

Ticket to ride? Catania bus adds stop to NAS Sigonella

Article by **Tracie Barnhouse**,
The Signature Editor

Stuck on base without a car and don't have anyone to serve as your personal chauffeur? Worry no longer about finding a way to and from Catania, with the new bus route that serves Naval Air Station (NAS) Sigonella. After three long years of deliberating and planning, the details and logistics of the bus route have been nailed down, allowing you to get out and explore Sicily without worrying about traffic, gas, or finding your way back home.

In 2004, there was a bus stop at the Italian East Gate on NAS II, where the bus would turn around for the return trip to Catania. However, the road outside of the gate, SP 69, was in such bad shape that the Province of Catania President issued an ordinance to close it down

for safety reasons, thereby terminating the bus service.

The NAS Sigonella Public Works Department (PWD) has a very close relationship with the Province of Catania and because of that relationship, they were able to lobby for a reconstruction project of SP 69. Getting the new road was the way to get Sigonella back on the Catania bus line. At the same time as

At a glance

Who: NAS Sigonella

What: New bus service from Marinai and NAS II on the 427 bus line.

How: There will be 18 daily stops at Marinai and NAS II, and 10 on Italian holidays. Service members and dependents can buy bus tickets at local Tabacchi shops and a 90-minute bus ride costs one euro.

For more information, contact the Catania City Council Tourist center at 800-841042 or 095-7425573.

the construction project, PWD was working very closely with the transportation officer of AMT in Catania, the town of Belpasso and other local agencies. SP 69 reopened recently, so PWD was able to bring all parties together to create a bus stop at Sigonella for service members and their families.

What's that mean for you? You can now get to Catania for one euro from either Marinai or NAS II via bus number 427. The



Photo by MC3 Jonathan Idle, The Signature Staff

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Naval Hospital Sigonella celebrates 111th birthday of Corpsmen

Article and photos by

Tracie Barnhouse,
The Signature Editor and information gathered from "The U.S. Navy Hospital Corps: A Century of Tradition, Valor of Sacrifice," by HMCS (FMF) Mark T. Hacala, USNR

The history of the Navy Hospital Corps is one of pride and dedication, which is why each year, Naval Hospitals around the world take time out to celebrate the birthday of this esteemed group of individuals and their predecessors. Naval Hospital Sigonella celebrated the 111th birthday of the Hospital Corpsman on June 17, during a ceremony at Naval Air Station (NAS) Sigonella's chapel.

Naval Hospital Sigonella's Commanding Officer, Capt. James R. Bloom said, "Every corpsman who's ever gone out of his way when the bullets start whizzing by, thinks to himself, 'What am I doing here?,' but very quickly in that situation, the experience and training and the commitment to service that drives our corpsman quickly takes over. I believe we at Naval Hospital Sigonella are blessed with an exceptional group of men and women from

CORPSMAN, continued on page 12



HN Kyle Hairell raises his right hand to state the Hospital Corpsman's Pledge. Naval Hospital Sigonella is Hairell's first duty station and he's enjoying it. "I love here, it's a great place to learn and grow," he said.

Celebrate Independence Day in paradise



Photo by Tracie Barnhouse, The Signature Editor

Mark your calendar for next Friday, July 3. This is when Morale, Welfare and Recreation will be holding their annual Independence Day celebrations. The fun starts at 12 p.m. with the free premiere of *Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen* and free cosmic bowling. There will be games, food, contests

and arts & crafts throughout the day around the Midtown Complex on NAS I. At 2 p.m. there will be water games at Splashers and at 8 p.m., enjoy music from the Verve Pipe. Fireworks will light up the sky at approximately 9:30 p.m. Don't miss it!

WEATHER UPDATE

June 26
H:83F
L:62F



June 27
H:84F
L:62F



June 28
H:88F
L:62F



June 29
H:86F
L:62F



June 30
H:88F
L:65F



July 1
H:90F
L:67F



July 2
H:92F
L:70F



TOP STORIES

This article will explore our medical understanding of autism, discuss development of children, and discuss ways that autism is detected. The next article will discuss different types of autism and therapies for those diagnosed with autism.

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Naval Air Station (NAS) Sigonella Command Master Chief Rosa L. Wilson received the 2009 Capt. Joy Bright Hancock Leadership Award June 20-21 at the 20th Annual National Professional Development Symposium in Washington.

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The New Parent Support (NPS) Program was established in 1990 by the Family Advocacy Program, a division of the Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC).

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Every year at the end of June, the local community commemorates its beloved saint with a festival which also marks the wheat harvest. Farmers and harvesters seek blessing from San Paolo for good harvest and protection against poisonous insects when they are at work in the fields.

Page 6

Agrigento was founded on a plateau overlooking the sea around 582-580 BC. The economy is based on the major tourist center due to its extraordinarily rich archaeological legacy.

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TRAFFIC NUMBERS

Jan. 09- Jan. 08-
June 09 June 08

Accidents	105	164
Injuries	11	25
DUIs	0	5
Traffic Deaths	0	2

PLEASE,
DON'T BECOME
A STATISTIC!

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

Sicily is rapidly entering the warmest time of the year as we get further into summer. With each passing day the temperatures get higher and the days get longer necessitating AC to be turned on and lawns to be watered more often. However, this also means that the warmer it gets the more electricity Sigonella uses and the more water we go through.

I need each and every person to be proactive to help keep our energy usage at a minimum and our water usage as low as possible. These can be accomplished if we just use a few common sense techniques every day.

To conserve electricity make sure that the AC is not turned below 75 degrees and if the space is not being used raise it even higher. The higher the temperature is set, the less the compressors have to kick on and the less energy the system uses. The key is to find a comfortable temperature that doesn't keep the compressors running constantly. Other energy

saving ideas are to turn lights off when a space is not being used or if there is plenty of daylight, turn off computers when at lunch and before going home for the day, and making sure all unnecessary equipment are secured when not in use.

Conserving water at the workplace and at home is simply a matter of timing. If you are watering your lawn don't water it for over 30 minutes at a time and set a timer to remind you to shut it off. Water your lawn early in the morning or in the evening so that the lawn has a chance to absorb the water before the heat evaporates it. When washing hands, showering or bathing conserve water by not letting the water run for long periods of time while waiting for it to warm up. Also, report any dripping or leaking appliance or pipes that cannot be secured in the workplace to public works. A leaking faucet can waste over 50 gallons of water in a day and we need to conserve every last drop.

Sigonella has already made large strides towards lowering our energy and water usage compared to last year. However, we still have a long way to go in order to best use the resources available to us. If we all make it a point to change our habits and be proactive I have no doubt we can continue to reduce our usage and make Sigonella one of the most efficient bases in the region.



Health WATCH

Recognition of Autism

Article by
Lt. Cmdr. Lisa Peterson,
Naval Hospital Sigonella
Pediatrician

This article will explore our medical understanding of autism, discuss development of children, and discuss ways that autism is detected. The next article will discuss different types of autism and therapies for those diagnosed with autism.

Autism is a neurodevelopmental condition of complex and multifactorial origin that reflects a spectrum of conditions placed into three categories. These categories are: autistic disorder, Asperger syndrome, and pervasive developmental delay. Together, these conditions are referred to as autism spectrum disorders. The average occurrence of autism spectrum disorders in the U.S. population is 1 in 150 children. More boys than girls tend to be affected by autism with at least a 2:1 ratio of boys to girls.

Signs of Autism:

Although not always indicative of autism, there are key patterns of

behavior and developmental delays which are more often associated with autism spectrum disorders. In particular, a deficit in both language development and social skills is concerning for autism spectrum disorders. These autism spectrum disorders (ASD) vary in their presentation just as the degree of autism is variable in each individual child. Thus, there must be a variety of developmental milestones and key screening behaviors that are examined routinely for every child to detect ASD early.

While one of the most commonly noted concerns from parents of children with an ASD is speech delay, most often social delays are evident at even younger ages. On average, most parents present with concerns about their child's behavior at 15-18 months of age. However, the average age of diagnosis is 2 years old. It is important to realize that the earlier ASD is diagnosed and the earlier that therapy is started, the greater the impact the therapy will

AUTISM, continued on page 12

NASSIG WORSHIP SERVICES

Chapel Office: 095-86-3975

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Sunday
0830 Catholic Mass (NAS I Chapel)
1200 Catholic Mass (Mineo Community Center)
1600 Catholic Mass (NAS II Chapel)

Monday - Thursday

1130 Catholic Mass (NAS II Chapel)

Sunday, June 28th ONLY

0830 Contemporary Protestant (NAS I)
1130 Catholic Mass (NAS I Chapel)
Only One Catholic Mass
1300 Catholic Picnic (NAS I)

PROTESTANT

Sunday
0900 General Protestant (Mineo Community Center)
1000 Traditional Protestant (NAS I Chapel)
1130 Contemporary Protestant (NAS I Chapel)

CHURCH OF CHRIST LAY SERVICE

Sunday 1530 NAS I Chapel Rooms 3 & 4 (Call 624-5128 or 335-841-8069)

JEWISH SERVICES: Please call 095-86-1205

OTHER SERVICES/ACTIVITIES POINTS OF CONTACT

Letter-day Saints: Please email ldssig@gmail.com or call 624-1314 or 349-1977-116
AA Meetings: Monday, Wednesday, Friday - 1900, NAS II Chapel, 346-840-7745



Independence Day

Article by **Chaplain Concha**

Independence Day honors the birthday of the United States of America and the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. As we approach the 233rd birthday of the foundation of our nation, we celebrate the "spirit of freedom", freedom to express our religious beliefs, freedom to stand as a nation under God. Here we have some points of reflection when we say that we truly enjoy our independence.

Even though we are located far away from our homeland, we maintain the 'spirit of freedom' in our current place. It's most likely that we can get together to celebrate our Independence festivities with our own families and friends. It's a day of family picnics and patriotic parades, a night of concerts and fireworks, and a reason to fly the American flag. It's time to exercise that freedom.

Perhaps, it's a time we go to a church on base or in town, or to have any social gathering and recognize the greatest gift of freedom we have received as a nation. We have freedom to express our religious beliefs and social commit-

ments. It's time to 'practice' that freedom.

Independence is a gift given to us that we need to keep it alive every day. It's a great responsibility to be an American. We celebrate our independence and we live up to that responsibility. We truly are called to be the "Ambassadors of good will" here and everywhere. People see and appreciate how our independence is alive in each one of us.

Most of us have joined the military career for different reasons. Yet, the common bond that keeps us all together is the 'spirit of freedom' in

INDEPENDENCE, continued on page 12

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EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE

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

NAVY News

NAS Sigonella CMC receives prestigious leadership award

Article and photo by
MC3 Jonathan Idle,
The Signature Staff

Naval Air Station (NAS) Sigonella Command Master Chief Rosa L. Wilson received the 2009 Capt. Joy Bright Hancock Leadership Award June 20-21 at the 20th Annual National Professional Development Symposium in

Washington.

The award is given annually to one senior Navy or Marine Corps officer, one junior Navy or Marine Corps officer and one senior enlisted leader who have shown inspirational, innovative and imaginative leadership demonstrated by example, both on and off duty.

Wilson was both surprised and

honored to receive the prestigious award.

"I guess you can say I'm very humbled," Wilson said. "I was unaware I was being submitted for it. It caught me off-guard completely."

The key to her success in the Navy has been her self-motivation and goal oriented approach, Wilson

said.

"I just took every job as a challenge to myself," said Wilson. "How far can I go? Can I go beyond the orders required of me? Can I take it to the max? That's what I always do."

Capt. Thomas J. Quinn, Commanding Officer, NAS Sigonella, nominated Wilson for the award.

"I nominated Master Chief Rosa L. Wilson for the Joy B. Hancock award for inspirational leadership because she inspires me every single day I get to work with her," Quinn said. "To me, the award

is recognition of her over 24 years of service to our country and our Navy. She epitomizes Honor, Courage and Commitment to all Sailors. We should try and emulate her in every way."

The award was named after Hancock who enlisted in the Navy as Yeoman during World War I. She later commissioned as a lieutenant through Women's Reserve (WAVES) program. Hancock rose to the rank of commander during World War II. She later became the director of WAVES before retiring as a captain in 1953.

PHOTO FROM THE FLEET

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



U.S. Navy Photo by MC2 Jeremy M. Starr/Released

Sonar Technician (Surface) 1st Class Steven Duncan stands watch in the Combat Information Center during the Fleet Synthetic Training-Joint Exercise (FST-J) aboard the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Sampson (DDG 102). Sampson is participating in Fleet Synthetic Training with the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68), other ships and Navy units, as well as with Marine Corps, Army and Air Force commands.



CMC Rosa L. Wilson received the 2009 Capt. Joy Bright Hancock Leadership Award during a symposium in Washington D.C. last week.



NEW ARRIVALS

Blake and Jennifer Cunningham
Girl
Camille Lena Cunningham
June 15, 2009
Weight: 6 lbs 7 oz
Length: 19 in

Calvary Monika

Volcano

				FRIDAY 26 JUNE Alcoholics Anonymous NAS II Chapel 7 p.m. 346-840-7745	SATURDAY 27 Latin Night Jox 10 p.m. - 2 a.m.	SUNDAY 28 Catholic Congregation Picnic NAS I 12 p.m. x3975
				COMMUNITY CALENDAR		
MONDAY 29 Alcoholics Anonymous NAS II Chapel 7 p.m. 346-840-7745 Conflict Resolution FFSC 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. x4291	TUESDAY 30 PWOC Meeting NAS I Chapel 10 a.m. x3975	WEDNESDAY 1 JULY Alcoholics Anonymous NAS II Chapel 7 p.m. 346-840-7745 Volunteer Orientation Red Cross 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. x4900	THURSDAY 2	FRIDAY 3 Alcoholics Anonymous NAS II Chapel 7 p.m. 346-840-7745 MWR Independence Day Celebration 4 p.m. - 10 p.m.	SATURDAY 4 	SUNDAY 5
6 Alcoholics Anonymous NAS II Chapel 7 p.m. 346-840-7745	7 Volunteer Orientation NMCRS 10 a.m. x4212	8 Alcoholics Anonymous NAS II Chapel 7 p.m. 346-840-7745 Budget for Baby NMCRS 5 p.m. x4212	9	10 Alcoholics Anonymous NAS II Chapel 7 p.m. 346-840-7745 Babysitting Bootcamp Red Cross 3:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. x4900	11 Nearly New Shop Open NMCRS 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. x4212 Babysitting Bootcamp Red Cross 3:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. x4900	12

Motta

Baseball

Funny Island

Did you know that . . .
 Doctor and dental bills can break your budget? No kidding! However, The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society may help pay those bills for necessary medical treatment at civilian clinics, doctors' offices, and hospitals. If you are on active duty and eligible, you must be enrolled in the Family Member Dental Plan before the Society can assist with the cost of dental work. The Society can also help your family defray the cost of essential medical care beyond the scope of military hospitals, or outside TRI-CARE and/or MEDICARE coverage. Inquire at your local Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Office today.
NMCRS: Your First Resource!
www.nmcrs.org



The Fleet & Family Support Center

Fleet and Family Support Center
Administration Building 319
NAS I
Monday-Friday 0730-1630
DSN 624-4291
Commercial 095-56-4291

The New Parent Support Program
NPS Desk Guide used as additional source of info

The New Parent Support (NPS) Program was established in 1990 by the Family Advocacy Program, a division of the Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC). Originally the program was designed as a child abuse prevention initiative, and since its inception, there have been fewer numbers of reported incidents of child abuse or neglect. Parents have been able to develop more appropriate expectations of their children through a greater understanding of child development and parents have been less likely to report symptoms of depression. The program has been so successful that not only has it endured, it is recognized Navy wide, with established programs stateside and overseas.

The intent of the NPS Home Visitation Program is to promote personal and family readiness by providing parenting education and support. New Parent Support supports the Navy mission by positively impacting operational readiness, allowing sailors to focus on their duties and ensuring that family issues do not distract from operational readiness. The program has also supported the Navy mission by promoting a healthy adjustment to a military lifestyle thereby influencing the service member's decision to stay in the Navy. Above all else, NPS has improved

quality of life by giving parents the tools necessary to deal with daily parental challenges.

NPS services are available to expectant parents, both single and married, and parents of children from birth to five years of age. Participation is strictly on a voluntary basis. A home visitation schedule is set up with a provider to evaluate and meet parent/child needs. Home visitors have backgrounds in maternal/child health, child development, public health, nursing or social work. Here in Sigonella, we have over 35 years of nursing experience available through the program.

The New Parent Support Program's goals for participant families are to promote healthy family functioning and positive parent-child interaction, increase parents' awareness of positive parenting, promote healthy childhood growth and development, increase parents' coping skills regarding the addition of a new child to the family, improve prenatal care through referral to services and health related education and to increase parents' awareness of and access to military community resources available for families. Home visits and one-on-one sessions are geared towards meeting these goals by providing some extra support while raising a family away from

traditional resources.

Home visitation is not the only resource available through NPS. Books, handouts, DVDs, and brochures are available upon request. Subject contents include pregnancy progression, new born care (crying, bathing, feeding), safety, age appropriate play, breastfeeding, positive discipline, sibling rivalry and so much more. Also, 'Daddy Boot Camp' is offered to expectant fathers to prepare them for the challenges they will face with a new addition to the family. The class is taught by fathers for fathers and occurs on a bi-monthly basis.

If you are interested in enrolling in the New Parent Support Program, or you have any additional questions, please contact the Fleet and Family Support Center at 624-4291.

New Parent Safety Tips

Nursery Safety

To reduce the risk of SIDS and suffocation, place baby to sleep on his or her back in a crib that meets current safety standards.

To prevent suffocation, never use a pillow as a mattress for baby to sleep on or to prop baby's head or neck.

Infants can strangle to death if their bodies pass through gaps between loose components, broken slats and other parts of the crib, and their head and neck become entrapped in the space.

Do not use old, broken or

NPS, continued on page 13

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.



BO (above) is another one of our newest dogs. He would make a great companion to a more active family. He is also in foster care and would love to go home with you.

WOLF (below) is one of our newest dogs. Don't let the name fool you; Wolf is a kind, loving dog. He is currently in foster care, but he would love a permanent home.



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

M o n d o
A n i m a l e

Kartodromo

Alphio

Pentagon

Alberto Lunetta
The Signature Staff



Italian NEWS



Sicilian Culture, Events and Lifestyle

San Paolo feast in Palazzolo Acreide

"San Paulu, maccia d'addauru, spina puncenti, nun muzzicari a mia e mancu a l'autri genti" (Saint Paul, laurel tree, stinging thorn, don't bite neither me nor other people). This is the "magic formula" that, according to tradition, "Ciarauli" (a sort of past time legendary local shamans with supernatural healing powers) from Palazzolo Acreide used to say every time they asked San Paolo or Saint Paul to intercede to heal poisonous insects' bites. San Paolo is the patron saint of Palazzolo Acreide, an enchanting Baroque town nestled among the hills of the Siracusa province, overlooking the beautiful valley of the Anapo River.

Every year at the end of June, the local community commemorates its beloved saint with a festival which also marks the wheat harvest. Farmers and harvesters seek blessing from San Paolo for good harvest and protection against poisonous insects when they are at work in the fields. He is considered a protector from snake bites as well as from scorpion and tarantula stings. According to tradition, Saint Paul himself was bit by a viper, but the venom had no effect on him because of his supernatural powers. According to popular credulity, Ciarauli had also physical birthmarks on their body (bumps with tarantula or snakes' shapes under their tongue or on their arms) which would "prove" their predestinated supernatural calling. Typically born on the night between Jan. 24 and 25 (the night of Saint Paul's conversion), they were believed to heal the poisonous bites with just saliva and prayers.

Tradition holds that they used to attend Saint Paul festivals to collect the "dedicated gifts" which devotees had promised to give to Saint Paul to thank him for a miracle. Ciarauli were skilled in snake handling techniques which they used to impress pilgrims. Saint Paul is also invoked for the healing of children affected by hernias.

During the festival, devotees also buy the traditional "Cudduri di San Paulu," (elaborate votive ring shaped bread) which is offered to relatives and friends for good luck. Lavender bundles called "spica ri San Paulu," which are also traditionally distributed to devotees at the San

Paolo basilica, fill the air with a pleasant perfume.

The exact festival origins are lost in time, however, the first official celebration honoring Saint Paul as town's protector was held in 1688, when it replaced the Madonna di Odigitria (Virgin Mary of Odigitria) and Saint Sebastian religious festivities. Over the centuries, Saint Paul became more popular than Saint Sebastian and the Virgin Mary of Odigitria, the other protectors who were considered as minor protectors whose festival is celebrated on Aug. 10, but just by one town's district. Supporters of Saint Paul are called "Sampaulari" while the ones upholding Saint Sebastian are named "Sammastianari."

Saint Paolo is depicted as a bearded man holding a sword pointing upward and a book from which a snake hangs downwards to highlight that he protects devotees from snake bites and scorpion and tarantula stings.

The Saint Paul festival, which is also celebrated in several neighboring towns such as Buccheri, Buscemi, Ferla, Cassaro, Giarratana, Monterosso, Canicattini and Solarino, is the main religious event in Palazzolo.

Festival Highlights

Friday, June 26: Spectacular fireworks and illumination of the 18th century Basilica's façade which hosts the saint's statue and relics (10:30 p.m.) and it is included into the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Sunday, June 28: "Giro di Galà" (parade featuring Florida flag wavers, Buccheri drummers, St Joseph Band of Malta and horse parades - 6:15 p.m.); "A Sciuta Ra Cammira" (Public unveiling ceremony of the 16th century statue depicting the venerated saint and the Holy Relic - 8:30 p.m. San Paolo Basilica); Italian pop star Dolcenera's concert (10:30 p.m. piazza Umberto I), followed by spectacular firework displays with music.

Monday, June 29: Blessing of animals and traditional bread (9 a.m.) performed at the San Paolo church



Photo by Alberto Lunetta

The traditional elaborate "Cudduri di San Paulu," votive bread is said to bring benefits to the believer. Devotees buy it because they believe it has something supernatural in it. That is why they distribute it among relatives and friends who eat it or save it for good luck. The bread's characteristic snake-like aspect relates to the tradition which recognizes San Paolo as the protector from poisonous reptiles' bites.

courtyard; Solemn Holy Mass celebrated by dean Frankie Bajada from Malta (11 a.m.); "Sciuta" (The float with the decorated statue of Saint Paul placed on top is carried in a solemn and vivid street procession by devotees screaming "Viva San Paulu patronu!" (Long live Saint Paul the patron!) throughout the town historic center among firecrackers and colored ribbons called "Nzareddi"; Blessing of the naked babies is also performed throughout the procession itinerary); Holy Mass (6:30 p.m.); Evening procession (8 p.m.); Symphonic Concert of the Malta St. Joseph Band (10 p.m.); "U fuocu," breathtaking grand finale with fireworks (midnight). For more information and directions call Palazzolo Tourist Office at 0931-87111.

Tamoil

Magnolia

THE Signature
MAGAZINE
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.



Photo by Alberto Lunetta

One of the greatest festivals annually held in the Siracusa province is that of Saint Paolo which occurs from June 26 through 29 in the town of Palazzolo Acreide featuring spectacular religious street processions, amazing fireworks, arts and crafts and live music.

Caltanissetta and Canicattì Kiwanis Clubs tour Sigonella



Photo by Francesca Gruttadauria

The NASSIG PAO has recently concluded its 2009 base tour program by hosting a tour for the members of the Caltanissetta and Canicattì Kiwanis Clubs. It was the last tour of an annual Community Relations program aimed at promoting friendship and mutual understanding with host nation service clubs and civic organizations, which is typically conducted on Sundays.

Public tours of Sigonella are available to Italian school students, associations, special interest groups, as well as local Rotary, Lions and Kiwanis clubs.

NASSIG and 41st Stormo PAOs jointly coordinate these guided

tours of both the Italian and American sides of the base, just like it happens when Italian schools visit. It's a highly visible COMREL program that shows how the Navy operates and works hand-in-hand with the Italian Air Force.

As for NASSIG, Caltanissetta Kiwanis Club members got a chance to discover, through an exciting aircraft static display, how the Navy combines cargo and passenger service operations on a DC-9.

"I always enjoy giving tours and explaining our mission to people. The Caltanissetta Kiwanis and Canicattì Clubs were great groups of people to visit with and show our air-

craft to. I especially enjoyed spending time with the children of some of the members. The kids definitely like to have their hands on the jet, and I'm sure they wonder about what it's like to fly. Maybe we gave them some inspiration to become pilots in the future," Fleet Logistics Support Squadron VR-61 naval reserve pilot Cmdr. John P. Meehan said. VR-61 provides logistics support to the fleet world-wide and operates in Sigonella on detachment supporting CTF-63. While in Sicily, it provides high-speed transport for passengers, mail and cargo just about anywhere in the European theater and into the Middle East and Africa as needed.

"Today's base tour has dis-

pelled myths and misconceptions on the military and filled in gaps in our understanding of how the U.S. Navy and the Italian Air Force operate in Sicily," Canicattì Kiwanis Club president Diego Aprile said.

"This is absolutely my first time on a military base. The tour provided a unique opportunity for all of us to get a closer look at an American Naval Air Facility," Caltanissetta Kiwanis Club president Francesca Gruttadauria noted.

The group also toured the Italian Air Force Weather and Radar Stations, as well as the Air Traffic Control Tower. For more information on base tours, please contact the NASSIG PAO office at 624-5440.

NEWS BRIEFS

Job Opportunities

Naval Hospital Sigonella

U.S. Naval Hospital Sigonella is seeking applicants for a full-time Mail and File Clerk. Applicant must be a U.S. citizen. For inquiries concerning job applications, please call the Human Resources Office at (095) 56-4165/ or DSN 624-4165 or visit: <http://www.sicily.navy.mil/positions/hro/>.

NCTS Sicily

Computer technician needed!!!

NCTS Sicily has an opening for a Command Sponsored Dependent to support the computer systems in Sigonella. If you have computer skills and want to put them to work, please submit your application @ the local HRO office. If you have any questions, please call Agatina @ 624-4177.

The Navy Exchange is hiring!

Current openings: Supervisory Sales Clerk, Sales Clerk, Security Guard, Cash Verifier

Be a part of a team committed to supporting the USN and your family. Navy Exchange Sigonella is currently looking for prospective associates to fill these positions.

Gegomotor

Franco Battiato to perform in Taormina



Photo by Ecodibergamo

Legendary Sicilian singer, composer, songwriter Franco Battiato will perform at the breathtaking Greek Theater in Taormina on Friday, July 17 as part of the annual Taormina Arte Music Festival.

An internationally renowned eclectic artist, Battiato, who has been composing original and innovative music for over 30 years, will present "Fleurs2," his latest work, along with a collection of his best hits.

Battiato's music is almost

impossible to label or categorize because it blends recondite lyrics with experimental music, opera, pop, classic music, rock and Sicilian and Middle East folklore elements. Battiato is just Battiato! He is a musician, an opera composer more than a singer, a film director, a painter and an all-round artist who has devoted several years to the study of spiritual-ity and Sufi mysticism.

Battiato will share the stage with philosopher Manlio Sgalambro

(vocals), the "Nuovo Quartetto Italiano", a string quartet featuring Alessandro Simoncini (violin), Luigi Mazza (violin), Demetrio Comuzzi (viola) and Luca Simoncini (cello), as well with Carlo Guaitoli (piano), Angelo Privitera (keyboards) and Davide Ferrario (guitar and vocals).

For more information and tickets contact the Taormina Arte Ticket Office at 0942- 628730 or Ticket One (892-101 / www.ticketone.it)

A Stone's Throw

THE HUB OF THE MED IS ALSO THE HUB FOR TRAVEL

Agrigento: The Valley of the Temples

Article and photos by
MC1 Chris Delano
The Signature Staff

Agrigento was founded on a plateau overlooking the sea around 582-580 BC. The economy is based on the major tourist center due to its extraordinarily rich archaeological legacy. Comprised of a large area on the south side of the ancient city, seven monumental Greek temples were constructed during the 6th and 5th centuries BCE. Now excavated and partially restored, they constitute some of the largest and best preserved ancient Greek buildings outside of Greece itself.

Site: For things to see and do, the city of Agrigento rates five stars.

The town is geared almost entirely toward tourists who come for temple attractions. The ITT trip offers visitors an amazing view of the temples, complete with a tour guide that elaborates on the history of the ruins. Upon completion of the tour, there are local shops which offer the usual souvenirs and merchandise that can be found in most tourist locations. The ITT trip also takes visitors to the Turkish Steps, which has a breathtaking view of the coastline.

Family Friendly: In this category, the trip rates two stars. This trip is not recommended for families with young children due to limited access with strollers. The main walkway, between the various temples is

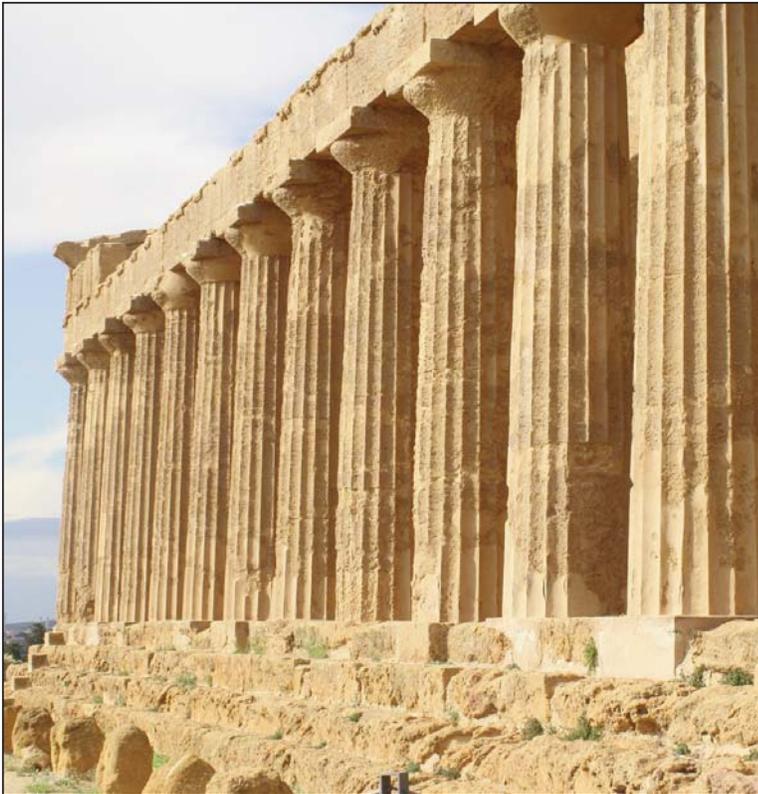
crushed stones which make stroller usage very difficult, while the trip to the Turkish steps, travelers have to travel down a slippery lava street followed by a brisk walk down the sandy beach to the Turkish steps. While there is not much specifically geared toward them, children are allowed to climb through certain temples and the Turkish steps do offer a chance to splash around in the ocean during the summer months. Bring plenty of snacks since lunch wasn't until 2:45 p.m. after an 8:00 a.m. departure. The bus does stop halfway through at a gas station/bar for snacks and drinks.

Accessibility: Since this was an ITT trip it rates five stars for accessi-

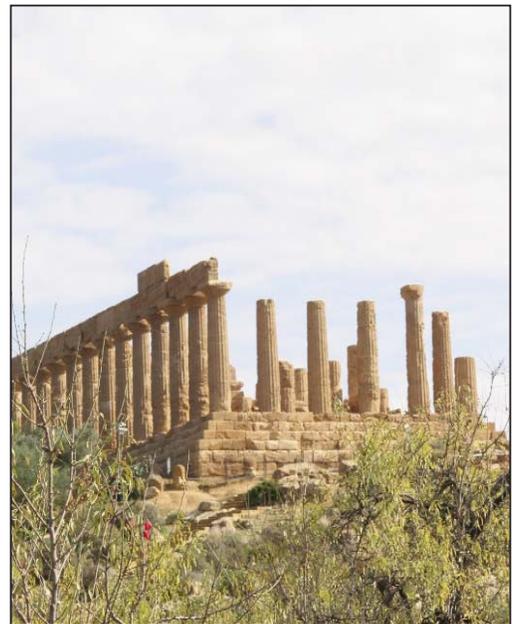
bility. The bus leaves from base and wraps up around the highway on the southern coast to Agrigento. For those who wish to drive, take the motorway toward Catania-Palermo. After Enna, exit toward Caltanissetta/Agrigento and take the 640 road follow the Caltanissetta sign first and then follow Porto Empedocles until you get to the rota-

toria Giunone below the Temple of June. From there, follow the sign Valle dei Templi to get to the Posto di Ristoro (parking and entrance to the site)

Travel Time: The trip only rates two stars for travel time. It takes between two to three hours to reach Agrigento by bus.

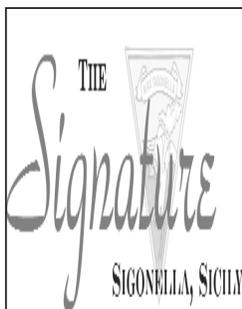


Built around 425 B.C., the Temple of Concordia in Agrigento, ranks among the most perfect temples in the Greek world and is the best preserved Doric temple in Sicily.



The Temple of Hercules, the oldest temple in Agrigento, was originally built around 500 BC. It was destroyed by the Carthaginians in 406 B.C., rebuilt by the Romans and subsequently destroyed once more by an earthquake. Visitors are allowed to wander through the temple.

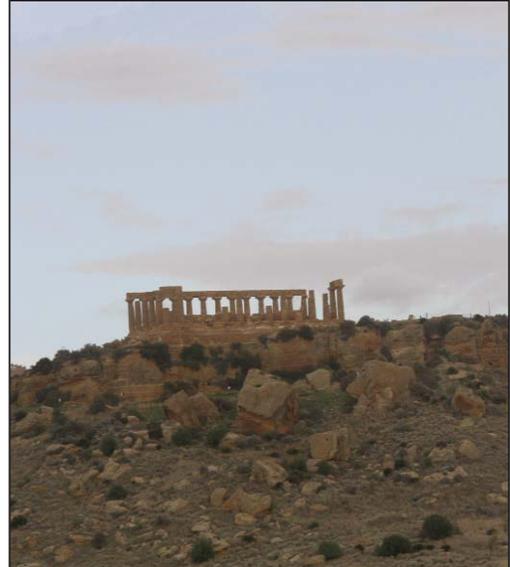
Medusa



Brasil



(Top) After travelling through the "Valley of the Temples" visitors can browse through the local vendors wares for the typical tourist mementoes. (Below top) The sandy beaches stretch out between important natural monuments such as the "white point" and the "Turkish steps". (Below bottom) The Temple of Hercules stands as the oldest temple in Agrigento.



(Above) The Temple of Juno (in Greek Hera) Lacinia, located at the highest point of the ridge offers visitors a breathtaking view of the surrounding area.



Oxidiana

Palermo

Protestant
Women of
the Chapel



Protestant
Women of
the Chapel
Summer
Program
June 23-July
28

10 a.m. - 11:30
a.m.
NAS | Chapel
Childcare
Provided to
age 12!
www.pwoc-sig.com

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@eu.navy.mil

Go Green Sigonella!

Cool your home without air conditioning



Article provided by raffertales.com

With energy costs soaring out of control, we all need to find ways to keep the house cool this summer without spending so much that summer vacation goes out the window!

The first thing to always remember is that just turning up the thermostat or even all the way off is the number one way to save money on home cooling costs! You can adapt; people survived for thousands of years at least before central A/C. Make it a game to see just how much you can go without air conditioning this summer and you may just be amazed how well you can do.

The whole concept in keeping a home naturally cool is basically a threefold challenge:

1. Keep heat from building up inside the home.
2. Let warm air out of the house during cooler evening hours and bring cool air in.
3. Find ways to reduce the generation of internal heat.

Whether your home has central air conditioning or not, you can keep your home cool without it; read on to learn the best ways to stay cool during the hot summer months.

Air Flow Keeps Inside Temperatures Lower

Air circulation is a critical element in keeping your home cool during hot weather. Use ceiling fans or portable room fans to keep the air flowing. In the evening when outside temperatures go down, open windows and try to get a good cross breeze flowing through the house all

night. Close the house up in the morning once temperatures start to climb, but continue to use fans to keep air circulating through the living space.

Run the A/C system in the fan only mode to improve air circulation; be sure to read your manufacturer's instructions first as this may or may not be recommended with some systems. If you have a basement, you could have an HVAC contractor install a cold air return which intakes cooler air from the basement and circulates it through the ductwork to better cool the entire house without running the air conditioner.

Fans and Ceiling Fans

You really can't beat a fan for cooling efficiency; a \$100 ceiling fan costs less than \$10 a month to operate 12 hours a day and can cool a room by 5 to 7 degrees!

Always turn ceiling fan blades so they direct air downward for summer. Combine permanent ceiling fans with a few portable or box fans; on the really hot days you can use the combination flexibly to create good cross-ventilation in your home.

Humidity makes any environment seem even hotter, so try to reduce humidity inside the house by minimizing use of showering or bathing, washing clothes, cooking, etc. Run ventilation fans in bathrooms, kitchen, laundry room, etc. to help reduce moisture in the living space; turn them off when done cooking, cleaning, etc. to avoid extra power use.

Window Blinds and Shades

Once the sun begins to beat

down on windows, its time to close windows and blinds or shades to help keep indoor temperatures cooler; a good cellular shade offers substantial insulation. Light colors reflect better than dark wood or darker painted finishes on blinds and shades.

Choose wide slats when buying blinds or consider blackout material for window shades on windows that get the most exposure to the sun; larger windows facing south are good candidates for blackout blinds or shades.

Heat generated internally, such as lamps, televisions and computers, stoves, laundry machines, etc. all generate heat, so using all of them less on hot days can really help keep inside living spaces cooler:

-Use the microwave to heat food, eat more fresh fruit and vegetables; anything to avoid using the oven and stove.

-Wait until after dark to eat or cook outdoors when the sun is low in the evening.

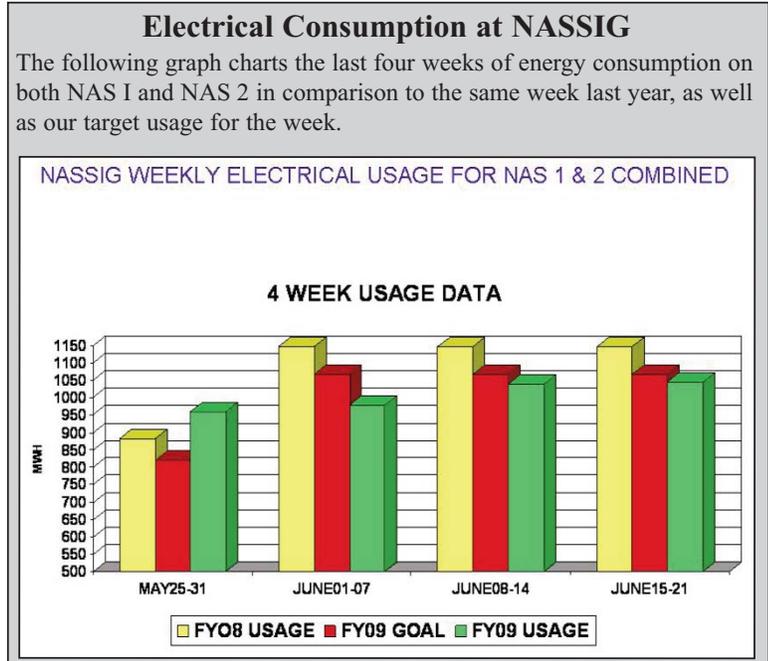
-Do your dish and clothes washing at night or early in the morning.

-Leave the house for a few hours at midday and go to a public building that is air conditioned ... or to a pool, lake or beach for a swim.

-If the garage is below a living space, leave your car outside to cool down before you park it in the garage.

Ristorante Bella Etna

26	<p>Breakfast: Farina, Grilled Ham Slices, Oven Fried Bacon, Asstd Omelets, Eggs to Order, Roasted Potatoes, Buttermilk Pancakes, Asstd Doughnuts, Crumb Cake.</p> <p>Brunch: Breakfast Items, Creole Soup, Grilled Reuben Sandwich, Teriyaki Chicken, Beef Fried Rice, Steamed Broccoli, Calico Corn, Cherry Pie, Abracadabra Bars.</p> <p>Dinner: Vegetable Soup, Baked Lasagna, Roast Veal w/ Herbs, Steamed Rice, Seasoned Asparagus, Steamed Cauliflower, Garlic Bread, Cherry Pie, and Abracadabra Bars.</p>
27	<p>Breakfast: Rolled Oats, Grilled Minute Steak, Oven Fried Bacon, Asstd Omelets, Eggs to Order, Roasted Potatoes, French Toast Puff, Asstd Doughnuts, Italian Croissant.</p> <p>Brunch: Breakfast Items, Puree Mongole Soup, Cheddar Chicken Broccoli, Fishwich Sandwich, Onion Rings, Eggplant Ratatouille, Southwestern Rice, Club Spinach, Almond Cake, Crisp Toffee Bars.</p> <p>Dinner: Chicken Vegetable Soup, Sauerbraten, Mustard Dill Baked Fish, Spring Garden Rice, Mashed Potatoes, Natural Pan Gravy, Steamed Cut Green Beans, Seasoned Carrots, Almond Cake, Crisp Toffee Bars.</p>
28	<p>Lunch: Creamed of Broccoli Soup, Roast Beef, Lemon Baked Catfish, Shrimp Farfalle w/ Tomato Sauce, Steamed Rice, Mixed Vegetables, Eggplant Parmesan, Yellow Cake w/ Icing, Fruit Ambrosia.</p> <p>Speed Line: Sub Sandwich, Pasta Primavera, Carrotcotta.</p> <p>Dinner: Mulligatawny Soup, Cajun Meatloaf, Grilled Chicken Breast, Rice Pilaf, Brown Gravy, Peas & Onions, Corn on the Cob, Yellow Cake w/ Icing, Fruit Ambrosia.</p>
29	<p>Breakfast: Hot Farina, Oven Fried Bacon, Sausage Patties, Asstd Omelets, Eggs to Order, Roasted Potatoes, Waffles, Asstd Doughnuts, Streusel Coffee Cake.</p> <p>Lunch: Chicken Vegetable Soup, Roast Turkey, Braised Beef Cubes, Steamed Rice, Mashed Potatoes, Turkey Gravy, Penne Amatriciana, Carrots and Orange Amandine, Club Spinach, Fruit Cocktail Upside Down Cake, Oatmeal Cookies.</p> <p>Speed Line: Philly Cheese Steak Sandwich, Onion Rings, Pasta Primavera.</p> <p>Dinner: Zesty Bean Soup, Baked Stuffed Fish, Baked Lasagna, Orange Rice, Southern Greens, Seasoned Mixed Vegetables, Fruit Cocktail Upside Down Cake, Oatmeal Cookies.</p>
30	<p>Breakfast: Hot Farina, Oven Fried Bacon, Sausage Patties, Asstd Omelets, Eggs to Order, Roasted Potatoes, Waffles, Asstd Doughnuts, Streusel Coffee Cake.</p> <p>Lunch: Chicken Vegetable Soup, Roast Turkey, Braised Beef Cubes, Steamed Rice, Mashed Potatoes, Turkey Gravy, Penne Amatriciana, Carrots and Orange Amandine, Club Spinach, Fruit Cocktail Upside Down Cake, Oatmeal Cookies.</p> <p>Speed Line: Philly Cheese Steak Sandwich, Onion Rings, Pasta Primavera.</p> <p>Dinner: Zesty Bean Soup, Baked Stuffed Fish, Baked Lasagna, Orange Rice, Southern Greens, Seasoned Mixed Vegetables, Fruit Cocktail Upside Down Cake, Oatmeal Cookies.</p>
1	<p>Breakfast: Rolled Oats, Creamed Ground Beef, Oven Fried Bacon, Asstd Omelets, Eggs to Order, Roasted Potatoes, Blueberry Pancakes, Asstd Doughnuts, Bear Claws.</p> <p>Lunch: Beef Rice Soup, Blackened Catfish, Chicken Cordon Bleu, Farfalle Alfredo, Garlic Cheese Potatoes, Rice Pilaf, Eggplant Parmesan, Brussels Sprouts Polonaise, Cheese Cake, Chocolate Pudding.</p> <p>Speed Line: Grilled Cheese/Hamburger, Turkey burger, Baked Beans, French Fried Potatoes, Hotwings.</p> <p>Dinner: Cream of Chicken Soup, St. Louis BBQ Pork Ribs, Sicilian Submarine, Macaroni and Cheese, Greens Beans Nicoise, Steamed Peas, Cheese Cake, Chocolate Pudding.</p>
2	<p>Lunch: Corn Chowder Soup, Roast Pork, Chinese Five Spice Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Rigatoni Alla Boscaiola, Brown Gravy, Steamed Rice, Seasoned Carrots, Asparagus, Peanut Butter Cookies, Cherry Pie.</p> <p>Speed Line: Baked Potatoes, Bacon Bits, Sautéed Mushroom, Sour Cream, Shredder Cheese, Assorted Pizza, Chili Dog, Baked Italian Sausage, Sautéed Pepper and Onions.</p> <p>Dinner: Minestrone Soup, Stuffed Cabbage Rolls, French Fried Shrimp, Ginger Rice, Mexican Corn, Steamed Broccoli, Cherry Pie, Peanut Butter Cookies.</p>



Sabbiadoro

Stampa

Sushi

ON THE GO WITH MWR

Catch Camp Adventure!

There's still time to sign up your child for Camp Adventure! This program is designed to provide a fun learning environment all summer long for school-aged children. Counselors provide youth with activities and field trips that they could get nowhere else.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for the kids," said Melanie Resto, Youth Activities Director. "We have Camp Adventure, which is all day, here at the Youth Center. We also have Camp Avanti and Camp Adiamo, which are half-day and only \$10 per week. Andiamo and Avanti are located at Marinai and Mineo. You couldn't ask for better or more

convenient youth programming."

Kids get to go on field trips to such places as Agrigento, Alcantara Gorge, and Fontana Bianche. There are also on-base excursions such as movie trips, bowling, and visiting the Sigonella Animal Welfare Society (SAWS).

Campers can be signed up for the whole summer or they can be registered week-by-week. Parents must have their child registered by Thursday for the following week.

Space is still available, so stop by the Youth Center today or call 624-3711 for more information.



The Camp Adventure counselors perform a song as part of the welcome BBQ to the camp. The BBQ was attended by each counselor's "adopted" sponsor who provided them with a gift basket as part of their welcome to Sigonella.

MIDTOWN MOVIE THEATERS

SCHEDULE & DESCRIPTIONS

Friday, June 26

12:00pm The Wild G **FREE**
1:00pm X-Men: Wolverine PG-13
3:00pm 17 Again PG-13
5:00pm The Taking of Pelham R
5:30pm Star Trek PG-13
7:30pm The Soloist PG-13
8:00pm The Hangover R
9:00pm State of Play PG-13
FREE to E4 & below

Saturday, June 27

2:00pm Obsessed PG-13
2:30pm The Proposal PG-13
4:30pm Up PG
5:00pm The Soloist PG-13
6:30pm Crank: High Voltage R
7:30pm Ghosts of Girlfriends PG-13
8:30pm Sig Sky Night - Host: Bud Turner

Sunday, June 28

2:00pm Star Trek PG-13
2:30pm Obsessed PG-13
4:30pm The Taking of Pelham R
5:00pm X-Men: Wolverine PG-13
7:00pm The Hangover R

Monday, June 29

12:00pm Fly Me to the Moon G **FREE**
1:00pm Up G
3:00pm X-Men: Wolverine PG-13
5:00pm Star Trek PG-13
5:30pm Up G
7:00pm The Soloist PG-13
7:30pm The Hangover R

Tuesday, June 30

12:00pm Flushed Away PG **FREE**
1:00pm Up G
3:00pm Fighting PG-13
5:00pm The Proposal PG-13
5:30pm X-Men: Wolverine PG-13
7:00pm The Taking of Pelham R
7:30pm Star Trek PG-13

Wednesday, July 1

12:00pm Curious George G **FREE**
1:00pm Chicken Little G **FREE**
3:00pm 17 Again PG-13
5:00pm Ghosts of Girlfriends Past PG-13
5:30pm Crank R **FREE**
7:00pm Crank: High Voltage R

Thursday, July 2

12:00pm Chronicles of Narnia PG **FREE**
1:00pm Inkheart PG **FREE**
3:00pm Fighting PG-13
5:00pm Star Trek PG-13
5:30pm The Taking of Pelham R
7:30pm The Proposal PG-13
8:00pm Gone Baby Gone R
FREE - Throwback Thursday

17 Again (PG-13)

Zac Efron, Leslie Mann, Matthew Perry, Michelle Trachtenberg
Class of 1989, Mike O'Donnell is a star on his high school basketball court with a college scout in the stands and a bright future in his grasp. But instead, he decides to throw it all away to share his life with his girlfriend Scarlett and the baby he just learned they are expecting. 20 years later, his marriage to Scarlett has fallen apart, and his teenage kids think he is a loser. Mike is given another chance when he is transformed back to the age of 17. Mike may look 17 again, but his thirtysomething outlook is uncool in the class of 2009. And in trying to recapture his best years, Mike could lose the best things that ever happened to him. (102 min.)

Up (PG)

Edward Asner, Jordan Nagai, Christopher Plummer
At age 78, life seems to have passed Carl Fredrickson by, until a twist of fate and a persistent 8-year old named Russell gives him a new lease on life. (96 min.)

The Soloist (PG-13)

Jamie Foxx, Nelsan Ellis, Michael Bunin, Robert Downey Jr.
Journalist Steve Lopez discovers Nathaniel Ayers, a former music prodigy, playing his violin on the streets of L.A. As he endeavors to help the homeless man find his way back, a unique friendship is formed that transforms both their lives. (117 min.)

The Taking of Pelham (R)

Denzel Washington, John Travolta, James Gandolfini
New York City subway dispatcher Walter Garber's ordinary day is thrown into chaos by an audacious crime: the hijacking of a subway train. Ryder, a criminal mastermind, leads a highly-armed gang of four, threatening to execute the train's passengers unless a large ransom is paid within one hour. As the tension mounts beneath his feet, Garber employs the vast knowledge of the subway system in a battle to outwit Ryder and save the hostages. But there's one riddle Garber can't solve: even if the thieves get the money, how can they possibly escape? (95 min.)

Ghosts of Girlfriends Past (PG-13)

Matthew McConaughey, Jennifer Garner, Breckin Meyer, Lacey Chabert
Celebrity photographer Connor Mead loves freedom, fun and women... in that order. A committed bachelor who thinks nothing of breaking up with multiple women on a conference call, Connor's mockery of romance proves a real buzz-kill for his kid brother, Paul, and a houseful of well wishers on the eve of Paul's wedding. Just when it looks like Connor may single-handedly ruin the wedding, he is visited by the ghosts of his former jilted girlfriends, who take him on a revealing and hilarious odyssey through his failed relationships - past, present and future. Together they attempt to find out what turned Connor into such an insensitive jerk and whether there is still hope for him to find true love... or if he really is the lost cause everyone thinks he is. (100 min.)

Movie dates and times are subject to change.

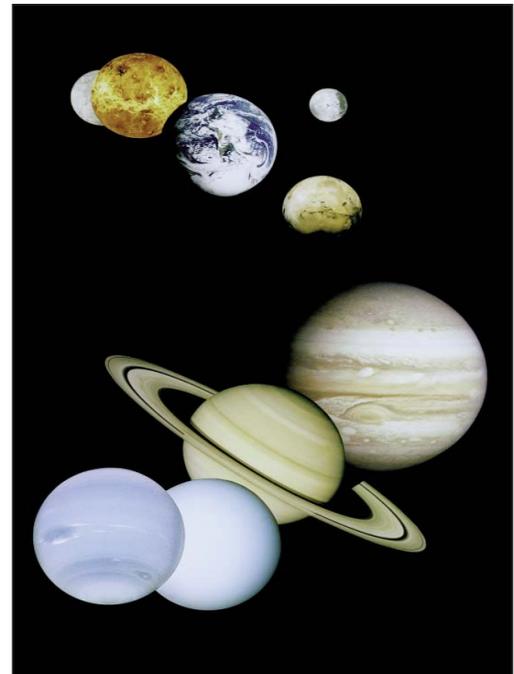
SHOWING FRIDAY, JULY 3

1:30pm Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen PG-13 **FREE**
3:00pm The Soloist PG-13
5:00pm Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen PG-13 **FREE**
5:30pm Star Trek PG-13
7:30pm The Hangover R
8:00pm Angels and Demons PG-13

COMING SOON

Angels and Demons

Stars over Sigonella



Here is a rare opportunity to explore the night sky. On Saturday, June 27th, Midtown 2 Theaters and Bud Turner present Sigonella Sky Tonight.

Turner, Cub Master of the local Boy Scout troop, invites the scouts out to the presentation as a way of earning an academic belt loop and pin. However, as Turner explained, "the show is not a Scout event...it's meant to be for the entire Sigonella community."

The event is held, on average, every three months. Due to the changing nature of the skies and seasons, there are always new and different things to see. Numerous topics will be presented, such as which deep-space objects are visible, how the universe is organized, and how to navigate the night sky.

"Once a year, astronomers from around the world, both amateur and

professional, host a day to introduce the public to the night skies," said Turner. "I usually take my telescope out and set up on a street corner or a piazza somewhere, and invite anyone who wanders by to take a look. From that, I was inspired to provide that opportunity to the Sigonella community."

The presentation begins at Midtown 2 Theaters at 8:30 p.m. As soon as it's dark enough, around 9:15 p.m., the audience heads outside to observe the night sky and the various celestial bodies within. There will be a telescope viewing in order to see deeper objects in space.

"The response from the audience has been positive," said Turner. "Most of the people who see the show and then stay for the telescope viewing are amazed at how much can be seen."

MOVIE HOTLINE:
624-4248

AUTISM, continued from page 2

have on the child's overall level of functioning, interactivity, and outcome. It is therefore crucial to increase awareness of the early signs of ASD, and to begin therapies as soon as possible.

In general, children with autism spectrum disorders demonstrate deficits in social relatedness and connectedness at an early age. Children with ASD demonstrate decreased eye contact and make fewer vocalizations or gestures for attention. One of the earliest signs of social connection that children make is called joint attention. Joint attention is a normal developmental milestone wherein an infant/child seeks or shares another's (the parent/caregiver's) attention. They may do this to share an experience or an object that they have noticed. The initial stage of joint attention develops at approximately 3-4 months of age and involves an infant smiling in response to a smile or expression of the parent/caregiver. Later, an infant will look at something and then back to their parent to share the experience. By approximately 8-9 months of age, an infant will usually follow the gaze of their parent to look in the same direction. Additionally at this age, infants start to respond positively to hearing their name. Then, by 10-12 months of age an infant will start to visually follow in the direction that their parent is pointing. The infant will then look back to the parent to share the experience. Usually between 12-14 months of age a child will then begin to point on their own to objects that they desire, and at 14-16 months of age they will point to objects just to show them to their parents.

While many of these developmental milestones are taken as routine by parents, the lack of appearance of these typical social skills at an appropriate time can be an early sign of an autism spectrum disorder. It is important to address concerns of social and language deficits in infants/children at an early age to intervene appropriately and effectively. Routine screening for autism spectrum disorders, based on parents' assessment/input, is done at the 18 month well child check-up, however any concerns of atypical development should be addressed at the time that they arise.

Correction: An article published on May 29 in the Health Watch section attributed Lt. Skinner as the author, whereas it was actually written by ENS Hannah Verimak.

BUS, continued from page 1

route picks up passengers at Marinai, travels to the front gate of NAS II for passengers and then makes its final stop at the Catania railway station. It then picks up returning passengers at the Catania railway station, travels down to NAS II to drop them off and makes its final stop at Marinai. There are approximately 18 daily trips during working days and around 10 days on Sundays and holidays. The schedule will be distributed via All Hands as well as be available on the bus and hopefully will be posted soon at the Marinai bus stop. The first bus departs the Catania railway station at 4:50 a.m. and arrives at Marinai at 6 a.m. and the final bus departs the Catania railway station at 11 p.m. Bus tickets are available at most of the Tabacchi shops in Catania and other places out in town. There are also negotiations taking place to sell tickets at the Navy Exchange on NAS I. The ticket is valid for 90 minutes.

Luciano Matarazzo helped to coordinate the project and says, "This service is a great thing for all the people in Sigonella. Everybody is excited because it will be possible to

reach the beach at Playa, the center of town and other various places without the use of a POV." Also, if you get a ride to the Catania railway station, it will be easy to travel all over Sicily and Italy, because there are many departures to various locations via the Catania railway station. "We hope that this bus service will increase the quality of life of all the people living, working or visiting our installation," said Matarazzo.

INDEPENDENCE, continued from page 2

our nation and in our world. The Pledge of Allegiance written in 1892 for the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America reminds us of our freedoms. Thirty-one words which affirm the values and freedom that the American flag represents are recited while facing the flag as a pledge of Americans' loyalty to their country.

We thank the Almighty Lord for the greatest gift of freedom that we enjoy as a nation. It is a wonderful gift that requires a great deal of responsibility. Enjoy the 4th of July celebrations and the freedoms we have received. This is what you and I say many times: "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all".

God bless America on her 233rd birthday!

CORPSMEN, continued from page 1

an exceptional Navy Hospital Corp. Our corpsmen are an example even to the Navy and live in honor, courage and commitment."

The ceremony included the presentation of colors, opening remarks by HMCM (SW/FMF) "Rusty" Petty, a speech by Cmdr. James Hancock and birthday messages from across the fleet. Following the ceremony, guests enjoyed cake in the NAS I Fellowship Hall.

Since the establishment of the Navy medical department back in the Colonial times, and to the commissioning of the Hospital Corps a century ago, Corpsmen have been ready and able to give support and aid whenever and wherever necessary.

It was during the Revolutionary War that the first direction was given to establish Navy medicine, stating there should be a place set aside for sick or injured men. At that time, a medical surgeon was limited to two or three men: the surgeon himself, the surgeon's mate, and possibly an enlisted man. The surgeon was the physician, and the surgeon's mate was a doctor as well, but held the status similar to that of a modern warrant officer, but signed on for a particular cruise. It is thought that surgeons' mates were viewed as a part of the Medical Corps, but their position and responsibilities are equivalent to those of today's senior Hospital Corpsman.

In 1799, there was no title or job description for enlisted medical personnel, therefore, the nickname "loblolly boy" became common use, so much in fact that it became the official title in Navy Regulations of 1814. Requirements for this job included being the surgeon's attendant and making sure all supplies are ready for usage. They were also in charge of making sure the cockpit was clean.

In 1841 a new senior enlisted medical rate was introduced, surgeon's steward. Surgeon's stewards ranked second in seniority among ship's petty officers, following master at arms.

Civil War hit the United States in 1861 and resulted in major changes

and developments in the medical department. During this time, nurses were allowed on ships and new techniques were developed to care for the sick and wounded. In 1862, the USS Red Rover became the first Navy vessel that was specifically commissioned as a hospital ship. On board included 30 surgeons and male nurses, as well as four nuns.

New titles were made in the early 1870s, with the title of bayman replacing nurse. The bayman was someone who manned the sick bay. An apothecary was someone who mixed and dispensed all medicine on board a ship. This person was responsible for reports, supply requests and correspondence and helped maintain medical records.

It was during the Spanish-American War where arguments were made for a well-trained group of people to provide care for the Navy. A bill was written and approved by President William McKinley in 1898. From that time on, medical Sailors have been called "Hospital Corpsmen" and to ensure that they were adequately trained, a school for corpsmen was established in Virginia and opened in 1902. Curriculum included anatomy, bandaging, nursing, first aid, pharmacy and military drill. Two more hospitals were opened in Rhode Island and in California.

At the beginning of 1917, the Hospital Corps had 1,700 men serving and represented 3.5 percent of the Navy and Marine Corps. This was right around the time when the United States entered World War I. By the end of 1918, the Hospital Corps had 17,000 men in its ranks.

To support World War I, wartime schools were created in a number of states around the country. Corpsmen were assigned a number of different duty types and locations, including ships and aircraft squadrons. During this time, Hospital Corps would also serve with the Marine Corps.

During World War II, the Hospital Corps boasted more than 132,000 personnel. Hospital Corps served on both the sea and shore and opened hospitals on newly captured Pacific Islands. Around 300 Hospital Corpsmen were captured in the Philippines by the invading Japanese and were held in POW camps. 132 Hospital Corpsmen died as prisoners during World War II.

After World War II, the Hospital Corpsman was reorganized. There was a new Department of Defense and the Army-Navy Medical Service Corps Act provided a Dental Technician rating. Prior to this time, women in the Hospital Corps were known as WAVES, a component of the U.S. Naval Reserve, but the new act permitted women to enlist in the Navy. In 1948, the Navy changed the names and insignia of the Hospital Corps.

Hospital Corpsmen served in Korea and in Vietnam, where some assisted the Navy SEAL teams and Marine units on the ground.

Since 1975, the Hospital Corpsmen have served in many of the most dangerous places around the world. In the early 1990s, the first casualty in Desert Storm was a Hospital Corpsman.

Today, Hospital Corpsmen serve in a variety of fields, including assisting with physical exams, patient care and more. They are on shore, afloat and perform in times of need. "Wherever you find the Navy, wherever you find the Marine Corps, there you will find Navy Hospital Corpsmen. In times of peace, they toil unceasingly, day and night, providing quality care to numerous beneficiaries. In times of war, they are on the beaches with the Marines,

employed in amphibious operations, in transportation of wounded by air, on the battlefield, and on all types of ships, submarines, aircraft carriers, and landing craft. Their innumerable instances of heroism, during which they have consciously exposed themselves to danger to save lives, are not spectacular because the corpsmen were required to act. Rather, their bravery is exceptional because it was not required, but given freely and willingly in service to their country and their fellow humanity, above and beyond the call of duty," said HMCS (FMF) Mark T. Hacala, USNR, from his book "The U.S. Navy Hospital Corps: A Century of Tradition, Valor, and Sacrifice"

Reminder: OHA survey ends soon

Article provided by CNREURAFSWA Public Affairs

NAPLES, Italy- The annual Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA) Utility/Recurring Maintenance Allowance and Move-In Housing Allowance (MIHA) Survey has been extended from June 3 to June 30 in order to maximize participation in the assessment.

The survey was extended based on information from the Per Diem, Travel and Transportation Allowance Committee (PDTATAC) in Washington, D.C., which emphasized a low level of participation.

"Currently Italy has a very low response rate," said Francesca Rodriguez, the Italy coordinator for the OHA Utilities/MIHA survey. "If the low response rate continues, members in Italy risk a decrease in OHA/MIHA dollars."

The survey is for all military personnel who reside in privately leased quarters overseas and receive an overseas housing allowance. To date, only about 35 percent of the U.S. service members in Italy have taken the survey.

PDTATAC officials are encour-



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Attention all good standing Catholic gentlemen! Come join the ranks of Sigonella's newest Knights of Columbus Chapter!

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For more information visit - www.kofc.org/

aging members to take the survey because the results directly impact a military member's utilities and housing allowances.

Though the survey has no impact on Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) rates, PDTATAC uses the data to prescribe the utility and move-in expenses and assist in the formulation of OHA rates for service members worldwide.

"It is important that accurate figures be provided in the OHA Survey," said Rodriguez.

"We recommend that service members use records and receipts to accurately determine the amounts actually spent. The time and effort spent answering the survey questions will enable the Department of Defense to set equitable OHA utility and MIHA rates."

The survey takes an estimated 40-50 minutes to complete. The more personnel who participate, the more accurate cost-analysis data PDTATAC will have to make appropriate adjustments to these expenses.

To take the utilities and move-in expense survey, go to <http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/oha/survey/utilitymiha.html>.

Parco delle Rosa Marricriu

Marchi

NPS, continued from page 5

modified cribs.

Regularly tighten hardware to keep sides firm.

Infants can suffocate in spaces between the sides of the crib and an ill-fitting mattress; never allow a gap larger than two finger widths at any point between the sides of the crib and the mattress.

Never place a crib near a window with blind or curtain cords; infants can strangle on the cords.

Safety Around the House

Properly set up play yards according to manufacturers' directions. Only use the mattress provided with the play yard. Do not add extra mattresses, pillows or cushions to the play yard, which can cause a suffocation hazard for infants.

Look for a toy chest that has a support that will hold the hinged lid open in any position in which it is placed, or buy one with a detached lid or doors.

Small Parts – For children younger than age three, avoid toys with small parts, which can cause choking.

Magnets – For children younger than age eight, avoid building sets with small magnets. If magnets or pieces with magnets are swallowed, serious injuries and/or death can occur.

Select toys to suit the age, abilities, skills and interest level of the intended child. Look for sturdy construction, such as tightly-secured eyes, noses and other potential small parts.

For all children younger than age eight, avoid toys that have sharp edges and points.



Booyah Tribe dominates 'Midnight Madness'

Article and photos by MC3 Jonathan Idle, The Signature Staff

The Booyah Tribe, a softball team from Naval Air Station (NAS) Sigonella, went undefeated all weekend and took home the championship at the annual "Midnight Madness" softball tournament June 19-21 on NAS II.

The games began Friday with all eight participating teams, including teams from Sigonella, Naval Support Activity (NSA) Naples and Camp Darby, playing in round-robin games to determine seating for the double-elimination tournament on Saturday.

Game one of the tournament pitted the Booyah Tribe against the team from COMSTA, Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station Sigonella. The Booyah Tribe walked away with an easy win 36-0 on a one-hit shutout by Gunner's Mate Chief Jason Payne.

The next game featured the Public Works (PW) Department, from Sigonella, versus the Wild Boars, from Camp Darby. The game appeared to be firmly in the hands of the Wild Boars before PW staged a late comeback to win 20-19.

Next up was the Rage, from Sigonella, against the U-Crew, from NSA Naples. The Rage jumped out to an early lead and coasted to an 18-3 victory over the U-Crew.

Los Diablos, the second team from Naples was in action the following game as they faced SIG, from Sigonella. SIG proved to be no match for the traveling base team from the north and they went down easily 17-2.

After that was the first elimination game in the loser's bracket. The Wild Boars showed their desire to stay in the tournament by easily eliminating COMSTA 21-0.

The U-Crew and SIG faced off against each other in the next elimination game. SIG jumped out to an early lead, but poor defense and a sputtering offense allowed the U-Crew to come back with a vengeance and eliminate SIG 20-9.

The first game in the winner's bracket pitted the Booyah Tribe against PW. The Booyah Tribe put in another solid performance beating PW 17-6.

Next up in the winner's bracket, the Rage faced Los Diablos. The game remained relatively close all the way through, but Los Diablos held onto a four run lead to defeat the Rage 11-7.

The previous game put the Rage into the loser's bracket and left them to play the following elimination game versus the Wild Boars. The Rage looked tired from the previous game, but they were able to pull out a win none-the-less eliminating the Wild Boars 14-9.



Members of the Booyah Tribe pose for a photo after defeating Los Diablos, from NSA Naples, to win the "Midnight Madness" softball tournament June 20 on NAS II. "Midnight Madness" is a two-day softball tournament held annually here.

The next elimination game saw the U-Crew eliminate PW easily 21-4 to continue on in the tournament.

The following game pitted the only two unbeaten teams left in the tournament, the Booyah Tribe and Los Diablos. The game stayed relatively even but the Booyah Tribe was able to pull out the win 11-7 and stay unbeaten.

In the loser's bracket, the Rage and U-Crew squared off for the right play Los Diablos and hopefully punch a ticket to the finals. The game stayed close throughout, but the Rage pulled out a victory in a nail bitter 12-11.

Once again, the Rage found themselves playing tough back-to-back games. Fatigue seemed to be a

factor against Los Diablos who jumped all over the Rage early and won 19-2.

So, the championship game was set. Los Diablos would play the Booyah Tribe, the top two seeds in the tournament.

Los Diablos had the unenviable task of having to beat the Booyah Tribe twice if they wanted to leave Sigonella with the trophy. The Booyah Tribe looked driven to keep the championship at home. They consistently put up runs and easily dispatched the challengers from Naples 32-12.

Personnel Specialist Chief Chris Nile, from NSA Naples, was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player.

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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 5 p.m. of the Friday before the week of publication. For more information, call 624-5440, 624-2798 or 095-86-5440/2798. Requests for commercial classifieds must be made to Stampa Generale at 081-568-7884.

Send Il Mercato advertisements to thesig@eu.navy.mil

If you are transferring to Sigonella and would like to see the Il Mercato section in full, please email us at thesig@eu.navy.mil from your .mil account to verify your affiliation with the U.S. Military.

Anyone interested in sending ads via email should leave a phone number and point of contact name at thesig@eu.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/American base employees. Ad must be 40 words or less and typed in regular upper case, lower case format. *The Signature* does not accept 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*, call Stampa Generale @ 081-568-7884.

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