

# Darby Digest

[www.usag.livorno.army.mil](http://www.usag.livorno.army.mil)  
May 10, 2012

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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



**Army Sustainment Commander visits Leghorn Army Depot** (Right) Linda Eckley, engineer explains the key initiatives at Army Field Support Battalion- Italy shows to Maj.Gen. Patricia McQuiston (left), Commanding General of U.S. Army Sustainment Command, the renovation project of the maintenance facility during her visit to Field Support Battalion Italy April 30.



**Container gardens coming to the school for the students** Each class in the Livorno Unit School will have their own planting space. With the support of DPW and Air Force volunteers a beautiful white picket garden with raised wooden beds was designed and built. The new school capability will be fully operational beginning May 9. (Photo courtesy of Livorno Unit School).

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



May 10, 2012  
Vol. V, Issue 19

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

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Command Sgt. Maj.

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### Front Cover Photo by Casey Stump

On May 5, 731st Munitions Squadron Airmen volunteered to help clean the San Rossore National park area before the beach season starts.

[www.usag.livorno.army.mil](http://www.usag.livorno.army.mil)

## You can help the Army take care of its own



Lt. Col. Kevin Bigelman fills out his Army Emergency Relief pledge during the AER Campaign March 1- May 15.

Photo by Chiara Mattiolo

**By Staff Sgt. Ross Salwolke**  
*AFN Livorno*

It is often said "life is a rollercoaster and we're just along for the ride", but there is a program that helps soldiers have at least some control over that rollercoaster. Army Emergency Relief (AER) Fund helps Soldier with financial assistance when they have hardships and not feel alone when in dealing during times of adversity.

"The AER campaign is important because everybody can have unforeseen financial hardships and this is a way to relive the stress on the soldier in financial," said Sgt. Cara Parker, USAG Livorno AER representative.

Parker adds that the AER program has, in the last year alone, had a rather large impact on Camp Darby.

"The Camp Darby military community donated \$7,024 during last year's AER campaign and local Soldiers received \$21,859 in aid," said Parker.

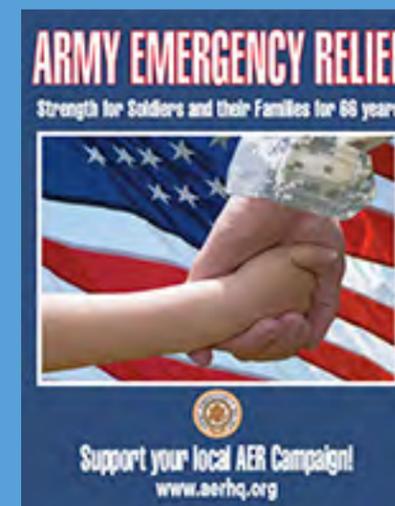
Last year world-wide, AER provided \$77.5 million to 64,000 Soldiers and Family members for many different categories of financial assistance to include emergency needs, children and spouse scholarships and grants to widows and Wounded Warriors.

"This is a noble cause- Soldiers taking care of Soldiers," said USAG Livorno Command Sgt. Maj. Felix Rodriguez. "I encourage community members to please support this great endeavor and encouraging others to donate if they can."

The AER campaign which runs through May 15 at every Army Installation.

*Our goal will always be to continue maintaining the highest standards of "Helping the Army take care of its Own" which has been the hallmark of Army Emergency Relief for over 68 years.*

*Dennis J. Reimer  
General, U. S. Army, Retired  
President, Army Emergency Relief*



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](http://www.americaskidsrun.org)  
from April 9 thru May 18.

For more information about this run,  
contact Parent Central Services at 633-7681




LAUGH | SHARE | RELAX | BREATHE

# PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

Register at any CYSS Facility

**Friday May 18**  
5:45-11 p.m.  
CDC/SAC Facilities

Space is limited  
Price: 1st child = \$20  
Each additional child is \$15  
Fees must be paid in full when registering.

Special Child Care Opportunity

Call:  
CDC 633-7459  
SAC 633-7068




## Community events & happenings

### Volunteers Needed

Girl Scouts of Camp Darby are looking for volunteers to help with next years Girl Scout programs. We need someone to manage volunteers and attend monthly meetings, and we need volunteers to work with kids. No need for Girl Scout experience, we will train you for free! We will also write a letter of recommendation for you after completing the job. It is a great way to meet new friends. If you are interested please contact Katie at DSN 633- 8696.

### Asian Pacific Heritage

Asian Pacific Food tasting will be at the DCC Friday May 18th at 1800. Volunteers/Cooks are still needed. Committee meets every Wednesday at 1500 at the DCC or you can PM me on FB or call me at 633-8815.

### New Running Club

Every Tuesday at 7 a.m. "The Back of The Pack" running club meets at the gym. Strollers and families are welcome. It is free to be in the club with option of purchasing a T-shirt and running in non-competitive races.

### Lights Out Comedy Show

Comedians Johnny Cardinale, Motavasseli Assad, Sean Kent, Mark Serritella and Maria Shehata will have a free show on May 25 at 7:30 p.m. at the Darby Community Club.

### Save a chicken

Kick your Monday off with some high energy iron at the Army Birthday fundraising burger burn from 11- 1:30 in front of the PX. Afterwards burn it off with one of many free exercise Strong Bands programs being offered at the Fitness Center.

### ACS

633-7084

ACS is having a Brown Bag Event on Tuesday May 14th from 11:30 to 12:30pm. You can bring a lunch or get one at ACS. Prizes and great financial info!!

### Child, Youth, School Services

633-7681

- Join America's Armed Forces Kids Fun Run on May 19 at 9 a.m. Register online at [www.americaskidsrun.org](http://www.americaskidsrun.org).
- May 30 is Parent Advisory Council. Your input is vital to all CYSS programs, don't miss the opportunity

to participate! A light lunch will be served. The agenda includes: Program updates, Summer Camp Programs, WEBTRAC, Swimming lessons

### Sports & Fitness

633-7438

Check out all of the special activities throughout the month of May as part of the Family and MWR worldwide Strong Bands promotion! You'll find the Half Ironman Triathlon Challenge, TRX Straps clinic, Aqua Zumba/Fitness classes, Swim meet and more.

### ITR

633-7589

- Rome May 12
- Venice May 19

### American Beach Opening

633-7775

The official beach opening is Friday, May 25. There will be a ribbon cutting at noon to be followed by a free barbecue Wntrance, parking, kayaks, umbrellas, pedal boats, boogie boards, volleyball courts and children's playground are all free.

### 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

- May 11 - 6 p.m. Project X (R)
- May 12- 6 p.m. The Lucky One (PG-13) 1st Run
- May 13- 1 p.m. Dr. Seuss' The Lorax (PG)
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- May 12- 6 p.m. The Lucky One (PG-13) 1st Run
- May 13- 1 p.m. Dr. Seuss' The Lorax (PG)

### Health Clinic Announcement

633-7357

Due to a very large volume of backlogged translations that need to be completed and the wish to continue to have liaison support for appointments that need the translation, starting May 1, only TRICARE beneficiaries' (AD, retirees, and family members) Italian reports will be accepted for translation into English. No non-TRICARE beneficiaries reports will be accepted. We apologize for the inconvenience and thank you for your understanding. It is our hope and our goal to resolve this situation as soon as possible.

# American Beach Grand Opening

**Friday May 25**

**Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at noon**

**FREE Barbeque and Music**  
**FREE Entrance**  
**FREE Parking**

- Kayaks
- Umbrellas
- Pedal Boats
- Boogie Boards
- Volleyball Court
- Children's Games
- Children's Playground

For more information, call Outdoor Rec at 633-7775 or visit [www.livornoMWR.com](http://www.livornoMWR.com)




ARMED FORCES ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

# LIGHTS OUT COMEDY TOUR



ENJOY AN EVENING OF LAUGHS!

Friday, May 25 ..... 7:30 p.m. .... Darby Community Club

COMING TO A THEATER NEAR YOU  
For more information visit [armedforcesentertainment.com](http://armedforcesentertainment.com)



# OUT & ABOUT- EXPLORE YOUR WORLD

Compiled by Barbara Ranieri  
USAG Livorno Community Affairs Advisor

## SAGRA & FESTIVALS

### Strawberry Festival at Terricciola

May 12-13 and 19-20

Terricciola lies in the magnificent landscape of the hills of Pisa, with colorful vineyards, olive groves, old farmhouses and wineries. Strawberries, nature and good food

Our specialties await you: naturally strawberries that you will find in the stands located in the public town gardens, "as is" and reinterpreted in many dishes. There will also be our famous wine, made by local producers and winner of many national and international awards.

At the public gardens you can also stop for lunch or dinner and enjoy the typical Tuscan cuisine or our excellent pizzas.

The festival also offers a series of shows and collateral events for the young and not so young, all in a joyful atmosphere.

Info: [www.festivaldellafragola.it](http://www.festivaldellafragola.it)

### Cherry Festival in Lari - Pisa

Every weekend from May 26 May to June 3 in Lari - nearby Pisa - is the Cherry Festival (Sagra della Ciliegia).

Cherry production is a secular tradition in the Municipality of Lari, a small village in the hilly area near Pisa (Tuscany, Italy).

The tradition is demonstrated by the presence of 13 native cherry-tree varieties, which, coupled with the peculiarity of the soils and the climate, form the basis of the specificity and reputation of the cherries of Lari.

Info: [www.ciliegialari.it](http://www.ciliegialari.it)

### Firenze Musical Festival

Now until June 10 is the 75th Firenze Musical Festival. The festival subject is the travel – From

Europe to South America and it will be animated by more than 90 events like concerts, operas, ballets, movies, etc.

Info: [www.maggiofiorentino.com](http://www.maggiofiorentino.com)

### La Via Francigena

On May 13 and 20, the Monteriggioni AD 1213 and the Agresto Association of Monteriggioni - Siena organize a walk on the via Francigena with people dressed with traditional costumes.

Info: [www.monteriggioniturismo.it](http://www.monteriggioniturismo.it)

### Pig Shins and Beer Fair at Cascine Buti - Pisa

Till May 20th every Saturday and Sunday there will be the Pig shins and Beer Fair at Cascine di Buti within Pisa Province.

### Park Festival in Pisa

From May 17- 27 on the occasion of the European Day of Parks, enjoy 10 days of shows and events to make the public aware of the Regional Park, with the variety of its territory, the fauna and flora.

A rich calendar of walks, excursions and guided tours of all types: on foot, by bicycle, on a carriage, by boat, in the woods, by the lake, on the river, to the beach, by day, by night, at dawn

And then seminars, conferences, book presentations, readings, poetry, music, children's activities, essay contests, photography, horse riding, sports, typical meals and much more.

Info: [www.centrovisitesanrosso.it](http://www.centrovisitesanrosso.it)

### La Mangia....Longa at Pontedera

On May 20 enjoy the Mangia...longa is a wine and food stroll to discover the area among the hills and villages around Pontedera.

The walk starts from the Horse Riding Center "Lo

Scoiattolo".

Strolling through the countryside, the participants will make stops in Treggiaia, at the Church of the Madonna of Ripaia and in Montecastello, and then go back to the Horse Riding Center "Lo Scoiattolo" with a shuttle bus.

In each of the stages a meal course will be served, together with local wines of the Valdera, up to a complete meal at the end of the walk.

Moreover, in the morning at 9.30 am you can join "Waiting for the Mangialonga - Appetite comes by walking ...", an optional 3-miles stroll on the hills around Treggiaia, also starting from the Horse Riding Center.

Meeting point is at the Horse Riding Center "Lo Scoiattolo", in Treggiaia, where you will find a large car parking.

Departures: 11.20 am, 11.40 am, 12.00 am, 12.20 am, 12:40 am (maximum 100 people)

Fee: Adults € 20.00. Children from 6 to 10 years € 10.00. Children under 5 years free.

Info: [www.comune.pontedera.pi.it](http://www.comune.pontedera.pi.it)

### The Scents of Boboli in Florence

The monumental Boboli Garden in Florence hosts from May 17- 20, the sixth edition of The Scents of Boboli, exhibition / commercial itinerary of the prestigious documents of artistic tradition related to the botanical universe.

A showcase of approximately twenty-five selected producers, and often little known, of perfumes, soaps, candles, scent-environments, essential oils, cosmetics, extracts from herbs, spices, flowers and fragrant plants, fabrics, prints, garden furniture, accessories and decorative objects. In four hundred years, including this year, history of the Royal Garden of Boboli this is the only event in which it is possible not only to present, but to sell selected laboratory products.

Info: [www.profumidiboboli.org](http://www.profumidiboboli.org)

### Open Wine Cellars at Terricciola

The Municipality of Terricciola, the City of Wine, offers a calendar of 'open wine cellars' every week from Tuesday to Saturday.

**Tuesday:**

10am to noon and 3pm to 7pm at Castelvecchio on Via del Monte, 34 • [www.agricastelvecchio.it](http://www.agricastelvecchio.it) •

3pm to 6pm at Vallorsi, Via della Cascina, 19 • [www.vallorsi.it](http://www.vallorsi.it)

4pm to 6pm at Badia di Morrone

Via del Chianti, 6 • [www.badiadimorrone.it](http://www.badiadimorrone.it)

**Wednesday**

4pm to 6pm at Pieve de' Pitti, Via Pieve de' Pitti, 7 • [www.pievedepitti.it](http://www.pievedepitti.it)

4pm to 7pm at Tenuta di Burchino, Via Pozzuolo • [www.burchino.com](http://www.burchino.com)

**Thursday**

10am to noon at Badia di Morrone, Via del Chianti • [www.badiadimorrone.it](http://www.badiadimorrone.it)

10am to noon and 3pm to 7pm at Castelvecchio, Via del Monte, 34 • [www.agricastelvecchio.it](http://www.agricastelvecchio.it)

4pm to 6pm at Tenuta Podernovo, Via Podernovo, 13 • [www.tenutapodernovo.it](http://www.tenutapodernovo.it)

4pm to 7pm at Fattoria di Fibbiano, Via Fibbiano, 2 • [www.fattoria-fibbiano.it](http://www.fattoria-fibbiano.it)

**Friday**

3pm to 6pm at Sorelle Palazzi, Via del Chianti, 34 • [www.sorellepalazzi.it](http://www.sorellepalazzi.it)

3pm to 6pm at La Spinetta, Loc. Casanova • [www.la-spinetta.com](http://www.la-spinetta.com)

**Saturday**

4pm to 7pm at Podere La Chiesa, Via Volterrana • [www.sabinianodicasanova.it](http://www.sabinianodicasanova.it)

Info: [www.comune.terricciola.pi.it](http://www.comune.terricciola.pi.it)

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

# Truffle hunting in Tuscany

By Joyce Costello

*USAG Livorno Public Affairs*

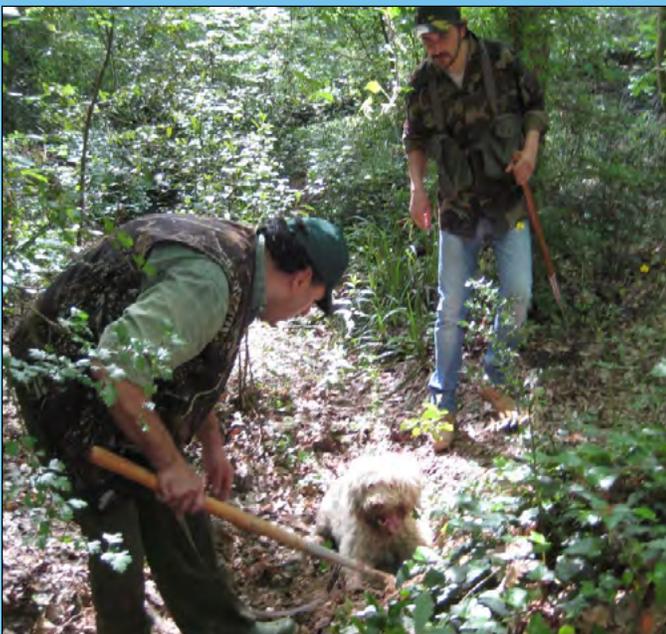
Its the type of holiday that you see photos of in epicurean cooking magazines, but for Friends of Camp Darby, FDC, members it was a day adventure spent trekking in the woods in search of the highly prized Tuscan truffle. The Truffle hunt was led by Savini Tartufi in Forcoli, Italy.

"Truffles do not look or smell very good at all and they look like a dried piece of poo - but they are delicious and very expensive," said Mindy Bowman, FCD member.

Truffles are found by dogs that have been trained to recognize the smell under the earth.

"No one believed that there was a truffle on this hill, but the dog wouldn't move though and sure enough, after a little more digging we found the first truffle of the day" said Taryn Rimland, FCD member.

FDC is a service and social organization on that is open to all members of the Camp Darby Community. They run the thrift shop, provide women empowerment scholarships , take trips and have club acitivites such as a lunch club, wine club and book reading club. Learn more about FCD activities by visiting them on facebook or <http://friendsofcampdarby.com> .



Photos courtesy of Coral Nichole, Nicole Tally and Taryn Rimland