

THE Signature

SIGONELLA, SICILY

Vol. 25 No. 33

Get the Signature, August 8 and 15, only online - www.sicily.navy.mil/signature

AUGUST 22, 2008

Congressional Team Visits Sigonella

Article and photos by
MCSN Jonathan Idle
Signature Staff

A Congressional team visited and ate breakfast with Naval Air Station Sigonella Sailors from their home districts Tues. Aug. 5 at Ristorante Bella on NAS II.

The team consisted of Rep. John Boozman from Arkansas, Rep. Tim Bishop from New York state, Rep. Ben Chandler from Kentucky, Rep. Mike Ross from Arkansas, Sen. Mark Pryor from Arkansas, Rep. Marion Berry from Arkansas and Maj. Gen. William Wofford, Adjutant General of the Arkansas National Guard. Prior to their visit to Sigonella, the team visited members of the Arkansas National Guard in Iraq, Ross said.

"We have 3,000 Arkansas National Guard Soldiers back for their second tour in Iraq, and four of the six members of Congress on this trip are from Arkansas," Ross said. "Five of us are House members and we're joined by U.S. Sen. Mark Pryor, who's from Arkansas, and we

thought it was important to go to Iraq and visit our nearly 3,000 members of the Arkansas National Guard that are over there for their second tour. The message was quite simple. Let them know that we appreciate their service to our country and that we support them. We had a wonderful time."

Ross stated the importance of visiting servicemembers in Iraq to show the support they have back home.

"These are people that come from virtually every town in Arkansas," he said. "Including people that I've grown up with, hunt with and saw in Sunday school. It makes you really proud to see these men and women serving our country half way around the world, and regardless of how you may feel about Iraq, it's important that we remain united as Americans in support of our men and women in uniform who answer the call of duty. I couldn't be more proud of them."

The team stopped in Sigonella to allow their flight crew to rest before moving, but they took advan-

tage the chance to show their support to the Sigonella community, Ross said.

"I was honored to be able to have breakfast with a Sailor from Paris, Ark. and one from Pine Bluff, Ark., both from my congressional district," he said. "I think they enjoyed seeing someone from back home who sounded like they do, and I know I certainly considered it an

honor to be able to shake their hand and thank them for their service to the U.S. Navy and eat some scrambled eggs with them this morning."

Ross expressed how impressed he was with the facilities and accommodations that Sigonella had to offer. Especially in regards to dining facilities on base.

"By the way you all have great food here," Ross said.



A congressional team visits Naval Air Station (NAS) Sigonella's Commanding Office Capt. Thomas J. Quinn, Command Master Chief Rosa L. Wilson and sailors from their home districts.

Stephen Decatur Elementary School Moves to New \$35 mil Complex

Article and photos by
MC2 Joshua Wink
Signature Staff

By Aug. 28, students of the Stephen Decatur Elementary School at NAS Sigonella will be attending classes in the newly constructed elementary school, a \$35-million complex and the last phase of a MILCON project that began seven years ago with the construction of the kindergarten and was followed by the construction of the middle and high school.

"It's a beautiful new facility," said Nadine Sapiente, principal of the Stephen Decatur Elementary School. "As far as I am concerned, it's a flagship facility because it has really met the new educational needs and demands of today's schools."

The new school will have the capacity to hold 650 students, which allows room for flexibility and growth as the elementary school population is currently at about 425 students.

In addition to the larger facility, the school has also upgraded significantly in terms of technology as a part of the education process. Due to be delivered in the early fall, every classroom will be suited with smart boards, which are essentially interactive white boards that work like a touch screen computer that can also be connected to the internet allowing students a more interactive learning experience.

Along with the smart boards, the school also houses 194 desktop computers, 85 laptops, and the capabilities for pod-casting. Even a new playground will be completed in the late fall.

For the past three years, the elementary school has been operating

Story continued on page 12

Surf Riders of Sicily Cleanup Their Shores

Article and photos by MC2(AW) Jason T. Poplin
Fleet Public Affairs Center Detachment Sigonella

Surfing and ocean enthusiasts of Naval Air Station Sigonella came together with like-minded Italian local nationals to conduct a beach cleanup Saturday, Aug. 2, near Catania's Albergo D'Arancia. The event was designed to raise community awareness and to recognize the need for establishing an organization dedicated to the protection and conservation of the Sicily's ocean and its shores.

"The basis of the beach cleanup is to try to start a Surfrider foundation in Sicily, Italy," said William Isaac Kananui Congdon, event coordinator. "There's a need for an organization here that could help the community realize what an issue trash can be."

As stated on their website, the Surfrider Foundation is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's oceans, waves and beaches for all people through conservation, activism, research and education.

Approximately 30 volunteers gathered to patrol the sand which yielded the removal and safe disposal of 35 bags of trash. The success of the clean-up efforts' was measured by what harmful substances were taken from the area. Among the

Story continued on page 13



Shop Keeper 2nd Class William Congdon slides on a board on the beach in Catania Aug. 2.

WEATHER UPDATE

August 22
H:90F
L:69F



August 23
H:92F
L:72F



August 24
H:93F
L:65F



August 25
H:89F
L:64F



August 26
H:89F
L:64F



August 27
H:87F
L:65F



August 28
H:88F
L:65F



TOP STORIES

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea -- The Australian hiker rescued from the remote mountain range in Papua New Guinea by USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) was discharged Aug. 13 after receiving treatment aboard the hospital ship.

Ask anyone who has had a baby recently, and they'll tell you about how they spend their days and nights at home-it's all about the baby. Not that they're complaining, but the reality is that the constant energy drain of parenting leaves little enthusiasm for anything else.

On Aug. 23 through 25, a religious festival honoring Santa Anastasia (Saint Anastasia), the city patron saint will take place in the historic center.

Taormina is a beautiful and historic town located on the North-Eastern part of Sicily. Settled on a hill of the Monte Tauro, Taormina overlooks two beautiful, expansive bays below and on the southern side, the top of Mount Etna.

Dear Parents, On behalf of the entire staff, we welcome you to our new beginnings at Stephen Decatur Sigonella Elementary School. The 2008-2009 school year will be an incredibly exciting one.

Page 3

Page 5

Page 6

Page 8

Page 12

INSIDE

Direct Line
2

Navy News
3

Community Calendar
4

MWR Corner
11

Il Mercato
14

TRAFFIC NUMBERS

	Jan.- July '08	Jan.- July '07	Diff.
--	-------------------	-------------------	-------

Accidents	166	140	+26
-----------	-----	-----	-----

Injuries	28	14	+14
----------	----	----	-----

DUIs	5	3	+2
------	---	---	----

Traffic Deaths	2	0	+2
----------------	---	---	----

PLEASE,
DON'T BECOME
A STATISTIC!

DIRECT LINE NASSIG COMMANDING OFFICER CAPT. THOMAS J. QUINN

The August 7, Feedback live generated so many great questions that they had to be split between last week's and this week's Direct Lines to adequately answer them all. One question that deserved its own Direct Line is hazardous materials (HAZMAT) disposal in housing. This was researched by Housing, Public Works and MWR to find the best possible solution which covers the issue as completely as possible.

First of all, in case any command has questions, all commands at NAS I, II, The Hospital, Piano Tavola and Nesceci are required to coordinate their HAZMAT disposal with their designated HAZMAT disposal accumulation point coordinator. This coordinator would then contact the Hazardous Waste Manager, Wayne Hagwood, at 624-2463 for pick up and proper disposal of their accumulated hazmat materials.

HAZMAT disposal as it applies to fami-

lies living in Marinai and Mineo housing differs depending on the item being disposed of.

Light bulbs:

All burnt out fluorescent bulbs need to be turned in to the Maranai or Mineo housing office to the accumulation point coordinator and if possible have the original packages with them when turning them in. The accumulation point coordinator for Mineo and Maranai housing units are the housing site managers, Mr. Tallarita and Mr. Montalto respectively. Mr Tallarita can be contacted at 624-0420 and Mr. Montalto can be contacted at 624-1774.

Automotive HAZMAT:

Lead acid car batteries, used oil, or any car fluids should be turned in to Auto Port or Hobby Shop for proper disposal.

Bulk items:

Computer monitors and other bulk items should be left in front of houses on

Wednesday in Marinai and Thursday in Mineo for bulk pickup and will be sorted by the waste disposal contractor for proper disposal.

Household batteries:

AAA, AA, C, D etc. can be disposed off in any trash receptacles provided in the area because they are not considered HAZMAT.

If you have questions or concerns on HAZMAT in housing, you may call housing facilities managers at DSN: 624-1774 in Maranai and 624-0420 in Mineo or the Hazardous Waste Manager Wayne Hagwood at 624-2463.

If you have a question you would like to have answered by NASSIG leadership, send them to the AFN Sigonella Director, Chief Harrington at john.harrington@smc.army.mil. Feedback Live is held on the first Thursday of each month, from 6:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. To call in live on the show, please dial 624-4265 or 095-56-4265.



Health WATCH

Your Child's First Dental Visit

Article by Lt. Cmdr. Willie Chao
Pediatric Dentist
U.S. Naval Hospital Sigonella

The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry recommends establishing of a "Dental Home" starting at age one. Here at Naval Hospital Sigonella, we strive to provide this ongoing relationship between the dentist and your child, inclusive of all aspects of oral health care delivered in a comprehensive, continuously accessible, coordinated and family-centered way.

Many parents often ask, "How will you handle my child? He/she will not cooperate at the dental chair." At age one, we generally do an initial examination which lasts a few minutes. More importantly, we provide the parent/caregiver the education on the cause and

prevention of early childhood dental decay) and check the fluoride status. It is better to get an early start on prevention than to avoid the dentist, which may lead to minor dental problems and becoming major ones down the road. Also, in most cases, decay grows slowly. Often times, if the decay is caught early, there are therapies that can be used to reverse or minimize their growth.

Here are some tips for a great dental visit.....

- * Schedule an appointment time when your child is alert and well rested. Children 5 years and younger tend to be more cooperative earlier in the day. Avoid scheduling during a child's routine nap or meal time.
- * Explain to your child before the visit

Story continued on page 12

Commanding Officer
Capt. Thomas J. Quinn

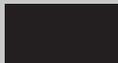
Public Affairs Officer
Lt. j.g. Matt Knight

Deputy Public Affairs Officer
Dott. Alberto Lunetta

Editor
MC2 Joshua Wink
MCSN Jonathan Idle

Staff Writers/ Photographers
MC1 Brian Goyak
MC2 Jason Poplin
MC2 Joshua Wink
MCSN Jonathan Idle

Interns and Volunteers



The Signature editorial office is located at:
Naval Air Station Sigonella, Sicily
PSC 812 Box 3020; FPO, AE 09627
Telephone: 095-86-5440; DSN 624-5440

This civilian enterprise (CE) newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the military services overseas. Contents of The Signature are not necessarily the official views of, or

endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense (DoD), or the U.S. Navy. The appearance of advertising in this newspaper, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the DoD or Stampa Generale S.r.l., of the products or services advertised. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. A confirmed violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser will result in the refusal to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected. The Signature is published weekly by Stampa Generale S.r.l., Sig. Bruno Brandi, Publisher, Naval Support Activity, Capodichino (Naples), Italy - Tel. 081-568-7884, Fax 081-568-7887. E-mail: stampagenerale@tin.it. Editorial submissions are welcomed from all Naval Air Station Sigonella departments, divisions and tenant commands. Editorial submissions should be sent to the Public Affairs Office via thesig@nassig.sicily.navy.mil, guard mail stop #68 or hand-delivered to our office no later than the close of business on the Friday proceeding the expected publication date. All articles submitted by non-staff members will be considered contributing writers. The Signature will not publish any anonymous articles. All advertisements in this publication are the property of Stampa Generale S.r.l. Any reproduction of advertisements in The Signature is unauthorized without the written consent of the publisher.

NASSIG WORSHIP SERVICES

Chapel Office: 095-86-3975

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Sunday

0845 Catholic Mass (NAS I Chapel)
1100 Catholic Mass

(Mineo Community Center)

1600 Catholic Mass (NAS II Chapel)

Monday - Wednesday, Friday

1130 Catholic Mass (NAS II Chapel)

PROTESTANT

Sunday

0900 Protestant Worship
(Mineo Community Center)

1045 Protestant Worship (NAS I Chapel)

Wednesday

1700 Protestant Fellowship Dinner

1800 Bible Studies for All Ages
(NAS I Chapel)

OTHER SERVICES/ACTIVITIES

POINTS OF CONTACT

Church of Christ: Sunday - 1530, NAS I Chapel Room 4; Call 624-5128 or 335-841-8069

Latter-day Saints: Please email ldssig@gmail.com or call 624-1671 or 349-1977-119

Jewish Services: Please call 095-86-1205

AA Meetings: Monday, Wednesday, Friday - 1900, NAS II Chapel, 339-344-9332



Thoughts About Courage

Article by Chaplain Paul N. Rumery

C.S. Lewis once said, "Courage is not simply one of the virtues but the form of every virtue at the testing point." Courage, a Navy Core Value, is understood by many people in a variety of ways. Aristotle identified courage as one of the primary virtues. General William T. Sherman described courage as "A perfect sensibility of the measure of danger and a mental

willingness to endure it." Sometimes we speak of the courage of a person suffering from a terminal disease as, "She showed great courage in the final stage of the illness" and indeed this can be a display of great strength and courage, although Aristotle would not be willing to call such a person courageous according to his strict

Story continued on page 15

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.

ALL CHAPEL VACATION

BIBLE SCHOOL

Registration is underway for the All Chapel Vacation Bible School. Come join us for a "Beach Party Surfin' Through the Scriptures!"

August 11 - 15th 0830-1200 at the NAS I Chapel.

Teen and Adult volunteers are needed. Please stop by the NAS I Chapel office to register your child for Vacation Bible School. For questions regarding this lively program please contact Charlotte Greeson or Susan Jones @ 624-3975.

NAVY News

Rescued Hiker Leaves Mercy: 'Long Live U.S. Navy'

Article by Lt. Arwen Chisholm
Pacific Partnership Public Affairs

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea - The Australian hiker rescued from the remote mountain range in Papua New Guinea by USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) was discharged Aug. 13 after receiving treatment aboard the hospital ship.

Debra Paver, a lawyer from Melbourne, had been hiking the Kokoda Trail in the Owen Stanley Mountain Range of Papua New Guinea when she became ill.

"The locals made a stretcher out of bamboo and tarp," Paver said, "just like they did for people in World War II on the Kokoda Trail."

Paver was taken to Alola Village where she experienced seizures and was in and out of consciousness. She was cared for by local villagers and her fellow hikers.

Paver had been hiking as part of the Kokoda Spirit tour group to raise money for

epidermolysis bullosa, a devastating skin disorder.

"I started hiking on the fifth of August," Paver said. "The last thing I remember was taking a helo flight to the mountains. I can't remember much else; it is all blank after that."

The hikers contacted the Australian Embassy in Papua New Guinea who in turn contacted the U.S. Embassy. The U.S. Embassy in Port Moresby then placed a call to the hospital ship. The crew of Mercy responded, launching a MH-60S Seahawk helicopter from Helicopter Combat Support Squadron 21 at 1:40 p.m., Aug. 8.

"We looked at charts, checked the weather," said U.S. Navy Lt. Beth Dassler, the helicopter aircraft commander. "We assessed that we could make the flight and pick up the patient."

"This is the first medevac (medical evacuation) that I have done. The whole crew was prepared. This is what we do; this is what we



U.S. Navy photo by Aviation Warfare Systems Operator 2nd Class Gabriel Martin

An MH-60S Seahawk helicopter from Helicopter Combat Support Squadron (HS) 21, based in San Diego, lands near Alola Village in the Owen Stanley Mountain Range in Papua New Guinea to evacuate Australian hiker Debra Paver. Paver began to experience symptoms of hyponatremia, a condition resulting from low sodium levels in the blood. Paver was transported to the Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) for treatment. Mercy is anchored off the coast of Papua New Guinea supporting Pacific Partnership 2008 and has embarked a multinational group of medical and engineering professionals from military and non-governmental organizations to provide humanitarian assistance to several countries within the Pacific region.

train for."

Upon landing near Alola Village, Aviation Warfare Systems Operator 2nd Class Gabriel Martin was prepared to receive Paver.

"The corpsman assessed her and determined that she could be moved," Martin said. "We transported her to the helo and started hooking

her up to an IV as the helo was departing."

Paver was unconscious throughout her 40-minute flight back to Mercy.

"We had her strapped into the back of the helo and treated her as best we could," Martin said. "We

Story continued on page 13

PHOTO FROM THE FLEET

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



U.S. Navy photo MC1 Brian A. Goyak

Aircrew Survival Equipmentman 1st Class Gregory Kufchak, assigned to Explosive Ordnance Mobile Unit Eight (EODMU) 8, lands during a free-fall parachute jump over Naval Air Station Sigonella. EODMU-8 periodically conducts parachute operations to maintain proficiency. Sigonella provides logistical support for Commander, U.S. 6th Fleet and NATO forces throughout the Mediterranean.

New Hitech
Hop

Monika

				FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				22 - AUGUST	23	24
COMMUNITY CALENDAR				FFSC Predatory Lending 3p.m.-4p.m. x4291 Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m., NAS II Chapel x9203		
				MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel x9203 FFSC IA Discussion Group 11a.m.-1p.m. x4291	FFSC Credit Management 1p.m.-4p.m. x4291 Red Cross Disaster Action Team Meeting 11:30a.m.-12:30p.m. x4900	Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel x9203 FFSC Home Buying 1p.m.-4p.m. x4291		Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel x9203	Red Cross CPR Class NAS I and Mineo 8a.m.-5p.m. x4900	
1 - SEPTEMBER	2	3	4	5	6	7
Labor Day Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel x9203		Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel x9203 Survive and Thrive FFSC - 8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.	FFSC Ombudsmen Assembly 9a.m.-11a.m. x4291	Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel x9203		

Motta

All Services

Stags

Marchi

Did you know that . . .

Funeral costs could be as little as \$1,500 or could easily escalate to \$8,000 or more? It is strictly up to you.

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society can assist you in identifying the hidden and not so hidden costs associated with a funeral.

We'll assist you in preparing a budget and give you some pointers to help keep your costs reasonable.

Visit your Sigonella Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Office before you've obligated funds for a funeral beyond your means.

Remember that your love for a departed relative is not measured by how much you spend on the funeral.

For more information on how we can help you, please call 624-4212.

NMCRS: A Helping Hand!
www.nmcrcs.org



Bldg. 319 (NAS 1)
Monday-Friday
7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
DSN 624-4291
Commercial 095-56-4291

Finding Time for Your Spouse After the New Baby Arrives

Article courtesy of The Fleet & Family Support Center

Ask anyone who has had a baby recently, and they'll tell you about how they spend their days and nights at home—it's all about the baby. Not that they're complaining, but the reality is that the constant energy drain of parenting leaves little enthusiasm for anything else. So, the big question is, how do you find time to even talk with your spouse at the same time that you are both focused on your newborn? Before we answer the question, we need to tell you that if you are a new parent, and you have noticed that your relationship has changed since the baby was born, we want you to know that you are exactly where you're supposed to be. That's right, you have now entered into a new normal—and you have nothing around to compare it with.

So, here's the deal. Balancing a new child with your marriage requires thought, rest, consideration and good communication between both you and your spouse. Simple

things can help get you comfortable with the new normal—here are some suggestions:

1. Five minutes is better than no time at all—grab all those few minutes together, for whatever it is you both want to do . . .

2. As soon as you are ready to hire a babysitter, plan a date once a week—even as little as two hours at a time can make a difference between the two of you . . .

3. Once meal time for your baby is regular, try to plan as many meals as you can together (even if they are at home) when the baby is sleeping . . .

4. Engage grandmas and grandpas for weekend respites . . . if you are in Sicily, look for friends and neighbors to help you out.

The New Parents Support Program (NPS) at the FFSC is here to provide you with any suggestions and ideas that can make settling in with your new family-easy. If you have

any questions, please call 624-4291 and ask for the NPS person—enjoy the new baby!



Do you have a passion for writing or looking for a little experience in journalism? The Signature is seeking volunteers to help cover base wide events as well as feature stories. If this sounds like an opportunity for you please call the Public Affairs Office at 624-5440.

Cold Noses

WARM HEARTS



A reminder to the community that feeding feral or wild animals on the installation is prohibited.

Signonella's Stray Animal Facility (SAWS) has many cats and dogs just looking for a warm home and someone to love. Each week the Signature will feature animals in need of adoption.

(Left) Nix is a great girl who would love a home call her own. She needs a patient family who could show her love and affection and how to belong. She would love a warm bed she could snuggle in every night.



(Left) Honey is a dog with a lot of energy and a very unique personality. She loves to run and go for walks. If you would like to meet her please come and visit her at SAF. For more information contact the Stray Animal Facility at 624-3936 or a SAWS representative at 345-502-2266.

Ognina

Pentagon

SEXUAL ASSAULT / VICTIMS INTERVENTION

SAVI offers a Sexual Assault Hotline staffed with trained advocates who man the SAVI Hotlines 24/7.

The number is 335-642-8312 or 335-606-6146.

Italian NEWS

Sicilian Culture, Events and Lifestyle

Alberto Lunetta
Signature Staff



Motta Honors St. Anastasia

On Aug. 23 through 25, a religious festival honoring Santa Anastasia (Saint Anastasia), the city patron saint will take place in the historic center. The Motta community will show its devotion to the saint with processions and holy masses. Complementing the religious festival, fireworks, folklore and music shows will be held in the city Rioni (districts).

Life of Saint Anastasia

According to tradition, Anastasia was a Roman lady of noble descent. She was the daughter of Praetextatus, a noble pagan. Although she grew up as a pagan, she converted later in life together with her mother to Christianity thanks to the teachings of St. Chrysogonus, her spiritual advisor.

When her mother died, Praetextatus forced her to marry a noble Roman, named Publius, who was also a pagan. As Publio realized she was a Christian and discovered her acts of piety, he confined her to the house. Later on, cruel Publius, who was appointed as the ambassador to the King of Persia, gave orders to an evil man to maltreat his wife so that he would find her dead upon his return. But Publius died during his journey. Therefore, Anastasia was freed, inherited all his properties and returned to her charity activities. Meanwhile, Emperor Diocletian began a terrible persecution against Christians that also involved St. Chrysogonus who suffered martyrdom in 303 A.D.

During one of her extraordinary mission of charity, Anastasia went to Thessalonica where many Christians were under arrest for their faith. Having found that all the prisoners had been butchered, she started weeping loudly. Hence she was brought before the prefect, Florus to whom she confessed she was a Christian.

After several attempts to convince her to give up Jesus' faith, Anastasia was sent to the terrible Emperor Diocletian who was also unsuccessful in exhorting her to abandon her religion.

Eventually, prefect Florus sent her to prison with the intention of starving her. But as the days passed, Anastasia looked healthier instead of



Motta celebrates its patron saint Saint Anastasia Aug. 23-25.

getting sick. Florus then thought that the jailer had transgressed his orders to starve her and ordered her to be put on board a ship with 120 idolaters and thieves. The ship was bored with holes and was supposed to sink. The ship soon filled with water, but instead of sinking miraculously went ashore thanks to the intervention of Saint Theodota. This miracle worked the conversion of all the idolaters and thieves. Anastasia was then taken to the island of Palmarola where she was condemned to death and burned at the stake in December 304 A.D. Her martyred body was first buried in Zara, in Dalmatia. But about the year 460 A.D. under the Emperor Leo, her relics were transferred Constantinople (Istanbul).

Festival schedule highlights

On Aug. 23, celebrations open with the evening unveiling of the relics at 9 p.m.

The second day (Aug. 24), holy mass is held at 9 a.m. Festivalgoers can visit the church and admire the statue. In the evening, a cheerleader show is held in piazza Umberto (Main Square) at 9 p.m.

The highlight of the festival is Aug. 25. In the morning at 10 a.m., a solemn Holy mass is held at the main church in piazza Castello. In the evening, flag wavers shows from the prestigious city districts (Giovani Maestri, Panzera and Vecchia Matrice) at 9 p.m. The festival ends with a grand finale of fireworks at midnight.

Kartodromo

Rigattiere

Peach Festival in Bivona

The 23rd edition of the annual Sagra Pescabivona (Bivona Peach Festival) kicks off tonight at 7 p.m. in the historic center of this picturesque town that is located in the Agrigento province. Festival Booths will be set up in the following squares: piazza San Giovanni, piazza Giovanni Cinà and piazza Guglielmo Marconi. This mouthwatering food event promises a fun weekend with free peach tasting and an interesting range of activities, including arts and crafts displays and entertainment, that the entire family can enjoy. Weekend's Festival (Aug. 23/24) Opening hours are: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. to late night. For more information call Bivona Tourist Office at 0922-986504.

Catania Bellini Opera House Unveils 2009 Lineup

Article by Alberto Lunetta
 Photo courtesy of Bellini Opera House Press Office

Last week, the Catania Bellini Opera House had announced its impressive and diverse new operatic, dance and symphonic seasons' programs which will run from January to December 2009. As it happens every year, the new seasons are packed with world-class of varied music events. General Director Antonio Fiumefreddo pointed out that the lineup will feature ballet concerts and operas which all have a common theme: the battle against social injustice and the arrogance of power.

The opera season will open on Jan. 16 with Luigi Cherubini's "Medea."

The season will run through December 2009 with seven operas and two ballets. Also included are Bellini's last masterpiece "I Puritani" (March), Verdi's "Ernani," (April), a Flamenco Show (May) and another ballet performance (February/ dance company still to be determined), Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess" (October), Donizetti's "The Elixir of Love" (November), a new opera commissioned by the Bellini Opera House from composer, musicologist and critic Michael Nyman (December), and Mascagni's "Cavalleria Rusticana" (date to be determined).

The first symphonic event of the upcoming season, which features 16 performances, will be held on Oct. 24. French conductor Marc Soustrot will lead the Bellini Opera House Orchestra and Choir in a program of Ravel and Fauré. Other highlights include Russian violinist Sergej Krylov who will join the Bellini Opera House Orchestra and Music director-designate Stefano Ranzani in a concert featuring Beethoven music (Oct. 30 and 31); violinist Andrea Obisio and Bellini Orchestra playing Mozart and Shubert (Nov. 7 and 8); Legendary Russian pianist Boris Petrushansky performing Bellini music (Dec. 5); Milan's Scala Theatre String Quartet (Jan. 12); Pianist Gianfranco Pappalardo Fiumara (Jan. 22); Duo concert featuring pianist Mario Brunello and cellist Andrea Lucchesini (Feb. 16); International acclaimed Japanese violinist Midori's debut at the Bellini Opera House with American pianist Charles



Abramovich (March 16); Bellini Orchestra concerts featuring Haydn and Beethoven music (March 27 and 28) and Brahms and Tchaikovsky (May 2 and 3); Dutch conductor Hubert Soudant leading the Bellini Orchestra in a program of Bruckner (Dec. 19/20), Haydn and Tchaikovsky (Feb. 27/28); Italian conductor Silvia Massarelli and trombonist Vincenzo Paratore, music by Fauré, Groendahl and Rachmaninov (Jan. 30 and 31); Conductor Will Humburg plays music by Strauss and Anton Bruckner (May 15 /16); Pianist Lavinia Meijer (Apr. 6); Pianist Nicholas Angelich (Apr. 20). "We are ready to welcome numerous American friends to our performances. We know they love Opera. And we have an impressive music season's program to offer them this year. Our ambition is also to take our orchestra to perform on their base," Bellini Opera House General

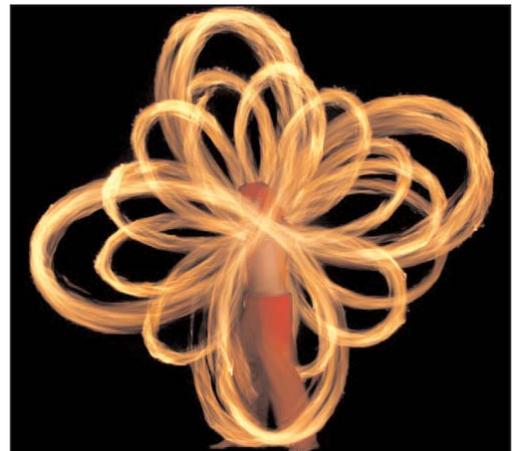
Director Antonio Fiumefreddo told "The Signature" in an interview at the end of last week's press conference.

Fiumefreddo also said there is a special bond that has recently connected the Bellini Opera House to the United States. "Today, August 8, for the first time in history, a dance show ("Armitage Gone!"), which was commissioned by the Bellini Opera House, will make its world debut at the New York Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. This proves that the lifelong friendship we share with

America has been strengthened through art and music," Fiumefreddo added.

Subscription tickets for the 2008-09 symphonic season will be on sale in September, the ones for the Opera season will be available at the end of October. Full schedule will be determined sometime later in the summer. For details, visit <http://www.teatromassimobellini.it>

Fire Dancing on the Island of Stromboli



The island of Stromboli will host a breathtaking "Fire Dancing Festival" from Aug. 23 through Sept. 6 featuring artists from all over the world. For more information, call the Aeolian Islands Public Information Office at 090-9887306/9880095.

Etnapolis

Stampa



Article and photos by Lt. j.g.
Matt Knight
NASSIG Public Affairs Officer

Taormina is a beautiful and historic town located on the northeastern part of Sicily.

Settled the hill of Monte Tauro, Taormina overlooks two beautiful,

expansive bays below and on the southern side, settled beneath Mount Etna.

Taormina's original residents include the Sicels, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Saracens, Arabs, Normans and Spaniards who chose it



The Amphitheatre in Taormina is the second-largest in Sicily after the one in Siracusa and is 100 meters wide by one hundred twenty meters long size by the Romans.



REVIEW SUMMARY

Site:



Family Friendly:



Accessibility:



Travel Time:



These ratings are out of five stars, and are the opinion of the Signature staff and in no way constitute a professional travel review. If you have comments or questions on this review contact:
thesig@nassig.sicily.navy.mil

Pietro

as their residential site thanks to its excellent position, mild climate and delightful atmosphere.

Site: Taormina earns a full five- star rating for a combination of beautiful sites to see, excellent historic structures to visit, plenty of food and clothing vendors as well as a full spectrum of entertainment options available. The site is virtually vehicle free because the only vehicles that are allowed in the town itself are motorcycles, scooters and taxi's. The only caveat is that environment is very much centered on tourism, and therefore the prices are higher than would be found on average in Sicily. However, this should not limit those who want to have a wonderful afternoon excursion. Considering the amount of things to see and do, from the ancient Greek amphitheater to the golf, beachfront activities and shopping, this site is truly a pleasure to visit.

Family Friendly: Taormina gets a four-star rating for family friendliness. The one-star loss is due to the fact that it is primarily a walking town, and to get between the garages and the town there are free public shuttles that can be a challenge to on and off load wheelchairs or

strollers. However, the town itself is very accessible and easy to traverse with plenty of restaurants with rest-room facilities and places to sit and enjoy the view.

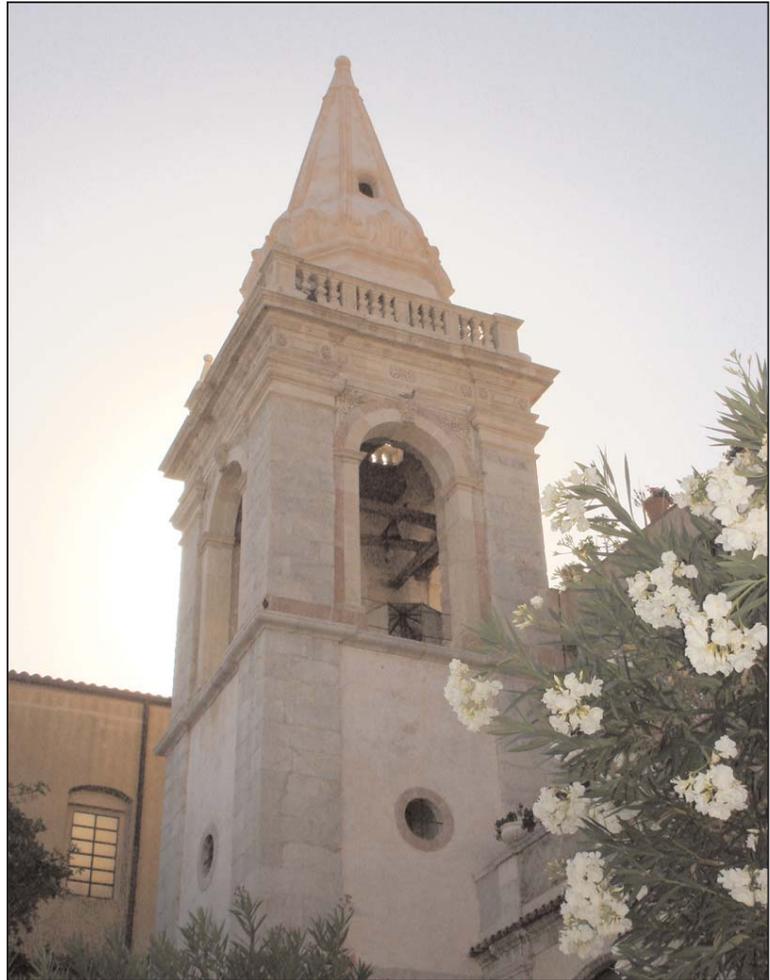
Accessibility: Taormina gets a five-star rating for the ease in which it can be reached from NAS I or II and the fact that ITT regularly offers trips there. To reach Taormina in a personal vehicle, simply get on A19 Autostrada toward Catania. Follow signs to Catania/Messina and exit on A18. Take the exit for Taormina Sud for the beach areas, or Taormina Nord for the Greek Amphitheater and the town. A18 is a toll road so remember to bring along a couple euro for each leg of the trip. There is plenty of parking available just below the town itself that charges roughly 1.50 euros an hour and offers a free shuttle to up to the town above. A note on the parking garage; if driving a vehicle that is larger than a small SUV, chose the "Bus or Minibus" parking. The car parking is only accessible via a spiral ramp that a long or wide vehicle won't fit in.

Travel Time: Taormina rates four stars for travel time because the overall trip is approximately one hour from NAS I.

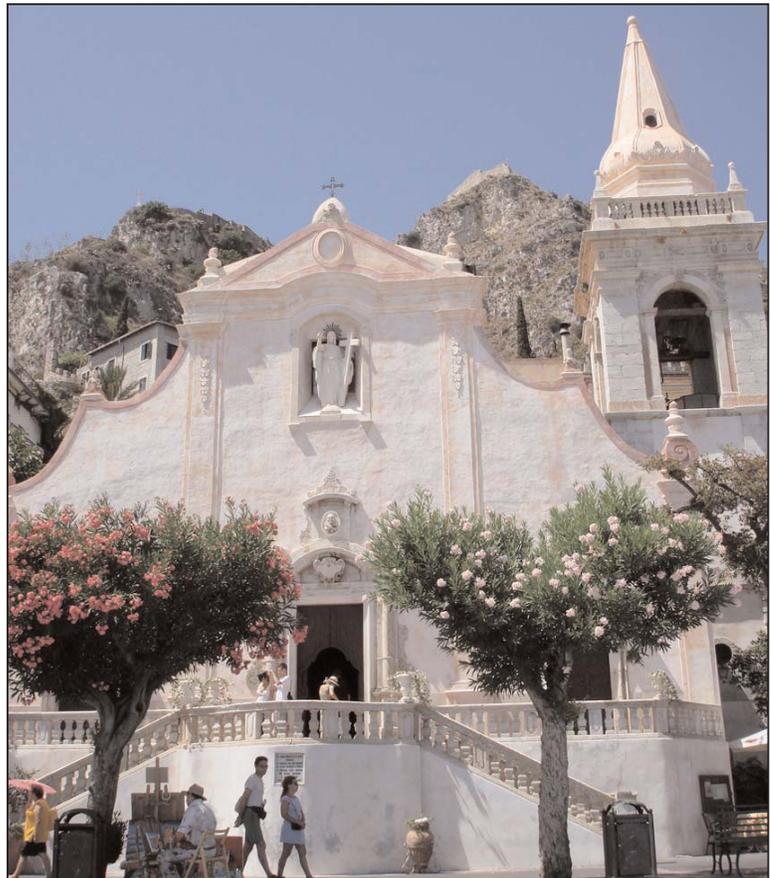


st in Sicily after the one in Siracusa and is of Greek origin but enlarged to its current fifty size by the Romans.

Belmontino



The Church of San Giuseppe located down Corso Umberto makes a striking background to the piazza which has an amazing view of the bay.



Ristorante Bella Etna

Friday 22

Lunch: New England Clam Chowder, Vegetable Lasagna, Pork Chops w/ Mushroom Gravy, Steamed Rice, Garlic Roasted Potatoes, Steamed Asparagus, Seasoned Okra, Lemon Cookies, Carrot Cake.

Speed line: Grilled Cheese/Hamburger, Baked Beans, French Fried Potatoes.

Dinner: Cream Of Mushroom Soup, Cantonese Spareribs, Baked Fish Scandia, Pork Fried Rice, Steamed Whole Corn, Seasoned Spinach, Lemon Cookies, Carrot Cake.

Saturday 23

Lunch: Vegetable Beef Soup, Baked Tuna & Noodles, Chicken Nuggets, Cajun Fries, Mixed Vegetables, Hot Beets, Sweet & Sour Sauce, Chocolate Drop Cookies, Apple Crisp.

Dinner: Manhattan Clam Chowder, Beef & Corn Pie, Jamaican Chicken, Steamed Rice, Green Kales, Peas & Mushroom, Chocolate Drop Cookies, Apple Crisp.

Sunday 24

Brunch: Breakfast Items, Bean & Bacon Soup, Reuben Sandwiches, Italian Roasted Potatoes, Seasoned Green Beans, Glazed Carrots, Yellow Cake w/ Frosting, Hermits.

Dinner: Split Pea Soup, Kielbasa w/ Sauerkraut & Apples, Jaegerschnitzel, Aztec Rice, Steamed Broccoli, Turnip & Bacon, Yellow Cake w/ Frosting, Hermits.

Monday 25

Lunch: Chicken Noodle Soup, Rosemary Turkey Roast, Baked Ham, Mashed Potatoes, Sweet Potatoes w/ Syrup, Seasoned Summer Squash, Steamed Peas, Turkey Gravy, Cranberry Sauce, Oatmeal Raisin Cookies, Banana Cake.

Speed line: Sub Sandwich & Vegetarian Spaghetti.

Dinner: Spanish Soup, Steak w/ Onions, Pasta Prima Vera, Baked Potatoes, Vegetable Stir Fry, Collard Greens, Brown Gravy, Oatmeal Raisin Cookies, Banana Cake.

Tuesday 26

Lunch: New England Clam Chowder, Roast Pork, Chicken Lemon Sauce, Aloha Sweet Potatoes, Harvest Rice, Brown Gravy, Baked Beans, Glazed Carrots, Pineapple Upside Down Cake, Hawaiian Ambrosia.

Speed line: Chicken Fillet Sandwich, Onion Rings.

Dinner: Beef Rice Soup, Roast Veal w/ Herbs, Italian Sausage, Garlic Cheese Potatoes, Steamed Rice, Vegetable Stir Fry, Steamed Asparagus, Brown Gravy, Pineapple Upside Down Cake, Hawaiian Ambrosia.

Wednesday 27

Lunch: Vegetable Beef Soup, Pasta Carbonata, Lemon Baked Fish, Potatoes Au Gratin, Oriental Rice, Eggplant Parmesan, Steamed Spinach, Cherry Cheese Cake, Chewy Nut Bars.

Speed line: Grilled Cheese/Hamburger, Baked Beans, French Fried Potatoes.

Dinner: Minestrone Soup, Salisbury Steak, Baked Chicken, Tossed Green Rice, Mashed Potatoes, Brown Gravy, Steamed Beans, Stewed Tomatoes, Cherry Cheese Cake, Chewy Nut Bars.

Thursday 28

Lunch: Egg Drop Soup, Chicken Cacciatore, Beef Stroganoff, Mashed Potatoes, Steamed Pasta, Seasoned Mix Vegetables, Steamed Cauliflower, Chicken Gravy, Vanilla Cookies, Devils Food Cake.

Speed Line: Baked Potatoes, Bacon Bites, Sautéed Mushroom, Cheddar Cheese, Asst. Pizza.

Dinner: Chicken Noodle Soup, Meat Loaf, Spinach Lasagna, Oven Brown Potatoes, Corn O'Brien, Simmered Carrots, Brown Gravy Garlic Herb Roll, Vanilla Cookies, Devils Food Cake.

The Sigonella Galley is open from 5:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. for breakfast, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for lunch and 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. for dinner. The galley is located on NAS II. This menu is subject to change without notice.

strike

Protestant Women of the Chapel

Bible Study Summer Program
ALL WOMEN WELCOME!
 Tuesday: 9:00-11:00 am
 June 24-July 29
 Nas 1 Chapel
 Free childcare ages 0-12 (crafts and games for school age kids) For more info www.pwocsig.com
<http://www.pwocsig.com> or

casablanca

Stampa

chiechio

MWR CORNER

Midtown 2 Theaters

Matinees at the Movies

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Mineo Movie in the Park

Back to the Future, PG
August 23 at 8:30 p.m.

Jox Pub

Live Band: August 23
Freedom or Not

Take 5

Sci-Fi Movie Marathon: August 25
Scene It! Tournament: August 26

Liberty

Dinner in Catania: [REDACTED]
Hangin' Out at the Beach: [REDACTED]
NEW - Murgo Winery Tour: [REDACTED]
Hangin' Out at the Beach: [REDACTED]
Mystery Dinner: [REDACTED]

ITT Gear-n-Go

Summer Beach Shuttle
[REDACTED]

\$15 + bring euro for fees or pack a cooler

Carini Castle & Seafood Restaurant at Sferracavallo

August 23: Depart: NAS II 6:30 a.m., NAS I 7 a.m., Return: 6:30 p.m.

\$50, includes lunch

Exploring the Alcantara Gorge

[REDACTED]

\$24 + euro for lunch and fees

Agrigento: Valley of the Temples & Beach

[REDACTED]

\$34, includes entrance fees + bring euro for food.

Extended trips:

San Vito Lo Capo Camping

Oktoberfest in Germany

West Coast Sicily Tour

Thanksgiving in Tuscany

Thanksgiving in Prague

Christmas in Rome

Sports

Youth Sports Soccer Registration

Now through August 30
Register at Fit District
Ages groups: 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 11-13
\$35 registration fee

Ladies Powder Puff Soccer Registration

August 15 - 30
Register at either fitness center.

Fitness

Coming in September...

Signonella's Annual Triathlon (teams welcome): September 6

All ability levels welcome to come out and compete in a 500-meter swim, 12-mile bike, and 5K run.

Now Free! Register now at either fitness center. Organic cotton t-shirts and prizes.

Teen Center

Catania Market: August 22

Rock Band Competition: August 22

Mineo Recreation Center

Make Your Own Banana Split: August 29

AUGUST 22 - AUGUST 29

MIDTOWN MOVIE THEATER

MOVIE HOTLINE: 624-4248

SCHEDULE

MOVIE DESCRIPTIONS

Friday, August 22

1:00pm Wall-E G 98 min.
3:00pm Kitt Kittredge: An American Girl G 101 min.
5:00pm Meet Dave PG 90 min.
5:30pm The Love Guru PG-13 89 min.
7:30pm Star Wars: The Clone Wars PG 100 min.
8:00pm The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor PG-13 112 min.
9:30pm Tropic Thunder R 107 min.

Saturday, August 23

2:00pm Wall-E G 98 min.
2:30pm Meet Dave PG 90 min.
4:30pm Hancock PG-13 92 min.
5:00pm Kitt Kittredge: An American Girl G 101 min.
7:30pm Star Wars: The Clone Wars PG 100 min.
8:00pm The Mummy: Dragon Emperor PG-13 112 min.
9:30pm The Happening R 90 min.

Sunday, August 24

2:00pm Kitt Kittredge: An American Girl G 101 min.
2:30pm Star Wars: The Clone Wars PG 100 min.
4:30pm Meet Dave PG 90 min.
5:00pm The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor PG-13 112 min.
7:00pm Star Wars: The Clone Wars PG 100 min.

Monday, August 25

1:00pm Bee Movie PG 91 min.
FREE ADMISSION
3:00pm Nacho Libre PG 91 min.
FREE ADMISSION
5:00pm The Love Guru PG-13
5:30pm Star Wars: The Clone Wars PG
7:30pm Hancock PG-13
8:00pm Tropic Thunder R

Tuesday, August 26

5:00pm Meet Dave PG
5:30pm Get Smart PG-13
7:30pm The Mummy: Dragon Emperor PG-13
8:00pm Wanted R

Wednesday, August 27

1:00pm Kitt Kittredge: An American Girl G
3:00pm Wall-E G
5:00pm Star Wars: The Clone Wars PG
5:30pm Hancock PG-13
7:30pm The Love Guru PG-13
8:00pm The Happening R

Thursday, August 28

3:00pm Meet Dave PG 90 min.
5:00pm The Mummy: Dragon Emperor PG-13
5:30pm The Incredible Hulk PG-13
7:30pm Tropic Thunder R
8:00pm THROWBACK THURSDAY
FREE ADMISSION
Animal House R

The Dark Knight (PG-13)

The Caped Crusader returns, protecting Gotham City from the mad criminal mastermind, The Joker.

Meet Dave (PG)

A massive fireball from space hits New York's Central Park and an ordinary man emerges unscathed. The man turns out to be a spaceship operated by 100 human-looking aliens who are one-quarter inch tall and seeking a way to save their planet; complications ensue when their captain falls in love with an Earth woman who's always picked losers for previous romances.

Kitt Kittredge: An American Girl (G)

Aspiring reporter Kit Kittredge can't resist bringing home strays, whether it's Grace, an abandoned basset hound, or Will and Countee, a pair of young hobos willing to trade work for meals. Determined to recover the stolen money and believing Will is innocent, Kit recruits her friends Ruthie and Stirling to help her track down the real culprit. Together they uncover a plot that goes far beyond Cincinnati!

Hellboy II: The Golden Army (PG-13)

The mythical world starts a rebellion against humanity in order to rule the Earth, so Hellboy and his team must save the world from the rebellious creatures.

The Mummy: Tomb Of The Dragon Emperor (PG-13)

Explorer Rick O'Connell combats the resurrected Han Emperor in an epic that races from the catacombs of ancient China high into the frigid Himalayas. Rick is joined in this all-new adventure by son Alex, wife Evelyn and her brother, Jonathan. And this time, the O'Connells must stop a mummy awoken from a 2,000-year-old curse who threatens to plunge the world into his merciless, unending service.

Star Wars: The Clone Wars (PG)

As the Clone Wars sweep through the galaxy, the heroic Jedi Knights struggle to maintain order and restore peace. More and more systems are falling prey to the forces of the dark side as the Galactic Republic slips further and further under the sway of the Separatists and their never-ending droid army. Anakin Skywalker and his Padawan learner Ahsoka

Tano find themselves on a mission with far-reaching consequences, one that brings them face-to-face with crime lord Jabba the Hutt. But Count Dooku and his sinister agents, including the nefarious Asajj Ventress, will stop at nothing to ensure that Anakin and Ahsoka fail at their quest. Meanwhile, on the front lines of the Clone Wars, Obi-Wan Kenobi and Master Yoda lead the massive clone army in a valiant effort to resist the forces of the dark side ...

Journey To The Center Of The Earth (PG)

A science professor's untraditional hypotheses have made him the laughing stock of the academic community. But on an expedition in Iceland, he and his nephew stumble upon a major discovery that launches them on a thrilling journey deep beneath the Earth's surface, where they travel through never-before-seen worlds and encounter a variety of unusual creatures. 93 min.

Wall-E (G)

What if mankind had to leave Earth, and somebody forgot to turn the last robot off? Wall-E, spends every day doing what he was made for. But soon, he will discover what he was meant for as he adventures across the galaxy chasing his dream.

Tropic Thunder (R)

A group of self-absorbed actors set out to make the most expensive war film. But after ballooning costs force the studio to cancel the movie, the frustrated director refuses to stop shooting, leading his cast into the jungles of Southeast Asia, where they encounter real bad guys.

SHOWING FRIDAY AUGUST 29

1:00pm Star Wars: The Clone Wars PG
3:00pm Kitt Kittredge: An American Girl G
5:00pm Hancock PG-13
5:30pm Journey to the Center of the Earth PG
7:30pm Hellboy II: The Golden Army PG-13
8:00pm The Mummy: Dragon Emperor PG-13
9:45pm Hellboy II: The Golden Army PG-13

COMING SOON

Mamma Mia
Space Chimps

SCHOOL *continued from page 1*
 out of a number or portable, temporary buildings that were "some of the oldest buildings on base."

The transition to the new school has been in the works for months; however, the first of the new furniture has only recently arrived as of Aug. 4

"We received \$373,000 worth of new furniture that had to be moved and assembled, but we did it in phases. When we left, we made sure that everything was packed up in an orderly manner, and then unpacked in the same manner," said Bernie Camuso, the assistant principal of the elementary school.

"The community involvement has been absolutely incredible. They've been hanging up bulletin boards, coat rack's, pretty much everything that hadn't been contracted out. We've had a lot of volunteers already, but we still need more. If people want to volunteer, we can defiantly use the help," Sapiente said.

So far, the elementary school has seen more than 40 volunteers come in to help the transition move as smoothly as possible and before the first day begins Aug. 28.



SKSR Joseph Rivera and retired navy PS1 Ron Zimmerman volunteer at the elementary school moving boxes.

Days Inn

Oxidiana

A Letter From Stephen Decatur Elementary School to Parents on the '08-'09 School Year

Dear Parents,

On behalf of the entire staff, we welcome you to our new beginnings at Stephen Decatur Sigonella Elementary School. The 2008-2009 school year will be an incredibly exciting one. The school has been bustling with the finishing of our new building, the new furniture delivery, and the actual moving into the new facility. This year as our students return to school they will be part of an outstanding learning environment created for the pursuit of excellence in education. This is a highly involved and engaged community. Together we can make tremendous things happen for our students.

We will work hard to insure that all students are challenged as we build upon our two SIP goals of improving writing and math skills across the curriculum. We have a state-of-the-art facility that includes the latest technology in the educational arena. SMART Boards for all of our classrooms and their installation by early fall will assist students to use a level of technology that will prepare them for the 21st century. The new playground will be completed in the late fall. This outdoor learning environment will provide opportunities for cooperative play as well as physical fitness.

As we teach our students to enjoy learning and become life long learners we depend on the strong partnership that we have with our parents, community, and military commands. We invite you to get involved with our school and become a part of this incredible learning community.

Please join us in all of the exciting programs that occur throughout the school year such as Math Night, musical performances, educational projects, field trips, literacy events, living museums, science fairs, and the annual school carnival, just to mention a few. Our school partnerships will enable our children to reach their fullest potential academically while developing citizenship skills that are necessary for rich, happy, and productive lives.

On August 22, 2008, at five o'clock, the class lists will be posted at the Marinai Self Help, Mineo Commissary, and at NAS I at the Commissary. A map of where each class will line up will also be posted.

The first day of school for grades 1-5 will be August 28, 2008.

The first day of school for kindergarten will be September 2, 2008.

The first day of school for Sure Start will be September 11, 2008.

The Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting for the new building will be September 18, 2008, from 1-2 PM.

On August 28, parents are invited to join their children to meet and greet their teachers at 7:45 A.M. There will be signs as to where each class will line up. At 8:15 parents will be asked to join the administration on the "S" Plaza, for a short welcome and overview of the school's goals.

Thank you for entrusting us with your children. We look forward to an outstanding school year.

Nadine Sapiente, Prinicpal
Bernadine Camuso, Assistant Principal

DENTIST *continued from page 2*

that the dentist will count his/her teeth and make sure they are strong and healthy. You are encouraged to role play with your child. Pretend with your child as they lie on a flat surface as they would in our dental chair.

* Read your child a story about a character that has a positive experience with the dentist. There are several children's books available about "First time visits to the Dentist" that can be found in local bookstore or ordered online.

* Please use positive language around your child when discussing his/her dental visit. Refrain from words that may cause unnecessary fear such as pain, pull, drill, shot, needle, etc. Instead, we use phrases such as clean out sugar bugs, sleepy juice, wiggle the tooth. Do not let others tell your child negative stories about dental visits, and do not show your own fear of dental visit to your child. Children are more intuitive than we give them credit for! An anxious parent can cause unnecessary anxiety for the child.

* If your child is 3 or older and he/she is scheduled for their first dental cleaning. It can be helpful to get

your child an electric toothbrush so that he/she becomes accustomed to the noise and the feeling of vibration on their teeth.

* Be a good role model for your child by brushing twice a day, flossing every night, eating healthy, and visiting the dentist regularly.

Please feel free to contact your Pediatric Dentist, LCDR Willie Chao, at Naval Hospital Sigonella, 624-4205/ 3848 (Dental Appointment Desk)

Acquascivol

o

mondo ani-
male

Magnolia

v e c c h i a
cascina

COURAGE continued from page 2 definition. Of course one could debate that the philosopher Aristotle was too concerned about physical courage.

The risk of death is not the only risk worthy of the virtue of courage. Moral courage defends moral principle when the risks of doing so are substantial and known to the courageous person. Moral courage is the quality of being able to steadfastly oppose wrongdoing. Now that is true courage, to "steadfastly oppose wrongdoing", but I believe it is easier said than done! How often we shy away from doing the courageous and right thing because of the difficulty posed or what it would cost us. Other factors are often considered when it

comes to being courageous such as peer pressure, dangers, or even our family influence in our upbringing. Courage literally comes from the heart! Webster defines it as, "The mental or moral strength to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty." The brave person is not one who is never afraid. William J. Bennett stated in his treasury of great moral stories, *The Book of Virtues*, that "Fear of the dark is almost universal among young children, and it provides relatively safe opportunities for first lessons in courage. In families, older siblings are greatly assisted in cultivating their own dispositions in this respect by putting up a brave front before their younger brothers or sisters." "You see? There's really noth-

ing to be scared of." " Bennett includes the mere inclination to do the right thing is not in itself enough, we have to know what the right thing to do is. Doing the right thing at the right time takes courage!

Against great odds two people stand as shining examples of courage, Dolley Madison and Audie Murphy. In August 1814, a British army marched on Washington, D.C., believing that by burning the American Capital it would bring an end to the War of 1812. Dolley Madison, wife of the fourth president, calmly directed evacuation details at the White House. She was instrumental in saving a large portrait of George Washington by Gilbert Stuart knowing it would be unbear-

able if it fell into British hands or to be destroyed by fire. The rescue of Washington's portrait quickly took its place as one of Americans' most cherished acts of heroism. Dolley Madison displayed unflinching courage and level headedness amid chaos and retreat.

Audie Murphy grew up near Celeste, Texas, and shortly after his eighteenth birthday in June 1942 he enlisted in the U.S. Army. He was underweight and of a slight build. During a session of close order drill, he actually passed out. Despite Murphy's baby-faced youthfulness and apparent physical weakness he was granted his desire to become a combat soldier albeit reluctantly by his superiors. In 27 months of combat, and credited with more than 240 enemy killed, Audie Murphy displayed great acts of courage, heroism, and battlefield leadership which ultimately led to his becoming the most decorated soldier in the history of the U.S. Army. It is of interest to note that the U.S. Marines and the Army Paratroopers turned Murphy

away, but he persisted and was courageous to persevere to do the right thing.

Courage, that moral character virtue that comes from the heart, is a vital part of our Navy's Core Values. We probably never wake up in the morning and think, how we can be courageous today? But moral dilemmas and difficult decisions face us all the time. The question is, can we display courage when it calls on us? Acts of moral courage may not always involve risk of death, but could involve risks of humiliation, ridicule, contempt, unemployment, and loss of social standing. And that is the heart of the matter; courage calls us to do the right thing. We may not face a burning city by an opposing force or found on a battlefield facing an enemy, but we are presented with moral and ethical decisions everyday. Courage can be displayed and lived out as we meet those daily challenges, which in turn will reveal our character and heart. Remember, doing the right thing at the right time takes courage!

HIKING continued from page 3

knew she was in bad shape. We were just happy that we were able to reach her and get her back to the Mercy."

The helicopter landed on the flight deck of Mercy at 3:20 p.m. Paver was quickly taken from the helicopter and transported to the emergency room.

"After the patient arrived on Mercy she was taken to our casualty receiving [emergency room]," said U.S. Navy Capt. Peter Linz, medical director of operations aboard Mercy. "She was rapidly assessed by a team of doctors. She was found to be unconscious, intubated and placed on a respirator."

According to Linz, it was suspected that low sodium levels had caused her illness. They confirmed her condition through CT scans and laboratory tests.

"She was treated in the intensive care unit with intravenous fluids to slowly raise her blood sodium levels," Linz said. "She rapidly improved with this treatment, allowing the respirator to be removed with-

in 24 hours."

Upon waking up on the hospital ship, Paver was confused about her location.

"They said I freaked out with all the American voices," Paver said. "To be honest it has all been surreal. I don't even comprehend what I have been through."

"I drank too much water and not enough endurance powder," Paver said. "My sodium levels got really low and I got quite sick. I was told I had been unconscious and had been in a coma."

Although she was apprehensive when she awoke about the U.S. Navy vessel, Paver feels lucky despite her ordeal.

"I have been blessed. Fate has been lined up. I am fortunate," Paver said. "The USNS Mercy was here for two weeks - how lucky am I?"

Paver's family made the trip to Papua New Guinea to be by her side during her recovery.

"My ex-husband, mother and daughter all came together. I couldn't

ask for better support," Paver said, who also expressed that she was looking forward to going home and getting back to normal.

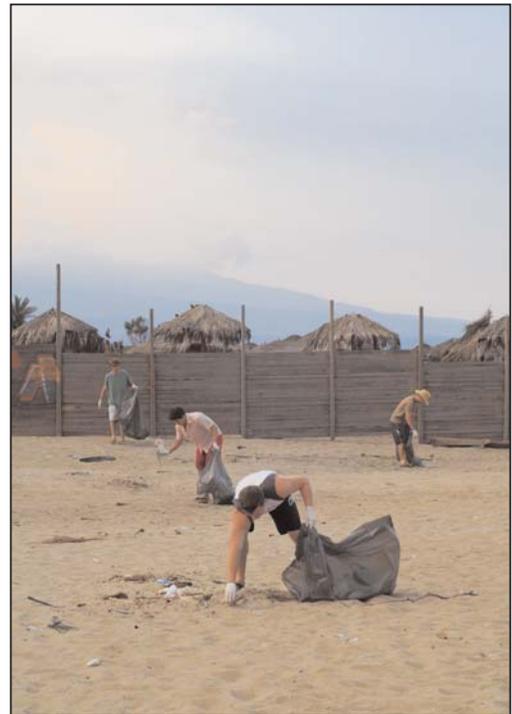
Before leaving the ship, she declared that she wouldn't be hiking the Kokoda trail anytime soon. However, she was thankful for the help she had received.

"I can't thank everyone enough," said Paver. "They have been wonderful. The kindness everyone has shown has been remarkable. Long live the U.S. Navy."

The hospital ship Mercy is anchored off the coast of Port Moresby in support of Pacific Partnership 2008, a humanitarian civic assistance mission to Southeast Asia and Oceania.

The medical, dental and civic action programs are coordinated with the government of Papua New Guinea and partner nations, such as Australia, Canada, Chile, Republic of Korea, New Zealand and India, to assist and provide local communities with a wide range of services.

Maryland



Surfing and ocean enthusiasts of came together with like-minded Italian local nationals to conduct a beach cleanup Saturday, Aug. 2, near Catania's Albergo D'Arancia.

CLEANUP continued from page 1 rubbish, volunteers removed several plastic and broken glass bottles, a syringe, and various aquatic debris.

"We hope to continue to organize similar events in the future," said Giovanni Certo, one of several local Italian nationals who assisted in the cleanup. "People need to pick up after themselves. We found a lot of garbage which that doesn't come from the sea but was left there by

beachgoers and campers."

The cleanup concluded with a barbeque and the mutual appreciation of all parties.

"The turnout today was outstanding," said Congdon. "We'd certainly like to get more and more people involved. You don't have to be a surfer, all you have to be is someone who loves the ocean and to have the desire to want to take care of the environment for future generations."

Sabbiadoro

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](mailto:thesig@nassig.sicily.navy.mil)



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.

Centro
traslochi

Joes

Monika

Ghebel

Vento del-
l'est

Medusa

Volcano

Barber Shop

Volcano

Class

Stampa