

Panorama

56TH YEAR, No. 48

Serving the NATO, Naples and Gaeta military communities in Italy

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2011

Buone Feste!

There will be no paper
Dec. 30, 2011 and Jan. 6, 2012.
Panorama returns Jan. 13, 2012.

WHAT'S INSIDE

What's new at Capo pool



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Santa Claus goes on the road



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Exploring Oplontis



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Weekly crime statistics

Review what happened between Dec. 12 and Dec. 18.

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FRIDAY

High 54 / Low 36
Clear



SATURDAY

High 59 / Low 46
Clear



SUNDAY

High 54 / Low 43
Partly Cloudy



Last troops leave Iraq

From American Forces Press Service and XVIII Airborne Corps Public Affairs

The last U.S. troops in Iraq crossed the border into Kuwait Sunday, ending the U.S. military mission in Iraq that began nearly nine years ago. In anticipation of the troops' departure, U.S. leaders commemorated the end of the Iraq mission last week with speeches and

ceremonies both in Iraq and on U.S. soil.

During a ceremony in Iraq Dec. 15, U.S. Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta paid tribute to the Iraqi government and military for their courage, leadership and loyalty to Iraq's future.

"Your dream of an independent and sovereign Iraq is now a reality," he said.

But Panetta reserved his highest praise for

more than 1 million U.S. military members who served in Iraq since 2003.

"Your nation is deeply indebted to you," he said. "You have done everything your nation asked you to do and more. Your dedication, your commitment to this mission has been the driving force behind the remarkable progress we have seen here in Baghdad and across the country."

see IRAQ Page 4

A winter holiday in Sorrento



See page 18: Though best-known as a summer destination, the seaside town of Sorrento is equally full of life during the winter holidays. The city's streets and *piazze* are decorated with garlands and holiday lights this time of year, while locals flock to the city center to do their holiday shopping. (Photo by Melissa Kabukuru)

Naples Harley-Davidson owners unite

Bikers form military H.O.G. chapter

Story and photos by Laura Byrd

The sound of thunder booming down the streets of the Naval Support Activity Naples Support Site didn't surprise some people on the first Saturday of December. A storm the day before had brought wind and torrential rain, so everyone knew winter had arrived. What did surprise some was that the flash of light bouncing off their apartment windows wasn't lightning – it was the twinkle of tinsel on the helmets and windshields of ten motorcycles rumbling through the neighborhood. The thumping exhaust of the Harley-Davidsons was accompanied by the siren of a fire engine delivering Santa and Mrs. Claus to the Naples Navy Exchange for a holiday visit with children.

Escorting Santa is one of many events local riders participate in during the holidays. Each year American riders in Italy have joined local Italian H.O.G. (Harley Owners Group) chapters to provide toys for Italian orphanages and funds for charities.

But members of Naples' U.S. military community have lacked a H.O.G. chapter of their own.



Local Harley-Davidson riders escort Santa and Mrs. Claus to the Naples Navy Exchange for a holiday visit with children Dec. 3. Harley owners in the Naples military community are forming their own chapter of the Harley Owners Group (H.O.G.), which will become official next month.

see HARLEY Page 8

Captain's Corner

By **Capt. Scott Gray**
NSA Commanding Officer

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Happy holidays! I hope everyone has the opportunity to celebrate the season and get some much needed rest and relaxation. Holiday services will be in full swing and the NEX and Commissary are ready for the big final shopping rush. I am sure there will be many holiday parties throughout the community. I would like to encourage everyone to consider our single service members and those who have only recently arrived. It is a difficult time to be alone and away from home and I encourage the community to extend a helping hand to those who might otherwise go without this holiday season.

I request your assistance on the Support Site and highly encourage everyone to recycle and reduce waste volume during the holiday season. We all generate a lot of garbage this time of year, and there's a danger of overtaxing our ability to dispose of our refuse in a timely manner if not handled appropriately. This will take everyone's help to avoid. Please crush boxes, bottles, cans, and anything else you can. Please use the two recycling centers on base to dispose of recyclables. This will help avoid overfilling our waste sites and prevent large volumes of refuse that could take a long time to get hauled away. Together we can keep ourselves trash-pile-free and help the environment as well.

The period of scheduled power outages on the Support Site for substation maintenance ended this week. Public Works was able to perform much-needed substation maintenance that should help ensure the smooth operation of the electrical system. I realize these outages were inconvenient and not without sacrifice, and greatly appreciated your patience during this whole evolution!

As the snow on Mt. Vesuvius indicates, ski season is finally here so check with the NOR center for scheduled trips and rental gear. With winter settling in on us here in Naples, the NOR center has everything you'll need to partake in winter outdoor activities. I'll see you on the slopes! As you're driving through the snow and for long distances during this holiday season, please stay alert, plan ahead, have appropriate snow gear in your car, and stay safe on the roads. Don't drink and drive — your life and the lives of others around you depend on it. Please DO have a wonderful, safe, relaxing and enjoyable holiday season, and I'll see you in 2012!

On a very sad note, it is with a heavy heart that I and many from our community attended the funeral this week for one of our long-time NEX employees, Ernesto Festa. His death was sudden, unexpected and a huge blow to his family and to our community. As a representative of one of the two Italian labor unions on base, I personally had the chance to get to know Ernesto as we worked closely to resolve issues and further our common interests. Having had the opportunity to work with him over the last six months, I feel blessed to have known him. He was an honest man of true integrity who always worked diligently to find solutions for the mutual benefit of all. He will be sorely missed. I will miss him and want to offer my deepest condolences to his family.

Auguri di Buon Natale, e felice Anno Nuovo!

Base Notes

From Panorama staff reports

AFN only available from NEX residential services Jan. 2

The legacy delivery system for AFN to Support Site housing units will be shut off beginning Jan. 2, 2012. Please contact NEX residential services at 081-813-5321 or visit the NEX residential service office between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday to ensure continued AFN broadcast.

Parco Eva Town Hall Dec. 21

Capt. Gray, Naval Support Activity Naples' commanding officer, will host a town hall meeting Dec. 21 at 6 p.m. at Parco Eva. All Parco Eva residents are encouraged to attend.

Holiday closures

The Region Legal Service Office will be closed Dec. 23, 26, and Dec. 30, 2011, as well as Jan. 2, 2012, in observance of federal holidays. The Navy Legal Service Office will also be closed during this time. N8 travel office will have reduced services Dec. 23.

Meanwhile, The Capodichino back gate will be closed from 5:30 p.m. Dec. 23 through 5:30 a.m. Dec. 28, and from 5:30 p.m. Dec. 29 through 5:30 a.m. Jan. 3.

Additionally, the Naples, Gaeta, and Capo satellite housing offices will be closed Dec. 26. Please contact the Naval Support Activity Naples quarterdeck at 081-568-5547 for emergency trouble calls (immediate danger to occupant or damage to property (flood, fire, electrical, gas leaks, etc.) and water heater/heating problems).

Lastly, U.S. Naval Hospital Naples is suspending DS-11 Passport Application services from Dec. 21 to Jan. 5. The office will remain open for all other services.

Appointments for the DS-11 can be made with the U.S. Consulate (www.usembassy.it) at 081-583-8223/4 or through walk-ins every Friday from 9 a.m. to noon.

Holiday shuttle bus schedule

The Navy shuttle bus will run on a holiday schedule Monday, Dec. 26 and Monday, Jan. 2. The late bus will leave the Support Site at 11 p.m., not 9:30 p.m., on these dates. Please see the holiday schedule for full listing of shuttle bus departures. The buses will run on a regular schedule all other days throughout the holiday period.

American Soccer Club of Napoli tryouts

American Soccer Club of Napoli will hold try-outs for its Winter/Spring session from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Jan. 18 and Jan. 19. Prospective players must attend both nights of the tryouts. A parent is also required to attend for registration paperwork. Try-outs will be held at the South Side Soccer Fields near the schools on the Support Site. Limited spots are available. The ASC Winter/Spring Season runs from Jan. 23 to May 12.

Additionally, the ASC is looking for qualified coaches for the 2012 spring soccer season for the age groups of U-9, U-11, U-13, and U-15/17. For more information or to sign up, e-mail ASCNapoli@yahoo.com or check the ASC-American Soccer Club of Napoli page on Facebook.

Meal prices at USNH Naples galley to increase

Meal prices at U.S. Naval Hospital Naples will increase starting January 1, 2012. The standard rate for breakfast will increase from \$2.30 to \$2.45. Lunch and dinner prices will increase from \$4.25 to \$4.55. The following discounted rates apply to spouses and dependents of enlisted personnel in pay grades E1 through E4: Breakfast, \$2.10; Lunch, \$3.90; and dinner, \$3.90.

USO Holiday Wine and Dine for Single Service Members Dec. 30

The USO Naples will be offering the opportunity for unaccompanied service members to attend a holiday dinner Dec. 30 for only €5. This special event will give the opportunity for single service members to spend a nice evening out experiencing the local culture and foods at an extremely reduced cost. For more information, call the USO Naples at 081-811-4903 or 081-568-5713.

Important dates for Naples Middle/ High School

Dec. 19 - Jan. 2: No school — Winter Break
Jan. 8: Tiger Sharks home meet at Capo Pool
Jan. 13-14: Girls/Boys Basketball and Cheer at home
Jan. 14: Wrestling at Vicenza
Jan. 19: 11 a.m. early release — CSI teacher workday
Jan. 27: No school — teacher work day
Feb. 3: No school — CSI teacher work day

CNE-CNA-C6F/CNREURAFSWA IG HOTLINE

Report fraud, waste, abuse and mismanagement in Navy activities to:

Office of the Inspector General, Naples, Italy

Leave a recorded message 24/7:.....081-568-2983

Speak to the CNREURAFSWA Investigator:.....081-568-2600

Speak to the CNE-CNA-C6F Investigator:081-568-2964

E-mail: ighotline@eu.navy.mil

Website: www.cnic.navy.mil/europe/index.htm

CONTACT NAPLES

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- Personal Propertyppso-naples@eu.navy.mil
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Panorama

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In memoriam: Ernesto Festa

UIL union representative

Ernesto Festa began his career with the Naples Navy Exchange in September 1974 as a temporary store worker. After a few months he moved up to a cashier position and in 1978 he was promoted to Invoice Audit Clerk for the Naples Financial Office. Meanwhile, he joined the Italian Labor Union (UIL) in the early seventies and he was a solid individual who supported the local nation workforce in dealings with the military and civilian leadership at Naval Support Activity Naples.

Ernesto Festa passed away Tuesday morning at the age of 62. He is survived by his wife Carmen and his daughter Francesca. A memorial ceremony was held for him Wednesday morning. Loyal and highly respected Ernesto will be missed by everyone. *(Information and photo courtesy of Maria D'Iacovo)*



Italian News Briefs

Compiled by Teresa Merola

Vespa stolen 35 years ago recovered

Good news has come at Christmas time for an old man in Milan. Police were doing a routine check in Buccheri, Sicily, when they stopped a man who was driving a Vespa 50 motorcycle and discovered that the Vespa had been stolen in 1976. They called the former owner, who lives in Milan; but it is unlikely that he would get back on the motorcycle, since he is 84 years old. The man in Buccheri has been charged with receiving stolen property and police seized the vehicle.

Scipio family tomb reopens

The tomb of the Scipio family is opening in Rome after 20 years of restoration. The tomb, built at the beginning of the third century A.D., contains the Scipio sarcophagi, which are located along a series of underground tunnels near the Bath of Caracalla. The tomb consists of a series of tunnels that intersect to form almost a square. The sarcophagus is a monument of fundamental importance for the understanding of history, art history, architecture and language of the Roman Republic. The Scipio family had many political and military positions in Rome, though its most famous member, Scipio Africanus, was not buried there. He left Rome for Liternum, an ancient town in the Campania region, and died there. Total cost of the restoration, carried out by the Culture and the Superintendent of Cultural Heritage in Rome was one million and 300 thousand euros. The visits are open to the public every Saturday morning upon reservation, which can be made by calling (+39) 06-0608.

A unique journey in Naples

It is a journey that can only be done in Naples: traveling through an underground tunnel on a raft to discover the secrets of the Bourbons. In Naples, forty feet underground there is the path carved by King Ferdinand II into the rock of Chiaia to connect the royal palace to the sea behind Castel dell'Ovo. That tunnel was rediscovered, re-excavated (with debris and rubble), and literally transformed by Gianluca Minin, a geologist with passion for the soil who has worked for ten years in the dark in order to open the path to the tourists. Today the tunnel has become one of the most visited tourist attractions in the city. The raft can carry up to fourteen people at once on a tour of the underground of Naples. The route starts at the center of an ancient cistern of Naples' 17th century aqueduct. Lit candles mark the road, and small flashlights are handed out to tourists to discover the details that emerge from the darkness while expert guides explain the secrets of ancient ruins. The journey will be opened to tourists on Dec. 26 and then will be open every Saturday and Sunday. Visits are allowed at 10 a.m., noon, 3:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. for a duration of 1 hour

and 15 minutes. The tours are open only to those ages 18 and up; visitors should be sure to wear comfortable shoes. It is not recommended for people who suffer from claustrophobia. Cost is €15 per person. Reservation is required at the web site www.tunnelborbonico.info to adequately prepare the raft and the tools to accommodate tourists on this incredible journey.

Pope canonizes first Native American saint

On Tuesday, Pope Benedict XVI announced a decree saying that the Kateri Tekakwitha, known as Lily of the Mohawks, will become the first Native American saint in history to be canonized by the Catholic Church. She was born in Auriesville, New York to an Iroquois father and Algonquin mother in 1656 and died at the age of 24 in Canada. In 1980, Kateri was beatified by Pope John Paul II, the final stage before sainthood. To be declared a saint, a miracle must be attributed to the candidate after he or she has been beatified. She is credited with interceding to save Jake Finkbonner, a child in Washington State who developed necrotizing fasciitis, a flesh-eating disease, after cutting his lip while playing basketball. With Jake gravely ill in the hospital, his parish priest asked his family and other church members to ask Kateri for an intercession. Soon after, the bacteria stopped spreading and Jake recovered, his family says.

Bari driver ticketed for talking on two cell phones at once

Last week a driver in Bari was pulled over by police after they saw him speaking on two cellular phones at once. The man held a handset in each hand and he had no control of the steering wheel. Police questioned him and he said he was speaking to his wife when his mother called, and he could not hang up on either of them. He was fined €152 and five points were taken off his driver's license. In Italy, it is officially banned to speak on a mobile phone while driving, except when using speaker systems or hand-free devices.

Armed men rob bank near Spanish Steps in Rome

Five men robbed a bank next to the famous Spanish Steps in Rome on Monday. They took off with about €250,000 while threatening employees with a gun. They were dressed in city police uniforms and were able to scatter and disappear into the holiday shopping crowd. One employee inside the bank revealed that the bank does not use metal detectors and the money bags were not equipped with security ink to mark the stolen banknotes. The thieves were inside the bank for less than a minute, and crowds outside the bank located in the popular shopping and sightseeing area did not notice anything unusual.

THE INSIDE PAGE...

UPCOMING FFSC NAPLES DECEMBER EVENTS

Call FFSC at 081-811-6372 to reserve your spot for events and classes.

- 3 **COUPON CLUB** (1 - 2 p.m.) On the first Tuesday of every month, FFSC has a Coupon Club. Come to sort through the thousands of coupons sent by volunteers, get ideas on how to save money, and socialize with other coupon aficionados.
- 3, 10 **AL-ANON SUPPORT GROUP** (6 - 7 p.m.)
- 4 **SPONSORSHIP TRAINING** (9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.) To be a sponsor is a duty; to be a great one is to make a difference!
- 4 **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN NAPLES** (9:30 - 11:30 a.m.) Looking for a job in Naples? This educational session is great for spouses (and family members) who want to explore the various employment opportunities available in Naples.
- 5 **SMOOTH MOVE** Thu, (8 a.m. - 12 p.m.) Don't let your upcoming transfer catch you off guard, start planning today. Registration is required prior to attending. Note: All non-Navy personnel should arrive at 9:30 a.m.
- 5 **STRESS MANAGEMENT 101** (10 - 11 a.m.) Stress Management 101 provides opportunities to create work and life strategies to get to a healthier stress zone.
- 5 **DEPLOYMENT SUPPORT/ IA DISCUSSION GROUP** (1-2 p.m.) Topic: Commissary (DECA) authorized shoppers.
- 5 **OMBUDSMEN ASSEMBLY MEETING** (6 - 8 p.m.) Topic: Commissary (DECA) authorized shoppers.
- 6 **INTRODUCTION TO LOVE AND LOGIC PARENTING** (10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.)
- 9-13 **COMMAND FINANCIAL SPECIALIST TRAINING** (8 a.m. - 4 p.m.) Initial training for assigned or soon-to-be assigned Command Financial Specialist personnel (E-6 or above).
- 9 **CHAT WITH TIZIANA** (9 - 10 a.m.; TLA Coffee Shop) Tiziana, an ICR Specialist, will be available to answer your cultural questions on food, holidays, trips, etiquette, transportation, the Italian language, & much more.
- 10 **STRESS MANAGEMENT** (8 - 10 a.m.; Support Site Fitness Forum) Yoga/Pilates to follow.
- 10, 17 & 24 **EASY ITALIAN** - Series of 3 classes. (9 a.m. - 12 p.m.) An introduction to basic Italian language and conversation.
- 11, 12 **EARLY CHILDHOOD PARENTING MADE FUN** (8:15 - 9:45 a.m.; Naples Elementary School Cafeteria) Creating happy families and responsible kids, from birth to six. Additional classes meet from 8:15 - 9:45 a.m. Jan. 18-19 and Jan. 25.
- 11 **TO AVERSA USING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION** (9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.) Visit the 11th-century cathedral, discover good shopping areas and some historical buildings.
- 11 **EFFECTIVE RESUME WRITING** (9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.) Having a difficult time creating your resume? This seminar provides a basic introduction to the design and purpose of a resume. Special attention is given to the federal employment resume.
- 12 **THE HILL OF POSILLIPO & THE MARKET** (8:30 a.m. - 2: p.m.; Departs from JFC) One of the most beautiful areas in Naples, close to Mergellina, Posillipo has been a favorite destination for famous poets, writers & celebrities.
- 13 **EXPLORING POZZUOLI** (8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m; Departs from JFC) Using the Metro & Cumana trains, see the Roman Amphitheatre, the Rione Terra, the port, the Temple of Serapis, the fish market and enjoy a good pizza.
- 13, 27 **LEGAL ASSISTANCE AT SS FFSC** (9 a.m. - 3 p.m.) Legal Assistance appointments will be performed by a NLSO attorney two times per month at the FFSC service center. The attorneys are available for the usual legal assistance services - powers of attorney, immigration, consumer law, creditor/debtor issues, divorce, etc. Please contact 081-568-4576 for more information or to make an appointment.

UPCOMING GAETA DECEMBER EVENTS

Call FFSC Gaeta at 081-568-8354/7 to sign up for a class.

- 3, 4, 5, 9 **AO/ICR SEMINAR** (5 days) Learn everything you need to know about setting up your home on the economy. Learn to use the phone, settle into your new home, and deal with emergencies and more. Learn to make the best of your time in Italy. AO/ICR SEMINAR WILL NEED AT LEAST 5 CONFIRMED PARTECIPANTS OR WILL BE CANCELLED.

DECEMBER

- 27 **DLPT LANGUAGE TESTS** Contact the Navy College Office (NCO) for information on how to sign up for the DLPT tests. If you do not have access to the ONE-NET computer system, you must sign up two weeks in advance. Open to all military services. Call or visit the NCO for more information.
- 27-30 **NAVY COLLEGE OFFICE OPEN** The NCO will be open the week between the two holidays. Take advantage of this time to visit the NCO and learn more about college and how you can earn a degree. Make an appointment by visiting the NCO in Admin II, sending an email to nco.naples@eu.navy.mil or calling 081-568-6683/6684/6678.

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U.S. and Kuwaiti troops unite to close the gate between Kuwait and Iraq after the last military convoys pass through Dec. 18, 2011, signaling the end of Operation New Dawn. Despite the final battalions' departure, the U.S. will continue to build and strengthen a mutually-beneficial partnership with Iraq. (U.S. Army photo by Cpl. Jordan Johnson)

IRAQ

Continued from Page 1

Back home, President Obama welcomed home troops at Fort Bragg, N.C., Dec. 14, speaking to 3,000 troops who gathered at Pope Army Airfield. During his speech, the president spoke of how the U.S. military's work during both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn hasn't gone unnoticed.

"All the fighting, all the crying and all the bleeding, as well as the building, training and partnering, has all led to this moment of success," Obama said. "Iraq is not a perfect place; it has many challenges ahead, but we are leaving behind a solid, stable and self-reliant government that was elected by its people. We are building a new partnership between our nations, and we are ending a war not with a final battle but a final march home — an extraordinary achievement that was nine years in the making."

Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said that it is too soon to calculate how the end of U.S. Forces Iraq will affect the region's military dynamics, but the U.S. focus on the Middle East and its partner countries there is unwavering.

"Right now I think there are concerns, maybe some that would rise to a level of skepticism about the future [in the region]," Dempsey told reporters who were traveling with him aboard a military aircraft Dec. 17. "But I think that's why our presence here is so important — to help ease those concerns and reduce that skepticism."



Troops, guests and media representatives from throughout the world watch as the last convoy of U.S. service members enters Kuwait from Iraq, Dec. 18, 2011. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Lynette Hoke)

Dempsey added, "We've got to make sure we maintain our vigilance, our deterrence and our engagement in the Middle East."

Panetta emphasized in his speech Dec. 15 that Iraq's challenges aren't over, but promised that the United States will continue to stand with Iraq as it navigates them.

"Together with the Iraqi people, the United States welcomes the next stage in U.S.-Iraqi relations, one that will be rooted in mutual interest and mutual respect," he said.

In addition to a significant diplomatic presence, the United States will continue to promote partnership between U.S. and Iraqi military forces, Panetta said.

"We will continue to help Iraq address violent extremism and defend against external threats," he said. "We may be ending the war, but we are not walking away from our responsibilities."

NSA Naples practices good winter safety habits

By MCSA Erik Luebke, Navy Public Affairs Support Element-East Detachment Europe



Culinary Specialist Second Class Chasity Eastland demonstrates the wrong way to plug in Christmas decorations. Plugging too many items into one outlet can result in blown circuits, a possible power outage or fire. (U.S. Navy photo by MCSA Erik Luebke)

Service members and their families stationed at Naval Support Activity (NSA) Naples need to prepare for the arrival of winter, because winter in Italy brings different problems than winter in the United States does.

"The biggest difference is driving," said Lt. Cmdr. Ray Brown, the safety officer for NSA Naples. "It's a whole lot different driving here than it is in the States. The roads here are made of marble, which makes them very slick and requires more distance for your vehicle to come to a complete stop."

For people driving north during the holidays, snow is another road hazard they should worry about. People driving north of Rome have a higher chance of seeing snow than they do in the Campania region, and need to be prepared in case of an emergency, added Brown.

"One of the biggest concerns while driving is that the colder it gets, the lower your tire pressure gets," said Chief Master at Arms (FMF) Kenneth Jones, a member of the security department.

Some things that should be kept in the car to deal with emergency situations include a bag of sand, a shovel, an ice scraper and warning devices, as well as a standard vehicle emergency kit. A standard vehicle emergency kit should include jumper cables, a first aid kit, and a flashlight, among other things.

At home, people should also be careful about using space heaters, Brown said.

"The majority of the houses in Italy do not have the same heating capability as houses in the States do, so people employ space heaters to keep their house warm," said Brown. "These space heaters are not allowed on base, and if purchased for a house out in the economy, a model that will automatically turn off if knocked over is recommended."

Brown added that back in the United States, all of your electrical outlets are strategically placed throughout the house. Here in Italy, there are some places where you only have one outlet for the entire room. You need to be careful not to overload the sockets by chaining extension cords or strips together. Too much electricity being drawn through one socket will blow the circuitry in your house.

Some of the major causes of winter accidents are fireworks, drinking and driving, and tripping, according to the NSA Naples Safety Office.

"Fireworks are a big deal in Italy. Many are lit off during New Years Eve in celebration. Campania is known for accidents involving fireworks," said Brown. "Second is drinking and driving. If you drink, don't drive. Lastly are slips, trips, and falls in the house due to all the additional cords powering things such as Christmas trees, dancing Santa Claus decorations and Christmas lights."

For more information on winter safety tips, view the Fall/Winter Safety Stand Down 2011 brief at <http://www.cnic.navy.mil/Naples/OperationsAndManagement/Safety/Training/index.htm>.

The "Medicine" of Merry Christmas

A community relations partnering

By Chaplain Mack, U.S. Naval Hospital Naples

"Tis the season to be jolly," has long been a familiar phrase during this holiday season. And in that spirit, several volunteers from U.S. Naval Hospital Naples shared the "medicine" of music and wholesome fellowship with 54 teens of the Nisida Juvenile Detention Center in Naples Monday, Dec. 19. Nine volunteer sailors brought a healthy dose of good cheer to our local neighbors and wished them a Merry Christmas. Contributions of chocolate and American candy stuffed in Christmas stockings, home baked cookies, Christmas caroling, and a fully decorated Christmas tree donated from the Pediatric Clinic were some of the highlights of the visit.

Many of us were reminded of circumstances that can go awry in life; but for a moment we all chose to embrace happiness and hope, and indeed it made the season bright. When many of us are away from our families and hometown communities during the holidays, we can still choose to celebrate in the richness of our various traditions. And of course, if Christmas is a part of your tradition, Merry Christmas to you from the Nisida COMREL team: Lt. Maguire, PO1 Barnes, PO1 Go, PO1 Mayaperez, PO1 Pearson, RP1 Stapleton, PO2 Clark, and SN Garhartt.





The pool in the FitZone at Naval Support Activity Naples Capodichino has reopened after months of renovation. (U.S. Navy photo by MC1 John Parker)

What's new at the Capo pool

By Melissa Kabukuru
 Panorama editor

The renovated pool inside the FitZone at Naval Support Activity (NSA) Naples opened to the public earlier this month, and so far it's been a hit among gym patrons, said Jeffrey Harris, FitZone facility manager.

"Usage is definitely up," Harris said this week. "People are raving about the clarity of the water."

Deborah Moors, aquatic director for Morale, Welfare and Recreation at NSA Naples, said patrons will notice that the new pool resembles an upscale fitness center facility more than a typical military lap swim pool. "It's all bright and clean and new," she said.

But the improvements go beyond aesthetics.

One of the biggest changes is that new pool is tile-lined, so it won't have the same problems with leaks that the old vinyl-lined pool did, Moors said.

"It's bringing us into the 21st century," Moors said. "Swimming pools are a lot like computers — I don't think people realize. Every year or so there's always an innovation, and we finally caught up to where the innovations are."

The pool features a new filtration and heating system, which will help better regulate the water temperature, Moors said. Additionally, all of the pool's mechanical controls are brand new, and the new pool is equipped with an overflow gutter system.

"We now have a pool that doesn't leak, and it's up to standards and the current trends in aquatics," Moors said. "We definitely will have a lot less shutdowns due to

an older facility that needed constant maintenance and repairs."

Harris said that many swimmers have raved about being able to see lane lines while in the pool. In the old pool, "they were so faded you couldn't see them," he said.

The renovated pool facility also includes new lounge chairs and new aquatic equipment, Moors said. Some of the new items include fins, hand paddles and other equipment for swim lessons. More new items are on the way, she said.

Harris said that gym patrons have responded well to the new additions — especially the lounge chairs, which provide more comfortable seating for people watching children as they swim. The older facility had bleachers instead of lounge chairs, he said.

"It's more comfortable for people to just relax now while they watch their siblings or kids," Harris said.

Youth Center gives free toys to military children in the Naples community



Since 2009, the Toy Industry Foundation (TIF) has partnered with the Boys & Girls Club of America (BGCA) to provide toys and gifts to children of military personnel. This year's shipment included toys such as remote control cars, Toy Story 3 figures, and Barbie dolls, which were all distributed to children throughout the Naval Support Activity Naples community in hopes of brightening their holidays. For more information on BGCA programs on base, contact SAC or the Teen Center at 081-811-4722 or 081-811-4395. (Photo by Angelique Stoerle)

In the event of an emergency or to report a crime, please call the Emergency Dispatch Center at 081-568-4911 or 5911. (On-Base Dial 9-1-1)

For non-emergency assistance, call 081-568-5638.

A guide to Naples' *dolci* *natalizi*

Story and photos by Melissa Kabukuru
Panorama editor

This time of year, every pastry shop in the Naples area has stocked its shelves with the region's typical Christmas sweets, called *dolci natalizi*.

If you're unfamiliar with traditional Neapolitan pastries, the array of options can be confusing, especially since the offerings at your local *pasticceria* will change from season to season. Here's a guide to the most common Neapolitan Christmas pastries and *biscotti* that you will see when you walk into a pastry shop this time of year.



RAFFIOLI (raf-FYO-lee)

The base of this dessert is *pan di Spagna*, a type of sponge cake. The cake is then covered in a white sugar glaze to form the simplest version of the dessert, *raffioli semplici*, which are essentially oval-shaped cookies.



Pictured above: *i raffioli semplici*



Other versions, called *raffioli a cassata* or *raffioli ripieni*, include a layer of ricotta cream with chocolate chips, and often are topped with a layer of green pistachio paste or dried fruit.

Pictured at left:
un raffiolo ripieno



PASTE DI MANDORLE

(PAHS-tay
dee MAN-
dor-lay)

These sweets, made of almond paste and sugar glaze, are carefully shaped and painted to look like real fruit. They also are known as *pasta reale*, a name that dates back to the era of the Bourbon King Ferdinand IV of Naples. It is said that the king visited nuns at the convent of San Gregorio Armeno in Naples and was presented with a sumptuous feast of fruits, lobster and fish. When he declined to eat, saying that he had recently had lunch, the nuns urged him to have a taste. When he did, he was surprised to realize that the entire feast consisted of sweets that were sculpted and painted by hand.

Outside of Naples, Sicily is also famous for making these desserts.

MOSTACCIOLI
 (mohs-ta-
 CHOL-ee)

These Neapolitan Christmas cookies, shaped like a diamond or rhomboid, are covered with dark chocolate. Some *bianco* versions are covered in white chocolate. Inside, the firm cookie is usually spiced with nutmeg, lemon zest, cinnamon, cloves and cocoa powder.



ROCCOCÒ
 (Roh-coh-
 COH)

These round-shaped cookies look like donuts, but they have a much different texture: they're normally hard rather than soft. The dough is spiced with nutmeg, cloves and cinnamon, and includes chopped almonds. They have a distinctively nutty flavor.



PASTIERA
 (pahs-tee-
 AY-rah)

Though this Neapolitan pastry is eaten most often at Easter, you'll see it lining the shelves of your favorite *pasticceria* around Christmas as well. It is essentially a pie filled with a soft mixture of cooked grain, ricotta cheese and candied citrus. If you go to buy one, you'll receive not only the pastry, but also the round pan it is baked in, as it is deemed to delicate to be removed. Look for the decorative crisscross pattern on top to identify it.



STRUFFOLI
 (STRUF-fol-ee)

Neapolitan *struffoli* are a longstanding Christmas tradition in Campania. The fried dough balls are tossed in honey, then mixed with candies and sprinkles. They are served in piles on a plate, and are available in any *pasticceria* this time of year. If buying a large platter of fried dough and confetti seems intimidating, try a small plate, as they're usually available in varying sizes.



SUSAMIELLI
 (Soo-sah-
 MYAY-lee)

These cookies, shaped like a letter "s," are a challenge for the teeth. Biting into one is unexpectedly hard and chewy, but the texture grows on you after a while. They are made from a dough of honey, flour, ground almonds and sugar, and spiced with cloves, nutmeg, cinnamon and vanilla. Some versions are called *sapienze*.



PANETTONE
 (pah-nay-
 TON-ay)

This type of sweet bread loaf originated in Milan, not Naples, but it has become a common Christmas dessert throughout all of Italy. Typically, the tall, domed loaf contains candied citrus fruits and raisins, but some versions include chocolate and other flavorings. It is usually cut into vertical slices and served with a sparkling wine like *spumante* during Christmas or New Year's celebrations. Another type of sweet yeast bread, *pandoro*, is similar to *panettone*, but lacks the candied fruits and raisins. *Pandoro* is also eaten during the winter holidays, but originated in Verona and has a base shaped like an eight-pointed star.





Harley-Davidson riders wave to onlookers at the Naval Support Activity Naples Support Site as they escort Santa and Mrs. Claus to a holiday event at the Naples Navy Exchange Dec. 3. Harley owners in the Naples military community are forming their own chapter of the Harley Owners Group (H.O.G.), which will continue to participate in community events like this one.

HARLEY

Continued from Page 1

H.O.G. clubs, which number more than 1,400 worldwide, are officially sanctioned by Harley-Davidson, Inc. and are renowned for their commitment to causes within their communities.

Inspired by the brotherhood of H.O.G., Martin Dudley, Naval Support Activity (NSA) Naples' chief of police, decided to start campaigning for a Naples military H.O.G. chapter in June.

"I didn't own a Harley before I came to Naples in 2009," Dudley said. "I bought my first Harley here at New Car Sales at the Exchange and went on a ride with two friends to the Tuscany Rally."

A three-day rally with more than 5,000 attending, the Tuscany event included riders from 46 different H.O.G. chapters across Europe. Each chapter was designated with patches and identifying gear.

"I saw the H.O.G. Chapter patches on jackets and starting asking questions," said Dudley. "There was a strong sense of camaraderie and brotherhood among the groups from each chapter – which we already had – but we just looked like a hodge-podge rather than an organized and put-together group."

Jim Dickinson, NSA Naples' traffic safety program manager, accompanied Dudley on the Tuscany ride. Dickinson, who teaches motorcycle safety courses at NSA Naples, has coordinated charity rides with the Italian H.O.G. chapters of Vesuvio, Lupi and Naples for more than a decade. "The Italians have always welcomed us," Dickinson said. "The only real issue has been the language barrier."

While riders who could speak Italian often went along for Italian rallies, those who didn't know the language were "left out of the loop," Dudley said. "I thought it would be great to have an American H.O.G. chapter here, where we all could communicate and look like an official group."

Because all H.O.G. chapters require the sponsorship of a Harley-Davidson dealership, the first step was contacting Chris Dunham, senior sales representative for Navy Exchange New Car Sales at NSA Naples.



Harley-Davidson owners ride through the Naval Support Activity (NSA) Naples Support Site Dec. 3, leading a fire engine that carries Santa and Mrs. Claus. The riders are forming a Harley Owners Group (H.O.G.) chapter to cement their status as a community organization at NSA Naples.

Dunham then contacted Michelle Hanson, the Harley-Davidson product manager for overseas military sales at Naval Air Station (NAS) Sigonella.

Hanson had helped NAS Sigonella form the first overseas military H.O.G. chapter in 2010, which included requesting that Harley-Davidson modify the requirement that Harley-Davidson dealerships sponsor chapters.

"We had to modify a few of the standard chapter rules and criteria so that we could have an official U.S. chapter for deployed military on foreign soil," Hanson said. "The Naples chapter will become official and receive all of their information and materials in January of 2012."

Naples Navy Exchange New Car Sales will be the chapter sponsor, while Dunham will serve as H.O.G. director and Dudley will be president. New officers will be voted in as club members rotate through Naples.

"Harley Davidson has a long history with the military so it just makes sense," Dudley said. "I think the real sense of accomplishment will come the first time we are all together on a charity ride, wearing our colors."

Energy conservation

Save energy – Go LED!

From the NSA Naples and Region EURAFSWA Energy Management Team



Next time you are parking in the Capodichino Basement Garages, look up and notice the newest "bright idea:" new, energy efficient, LED lighting.

NSA Naples has replaced all of the old, 36-watt fluorescent light tubes with new, 24-watt LED tubes. When you consider the lifecycle of LED tubes compared to the ancient fluorescent bulbs, it's a no-brainer. LED lights last approximately five times longer than fluorescent light tubes. This means big savings in energy and maintenance.

Approximately \$27 is wasted each year through the use of our previous fluorescent bulbs. During the average life of each LED tube we will save about \$140 on the cost of each tube and \$70 in maintenance, resulting in a total savings of \$210 per tube. With 740 tubes installed in our garages, \$155,400 will be saved in approximately five years. GO LED!

Now take the lessons learned here to your home and help conserve our future resources by cutting down on energy use — while saving money. With the holiday season fast approaching, you can do your part to lessen energy consumption by changing your tree's old lights to new, more efficient LED lighting. The holiday season is a big time for spending; ensure this year it is on gifts, not your electric bill.

Gaeta Girl Scouts "Adopt-a-Nonna"



From Gaeta Girl Scouts Troop 96

Gaeta Girl Scouts have organized and participated in an inter-generational community service project called "Adopt-a-Nonna" in Gianola. Troop 96 made new friends with Italian senior citizens living in a retirement facility and the nuns who care for them. The USS Mount Whitney Family Readiness group and base security were invited to take part in the community service project as well.

Each girl sang Christmas songs and made holiday cards with her nonna. (*Nonna* means "grandmother" in Italian.) *Le nonne* enjoyed interacting with the girl scouts by eating delicious treats, receiving manicures and playing an Italian holiday game.

NSA Naples Weekly Crime Report for Dec. 12 - Dec. 18

- Traffic Accidents4 (1 on base, 3 off base)
- Vehicle Break-In2 (2 off base)
- Larceny of Personal Property2 (1 on base, 1 off base)
- House Break-In2 (2 off base)
- Stolen Vehicle1 (1 off base)
- DUI1 (1 on base)
- Shoplifting1 (1 on base)

Stolen Vehicle (off base). On Dec. 12 at approximately 9:30 p.m. E-5/USN reported a vehicle theft that occurred earlier that day in Vomero, Italy. Victim reported that he had left his motorcycle unsecured and upon returning noticed it missing.

Larceny of Personal Property (on base). On Dec. 14 at approximately 4:30 p.m., CIV reported a larceny of personal property that occurred Dec. 10 at the NSA Naples Support Site. Victims reported that a babysitter was at their residence the night before, and the next day their children reported that they could not find their iPod.

Traffic Accident without Injuries (off base). On Dec. 15 at approximately 1:44 p.m., E-4/USN reported a traffic accident without injuries that occurred Dec. 14 in Giugliano, Italy. Driver reported that he was rear ended, and upon pulling over, the second driver became agitated and started to back up his vehicle and repeatedly hit the complainant's vehicle. The driver then drove home and notified military police of the incident.

Vehicle Break-In (off base). On Dec. 17 at approximately 12:02 a.m., CIV reported a vehicle break-in that occurred Dec. 16 in Pozzuoli, Italy. Victim reported that he returned to his vehicle and noticed his front passenger window broken and his GPS missing.

DUI (on base). On Dec. 17 at approximately 5:35 a.m., military police observed E-4/USN sleeping in the front seat of his vehicle. Upon questioning the suspect, military police was informed that he had been drinking and could not find his keys. Military police found his keys approximately 24 inches away from the ignition and cited him for a DUI.

House Break-In (off base). On Dec. 17 at approximately 3:25 p.m., CIV reported a house break-in that occurred on the same date in Giugliano, Italy. Victim reported that she had returned home and noticed her laptop and some jewelry missing from the residence.

Larceny of Personal Property (on base). On Dec. 17 at approximately 4:10 p.m., E-6/USA reported a larceny of personal property that occurred earlier that day at the NSA Naples Support Site. Victim reported that she returned to her vehicle and noticed that her air valve cap on her tires had been replaced with a standard valve cap. Victim reported that the valve cap was a special type of cap, and that it was easily noticeable if it was missing.

Vehicle Break-In (off base). On Dec. 17 at approximately 6:10 p.m., O-6/USN reported a vehicle break-in that occurred earlier that day in Lago Patria. Victim reported that she returned to her vehicle and noticed her front passenger window broken and multiple items missing.

House Break-In (off base). On Dec. 18 at approximately 12:01 a.m., E-4/USN reported a house break-in that had occurred Dec. 17 in Gricignano, Italy. Victim reported that she had returned home and noticed multiple items missing from the residence.

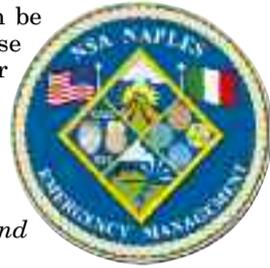
Shoplifting (on base). On Dec. 18 at approximately 1:33 p.m., military police were notified of a shoplifting incident that occurred earlier that day at the NSA Naples Support Site. Complainant reported that a CIV was caught with a make-up package in her pocket which caused the sensors to set off. Subject was detained by military police.



Winter storm tips

Information compiled by EN2 Miguel Huerta, NSA Naples Emergency Management Office Disaster Preparedness Specialist

The extreme cold and heavy snowfall that accompany winter storms can be debilitating and dangerous. Winter storms can affect everyone, even those who usually experience mild winters. Heavy snowfall can be blinding for drivers and dangerous for those it traps indoors. Winter storms may also include high winds, sleet, freezing rain, frozen roads, power outages, and dangerously cold temperatures.



How to prepare for a winter storm:

Be aware of the risk for severe winter weather in your area. Stay informed and know winter storm terminology:

Freezing rain — Rain that freezes when it hits the ground. Ice may coat roads, walkways, trees, and power lines.

Sleet — Rain that freezes into ice pellets before it reaches the ground. Sleet can cause moisture on roads and walkways to freeze.

Winter storm watch — A winter storm is possible. Stay tuned to radio or TV for more information and instructions.

Winter storm warning — A winter storm is occurring or will occur soon.

Blizzard warning — Considerable amounts of snow with sustained winds or frequent gusts up to 35 mph are expected to prevail for at least three hours. Visibility is reduced to less than a quarter mile.

Frost/freeze warning — Below-freezing temperatures are expected. Take the following precautions:

- Make sure your home is properly insulated.
- Caulk and weather strip doors and windows to keep out cold air.
- Insulate pipes to prevent freezing.
- Consider what to use for emergency heat in case the electricity goes out. This could include a fire place with an ample supply of wood; a small, well-vented camp stove with fuel; or a portable space or kerosene heater (check with your Fire Department first).

What to do if there is a winter storm:

- Stay inside and monitor AFN TV and/or AFN Radio at 106 & 107 FM.
- Eat regularly and drink plenty of fluids.
- Practice fire safety, and make sure there is plenty of ventilation if you are using a heat source that can produce hazardous smoke or fumes.
- Dress in several layers of warm clothing.
- Watch for signs of frostbite: loss of feeling or pale appearance in extremities.
- Travel only if you must, and make sure it is during the day and on main roads.

If you are trapped in your car by a blizzard:

- Pull to the side of the road and put the hazard lights on.
- Remain in the vehicle, where rescuers are most likely to find you.
- Run the engine for ten minutes every hour to keep warm.
- Exercise to maintain body heat, but do not overexert yourself.
- Drink fluids to avoid dehydration.
- At night, take turns sleeping and turn the inside light on.
- Be careful not to waste battery power.
- If you are stranded in a remote area, stomp large block letters in an open area of snow that spell "HELP" or "SOS."

What to do after a winter storm

- Stay tuned to radio or TV for more information or instructions.
- Be aware of the possibility of flooding after a winter storm.
- Seek medical attention immediately if needed.
- Be very careful driving, as roads may still be wet or frozen.

Where Can I Find Additional Information?

- US Department of Homeland Security: <http://www.ready.gov>
- NFAAS: <https://navyfamily.navy.mil>

Naples High School Students of the Month

Photo and information from Naples High School

The Naples High School Student Council Association has started a Student of the Month recognition program. Teachers, staff, administration, coaches, and sponsors at the high school are encouraged to nominate outstanding students for the Student of the Month award. Criteria for nominating the Student of the Month include (but are not limited to) the following: good or improved grades, exemplary character, good citizenship or improvement in citizenship, and leadership and integrity. The students pictured here were named students of the month for their respective classes in November: *From left to right:* Freshman Marshall Sanders, Sophomore Sam Murdock, and Senior Nicola Malakooti. *Not pictured:* Junior Dylan Kincanon.



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Local holiday delights

Info and photos provided by J. and Lou Freed

If you're looking for some fun local activities to take part in this holiday season, here are a few ideas.



Presepe Vivente at Vaccheria (Caserta province)

Shown here is the manger scene at a previous Presepe Vivente (Live Nativity) in Vaccheria of Caserta province. This year, the medieval village will again simulate the sacred scene with musicians, dancers, carpenters, blacksmiths, ceramicists, cooks, weavers and other tradesmen from 5 to 8 p.m. Dec. 26 and 27, and also from 5 to 8 p.m. Jan. 5, 6 and 7. Vaccheria is approximately 28 kilometers from Gricignano and 2 kilometers from the well-known silk town of San Leucio. An entry fee is charged. See more event details at www.prolocovaccheria.it. Additionally, check out the live manger scene at the Borgo del Casale di Posillipo (Napoli province) on Dec. 26 to 27 from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Information is available through the Santo Strato Church secretary at 081-575-8065 or at <http://www.santostrato.com/>



Caserta Chamber Orchestra's free concert

On Dec 26, Director Antonino Cascio and the Caserta Chamber Orchestra will present the free Christmas concert, *Fasti e Splendori del '700* (Pomp and Splendor of the 1700s), in the Caserta Royal Palace at 11:15 a.m. To get a seat, organizers advise arriving at the venue by 9:30 a.m. due to the event's popularity. For queries, contact the event organizer at 0823-361-801. (Photo from the Caserta Chamber Orchestra press office)

Buffet at the Holiday Inn-Centro Direzionale (Napoli)

Family gatherings and food go hand in hand during the holidays. Celebrate Christmas Day by enjoying the lovely array of Italian appetizers, salads, pasta and more at the buffet of the Holiday Inn-Naples (Centro Direzionale) Restaurant, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. Another option for the day would be the traditional Italian Christmas lunch. While in the restaurant, marvel at the Nativity scene made from panettone (yeast-leavened Italian raisin bread). Price, bookings and details are available through 081-225-0111 or 081-225-0273. Find more info on the hotel at <http://www.holiday-inn-naples.com/>.



Natale in Mostra at Mostra d'Oltremare (Napoli)

Today through 10 p.m. is your last chance to catch Natale in Mostra (Christmas on Exhibit) at the Mostra d'Oltremare. Check out quality Campanian Christmas wines, liqueur, oil, cold cuts, besides others. Also featured are exquisite crafts, leather jackets, gloves, jewelry, ladies clothing and accessories at Pavilion 10 of the venue, near the Fuorigrotta soccer stadium. The event had previously been planned to continue through January, then changed to end Dec 20. However, due to demand, the event was extended. For details, see <http://www.confartigianatonapoli.it/>



Members of NOSC celebrate Christmas with annual party

By Katie Roy, Naples Overseas Spouses Club (NOSC)

It's not everyday that military spouses get to party like royalty, but that's exactly what we felt like at this year's annual Naples Overseas Spouses Club (NOSC) Christmas party, organized by Kim McClellan Gosart, NOSC First Vice President.

On Wednesday, Dec. 14, NOSC members attended a holiday brunch at Villa Nike. Mrs. Pamela Locklear kindly hosted the party at her home for the second year in a row, and between the decorations and her hospitality, we could not have felt more warmly welcomed.

In the entryway, two Marines stood ready to accept Toys for Tots. What better way to start a Christmas gathering than by giving to those in need?

NOSC President Celeste Diaz Ferraro welcomed everyone with a Prosecco toast, and our Ways & Means team raffled off lovely holiday gift baskets assembled from donations at the Forgotten Treasures Thrift Store. Mrs. Locklear added to the giveaways by offering to raffle off her own poinsettias.

Dressed in our holiday finest, we dined on delicious brunch with a spectacular view of the Bay and downtown Naples. The spread was beyond delicious, and the presentation was equally gorgeous.

After brunch we gathered around for a small gift and ornament exchange. Through an altered version of "Twas the Night Before Christmas," guests passed gifts to their 'right' or 'left' as instructed in the story. It was fun to see everyone open their gifts, and no one walked away empty-handed.

At the end of the party, all left with full hearts, and full bellies. As the bus pulled away, we heard someone exclaim, "Buon Natale a tutti, e a tutti una buona notte!"

In Memoriam: Giuseppe Di Martino

Mr. Giuseppe Di Martino, a retired employee of the Commissary at Naval Support Activity Naples, passed away Dec. 8, 2011, the day of the Immaculate Conception. Known as "Mr. Di," he was the accounting manager at the Naples Commissary. He has many friends still working for the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA), as well as two nephews working for Morale, Welfare and Recreation who will miss him a great deal. (Photo and information courtesy of Baldassarre Charlie Di Palma)





Santa Claus visits with a child at the Marcianise Hospital in the Caserta province Dec. 15. (Photos by Teresa Merola)



Members of Five Star Brass, part of the U.S. Naval Forces Europe Band, perform for children at l'Istituto Comprensivo Statale "G. Pascoli" Dec. 16.

Spreading the joy of Christmas

Naval Support Activity (NSA) Naples, Santa Claus and the U.S. Naval Forces Europe Band have been busy spreading Christmas cheer in the Italian community this month.

Teresa Merola of the NSA Naples Public Affairs Office brought Santa and Mrs. Claus to visit children at Marcianise Hospital in the Caserta province Dec. 15. The next day, Santa, Mrs. Claus and one of Santa's elves visited students at l'Istituto Comprensivo Statale "G. Pascoli," a school in Gricignano di Aversa. Members of Five Star Brass, part of the U.S. Naval Forces Europe Band, performed for the children, while donations from the First Class Petty Officers Association and the Chief Petty Officers Association provided them with gifts.



Above: One of Santa's elves plays with a child at l'Istituto Comprensivo Statale "G. Pascoli."

Right: Mrs. Claus talks with a student at l'Istituto Comprensivo Statale "G. Pascoli" Dec. 16.



Page 1: Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus and one of Santa's elves pose during a Dec. 16 visit to l'Istituto Comprensivo Statale "G. Pascoli," a school in Gricignano di Aversa.

Un Natale Italiano at Naples Elementary

From Naples Elementary School's Grade 1 Italian Partial Immersion class

The First Grade Italian Partial Immersion class at Naples Elementary School recently learned about five different aspects of Christmas in Italy: The Feast of the Seven Fishes (*il Cenone della Vigilia*), the mountain bagpipers (*zampognari*), the art of the nativity scene (*il presepe*), the history of the Italian Christmas cake (*il panettone*), and the *Befana*.

The class was divided into five learning groups. The members of each group became experts of a specific aspect of Italian Christmas traditions. The children made all their props: bagpipes, brooms, panettone hats, calamari, and a real presepe. Each team shared the facts learned with their peers, parents, and friends in a wonderful show.



Above: The First Grade Italian Partial Immersion Class at Naples Elementary recently learned about how Italians celebrate the winter holidays.



Above: Students in the first-grade Italian Partial Immersion Class share their expertise on *panettone*, a traditional Italian Christmas cake. The students made hats out of *panettone* and *pandoro* boxes for the presentation.



A group of first-grade students gives a presentation on *La Befana*, a good witch who fills children's stockings with candy and gifts on the eve of the Epiphany.



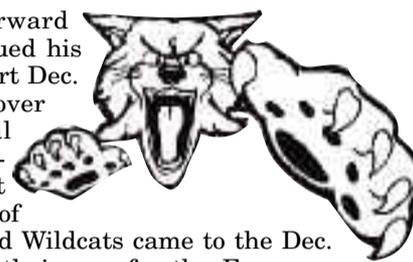
One group of students learned about mountain bagpipers (*zampognari*) and made their own bagpipes.

Wildcats Sports

Wildcats knock down Marymount International School of Rome

By Craig Lord
Wildcats Boys' Basketball Coach

Senior All-European forward Nigel Alexander Jr. continued his reign on the basketball court Dec. 9 and 10 with a wins over Marymount International School of Rome. After a disappointing two-point loss at American Overseas School of Rome last week, the revived Wildcats came to the Dec. 9 game ready to continue their run for the European Championships. Senior All-European guard and Wildcats captain JunJun Gallardo brought his team out with a vengeance, looking for consistency among his squad. The Wildcats led for the entire game and never looked back as they brought on their entire bench in the fourth quarter.



Sophomores DJ Stockman and Isaiah Wesby, playing only their third game of Department of Defense Dependents Schools (DoDDS) Europe basketball, assisted the Wildcats in their victory. Stockman averaged 9 points during the weekend and Wesby played a vital role with 24 points. These two players will be called on to make things happen when their teams need big buckets. As the season begins, there's little doubt that these players will consistently deliver.

Alexander, the Wildcats' go-to guy in the 2011-12 season, led the team on steals and blocks and showed another one of those monstrous dunk that he had last week. One dunk came off of a steal and another from an ally hoop from Gallardo. At 6 feet, 3-1/2 inches and 197 pounds, Alexander can post up just about anyone on Wildcats' schedule, finishing from inside or outside. Alexander scored in double figures both days and is ready to have an explosive year for the Wildcats.

Gallardo, a versatile scorer who is able to go inside or outside, is one of the most multi-talented front court players in DoDDS Europe high school basketball. This weekend against Marymount International, he proved why he is one of the premier players, netting 13 points. When Wildcats head coach Craig Lord is watching the game he knows that it can go in many different directions, but he's always confident when the ball is in Gallardo's capable hands.

The Wildcats have a break for the holidays and won't see action again until mid-January. Next up for the Wildcats is the International School of Milan on Jan. 13 and 14.

MORE INSIDE PAGE...

DECEMBER continued

29 WEB TA BRIEF FOR SAILORS All sailors using WEB TA for the first time are required to attend a WEB TA brief. The Dec. 29 briefing will be at 1 p.m.; the Dec. 22 briefing will be at 9 a.m. Briefings are held at CAPO in ADMIN II, room G-014. For more information or if you are unable to attend a brief at these times, contact the Navy College Office at 081-568-6683/6684/6678 or at nco.naples@eu.navy.mil.

30 REGISTER FOR WINTER/SPRING TERM On-Site Undergraduate College Classes. Most classes run from Jan. 16 to March 9. Register early. Most evening classes are at the high school. Most lunchtime classes are at CAPO. Call or visit the Navy College Office for more information.

JANUARY

18, 19 THE AMERICAN SOCCER CLUB OF NAPOLI will hold try-outs for its winter/spring session Jan. 18 and Jan. 19 (both nights required) from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Parent required to attend for registration paperwork. Try-outs will be held at the South Side Soccer Fields near the schools on the Support Site. Limited spots available. The ASC Winter/Spring Season runs from Jan. 23 - May 12.

19 MONTHLY BABY BASICS CLASS offered by Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) Visiting Nurses. Next class is 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Jan. 19 at the NMCRS office at Capo, room G-016 in Admin II. Topics include newborn care (i.e. bundling, diapering & bathing), feeding, crying & comforting, health & safety, etc. Contact NCMRS for registration and information at 081-568-3913.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

THE AMERICAN SOCCER CLUB (ASC) OF NAPOLI is looking for qualified coaches for the 2012 spring soccer season for the age groups of U-9, U-11, U-13, and U-15/17. For more information or to sign up, e-mail ASCNapoli@yahoo.com or check their Facebook page, ASC-American Soccer Club of Napoli.

THE ALLIED SPOUSES CLUB (ASC) IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS. We need a webmaster, a publicity coordinator, a volunteer coordinator, a bazaar chair, a historian and a parliamentary authority. No experience necessary! For more information, please email club president Antonietta Alfieri Ciccone at ascpresidentjfc@gmail.com.

ATTENTION PHOTOGRAPHERS! Are you interested in taking photos of Naples Elementary School students during 2011-2012? Contact Dr. Johnson at 081-811-4159 or donita.johnson@eu.dodea.edu.

NAPLES AMERICAN RED CROSS (ARC) NEEDS VOLUNTEER INSTRUCTORS. ARC needs volunteer instructors for various courses. Those interested in becoming instructors can contact the ARC office at 081-568-4788.

NAVY LEAGUE OF THE U.S./NAPLES COUNCIL is seeking board members. Contact Betty Reese at 081-526-8051 or breese@cybernet.it.

NAPLES OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION NEEDS REFEREES Anyone interested should contact Nigel Alexander at 081-721-5413 or 346-680-3282 or by e-mail to nalexander@afsouth.nato.int.

NAVY-MARINE CORPS RELIEF SOCIETY OPERATION CLIP & SAVE (coupons): 081-568-3913.

GAETA/NAPLES AREA GIRL SCOUTS Now accepting registration for the 2011-12 school year. We are still in need of leaders and co-leaders. Training and support provided. FMI, contact naplesgs@yahoo.com.

ONGOING/ON THE HORIZON

SECURITY NOTE: All DoD military or civilian personnel hosting an event off base must complete a Special Event Force Protection Plan (SEFP) 45 days in advance, regardless of organization, if the event will involve 50 or more personnel, include distinguished visitors or involve personnel wearing uniforms. FMI, contact the AT/FP Division at 081-568-5525 or visit their office in the Capodichino Security Precinct, Bldg. 403.

RECEIVE DAILY REFLECTION an inspirational thought-for-the-day e-mailed throughout the work week. To receive Daily Reflection, e-mail Chaplain Charles Luff at charles.luff@eu.navy.mil.

CATHOLIC WOMEN OF THE CHAPEL invites community members to join the Rosary Prayer Group that meets every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. in the Support Site Chapel. For more information, e-mail CWOCNaples@gmail.com.

PROTESTANT WOMEN OF THE CHAPEL PWOC Woman's Bible Study meets every Tuesday from 9-11:30 a.m. in the Support Site Fellowship Hall. Free child care provided. For questions, contact Audrey de Rivera at 345-872-9947.

ATTN MILITARY RETIREES AND SURVIVORS Connect to the retired community through membership in the U.S. Military Retiree Association of Southern Italy (USMRA-SI). For info and an application, visit <http://usmra-si.tripod.com> or call 329-208-7315.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS hosts English-speaking AA meetings on and off base in the Naples area. For more information, call 347-544-0254 or visit <http://www.aa-europe.net/countries/italy.htm>.

SURE START is a unique program committed to providing the highest quality of education for command-sponsored children of enlisted personnel (priority to E1-E4) who are 4 years old by Sept. 1. FMI, call Karen Rodrigues at 081-811-4682 or the school at 081-811-4037.

TOASTMASTERS meets the first and third Tuesdays of every month. Meetings are held at the Support Site Community Center. FMI, contact Toastmasters President Leonard Augustine at 346-771-7506.

PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS WELCOME AT ALL CONNECT THE TOTS CLUB ACTIVITIES! The CTT Club hosts events, crafts and outings designed for you and your child (infancy through preschool). For more information on the club, visit www.meetup.com/Connect-the-Tots-Club/.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES AT U.S. NAVAL HOSPITAL NAPLES Tuesday Meditation & Prayer (7:15-7:45 a.m.) in the hospital chapel. Traditional hymn and praise and worship music will be provided during this time. Wednesday Roman Catholic Mass (11:30 a.m.-12 p.m.) in the hospital chapel. Call 081-811-6451 to confirm that Mass is being held. Thursday Men's Fellowship and Bible Study (6-7 a.m.) in the hospital galley.

FILIPINO-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF NAPLES, ITALY meets every 1st Sunday of the month at the SS Fellowship Hall at 12 p.m. FMI, contact Christian Rodriguez at christian.rodriguez@eu.navy.mil, Catherine Katimbang at catherine.katimbang@eu.dodea.edu or visit their Facebook page: Fil-Am Naples.

CATHOLIC WOMEN OF THE CHAPEL meets monthly in the Support Site Fellowship Hall for prayer and fellowship. Child care provided. For information, contact Eileen Mayette at cwocnaples@gmail.com.

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, San Gennaro council 14853, meets at 7 p.m. the second and fourth Thursday of each month at the Support Site Fleet and Family Support Center. E-mail Jaime Gonzalez at kofcnaples@gmail.com or visit <http://sites.google.com/site/kofcnaples/home>.

HARRY S. TRUMAN LODGE No. 649 meets every Friday at 7:30 p.m. FMI, contact Kevin Baker at 338-479-7023 or hst649sec@yahoo.com. Visit <http://www.hst649.org>.

NAPLES CHRISTIAN HOMESCHOOL ASSOCIATION meets regularly to support families on their homeschooling journey. FMI, contact Susan Van Cleave at sdvwanleave@msn.com.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 007 holds troop meetings every Monday from 6:30-8 p.m. in the Support Site Community Center. FMI, contact Scoutmaster Dennis Smith at 081-811-5585 or dennis@bsulfurcreek.com.



Friday, Dec. 23
4:30 p.m. Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked, G
7 p.m. In Time, PG-13
Premiere Showing
8 p.m. Sherlock Holmes: Game of Shadows, PG-13
Premiere Showing

Saturday, Dec. 24
12 p.m. New Year's Eve, PG-13
3 p.m. In Time, PG-13
4 p.m. Sherlock Holmes: Game of Shadows, PG-13
6 p.m. Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked, G

Sunday, Dec. 25
MERRY CHRISTMAS
FROM YOUR THEATER STAFF
3 p.m. The Three Musketeers PG-13
4:30 p.m. Muppets Christmas Carol, G, *Free Admission*
5:30 p.m. Johnny English Reborn PG
8 p.m. Sherlock Holmes: Game of Shadows, PG-13

Monday, Dec. 26 (Holiday Hours)
3 p.m. New Year's Eve, PG-13
5:30 p.m. Mr. Bean's Holiday, G
Free Admission
8 p.m. The Ides of March, R

Tuesday, Dec. 27
4:30 p.m. Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked, G
5:30 p.m. In Time, PG-13
7 p.m. Paranormal Activity 3, R

Wednesday, Dec. 28
4:30 p.m. Hugo, PG, *Last Showing*

5:30 p.m. Sherlock Holmes: Game of Shadows, PG-13
7 p.m. The Ides of March, R

Thursday, Dec. 29
4:30 p.m. Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked, G
5:30 p.m. Arthur Christmas, PG
Last Showing
7 p.m. Real Steel, PG-13

Friday, Dec. 30
4:30 p.m. Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol, PG-13
Premiere Showing
7 p.m. Paranormal Activity 3, R
8 p.m. Girl with the Dragon Tattoo R
Premiere Showing

Saturday, Dec. 31
12 p.m. Adventures of Tintin PG, *Premiere Showing*
3 p.m. Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol, PG-13
4 p.m. New Year's Eve, PG-13
6 p.m. Puss in Boots, PG

Sunday, Jan. 1, 2012
HAPPY NEW YEAR
From Your Theater Staff
5:30 p.m. Adventures of Tintin, PG
6:30 p.m. Polar Express, G
8:30 p.m. The Rum Diary, R
Premiere Showing

Monday, Jan. 2 (Holiday Hours)
3 p.m. Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol, PG-13
5:30 p.m. Elf, PG, *Free Admission*
8 p.m. Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, R

Movie descriptions

No Children Under 10 Admitted to R-Rated Movies

SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS, PG-13 for language and intense action, 129 min. Cast: Robert Downey, Jr., Jude Law, Noomi Rapace, Stephen Fry, Jared Harris. Action/Adventure and sequel. Sherlock Holmes has always been the smartest man in the room... until now. There is a new criminal mastermind at large — Professor Moriarty — and not only is he Holmes' intellectual equal, but his capacity for evil, coupled with a complete lack of conscience, may actually give him an advantage over the renowned detective. Holmes' investigation into Moriarty's plot becomes ever more dangerous as it leads him and Watson out of London and across Europe, to France, Germany and finally to Switzerland. But the cunning Moriarty is always one step ahead as he spins a web of death and destruction — all part of a greater plan that, if he succeeds, will change the course of history.

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: CHIPWRECKED, G. Animation, Kids/Family, Comedy and Sequel, 85 min. Cast: Jason Lee, David Cross, Justin Long, Matthew Gubler, Jesse McCartney. The Chipmunks and The Chipettes (three female counterparts to the Chipmunks) go on a cruise trip with the Chipmunks' owner/manager/father figure, Dave Seville. During the cruise, the Munks and 'Ettes turn the ship into their personal playground, causing trouble and running amok. Eventually, their chaotic behavior gets them shipwrecked on the Isles of Scilly, everyone getting lost in the process. As Dave sets out to look for the lost chipmunk trios, the six chipmunks find a new castaway on the island who turns out to be more than a match for them.

IN TIME, PG-13 for violence, some sexuality and partial nudity, and strong language. Science Fiction/Fantasy and Action/Adventure, 110 min. Cast: Amanda Seyfried, Justin Timberlake, Cillian Murphy, Vincent Kartheiser, Olivia Wilde. In a future where time is literally money and aging stops at 25, the only way to stay alive is to earn, steal, or inherit more time. Will Salas lives minute-to-minute, until a windfall of time gives him access to the world of the wealthy, where he teams up with a beautiful young heiress to destroy the corrupt system.

GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO, R. Drama and Thriller, 158 min. Cast: Daniel Craig, Rooney Mara, Christopher Plummer, Stellan Skarsgard, Elodie Yung. A journalist-turned-detective and his female associate get tangled up in the underworld when he is hired to write the saga of a powerful family.

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE: GHOST PROTOCOL, PG-13 for sequences of intense action and violence. Action/Adventure, Sequel and Thriller, 133 min. Cast: Tom Cruise, Jeremy Renner, Simon Pegg, Paula Patton, Michael Nyqvist. Blamed for the terrorist bombing of the Kremlin, IMF operative Ethan Hunt is disavowed along with the rest of the agency when the President

initiates "Ghost Protocol." Left without any resources or backup, Ethan must find a way to clear his agency's name and prevent another attack. To complicate matters further, Ethan is forced to embark on this mission with a team of fellow IMF fugitives whose personal motives he does not fully know.

ADVENTURES OF TINTIN, PG for action violence and some drunkenness, 107 min. Cast: Jamie Bell, Andy Serkis, Daniel Craig, Simon Pegg, Nick Frost. Kids/Family, Action/Adventure and Animation. Tintin is an intrepid young reporter whose relentless pursuit of a good story thrusts him into a world of high adventure.

THE RUM DIARY, R for language, brief drug use and sexuality. Art/Foreign, Politics/Religion, Drama and Romance, 122 min. Cast: Johnny Depp, Aaron Eckhart, Michael Rispoli, Amber Heard, Richard Jenkins. Tiring of the noise and madness of New York and the crushing conventions of late Eisenhower-era America, journalist Paul Kemp travels to the pristine island of Puerto Rico to write for a local newspaper, *The San Juan Star*, run by downtrodden editor Lotterman. Adopting the rum-soaked life of the island, Paul soon becomes obsessed with Chenault, the wildly attractive Connecticut-born fiancée of Sanderson. Sanderson, a businessman involved in shady property development deals, is one of a growing number of American entrepreneurs who are determined to convert Puerto Rico into a capitalist paradise in service of the wealthy. When Kemp is recruited by Sanderson to write favorably about his latest unsavory scheme, the journalist is presented with a choice: to use his words for the corrupt businessman's financial benefit, or use them to take him down.

THE THREE MUSKETEERS, PG-13 for sequences of action adventure violence, Action/Adventure, Adaptation and Romance 111 min. Cast: Logan Lerman, Milla Jovovich, Mathew Macfadyen, Ray Stevenson, Luke Evans. The hot-headed young D'Artagnan joins forces with three rogue Musketeers in this reboot of Alexandre Dumas' story. They must stop the evil Richelieu and face off with Buckingham and the treacherous Milady.

PARANORMAL ACTIVITY 3, R for some violence, language, brief sexuality and drug use. Horror and Sci-Fi, 84 min. Cast: Chloe Csengery, Jessica Tyler Brown, Christopher Smith, Dustin Ingram, Maria Olsen. In 1988, young sisters Katie and Kristi befriend an invisible entity who resides in their home.

ARTHUR CHRISTMAS, PG for some mild rude humor. Kids/Family, Holiday and Animation, 98 min. Cast: James McAvoy, Hugh Laurie, Bill Nighy, Jim Broadbent, Imelda Staunton. "So how does Santa deliver all those presents in one night?" The answer: Santa's exhilarating, ultra-high-tech operation hidden beneath the North Pole. But this year, Santa's son Arthur has an urgent mission that must be completed before Christmas morning dawns.

If you have been sexually assaulted or need to speak with a S.A.P.R. victim advocate, call 335-640-6621 24/7 for information and support.



Upcoming USO Tours
Capodichino Office 081-568-5713
Support Site Office 081-811-4903
www.uso.it

USO DAILY TOURS

Dec. 23 Christmas Alley and Veiled Christ €20
Dec. 30 Wine Tasting and Tombola Night €45
Dec. 31 Naples Underground and Pizza Lunch €40
Jan. 7 Wine Tasting and Tombola Night €45
Jan. 8 Ice Skating and Lunch in Benevento €45

WEEKEND TOURS

Jan. 14-15 Florence and Pisa Weekend .. €165
Feb. 4-5 Perugia and Assisi Weekend .. €158
Feb. 17-20 Carnevale in Venice €228
March 2-4 Carnevale in Viareggio €225
March 15-19 St. Patrick's Day in Dublin ... €649
April 7-8 Easter in Florence and Pisa .. €165
April 28-29 Wine Roads of Siena €187
May 11-14 Milan and Lake Como €228

A Christmas trip to Sorrento



Summer resort town lights up for the holidays

*By Melissa Kabukuru
Panorama editor*

If snow and evergreens don't sound like your idea of Christmas fun this year, try traveling to a land of citrus and palm trees instead.

The southern Italian town of Sorrento, about a 75 minute drive south of Naples, takes on a new character in December and January, with festive lights and Christmas shoppers replacing the crowds of foreign tourists that swarm the city in summer.

A stately Christmas tree rises in the city's main square, Piazza Tasso, during this time of year, while garlands hang above the city streets. Even the palm trees and orange trees are decked with lights.

Stores get in the spirit as well, placing baubles and ornaments in their windows along with chocolate Santa figurines and Christmas pastries.

As night falls in the city, it begins to fill up with shoppers. Stop for an espresso or a *cioccolata calda* at one of the bars in Piazza Tasso at twilight and watch Italian families stroll from shop to shop. By the time you've finished your drink, you'll have all sorts of new ideas for winter accessories to buy.

Then, head down Corso Italia to admire the pastries in the windows of the *pasticcerie*. I couldn't help buying a bag of *rococò*, nutty Neapolitan Christmas cookies shaped like donuts. If those aren't to your taste, there are always *struffoli*, the plates of fried doughballs mixed with honey and small candies; or *raffioli*, sponge-cake desserts filled with a layer of *ricotta* cream and chocolate chips, then covered with a sugar glaze.

As you walk, you'll notice more people glancing inside windows than actually entering stores or carrying shopping bags. Feel free to do the same — Sorrento's temperate climate makes perpetual

Above: Shoppers stop to chat or have coffee in Sorrento's Piazza Tasso on a Saturday night. During the holiday season, concerts and special events are regularly held in the piazza. A grand Christmas tree decorates the square. For a list of special events, visit www.miluminodinverno.it/en/.

Right: Lights and garlands decorate the streets of Sorrento during the holidays, suspended by wires strung between buildings. The city becomes a popular shopping destination during the holidays.



window shopping fun even in winter.

If you're staying the night — which isn't a bad idea given Sorrento's low winter rates — find a *trattoria* after the shops close and warm up with a plate of *gnocchi alla sorrentina*, a traditional Sorrentine dish. The baked, cheesy potato *gnocchi* in tomato sauce will keep you warm as the evening chill sets in.

If Sorrento's *gnocchi* aren't your favorite, note that in winter the city's culinary offerings vary from those in summer. Many restaurants I passed were serving dishes with beans (*fagioli*), walnuts (*nocci*) and even boar (*cinghiale*). My travel companion's *risotto con noci e provola* (risotto with walnuts and cheese) at one restaurant was an unexpected and pleasant surprise.

Throughout the holiday season, concerts take place in Piazza Tasso and in many churches in Sorrento, while museums offer

free admission on weekends.

The city has scheduled a New Year's celebration for 1 a.m. on Jan. 1, 2012, with a toast and concert to take place in Piazza Tasso later that day. Several special events are also scheduled for Christmas Eve, the day after Christmas and New Year's Eve; visit www.milluminodinverno.it/en/ for a complete schedule.

Though the city is buzzing with activity this time of year, it seems like a different Sorrento from the one that greets visitors in summer. The mood, while lively, is more tranquil than during the summer rush: you won't find yourself fighting with other tourists for the attention of a *Limoncello* vendor.

Since the Christmas season in Italy continues through the Epiphany on Jan. 6, you can enjoy the holiday atmosphere in Sorrento even after Christmas and New Year's Day have come and gone.



Above: A tall Christmas tree is the centerpiece of Piazza Tasso, Sorrento's main square, during the holidays.

Getting there

Sorrento can be reached either by train, using the Circumvesuviana line that connects to Naples' Stazione Centrale, or by car.

If you're driving, take the A3 autostrada toward Salerno and then exit at Castellamare di Stabia. Then follow the signs for the Penisola Sorrentina/Costiera Amalfitana to merge onto the SS145. Continue to follow the SS145 into town, following the signs for Sorrento or Sorrento centro.

Traffic can get heavy entering the town in the evenings this time of year, so you may want to arrive earlier in the day to beat the crowds on the road.

For more information about events in Sorrento during the holidays, visit www.milluminodinverno.it/en/.



Left: Christmas items line the windows of stores throughout Sorrento this time of year. Shopping (and window shopping) is a popular activity in the city during the holiday season.

A quiet, colorful Roman villa

By Melissa Kabukuru
Panorama editor

Pompeii may be the best known of the cities wiped out in Mt. Vesuvius' 79 A.D. eruption, but it can also be crowded, dusty and confusing. The expansive city's rich history can be hard to appreciate on a hot day when there is no shade in sight, or in the common event that the staff is out of English-language maps.

Fortunately, there are plenty of other ways to experience the ancient ruins near Vesuvius, including a spectacular villa a few miles south of Pompeii that contains dozens of Roman frescoes still in situ.

The Villa of Poppaea in the ancient city of Oplontis (modern Torre Annunziata) was originally thought to have belonged to the Roman Emperor Nero's second wife, Poppaea Sabina. Some scholars dispute that attribution, but the splendor of the villa indicates that it belonged to someone of very high status in Roman society, most likely a member of the Imperial family. The home contains several rooms with floor-to-ceiling wall paintings that are nearly intact. Many use colors so vivid that they look as if they were painted within the past century.

Deserted throughout most of the day, the villa provides a quiet, manageable way to explore ancient Roman ruins.

Unlike most of Pompeii's treasures, Villa Poppaea's richly colored and detailed frescoes haven't been relocated to museums. You experience them as if you were a guest in an imperial Roman home, wandering through rooms decorated in the purple and red tones that characterized well-to-do Roman houses in the 1st century A.D.

Here it is possible to appreciate the realism of ancient Roman painting and understand how it came to inspire masters of the Renaissance. In some rooms, painted *trompe l'oeil* windows reveal plants that seem to bristle in the wind. Others depict peacocks and birds perched on windowsills, linking the home with its surrounding gardens.

Continuing through the villa, floor-to-ceiling architectural motifs contain columns that recede into space as if they are three-dimensional. Skilled brushwork realistically depicts marble panels, shining medallions and glass bowls filled with fruit.

The closer you look at some of the paintings, the more detail you will notice. Meticulously painted masks and festoons decorate the architectural themes in many rooms, while life-like animals and plants continu-

ally appear in unexpected places.

A 45-minute visit to the Villa Poppaea is enough to appreciate its history and get a sense of the grandeur of ancient imperial living. Located right off the Torre Annunziata Sud exit on the A3 autostrada, it's an easy stop on the way to Sorrento or the Amalfi Coast.

IF YOU GO

Tickets to the villa cost €5.50 and include day-long admission to the archeological sites of Stabia and Boscoreale. You can also buy a combined ticket for a cost of €20 that includes admission to Villa di Poppea, Stabiae, Boscoreale, Herculaneum and Pompeii. The five-site tickets are good for three days.

From the A3 autostrada, take the exit for Torre Annunziata Sud. Street parking is relatively easy in the city of Torre Annunziata: as soon as you get off the freeway, take a right and look for parking by (or on) the sidewalk. The entrance to the villa is nearby. Look for signs directing you to the *scavi*.

Hours from Nov. 1 to March 31 are from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., with the last entrance at 3:30 p.m. From April 1 until Oct. 31, hours are from 8:30 to 7:30 p.m., with the entrance closing at 6 p.m.

For more information, visit www.pompeiiisites.org and select English as the language. To find the information about Villa di Poppea, click on the Archeological Sites tab and then select "Oplontis."



Above: The Villa di Poppea, located in the modern city of Torre Annunziata, was lost during the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in 79 A.D. It still contains well-preserved Roman frescoes.



Right: The villa's atrium contains frescoes depicting architectural themes.



Above: Part of a wall painting near the entry to a triclinium, or dining room, in the Villa di Poppea depicts a mask and a peacock.





Above: To create bells with detailed surfaces like this one, bell-makers first must apply wax decorations to a false bell, which is then used to create a clay mold.

The sound of tradition

Visiting a bell foundry in Agnone

Story and photos by Don Gawlik

Earth. Fire. Water. Air. These four elements of classical thought frequently appear in civilizations throughout history. In the town of Agnone in the Molise province, these basics have been coming together for years to produce something commonly found in Italian towns: the church bell.

A recent visit to this hill town brought us to the Pontificia Fonderia Marinelli, a foundry of the Marinelli family, whose association with the making of bells has been traced back to 1339. It is said that bells have been made in Agnone for a thousand years. Marinelli bells are used in the United States., China, Israel, South Korea, Japan and South America. Even the Vatican has commissioned bells to be made at the Marinelli family foundry, and Pope Paul II visited in 1995. This is considered to be Italy's oldest family business.

After viewing a video about the making of bells, visitors pass through the factory's new museum, where bells, documents, manuscripts, tools, models and molds are displayed. Then, walking downstairs, it is possible to step into the foundry and watch the fascinating process of making a bell. It is like entering a medieval workshop.

The first part of the process begins with the making of a bell's core, or its "soul," by building bits of brick and wet clay into a form shapes the inside of a bell. This forms the eventual empty space where the clapper will hang. That soul is built to a particular shape and dimension, depending on the bell's size and the note of the musical scale wanted. Coals constantly burn inside the soul to dry the layers of brick and clay.

Next, a "false bell" is formed around the soul. Layers of wet clay are applied to the soul for this, and special wooden forms are used to create the exact shape and dimension of this false bell. When the fake bell is completed, wax decorations and letters are applied. Plaster molds for these wax images are carved by artisans and hang from floor to ceiling in a side room.

The last step involves layering more clay atop the false bell to form the "mantle." On the inside of this mantle is the negative image of the false bell. When completed, this mantle is raised, the false bell is destroyed, and the mantle is returned to its position, with only space where the false bell once was. It is in this space where the molten bronze is poured.

After the bronze cools, the mantle is destroyed, as is the soul. Only the bell remains to be cleaned, trimmed, and tuned.

As we proceeded through the foundry room, a fourth-generation worker arrived to demonstrate how the bells' different sizes — due to each bell's thickness, height and circumference — produce all the notes of a musical scale. The entire process of making a bell is a beautiful blend of science, mathematics and art.



Above: A lineup of some of the bells made at the Pontificia Fonderia Marinelli in Agnone. Marinelli bells can be found in the United States, China, Israel, South Korea, Japan and South America.

Left: Raised lettering can be created on bells by applying wax letters to a false bell during the bell-making process. Plaster molds for these wax images are carved by artisans, and hang from floor to ceiling in a side room at the Pontificia Fonderia Marinelli.

IF YOU GO

For more information, visit the <http://www.campanamarinelli.com/inglese/index2.php>.

Tour hours are listed on the site. No photos are allowed of the bell-making process. We were told to call to arrange an English tour, and our young guide did a fine job explaining this special process in his limited English. The town also has a wonderful old section worth exploring.

Address:
Pontificia Fonderia Marinelli
Via Felice D'Onofrio, 14
Agnone, Isernia
Phone number: +39 0865 78235



The Pontificia Fonderia Marinelli in Agnone is a foundry of the Marinelli family, whose association with the making of bells has been traced back to 1339.