

## 41st Stormo command changes hands



(Left) Col. Luca Tonello assumes command of the 41st Stormo.



(Right) Col. Antonio Di Fiore turns over command of the 41st Stormo to Col. Luca Tonello during a change of command ceremony on Dec. 12



Photo by MC2 Jason Poplin, Fleet Public Affairs Detachment Sigonella

Photo by MC2 Jason Poplin, Fleet Public Affairs Detachment Sigonella

Article by Lt. j.g. Matt Knight  
Naval Air Station Sigonella  
Public Affairs Officer

The Italian Air Force 41st Stormo Change of Command ceremony occurred Friday, Dec. 12, 2008 at 10:15 a.m. in the 41st Stormo Hangar on the Italian side of Naval Air Station (NAS) Sigonella.

This event marked the end of Col. Antonio G. Di Fiore's three year tour at the 41st Stormo and the beginning of Col. Luca Tonello's tenure as the new Commandante of the 41st Stormo. From here, Col. Di Fiore will become the Deputy Commander of the Italian Air Force Military

Academy in Pozzuoli, Italy.

After the ceremony Col. Di Fiore said "Thank you very much to the entire community; because American's have proven to be not only Allies, but also friends."

The incoming Comandante, Col. Tonello has 4,200 flying hours and was born in Pederobba (Treviso), Italy in 1964. He attended the Italian Air Force Military Academy in Pozzuoli, Italy from which he graduated from pilot training and was commissioned as second lieutenant in 1987. He has a bachelor's degree in

**CHANGE, continued on page 21**

### \*\*Notice\*\*

Due to the printers being closed for the holiday, *The Signature* will not be printed on Dec. 26 or Jan. 2. The next issue can be found around base on Jan. 9.

*The Signature* staff wishes you and your family the happiest of holidays and all the best in 2009.

## Get ready for holiday fun around base

Article by Tracie Barnhouse  
Signature Editor

Holiday parties, shopping and baking are bound to take up a lot of your time around December. But after the gifts are open, the cookies are eaten and shopping has commenced, you may find yourself scratching your head, wondering what you can do with that empty hole once filled with holiday preparations. There are plenty of activities and events going on around the base designed to close out 2008 and ring in 2009 in style. And since *The Signature* will not be in print on Dec. 26 or Jan. 2, we'll fill you in on the events taking place until our next paper comes out - on Jan. 9.

Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) has really gone all out this year, providing events for all ages.

MWR has kids in mind this holiday season, and are even giving parents a break with the Parent's Night Out, scheduled for Dec. 20 from 6

p.m. to 11 p.m. The cost is \$15 per child ages six weeks to 12-years old and it includes a snack. Call 624-3736 to make a reservation. The kid's get their Night Out on Dec. 20 as well, from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m., at \$5 per child. The all-night event is for first to fifth graders and there will be plenty of activities to keep the young ones busy. Call 624-3712 for more information. There will be a school age care winter camp for kids from Dec. 22 to Jan. 3, which will include a trip to Mt. Etna, ice skating, movies, bowling, and much more. The cost for this is regular full time programs fees or \$3 per hour, plus the field trip cost. Call 624-3712 for more information. Teens, don't worry. MWR hasn't forgotten about you. Stop by the Teen Center for a calendar of daily fun, such as cooking, field trip and more. Call 624-4018 for holiday hours. The Mineo Youth Clubhouse will have many winter activities from Dec. 22 to Jan. 3. Stop by the clubhouse for the calendar, or call 624-

0446 for more information.

The Liberty Program has a ton of events planned for the unaccompanied Sailor. Events include Holiday Movie Trivia, Monday Night Poker, Christmas Breakfast Feast, Banana Splits, a Battleship Tournament, New Year's Eve Bowling Party at SpareTime, and much more. Stop by the Take 5 center or call 624-5602 for more information. One special event will be held on Dec. 31 at Jox Pub. The rock band Lital Blues will ring in 2009 and there will be champagne and prizes. The club will be open until 3 a.m.

Out in town, don't miss the living nativity scene in the towns of Giarratana or Monterosso Almo in the Regusa province on Dec. 26. There will be a bus leaving from NAS II at 2 p.m. and NAS I at 12:30 p.m. and will return at 10:30 p.m. If you like extreme sports, check out snowboarding on Mt. Etna, on Dec.

**ACTIVITIES, continued on page 20**

### WEATHER UPDATE

December 19  
H:59F  
L:43F



December 20  
H:61F  
L:40F



December 21  
H:55F  
L:37F



December 22  
H:55F  
L:36F



December 23  
H:55F  
L:37F



December 24  
H:54F  
L:37F



December 25  
H:57F  
L:40F



### TOP STORIES

Ever suffered from dry and itchy skin, chapped lips, dry coughs, nosebleeds, acne and even headaches during the winter months? Before you reach for medications, reach for a few glasses of water - it could be because you are dehydrated.

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The Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), Adm. Gary Roughead announced his selection of Fleet Master Chief (FLTCM) (SS/SW) Rick D. West, as the 12th Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) in NAVADMIN 349, dated Dec. 5.

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Impaired driving is one of America's deadliest crimes. Nationally, more than 17,000 people died in alcohol-related highway crashes during 2003. Every 30 minutes, nearly 50 times a day, someone in America dies in an alcohol-related crash.

Page 5

Florence immediately brings to mind the Renaissance, and the city does not disappoint lovers of art. Florence was actually founded in 59 BC by Julius Caesar, but is most famous for being the cradle of the era of the Renaissance.

Page 10

According to the College Board, the current average cost of one year of public education is \$16,400, and \$33,000 for a private college. A child born in 2007 will pay \$193,200 (public) or \$388,700 (private) for a four-year education.

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### TRAFFIC NUMBERS

	Jan.- Dec. '08	Jan.- Dec. '07	Diff.
Accidents	271	272	-1
Injuries	49	41	+8
DUIs	7	7	0
Traffic Deaths	2	0	+2

PLEASE,  
DON'T BECOME  
A STATISTIC!

# DIRECT LINE NASSIG COMMANDING OFFICER CAPT. THOMAS J. QUINN

The Dec. 4 Feedback Live was so successful that some of the questions couldn't be covered in the allotted time, so this and the Dec. 12 Direct Lines were devoted to answering all of them. Please keep sending the questions via email or phone and I will do my best to answer them.

Additionally, Feedback Live is the perfect opportunity to share with the community about your positive experience. 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.

Q1. Some areas on NAS I are poorly lighted or unlighted, making it perilous for walking in the dark. The areas around the new school (all sides) and in the bus loop see a lot of pedestrian traffic, even at night, but there is no lighting. Will this be

addressed in the future?

A1. The existing lighting system is designed in accordance with Navy lighting design criteria. PWD will review current lighting conditions in the identified areas and make adjustments as required to ensure a safe living environment.

Q2. NAS I pool has a permanently assigned Public Works representative to take care of the maintenance of their facility. NAS II pool is constantly closed due to poor chemical maintenance which is the responsibility of Public Works. Can a Public Works member be permanently assigned to NAS II so we can continue to train for PRT's and maintain our physical health?

A2. The NAS II pool suffered from a heating problem that closed it for an extended period. Other closures have occurred periodically due to mechanical or

chemical problems with its complex system. The NAS II pool is serviced, at a similar level of care, by the same Work Center as the NAS I pool. Operation and maintenance plans will be reviewed to identify any improvements that can be made in current procedures. Public Works does not provide a dedicated person for either pool. Personnel will continue to be dispatched as required to maintain the pools.

Q3. Why is security parking in the 15min pick up / drop off parking spots for the school while they are on duty? Are they above the rules they are to be upholding?

A3. On duty security should not be utilizing the 15 minute school drop off spots and they are not above the law. This point is being addressed to each patrol section.



# Health WATCH

## Drink up Sigonella! Dehydration and the winter months

Article courtesy of  
**HM1 Clarissa Rosalin**  
Naval Hospital Sigonella

Ever suffer from dry and itchy skin, chapped lips, dry coughs, nosebleeds, acne and even headaches during the winter months? Before you reach for medications, reach for a few glasses of water - it could be because you are dehydrated. Cold weather can actually increase your risk of dehydration. People do not drink as much in the colder months because the hormone that triggers our sense of thirst reacts differently when we are exposed to cold weather. Pay attention to the warning signs of dehydration and make sure to drink plenty of water.

Mild to moderate symptoms of dehydration:

- Dry, sticky mouth
- Thirst
- Muscle weakness
- Headache
- Dizziness or Lightheadedness
- Severe symptoms (a medical emergency) of dehydration:
- Extreme thirst

Irritability and confusion in adults

Very dry mouth, skin, and mucous membranes

Lack of sweating

Little or no urination -- any urine that is produced will be dark yellow or amber

Sunken eyes  
Shriveled and dry skin  
Rapid heartbeat  
Fever

You can also experience a myriad of health problems if you are chronically dehydrated. The health problems range from headaches, obesity, exhaustion, to kidney stones and arthritis. It also leaves your body susceptible to common colds. So pay close attention to a few important body signals and DRINK UP SIGONELLA! Try the H2O cocktail, a slice of lemon added to a glass of water, if you don't like the taste of water. Water can be a miracle cure for many common ailments but too much of anything can be as harmful

**WATER, continued on page 20**

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### NASSIG WORSHIP SERVICES

Chapel Office: 095-86-3975

ROMAN CATHOLIC		PROTESTANT	
Sunday		Sunday	
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)
		1700	Contemporary Protestant (NAS II Chapel)
Monday - Wednesday, Friday		Wednesday (NAS I Chapel)	
1130	Catholic Mass (NAS II Chapel)	1700	Protestant Fellowship Dinner
		1800	Bible Studies for All Ages

**CHURCH OF CHRIST LAY SERVICE**  
Sunday 1530 NAS I Chapel Rooms 3 & 4 (Call 624-5128 or 335-841-8069)

**OTHER SERVICES/ACTIVITIES POINTS OF CONTACT**

**Latter-day Saints:** Please email ldsig@gmail.com or call 624-1671 or 349-197-7119  
**Jewish Services:** Please call 095-86-1205  
**AA Meetings:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday - 1900, NAS II Chapel, 346-840-7745



# Scrooge was single

Article courtesy of  
**Stephen M. Coates**

We never intended it as a family – reading, that is. I read aloud to my children. That might not be so novel if my kids were preschool age but two of my children are in high school and my youngest is in middle school. When I am home, we read every night. Prior to my last deployment, I read The Hobbit and the entire Lord of the Rings Trilogy aloud to my family. Those are just four of dozens of books we have read together.

As I say, we never intended it. However, I can tell you exactly when it began. My oldest daughter was seven, her younger sister five and my son two. One night in December, I wondered if

they (the older ones, I mean) might enjoy a reading of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol. I could start reading and when they lost interest, we would continue on another night. I thought I understood clearly that young children had short attention spans. I never dreamed I would read the entire story in one sitting.

More than thirty minutes into the reading, my daughters sat on the floor, their T-shirt pajamas stretched over their bent knees, eyes fixed on my lips as they caught every word. Their minds were more focused than mine. Still, the true impact of the evening was yet to come. For when I

**READING, continued on page 21**

## 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

## CNO selects Fleet Master Chief Rick West to serve as MCPON

By MC2 (SW) Rebekah Blowers  
Chief of Naval Operations  
Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), Adm. Gary Roughead announced his selection of Fleet Master Chief (FLTCM) (SS/SW) Rick D. West, as the 12th Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) in NAVADMIN 349, dated Dec. 5.

West is currently serving as Fleet Master Chief, U.S. Fleet Forces Command and previously served as Fleet Master Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet. He brings to this assignment 27 years of fleet experience, including six tours at sea highlighted by leadership positions aboard submarines and surface ships. In addition to his experience as Fleet Master Chief in the Pacific and Atlantic, he served as Chief of the Boat in USS Portsmouth (SSN 707), Command Master Chief in USS Preble (DDG 88), and Submarine Squadron 11, and Force Master Chief, Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet.

"From my earliest days in the Navy, and throughout my career, Chief Petty Officers have shaped and influenced me. Master Chief West has the experience, insight and confidence to continue to provide me that which I need to hear, not want to hear. He will have that degree of access and trust. I look forward to working closely with him in all that is ahead," Roughead said.

In the NAVADMIN, Roughead also praised MCPON (SW/FMF) Joe R. Campa Jr., who took the helm in July 2006, citing numerous milestones Campa achieved in his time serving as the senior enlisted member of the Navy.

"MCPON Campa can take great pride in his many contributions during his watch. His extraordinary leadership, keen insight, and sound judgment enhanced the role of the Chief Petty Officer. He authored the Chief Petty Officer's mission, vision, guiding principles, revitalized the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy's Leadership Mess, and empowered

Fleet, Force, and Command Master Chiefs. Most importantly, he re-established the deckplate leadership that is the essence of a U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer. His efforts significantly increased the impact of Navy Senior Enlisted Leaders and, in doing so, improved the readiness of the Navy," Roughead said.

The Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy serves as an advisor to the Chief of Naval Operations and to the Chief of Naval Personnel in matters of importance to enlisted personnel and their families. The MCPON is also an advisor to the many boards focused on enlisted personnel issues; is the enlisted representative of the Department of the Navy at special events; may be called upon to testify on enlisted personnel issues before Congress; and, maintains a liaison with enlisted spouse organizations.

For more news from Chief of Naval Operations, visit [www.navy.mil/local/cno/](http://www.navy.mil/local/cno/).



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Jennifer A. Villalovos

**Fleet Master Chief Rick West, U.S. Fleet Forces Command, answers questions during an interview at the U.S. Navy Memorial before a free summer "Concert on the Avenue" performance by the Navy Band. The band performs at the Navy Memorial Plaza every Tuesday from Memorial Day through Labor Day.**

## Campa credits education, deckplate leadership with success, urges leaders to take care of Sailors

By MC1 Tim Comerford,  
Commander, Navy Region  
Mid-Atlantic Public Affairs

NORFOLK (NNS) -- The Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) has emphasized the importance of good leadership and education during his tenure and the

Navy's senior enlisted Sailor.

While reflecting on the multiple accomplishments of the past two years strengthening deckplate leadership, retention and diversity in the Navy, MCPON Joe R. Campa, Jr. humbly summed up his legacy.

"If there is anything I want to be

remembered for, it is being remembered as a good Chief," Campa said. "That is one of the highest compliments a Chief can attain."

Campa uses his own Navy career as an example of how education can open the path to success. He wasn't always sure he wanted to join the Navy, but he knew he would be in the military.

"My father served in the Army during the Korean War, and my uncle was a Marine during Vietnam. I think the seed was planted with those two pushing me towards military service," said Campa, a native of Lynnwood, Calif. "I thought about both of those branches of service until I met a Navy recruiter."

The recruiter changed Campa's perspective and his life.

"The Navy recruiter had such a passion for going to sea and for serving our nation that it made me want to be part of this organization," Campa said. "I don't remember the programs he talked about — but I remember the stories he told about being on board a ship, the places that he had visited and how much he missed being in the fleet. The way he spoke about those things told me that this organization was something special."

Campa, like many Sailors at the time, came into the Navy having never finished high school.

"I don't think at first that it had that much impact on me," Campa said. "I didn't start out as a hospital corpsman, I started out as a deck seaman. The first six or seven months I was in, I was learning as much as I could about the Navy and the ship. But I knew in the back of my mind that if I wanted to do more, I would have to take that step and finish [my degree]."

Campa then went on to get his GED and started taking college courses.

"Throughout my career when the opportunity presented itself, I would take a class," Campa said. "At first it was just to improve my leadership — writing classes, public speaking — those abilities that would complement my ability as a leader and as a corpsman. I came to a point where I had taken several of these classes, and I thought of shaping them into a degree."

Campa received his bachelor of science degree from Excelsior years later while attending the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy. All services send senior enlisted to one another's leadership schools.

He took his willingness to learn further, going to the Naval War College. He graduated with a master of science and strategic studies.

"It is a very challenging pro-

gram," Campa said of the year-long in-residence course of study.

The MCPON's first mentor is tied closely with his vision of what a leader should exemplify — deckplate leadership.

"My first chief had a big impact on me. I still look at what he did," Campa said. "When he spoke, he spoke with such credibility because he had such a strong knowledge of his ship, his rate and the people that he led; that inspired me to want to do well for him. He planted some seeds — but I have been fortunate throughout my career to have good, strong, deckplate leaders — those who kept their focus on the people and measured their success through them."

"That is what I tried to bring back with deckplate leadership. That kind of leadership is traditional of the chiefs' mess and critical to our people and our Navy."

He added that he does not get excited when meeting someone, famous or not, but there was one exception to the rule, MCPON Delbert D. Black.

"I was getting ready to go to my first command master chief tour, and I was stationed in Great Lakes. The region master chief, Chief of Naval Operations-directed Master Chief

CAMPA, continued on page 21



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Jennifer A. Villalovos

**Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Joe R. Campa Jr. speaks with Navy Recruiters at the Navy Recruiting Station, Alameda. MCPON visited three recruiting stations and met with more than fifty recruiters in the area.**

New Monika  
Hop Volcano

# Sigonella Fuels Division wins award



Photo by MC1 Chris Delano, Signature Staff

Naval Air Station Sigonella's Fuels Division receives the American Petroleum Institute "Runner Up" Award for the best Retailing Fueling Activity in the Department of the Navy. This award identifies the superior contributions of the Navy "Fuelies" to the fuel operations and fleet fuel support missions and is the sixth consecutive year NAS Sigonella has been awarded. In addition to the award, each crewmember also received a commemorative coin from the Defense Energy Support Center (DESC).

## Team Catbird shows ISIC they stay ready to engage

Article and photos by  
YNC(AW) John P. Cordero

Executive Transport Detachment (ETD), Sigonella completed the triennial Immediate Superior in Command Quality Visit (ISIC inspection) which was executed by Commander, Fleet Logistics Support Wing (CFLSW) from Dec. 1 - Dec. 4, 2008.

The CFLSW inspection team included 19 inspectors tasked with reviewing 21 programs utilized by ETD to manage the operation of the squadron. The programs included Operations, Administration, Safety, Training and AIS to name a few.

When debriefing the inspection to Lt. Cmdr. Grant Haskin, Officer in Charge, ETD, Sigonella, the lead inspector, Cmdr. Steve Whitmore,

Deputy Commodore of CFLSW, reported "Outstanding" results and a job "well done" by team Catbird for all programs across the board.

ETD Sigonella is comprised of five officers, 21 enlisted Sailors, and seven contract maintenance personnel. ETD Sigonella provides VIP Air travel services for Admiral Mark Fitzgerald, Commander, Naval Forces Europe/Commander, Joint Forces Command Naples and staff, foreign dignitaries, and other DoD/NATO personnel. ETD Sigonella operates a C-20A aircraft, the commercial equivalent of a Gulfstream III.

During the four-day inspection, VR-56 collaborated with ETD Sigonella to conduct an unannounced mishap drill. This type of training

simulates situations that test the Command's Pre-Mishap Plan, readying the crew and watch standers for all types of scenarios involving aircraft mishaps.

The Deputy Commodore presented CFLSW coins to CS1(AW/SW/NAC) Rodney Kayes and YN2(AW) Jennifer Hood. He also gave a Bravo Zulu to IT1(AW/SW) Rudolph Gonzalez and CS2(AW/NAC) Jamie Wyckoff. These Sailors were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the Catbird mission throughout the year.



CS1 (AW/SW/NAC) Rodney Kayes and YN2 (AW) Jennifer Hood get recognized by Deputy Commodore CFLSW for their outstanding contributions to the Catbird mission.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### SAWS Adopt-A-Thon

The next SAWS adopt-a-thon will be held on Saturday, December 20 in front of the commissary from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Come pick out some fresh baked goodies and even take a friend home for the holidays!

### Visiting Nurse - NMCRS Sigonella

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society has openings for part-time Visiting Nurses. Applicants must have all of the following attributes to be considered: (1) be a command-sponsored spouse of an active duty service member or be the spouse of a member of the U.S. civilian personnel component, (2) possess a current sojourn permit, and (3) be a U.S. citizen. Minimum requirements: Active R.N. license/insurance from any State, Current CPR certification or ability to obtain within 3 mos. of employment, valid stateside driver's license, current automobile insurance, and reliable transportation.

Experience in med/surg, home health education, discharge planning, Ob/Gyn exp. is highly desirable. Starting salary is \$21/hour. Preference will be given to those applicants who have prior experience with the Society as a volunteer or employee. For more information, or to obtain an application, please call the NMCRS Sigonella Office at 095-56-4212 or DSN 314-624-4212. You may also request an electronic application by sending an email message to [hr@hq.nmcrs.org](mailto:hr@hq.nmcrs.org). Please send completed and signed applications, and supporting sojourn documentation to NMCRS Headquarters office at 875 North Randolph Street, Suite 225, Arlington, VA 22203, USA or fax to (USA) 1-703-696-0144 no later than Dec. 19, 2008. Although we will acknowledge receipt of all applications, only those selected for interviews will receive additional notification. Visit NMCRS on the Web at [www.nmcrs.org](http://www.nmcrs.org). E.O.E.

Protestant Women of the Chapel



**ALL WOMEN WELCOME!**  
Women's Ministries  
Tuesdays: 9:15 a.m. NAS I Chapel, 7 p.m. Mineo & Marinal Community Centers  
For more info  
[www.pwocsig.com](http://www.pwocsig.com)

# AFNT

# Don't drink and drive, Sigonella

Article courtesy of Naval Hospital Health Promotions Department

Impaired driving is one of America's deadliest crimes. Nationally, more than 17,000 people died in alcohol-related highway crashes during 2003. Every 30 minutes, nearly 50 times a day, someone in America dies in an alcohol-related crash. Hundreds of thousands more are injured each year. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), about three in every ten Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related crash at some point in their lives.

That is why the Health Promotion Department is reminding everyone this holiday season to always designate a sober driver before each holiday party or event involving alcohol.

The holiday season is supposed to be a time for family, friends and festive celebrations. Unfortunately, each year between Thanksgiving and New Year's, it is also a time when there is a tragic jump in the number of alcohol-related highway fatalities.

Remembering to designate a sober driver before the party begins is just one of several, simple steps to help avoid a tragic crash or an arrest for impaired driving during the holiday season.

Other reminders include:

-Never get behind the wheel of your vehicle if you've been out drinking;

-Or, just stay where you are and sleep it off until you are sober;

-If you are hosting a party this holiday season, remind your guests to always plan ahead and designate a sober driver, always offer alcohol-free beverages during the event, and make sure all of your guests leave with a sober driver; and lastly,

-Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk. Take the keys and never let a friend leave your sight if you think they are about to drive while impaired.

Since 1981, every President of the United States has proclaimed December "National Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) Prevention Month" to help underscore the public's commitment to preventing impaired driving, and to promote the

use of designated drivers and sober ride programs. The month of December and the New Year's Eve holiday are often highlighted by significant increases in states and local law enforcement efforts to combat impaired driving. These efforts include a greater use of sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols.

Driving impaired or riding with someone who is, is simply not worth the risk. The consequences are serious and real. Not only do you risk your life, but you also risk injuring someone else. The trauma and financial costs of a crash or an arrest for driving while impaired can be significant. Not to mention, it is not the way you want to spend your holiday season.



# Mondo Animale

# Pentagon

## Upcoming rate merger discussed



Photo by MC1 Chris Delano, Signature Staff

Jim Collins, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Supply Community, discusses the benefits and pitfalls of the upcoming rating merger for postal clerks and storekeepers. The rating merge will begin in October 2009 with the first Logistics Specialist advancement exam being taken by the CPOs in January 2010.

*Cold Noses*

WARM HEARTS



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

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

**Moroni (Right)** is the ideal lap dog. He is calm and would be the perfect companion for a family that prefers an indoor dog. He also enjoys good walks and a hearty belly rub.



**Bianca (Left)** is a beautiful girl who would love a home to call her own. She wants someone to take her for walks and give her treats.

For more information, contact the Stray Animal Facility at 624-3936 or a SAWS representative at 345-502-2266.

## 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.*

				FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				<b>19 DECEMBER</b> Alcoholics Anonymous NAS II Chapel 7 p.m. 346-840-7745 Arrivederci BETD x9207 Babysitting Bootcamp Red Cross 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. x4900	<b>20</b> Babysitting Bootcamp Red Cross 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. x4900 SAWS Adopt-a-thon Commissary 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. x3936	<b>21</b>  Happy Hanukkah
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY			
<b>22</b> Alcoholics Anonymous NAS II Chapel 7 p.m. 346-840-7745	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Alcoholics Anonymous NAS II Chapel 7 p.m. 346-840-7745 Men's Group FFSC 1:30 p.m. - 3 p.m. x429	<b>25</b>  Merry Christmas	<b>26</b>  Happy Kwanzaa	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Alcoholics Anonymous NAS II Chapel 7 p.m. 346-840-7745	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Alcoholics Anonymous NAS II Chapel 7 p.m. 346-840-7745 Men's Group FFSC 1:30 p.m. - 3 p.m.	<b>1 JANUARY</b>  Happy New Year!	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>

# Baciamo Le Orange Park Mani Stags Sol

*Did you know that . . .*  
 White Elephants to you could be treasures to someone else? Have you out-grown those roller blades and clothes in your closet? Will you ever try to break your neck again on that gift unicycle? Does the thought of organizing and preparing for a garage sale turn your stomach? Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Thrift Shops are your answer. Thrift Shops are great places to take items that you no longer use but are still in good condition. Why not recycle your discards and make them available to your ship-mates and fellow Marines? It's a good way to clean house and, who knows, you might even treasure someone else's white elephant!

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# Medusa

# PHOTOS FROM THE FLEET

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



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 D. Keith Simmons

The space shuttle Endeavour lands at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base, Fort Worth, Texas atop a modified Boeing 747. The shuttle is en route to Kennedy Space Center, Fla. after a Nov. 30 landing at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif.



## Holiday greeting from Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. Gary Roughead

I send my warmest and best wishes to all Sailors, Navy families, and Navy civilians for a very joyous holiday season.

To our shipmates deployed in the defense of our nation, thank you for your efforts and dedicated service. Because of you, our nation can celebrate this holiday season in safety and security with the knowledge that our Navy

remains vigilant in defending our freedom at home and abroad. We are grateful for your service and look forward to your safe return.

For those who are celebrating the holidays on the home front, it is a time to relax with family and friends. Please take care in your travel and celebrations as the best gift you can give to your family, friends, and shipmates is your safe return. Do all you can to ensure all members of our Navy team enjoy the holiday season safely. Be vigilant in your duties and look out for your shipmates.

Remember that wherever you are this season, you are serving the world's greatest nation in the world's finest Navy. I appreciate greatly and am proud of everything you do.

From my family to yours,  
Happy Holidays



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Daniel Barker

Sailors aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Boxer (LHD 4) conduct a foreign object damage walk-down before flight operations. Boxer is supporting the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit Certification Exercise to prepare for an upcoming deployment.

(Right) Center for Information Dominance Corry Station Sailors cheer as the Midshipmen of the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis score their second touchdown against the U.S. Military academy Black Knights during the first half of the 109th annual college football game between the Army and Navy service academies. Locally, Navy beat Army 14-0 during the 6th annual Army-Navy flag football game at the Center for Information Dominance Corry Station.



U.S. Navy photo by Gary Nichols

# Gecomotor

# Strike

# Japanese

# Stampa

# A Stone's Throw

## THE HUB OF THE MED IS ALSO THE HUB FOR TRAVEL History, shopping and food - Exploring Florence, Italy

Article by MCSA Whitfield Palmer and Tracie Barnhouse and Fleet Public Affairs Detachment Sigonella/Signature Editor

Florence immediately brings to mind the Renaissance, and the city does not disappoint lovers of art. Florence was actually founded in 59 BC by Julius Caesar, but is most famous for being the cradle of the era of the Renaissance. Once home to Michelangelo, Botticelli, Leonardo da Vinci and several other famous artists, the city is filled with their works.

**Site:**

Five Stars. There are many sites that you won't want to miss on a trip to Florence. The Accademia, which houses Michelangelo's David is one of those. The marble statue was produced between 1501 and 1504. Featuring the many works of Michelangelo, one could spend hours wandering around the museum and looking at the art. Keep in mind that in the summer season, the lines are long, so purchasing advanced tickets from the ticket booth or online may be beneficial to avoid standing in line.

The Uffizi Gallery is another not to miss. This museum is one of the oldest and most famous art museums in the world and features Botticelli's famous Birth of Venus painting. The museum also houses a selection of paintings from some of the most famous painters in the world, including Leonardo da Vinci

and Michelangelo.

Nearby to the Uffizi Gallery is the Ponte Vecchio, which is a Medieval bridge that crosses the Arno River. Although it was once home to Florence's butcher shops, it is presently lined with shops that sell fine 18-carat Italian gold jewelry.

The Palazzo Pitti, which is more commonly referred to as Pitti Palace is a vast Renaissance palace that is situated on the south side of the River Arno. The palace was bought by the Medici family in 1539, and became the chief residence of the ruling families. It is now home to several minor collections of art, and one has the opportunity to see the opulence and prestige that the family enjoyed.

If you walk back across the Ponte Vecchio, a quick walk will take you to the beautiful Piazza della Signoria. The Piazza della Signoria is an L-shaped square in front of the Ponte Vecchio. It was the main focal point of the origin and still maintains its reputation as the political hub of the city. The square features many statues, including a replica of Michelangelo's David, the Fountain of Neptune, Hercules and Cacus, The Rape of the Sabine Women, and Perseus with the Head of Medusa, among others. The Piazza della Signoria also features an imposing tower, which has become a meeting point for Florentines as well as tourists.

Everywhere you turn you will catch a glimpse of Florence's famous

Duomo. The Basilica di Santa Maria del Fiore is the cathedral church (or Duomo) of Florence. Construction began in 1296, with major construction completed in 1436. The basilica is notable for its dome. In 1419, there was a competition amongst various architects to design a dome for the cathedral. The winning entrant was Filippo Brunelleschi, who faced many technical problems placing the 37,000 ton, four million brick structure on top of the cathedral. Work started in 1420 and was completed 16 years later, with the cathedral consecrated by Pope Eugene IV. The final act was placing a copper ball atop the lantern, which was completed in 1469. From the start of construction in 1296, the final Duomo was not fully complete until 173 years later. The Duomo is absolutely worth taking a look up close to see the fine marble work. Also, the interior of the Dome is covered in beautiful frescos that are not to be missed. The main sanctuary is free but it costs six Euro to see the upper parts of the dome. This is highly recommended to give a chance to see the frescos up close and the city from on top of the Duomo.

In addition to the history around every corner, Florence is a metropolitan city, with plenty of shops and restaurants. Though beware, most airlines will charge you if your luggage is over the allotted weight allowance. So unless you don't mind paying a number of Euros for every kilo you are over the allowance, don't go too crazy in the leather market. Also, the

Tuscany area is known for its wineries. Keep in mind that you are not allowed to ship wine via USPS. If you plan on buying vino, it must either go in your checked luggage (therefore adding extra weight), or have it shipped to a friend out in town. It's a tough call, but from personal experience, the Chianti is well worth the extra Euros you will have to pay flying back to Catania.

**Family Friendly:**

Four Stars. Florence has no sites specifically dedicated to children; however, kids should love exploring Pitti Palace. There are also several famous gelato shops in Florence. The city is quite compact, but there is a lot of walking involved to get around, which might make it hard for some smaller children. The sidewalks are mainly cobblestone, but the city is fairly flat, which makes it easy for navigating strollers.

**Accessibility:**

Five Stars. ITT offers occasional trips to Florence, and Angie's Travel is quite helpful in planning out a trip to the city. On your own, you can fly directly to Pisa from Catania, Palermo, or Trapani on various airlines and usually for a decent price. Florence is connected to the Pisa airport by bus or train. The train ticket is less than six Euro and the travel time is under an hour.

**Travel Time:**

Three or Four Stars; Five stars if you fly directly from Catania. The flight is about an hour and a half from Catania. If you decide to depart from

Palermo or Trapani, it requires a three hour bus ride, which cuts down the star rating to three stars.

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



Photo by Lt. J.g. Matt Knight, Naval Air Station Sigonella Public Affairs Officer



Photo by Lt. J.g. Matt Knight, Naval Air Station Sigonella Public Affairs Officer  
The equestrian statue of Cosimo commemorates Cosimo I de' Medici, the first Grand Duke of Tuscany.



Photo by Lt. J.g. Matt Knight, Naval Air Station Sigonella Public Affairs Officer  
A monument in the center of Piazza della Libertà.

Grande Cina

Calogero



Do you have a passion for writing or are you 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.



Photo by Tracie Barnhouse, Signature Editor

From a hill on top of the city of Florence, you can see many sites, including the famous Duomo, the River Arno, and the metropolitan streets of the city. The hill also features a replica of Michelangelo's David, which is in the center of the parking lot.



Photo by Tracie Barnhouse, Signature Editor

The Ponte Vecchio used to be home to Florence's butchers. Now, it is where you can find the city's best gold jewelry. The view of the River Arno is beautiful from the bridge, as well.



Photo by Tracie Barnhouse, Signature Editor

Florence's streets are easy to navigate; however, the sidewalks are very narrow and the cobblestone worn down from people walking about town. Always stay alert and watch your step!



Photo by Lt. J.g. Matt Knight, Naval Air Station  
Sigonella Public Affairs Officer

The bronze doors of the baptistry depict the life of John the Baptist and the eight virtues. The doors are amazing in their detail and perspective giving each two dimensional scene a three dimensional feel through the use of perspective.

# Conarce

# Avis

# Oxidiana



Photo by Lt. j.g. Matt Knight, Naval Air Station Sigonella Public Affairs Officer



Photo by Tracie Barnhouse, Signature Editor

A view of the Ponte Vecchio bridge (above) and from the bridge (below). The bridge was once a butcher's market but now offers a large selection of gold jewelry dealers.

The Dante statue stands outside of Santa Croce in Florence, Italy. The Santa Croce cathedral is just one of many historical sites to see around Florence.



Photo by Lt. j.g. Matt Knight, Naval Air Station Sigonella Public Affairs Officer



Photo by Lt. j.g. Matt Knight, Naval Air Station Sigonella Public Affairs Officer

The front facade of the cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore or "duomo" is an amazing work of art in itself and was reconstructed in 1887.



Photo by Lt. j.g. Matt Knight, Naval Air Station Sigonella Public Affairs Officer

The basilica di Santa Croce is the largest Franciscan church in the world and is known for its sixteen chapels and tombs of notable people.



Photo by Lt. j.g. Matt Knight, Naval Air Station Sigonella Public Affairs Officer

The cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore or "the Duomo" as it is known, is an amazing structure from inside and out.



Photo by Lt. j.g. Matt Knight, Naval Air Station Sigonella Public Affairs Officer

The dome inside the cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore is painted with frescos depicting scenes from The Last Judgment."

# Scuba

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## Paying for college

Adapted from  
CNIC Standardized Curriculum  
Paying for College

According to the College Board, the current average cost of one year of public education is \$16,400, and \$33,000 for a private college. A child born in 2007 will pay \$193,200 (public) or \$388,700 (private) for a four-year education. Experts expect college costs to continue to rise 6% annually on average. However, when grants, tuition assistance, scholarships and other financial aid is taken into account, nearly 42% of fulltime undergraduates at four-year schools pay less than \$6,000 a year in tuition and fees, roughly 70% pay less than \$12,000, and only 7% pay more than \$30,000 a year. College is also taking longer, with public schools averaging 6.2 years and private schools averaging 5.3 years to graduate.

While education costs can be high, consider the alternative. The lifetime earnings gap between college and high school graduates is over \$1 million. College graduates earn 63% (men) to 70% (women) more than high school graduates. They also have an easier time finding

jobs – the unemployment rate for college grads is just 2.3%. A college education is important, but can be costly. So, how do you plan to pay for it?

Education is the number one reason for joining the military. Military service offers a tremendous array of educational benefits that can be used while on active duty and after you leave service. For information on these programs, refer to the Navy College website at [www.navycollege.navy.mil](http://www.navycollege.navy.mil) and visit with an education counselor at the nearest Navy College Office. Montgomery G.I. Bill – provides up to 36 months (four regular school years) of education benefits for college, business, technical, vocational, or correspondence courses, as well as apprenticeship/job training and flight training. The cost is \$100.00/month, taken out of the member's pay during the first 12 months of service. Tuition Assistance (TA) Program – the Navy's educational financial assistance program, provides active duty personnel funding for tuition costs for courses taken

in an off-duty status at an accredited college, university or vocational/technical institution. TA pays up-front the tuition and fees charged by educational institutions for course enrollments. There is a fiscal year credit limit of 16 semester, 24 quarter, 240 clock hours, or 24 CEUs per individual.

Each year, thousands of students try to figure out a way to pay for Financial Assistance to attend college. According to the Department of Education, only 4-6% of students receive private scholarships. However, opportunities do exist for all students to get a good education regardless of the family finances. Taking advantage of these opportunities requires planning. Financial advisors recommend starting grant and scholarship research in the sophomore year of high school. Students interested in grants and loans should contact their College or University's Financial Aid Office which can provide information and application

**COLLEGE, continued on page 20**

# Etnapolis

# Kartodromo

# Angolo di Dodo

# ON THE GO WITH MWR



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! Sigonella kicked off the holidays with MWR's Light up the Season Holiday Reception & Tree lighting on Friday, Dec. 5. Hundreds attended for Sigonella's "first snow," and even got a glimpse of Santa and Mrs. Clause!

## Explore Sicily and walk off the feasts

As the holiday week fast approaches, it is time to break out the calendar and pencil in a few ITT Gear-n-Go day trips to help walk off those holiday feasts.

Start early with a shopping trip to Cefalu and St. Stefano on Sunday, Dec. 21. Tour coastal Cefalu, the cathedral, lungomare and the medieval washhouse.

On Friday, Dec. 26, ITT offers their very popular, annual trip to see living nativity scenes in the towns of Giarratana or Monterosso Almo in the Ragusa province. Later in the evening dinner will be at a village restaurant.

On Saturday, Dec. 27, patrons can sign up for a two-for-one of seeing the Valley of the Temples in Agrigento and shopping!

Later that evening, there is a special Girls Night Out trip to Taormina scheduled with an added bonus of a Marinai and Mineo housing pick-up and drop-off. Ladies,

enjoy an evening with your girlfriends with no added headache of driving.

On Sunday, Dec. 28, Sigonellans enjoy the famous Palermo II tour and includes catacombs and spectacular cathedrals.

On Dec. 31, spend the day learning about Catania History and the famous "CIAO" 2008 trip. Visit the cathedral, Elephant Square, the fish market, Roman Amphitheatre and more. Enjoy lunch at San Giovanni Li Cuti with stops along the coast. If weather permits, watch the San Silvestro a Mare tradition where locals plunge into the cold waters of Catania!

Stop by ITT Gear-n-Go today for fees and departure times of all the wonderful, holiday day trips or pick up the latest MWR Preview. For more information call 624-4777.

## BGCA Sigonella youth of the year honor

The Boys & Girls Clubs of America of Sigonella seeks candidates, ages 14-18, for the Youth of the Year program. Candidates must demonstrate sound character, leadership skills and willingness to give back to the community through this program founded over 60 years ago through the generosity of the Reader's Digest Foundation.

Regional winners are awarded a \$10,000 college scholarship and advance to the national competition in Washington. The National Youth of the Year receives an additional \$15,000 college scholarship that is given in a ceremony in the

Oval Office. As the founding sponsor of the Youth of the Year program, the Reader's Digest Foundation has given nearly \$8 million to BGCA's leadership program, and 61 teens have been selected as the National Youth of the Year. (www.bgca.org)

To be eligible for this program, teens must submit a registration packet and be a member of the teen center. For more information, entry deadline, and submission details contact Emily Paulin at 624-4018 or email Emily.paulin@eu.navy.mil.

## Nappy Roots a success

On Saturday, Dec. 6, USO and MWR teamed with Nappy Roots, for a night of hip hop, soul and funk at Jox Pub. The group, currently on their "Pursuit of Nappyness" USO tour stopped over in Sigonella to bring their Southern flavor to their fans here.

"We have been doing USO Tours now since 2002 and this is our first time visiting Sicily and Sigonella and we really enjoyed the military personnel and their families stationed out here," said Big V, one of the 5 members of the Nappy Roots, "Our concert was a way of saying thanks for all you do."

Performing their platinum hits Po Folks and Awnaw among others,

the group brought in an excited crowd who enjoyed the show. Opening up for the Nappy Roots were US R&B-Soul duo Washington Projects who broke the ice and warmed up the crowd with their original sound and energy.

"We like to promote an image of positive hip hop in our music and make sure the messages our fans get from our songs lift their spirits in some way," said Skinny DeVille, another Nappy Roots member, "We like to say we are a social conscience hip hop group and just enjoy making music that reaches the people."

Nappy Roots finished up their USO tour on Dec. 8.

DECEMBER 19 - DECEMBER 26

MIDTOWN MOVIE THEATER

MOVIE HOTLINE: 624-4248

### SCHEDULE & DESCRIPTIONS

#### Friday, December 19

3:00pm High School Musical 3 G  
5:00pm The Secret Life of Bees PG-13  
5:30pm The Day the Earth Stood Still PG-13  
7:00pm Max Payne PG-13  
8:00pm Pride and Glory R  
9:00pm Flash of Genius PG-13  
**Free to E4 & below**

#### Saturday, December 20

2:00pm Four Christmases PG-13  
2:30pm Beverly Hills Chihuahua PG  
4:30pm High School Musical 3 G  
5:00pm Australia PG-13  
7:00pm Quarantine R  
8:00pm Body of Lies R  
9:00pm Nick & Norah's Infinite Playlist PG-13 **Free to E4 & below**

#### Sunday, December 21

2:00pm The Day the Earth Stood Still PG-13  
2:30pm Beverly Hills Chihuahua PG  
4:30pm Max Payne PG-13  
5:00pm The Secret Life of Bees PG-13  
7:00pm Pride and Glory R

#### Monday, December 22

12:00pm Miracle on 34th Street G **FREE**  
3:00pm The Secret Life of Bees PG-13  
5:00pm Four Christmases PG-13  
5:30pm Quarantine R  
7:30pm Body of Lies R  
8:00pm Pride and Glory R

#### Tuesday, December 23

12:00pm Home Alone 2 PG **FREE**  
3:00pm Nick & Norah's Infinite Playlist PG-13  
5:00pm Australia PG-13  
5:30pm Beverly Hills Chihuahua PG  
7:30pm Max Payne PG-13  
8:00pm The Day the Earth Stood Still PG-13

#### Wednesday, December 24 - FREE!

12:00pm Christmas with the Kranks PG  
2:00pm Fred Clause PG  
2:30pm Four Christmases PG-13  
4:00pm National Lampoon's Xmas Vacation PG-13

#### Thursday, December 25

12:00pm Four Christmases PG-13  
12:30pm High School Musical 3 G  
2:00pm Pride & Glory R  
2:30pm Body of Lies R

#### Max Payne (PG)

Max is a maverick cop, a mythic anti-hero, determined to track down those responsible for the murders of his family and partner. Hell bent on revenge, his obsessive investigation takes him on a journey into a dark underworld. As the mystery deepens, Max is forced to battle enemies beyond the natural world and face unthinkable betrayal. (99 min.)

#### Pride and Glory (R)

Four NY city cops are dead and after further investigation, a family is forced to choose between their loyalties to the department or each other. (133 min.)

#### The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG-13)

Aliens land on Earth with a message for all humans: live in peace or be destroyed. (104 min.)

#### Body of Lies (R)

A CIA operative attempts to uncover a major terrorist operation in Jordan, but he doesn't know which of his allies he can fully trust. (128 min.)

#### The Secret Life of Bees (PG-13)

Lily Owens is a 14-year old girl who is haunted by the memory of her late mother. Trying to escape her troubled relationship with her father, she finds solace in beekeeping in a small North Carolina town with her caregiver and only friend. (110 min.)

#### Nick & Norah's Infinite Playlist (PG-13)

Nick frequents New York's indie rock scene nursing a broken heart and playing with his band, The Jerk Offs. Norah is questioning pretty much all of her assumptions about the world. Though they have nothing in common except their taste in music, their chance encounter leads them to an all-night quest to find a legendary band's secret show and ends up being a first date that could change both their lives. (90 min.)

#### Australia (PG-13)

In Australia, on the brink of World War II, an English aristocrat travels to the faraway continent, where she meets a young, hewn local and reluctantly agrees to join forces with him to save the land she inherited. Together, they embark upon a transforming journey across hundreds of miles of the world's most beautiful yet unforgiving terrain, only to still face the bombing of the city of Darwin by the Japanese forces that attacked Pearl Harbor. (165 min.)

#### SHOWING FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26

12:00pm The Santa Clause PG **FREE**  
3:00pm High School Musical 3 G  
5:00pm Madagascar Escape 2 Africa PG  
5:30pm The Day the Earth Stood Still PG-13  
7:00pm Yes Man PG-13  
8:00pm Role Models R  
9:00pm Clear and Present Danger PG-13 **FREE**

#### COMING SOON

Sex Drive, Soul Men, Twilight, Transporter 3

**\*\*Movie Schedule is subject to change\*\***



On Dec. 6, Nappy Roots performed at Jox Pub to a full house of fans. Nappy Roots came to Sigonella with a USO tour. They have been touring with USO since 2002, but this was their first time in Sicily and Sigonella. The group is currently on their "Pursuit of Nappyness" tour.

Alberto Lunetta  
Signature Staff

# Italian NEWS

Sicilian Culture, Events and Lifestyle

## Holiday concerts and events in the Catania Province

The Catania Regional Province has announced its concert lineup for the upcoming Christmas holiday season. Here are my top event picks for the rest of the month:

**Dec. 19:** Catania, Diciotto Corde Trio playing at the Santa Chiara Monastery at 7:30 p.m. Mascali, Christmas Carols playing at Carrabba at 6:30 p.m. There will be a Palagonia Classic Music Concert, held at the Church of S. Giuseppe delle figlie di Maria at 7 p.m.

**Dec. 20:** In Acireale, a Sacred Music Concert at the Basilica of S. Sebastiano at 8 p.m. In Belpasso, the Opera Music Concert at the Parish of S. Antonio at 8:30 p.m. In Biancavilla a Gospel Music concert at the Basilica of Maria SS. Eleonora at 7:15 p.m. In Bronte, Christmas Songs at the historic center at 4 p.m. In Catania the Battle of the Bands Finals and Tinturia concert held in the piazza Teatro Massimo at 8:30 p.m. Also in Catania, Poetry Reading and Opera Music will be played at the Platamone Courtyard, # 11 via Landolina at 7:30 p.m. Catania welcomes the Vincenzo Bellini Music Conservatory's Orchestra, at the Platamone Palace. There are several performances throughout the day.

**Dec. 21:** In Gravina di Catania, the Tribute to Sicilian songwriter Rosa Balestrieri concert in the town hall auditorium at 6 p.m. In Riposto, a Christmas Choir Concert, held at the Basilica of S. Pietro at 8 p.m. In Santa Venerina a Sicilia Puppets' Show, held at the Casa del Vendemmiatore at 7:30 p.m. In Valverde, a Gospel Music concert

will be held at the Church of Madonna delle Grazie, Maugeri District at 8:30 p.m. In Vena/Piedimonte Etneo, a Christmas Concert, at the Sanctuary of Maria SS. Della Vena at 7 p.m. Also on Sunday, Dec. 21 in Aci Sant'Antonio, a Christmas Concert at Santa Maria La Stella Parish at 7 p.m.. In Caltagirone, a Gospel Concert at the Cathedral at 8 p.m. In Fiumefreddo, the concert Santa Claus with us at the historic center at 11 a.m. Mascali will hold a Christmas Carols concert at the historic center at 6:30 p.m. Sant'Alfio, Echoes of Christmas songs of the Sicilian people, at the Main Church at 8 p.m. In San Giovanni La Punta Christmas Parade concert at the historic center at 10 a.m. In Santa Maria di Licodia Gospel Music at the Church of Madre SS. Crocifisso at 7 p.m. In Valverde, the Polyphonic Choir at the Sanctuary at 6:15 p.m.

**Dec. 22:** In Catania, the theatrical show I Tucchi at the Dusmet Theater at 8 p.m.

**Dec. 23:** Castel di Judica Theatrical Show, held at Town Children's Recreation Center at 8 p.m. In Giarre, Christmas Choir Music at Regina Pacis at 8 p.m. In San Gregorio, Echoes of Christmas songs of the Sicilian people, held at the Church of Immacolata at 8 p.m. In San Michele di Ganzaria, Christmas Concert at Church of San Michele Arcangelo at 7 p.m. In Trecastagni, a comic play: "Christmas with the family," held at the Town Theater at 8:30 p.m.

**Dec. 25 and Dec. 27:** In Caltagirone, Meeting Santa Claus held at the piazz

za Municipio at 5 p.m.

**Dec. 25:** In Maletto, The Helicopter of Santa Claus, held at the historic center at 11 a.m.

**Dec. 25 and Jan. 6, 2009:** In Mineo, Music and old Christmas Carols, at the historic center.

**Dec. 26** In Grammichele, Opera and Instrumental Music held at the Church of S. Leonardo at 6:30 p.m.

**Dec. 26 and Jan. 6, 2009:** In Paternò, Nativity Scene, held in the Gancia District

**Dec. 26:** Riposto, Gospel Music in the Basilica of S. Pietro at 8:30 p.m. In Viagrande, Waiting for New Year's Day Concert, in the main church at 6:30 p.m.

**Dec. 27:** In Acicatena Opera and Instrumental Music Concert at the Church of S. Lucia at 7 p.m. In Aci Sant'Antonio, Pop Music, in the piazza Maggiore at 7:30 p.m. In Adrano, Christmas Concert at the Church of S. Lucia at 6:30 p.m.

In Castiglione di Sicilia, Diciotto Corde Trio at the Church of S. Antonio Abate at 9 p.m.

In Giarre, Christmas Pastoral Music, in the Cathedral at 7:30 p.m.

In Licodia Eubea, Christmas Carols, in the main church at 8 p.m. In Linguaglossa, Gospel Music Church at S. Egidio at 8 p.m. In Maniace, Pop Music at the Community Center at 7:30 p.m. In Nicolosi, Merry Christmas Parade, in the historic center at 11 a.m. In Santa Maria di Licodia, A Mastra play, in the S. Giuseppe Theater at 8 p.m. In Scordia, Christmas Concert at the Church of S. Maria Maggiore at 9 p.m.

**Dec. 28:** In Acicatena, Gospel Music

at the main church at 7 p.m. In Acireale, Traditional Sicilian Christmas chants and music at S. Filippo Neri's Oratory at 6:30 p.m. In Bronte, Christmas Concert, at the Town Theater at 7:30 p.m. At Camporotondo Etneo a theatrical show at the Town Hall auditorium at 9 p.m. In Piedimonte Etneo, Christmas Cabaret, at the Music Museum at 8 p.m. In Raddusa Santa Claus' Sledge at the historic center at 11 a.m. In San Gregorio, Traditional Sicilian Christmas chants and music at the Church of Immacolata at 7 p.m. In Vizzini, Christmas Concert at the Church of S. Maria di Gesù at 7:30 p.m. In Zafferana Etnea, Pastoral Music at the main church at 8 p.m.

**Dec. 30:** In Piedimonte Etneo, Christmas Children Choir Concert, at

the Church of Maria SS. Del Rosario at 8 p.m. In San Pietro Clarenza, New Year's Day Concert, at the Church of S. Caterina at 7:30 p.m.

**Dec. 31:** In Milo, Sights and Sounds Show, in the piazza Belvedere at 10 p.m. In San Cono, New Year's Day Together, in the Sports Arena at 10 p.m. In Scordia, New Year's Day Celebrations in the main square, in the piazza R. Margherita at 11 p.m.

An arts and crafts and antique fairs will be held from Dec. 19 through Jan. 6, 2009 at the Ciminiere Convention center (located near the Catania Train Station) and in piazza Università.

For more information and directions to the show venues, please contact the Catania Tourist information office (095-7306266/277).

## Circus arrives in Catania

Sigonella kids and adults will be happy to hear that the circus is coming to Catania. There will be two different circuses performing.

Don't miss out on these extravagant!

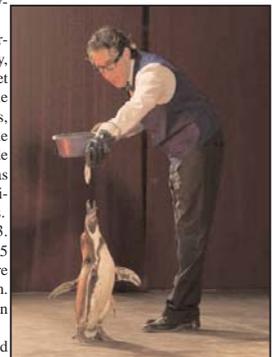
"Circo Acquatico" (aquatic circus) will be in town through Monday, Jan. 26, 2009. The circus will be set up along corso Sicilia, near the Catania train station. Highlights, which will make it an unforgettable experience for circus goers, include seals, crocodiles, penguins, piranhas and anacondas, as well as the traditional jugglers, clowns and acrobats.

Tickets cost € 8 to € 13. Performances will be held daily at 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. On Sundays, there will be three shows (11 a.m., 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.). For more information call 348-3161277 or 327-0462588.

Internationally acclaimed "Cesare Togni" Circus will be staged

in viale Kennedy (the playa south beach area). Organizers promise an eclectic blend of high-quality entertainment, featuring musical clowns, acrobatics and animals (elephants, tigers, factory farm animals).

Show times are 5 p.m. and 9:15 (daily); Dec. 26, 27, 28 and Jan. 6, 2009: 4 p.m., 6:15 p.m. and 9:15 p.m. For more information call 348-3862761 or 339-1241998.



## New Year's Day concert in Catania

Legendary Italian classic and film music composer Nicola Piovani will be the star of the 2009 New Year's Day concert that will be held at the Catania Bellini Opera House on Jan. 1, 2009 at 11:30 a.m. Piovani has been presented with numerous awards throughout his career. He is the Oscar winner for Best Original Dramatic Score in 1997 for Roberto Benigni's movie "Life Is Beautiful." Tickets range from €55 to 110. For more information visit [www.ctbox.it](http://www.ctbox.it)



Photos courtesy of Circo Acquatico and Cesare Togni Press Offices

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ery

Marchi

Tattoo

## Holiday events in Mineo

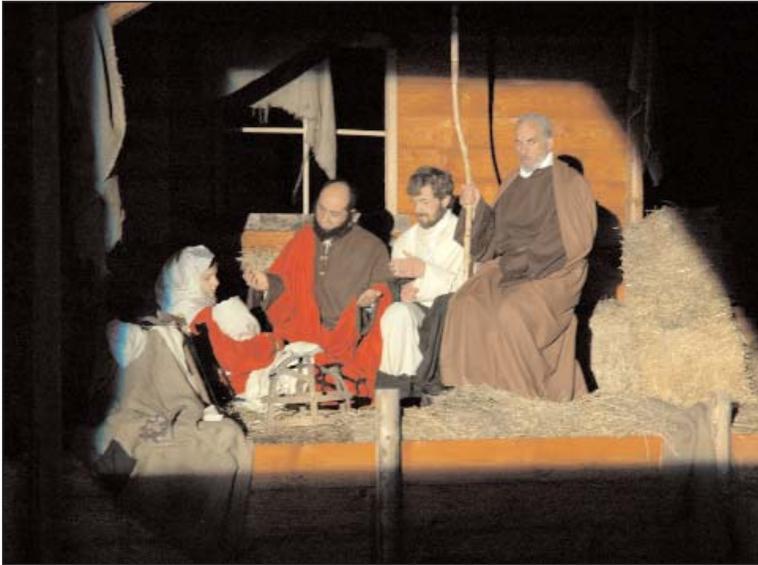


Photo by Mineo Tourist Office

The holiday season in Mineo is a magical time! The town offers a plethora of unique attractions, activities and events for the entire family. "Presepi" or Nativity Scenes displays are undoubtedly the highlights of the celebrations. They will be showcased throughout the historic center alleys (Natale nei vicoli), during the month of December (Open: Dec. 2 through Dec. 23- 9 a.m.-2 p.m. and 4 to 8 p.m./ Dec. 20, 21 and 27 - 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. and 3 to 9 p.m./ Dec. 25 and Jan. 1, 2009 - 4 to 10 p.m. / Dec. 26 and 28 - Jan. 4 and 6, 2009 - 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. and 3 to 10 p.m. / Dec. 29 and 30 and Jan. 2, 3 and 5, 2009 - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. - 4-8 p.m.).

Living Nativity Scenes are a must-see of Mineo's Christmas season. They will take you back in time to discover a typical 19th century Sicilian rural town featuring traditional craftsmen's shops and farmers' houses (Open: Dec. 25 and Jan. 1, 2009 - 5:30 to 10:30 p.m. / Dec. 26 and 28 - Jan. 4 and 6, 2009 - 5:30 to 10:30 p.m.). Holiday events will also feature music shows and food booths selling traditional specialties from Dec. 25 through Jan. 6, 2009. Guided tours to view those enchanting Nativity Scenes could be arranged. For more information and detailed schedules, contact the Mineo Tourist Office at 0933-989042 or 0933-989058/46.

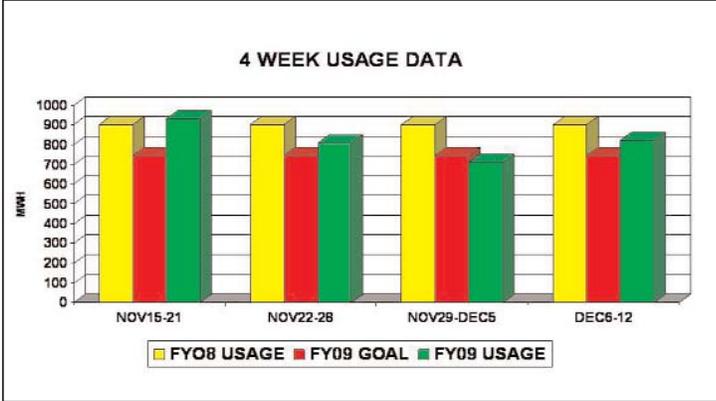
## Musco

## Rigattiere

## Magnolia

**Electrical Consumption at NASSIG**

The following graph charts the last four weeks of energy consumption on both NAS 1 and NAS 2 in comparison to the same week last year, as well as our target usage for the week.



**Did you know**

- The average American uses 500 gallons of gasoline every year.
- The average vehicle is driven more than 12,000 miles per year. That number is expected to increase about 40 percent during the next 20 years if Americans don't change their driving habits by carpooling, walking or bicycling.
- You can achieve 10 percent fuel savings by improving your driving habits and keeping your car properly maintained.

**What can I do?**

The U.S. imports almost two-thirds of the oil we use. Over the next 20 years, our dependence on foreign oil could be almost eliminated if the average fuel economy increases to 45 mpg instead of 25 mpg.

When buying a vehicle, you can save by choosing a fuel-efficient model. All new cars must display a mileage performance label, or Fuel Economy Label, that lists the estimated miles per gallon for city and highway driving. Compare the fuel economy of the vehicles you are considering.

Tamoil

**Switch it off Sigonella!**



Photo by MC3 Jonathan Idle, Signature Staff  
Aviation Boatswain's Mate Handling Airman Brenda Sanchez and Aviation Structural Mechanic 2nd Class Victor Moreno, assistant operations duty officers from the Transient Line, display the bikes they use to get around the flight line as a way of conserving gasoline.

Air Operations Department's Transient Line(T-Line) division recently purchased two bicycles to be used for short trips around the flight line instead of driving a vehicle. The use of the bicycles freed up the vehicles for longer distance trips and added a quick and efficient means of transportation to the department.

The addition of the bicycles cut the fuel usage of the vehicles an estimated 40-60% allowing the vehicles to fuel once every two to three weeks versus every week which equals big savings for the department. Due to the reduced fuel usage the bicycles paid for themselves in fuel savings in the first month of use and continue to save the base money.

T-Line's forward and innovative thinking took a simple idea and turned it into real fuel savings that helps to cut down on NAS Sigonella's fuel and energy bill. This type of out-of-the box thinking is exactly what it will take for NAS Sigonella to meet our 2009 energy conservation goal.

**Has your command or department come up with an idea or innovative process that saves the base energy? Let us know at [thesig@nas-sig.sicily.navy.mil](mailto:thesig@nas-sig.sicily.navy.mil) to be featured in this space.**

Stampa

Feudo S. Vito

Motta

THE Signature  
SIGONELLA, SICILIA

Do you have a passion for writing or are you 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.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**  
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

Attention all good standing Catholic gentlemen! Come join the ranks of Sigonella's newest Knights of Columbus Chapter! We meet the first Sunday of every month at 1000 (after Catholic Mass) at the NAS I Chapel Fellowship Hall. You may also contact a fellow Knight after the Sunday Mass service in the NAS I Fellowship Hall, or Mineo community Building. (Pizza and soft drinks provided at the meetings!) For more information visit - [www.kofc.org/](http://www.kofc.org/)



- 19** **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 Spare ribs, Pork Fried Rice, Steamed Whole Corn, Seasoned Spinach, Lemon Cookies, Carrot Cake.  
**Made to Order:** Vegetarian Burger, Turkey Wrap, French Fries.
- 20** **Breakfast:** Farina, Ham Slices, Oven Fried Bacon, Asstd Omelets, Eggs to Order, Hashed Brown Potatoes, French Toast, Asstd Doughnuts, Pecan Sweet Roll.  
**Brunch:** Breakfast Items, 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.
- 21** **Breakfast:** Rolled Oats, Grilled Minute Steak, Oven Fried Bacon, Asstd Omelets, Eggs to Order, Hashed Brown Potatoes, Fried Rice, Waffles, Asstd Doughnuts, Twist Coffee Cake.  
**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.
- 22** **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, Baked Potatoes, Vegetable Stir Fry, Collard Greens, Brown Gravy, Oatmeal Raisin Cookies, Banana Cake.  
**Made to Order:** Grilled Chicken Sandwich, Tuna Salad on Wheat Bread, Potato Chips.
- 23** **Lunch:** New England Clam Chowder, Roast Pork, Chicken Lemon Sauce, Penne Boscaiola, Aloha Sweet Potatoes, Harvest Rice, Brown Gravy, Baked Beans, Glazed Carrots, Pineapple Upside Down Cake, Hawaiian Ambrosia.  
**Speed line:** Chicken Fillet Sandwich, Hotdogs, Onion Rings.  
**Dinner:** Beef Rice Soup, Italian Sausage, Garlic Cheese Potatoes, Steamed Rice, Vegetable Stir Fry, Steamed Asparagus, Brown Gravy, Pineapple Upside Down Cake, Hawaiian Ambrosia.
- 24** **Lunch:** Beef Vegetable 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, Baked Chicken, Tossed Green Rice, Mashed Potatoes, Brown Gravy, Steamed Beans, Stewed Tomatoes, Cherry Cheese Cake, Chewy Nut Bars.
- 25** **Breakfast - 7 a.m. - 9 a.m. \$2.10**  
**Snack - 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. \$2.45**  
**Holiday Dinner Meal - 2 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. \$6.35**  
 French onion soup, shrimp cocktail, prime rib w. au jus, roast turkey with gravy, baked ham, garlic cheese potatoes, rice pilaf, sweet potato casserole, fruit sauce with raisin, cranberry sauce, steamed broccoli, whole kernel corn, corn bread dressing, sweet corn bread, deviled potato salad, waldorf salad, roasted nuts selection, cheese cakes, eggnog, holiday candies, assorted pies

# Stampa

# Volvo

**WATER, continued from page 2**

as it is beneficial. A good rule of thumb would be to have at least 10 glasses of water a day to stay hydrated and stay well during the winter months. If you participate in vigorous exercise, increase the amount. Try drinking some now and see if you don't feel better!

**ACTIVITIES, continued from page 1**

27, weather permitting. You must be at least 12 years of age and accompanied by a parent. You can rent gear in advance and snowboard, boots, bindings and helmet are available. Or if you'd prefer, just ride up and spend the day shopping and having lunch. New for 2009, learn how to cook Japanese food. The class will be held at the Hotel Villa Del Bosco. A minimum of 13 people and a maximum of 20 are required. On Dec. 30, say Ciao to 2008 with a trip to Catania to visit the historical sites. Watch the "San Silvestro a Mare," a New Year's Eve tradition of plunging into the cold waters of Catania. On Jan. 3, strap on your hiking boots and take the five-mile extreme hike challenge, hiking Etna's South Refuge SipiENZA. The high is uphill, downhill, cross-country and through snowy lava fields.

The Chapel on NAS I will be having an All Chapel Children's Craft Day on Dec. 23 from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. at the NAS I Chapel Fellowship Hall. The Christmas Eve Children's Catholic Mass will be held on Dec. 24 at 4:30 p.m. and the Protestant Christmas Eve Service will be held at 6:30 p.m. On Dec. 25, there will be a Catholic Christmas Day Mass at 10 a.m. at the NAS I Chapel and the Catholic New Year's Day Mass will be held on Jan. 1 at 10 a.m. at the NAS I Chapel.

If you celebrate Hanukkah, don't miss the Jewish Community Celebration, held at Rebekah Jacobs' house on Dec. 21 at 5 p.m. During the celebration, there will be the lighting of the menorah, a traditional candle holder used during Chanukah. Jacobs says, "For each night, we add a candle until there are eight. Candle lighting helps us remember the story of

Chanukah: when a drop of oil lasted for an entire eight days." She said that there will be traditional foods, such as potato pancakes, a sing-a-long to traditional songs and partygoers can play driel, which is a spinning top with Hebrew letters on it. For more information about this celebration, contact Jacobs at 624-1205.

Have fun and be safe this holiday season!

**COLLEGE, continued from page 14**

forms. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid or more commonly called the "FASFA" cannot be submitted until the year of attending college. It is recommended that the FASFA be studied prior to completion and after your taxes have been completed that year. Timing is important. The longer you wait to submit the FASFA, the less likely that you will receive aid. First received is the first granted.

You need to be familiar with the following important definitions related to financial aid.

Grants are financial aid that students don't have to pay back. In addition to federal grants, institutions award money based on academic achievement. Some require proof of financial need and some do not.

Work-study lets the student work and earn money to help pay for school. Students are paid directly or have the money applied to covered institutional expenses.

Loans are borrowed money that students must repay with interest. Credit checks are required but do not necessarily determine eligibility for Federal loan programs. Private loans dictate their own requirements.

Scholarships are forms of aid that do not have to be repaid and are generally based on meeting specific qualifications (academic, athletic, artistic, financial need, etc.) or being part of a specific group (for example, a submariner's child from Idaho). Many are privately funded.

Two-thirds of undergraduate students graduate with some form of debt. The average federal student loan debt is \$16,888 (for Stafford and Perkins Loans). If you include PLUS

loans (see page 4), the average debt rises to \$19,785.

Starting early will help to pay for your college. There are savings programs available to start when you child is first born to pay for that college degree later. Contact Fleet and Family Support Center for the availability of the next class on Paying for College.

The United States Department of Education has the following major student financial aid programs.

Federal Pell Grants: A needs-based grant to help undergraduates pay for their education. As a grant, it does not have to be repaid. The maximum award for 2007-8 is \$4,050.

Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG): For undergraduates receiving Pell Grants and enrolled fulltime in their first or second year of study. The amount for the first academic year can be up to \$750 and for the second academic year up to \$1,300.

National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant (National

SMART Grant): For undergraduates receiving Pell Grants and enrolled fulltime in their third or fourth year of study. Recipients must be in an eligible degree program majoring in physical, life or computer sciences, engineering, technology, mathematics, or a "critical need" foreign language, and have at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA. Awards are up to \$4,000 for each of the third and fourth academic years.

Federal Stafford Loans: A low-interest loan made to students attending undergraduate or graduate school at least half-time. Loans are made by a lender such as a bank, credit union or savings and loan association.

Federal PLUS Loans: For parents who want to borrow to help pay for their children's education. The child must be a dependent undergraduate student enrolled at least half-time.

Federal Consolidation Loans: Allows a borrower to combine different types of federal student loans to simplify repayment. The interest rate may be lower than the rates on your other loans. It is a fixed rate for the

entire life of the loan and based on the average of the interest rates of the loans at the time you consolidate.

Federal Perkins Loans: A low interest loan to help undergraduate or graduate students with exceptional

financial need, as determined by the school. The school is the lender and the loan is made with government funds.

# Palermo

# Cristaldi

# Ceramiche Azzaro

# Joes Garage

# New Place

**READING, continued from page 2**

read the chapter of the spirit of Christmas yet to come, I realized that more than my daughters' minds were engaged. They wept with Bob Cratchit as he mourned the death of Tiny Tim.

In that moment of pain, we carried on. There was no desire to halt the reading because of feelings of loss and aloneness. We continued to read this story of Christmas.

As Ebenezer woke that Christmas morning, my girls rejoiced with him when he didn't know what to do. He was light as a feather, merry as a schoolboy, giddy as a drunken man. As Mr. Scrooge danced about his bedroom, my girls laughed and hopped around our living room. I could not have kept them seated. They were celebrating a transformed life.

Since that night, we have not stopped reading, pondering, weeping, laughing, learning.

Last week, I lost a good friend to a motor vehicle accident in Malawi, Africa. He had devoted his life to serving the people of that country. Younger than me, he left behind a beautiful wife and three young daughters. I think of Bob Cratchit once again. The value of life demands that I hurt in this season. There is a place in the Christmas story for mourning; it is right to do so.

Still, I want to carry on with the story. Keep reading Dad.

One year ago, I was not with my family for Christmas. I was nearing the end of a seven and one half month Individual Augmentation (IA) deployment with Joint Special Operations Task Forces. In mid-December, my son, Carson, confessed by phone, "Dad, even though you won't be with us for Christmas, I'm still excited about the season. Is that alright?"

Yes, Carson, I want you to have the joy of Christmas in your heart; it is right to do so.

Ebenezer Scrooge had no spouse or children. Until last year, that obvious circumstance never really hit home. Scrooge was single. Dickens' story of transformation only grows in power when this fact is considered. The heart of a child dances when a lonely adult realizes that the meaning of Christmas extends even to them.

**CAMPA, continued from page 3**

(CNOCM) Duffy Merrill, invited my wife and me to have dinner at his home. When we got there, he had a surprise for us; the first MCPON and his wife, Ima, were both there.

"I had read stories about him throughout my career. To listen to him talk about our Navy and the events that helped shape it was inspiring. I realized that what he was telling me was not just about things he saw, he was passing down a little bit of our Navy's history from one generation of chiefs to the next. He walked me out to my car, shook my hand and told me not to forget who raised me in the Navy and who I worked for.

"It was one of the most memorable evenings of my career."

Campa feels every Sailor should have a sense of the history of the Navy.

"Every Sailor should know where he comes from," Campa said. "They need to have a grasp of the organization they belong to. I don't believe any leader can be effective if you don't understand who you are, what you do and where that came

from." And while he agrees that chiefs should be knowledgeable, the MCPON doesn't think that degrees are the answer to whether a chief is suitable to be promoted.

"Some people felt very strongly about chiefs having degrees in order to advance," Campa said. "In a time of war and looking at who would be disadvantaged — our seagoing rates and those rates that we use the most on the ground — it wasn't feasible to do that."

The new chief's evaluation still measures professional growth and education, Campa explained. The measurement is not just college education, but different kinds of education and training which makes the determination fair.

The new evaluation is something Campa thinks was long overdue.

"We developed the [chief petty officer] mission, vision and guiding principles shortly after I became MCPON. It goes to the heart of the services a chief should always provide, no matter what job title. Guiding principles serve as the foundation to who [the chiefs] are.

"You never stop being the chief. I felt there was a better way to align what we are evaluating our CPOs on and what is expected of them as chiefs."

Campa believes being the first Hispanic master chief petty officer of the Navy is a classic example of the Navy's diversity.

"No matter what your background, what you look like, what the color of your skin is, the opportunities that you have in the Navy and how far you can go in this organization are based on your abilities," Campa said. "I don't think there is a person in the Navy today that feels that they have to sacrifice their culture or heritage to be part of this organization."

Whether a Sailor knows it or not, they are role models for someone.

"Being a Hispanic MCPON, or even being a Hispanic chief or first class petty officer, there are some folks that are going to share your heritage," Campa said. "Whether you realize it or not, those that share your heritage will look to you as a role model. With that comes the responsibility to give back to that community. You do that by sharing the understanding of their culture."

Throughout his 27 years of service the MCPON has seen many changes. The largest change he thinks is the Homeport Ashore Program.

"It's probably the biggest quality-of-life initiative since I have been in the Navy," Campa said. "We are taking those Sailors off the ship and giving them a room in the barracks when they are not out at sea. It is a huge cultural shift. There were a lot of folk in the Navy that didn't believe we should do this, they felt if living on ship was good enough for them, it should be good enough for new Sailors. But it was the right thing to do; it was critical.

"This has nothing to do with coddling a Sailor. If you look at what an E-4 and below Sailor on ship receives as a living space and the amount of privacy they have, then look at what our counterparts in the other services have, there is a huge difference. This just brings us back on par with the rest of the services."

While Campa sees improving the quality of life will help retention, he believes that the best retention tools are inside of each naval leader.

"Give your Sailors a sense of accomplishment," Campa said. "We see it happening all over the fleet. Good leadership sets their Sailors up for success and takes a genuine inter-

est in the growth and development of their Sailors. There isn't anything that a well-led Sailor will not do for our Navy and our country."

Campa knows whoever will be taking over as MCPON will have their own style.

"They are going to have to do it their way," Campa said. "I think we have a lot of great candidates out there as long as they keep the Sailors and their families as the focus, I think they will do fine."

**CHANGE, continued from page 1**

Aeronautical Sciences and master's degrees in Political Science and International Military Strategy.

Col. Tonello received his pilot wings in 1988, and in 1991 was assigned as crew chief on G222 aircraft at the 46th Brigade in Pisa, as commander of the 102nd Squadron and as Flight Safety Officer. In 1998, he became the commander of the 2nd Wing, and in 2000 he was named OPS Officer. He was the pilot of the maiden flight of the first Italian Air Force-owned C130J aircraft which took off from the U.S. base of Marietta (GA) on Aug. 18, 2000, headed to the Pisa Military Airport.

He has participated in several international operations including Provide Comfort in Iraq, humanitarian aid in Bosnia Herzegovina, UNOSOM, I and II in Somalia, Alba (Dawn) and Rainbow in Albania as well as peacekeeping operations in Kosovo and East Timor.

Additionally, he has worked for 12 years as G222 pilot for the Italian Forestry Division fighting forest fires.

In 2002, Col. Tonello was named the head of the Airlift Transport Division at the Operative Command of the Italian Air Force in Poggio Renatico. In 2004, he served as Head of the Plans and Policy Section at the European Airlift Centre in Eindhoven, Holland. Promoted to Colonel, he became the Deputy Director of the Movement Coordination Centre Europe.

Col. Tonello commented that one of his goals is "to maintain a good relationship with... the American community of Sigonella. I hope the good relationship already existing will increase in the future. It will be one of my main tasks."

**(Below) Gen. B.A. Attilio Volpe, Col. Antonio G. Di Fiore and Col. Luca Tonello exit the 41st Stormo hangar at the conclusion of the Change of Command ceremony, held on Dec. 12.**



Photo by MC2 Jason Poplin, Fleet Public Affairs Detachment Sigonella

**Budget friendly gifts from the commissary**

**Article courtesy of Kay Blakley DeCa home economist**

FORT LEE, Va. — The tough economic times we're living in call for holiday gifts that tread lightly on the budget. Shopping the commissary, for our overall 30 percent or more in savings, is a good place to start. If tins of homemade cookies or candies, or gifts-in-a-jar filled with homemade drink mix, snack mix or soup "fixin's" come to mind, check out Kay's Kitchen on the Web at commissaries.com for plenty of ideas and recipes.

If you're looking for a nonfood gift, you might be surprised to learn those can come from the commissary, too. Here's an idea for a low-cost, but useful, gift for a friend who embraces a "go green" lifestyle. And, the best part is, it will set you back only \$5 to \$7 if purchased at the commissary. Roll a green, reusable commissary grocery bag around a compact fluorescent light bulb (CFLs use up to 75 percent less energy) and a bottle of white distilled vinegar. Fasten the bag securely with a chip clip, then use kitchen twine or ribbon to attach a handmade gift tag, listing 10 or more ways to use the vinegar.

Environmentally friendly vinegar, made from natural ingredients using a simple fermentation process, costs less than half a cent an ounce. It's an essential ingredient in many recipes and is versatile enough to replace any number of less environmentally friendly household cleaners.

-For streakless windows: Wash with equal parts warm water and distilled white vinegar. Dry with a soft cloth.

-For frost-free car windows: When frost is expected before morning, prevent it from coating your windshield by wiping windows the night before with a solution of one part water to three parts white distilled vinegar.

-Unclog the showerhead: Wrap a terry cloth rag or towel saturated with distilled white vinegar around the showerhead, and let set overnight. By morning, calcium and hard water deposits will be gone, and the showerhead will work like new.

-Soap scum buster: Wipe down shower doors with a sponge or cloth soaked in distilled white vinegar to remove soap residue.

-Kill grass: Spray grass and weeds growing on sidewalks and driveways with full strength distilled white vinegar. It kills other grass and plants, too, so be careful to spray it only where you want it.

-Keep flowers longer: Add 2 tablespoons sugar and 2 tablespoons distilled white vinegar to a 1-quart

vase of water. Trim flower stems and change water every five days.

-Eliminate fruit flies and gnats: Stir together 1 cup water, 1 tablespoon sugar and 1 tablespoon white distilled vinegar in a small bowl. Add 2 drops of dish soap, but don't stir. Set the bowl on the counter to attract the flies or gnats — once in the liquid, they can't get out.

-Get the last drops: When you can't get the last bit of mayonnaise or salad dressing out of the jar, dribble a little vinegar into the jar, replace the lid and shake well. You'll be amazed at how much you've been wasting.

-Make fluffier rice: Add 1 teaspoon of white distilled vinegar to the boiling water before adding rice. Once cooked, the rice will be easier to spoon and less sticky.

-Make a vinegar pie: As odd as it may sound, this pie is easy, economical and good. The recipe follows:

Vinegar Pie (Serves 8)  
4 large eggs  
1½ cups sugar  
¼ cup butter or margarine, melted  
1½ tablespoons white distilled vinegar

1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1 (9-inch) pie shell  
Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

In a large mixing bowl, whisk together eggs, sugar, melted butter, vinegar and vanilla until well-mixed.

Pour into pie shell.  
Bake until filling is firm, about 50 minutes.

Cool on a wire rack.  
Serve garnished with nuts or whipped cream, if desired.

- DeCA:

About DeCA: The Defense Commissary Agency operates a worldwide chain of commissaries providing groceries to military personnel, retirees and their families in a safe and secure shopping environment. Authorized patrons purchase items at cost plus a 5-percent surcharge, which covers the costs of building new commissaries and modernizing existing ones. Shoppers save an average of more than 30 percent on their purchases compared to commercial prices — savings worth about \$3,000 annually for a family of four. A core military family support element, and a valued part of military pay and benefits, commissaries contribute to family readiness, enhance the quality of life for America's military and their families, and help recruit and retain the best and brightest men and women to serve their country.

# IL Mercato



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

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Alphio

Chiechio

Days Inn

Stampa

# Sushi Baroque