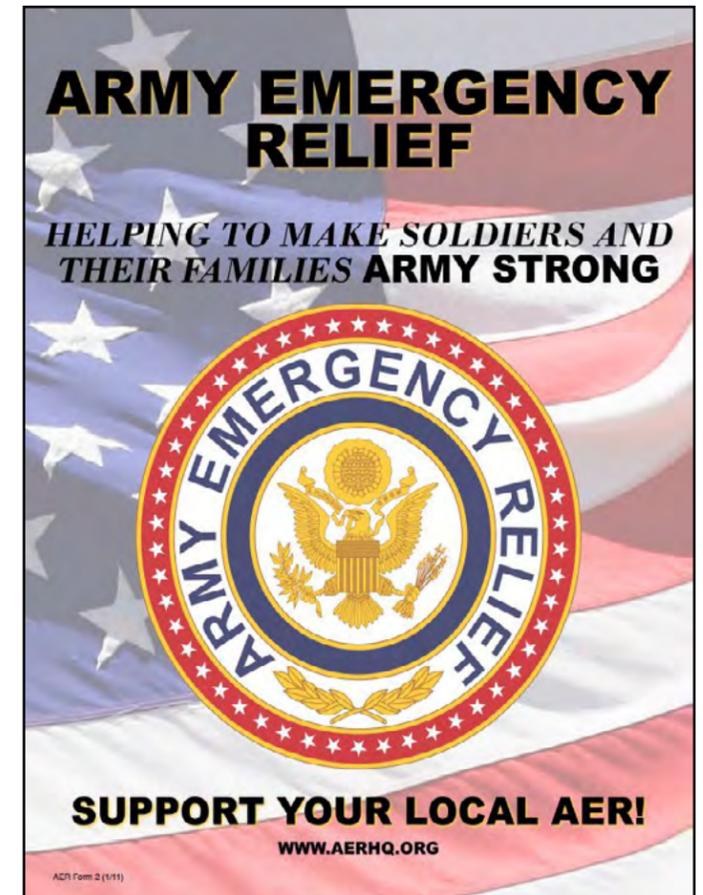
Religious Activities

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

- March. 16- 6 p.m. Joyful Noise (PG-13)
- March. 17- 6 p.m. Act Of Valor (R) 1st Run
- March. 18- 1 p.m. War Horse (PG-13)
- March. 23- 6 p.m. The Devil Inside (R)
- March. 24- 6 p.m. Contraband (R)
- March. 25- 1 p.m. Dr. Seuss' The Lorax (PG) 1st Run



OUT & ABOUT- EXPLORE YOUR WORLD

Compiled by Barbara Ranieri
USAG Livorno Community Affairs Advisor

SAGRA & FESTIVALS

Capodanno Pisano: Traditional Pisa New Year's Day 2013

In Pisa, the New Year is celebrated twice – not only on the 1st of January along with the rest of the world, but also on the 25th of March.

The people from Pisa have not forgotten their traditions, and each year they mark the beginning of the year as was their custom between 1200 and 1749, when New Year's Day coincided with the Annunciation, nine months before Christmas (Anno Pisano ab Incarnatione Domini).

Today, just like then, the beginning of the Year of Pisa is marked by a sort of solar clock, a physical phenomenon that is as simple as it is spectacular and intriguing: at midday sharp, a ray of sunlight penetrates the Cathedral through a round nave window, landing on a marble egg on a shelf surmounting a column next to the pulpit of Giovanni Pisano, on the opposite side.

The event is preceded in the morning by a historical parade and a religious ceremony that ends at exactly 12 noon.

The beginning of the Year of Pisa coincides with the official opening of the tourist season. All through the weekend (24-25 March), Pisa and its environs will offer a range of collateral events including:

- The Pisa-Romanesque Days
- Special tours of Pisa, Volterra, Pomarance and Castelnuovo Val di Cecina
- Special spa and wellness offers in Casciana Terme and San Giuliano Terme
- Special openings of churches (in Pisa, Calci and Cascina), museums (in Fauglia, Peccioli) and monuments (the fortresses of Vicopisano)
- Nature excursions in San Rossore Park and in Bientina
- Volterragusto, Volterra's typical food and wine festival
- Wine tastings in Palaia
- Urban trekking in Pontedera
- A photographic workshop and Chocolate festival in San Miniato
- Sporting events at the San Rossore racecourse and in Tirrenia



Truffle Fair

Some say you either love or dislike the distinct smell and taste of truffles. Try for yourself March 17-18 in Cigoli. (Photo courtesy of San Miniato).

- Shopping along the 'leather route' in Santa Croce sull'Arno
- A theatrical play in Lari
- Traditional recipes in restaurants and fireworks on the banks of the Arno river in Pisa

Info: www.pisaunicaterra.it

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.htm

XVI Edition of the Truffle Fair in Cigoli, San Miniato

March 17 - 18

There will be the truffle fair and marked in Cigoli. It will be possible to find the precious truffle named by the San Miniato people the "Earth Diamond".

In addition to taste the truffle it will be possible to buy it and other typical products like oil, wine.

Info: www.cigoli.org

Capodanno Fiorentino - Florentine New Year's Day

March 25, Florence celebrates the Florentine New Year's Day (it.: Capodanno fiorentino).

The Florentine New Year is still loved and celebrated today. It might be better to say re-celebrate, seeing that the Community of Florence re-introduced it from the year 2000 amongst their festivities and celebrate it with the traditional Fair in Piazza Santissima Annunziata (where the basilica dedicated to the Saint Virgin is found and inside the church a so-called miraculous fresco representing the Annunciation by the painter Fra Bartolomeo). In addition, every year on March 25th a historical procession takes place at around 3:30 p.m., starting from Palagio di Parte Guelfa, moving around all afternoon and finishes at the same piazza.

Info: www.comune.firenze.it

63rd Italian Vespa Club meeting at Pisa

March 17-18 at the 'Hotel Golden Tulip Galilei will take place the 63rd Italian Vespa Club meeting.

Info: www.vespaclubpisa.it

Jazz Wide Young in Pisa

Every Wednesdays in March 2012, 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.

March 21: S.Graziano Group feat. Chris Speed & David Binney

March 25: Mauro Orselli 4tet

March 28: Tony Cattano BAAP! 4tet

Info: www.exwide.com

Horse race at Pisa

On Sunday, March 18 there will be an horse race at San Rossore. The race will be among the Pisa Comuni.

The competitors are the following Comuni: Bientina, Buti, Calci, Calcinaia, Capannoli, Cascina, Castelnuovo di Sotto, Fauglia, Montopoli in Val d'Arno, Peccioli, Ponsacco, Pontedera, San Giuliano Terme, San Miniato, Santa Croce sull'Arno, Santa Maria a Monte, Vecchiano, Vicopisano.

Info: tel. 050 526111; alfea@sanrossore.it

Excursion in Capannori

March 17 there will be a hike Carraia to Sant'Andrea di Compito where it will be possible to visit the camellia show.

Meeting at 9 a.m. at: AREA INDUSTRIALE ZONA PIP CARRAIA – Via Tazio Nuvolari – Carraia (Capannori). Time: Cost: 12 euro. It is necessary to book in advance.

Info: www.vadovedo.it

Dates and times could be changed at the last minute; it is advisable to double check the information.

The Importance of a Strong Fine Arts Program

By Susanne Sperl

Livorno Unit School Art teacher

Too often, we are quick to think that art class is simply where students come to color or make a decorative craft. While those things do take place in our class, so does so much more. Simply, the visual arts are a language and they communicate to the world.

We encounter the impact of strong creative design and expression every day. Take for a moment and consider one of your typical days. How many instances do you encounter on a daily basis, which is a direct result of artistic and creative design and/or contribution? Every web page you view, every device or gadget you hold, every source of media you experience begins with design.

The goal in our art classes is to learn to communicate clearly and effectively regardless of the medium. Much of what we experience in the art room, has direct application to developing and refining the skills necessary to understanding, navigating, and communicating in the world today. While color may be a vehicle at times, students are also challenged to design which means they must be able to creatively solve problems. They are required to express and explain their works and intentions with the vocabulary of an artist, which requires them to practice communicating through a variety of means.

I continually seek our ways for our students to share their works and messages with a larger audience. It is important for students to have these opportunities to showcase their work beyond the walls of a classroom because this adds meaning and real life experience to what they are creating and exploring in the artroom. This could range from displaying work at a community function to writing and illustrating a teaching book to be sent to a school in Uganda.

It is my belief that our students carry within them thoughtful stories, ideas and expressions and it is important that their ideas are heard. But in order for them to be truly heard and understood, they must learn how to express and communicate them effectively.

In March, Livorno Students 1st – 4th grades will have a live video call with a curator from the Smithsonian American Museum of Art who will share with them works by some these artists from their collection and even discuss our own art with us in the process. We are very excited and look forward to this opportunity! If you'd like to help keep art active in our schools, contact the school for more information.



Photos by Chiara Mattiolo

Livorno Unit School Art Classes have been discussing and exploring works of several inspiring African-American artists in celebration of Black History month. We have been learning about the life and works of Romare Bearden, Henry Ossawa Tanner, Faith Ringgold, William H. Johnson, and Dave (artist, poet, slave). The student's works were on display at the African-American Heritage food tasting event at the Darby Community Club Feb. 24.

