

# THE *Signature*

SIGONELLA, SICILY



Vol. 26 No. 48

DECEMBER 18, 2009



## WEATHER UPDATE

December 18	December 19	December 20	December 21	December 22	December 23	December 24
H:66F L:45F	H:65F L:45F	H:65F L:42F	H:65F L:42F	H:68F L:43F	H:66F L:43F	H:65F L:40F

## TOP STORIES

I witnessed a deaf woman teach lifelong musicians with perfect pitch how to hear. Before the evening began, none of the professional vocalists gathered there dreamt they were hearing impaired.

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The U.S. Navy and the National Park Service hosted a joint memorial ceremony at Kilo Pier on Naval Station (NAVSTA) Pearl Harbor to commemorate the 68th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor Dec. 7.

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Amanda Knox is counting on an appeals trial to regain her freedom after a court sentenced her to 26 years in prison for murdering her British roommate, an Italian lawmaker who visited the American student said last week.

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MWR welcomes a new addition to its family with the arrival of Paul Calain, the new ITT/Outdoor Programs Manager. In 1994, Calain began his career with MWR as part of the Recreation Center staff at La Maddalena.

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Check out our special photo spreads of some of Sigonella's best moments from 2009.

## TRAFFIC NUMBERS

	Jan. 09- Dec. 09	Jan. 08- Dec. 08
Accidents	257	292
Injuries	24	44
DUIs	5	5
Traffic Deaths	1	2

PLEASE,  
DON'T BECOME  
A STATISTIC!

## INSIDE

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# DIRECT LINE NASSIG COMMAND MASTER CHIEF ROSA L. WILSON

Change is a fact of life, especially in the military. Today's Sailors are expected to do more with less and maintain a level of excellence above the requirements of the past. As their leaders we need to be capable enough to see beyond our immediate tasks and challenges to what lies ahead in order to effectively make changes that will have a lasting impact.

The most difficult part of making change is having the change endure. As a leader you can't make changes just for the sake of making changes. Every change must be for a viable reason. You know the adage, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." Everybody wants to make their mark and leave their legacy, but maybe your legacy is that you kept a successful program from falling apart and passed on

a good product to your successor. That said, I believe things can always be better and processes can always be improved because times change, technology improves, and old ways of doing things and normal routines can become obsolete.

The second part of change is to keep the change simple. Too much of a change can be detrimental and a shock to the system. Make sure that your change doesn't create more work for your sailors or end up costing you more money in the long run. The goal is to become more efficient and cost effective, thereby producing more output with the same level of quality as there was before.

Last, but not least, sometimes you will arrive on a scene where there are processes that don't adhere to organiza-

tional policy, norms, or tradition, and while they may work for the short term can end up causing a failure in your organization. Change must be for the right reasons and in the name of doing the right thing. If you create change that only benefits yourself, then it will not last. However, if you create change that benefits the majority of the parties involved and results are long-term success for the mission and the organization, then no one will complain or argue against the change.

Above all else I would remind you that common decency builds respect and, in a democratic society, respect is what prompts people to give their all for a leader, even at personal sacrifice. I'm challenging you as military leaders to use your authority constructively to care for

your Sailors and help them improve and advance themselves while still completing the mission set for you.

"I may not know the key to success, but the key to failure is trying to please every one"

### ATTITUDE

"The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company... a church... a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change



the past... we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude... I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you... we are in charge of our ATTITUDES," Author Unknown.

## Avoiding holiday mishaps

By Lt. Lynn Skinner  
Naval Hospital Sigonella

No one plans for an ER visit or the rescue service to come to their house over the holiday season, so be careful as you put your holiday plans into motion.

Make sure your holiday decorations are hung with extra care to avoid dangers especially fires. If you have any safety concerns related to outlets or extension cords the fire department is happy to answer them.

Remember our pets as you place mistletoe and poinsettia's out as they are very poisonous. On this note make sure your decorations are not choking hazards to curious children or pets as well as medications over the counter and prescribed not left out.

Make sure as you prepare holiday drinks that alcoholic beverages and punches marked so that all your party goers can make an informed choice.

And of course have a plan to include a back up plan; avoiding drinking and driving.

This is a great time of year to make sure you have cab information, co-worker, friend and safety/security in your cell phone and on fridge.

If you drive up to Mt. Etna be prepared for quick changing weather and have snow gear for your occu-

pants and car! Don't be left out in the cold or stuck in unsafe driving conditions.

Let's have your holiday season be memorable for the right reasons!

If you are diabetic be careful to monitor your blood sugars and ask your host about food and drink selections for sugar content. You can always bring some wonderful sugar free items to the event. The American Diabetes website and sponsored diabetes magazine called Diabetic Forecast has many delicious and easy holiday options to maintain good blood sugar control as you ring in the New Year.

Another helpful hint in watching sugar or calories is always eating a snack or small meal before the party to help you from over indulging. If you do over "do it" then give yourself a get out of guilt card by increasing your activity or exercise the next day and be more mindful about following meals.

Just like Santa fills his sleigh with presents you can fill your head with visions of wellness and happiness with these easy to follow tips.

May your holiday season be joyous and bright without the glow of emergency lights!

## HEALTH WATCH

### NASSIG WORSHIP SERVICES

ROMAN CATHOLIC		PROTESTANT	
<u>Sunday</u>		<u>Sunday</u>	
0830	Catholic Mass (NAS I Chapel)	0900	General Protestant (Mineo Community Center)
1200	Catholic Mass (Mineo Community Center)	1000	Traditional Protestant (NAS I Chapel)
1600	Catholic Mass (NAS II Chapel)	1130	Contemporary Protestant (NAS I Chapel)
<u>Monday - Thursday</u>		<b>CHURCH OF CHRIST LAY SERVICE</b>	
1130	Catholic Mass (NAS II Chapel)	<u>Sunday</u>	1530 NAS I Chapel Rooms 3 & 4 (Call 624-5128 or 335-841-8069)

**JEWISH SERVICES:** Please call 095-86-1205

**OTHER SERVICES/ACTIVITIES POINTS OF CONTACT**

**Latter-day Saints:** Please email ldssig@gmail.com or call 624-1314 or 349-1977-116

**AA Meetings:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday - 1900, NAS II Chapel, 346-840-7745

**SEE OUR HOLIDAY SCHEDULE ON PAGE 7**

## CHAPLAIN CORNER



Chaplain Coates

I witnessed a deaf woman teach lifelong musicians with perfect pitch how to hear. Before the evening began, none of the professional vocalists gathered there dreamt they were hearing impaired. Then she told her

## Listening on a Silent Night

story and began to sing. Have you ever heard a deaf person sing? The timing, the meter, is simple enough. But how does one who has never known anything but silence make sense of a musical scale?

I do not remember the woman's name but I will never forget the song and the sound that forever changed its meaning. A decade ago, someone loaned me an old VHS tape of a Christmas Homecoming Concert. The small event was simply a gathering of various singing groups and

soloists taking turns performing for one another. It was a concert by professional singers for professional singers. All who were present gave every appearance of genuinely enjoying the variety of musical offerings. And then, the most unlikely instructor began to teach.

As a deaf girl in early grade school, she endured merciless taunting from her classmates. They made gestures and played games at her expense. She saw them laugh at her but she heard no

**LISTENING, continued on page 12**

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### EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE

*Be prepared to be on your own for at least three days. Seven is better! The BASIC FIVE: Water, Food, Heat, Cash, Radio; Family Communications Plan: Phone Numbers & Rally Points; Public Protection Strategies: Evacuation and Shelter-in-Place; Web info: Ready.gov; Emergency info: AFN 106.0 FM; Questions? Call the EM Office at 624-2630, 8265 or 2621.*

# NAVY News

## Heroes remembered during the 68th Pearl Harbor Day

By MC2 Robert Stirrup

Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs

PEARL HARBOR (NNS) -- The U.S. Navy and the National Park Service hosted a joint memorial ceremony at Kilo Pier on Naval Station (NAVSTA) Pearl Harbor to commemorate the 68th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor Dec. 7.

More than 2,000 people attended the event, including 45 survivors of the bombing, which took the U.S. by surprise 68 years ago. The theme of this year's ceremony was "But Not

in Shame."

To observe the start of the attack at 7:55 a.m., the Pearl Harbor-based guided-missile cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG 70) blew the ship's whistle, which commenced a moment of silence. Then, from the west, a formation of four F-15 Eagles from the Hawaii Air National Guard stationed at Hickam Air Force Base performed a missing-man flyover past Kilo Pier while Lake Erie rendered honors to both the USS Arizona Memorial and to Pearl Harbor survivors.

The honorable Linda Lingle,

governor of the state of Hawai'i, served as one of the ceremony's guest speakers and talked about the importance of honoring the service members involved in the attack.

"Today we are blessed and honored to have so many survivors with us for today's ceremony," said Lingle. "Their legacy continues on today and will be continued on by their children and the grandchildren. The men and women who gave their lives on that morning 68 years ago are with us today through spirit. We take pride in their service to our country."

Featured speaker Adm. Patrick Walsh, commander U.S. Pacific Fleet, thanked the survivors for their sacrifice and efforts throughout the war.

"We are here today to honor and thank all of the men and women who served throughout World War II and those who were involved with the attack on Pearl Harbor," said Walsh. "It is such an honor to stand in the presence of people who gave so much of themselves and their lives so that we can live lives of promise, potential and opportunity."

Following the guest speakers' remarks, 16 wreaths were presented in honor of the service members who perished on the nine ships bombed during the attack, the five branches of the U.S. military, the state of Hawaii and the National Park Service.

Pearl Harbor survivor Art Herriford, national president for Pearl Harbor Survivors Association, expressed the significance of honoring the survivors and the fallen serv-

ice members during the attack 68 years ago.

"Anytime I come to Pearl Harbor, it is with reverence," said Herriford, who was stationed aboard USS Detroit at the time of the attack. "During the attack I saw the USS Arizona get bombed and sink within a matter of minutes, killing 1,177 Sailors and Marines. Today we honor them and everyone that was involved with the attack."

To conclude the ceremony, the U.S. Marine Corps Rifle Team from Camp H.M. Smith, Hawaii, executed a 21-gun salute; the U.S. Pacific Fleet Band performed taps; and tug boats assigned to NAVSTA Pearl Harbor delivered a water tribute to those who served in Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

Throughout the day, around Pearl Harbor, other events were held in conjunction with the early morning ceremony to further honor those who defended the harbor during the attack.

### PHOTO FROM THE FLEET

Check in weekly to find out what our fellow shipmates are doing around the fleet.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Kevin S. O'Brien

WASHINGTON (Dec. 10, 2009) Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) the Honorable Ray Mabus welcomes the U.S. Naval Academy band and cheerleaders during a pep-rally at the Pentagon before the upcoming 110th Army-Navy college football game. The teams of the U.S. Military Academy (Army) and the U.S. Naval Academy (Navy) will meet Dec. 12 in Philadelphia.



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Jeremy Brandt

PEARL HARBOR (Dec. 6, 2008) Wreaths adorn the USS Arizona Memorial Dec. 6 in preparation for the many upcoming events scheduled for Pearl Harbor Day at the memorial. The wreaths serve as a tribute to service members killed during the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor. President George W. Bush named the USS Arizona Memorial as one of five Hawaii sites to become part of the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument.

Calve Nero di Muscle  
ry Cenere

# Sigonella celebrates 50 years of service

NAS Sigonella celebrated the anniversary of the founding of Naval Air Facility Sigonella in 1959. From June 12-13, 2009 Sigonella sailors and the Italian Air Force 41st Stormo opened their gates to the local Sicilian people for ceremonies, sporting events and entertainment to celebrate the special relationship that has developed over the last 50 years.



photo by MC3 Jonathan Idle



photo by Tracie Barnthouse



photo by Tracie Barnthouse



photo by MC3 Jonathan Idle

## AT&T



# Agip

# Pistone



photo by Tracie Barnhouse

# Orange



photo by MC2 Jason Poplin

# Borgo Antico

Protestant  
Women  
of the  
Chapel



Bible study every  
Tuesday: 9:15 a.m. at  
NAS 1 Chapel  
(With free child care  
and Home school  
study/gym class)  
6 p.m. at NAS 2  
Chapel, and 7 p.m. at  
the Mineo  
Community Center  
Find us at  
[www.pwocsig.com](http://www.pwocsig.com) or  
[pwocsig@yahoo.com](mailto:pwocsig@yahoo.com)

COMMUNITY CALENDAR				FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				18 DECEMBER	19 Nearly New Shop OPEN	20 DODDS Begin winter recess  Hanukkah Ends
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY			
21	22	23	24	25 No Signature Printer on vacation 	26  Kwanzaa Begins	27
28	29	30	31	1 JANUARY No Signature Printer on vacation 	2	3

D o n n a S. Vito  
Fortunata

Volcano

Marchi

*Did you know that . . .*

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society has a Vision? "We are a private, non-profit, Volunteer, service organization. As a Center of Excellence, we are committed to ensure that all available resources are used to assist personnel of the Naval Service - active, retired, and their eligible family members - to achieve financial self-sufficiency and find solutions to emergency needs."

Located at approximately 250 offices ashore and afloat throughout the world, the Society's work is accomplished mainly by its 3,600 dedicated, trained and caring Volunteers who are supported by a small cadre of employees.

**NMCRS: A Helping Hand!**

[www.nmcrs.org](http://www.nmcrs.org)

# Joese Garage

**LISTENING, continued from page 2**

sounds from their mouths. In wounded loneliness, she would bite her lip and stare out the schoolhouse window. The snow covered ground offered a kinder silence that that of the classroom.

Though deaf, she understood perfectly that she needed to take steps to 'quiet' the disturbance in her heart. To do so, she would sing (whatever that meant) in her mind the words of her favorite song. Now, in front of world class musicians, she would actually sing it with her voice.

Silent Night, Holy Night,  
 All is calm, all is bright

The sound was nothing you would describe as pleasing yet the beauty of the exchange was profound. In an instant, the listeners understood anew the precious place of music in their lives. Reduced to tears, these leaders in the realm of sound fed upon the unsteady monotones, nourishing their impoverished lives with a moaning melody that offered little

variance in range.

Round yon virgin, mother and child,

Holy infant so tender and mild

Though slightly slurred, the words were ever clear. And with good reason: The Word became flesh, the message became man. That is good news for one unable to distinguish the spoken word. This Word, this still small voice, even the deaf can hear. A song provides solace in absolute silence.

Sleep in heavenly peace,

Sleep in heavenly peace.

This convergence of silence and song, heaven and earth, the eternal and the temporal, assured this young girl that there was a God who provides songs in the night. In the very midst of injustice and pain, peace is possible.

The idea of listening on a silent night 'sounds' absurd. But even in the perpetual continuance of silence, the human heart is capable of song.

## 2009 RELIGIOUS MINISTRIES: HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

CATHOLIC MASS

Christmas Eve Children's Mass

24 December 2009 1630 NAS 1 Chapel

Christmas Day Mass

25 December 2009 1000 NAS 1 Chapel

New Years Day Mass

1 January 2010 1000 NAS 1 Chapel

PROTESTANT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

24 December 1830 NAS 1 Chapel

JEWISH HANUKKAH

For information regarding Jewish community observances, please contact our Jewish Lay Leader, Rebekah Jacobs (x1203).

# Park Hotel

# Dott. Sterla

# Santo Doca

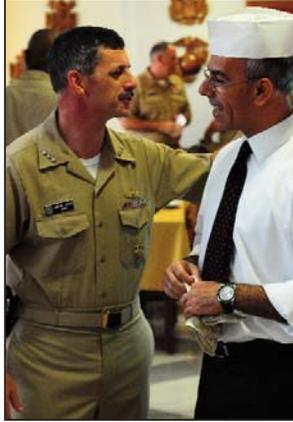
# Distinguished visitors of 2009



Above: Rear Adm. Arthur J. Johnson, Commander, Naval Safety Center. Below: Vice Adm. Michael C. Vitale, Commander, Navy Installations Command.

Left: Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus. Below left: Vice Adm. Adam M. Robinson, Medical Corps Surgeon General Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

photos by MC3 Jonathan Idle



# Stampa

# Funny Island

# Motta

# THE SPORTS LINE

## PIGSKIN PICKS

	Miami at Tennessee	Atlanta at NY Jets	Cincinnati at San Diego	NY Giants at Washington	Minnesota at Carolina	SI - Rosebough Bowl Univ. Central Florida vs. Rutgers	New Mexico Bowl Fresno State vs. Rutgers	High School Bowl Southern Miss. vs. Middle Tenn. State
 <p>Overall Record: 89-48 NFL: 44-21 NCAA: 45-24 SN Kaminski, PSD</p>	Dolphins	Jets	Chargers	Giants	Vikings	Rutgers	Fresno St.	Southern Miss.
 <p>Overall Record: 86-48 NFL: 47-18 NCAA: 39-30 Capt. Jaeger, USNH Sigonella</p>	Titans	Jets	Chargers	Redskins	Vikings	UCF	Fresno St.	M i d d Tenn. St.
 <p>Overall Record: 85-49 NFL: 39-26 NCAA: 46-23 MC3 Idle, Exec Admin</p>	Titans	Jets	Chargers	Giants	Vikings	Rutgers	Fresno St.	M i d d Tenn. St.
 <p>Overall Record: 85-49 NFL: 40-25 NCAA: 45-24 D Day</p>	Titans	Falcons	Chargers	Giants	Vikings	Rutgers	Fresno St.	Southern M iss.
 <p>Overall Record: 83-51 NFL: 41-24 NCAA: 42-27 Joe Cunningham, NCTS</p>	Titans	Jets	Chargers	Giants	Vikings	UCF	Fresno St.	Southern Miss.
 <p>Overall Record: 74-60 NFL: 36-28 NCAA: 38-32 Chief Payne, Weapons</p>	Dolphins	Jets	Bengals	Vikings	Giants	UCF	Wyoming	M i d d Tenn. St.

## Game of the Week: Dallas Cowboys at New Orleans Saints

### MC3 Idle: Saints

The Cowboys are a conundrum, and I always have a hard time picking them to win a game in December. America's Team hasn't posted a winning record in December for over a decade now, and they're not off to a great start for the month already. I know at least one or two teams are going to beat the Saints before the regular season is out, and it would make sense if it were a team with an explosive offense like the Cowboys. With that said, I think the Saints will take this one at home and Romo will self-destruct as usual.

### Joe Cunningham: Saints

The Cowboys are indeed a conundrum and seem to have started their annual December swoon. They have been having a lot of difficulty scoring points, and against New Orleans this week they'll have to score a lot of

points. It ain't gonna happen! Additionally, the Saints seem to be leading a charmed life. Who didn't think they would come back to beat the Redskins? The Saints continue marching in, and New Orleans wins.

### Capt. Jaeger: Saints

okay, this is a no brainer! I am an Eagles fan so Cowboys lose, NO wins! Duh! Romo is goin' down!

### GMC Payne: Saints

New Orleans by a lot, they are due for a huge game....

### D-Day: Saints

Dallas is doomed, they're going to fall behind early and the Saints are going to dial up "Kill Romo" blitzes. Jerry Jones' makeup is gonna run from all the tears. Saints by a landslide.

### PSSN Kaminski: Saints

New Orleans is playing extremely good football. I see no signs of loosing this one.

# Geiko

# Italian NEWS

*Sicilian Culture, Events and Lifestyle*



Alberto Lunetta  
Signature Staff



## Rotary Club Catania Sud visits Sigonella



A group from the Rotary Club Catania Sud recently visited Sigonella to become familiar with the aviation activity at both NAS Sigonella and the 41st Stormo.

The visit was a resounding success with the members of the local club who gained a valuable insight into the US Navy and Italian Air Force mission in Sicily.

As for NASSIG, the group toured PATRON SIG where they met VP-26 sailors who offered them an exciting P-3 Orion aircraft static display, as well as a tour of the squadron's administrative, technical and logistic offices. Rotarians got also a chance to try on a pilot's helmet and flight jacket.

"Personally and on behalf of all the club members I want to express my gratitude to the American personnel for the warm welcome we have received today," said Gianluca Finocchiaro, the President of the Rotary Club Catania Sud

"It has been a very interesting day. We've met very kind people and

we have had the chance to get a full immersion in the true military life. The Catania Sud Rotary Club looks forward to repay the courtesy and welcome a delegation of the base in Catania," Antonio Calvagno, secretary of the club said.

"It was an honor and a privilege to welcome the Catania Rotary Club to the Patrol Squadron 26 Hangar aboard NAS Sigonella. It was a great opportunity for our Sailors to meet visitors from the local Italian community and share some of what we do with the members of our host nation," said LCDR Greg Smith, VP-26 Operations Officer.

The tour was particularly appreciated by the children who got a better understanding of what they need to do to pursue the military career.

"I was very excited when they told me that I could really get on board of the huge aircraft that was in the runway. I'll be a pilot when I grow up! I can't wait to visit the base once again," Stefano Calvagno said.

## American student Amanda Knox counting on appeals trial to clear her name

### Associated Press story

Rome — Amanda Knox is counting on an appeals trial to regain her freedom after a court sentenced her to 26 years in prison for murdering her British roommate, an Italian lawmaker who visited the American student said last week.

A jury in Perugia last week convicted Knox of murdering Meredith Kercher in the house they shared in that university town. Knox maintains she did not commit the crime.

Walter Verini, an opposition lawmaker in the Chamber of Deputies, spoke with Knox Tuesday as part of his monitoring of conditions in Italian prisons.

Verini said in a telephone interview from Perugia that the 22-year-old Knox still has faith in the Italian justice system, including the appeal her lawyers are preparing.

"She looked tranquil and confident that her arguments will be heard, sooner or later," Verini said. "Her eyes are the eyes of a young person who just got sentenced to 26 years, but also of someone who has not given up."

Verini said he spoke to Knox for only a few minutes as he visited the Capanne prison on the outskirts of Perugia.

He said Knox was writing when he arrived and welcomed him "with a kind smile."

Books were on Knox's bed in the cell she is sharing with a 53-year-old woman from New Orleans who is serving a four-year sentence for drug dealing, the lawmaker said.

Knox has asked for permission to work in the prison laundry, and she seems to have a good relationship with the other inmates, he said.

"She is able to socialize and I think she's treated well," Verini said, adding that he was not allowed to discuss details of the legal case with Knox.

The yearlong trial attracted intense media interest. After the verdict was announced following 13 hours of



Amanda Knox is serving a 26-year sentence for killing Meredith Kercher but her parents say she is still determined to clear her name

deliberations, Knox burst into tears. The jury also convicted Knox's co-defendant and former boyfriend, Italian Raffaele Sollecito, of murder and gave him a 25-year prison sentence.

It will be months before an appeals trial can begin. Knox and Sollecito have been jailed since their arrest a few days after the Nov. 1, 2007 slaying of Kercher.

Knox has alternately been depicted as a cold-blooded "she-devil" or an innocent foreigner who fell victim of a much-criticized Italian justice system. In the United States, the coverage has been largely favorable to the American and critical of the Italian handling of the case.

The U.S. Embassy in Rome and Knox's lawyers said that a meeting with consular officials is scheduled for Friday. Embassy officials and the lawyers declined to say why the meeting was sought.

Sen. Maria Cantwell, a Democrat from Knox's home state of Washington, has questioned the fairness of the trial, while U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said she had not looked into the case but would meet with anybody who had concerns.

Italy's Foreign Minister Franco Frattini has said Knox's conviction has not damaged U.S.-Italian relations.

## Agira to hosts living Nativity Scene

Have you ever imagined walking through the characters of a Nativity Scene? If you have, mark this one on your calendar. Agira, a picturesque Sicilian town nestled on a hill in the Enna province, will bring the Christmas story to life through a breathtaking living Nativity Scene, set up by the Associazione Amici del Presepe, that will be staged in the historic center (Chiesa di Santa Margherita) on Thursday, Dec. 24 from 7 p.m. to midnight.

For more information, call the Agira Tourist Office at detailed schedules and directions 0935-961111.



## NASSIG Christmas Choir Concert in Acireale



The NAS Sigonella Chapel Christmas Choir recently performed a selection of Christmas tunes at the Santa Maria degli Ammalati church in Acireale.

A most enthusiastic audience enjoyed the concert which provided a unique opportunity for representatives of different cultures to share the richness of ethnic diversity and the Christmas values.

Stam Volcano  
pa

Marios

# Chiechio

ENP

Tamoil

## FISCSI sailors bring Christmas to Italian children

Fleet Industrial Supply Center Sigonella, Naval Air Station Sigonella Supply Department and other volunteers recently joined forces to spread holiday cheer to a group of less fortunate Sicilian youth. Eighteen sailors visited the Istituto San Giuseppe Casa Del Fanciullo in S. Giovanni La Punta, a hospitality house for male children. They brought tidings of holiday music, decorations, sports and games, and a barbecue menu of hot dogs and hamburgers for all to enjoy. The two organizations were able to donate a number of graciously accepted gifts, to include a 32 inch television, radio, toys, and a Playstation 2 game unit along with over 50 games. Needless to say, those involved on both ends received a holiday blessing they will not soon forget.

Attendees included LS1 Eric Hoffman, LS1 Brandi Roberts, LS2 Kenneth Aranez, LS2 Jason Judson, LS2 Fatima Kouyate, LS2 Erik Sinks, LS2 Brandon Sierra, LS2 Theresa Tocco, LS2 Nicholas Kankam, LS3 Nancy Cid, LS3 Shannon Williams, LSSN Darryl Pettiford, LSSN Sabrina Davis, LSSN Tamika Jones, LSSN Felix Rodriguez, LSSN Terrence Holden,



**FISC sailors visit with local Italian children at the Istituto San Giuseppe Casa Del Fanciullo in S. Giovanni La Punta, a hospitality house for male children.**

AZ3 Edna Rodriguez, and LSSN Frazier Garris.

"The relationship of friendship with the American sailors is a long-standing one as it dates back to the 1960s. Over the years, except for the post 9/11 period, we have remained deeply connected with them. Groups of American sailors come regularly to help us by volunteering in painting the gym or weeding the garden," said Mother Maria Aurelia, the institute

director.

LS1 Brandi Roberts said her volunteers' group, after seeking advice from the NASSIG Chaplain, decided to come to the institute to help and support those children who are in need.

"I joined the group to make sure that those unlucky children would get a Christmas celebration full of joy and serenity just like it happens in every family," LS2 Erik Sinks said.

## Christmas events in Caltagirone

Christmas time is back in Sicily! Christmas markets, concerts and Nativity Scenes exhibits have been heartfelt traditions for centuries in the island. Hundreds of Presepi or nativity scenes featuring richly colored figurines, mechanized figurines and even living actors and animals recreating the birth of Christ, are present in nearly every home and town's historic centers. These magnificently figurines, which are carved from wood, shaped from wax, papier-mâché, resin, clay, and other materials, play an important role in the traditional Sicilian Christmas celebrations.

Representations of Nativity date back to the Middle age. According to tradition, Saint Francis of Assisi set up for the first time, a remarkable Nativity scene that

included the use of live animals on Christmas Eve in 1223 A.D. on the hills surrounding the town of Greggio (Center of Italy).

In Sicily, four major centers boast a tradition for hand crafted nativity scenes production: Palermo, Siracusa, Trapani and Caltagirone.

In eastern Sicily, Caltagirone is the town that boasts a world-renowned Nativity Scenes tradition, dating back to the 17th century. These exceptional pieces of art consist of large or small clay or wood figurines set on a painted background representing country life scenes.

In the 18th century, Nativity Scenes became popular in everyday houses. Families used to compete among each other for the most beautiful display. They invited friends and even people passing by to their

home to evaluate the best Nativity scene that typically depicted the rural world. The characters represented in the Nativity scenes included sleeping shepherds, pipers, Ricotta seller, hunters and more. Today, over 100 craftsman workshops in Caltagirone still keep the tradition alive. Hundreds of Nativity scenes will be showcased in the town's main churches (Main Church, Basilica of St. Giorgio, Basilica of Santa Maria del Monte, Church of St. Giuseppe, and Church of St. Pietro) and historic buildings. For detailed Caltagirone Christmas events schedule visit [http://www.comune.caltagirone.ct.it/UserFiles/File/Programma%20Natale%202009\\_30.11.pdf](http://www.comune.caltagirone.ct.it/UserFiles/File/Programma%20Natale%202009_30.11.pdf)

For more information call the Caltagirone Tourist Information Office at 0933-41365.

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# NEX

NEX

## ON THE GO WITH MWR

### MWR's adventurous new direction

MWR welcomes a new addition to its family with the arrival of Paul Calain, the new ITT/Outdoor Programs Manager.

In 1994, Calain began his career with MWR as part of the Recreation Center staff at La Maddalena. He began programming for single sailors; however, with a personal and professional background in outdoor sports and recreation, he branched out into more adventurous programming. Most recently, he worked as the Outdoor Recreation Director with Army MWR for three years in Kitzberg, Germany, followed by three years in Bamberg, Germany



working as the Outdoor Recreation Director there as well before coming to Sigonella.

"My first love with the outdoors was mountain biking," said Calain. "I raced for several years and still enjoy a nice off-road challenge." Calain professionally raced while in La Maddalena and served as the race director for four races in the Armed Forces Mountain Bike Series in Germany. Calain has extensive outdoor activity training which includes being a certified kayak instructor, certified program planner, and certified climbing wall facilitator.

"I was fortunate to be in the right place at the right time and took advantage of a sea kayaking course several years ago at Souda Bay, Crete. I have been addicted ever since. While in Germany I got more into the whitewater kayaking but still prefer sea kayaking. I enjoy just about any outdoor sport."

A West Virginian native, who is fluent in Italian, Calain is eager to make the most of his new position here. Calain's future plans for outdoor recreation include expanding the Adventures Unlimited program. He is eager to add some new programming to Adventures Unlimited and make the program more visible to the community.

"We have the mountains on one side and the sea on the other. That is tough to top for anyone interested in the outdoors," said Calain.

# Marchi

# Alphio

### AFAA returns to Sigonella



Take the first step in becoming a fitness professional when the Aerobics and Fitness Association of America (AFAA) returns to Sigonella Friday, Feb. 26, through Sunday, Feb. 28.

AFAA is recognized as a leader in the fitness industry, training the trainers worldwide since 1983, with a multitude of workshops, courses, and certifications.

Register now at Fit District for certification courses in Group Fitness Instruction or Personal Fitness Training and workshops in Indoor Cycling and Group Resistance Training. For more info, call 624-4483.

### Teens kick off the New Year with MWR

Don't drop the ball by missing the hottest party of the year when the Marinai Tween Center hosts the Tween and Teen New Year's Eve Party Thursday, Dec. 31, from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m.

Hang out with your friends and enjoy games, movies, music, and more. Dance the night away or just kick back and relax. Either way, this is a party not to be missed. Make sure to bring a snack to share and a camera to snap some priceless pictures at the big moment. Noisemakers, games, and movies will be provided.

Participants must be registered CYP members. Payment is due by Friday, Dec. 18, at the Youth or Tween Center. For more information call 624-3712

### The stars come out Christmas Eve



Spend Christmas Eve mixing it up with celebrities when Armed Forces Entertainment presents The Holiday Handshake Tour Thursday, Dec. 24.

Sigonellans have the opportunity to meet and greet stars from film and TV such as Bill Brochtrup (NYPD Blue), Dennis Farina (Law and Order), and Daphne Reid (The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air). Remember to bring a camera because there will be plenty of chances for photos!

Look for on-base marketing or check out MWR Facebook page at [Facebook.com/mwrsigonella](http://Facebook.com/mwrsigonella) for times and locations. For more information call 624-0502.

## New Place

# Sigonellans stay fit, play hard



photos by MC3 Jonathan Idle



photo by Tracie Barnhouse

Stam Cusumano

Carlitos

pa

# 2009 Sigonella school photos



2009 Sigonella High School Graduation



Lt. j.g. Angel Olivera eats a picnic lunch with his daughter Ayako in honor of the "Month of the Military Child."



photos by MC3 Jonathan Idle



2009 Asian Pacific Heritage Month show.



Sigonella school children recycle trash for an Earth Day competition.

Stam Buongustaio Casablanca  
pa

# Etnapolis

# Sigonella MWR Facility reduced hours starting Jan. 2010

FACILITY NAME	CURRENT HOURS	START DATES
NAS I FITNESS CENTER	M-F 0530 - 2030, S/S/H 1000 - 1730	Monday, 4 Jan '10
NAS II FITNESS CENTER	M-F 0530 - 2100, S/S/H 1000 - 1730	Monday, 4 Jan '10
NAS I POOL	M-F 0600 - 0830, 1100 - 1330, 1600 - 1800	Monday, 4 Jan '10
NAS II POOL	CLOSED	Pool Closed Indefinitely
BOWLING CENTER	M - TH 1530 - 2100, F-Sat 1530 - 2400, Sun 1100 - 1900	Monday, 4 Jan '10
THEATER	CLOSED Mon, Check Movie Schedule for other days	Monday, 4 Jan '10
LIBRARY	M-F 0730 - 1900, S/S 1000 - 1700	Monday, 4 Jan '10
AUTO HOBBY	CLOSED Mon, T - Sat 0930 - 1730	Monday, 4 Jan '10
JOX	M 1600 - 2330, T-Th 1600 - 0030, F 1600 - 0200 Sat 1100 - 0200, Sun 1100 - 2330	Monday, 4 Jan '10
ARMY VET CLINIC	M - F 0800 - 1600	Monday, 4 Jan '10
ITT/Outdoor Rec,	M-F 0930 - 1730, Sat 0900 - 1300	Monday, 4 Jan '10

## 2009 training and work photos



photo by MC3 Jonathan Idie



photo by MC2 Jason Poplin

**Top: Military working dog training.**  
**Bottom: Aviation Support Equipment Technician Airman Anthony Hammond from Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department Sigonella performs tungsten inert gas welding.**

# Stampa

# Sig Inn

# Classimo

# Moroboshi

# MEDUSA

## 2009 training and work photos (con.)



photo by MC2 Gary Prill

Top: Members from Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobal Unit 8 perform hands on training with members of the Ukranian Navy.  
Bottom: Aircrew Survival Equipmentman 2nd Class Kwesi Etsiwamensah from Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department Sigonella performs a bench test on a Bendix 29255 02 Regulator.



photo by MC2 Jason Poplin

# Days INN

# Navy Lodge

# MIDTOWN MOVIE THEATERS

## SCHEDULE & DESCRIPTIONS



### Friday, December 18

5:00pm Amelia PG  
5:30pm Old Dogs PG PREMIERE  
7:30pm The Box PG-13 PREMIERE  
8:00pm Paranormal Activity R PREMIERE

### Saturday, December 19

2:00pm Old Dogs PG  
2:30pm Astro Boy PG  
5:00pm Michael Jackson's This Is It PG  
5:30pm The Box PG-13  
7:30pm Paranormal Activity R  
8:00pm Law Abiding Citizen R

### Sunday, December 20

2:00pm Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs PG  
2:30pm Old Dogs PG  
5:00pm Planet 51 PG  
5:30pm The Box PG-13  
7:00pm Paranormal Activity R

### Monday, December 21

2:00pm Where the Wild Things Are PG  
2:30pm Old Dogs PG  
5:00pm The Box PG-13  
5:30pm The Vampire's Assistant PG-13  
7:30pm The Stepfather PG-13  
8:00pm Paranormal Activity R

### Tuesday, December 22

2:00pm Astro Boy PG  
2:30pm Amelia PG  
5:00pm Planet 51 PG  
5:30pm The Box PG-13  
7:30pm Paranormal Activity R  
8:00pm The Blind Side PG-13

### Wednesday, December 23

2:00pm Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs PG  
2:30pm Twilight New Moon PG-13  
5:00pm The Princess and the Frog G  
5:30pm Old Dogs PG  
7:30pm Whip It PG-13 LAST SHOWING  
8:00pm The Stepfather PG-13

### Thursday, December 24

2:00pm Muppet Christmas Carol G FREE  
2:30pm Planet 51 PG  
5:00pm The Princess and the Frog G  
5:30pm Invictus PG-13 PREMIERE  
8:00pm Couples Retreat PG-13  
8:30pm Law Abiding Citizen R

### Friday, December 25

3:00pm The Grinch PG FREE  
3:30pm The Princess and the Frog G  
5:00pm Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel PG  
PREMIERE  
5:30pm Avatar PG-13 PREMIERE  
8:00pm Invictus PG-13  
8:30pm Paranormal Activity R

## 2012

John Cusack, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Amanda Peet, Oliver Platt, Thandie Newton

Never has a date in history been so significant to so many cultures, so many religions, scientist, and governments. A global cataclysm brings an end to the world, and tells of the heroic struggle of the survivors. (158 min.)

## AMELIA

Hilary Swank, Richard Gere, Ewan McGregor, Christopher Eccleston, Joe Anderson

After becoming the first woman to fly across the Atlantic, Amelia was thrust into a new role as America's sweetheart - the legendary "goddess of light," known for her bold, larger-than-life charisma. Yet, even with her global fame solidified, her belief in flirting with danger and standing up as her own, outspoken woman never changed. She was an inspiration to people everywhere, from First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt to the men closest to her heart: her husband, promoter and publishing magnate George P. Putnam, and her long time friend and lover, pilot Gene Vidal. In the summer of 1937, Amelia set off on her most daunting mission yet: a solo flight around the world that, whatever the outcome, was to become one of the most talked-about journeys in history. (111 min.)

## ASTRO BOY

Freddie Highmore, Kristen Bell, Nicolas Cage, Samuel L. Jackson, Nathan Lane

Set in futuristic Metro City, Astro Boy is a young robot with incredible powers created by a brilliant scientist named Dr. Tenma. Powered by positive "blue" energy, Astro Boy is endowed with super strength, x-ray vision, unbelievable speed and the ability to fly. Through his adventures, he learns the joys and emotions of being human, and gains the strength to embrace his destiny. Ultimately learning his friends and family are in danger, Astro Boy marshals his awesome super powers and returns to Metro City in a valiant effort to save everything he cares about and to understand what it means to be a hero. (94 min.)

## CIRQUE DU FREAK: VAMPIRE'S ASSISTANT

John C. Riley, Ken Watanabe, Josh Hutcherson, Chris Massoglia, Ray Stevenson

A boy unknowingly breaks a 200-year-old truce between two warring factions of vampires. Pulled into a fantastic life of misunderstood sideshow freaks and grotesque creatures of the night, one teen will vanish from the safety of a boring existence and fulfill his destiny in a place drawn from nightmares. 14-year-old Darren was like most kids in his suburban neighborhood. He hung out with his best friend, got decent grades and usually stayed out of trouble. But when he and his buddy stumble upon a traveling freak show, things begin to change inside Darren. That's the exact moment when a vampire named Larten Crepsley turns him into something, well, bloodthirsty. (109 min.)

For more information on MWR's  
programs and services, call 624-3968.

Movie Dates and times are subject to change

MOVIE HOTLINE:  
624-4248

# IL Mercato

All classified ads are free to the community. Their intent is for advertising personal property for sale trade or giveaway.

No commercial ads will be accepted. Ads run for two weeks. Classified ads are due no later than 2 p.m. of the Friday of the week before publication. For more information call 624-5440 or 624-2798 or 095-86-last four digits.

Requests for commercial classifieds must be made to Stampa Generale at 081-568-7884 .

**SEND IL MERCATO ADVERTISEMENTS TO THESIG@NASSIG.SICILY.NAVY.MIL**

#### AUTOMOBILES

**1994 BMW 320i** with M3 sport package. 6 cylinder engine, manual transmission with 137,000 miles. 2-door with leather interior and sunroof. Fun car to drive but some maintenance issues. \$3000 OBO. Please call 349-664-9700.

**Audi 80 SW 1.9 TDI**(turbo diesel intercooler) year 1994. Air condition, ABS, power doors, windows and back mirrors.Excellent condition ready for any test."40 miles with one gallon". Asking \$2,500.00 Call Salvo 338-3225071

**2007 VRSCD NIGHTROD HARLEY DAVIDSON MUST SELL**, PCS Move 1133cc 1600 miles, ex condition. Comes with 2 Harley reflective vests, 2 black full face helmets, Sissy bar, rear seat + backrest, removable windshield, and cover. KBB value \$13,125.00 only asking \$10,500 or B.O

**1992 Chrysler Voyager mini-van**, good condition. 2300 euro OBO. Call Rosario 333-146-7853 or 349-822-5261.

**2000 RENAULT SCENIC 1.6 AUTOMATIC** with 90000 Miles. - 2001 Model- Fully loaded, leather interiors,4 doors, airbags, in great conditions. Asking 5600.00 Dollar. If interested, please contact Giuseppe at 340-9555577 Or 624-9331 and ask for Giuseppe.

#### FOR SALE

Are you a CrossFitter or want to get started? I have all the equipment you need! All stuff is top of the line and brand new. Two Olympic bars (15 lb training bar for instruction and a 1000# test York power bar), bumper plates (10, 25, and 45#),

small plates (2.5, 5, and 10#), colars, 10# and 20# medicine balls, Hi-Tech training plates for instruction, Elite rings, and YES a complete set of Kettlebells (8, 12, 16, 20, 24, 28, and 32 kg)! Original cost is more than \$3000, but will take \$2000 for everything. Call 335-578-8543 or pazzoragazzo@hotmail.com.

**NEW IN BOX STOCK CAR BED** by STEP 2. This new bed is perfect for your toddler or young racer. Bed can be either used as toddler size or twin. Red and blue coloring will make any little driver race off to sleep! Would make a perfect holiday gift. Yours for only \$275 (OBO). Includes delivery to local area. **DREAM CASTLE BED** by STEP 2 This gently used fairytale bed comes with built in nightlight with automatic turn off, drawbridge desk and shelves. Bed grows from toddler to twin. Let your princess sleep in a pink castle beginning this holiday season. Bought for \$349, will sell for \$275 (OBO). Includes delivery to local area. Eddie Bauer Child's car seat. Very good condition and very comfortable. Alpha Omega model in black and gray plaid. \$25 or best offer. Please contact sigonelladeals@gmail.com

Child car seat in good condition, \$40. Umbrella stroller, \$10. Medium and large size kennels, \$20-40. Call 624-1399 or e-mail: wschao@gmail.com.

New Men's Mountain Bike w/ car rack. Paid \$1000, sell \$450 Italian Leather couch, new cond, paid \$3000, sell \$850. New U.S. 110 Washer & Dryer paid \$1000, sell \$600 New Queen Size "pillow top" mattress set, paid \$1200, sell \$650

New Senseo Coffee Maker, 110v, \$10 Gary 335-706-5400

#### WANTED

Full time or Part time Nanny needed for 3 month old infant in April. The house is in vicinity of NAS 1. Please call Erin at 624-6144 during the day or 345-484-6844 in the evening.

Child care needed for 4 month old baby. Some evenings and weekends required, non-smoker preferred. Please contact Kristie or John at 624-1631 or 3409914639.

#### PETS

Free to a good home: 1 year old male golden retriever, yellow lab mix. He is current on all of his shots, chipped and spayed. Toys, kennel, and food bowls, etc. will come with him, all you need provide is a loving home and a yard for him to play in. If interested call Alicia at 346-963-1152

#### LOST/FOUND

Ring found in food court: Silver with brown stone. Rings found in library: 1 with skulls, 1 with moon and stars. Fossil watch at land annex bathroom. If they are yours, please contact Lisa at venturaed@yahoo.com or 338-273-7862.

Anyone interested in sending ads via email should leave a phone number and point of contact name at thesig@nassig.sicily.navy.mil.

Ads run for two weeks on a space available basis and must be sponsored by active duty military members, family members or Italian National/ American base employees. Ads must be 40 words or less and typed in regular upper case, lower case format.

The Signature no longer accepts ads that bring profit to a business or individual, such as maid, babysitting services or home rentals. AFRTS/AFN decoders must be sold only to another authorized individual: active duty or retired U.S. military, DoD direct-hire employees, and their spouse. If someone would like these types of services in The Signature they can call Stampa Generale @ 081-568-7884.

New  
Hope

Volcano

Tattoo

Chiechio

Brasil

Gelso Bianco

Parrucchiere

Rustico

Stampa

# La Fenice