

Panorama

57TH YEAR, NO. 4

Serving the NATO, Naples and Gaeta military communities in Italy

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2012

Budget classes at Capo help promote Military Saves Week

By Melissa Kabukuru, Panorama editor

The Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) is trying to make it easier for sailors to attend personal finance classes during the month of February as part of Military Saves Week, which this year is Feb. 19 to 26.

Usually, the FFSC's two-hour personal finance classes are held at the FFSC office at the Support Site. But the FFSC has been hearing many suggestions to hold the classes at Capodichino and shorten the class length, said Bethany Franz, FFSC personal finance educator.

As a result, Franz will hold 45-minute briefs during lunchtime at Capodichino Feb. 16 and Feb. 22 that will discuss saving and investing.

The Feb. 16 brief will focus on the Thrift Savings Plan, the retirement contribution program available to all military members and federal employees.

The Feb. 22 brief will cover general savings topics and include information from the Million Dollar Sailor program, which illustrates how savings early in one's career can grow over time.

"These and all of our classes are important because sound personal finance leads to military readiness and overall financial freedom," Franz said.

Franz said that depending on how many people attend the lunchtime briefs at Capodichino this month, she would like to continue holding them throughout the spring.

As part of Military Saves Week, the FFSC is also sponsoring savings booths at Capodichino, the Support Site food court and the U.S. Naval Hospital Naples Galley. The booths will feature information about savings plans and resources for starting to save. Community members will also have the ability to make savings pledges, in which they pledge an amount they plan to save over time.

see SAVINGS Page 5

'Uncle Gianni' inspires runners, walkers



Gianni Interbartolo, founder of the Le Piume Nere leisure club, shares a laugh with club member Alida Laney on the sidelines of the Naples Marathon Jan. 29. Interbartolo founded the walking and running club for members of the Naples NATO community in 2008. (Photo by Melissa Kabukuru)

JFC employee's fitness journey leads to birth of 'Le Piume Nere' group

Story by Melissa Kabukuru
Panorama Editor

It's been 11 years since Gianni Interbartolo decided to change his life. At 82 kilograms (180.4 pounds) and 160 centimeters (5 feet 3 inches) tall, he soon "was going to be larger around than in height," he said.

"I had to change my lifestyle," said Interbartolo, who works as a NATO civilian technician at Allied Joint Force Command Naples.

To improve his health, Interbartolo began walking for exercise in 2001. In 2005 he walked in his first 100-kilometer event, and in the year 2008 he logged 2,056 kilometers

walking in competitive races.

That's when he decided to share his love for physical activity with others and founded Le Piume Nere, a walking and running group for the Naples NATO community.

As the club's leader, he organizes Le Piume Nere members' participation in competitive and non-competitive events throughout Italy.

"I decided to transfer my experience to others," said Interbartolo, who lost more than 15 kilograms (33 pounds) by walking. "My main goal is the socialization and integration of the Italian and American communities."

see UNCLE GIANNI Page 4



Gianni Interbartolo and his dog Chico (left) walk with Rose-Marie Maya (right) during the Naples Marathon Jan. 29. As the founder of the Le Piume Nere leisure group, Interbartolo has made it a tradition to accompany Le Piume Nere runners to the finish line. (Photo by Jonathan Coppé)

FRIDAY

High 48 / Low 34
Chance of rain



SATURDAY

High 43 / Low 28
Chance of rain



SUNDAY

High 45 / Low 27
Chance of snow



WHAT'S INSIDE

Weekly crime statistics
Review what happened between Jan. 23 and Jan. 29.

Page 10



Swim at your own pace

Page 5

Naples Tiger Sharks take home Southern Division title



Page 6



February events in Campania

Page 13

Captain's Corner

By Capt. Scott Gray
NSA Commanding Officer



First I want to thank the Under Secretary of the Navy, the Hon. Robert Work, who visited yesterday and spoke to the sailors here. We appreciate that he took the time to come visit and were grateful for the opportunity to highlight our community.

Everyone should have already received W-2s by now, so I encourage everyone to file your taxes. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance shop is set up, so call today to make an appointment. I understand they're still looking for more volunteers, so if you have expertise or interest in that area and are willing to help out, please give them a call as well.

I've gotten a number of ICE comments and complaints about resident disputes, so I'd like to speak to that for a minute. Obviously when we live in somewhat close quarters, there are bound to be disputes among neighbors. The first line of defense among adults should be a polite discussion. If that doesn't resolve things, the Housing Department is available to mediate disputes and help facilitate some resolution. If there is something unsafe or illegal going on, please alert security. Only after all of those steps will I get involved. Please take the time to talk to your neighbors if you have a problem. That goes for pet violations as well. I do have a policy that authorizes me to remove a resident from housing with more than three pet violations. So if discussion isn't working with a resident who is violating the pet policy, please take the time to report it so all of the residents affected by those pet violations don't have to live with it. It's been my experience here that residents are reasonable once they've been reminded of the rules, and I trust that will continue.

Rumors abound here in Naples, as with anywhere, and I know many people get a lot of great information on community message boards or social media sites. Remember to verify information gathered from the community before making major decisions based on that info. For updated and accurate information, check our website and what comes out of the PAO office: *Panorama*, PAO Notes, Facebook.com/NSANaples or Twitter.com/NSA_Naples. I see many discussion boards where the conversation starts to go on an absurd tangent, but then someone jumps in with accurate information and takes the conversation back to where it should be. I appreciate community members who do that, and ask that you continue! You're providing our community and our prospective and incoming personnel with the right information, and that is invaluable. If there are questions that need to be addressed, submit the question and we will promulgate the answer for the benefit of everyone.

I'm sure everyone is tired of hearing about the budget crunch, belt tightening, and all the doom and gloom. Unfortunately, we're operating basically on a bare bones budget right now, and if more cuts come you can expect to see decreased services. We've already seen slightly altered hours at some MWR facilities and things of that nature, and unfortunately the future may hold more. I say this not to depress everyone during the height of winter, but to keep you informed so the changes that may occur in the future don't come as a shock. I will endeavor to do all I can to preserve the services we all enjoy.

With all that said, there is still a lot going on to keep you busy during these rainy days. High school basketball plays tonight, so come out and support the team. If you can't come out, AFN is streaming it live, so be sure to tune in and support the team remotely. Cirque Dreams comes next week and I encourage you to take advantage of this amazing opportunity. Tickets for that show in Vegas are a LOT of money, but here it'll only cost you a few minutes waiting in line outside the high school gym. Also, don't forget about Naples Got Talent tomorrow night! There are tons of trips to look forward to from our USO and ITT, so get out and travel the world. In a few years, you'll really miss asking yourself the question, "Hm, a four-day weekend is coming up. Shall I go to Paris or to Barcelona?"

We expect to hear more specifics about the threatened gas attendant strike after a meeting on Feb. 7. As soon as we have dates or more information we will get it out to the public. Please ensure you remain prepared by keeping your gas tanks full and have backup transportation plans like carpool options or riding the bus.

We are beginning our big push for voter registration as we approach the general election in November. The Voting Assistance Office will be setting up booths periodically on the Capo Spine and on the Support Site. I encourage everyone to take advantage of this service and get registered to vote. Don't wait 'til the last minute, because you may miss the opportunity to exercise your right as a citizen. Remember, voting is a privilege we, as the military, help to defend and preserve.

Finally, baseball season begins soon and we are in desperate need of coaches. We can not move forward without the dedicated volunteers who coach teams for the league. If you have a love of the game and enjoy working with children, please give some of your time and volunteer as a team coach. *Stay dry and safe on the roads and enjoy this weekend!*

Base Notes

From *Panorama* staff reports

GED tests no longer offered on base beginning Oct. 1

As of Oct. 1, 2012, base education centers will no longer be authorized to administer the paper-based GED tests. If you would like to complete your high school degree, you still have time to prepare for the GED and take the GED tests at the Naples Navy College Office. The test is open to all civilian and Military members of the community who have a government-issued I.D. card. Visit the Navy College Office in the Admin II building at Capodichino for more information, or contact the office at 081-568-6684/6683/6678 or nco.naples@eu.navy.mil. The Naples Navy College Office can administer practice GED tests to determine if you are ready to take the official GED.

Naples Got Talent Feb. 4

Vote for your favorite artist at the 3rd annual Naples Got Talent event at the Reel Times 2 Theater on Support Site Saturday, Feb. 4. Ten talented community members are going to perform for a chance to win two round-trip tickets to the U.S., courtesy of United Airlines, and the audience will be the judge. Show starts at 6 p.m. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. For more info on USO tours, events, programs and volunteer opportunities, visit uso.it or contact the USO at 081-568-5713 or 081-811-4903.

CWOC meeting Feb. 8

Catholic Women of the Chapel will hold a lunch meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 8, at 11:30 a.m. in the Support Site Fellowship Hall. Please bring a covered dish to share. If you require babysitting please contact Jamie at cwocnaples@gmail.com.

NOSC accepting scholarship applications

The Naples Overseas Spouses' Club (NOSC) announces its 2012 scholarship program is open. Applications will be accepted online until Feb. 29 at <http://adobe.ly/>

NOSCscholarship2012. NOSC awarded more than \$47,000 in scholarships to U.S. Armed Forces and U.S. GS ID card-holders and their dependents last year. Scholarships are available for graduating high school seniors as well as current undergraduate and graduate students who will be enrolled in the fall 2012 semester. For more information, visit www.noscitaly.com.

USO offers family trip to Science City Feb. 19

The USO is offering an opportunity on Feb. 19 to visit Naples' Science City, which features fun and interesting exhibits for children and adults based on the major concepts of modern science. Tour includes roundtrip bus transportation, entrance fee and tour leader assistance for a cost of €15. For more information, call the USO Naples at 081-568-5713 or 081-811-4903.

Youth Sports Baseball Skills Assessment

The dates for Spring Youth Sports Skills Assessment have been postponed due to low registration and lack of volunteer coaches. The new dates are as follows:

- **Saturday, Feb. 18:** 1 p.m. Baseball (ages 9-17) at Support Site South Fields
- **Saturday, Feb. 18:** 1 p.m. Softball (ages 9-17) at Support Site North Fields
- **Saturday, Feb. 25:** 4 p.m. Baseball (ages 9-17) at Support Site South Fields
- **Saturday, Feb. 25:** 4 p.m. Softball (ages 9-17) at Support Site North Fields
- **Thursday, March 1:** 5 p.m. Parent Information Meeting at Support Site Fitness Forum. For additional information, please call Youth Sports at 331-197-4131.

Wine tasting with NOSC Feb. 4

The Naples Overseas Spouses Club is hosting a educational wine tasting event on Saturday, Feb. 4 at Taverna dei Sapori in Monte di Procida. A sommelier expert in Campi Flegrei wines will share insight on what to look for in local specialties and how best to enjoy them with various food pairings. Open to all adult community members. Cost is €25 per person, including heavy appetizers, wines and bus transportation from Support Site. Off-base carpools can also be arranged. Read more and register online at www.noscitaly.com.

Forgotten Treasures bag sale Feb. 4

The Forgotten Treasures Thrift Store will be open from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 4 for its monthly bag sale extravaganza. Bring your own reusable shopping bag and fill it up for only \$5. The store is always open on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., and on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. To learn how to volunteer, email nosctshop@gmail.com. Forgotten Treasures would like to remind the community that dumping trash in dumpsters outside the store is prohibited by Public Works. Removing that trash costs the store money that would otherwise be given back to the community. Please deposit residential trash in bins near your residence.

CNE-CNA-C6F/CNREURAFSWA IG HOTLINE

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

Office of the Inspector General, Naples, Italy

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

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

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

E-mail: ighotline@eu.navy.mil

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

CONTACT NAPLES

NSA Naples CO	.....townhallnsanaples@eu.navy.mil
Child and Youth Programs Director	christopher.kasperek@eu.navy.mil
Director, FFSC	.....FFSCNSANaples@eu.navy.mil
CMVRO	.....cmvro@eu.navy.mil
Personal Property	.....ppso-naples@eu.navy.mil
Post Office	.....postoffice@eu.navy.mil
Hospital Customer Service	.....nhnaples-pao@med.navy.mil
Naples High	.....naplesHS.principal@eu.dodea.edu
Naples Elementary	.....naplesES.principal@eu.dodea.edu
Housing Director	.....nsanapleshousingdirector@eu.navy.mil
Commissary Director	.....Sharon.washington@deca.mil
NEX General Manager	.....nexnaples-gen1@nexweb.org
MWR/ITT	.....mwrmarketrequest@eu.navy.mil
AFN	.....http://www.afneurope.net/naples
NCTS	.....nctscustsvc@eu.navy.mil

Panorama

Associato all'USPI
Unione Stampa Periodica Italiana

Naval Support Activity
Capt. Scott Gray
Cmdr. Robert Barbee
Lt. Matt Gill
MC1(NAO) John Parker
Teresa Merola

Naples Italy
Commanding Officer
Executive Officer
Public Affairs Officer
Assistant Public Affairs Officer
Public Affairs/COMREL Specialist

Melissa Kabukuru
MC1(NAO) John Parker

Editorial Staff

Editor
Photojournalist

Contributors
MC1(EXW/AW) Terry Vick
MC1 Edward Vasquez
MC2(SW/AW) Felcito Rustique
MC2(SW) Jeff Troutman
MCSN Caitlin Conroy

NPASE-E Det. Europe
NPASE-E Det. Europe
NPASE-E Det. Europe
NPASE-E Det. Europe
NPASE-E Det. Europe

Volunteer Contributors

Gary Rice
J. Freed, Lou Freed
Editorial Office:
Free Mercato Ads:
Paid Advertising:

Tel. 081/568-5335
Tel. 081/568-5856
Tel. 081/568-7884 - Fax 081/568-7887

This civilian enterprise (CE) newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the military services overseas. Contents of *Panorama* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the U. S. Navy. The appearance of advertising in this newspaper, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, or Stampa Generale S.r.l. of the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use, or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user, or patron. A confirmed violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser will result in the refusal to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected.

The *Panorama* editorial office is located at Naval Support Activity, Naples, Italy, PSC 817, Box 40, FPO AE 09622 - Telephone: commercial 081-568-5335/5912; DSN 626-5335/5912. E-mail: naplespanorama@eu.navy.mil.

Panorama is published weekly on Friday by Stampa Generale S.r.l. Sig. Bruno Brandi, Publisher, Naval Support Activity, Capodichino (Naples), Italy - Tel. 081-568-7884, Fax 081-568-7887. E-mail: stampagenerale@tin.it - Autorizzazione Tribunale di Napoli No. 3404 del 3.4.1985. Direttore Responsabile: Bruno Brandi. Stampa: Europrint Sud S.r.l., Ferentino (Fr); Fotocomposizione: Stampa Generale S.r.l. - Tel. 081-568-7884. Stampa Generale is a private firm in no way connected with the U. S. Navy under exclusive written contract with the U. S. Navy. The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the Naval Support Activity, Naples, Italy. All news and feature articles and announcements submitted to *Panorama* are subject to editing to conform with contemporary standards of journalistic objectivity, clarity and relevance. We welcome any contributions, suggestions or comments dealing with community issues. Submissions for publication in *Panorama* will be accepted on the basis of newsworthiness, timeliness and space available. All copy must be submitted in Microsoft Word format in an e-mail to the editor at: naplespanorama@eu.navy.mil. Each submission must include the name and telephone number of the author. DEADLINE FOR ALL COPY AND PHOTOS IS AT CLOSE OF BUSINESS FRIDAY PRIOR TO PUBLICATION DATE.

6th Fleet's Exercise Saharan Express aims to improve maritime security in West African waters

Lt. Apollo Kabukuru talks to Royal Moroccan Navy Lt. Cmdr. Mohammed Chaoui and Lt.j.g. Yones Bouaddis Feb. 1 during the main planning conference for Exercise Saharan Express 2012. Saharan Express is a multi-national maritime exercise between West African, European and U.S. maritime services that aims to counter illegal fishing and trafficking in West African waters. (U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Christopher B. Stoltz)



Italian News Briefs

Compiled by Teresa Merola

Italian parliamentarians cut their salary — sort of

Italian parliamentarians have been under pressure to cut their salaries as the rest of the country has been called on to make sacrifices. The average Italian lawmaker's gross pay is higher than anywhere in Europe. The Lower House and the Senate cut the gross salaries of their parliamentarians by 13 percent on Tuesday; however, the politicians will not lose much of their salary, which is more than €16,000 per month. The reduction of about €1,300 per month in gross salaries will prevent a big increase in their net salaries due to the recent change in the system for parliamentarians' pension contributions. The next step is to reduce the cost and size of the political system. There are 945 parliamentarians between the Lower House and the Senate, and hundreds of city and regional councilors that cost a significant amount, said Lower House speaker Gianfranco Fini.

Disability fakers arrested

Thirty-two false invalids were arrested by police in Naples Wednesday. They had received disability pension for more than €1 million. They have been sued for aggravated fraud against the State, counterfeiting and forgery of public seals. The arrested people lived in the district of Poggioreale, a suburb of Naples. This operation was part of a wider investigation of false disability claims that started in 2009 and led to the arrest of 201 people between 2010 and 2011, along with the confiscation of €5 million in assets.

Winter weather hits Italy

Weather reports said this week has been the coldest one in 27 years. On Wednesday, the north of Italy was blanketed by snow, forcing highway sections to close and snarling traffic in Bologna and Milan. Several schools and offices were closed, including a major hospital in Turin. Heavy trucks were banned

from roads in the central regions of Marche, Tuscany and Umbria. Train services were reduced with some delays on the rail network. On Tuesday, several top soccer matches were cancelled. Bad weather caused an accident in Syracuse in Sicily, where a 1-year-old boy died when his mother drove their car into a stream swollen by heavy rain. Forecasts are for more snow and colder temperatures this weekend. Transportation authorities are requiring travelers to have snow chains on board or vehicles equipped with snow tires.

Italy develops new system to locate tax evaders

Italy is fighting against tax evasion with a new system to find dodgers by cross-checking incomes and spending, announced Attilio Befera, director-general of Italy's tax agency.

The Agenzia delle Entrate (tax office) is using a new system that will trace individuals' expenditures in 100 different categories to find anomalies between spending and declared income. This system will be operational by the end of the first half of this year. It will analyze the data of more than 22 million families, which means about 50 million individuals. It has been estimated that about €140 billion in undeclared business was done on the Italian underground economy each year. Last year, the fight against tax evasion generated €11.5 billion for the State.

Perugia hosts wine conference

For first time in Italy, the city of Perugia in Umbria hosted the International Conference on Wine Tourism. More than 300 tour operators, journalists and wine professionals from 40 countries participated in the conference, which ended Feb. 2. In Italy, wine tourism is worth €5 billion per year and involves more than three million tourists annually. The conference was a means to promote the extraordinary potential of the market, said Tourism Minister Piero Gnudi.

THE INSIDE PAGE...

UPCOMING FFSC NAPLES FEBRUARY EVENTS

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

- 6 **MARDI GRAS: HOW ITALIANS CELEBRATE CARNEVALE** (11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.) Learn How Italians celebrate this fun event.
- 7 **STRESS MANAGEMENT** (8 -10 a.m.; at the Support Site Fit Forum.) Yoga/Pilates to follow.
- 7 **HOME BUYING** (9:30 a.m. - noon) Are you wanting to buy a home? Become an informed consumer with information on the entire home buying process from finding the right home to loan financing.
- 7 **LIMONCELLO CLASS** (10 a.m. - noon) Learn how to make your own Limoncello.
- 7 **COUPON CLUB** (1 - 2 p.m.) On the first Tuesday of every month, FFSC has a Coupon Club. Come to sort through the thousands of coupons sent by volunteers, get ideas on how to save money, and socialize with other coupon aficionados.
- 7 **DEVELOPING YOUR SPENDING PLAN** (2 - 3:30 p.m.) Do you ever wonder where your money is going? Learn to track your finances and develop a budget that meets you and your family's needs.
- 7 **AL-ANON SUPPORT GROUP** (6 - 7 p.m.)
- 8 **LEARNING HISTORY & LEGENDS OF NAPLES: THE EGG CASTLE** (8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.; Departs from JFC.) Discover Naples and its legends.
- 8 **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN NAPLES** (Noon - 2 p.m.) Looking for a job in Naples? This educational session is great for spouses (and family members) who want to explore the various employment opportunities available in Naples.
- 9 **SMOOTH MOVE** (8 a.m. - noon) Don't let your upcoming transfer catch you off guard — start planning today. Registration is required prior to attending. Note: All non-Navy personnel should arrive at 9:30 a.m.
- 9 **CONFLICT MANAGEMENT** (10 - 11 a.m.) Conflict management helps people manage conflict by examining attitude and behavior when faced with conflicting situations.
- 9 **IA DEPLOYMENT SUPPORT DISCUSSION GROUP** (1 - 2 p.m.) Topic: DOD Savings Deposit Program.
- 9 **OMBUDSMAN ASSEMBLY MEETING** (6 p.m. - 8 p.m.) Topic: DOD Savings Deposit Program.
- 10 **THE HILL OF VOMERO** (8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.; Departs from JFC.) Explore the beautiful Vomero area, including the local market and St. Elmo Castle.

UPCOMING GAETA FEBRUARY EVENTS

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

- 6 **SMOOTH MOVE WORKSHOP** (9:30 - 10:30 a.m.) Learn about your moving allowances, household goods, utility closeouts, customs, and more. You should attend this class 4-5 months before your PCS date.
- 7 **ITALIAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE CLASS** (10 - 11 a.m.) This class covers the Italian you need on daily basis. Real life situations will be simulated and lots of practical examples will be used. Be ready to use your new language skills right away. Subsequent classes will be held from 2 - 3 p.m. Feb. 21 and 10 - 11 a.m. Feb. 28.
- 7 **LUNCHTIME ITALIAN ONBOARD MT. WHITNEY** (Noon - 1 p.m.; Ctr. 1 onboard Mt. Whitney) This class covers the Italian you need on daily basis. Real life situations will be simulated and lots of practical examples will be used. Be ready to use your new language skills right away. Subsequent classes will be held from noon to 1 p.m. Feb. 21 and Feb. 28.

FEBRUARY

- 4 **THE FORGOTTEN TREASURES THRIFT STORE** will be open from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 4 for its monthly bag sale extravaganza. Bring your own reusable shopping bag and fill it up for only \$5.
- 4 **NAPLES OVERSEAS SPOUSES CLUB** is hosting a educational wine tasting event at Taverna dei Sapori in Monte di Procida. A sommelier expert in Campi Flegrei wines will share insight on what to look for in local specialties and how best to enjoy them with various food pairings. Open to all adult community members. Cost is €25 per person, including heavy appetizers, wines and bus transportation from Support Site. Off-base carpools can also be arranged. Read more and register online at www.nosociality.com.
- 7, 10, 14, 17, 21, 24 **CLEP TESTING** Take a CLEP/DSST test in the automated National Test Center in Admin II at Capo. Make an appointment in the UMUC Maryland office or call 081-568-6673/6674/6675 for an appointment.
- 8 **JOIN CONNECT THE TOTS CLUB AT MONKEY PLANET** in Teverola at 10 a.m. For more information, contact Lauren Biggin, membership coordinator, through the Club's website at www.meetup.com/Connect-the-Tots-Club/.
- 9 **A CONNECT THE TOTS CLUB LUNCH** will take place at Il Gatto e La Volpe restaurant at 12:30 p.m. Feb. 9. For more information on the Club and to see more upcoming activities, visit www.meetup.com/Connect-the-Tots-Club/.
- 10, 17, 24 **WEB TABRIEF FOR SAILORS** The WEB TA brief is at 9 a.m. Feb. 10 & 24 and at 1 p.m. Feb. 17 at Capo in Admin II. Visit the Navy College Office at Capo for more information or call 081-568-6684/6683/6678.
- 13 **CONNECT THE TOTS CLUB VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY** will be held at 10 a.m. Feb. 13 at the Support Site Fellowship Hall.
- 14, 21, 18 **DEFENSE LANGUAGE TESTING PROGRAM** Take the DLPT or the DLAB at the Navy College Office. Open to military members and civilian government employees. Make an appointment at the NCO or contact 081-568-6684/6683/6678 or nco.naples@eu.navy.mil.
- 15 **CNE/CNA/C6F's N1 HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE** will be hosting its monthly "Brown Bag Session" in Admin III in the second basement level of the C4I Building. Those who need access should call 081-568-4920. The sessions are informal opportunities to share in open discussion with the workforce various topics related to CNE/CNA/C6F and/or Federal Employment. Sessions are open to all military and civilian personnel and generally take place for one hour during lunch.

More "Inside Page" on Page 9



Gianni Interbartolo walks during a 100-kilometer competitive event in Palermo in 2007. The founder of the Le Piume Nere leisure club for the local NATO community has walked in events throughout Europe. (Photo courtesy of Gianni Interbartolo)

UNCLE GIANNI

Continued from Page 1

Le Piume Nere, which Interbartolo founded in 2008, takes its name from a distinctive hat with black feathers that Interbartolo wears during events. (*Le piume nere* means "the black feathers" in Italian.) The plumed hat, called a *vaira* in Italian, is worn by Italian infantrymen known as *bersaglieri*. A colonel in the *bersaglieri* gave Interbartolo the hat as a gift, Interbartolo said, because the *bersaglieri* are associated with running and constant training. Interbartolo wears the *vaira* to all of the Le Piume Nere events, and the plumed hat has become the group's logo.

Since its founding, Le Piume Nere has grown from a group of 10 or so of Interbartolo's friends into a multi-national group of dozens of walkers and runners that get together on weekends. In Sunday's Naples Marathon, Le Piume Nere runners from 16 nations competed.

But it's not necessary to be a seasoned runner to join, Interbartolo said. Interbartolo walks when he participates in events, and people of all levels of physical fitness are welcome.

He describes Le Piume Nere as a leisure club — a *club del divertimento* — rather than a running club.

"People think that you have to run to do physical activity," Interbartolo said. "I just walk."

Families with children make up a large part of the club's dedicated membership, said Cheryl Bigelow, whose family participates in Le Piume Nere events every Sunday.

Bigelow's children, Peter, 5, and Paige, 6, call Le Piume Nere their "Sunday family," she said. Interbartolo is the main glue that holds the family together, organizing family walks for the kids, registering race participants and also planning restaurant outings for club members.

"He is 'Uncle Gianni' to all of the kids," Bigelow said. "He's also huge on the moral support. It doesn't matter where you place in a race, he is there at the end. He makes sure he greets everyone and lets them know he's rooting for them."

Part of the Le Piume Nere tradition is that Interbartolo accompanies the final runners or walkers to the finish line, while carrying a Le Piume Nere banner. His dog, a Yorkshire mix named Chico, is normally by his side.

Interbartolo said he understands it can be difficult for people to start being active, which is why he takes care of all the administrative details of the races, such as coordinating medical screenings and submitting registration forms. At every event, he stays busy answering participants questions and making sure everyone is in the right place at the right time.

"People only must say, 'I want to run,' and pay a registration fee," he said. "That's it."

He also knows the importance of having moral support. In 2005, his daughter was there to cheer him on when he completed his first-ever 100-kilometer walk, which stretched from Tuscany into



Paige Bigelow, 6, plays with Gianni Interbartolo's dog Chico, who makes regular appearances at Le Piume Nere races. Many families with children participate in club events, including the Bigelows.

(Photo by Melissa Kabukuru)

Emilia Romagna. He said he'll never forget the experience of crossing that finish line.

"When I arrived it was something I cannot describe," he said. "I embraced my daughter and asked, 'Would you believe I could have done it?' and we both cried."

More than anything, Interbartolo serves as an inspiration for Le Piume Nere members, said PS3 Luxon Molina, who runs with the group each weekend. The 62-year-old Interbartolo is planning to walk in the Rome Marathon this year.

"At his age he is still participating in these events that people younger than him wouldn't consider doing," said Molina, who is 28. "It makes me say, 'What's my excuse?'"

Interbartolo said there are three distinct stages in a person's physical fitness journey.

"It is very hard to start — you say, 'Tomorrow, tomorrow, tomorrow,'" he said. "Then you start, and you feel the pain, and people quit. If you are so good to say, 'No, I have to continue,' it becomes part of your life, and you cannot do otherwise."

He said he stays motivated by constantly setting new goals for himself. In 2007, he walked 1,000 kilometers in competitive events, and vowed to double it the next year — which he did.

Now, his goals involve encouraging others. Ever since Le Piume Nere members first ran in the Rome Marathon in 2009, he has set a goal of doubling the club's participation in the race the following year. So far, he's succeeded: 16 club members completed the race in 2009, while 31 participated in 2010. Last year, 62 Le Piume Nere members took part, so he's shooting for 124 participants this year. He's already signed up 112 people for the marathon, which takes place March 18.

He said he tells Le Piume Nere members to set their goals high — because if he can do it, so can they.

"You must have a goal," Interbartolo said. "You must educate first your mind, and then the legs. Without being fixed in your mind, you will never do it."

For more information about Le Piume Nere, visit the group's Facebook page, which can be found by entering the search term "Le Piume Nere." To join the club or receive information about club events, e-mail G.INTERBARTOLO@ncnp.nato.int.



Master-at-Arms 1st Class (SW) Brent Greening swims a lap during his participation in the "Swim to Sorrento" event sponsored by Morale, Welfare and Recreation Aquatics. Swim to Sorrento is one of three self-paced swimming programs held throughout the year at the Capodichino Fit Zone indoor pool.

Naples MWR aquatics offers self-paced swimming

Story and photo by MC2 (SW/AW) Felicit Rustique,
Navy Public Affairs Support Element-East Detachment Europe

Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Aquatics at Naval Support Activity (NSA) Naples offers authorized patrons three self-paced swimming programs at the Capodichino Fit Zone indoor pool throughout the year.

The programs are called "Swim to Sorrento," which takes place from Jan. 9 to Feb. 24; the "Capri-Napoli Marathon," held from March 5 to May 18; and "Swim to Salerno," which stretches from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Each program covers a specific distance, but the programs are self-paced because they allow patrons who sign up to decide when they want to go to the pool and swim.

"The self-paced programs let participants swim on their own time instead of having to attend set meetings or events, thus there is more flexibility," said MWR Aquatics Director Deborah Moors. "You don't have to feel like you're an Olympic-caliber swimmer. Swimmers of all abilities can participate."

Swim to Sorrento is for 26 kilometers, the Capri-Napoli Marathon is for 36 kilometers, and Swim to Salerno is for 50 kilometers. Those who complete a program's distance before the program ends receive a prize, and the top three finishers in a program receive prize packages.

"Swimmers log their swim times and distances after each swim in our logbook and must have a life-guard initial each swim for it to count," said Moors. "Everyone who completes the swim receives a certificate, and additional prizes for top finishers can include swim bags, swim caps, towels and more."

Besides prizes and recognition, Moors said she encourages people to sign up because swimming in general is such a great exercise.

"Swimming is one of the best all-over workouts available, and swimming puts less stress on your body's joints," said Moors. "Even personnel who have physical limitations can participate in these types of fitness swimming events."

Moors also said MWR Aquatics created the self-paced programs as a way to get local patrons interested in Italian culture.

"Our swims are named after nearby areas, and one event, the Capri-Napoli Marathon, is also a real local event," said Moors. "And even though participants won't actually be swimming to the areas we mention, we provide cultural information to get people interested in exploring local sights to improve mental health, which is just as important as physical fitness."

Master-at-Arms 1st Class (SW) Brent Greening, who's enjoyed swimming for the past 16 years during his time in the Navy, is currently participating in the Swim to Sorrento program.

"The program's a challenge and a competition," said Greening. "Anyone can swim and do laps but it's nice to have something motivate you."

Greening said he encourages fellow sailors to sign up and also swim.

"No matter what stroke you do, swimming works every muscle in your body," said Greening. "If I can do it, anyone can do it. Get out there and challenge yourself."

For more information on MWR Aquatics' self-paced swim programs, call the Capodichino Fit Zone pool at 081-568-4254.

SAVINGS

Additionally, the FFSC is reaching out to teens and children to teach them about saving. During Military Saves Week the FFSC is speaking to members of the School Advisory Committee (SAC) at Naples Middle/ High School, as well as to children at the Child Development Center (CDC).

"I think the earlier we start teaching children about saving money and teaching them the value of a dollar, it is very beneficial," said Ginnie Dempewolf, assistant director of the CDC. "I'm sure its something we will continue to do with the children."

The FFSC will also hold coupon giveaways at the CDC in the afternoons as parents arrive to pick up their children, Franz said. While the FFSC has savings coupons available at its office on the Support Site, sometimes its hard for people with busy schedules to come and take advantage of them, Franz said.

"Working parents usually don't have the time in their day to come pick those up," she said.

For more information about financial management classes or Military Saves Week events, call the FFSC at 081-811-6372.

Military saves week events

The Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) is putting on a series of events throughout February in honor of Military Saves Week, which is from Feb. 19 to Feb. 26. Here's the complete schedule of events:

- Feb. 16:** Thrift Savings Plan Brief at the Capodichino Theater (12:30 - 1:15 p.m.)
- Feb. 21:** Savings Booth at the U.S. Naval Hospital Galley (10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.)
Savings Lessons at School Advisory Committee (SAC) (3:30 - 4:30 p.m.)
- Feb. 22:** Story Time at the Capodichino Child Development Center (9 - 10 a.m.)
Savings Booth on the Capodichino Spine (10:30 - 1:30 p.m.)
Savings Brief at the Capodichino Theater (Noon - 12:45 p.m.)
Coupon Give-away at Capodichino Child Development Center (4 - 5:30 p.m.)
- Feb. 23:** Story Time at the Gricignano Child Development Center (9 - 10 a.m.)
Savings Booth at the Support Site Food Court (10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.)
Coupon Give-away at Gricignano Child Development Center (4 - 5:30 p.m.)
- Feb. 24:** Financial Fitness for Kids at FFSC (9:30 - 11:30 a.m.)
- Feb. 29:** Introduction to Your Financial Future at FFSC (1 - 4 p.m.)

FFSC Tip of the Week: Budgeting for a PCS

From the Fleet and Family Support Center

Most military families have had ample experience moving. Regardless of how many times you have moved, you usually find ways that you can make the next move easier and less stressful. An important tip for every move is to build savings. When moving to a new location, it is amazing how much money is needed for deposits for rent, utilities, and other start-up costs, along with the cost of restocking a fridge, pantry, and cleaning closets.

A moving fund can help a family avoid financial stress during this time. One idea is to calculate how much money you want to have available during your move and divide by the number of months remaining in your tour. For example, Family A is six months from their PCS and their goal is \$1,000 in savings. By saving \$167 dollars a month, the family will have \$1,000 saved to use during their move.

The amount saved for a move is different for everyone. Look at your budget and speak with your family to come up with your plan. Call the Fleet and Family Support Center at 081-811-6372 for more ideas and help.



Naples Tiger Sharks win Southern Division Championship for sixth consecutive year

By Lourdes Krause
Naples Tiger Sharks Publicity

The Naples Tiger Sharks have brought home the trophy once again. For the sixth time running, the Tiger Sharks swam their way to victory at the European Forces Swim League Southern Division Championship meet.

Despite the challenges of transportation strikes and highway blockages, families from Naples braved the journey to Lignano, Italy (an hour past Venice) Jan. 28. Sixty-eight Tiger Sharks and other swimmers from bases in Italy and Spain competed in an exciting meet hosted by the Aviano Sea Dragons. The Tiger Sharks secured their victory with 1156.5 points, with second place going to the Vicenza Mako Sharks, who earned 729 points. The Aviano Sea Dragons earned third place with 526 points, maintaining a razor thin margin over the fourth-place Sigonella Swordfish, who scored 522.5 points. Rounding out the pack were the Rota Tiburones, who placed fifth.

Unlike regular season meets, there were medals at stake in Lignano. Place medals were awarded for individuals who placed first through sixth, and relay medals went to the top two relay teams.

The Tiger Sharks threw down the gauntlet early with 200-meter mixed medley relay victories in every age bracket. The day's luck continued with 11 Tiger Sharks earning three individual victories apiece. These athletes each earned 24 points for the team: Mattison Boveri (age 10), Dorian Durig (age 10), Jerra Ewing (age 12), Isabel Krause (age 16), Ariana Lewis (age 13), Emily Patterson (age 11), Luke Patterson (age 8), Maura Patterson (age 13), Jane Saunders (age 17), Kim Srun (age 12) and Tidawee Srun (age 8).

Right on their heels were swimmers with two first place finishes: Jono Higgins (age 18), Victoria Krause (age 15), Berkay Payal (age 16), Carly Sharp

(age 10), and Zane Zimmerman (age 14). Then, the Tiger Sharks' victory was sealed by the first place finishes of the following swimmers: Brian Casler (age 10), Alexis Cutler (age 14), Danielle Cutler (age 11), Morgan Dodge (age 16), Devon Durig (age 8), Donovan Durig (age 13), Kieran Gyles (age 8), Lindsey Sharp (age 8), John Thibodeau (age 16) and Hunter Williams (age 12).

As in every other sport, the entire team pulls together for the victory, and the Tiger Sharks are blessed with great depth. Each second-place finish earned the team 8 points this weekend. Swimmers with second place finishes were: Bret Baldwin (age 14), Mackenzie Boveri (age 8), Delaney Brenner (age 7), Shannon Cutler (age 11), Kendall Ewing (age 9), Gavin Moulton (age 14), Jake Peterson (age 8), Caitlin Quirk (age 11), Timothy Smith (age 11), Sofia Van Mierlo (age 10) and Harley Williams (age 14).

Third place finishes, worth 6 points each, were earned by: Zachary Boveri (age 13), Blythe Brenner (age 9), Tyler Horrell (age 10), John Moulton (age 16), Scott Rustenhaven (age 12), Marshall Saunders (age 14), Noah Sherer (age 9) and Billy Yeager (age 11).

Other Tiger Sharks who scored points were: Michael Casler (age 9), Kylie Dodge (age 13), Jacob Gray (age 13), Liam Gyles (age 13), Seamus Gyles (age 10), Amelia Horrell (age 9), Kelley Horrell (age 12), AnnaLynn Morris (age 8), Chris Morris (age 15), Nick Sherer (age 11), Lachlan Sims (age 12) and Samuel Weitzman (age 15).

Medals were awarded through sixth place. Other medal winners were: Gretchen Moulton (age 12), Case Newberry (age 12), Braden Peterson (age 11) and Andrew Smith (age 13).

New personal bests were posted by: Christian Krause (age 11), Anika Mustard (age 9), Paul Patterson (age 5), John Sherer (age 12) and Nichole Yeager (age 7). Other Tiger Sharks with strong performances were Patrick Darby (age 11) and Lily Weitzman (age 11).

The Tiger Sharks ended the meet in style by posting victories in each of the 200-meter mixed freestyle relays as well. Keeping with tradition, the Tiger Sharks enjoyed an end-of-the-year ice cream party the Monday after the meet, where coaches and team captains served the delicious treats with a whopping 33 toppings to choose from. Well earned, Tiger Sharks.

When asked for comment, Tiger Sharks coach Jane Higgins said:

"Taking the Southern Division Championship was a huge win for the Naples Tiger Sharks this season. The swimmers 'stepped up to the blocks' after the many obstacles that were thrown at them this year. Not a typical season, that's for sure. This meet was about teamwork, and believe me, the NTS teamwork was simply amazing. Our swimmers completely dominated each and every race. They swam hard and made it look easy. Every swimmer excelled during the meet to bring in points for the team."

"I would like to thank each and every swimmer for their dedication when the times got tough, our excellent coaching staff who kept these athletes motivated through the good, the bad and the ugly, and lastly our NTS parents for their undivided support and commitment to their swimmers, coaches, and NTS swim team," Higgins said.

Next up is the European Forces Swim League Championships on Feb. 18 and Feb. 19 in Eindhoven, the Netherlands. The Tiger Sharks will face stiff competition as they compete for individual and team honors as the "Best in Europe." Tiger Sharks — Attack!



Above: Delaney Brenner, AnnaLynn Morris, and Lindsey Sharp swam the 50-meter freestyle relay at the Jan. 28 meet. (Photo by Mike Sharp)

Left: The Tiger Sharks hoist the Southern Division Trophy. (Photo by Mike Sharp)



Alexis Cutler, Maura Patterson, Zane Zimmerman and Bret Baldwin display their first place medals for the 13- to 14-year-old 200-meter mixed medley relay. The quartet also won the 200-meter mixed freestyle relay. (Photo by Mike Sharp)



Brian Casler earned a first-place medal for the 100-meter individual medley. (Photo by Mike Sharp)

MORE INSIDE PAGE...

FEBRUARY continued

- 16 MONTHLY BABY BASICS CLASS** offered by NMCRS visiting nurses. Next class is from 9 a.m. to noon Feb. 16 at the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Office, ADMIN II, Room G-016 at Capo. Topics include newborn care (i.e. bundling, diapering & bathing); feeding, crying & comforting; health & safety, etc. Contact NCMRS for registration and information at 081-568-3913.
- 23 PLAY AND PICNIC WITH CONNECT THE TOTS CLUB** Join members of the Connect the Tots Club for Play and Picnic at 10 a.m. Thursday, February 23, at the Youth Center Playground. Bring a lunch. Rain location: NEX food court by the games and rides. Prospective members welcome!
- 24 THE COMBINED MULTI-HERITAGE COMMITTEE** will be holding a Black History Month presentation at the Capodichino Theater at 11 a.m.
- 24 SAT TEST** Take the SAT test now. Your score report will arrive Naples 6-8 weeks after testing. Testing starts at 7:45 a.m. Appointments required via the Navy College Office, Capo, ADMIN II, main floor by contacting 081-568-6684/6683/6678 or nco.naples@eu.navy.mil.
- 27 CONNECT THE TOTS CLUB COFFEE TALK** Join members of the Connect the Tots Club for Coffee Talk, 10 a.m., Monday, February 27 at the NEX Food Court by the games and rides. Prospective members welcome! Find out what Connect the Tots is all about. For more information on the Club and to see more upcoming activities, visit www.meetup.com/Connect-the-Tots-Club/.
- 29 CONNECT THE TOTS CLUB LEAP YEAR CELEBRATION** will be held at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 29 at the Support Site Fellowship Hall. We'll be celebrating our February birthday children. Please RSVP on the website at www.meetup.com/Connect-the-Tots-Club/ if you plan to attend.
- REGISTER NOW FOR SPRING TERM CLASSES** Classes run from March 19 to May 11. Contact UMUC Maryland at 081-568-6673/74/75, Central Texas College at 081-568-6761 and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University at 081-568-4364, or visit the colleges at Capo.
- PRAXIS TEST REGISTRATION** Last day to register for the May 2 test session is March 2. Contact or Visit the Navy College Office to register for a PRAXIS test in Capo, Admin II, Room G-036 or call 081-568-6683/6684/6678.
- REGISTRATION FOR GRADUATE DEGREE ON-SITE PROGRAMS** Visit the University of Phoenix and the University of Oklahoma to learn what on-site degree programs are offered in the Naples area. UP is at 081-568-6670 and OU is at 081-568-6672. Both colleges have office at Capo in ADMIN II.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- NAPLES OVERSEAS SPOUSES CLUB (NOSC)** seeks two volunteers with finance/accounting/bookkeeping background to serve as Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer. If you would like to build your resume while overseas, gain experience in not-for-profit finance, build your local network, and can commit 5-10 hours per week please contact noscpresident4@gmail.com or 345-423-7964 for more information.
- THE AMERICAN SOCCER CLUB (ASC) OF NAPOLI** is looking for qualified coaches for the 2012 spring soccer season for the age groups of U-9, U-11, U-13, and U-15/17. For more information or to sign up, e-mail ASCNapoli@yahoo.com or check their Facebook page, ASC-American Soccer Club of Napoli.
- THE ALLIED SPOUSES CLUB (ASC) IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS.** We need a webmaster, a publicity coordinator, a volunteer coordinator, a bazaar chair, a historian and a parliamentary authority. No experience necessary! For more information, please email club president Antonietta Alfieri Ciccone at ascpresidentjfc@gmail.com.
- NAPLES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA** is searching for people who want to lead the PTA during the 2012-2013 school year. PTA board members are elected every year and committee chairs are appointed every year. If you are interested in a board or chair position, please email Angel Neese at itwife2000@yahoo.com with your name, contact information, the position you would like to hold, and a little information about yourself. Open positions include President, VP of Programs, VP of Fundraising, treasurer, secretary, and volunteer coordinator.
- ATTENTION PHOTOGRAPHERS!** Are you interested in taking photos of Naples Elementary School students during 2011-2012? Contact Dr. Johnson at 081-811-4159 or donita.johnson@eu.dodea.edu.
- NAPLES AMERICAN RED CROSS (ARC) NEEDS VOLUNTEER INSTRUCTORS.** ARC needs volunteer instructors for various courses. Those interested in becoming instructors can contact the ARC office at 081-568-4788.
- NAVY LEAGUE OF THE U.S./NAPLES COUNCIL** is seeking board members. Contact Betty Reese at 081-526-8051 or breese@cybernet.it.
- NAPLES OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION NEEDS REFEREES** Anyone interested should contact Nigel Alexander at 081-721-5413 or 346-680-3282 or by e-mail to nalexander@afsouth.nato.int.
- NAVY-MARINE CORPS RELIEF SOCIETY OPERATION CLIP & SAVE (coupons):** 081-568-3913.
- GAETA/NAPLES AREA GIRL SCOUTS** Now accepting registration for the 2011-12 school year. We are still in need of leaders and co-leaders. Training and support provided. FMI, contact naplesgs@yahoo.com.

ONGOING/ON THE HORIZON

- NAPLES OVERSEAS SPOUSES CLUB (NOSC)** is seeking volunteers! Join a group of dedicated and committed women to plan and execute social events, community outreach projects, and day tours. For more information, please email Chioma Griffin, club Vice President at nosclstvp@gmail.com.
- RECEIVE DAILY REFLECTION** an inspirational thought-for-the-day e-mailed throughout the work week. To receive Daily Reflection, e-mail Chaplain Charles Luff at charles.luff@eu.navy.mil.
- SECURITY NOTE:** All DoD military or civilian personnel hosting an event off base must complete a Special Event Force Protection Plan (SEFPP) 45 days in advance, regardless of organization, if the event will involve 50 or more personnel, include distinguished visitors or involve personnel wearing uniforms. FMI, contact the AT/FP Division at 081-568-5525 or visit their office in the Capodichino Security Precinct, Bldg. 403.
- CATHOLIC WOMEN OF THE CHAPEL** invites community members to join the Rosary Prayer Group that meets every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. in the Support Site Chapel. For more information, e-mail CWOCNaples@gmail.com.
- PROTESTANT WOMEN OF THE CHAPEL PWOC** Woman's Bible Study meets every Tuesday from 9-11:30 a.m. in the Support Site Fellowship Hall. Free child care provided. For questions, contact Audrey de Rivera at 345-872-9947.
- ATTN MILITARY RETIREES AND SURVIVORS** Connect to the retired community through membership in the U.S. Military Retiree Association of Southern Italy (USMRA-SI). For info and an application, visit <http://usmra-si.tripod.com> or call 329-208-7315.
- ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS** hosts English-speaking AA meetings on and off base in the Naples area. For more information, call 347-544-0254 or visit <http://www.aa-europe.net/countries/italy.htm>.
- SURE START** is a unique program committed to providing the highest quality of education for command-sponsored children of enlisted personnel (priority to E1-E4) who are 4 years old by Sept. 1. FMI, call Karen Rodrigues at 081-811-4682 or the school at 081-811-4037.
- PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS WELCOME AT ALL CONNECT THE TOTS CLUB ACTIVITIES!** The CTT Club hosts events, crafts and outings designed for you and your child (infancy through preschool). For more information on the club, visit www.meetup.com/Connect-the-Tots-Club/.



- Friday, Feb. 3**
4:30 p.m. Hugo, PG
5:30 p.m. Joyful Noise, PG-13
7 p.m. J. Edgar, R
- Saturday, Feb. 4**
2:30 p.m. Arthur Christmas, PG
4:30 p.m. Red Tails, PG 13
6 p.m. USO EVENT: NAPLES GOT TALENT SHOW! (Doors open at 5:30 p.m.)
7 p.m. The Sitter, R
- Sunday, Feb. 5**
4:30 p.m. Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked, G
5:30 p.m. Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows, PG-13
7 p.m. Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close, PG-13
- Monday, Feb. 6**
4:30 p.m. Hugo, PG
5:30 p.m. Red Tails, PG 13
7 p.m. The Sitter, R
- Tuesday, Feb. 7**
4:30 p.m. Arthur Christmas, PG
5:30 p.m. The Muppets, PG
7 p.m. Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close, PG-13
- Wednesday, Feb. 8**
4:30 p.m. Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn, PG-13
Last Showing
5:30 p.m. Red Tails, PG 13
7 p.m. J. Edgar, R
Last Showing
- Thursday, Feb. 9**
4:30 p.m. Happy Feet 2, PG
Last Showing
5:30 p.m. Hugo, PG
7 p.m. Joyful Noise, PG-13
Last Showing
- Friday, Feb. 10**
4:30 p.m. Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close PG-13
5:30 p.m. Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol, PG-13
7 p.m. The Sitter, R



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

USO DAILY TOURS

- Feb. 10** Visit a Local Mozzarella Cheese Farm with Lunch €45
Feb. 11 Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel €77
Feb. 12 Family Day at Piana delle Orme Museum €40
Feb. 17 Eat Pray Love-Naples Tour € 35
Feb. 17 Friday Sushi Night-Downtown Naples € 45

WEEKEND TOURS

- March 2-4**
Carnevale in Viareggio €225
March 15-19
St. Patrick's Day in Dublin, Ireland. . . €649
April 7-8
Easter in Florence and Pisa €165
April 12-15
Spring Break at Disneyland Paris . . . €594
April 13-16
Spring Break in Venice €228

Movie descriptions

No Children Under 10
Admitted to R-Rated Movies

EXTREMELY LOUD AND INCREDIBLY CLOSE, PG-13 for emotional thematic material, some disturbing images, and language. Drama, 129 min. Cast: Tom Hanks, Sandra Bullock, Thomas Horn, Max Von Sydow, Viola Davis. Oskar is convinced that his father, who died in the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center, has left a final message for him hidden somewhere in the city. Feeling disconnected from his grieving mother and driven by a relentlessly active mind that refuses to believe in things that can't be observed, Oskar begins searching New York City for the lock that fits a mysterious key he found in his father's closet. His journey through the five boroughs takes him beyond his own loss to a greater understanding of the observable world around him.

THE SITTER, R for crude and sexual content, pervasive language, drug material and some violence. Comedy, 82 min. Cast: Jonah Hill, Max Records, Ari Graynor, JB Smoove, Sam Rockwell. Noah is a suspended college student, living at home with his single mom. When he is talked into babysitting the three, young, misfit kids next door, he decides to take them along on an attempted sexual rendezvous, and the night takes a wild and dangerous turn for the worse for which he is totally unprepared.

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE: GHOST PROTOCOL, PG-13 for sequences of intense action and violence. Action/Adventure, Sequel and Thriller, 133 min. Cast: Tom Cruise, Jeremy Renner, Simon Pegg, Paula Patton, Michael Nyqvist. Blamed for the terrorist bombing of the Kremlin, IMF operative Ethan Hunt is disavowed along with the rest of the agency when the President initiates "Ghost Protocol." Left without any resources or backup, Ethan must find a way to clear his agency's name and prevent another attack. To complicate matters further, Ethan is forced to embark on this mission with a team of fellow IMF fugitives whose personal motives he does not fully know.

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

SHERLOCK HOLMES: GAME OF SHADOWS, PG-13 for language and intense action. Action/Adventure and Sequel, 129 min. Cast: Robert Downey Jr., Jude Law, Noomi Rapace, Stephen Fry, Jared Harris. Sherlock Holmes has always been the smartest man in the room... until now. There is a new criminal mastermind at large — Professor Moriarty — and not only is he Holmes' intellectual equal, but his capacity for evil, coupled with a complete lack of conscience, may actually give him an advantage over the renowned detective. Holmes' investigation into Moriarty's plot becomes ever more dangerous as it leads him and Watson out of

London and across Europe, to France, Germany and finally to Switzerland. But the cunning Moriarty is always one step ahead as he spins a web of death and destruction — all part of a greater plan that, if he succeeds, will change the course of history.

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

RED TAILS, PG 13 for some sequences of war violence. Action/Adventure and War, 125 min. Cast: Nate Parker, David Oyelowo, Terrence Howard, Brandon Jackson, Ne-Yo. In 1944 as the war in Europe continues to take its toll on Allied forces, the Pentagon brass has no recourse but to consider unorthodox options — including the untried and untested African-American pilots of the experimental Tuskegee training program. Just as the young Tuskegee men are on the brink of being shut down and shipped back home, they are given the ultimate chance to show their courage. Against all the odds, with something to prove and everything to lose, these intrepid young airmen take to the skies to fight for their country — and the fate of the free world.

JOYFUL NOISE, PG-13, for some language including a sexual reference. Musical/Performing Arts, Drama and Comedy, 118 min. Cast: Queen Latifah, Dolly Parton, Keke Palmer, Dexter Darden, Courtney B. Vance. Two women, one a mother of two teenagers, the other a widow of the recently deceased choir director, join forces to save their small-town gospel choir.

J. EDGAR, R for brief strong language. Cast: Leonardo DiCaprio, Armie Hammer, Naomi Watts, Judi Dench, Lea Coco. Drama and Biopic, 137 min. Based on the life of J. Edgar Hoover, the man often credited with making the FBI what it is today: an efficient, crime-fighting organization shrouded in secrecy. Hoover founded the organization in 1935 and remained director until his death in 1972.

HUGO, PG for mild thematic material, some action/peril, and smoking. Drama and Kids/Family, 121 min. Cast: Asa Butterfield, Chloe Morteza, Sacha Cohen, Ben Kingsley, Jude Law. Hugo is a wily and resourceful boy whose quest to unlock a secret left to him by his father will transform him and all those around him, and reveal a safe and loving place he

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

Strategies for preventing mold growth inside your home

From the Naval Support Activity Naples
Housing Department

During winter, our tendency may be to keep our homes closed up to avoid letting in the cold. Sometimes, however, this behavior can lead to problems with mold. Since most housing in Italy is made of brick, mold can be a issue when it is very cold outside and warm inside, causing condensation on the walls. Problems can also occur in the summer when it is very hot outside and very cold inside, again causing condensation. If the mold is left untreated, it can start to become a problem.

Here are some things you need to know about mold:

- Indoor mold can often be prevented by controlling moisture.
- Mold thrives in areas with poor ventilation and high humidity.
- Molds grow on practically any substance where moisture is present

such as wood, paper, carpets and foods.

- Mold problems will often grow and possibly accumulate if they are undiscovered or unaddressed.
- Excess moisture in your living quarters provides breeding conditions for microorganisms.
- Even cooking can add moisture to the air in your living quarters.
- Health problems such as allergic reactions, asthma, and other respiratory problems may be associated with mold exposure.
- Exposure to molds can cause nasal stuffiness, eye irritation, wheezing, skin irritation, and more severe allergic reactions. Individuals with lung illnesses may be more susceptible to the effects of mold.

Do your part:

- Control moisture. Dry water-damaged areas and items and get rid of the excess water or moisture within

24 to 48 hours to prevent mold growth.

- Reduce humidity in your home by keeping bathroom doors and fans on after showering, using exhaust fans when cooking, and utilizing your ceiling fan. Air out your room by opening your windows when air conditioning and heating units are not operating.
- Keep your bathroom exhaust fan free of dust and dirt.
- Promptly place trouble calls for leaky plumbing or other sources of water leakage. Also be sure to report air conditioning problems and request to have absorbent materials (such as rugs and ceiling tiles) replaced.
- Be aware of moldy odors in your room and be prepared to report them if they are present.
- Look for stains or discoloration on the ceilings, walls, floors and window sills. Report them if present.
- Remove floor and carpet spots and stains immediately.

- Do not neglect your living quarters regardless of the length of time you will be staying; follow all the above steps to foster healthy living conditions for you and your roommates.

Most mildew can be removed by spraying a mixture of water and bleach and wiping the affected area. If the mold issue continues, people living in economy housing should contact the housing referral office and ask a counselor to contact the property owner for assistance with cleanup.

People living in military family housing should contact their Zone Manager and request that he or she view the problem and see if there is a solution to deter further issues. Some of these solutions could include caulking cracked window moldings, adding weather stripping or increasing ventilation.

Residents of bachelor housing should report any mold problems in their rooms to the bachelor housing staff.

Weekly Crime Statistics for Jan. 23-29, 2012

- Traffic Accidents	.....3	(3 off base)
- Vehicle Break-In	.....3	(3 off base)
- Larceny of Personal Property	.....1	(1 on base)
- House Break-In	.....1	(1 off base)
- DUI	.....1	(1 off base)

Larceny of Personal Property (on base). On Jan. 23 at approximately 11:18 a.m., CIV reported a larceny of personal property that occurred earlier that day on the NSA Naples Support Site. Victim reported that she noticed her bicycle missing after she had secured it to the bike rack near her residence.

Vehicle Break-In (off base). On Jan. 23 at approximately 3:15 p.m., E-5/USN reported a vehicle break-in that occurred earlier that day in Gricignano, Italy. Victim reported that when she returned to her parked vehicle, she noticed the doors open and multiple items stolen.

Vehicle Break-In (off base). On Jan. 23 at approximately 7:30 p.m., E-5/USN reported a vehicle break-in that occurred Jan. 21 in Gricignano, Italy. Victim reported he had parked his vehicle at his residence, and upon returning noticed his passenger side door damaged. Victim further reported no items had been stolen.

Traffic Accident with Minor Injuries (off base). On Jan. 24 at approximately 11:01 a.m., CIV reported a traffic accident with minor injuries that occurred on the same date in Arco Felice, Italy. Driver reported that while she was stopped in a tunnel, she was rear ended by another vehicle. Damage to both vehicles included dents and scratches. Driver further reported pain in her neck and was treated by medical personnel.

Stolen Vehicle (off base). On Jan. 24 at approximately 2:34 p.m., E-5/USN reported a vehicle theft that occurred Jan. 23 in Pozzuoli, Italy. Victim reported that he parked his vehicle and upon returning noticed it was missing.

Vehicle Break-In (off base). On Jan. 25 at approximately 10:15 a.m., E-7/USN reported a vehicle break-in that occurred Jan. 24 in Teverola, Italy. Victim reported he parked his vehicle at his residence the night prior, and upon returning noticed his passenger door handle broken and his sunglasses missing.

DUI (off base). On Jan. 28 at approximately 3:10 a.m., NSA Naples Security was notified by local law enforcement that an E-7/USA had caused a minor traffic accident and was under suspicion for being under the influence of alcohol. Local law enforcement informed NSA Naples Security that the odor of alcohol was emanating from the person, who was transported to a local hospital to determine his blood alcohol content.

NOTE:
We would like to remind community members that if you find unattended property, you can turn in the item to NSA Naples Security Lost and Found. Items may be turned in at NSA Naples security office at either the Support Site or Capodichino. If you have lost an item you may check to see if the item has been turned in during normal business hours, which are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

In the event of an emergency or to report a crime, please call the Emergency Dispatch Center at 081-568-4911 or 5911. (On-Base Dial 9-1-1) For non-emergency assistance, call 081-568-5638.

Wildcats Sports

Wildcats set sights high after Vincenza win

By Craig Lord, Wildcats boys basketball coach

It was a year ago that the Wildcats entered the 2010-2011 season with high expectations. This year they are on the same track with the return of key performers and All-European seniors Nigel Alexander Jr. and Jun Jun Gallardo.

In an 82-52 Wildcats win over the Vicenza Cougars Jan. 20, Alexander finished the night with 19 points, 10 rebounds, 4 assists, 2 steals and a pair of blocks. He also scored 23 points the next day in a 53-40 Wildcats win against the Cougars that the Wildcats led from the start.

Additionally, point guard Gallardo scored 15 of his teams' points in both games against the Cougars. As captain of the team, Gallardo showed that he is not only an offensive scoring machine, but he can create a tough inner core and get the job done with great defensive positioning and quickness.

The Naples Wildcats are a team loaded with experience, and better yet, they are a talented group with the addition of Isaiah Wesby and DJ Stockman. Needless to say, they are a team on a mission, and judging by their performance Jan. 20 and Jan. 21, their high hopes for this season are more than justified. Alexander, Eddy Allen and Stockman combined to score 45 points Jan. 21 as the Wildcats led from start to finish in a 53-40 victory over Vicenza at the Vincenza base gymnasium, a game that was tel-

evised live by AFN. Teamwork, ball movement and a solid effort on the glass were huge for the Cats during the game, in which they looked as though they could become this year's American Schools in Italy League (ASIL) Champions. They are a very cohesive unit with great team chemistry.

The Wildcats, whose season record is now 7-1, have a multitude of good players on the team. Starting and playing well for the Wildcats were Wesby and Stockman, who chipped in for a combined total of 22 points while pulling down 11 rebounds for good measure.

The Wildcats rebounding has been exceptional this year, both offensively and defensively. The team members have learned that if they can control the boards at both ends of the court, they can limit the opposing team's possessions and increase their own.

Right now the team is taking it one game at a time. The Wildcats have their sights set on the European tournament, but for now winning in the ASIL league is their primary ambition. The team's loss to the American Overseas School of Rome early in the season motivated the players to excel. They don't want to repeat that loss.

The Wildcats missed the game against Florence last weekend due to the gas strike that affected most of Italy, but this weekend at home in Naples they face their toughest challenge of the year — rivals Aviano Saints.

Retail Price Schedule Survey underway in Italy

From Navy Region Europe, Africa, Southwest Asia Public Affairs

The Retail Price Schedule (RPS) Survey, one of two tools used to determine Overseas Cost of Living Allowance, will be conducted from Feb. 1 to Feb. 29, 2012 at seven locations across Italy that have large concentrations of U.S. military personnel: Aviano, Gaeta, Ghedi, Livorno, Naples, Sigonella, and Vicenza.

During this period, volunteers from each base will be collecting pricing information on 120 goods and services provided at government facilities on-base and at local off-base outlets, as identified in the 2010 Living Pattern Survey (LPS). Navy Region Europe, Africa, Southwest Asia is coordinating survey participation.

Overseas Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) is determined using the Living Pattern Survey (LPS) results and the Retail Price Schedule (RPS). The Living Pattern Survey, occurring every three years, identifies service

member shopping behavior and contains names of off-base retail establishments most frequently used for purchasing established categories of typical goods and services. The off-base retail outlets are used to collect prices for the annual Retail Price Schedule. The Retail Price Schedule, occurring every year, is the second major input to computing COLA rates. The two surveys, LPS and RPS, determine the relative cost of living overseas compared with the United States. Service members played a critical role by participating in the surveys.

The Defense Travel Management Office (DTMO) uses the LPS and RPS data to determine the COLA index at a particular duty station. The COLA index is determined by comparing price differences between a market basket of goods and services in an overseas location and the same market basket prices of goods and services in the continental United States. A rising cost of living in the United States relative to Italy will tend to push

COLA rates down. Conversely, if prices rise faster in Italy than in the United States, COLA rates can increase.

A Military Advisory Panel, consisting of a representative from each uniformed service, must approve COLA changes before implementation. If the data change warrants an increase or no change to COLA, the index is adjusted immediately and becomes effective in the next available pay period. If the data warrants a decrease in COLA index, DTMO will forward the recommended decrease to the Service Principals (a group composed of Deputy Assistant Secretaries and Directors representing each of the uniformed services) within 30 days for final approval. After approval, locations will be notified and the decrease will be effective 45 days later, with a graduated decrease taken at 2 points per month.

The results from this year's COLA assessments are expected to be announced by DTMO this spring.



Sailors man the rails aboard the amphibious dock landing ship USS Whidbey Island (LSD 41) Jan. 13. The Navy is asking sailors to volunteer for sea duty under a new initiative called the Voluntary Sea Duty Program (VSDP). (U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Desiree D. Green)

Voluntary Sea Duty Program provides sailors new opportunities

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

According to NAVADMIN 043/12, released Jan. 31, the Navy is asking sailors to volunteer for sea duty under a new initiative called the Voluntary Sea Duty Program (VSDP).

Volunteering to return to sea duty under this program offers two key benefits.

"The Voluntary Sea Duty Program's goal is to improve manning levels at sea, while providing motivated sailors the benefits of geographic choice and stability as well as the deferment of their Perform-to-Serve (PTS) window," said Rear Admiral Tony Kurta, director, Military Personnel Plans and Policy Division. "This opportunity allows sailors a chance to improve their record and increase their competitive edge in PTS through sustained superior performance at sea."

This program does not change eligibility or benefits for the Sea Duty Incentive Pay Program. Sailors may take advantage of both programs concurrently.

Under the program, sailors may apply to extend their enlistment in their current sea duty billet beyond their prescribed sea tour, terminate their shore duty early in order to extend their enlistment to obtain new orders to a sea duty billet, or accept back-to-back sea duty orders. The sea duty assignment may be onboard ships,

squadrons, or other qualified sea duty assignments.

Volunteers will be assigned to commands within the same geographic location as the current command if available, providing the benefit of geographic stability for sailors and family members. The Navy will also consider sailors' requests for out-of-area moves.

Volunteers will not be required to accept a billet they do not desire. The detailers will work with volunteers during two CMS/ID cycles to find desirable orders. If no match is found during this time period, sailors can reapply.

To be eligible to apply for a short term extension to defer PTS, sailors must meet eligibility criteria to ensure competitiveness in their next PTS window. However, sailors who do not meet these criteria, but have enough obligated service time, can still apply for geographic stability or choice.

Requests will be accepted until Sep. 30, 2012. All 1306/7 requests should be forwarded to Navy Personnel Command via the chain of command.

For complete information on eligibility, restrictions and application procedure as well as benefits of VSDP, read NAVADMIN 043/12 at www.npc.navy.mil.

For more information, visit www.navy.mil, www.facebook.com/usnavy, or www.twitter.com/usnavy.

For more news from Chief of Naval Personnel, visit www.navy.mil/local/cnp/.

Navy reminds sailors of member-designated benefits

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

The Navy is reminding sailors of several benefits and programs where members may designate beneficiaries of their choosing, as outlined in NAVADMIN 028/12, released Jan. 24.

Recipients for these benefits may include anyone designated by the service member, including a dependent, friend, significant other, fiancée or fiancé, co-worker, or a family member who is not a military dependent.

Sailors may designate any individual as beneficiary to a total of 15 benefits and programs, including:

- Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI);
- Post Vietnam-era Veteran's Educational Assistance Program (VEAP);
- Basic Educational Assistance Death Benefit;
- Death Gratuity Benefit;
- Final Settlement of Accounts;
- Wounded Warrior Act Designated Caregiver;
- Thrift Savings Plan (TSP);
- Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP);
- Casualty Notification;
- Escorts for Dependents of Deceased or Missing Members;
- Designation of Persons Having Interest in Status of a Missing Member;
- Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI);
- Person Eligible to Receive Effects (PERE) of Deceased Persons
- Travel and Transportation Allowance for attendance at Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program events; and
- Person Authorized To Direct Disposition (PADD) of the Remains of a Decedent.

NAVADMIN 028/12 explains how sailors can update or verify beneficiaries for each of these benefits. The NAVADMIN also outlines conditions and limitations for appointing beneficiaries.

"I can think of few things more important for our sailors than ensuring their loved ones are provided for in case of an emergency," said Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Scott Van Buskirk. "Ensuring this information is accurate and up-to-date is the responsibility of every sailor."

A comprehensive listing of all benefits can be found in the Navy Pay and Benefits Guide, located online on the Navy Personnel Command webpage at <http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/career/payandbenefits/pages/default2.aspx>.

For more information on member-designated benefits, contact your local personnel office or visit NPC's website at www.npc.navy.mil.

For more information, visit www.navy.mil, www.facebook.com/usnavy, or www.twitter.com/usnavy.

For more news from Chief of Naval Personnel, visit www.navy.mil/local/cnp/.

Is your dryer safe?

By Hans Christian, NSA Fire & Emergency Services, Fire Prevention Division

Many home appliances are used each day without incident. However, the clothes dryer could possibly cause the consumer some very serious problems. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that more than 15,500 fires associated with clothes dryers occur annually, causing an average of 10 deaths, 310 injuries and more than \$84.4 million in property damage. The reason behind this is lack of maintenance, buildup of lint, and placing items in the dryer that are not appropriate. NSA Fire & Emergency Services wants to make you aware of some ways to maintain your dryer and some very important safety practices. If for any reason your dryer is not working correctly, contact the Housing Maintenance office immediately and stop using the dryer until the problem is corrected.

Here's a list that was put together by the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Clothes Dryer Do's:

- DO clean the lint screen/filter before or after drying EACH load of clothes.
- DO clean the dryer vent and exhaust duct periodically.
- DO have a certified service technician clean and inspect the dryer and venting system regularly.
- DO replace plastic or vinyl exhaust hoses with rigid or flexible metal venting, which provides maximum airflow.
- DO keep the area around the dryer clean and free from clutter.
- Always use the appropriate electrical outlet for dryers and all major appliances.

Clothes Dryer Don'ts:

- DON'T place clothing or fabric stained with a flammable substance, such as alcohol, cooking oils, gasoline, spot removers or motor oil, in the dryer. Flammable substances give off vapors that could ignite or explode. Instead, dry the materials outdoors.
- DON'T leave a dryer operating if you are not home.
- DON'T forget to read the manufacturer warnings in the user manual and on the inside of the dryer door.
- DON'T dry any item containing foam, rubber or plastic, such as bathroom and non-slip rugs and athletic shoes.
- DON'T dry any item that contains glass fiber materials, such as a blouse or sweater with glass buttons or decorations.
- DON'T overload the dryer with wet clothes.

Sailors in Naples who are multi-lingual can test to earn bonuses

By MC2 (SW/AW) Felicit Rustique,
Navy Public Affairs Support Element-East
Detachment Europe

Sailors who speak foreign languages classified as critical by the Department of Defense can prove and document their fluency through the Navy's Foreign Language Testing Program.

The Foreign Language Testing Program consists of a Defense Language Proficiency Test and an Oral Proficiency Interview. Sailors who score high enough on the Defense Language Proficiency Test and Oral Proficiency Interview can then qualify for a year to receive a Foreign Language Proficiency Bonus, which can add anywhere from \$500 to \$1,000 per month to their pay. The size of the bonus depends on which critical languages a sailor speaks and whether he or she can speak more than one.

Sarah Smith, an education counselor at the Navy College Office in Naples, encourages sailors to sign up for the Defense Language Proficiency Test (DLPT). In 2008, her office became the first overseas Web-based testing center to administer the proficiency test. The Navy College Office usually offers the chance to take the DLPT several times per month.

Smith said that besides bring-

ing the possibility of extra pay, officially validating one's language skills can greatly enhance a sailor's career.

"Having language ability documented on their records, such as their SMART transcript, lets their command know and utilize their sailor's knowledge in planning and mission purposes," said Smith. "Proven foreign language ability might even play a factor in assignments, retention, or promotion."

Smith also said that sailors who seek foreign language testing but live or work abroad should take advantage of the Navy College Office in Naples, where not only sailors, but also U.S. Embassy officials and service members from other branches come to test.

"There are very few test sites overseas, so taking the DLPT with us will be more convenient than trying to take an exam while deployed," said Smith. "We have five test stations and administer exams at least once a week."

Whatever language sailors are testing for, Smith said that the DLPT, which takes about three to five hours to complete, is not easy.

"The exams are quite challenging, often involving TV, radio or newspaper stories in those languages," said Smith. "And most language tests have both a listening and reading section."

While the DLPT is in a closed,

computer-based room environment, the OPI has a quite different setting.

"The OPI, which the Personnel Support Detachment (PSD) administers separately from the DLPT, is a live, 15- to 30-minute interview," said Personnel Serviceman 2nd Class (SW) John Stanton, education services officer at PSD. "It's with a government certified expert who only speaks the tested language, and the interviewee will have to answer and carry on a normal conversation."

Smith also said the OPI is the highest level of government certification for language proficiency.

Critical, in-demand languages are periodically updated through the Navy's Strategic Language List (SSL) and announced through naval administrative messages.

Currently, Amharic, Baluchi, Ga, Ibo, Sindhi, Turkmen and Twi are listed among the top rarely known languages.

For more information, OPNAVINST 7220.7G explains the Foreign Language Proficiency Bonus program and OPNAVINST 5200.37 details the Foreign Language Testing Program.

To take the DLPT, call the Navy College Office in Naples at 081-568-6683. To take the OPI, call NSA Naples PSD at 081-568-5945.



Cmdr. Alan Ross, audiologist for U.S. Naval Hospital Naples, begins his guest lecture with the seventh grade science students at Naples Middle School. (Photo courtesy of Naples Elementary School)

Mentors help science students at Naples Middle School

By Kristi Dix, Naples Middle/ High School

As formal mentoring programs gain popularity, the need for people who can serve as vital resources within the educational process is growing. Although the specific roles of mentors vary quite a bit, every good mentor must do two things: make a connection with students and use that connection to convey a positive message and instill a love of research and learning. Mentors are kind, concerned adults — young and old and from all walks of life — who offer support, guidance and encouragement.

The students at Naples Middle School are reaping the benefits of having subject-area experts who are willing to donate their time to the school. Mentors and volunteers from U.S. Naval Hospital Naples have been spending hours during and after school helping science students with projects and giving guest lectures. The students are gaining knowledge they don't get from a textbook, while making bonds with community members at the same time.

With help from Pamela O'Connor, Naval Support Activity Naples school liaison officer, volunteers from the hospital were partnered up with seventh

grade science students to assist with year-long science projects. The mentors volunteer their time to sit with the students, discuss their ideas and project designs, and even help them research ideas to give them a better foundational knowledge. Students are getting help with everything from redesigning last year's projects to building motors and designing nuclear submarine models.

The seventh grade science students were also able to attend a guest lecture given by a local audiologist, Cmdr. Alan Ross, as part of their unit on sound and waves. Ross brought in equipment to show the students how easily it is to reach 85 decibels, the point at which hearing loss can occur. Students were able to hold the tiny bones that make up the middle ear, see a model of a hearing aid, and listen to what a conversation sounds like to someone who has hearing loss. The students commandeered Ross's time with many questions after the presentation and were enthralled with how various activities in their lives were affecting their hearing.

Thanks to the generosity of the mentors and volunteers, the students at Naples Middle School are learning about how they interact with science everyday.

Le spezie / Spices

Practice your vocabulary. Find the Italian words.

P O Y Y R S O K R B A O G P A
A S R E M R A O T T F N J R T
O L D O E A S L A T J A T E X
O S L Z L M G C V N I G N Z M
P L N E A L S G N I U I O Z Z
L E X R N O A K I Z A R L E T
Z Z I B M N A I G O G O L M I
H N O E J X A T D F R L E O M
O T C A G G B C K E J A C L O O
C O R I A N D O L O F U K L O A Q
N C U M I N O A F U K L O A Q
O C I L I S A B D T P G G F J
N J L C E C K X A D X Y A O W
B Y N B X G I V C K X Z R J F
A H Q E I A O J X G N V D S I

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| BASILICO / Basil | NOCE MOSCATA / Nutmeg |
| CANNELLA/ Cinnamon | ORIGANO / Oregano |
| CORIANDOLO / Coriander | PREZZEMOLO / Parsley |
| CUMINO / Cumin | ROSMARINO / Rosemary |
| DRAGONCELLO / Tarragon | SALVIA / Sage |
| FOGLIE DI ALLORO / Bay leaves | TIMO / Thyme |
| MAGGIORANA / Marjoram | ZENZERO / Ginger |

ACCENSIONE / Ignition
BAULE / Trunk
COFANO / Hood
FARI / Headlights
FRENI / Brakes
GOMME / Tires
MARCIA / Gear
MOTORE / Engine
RADIATORE / Radiator
REFRIGERANTE /
Coolant
RUOTE / Wheels
TUBO / Hose
VOLANTE / Steering wheel

Answer to last week's puzzle

Le Automobile / Automobiles

Obtaining your Sojourner Permit

Italian law requires all foreign personnel working or living within Italy, other than an active-duty member under military orders, to obtain a Sojourner Permit within eight days of arrival in Italy. This is different from a visa, which is merely an approval for entry into the country.

All applicants over 14 years of age must apply in person, as each person's signature is required at the time of application.

NATIONALS OF ANY STATE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY COMING TO ITALY DO NOT REQUIRE ANY VISA OR SOJOURNER PERMIT.

As part of the Area Orientation process, the U.S. Region Legal Service Office (RLSO EURAFSWA) assists in the preparation and oversees the acquisition of the Sojourner Permit for all personnel attached to U.S. Navy commands in the Naples area. Army and Air Force personnel stationed at JFC must apply through the Carabinieri at the JFC Provost Marshall's Office, Building L.

Contact Connie Henderson, RLSO EURAFSWA liaison advisor, at 081-568-4639 for more information.

Valentine's Day and Carnevale beat winter blues

By Lou Freed

It's time to get motivated to rebuff Old Man Winter and spice up February's cold, somber skies. Mark your calendars for warm ideas on Valentine's Day in Naples along with exuberant and colorful carnival festivities in Campania and beyond.

Valentine tips

Flowers, chocolates and a candlelit dinner certainly conjure romance, but why not toss a night at the opera or a trip to a local museum into the mix to score points and earn extra mileage with your loved one?

-Opera

San Carlo Theater offers Valentine's Day gift card

As a Valentine's Day offer, the San Carlo Theater is selling a limited number of the "Gift Card You & Me" for couples to see Lucia di Lammermoor at special prices Feb. 14 at 8:30 p.m. The gift card buys two seats at ground level for €100 or two box seats for €50. The first five couples choosing the €100 card will have a chance to see the opera from the Royal Box. Purchase in person, by phone at 081-797-2468 or by email at promozionepubblicoteatrosancarlot.it. See specifics at http://www.teatrosancarlot.it/it/materiale201112.html?el_mcal_month=2&el_mcal_year=2012.

Lucia di Lammermoor: a spectacle of love and passion at San Carlo Theater

Inspired by Sir Walter Scott's *The Bride of Lammermoor*, Gaetano Donizetti's opera debuted at the San Carlo Theater in September 1835. Since then critics have viewed the work as a three-act melodramatic masterpiece for its crescendo of gripping events. Local opera fans look forward to seeing Director Gianni Amelio's brand new version of the piece for its 2012 return to the San Carlo Theater.

Set in Scotland, the story chronicles a romance foiled by family feud, separation, forced marriage and other dramatic episodes. Furthermore, the work is said to represent the Romantic era's sensitivity and response to grief, with Lucia's pulse-quickening "mad scene" as the highlight. Musical artistry, according to opera *cognoscenti*, is required to communicate the heroine's sorrow, desperation and delirium. To date, Lucia di Lammermoor lives on in literature, being mentioned in Flaubert's *Madame Bovary*, Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina*, Forster's *Where Angels Fear to Tread* and Irving's *The Hotel New Hampshire*.

Performances are scheduled from Feb. 10 to Feb. 18. For details, log onto <http://www.teatrosancarlot.it> or call 081-797-2331/2412.

-Art

Italian Ministry of Culture and Heritage's gift for lovers

For Feb. 14, the offer is two-for-one entry to all state museums, historical and archaeological sites to promote and foster the love for art and knowledge of Italian cultural heritage. The offer provides a chance to see some of Campania's priceless cultural treasures before the tourist season begins. See http://www.beniculturali.it/mibac/export/MiBAC/sito-MiBAC/Contenuti/MibacUnif/Eventi/visualizza_asset.html_1490600586.html.

Viewing art as stimulating as love

Based on University College London neuroscience research and "brain-mapping experiments," news has it that "the same part of the brain that is excited when you fall for someone romantically is stimulated when you stare at great works of beauty." (Read more at <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/art/8501024/Viewing-art-gives-same-pleasure-as-being-in-love.html>.)

Why not set a romantic Valentine's Day mood by checking out the local art shows and programs below?

• Angevin Castle (Castel Nuovo)

"Paths of Light" showcases Carlo Alberto Palumbo's artistic career through a variety of themes on people, bonding and rebirth. Also on display are cartoons. The castle is across from Naples' port. Ends Feb. 25.

• Capodimonte Museum

"Monday Restoration Talks," a series of lectures scheduled through June, gathers art curators and restoration experts to discuss materials, diagnostic investigations and methodological choices employed in restoring selected pieces from the museum's collection. On Feb. 6, Angela Cerasuolo focuses on Polidoro da Caravaggio. What's more, Maria Ida Catalano, Luigi Coletta, and Claudio Palma will cast light on works by Domenichino Angelo Custode Feb. 20. For museum directions, call 081-794-4021.

• Duca di Martina

The museum in Vomero's Villa Floridiana is known for its fine collection of decorative art pieces, which comprises porcelain, tableware and glassware originating in Europe and Asia.

The current exhibit, *Un museo... tutto da bere* (literally, A Museum: All to Drink) assembles 15th- through 19th-century wine-themed paintings, as well as glasses and decanters in crystal, silver, ivory, porcelain and majolica. The pieces come from public and private collections, one of which is the Placido de Sangro (Duke of Martina) collection. View the February program of talks and concerts on the exhibit's theme at http://www.polomusealenapoli.beniculturali.it/DB_Mostre/DBMostre_Alleg/11%20MO%20Museo_da_bere_Programma.pdf.

The museum is at Via Domenico Cimarosa, 77. Free entry daily from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. except on Tuesday. For directions, call 081-578-8418.

• Pio Monte della Misericordia Church

The famous venue that houses Caravaggio's "Seven Acts of Mercy" is current location of *I luoghi e la memoria del paesaggio* (Sites and Landscape Memory). The initiative is the second program in the Province of Naples' art heritage exhibition on works temporarily stored in the Church. Artists represented include Giacinto Gigante, Peter Fabris, Anton van Sminck Pitloo, Raffaele Carelli, Franz Vervolet and other important 19th to 20th century landscape artists. View the treasures at Via dei Tribunali, 253 in Naples' historic center. Ends May 31.

Carnevale

This weekend, towns that are world-renowned for their huge carnival celebrations — including Acireale (Sicily), Putignano (Puglia), Viareggio (Tuscany) and of course, Venice — will kick off the colorful winter festival. But the revelry will peak the weekend prior to Fat Tuesday and on the day itself, which this year falls on Feb. 21. Celebration highlights will include allegorical floats, costume parades and loads of musical entertainment.

Just as elaborate as the celebrations in Viareggio and the other aforementioned towns are those in Cento (Emilia Romagna) and Ivrea (Piemonte).

In Campania, check out the festivities in the following towns that are not too far from Gricignano, but be sure to check the towns' websites before taking off for your destination. In town squares, streets and parks, you'll have the chance to marvel at the spectacle of adults and children alike strutting



An allegorical float from a previous carnival celebration. This weekend, some Italian cities will kick off the colorful winter fest, but the revelry with floats, costume parades and musical entertainment will peak the weekend prior to Fat Tuesday and on the day itself, which this year falls on Feb 21. (Photos by J. Freed)

about as courtiers, mascots, clowns or film characters. Following the traditional *a carnevale ogni scherzo vale* or "anything goes" custom of the period, you'll see innocent-looking kids surprise revelers with confetti and silly strings.

-Fests

• Capua (Caserta province)

A Comune di Capua events representative says that festivities are tentatively slated for Feb. 16 and 21, but these dates have yet to be confirmed. Watch for announcements at <http://www.comune.capua.ce.it> or call 0823-560-111.

• Santa Maria a Vico (Caserta province)

Organized by the "I Ragni" Association, the three-day celebration kicks off Feb. 19 with the presentation of floats at 9:30 a.m. Afterward, musical groups, dancers and jugglers will perform on the streets starting at 5 p.m. Subsequently, revelry takes off with the float parade on Feb. 21 at 3 p.m. View the program and poster at <http://comitatoiragni.jimdo.com/anno-2012/>.

• Villa Literno (Caserta province)

This year, a new carnival committee in the town is organizing the events scheduled from Feb. 25 to Feb. 28. Soon the official program will be posted at <http://carnevale.villaliterno.eu/index.php?mod=Programma>.

• Palma di Campania (Napoli province)

Exuberant celebrations from Feb. 13 to 21 will feature competitions among large choral groups ("quadriglie") for the best costumes, singing talent and repertory. The weekend prior to Fat Tuesday, festivities start on Sunday with a parade of masks, and continue on Monday evening with the quadrilles parading through the streets. The festival reaches its climax on Tuesday afternoon with costumed chorus members rendering their musical repertoire. Renditions range from traditional Neapolitan songs to current hits, and include compositions in verse written for the occasion. Wind and percussion instruments combine with the singing. The quadrille winner is judged according to repertoire quality, performance, quadrille leader's style and costume originality. View the program at http://www.carnevalepalmese.eu/quadriglie_schede.asp.

• Saviano (Naples)

Following local tradition, allegorical floats and costumed participants will enliven the town. On Feb. 12, the Best Costume Award contest will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The same day, the

presentation of floats will take place from 1 p.m. to midnight. Note that the grand parade on Feb. 19 starts at 5 p.m. while the one on Feb. 21 begins at 3 p.m. Read more details at <http://www.carnevaledisaviano.it/>.

• Striano (Naples)

Though the event may not be as extravagant as others in Italy, the celebration scheduled from Feb. 11 to 21 in Striano is still one of the most popular carnivals in the Campania region. Floats, numerous choreographers and hundreds of participants animate the festivities. The festival is the result of collaboration between Striano's five historic districts: Piazza, Troccole, Marzo, Arco and Saudone. Festivities will take place within the town's Carnival Citadel, a structure considered unique in the entire region. For the 2012 program, log on to <http://www.carnevalestriano.it/>.

• Other Campanian provinces

According to local tourism sources, there are still more carnevale events to look for within the Campania region. In Avellino, consider Paternopoli (<http://www.paternopolionline.it/>) and Montemarano (http://www.campaniaoggi.it/evento_Il_Carnevale_di_Montemarano_2012_Montemarano-1687.html). Meanwhile, in Benevento, check out Limatola (<http://www.prolocolimatola.it/>). Last but not least, Salerno province boasts Agropoli (<http://www.carnevaldiagropoli.it/>) and Sarno (<http://www.carnevalessarnese.it/>).

-Concert

San Carlo Theater Brass Ensemble to jazz up the merrymaking

Get into the swing of carnival fun when Director Maurizio Agostini and the boys bring the house down through "Carnevale in musica" at 11 a.m. Feb. 19. For details, log onto <http://www.teatrosancarlot.it> or call 081-797-2331/2412.

-Gastronomy

High-calorie foods are part of the carnevale scene, so when attending, leave diets at home and prepare to savor. *Lasagna di carnevale* (with all its mouth-watering meats and cheeses) is a favorite in Naples. And to cap off the concert of fare comes the finger-licking *chiacchiere*, a thin, fried and sugar-sprinkled dough dessert that is dipped in *sanguinaccio* or a cocoa-based pudding. *Buon appetito*.

"Fest a'Puorc" slated in Puglianello

The town in Benevento province invites everyone from Feb. 10 to 12 to experience the culinary delights derived from pigs, which are part of the town's farming traditions. This year's festival edition opens with a cooking competition among the area's chefs Feb. 6, followed by major events with food stands during the weekend. Tempting dishes will include tagliatelle with porcini mushrooms and hocks, cavatelli with hocks and chickpeas, pasta and beans with pork rind, and sausage orecchiette, all accompanied by wines from the valley. Musical entertainment and folk groups will be on hand throughout the event. For more information, call Ferdinando Creta at 366-671-1641 and Filippo Guarnieri at 333-911-3709, or visit http://www.eptbenevento.it/eventi_moste_benevento/A%20fest%20du%20puorc%20-%20PUGLIANELLO_796.html.

Buon divertimento!



As a Valentine's Day offer, the San Carlo Theater is selling a limited number of the "Gift Card You & Me" for couples to see Lucia di Lammermoor at special prices on Feb. 14 at 8:30 p.m.

