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BY TAKAHIRO TAKIGUCHI, STRIPES JAPAN

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SEE KIMODAMESHI ON PAGE 12

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# Zama Special Victim Counsel reflects on role as advocate

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
WINIFRED BROWN,  
US ARMY GARRISON

CAMP ZAMA – As Capt. Anthony Hosein looks back on the nearly two years he spent as the Special Victim Counsel at Camp Zama, he is glad the position exists and is proud of the work he has done.

“When I help a client who feels like they were a victim, to empower them, to give them back the control that they feel has been taken from them, it’s very rewarding for me,” Hosein said.

The Army created the Special Victim Counsel Program in November 2013, with full operational capability in January 2014, and the licensed military attorneys who work within the program act as advocates for sexual assault victims as they navigate the justice process, according to the Army.

“Basically I advocate for victims of rape, people who claimed they were raped, sexually assaulted or the victim of any kind of sexual misconduct,” Hosein said. “They come to me as their advocate to help them negotiate the legal system. I work with them from the investigation phase, from when the allegation is first made, all the way through final disposition.”

Hosein, who is also chief of



Capt. Anthony Hosein

claims and a legal assistance attorney at the U.S. Army Japan Legal Assistance Office at Camp Zama, said the SVC position at Camp Zama covers all of mainland Japan and Okinawa.

“It’s a very important position, particularly here in Japan at Camp Zama, because we don’t have anyone else on mainland Japan or Okinawa to speak for [those victims],” Hosein said. “Although the caseload is light, even one client is significant, and that’s one person you’ve helped.”

The SVC positions are important, Hosein said, because prior to the Army establishing the program, the system considered victims simply as witnesses.

“It wasn’t about them; it wasn’t about what happened to

them,” Hosein said. “... Because of the nature of these crimes, it’s important to have [legal proceedings that are] victim-centric, victim-focused and get the focus on the victim.”

Hosein said he does everything from accompany victims to interviews, if they want to be interviewed, write and argue motions, and speak for victims through every step of the process, including with the other attorneys involved and the accused’s chain of command.

In addition, Hosein said he makes sure victims get access to support.

“I’m there to liaison with the chain of command to make sure that they’re still getting the financial support, they’re getting the emotional support

from behavioral health, they’re getting spiritual help from the chaplain’s office, and every other resource that’s available,” Hosein said.

Step by step, the process helps victims feel more in control, empowered and confident that the system will serve justice, Hosein said.

“It gives me a sense of pride to know that I’m helping [victims] reestablish faith in the system,” Hosein said.

Hosein, who leaves Camp Zama this summer to go to Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas, to work as an SVC in the medical group, said he will miss Camp Zama.

“I’ve enjoyed my time here,” Hosein said. “I’m [moving] soon. If I could, I would stay longer. I love Japan. I loved U.S. Army Japan and this unit has been really great and I hopefully will come back again.”

The SVC Program is important because the Judge Advocate General of the U.S. Army trains and certifies SVCs, and through that training they learn how to best represent victims of sexual assault, Herring said.

The legal system can be challenging—even attorneys who are familiar with the process sometimes have to look up issues—and victims highly value the program, Herring said.

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Religious Program Specialist 3rd Class Johnathan Groves stands with a ceremonial wreath.  
Photos by MC2 Janweb B. Lagazo



Sailors observe a moment of silence in the hangar bay.

# Reagan holds Coral Sea remembrance ceremony

USS RONALD REAGAN

CORAL SEA – Sailors aboard the Navy’s forward-deployed aircraft carrier, USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76), held a wreath laying ceremony in commemoration of the Battle of the Coral Sea July 26, a year after the wreckage of the USS Lexington (CV-2) was discovered.

Cmdr. Jennifer Bowden, Ronald Reagan’s chaplain, said the Battle of the Coral Sea Commemorative Association invited representatives from Ronald Reagan to meet families connected to the battle during a recent port visit to Brisbane, Australia for Talisman Sabre 2019. The association presented Ronald Reagan’s crew with the wreath used during the ceremony. “It’s really to commemorate the efforts of the U.S. to protect Australia because they still find great value in

what we did.”

The ceremony marks the 77th anniversary of the battle and is the first time in history a wreath was laid at the exact site of where the Lexington sank.



Karl Thomas,

The ceremony hit home for a few sailors of Ronald Reagan’s crew, including Lt. Nicholas Fessler, Ronald Reagan’s assistant security officer.

Fessler’s great-grandfather, Chief Petty Officer Paul Mueleveld, was a survivor from Lexington’s crew that was awarded a U.S. Navy Marine Corps Medal with a citation from the President of the United States for saving five of his shipmates’ lives during the engagement and carrying each of their bodies from a fire poised to swallow all of them whole.

“Being able to navigate directly over the top of the USS Lexington, taking that moment of silence, puts in to

perspective what was below us. Just imagining the potential challenges, they were facing that day—it was extremely humbling,” said Fessler.

Fessler also expressed his surprise when he realized just how important the Battle of the Coral Sea was for Australians then and now.

“You know about it from a Naval history standpoint but you really don’t know what it means to the country of Australia and the significance our role in the Battle of the Coral Sea played in ensuring their freedom and securities as well,” said Fessler.

The Ronald Reagan’s strike group recently completed Talisman Sabre 2019. The purpose of Talisman Sabre is to strengthen and illustrate Australian-U.S. combat readiness and interoperability, maximize combined training opportunities, and conduct maritime pre-positioning and

logistics operations in maritime and littoral training areas of the Pacific.

Ronald Reagan, the flagship of Carrier Strike Group 5, provides a combat-ready force that protects and defends the collective maritime interests of its allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific region.



Capt. Pat Hannifin, commanding officer of USS Ronald Reagan, and Capt. Forrest Young, commanding officer of Carrier Air Wing 5, lay a wreath into the Coral Sea.

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## NEWS YOU CAN USE

Stars and Stripes and Stripes Japan are the best sources for military and local military community news, respectively. **Stripes.com** and **Japan.Stripes.com**

The website of Japan Times, the country's main full-fledged English daily newspaper, offers the traditional range of coverage – national and local news, sports, business, op-ed and entertainment. **www.japantimes.co.jp**

Popular with the expat crowd in Tokyo, the online version of Metropolis magazine offers a wealth of info – from local fashion, sports and travel to music, the arts and feature articles. **metropolis.co.jp**

## FOOD

This site enables users to find local restaurants according to general locale, cuisine or price. Results come with contact information, maps, average costs and details about the food and venue. **gurunavi.com**

This site lets you explore a wide range of Japanese cuisine through pictures and simple explanations. Easy to follow recipes are also included. **www.bento.com**

This site is the go-to platform for foreigners in Tokyo who share a love for Japanese food. **www.tokyobyfood.com**

## COMMENTARY

Operated by a naturalized Japanese citizen originally from the U.S., this site monitors legal, social and political issues that may be important. **www.debto.org**

## JAPAN BLOGGING

The perfect blog for someone located in Japan that wants to know where to go. Updated frequently, the site is full of beautiful photos and writing that is chock-full of info that has you in mind. Best of all, it's written by a U.S. military spouse. **www.travelswithnano.com**

## TRAVEL

A for-the-traveler, by-the-traveler website, this community travelogue is continuously updated with first-hand accounts and tips on sites, both popular and obscure, to see; adventures to be had; and

even places to eat – all over the country. **en.japantravel.com**

This user-friendly site provides a comprehensive look at the country, complete with a list of destinations nationwide as well as maps, and enables browsing by specific interest. **www.jnto.go.jp/eng/**

## SKIING/SNOWBOARDING

This site for skiing and snowboarding in Japan covers almost every aspect of getting to the slopes. **www.snowjapan.com**

## TOKYO SPOTS

Focusing its gaze on Japan's capital, this site offers word-of-mouth reviews to help readers discover cool and traditional spots they can't find in travel guidebooks. The site is ideal for locating various interesting aspects of Tokyo life. **www.sunnypages.jp**

## KITCHEN SINK

A great site that covers a wide range of topics regarding Japan, especially learning the language. **www.tofugu.com**  
Provides details about museums, restaurants, historical sites and pop culture spots in the Tokyo area. **www.timeout.jp/en/tokyo**

## CLASSIFIEDS

A convenient no-frills classifieds page largely for the Yokota community, the site enables users to browse, search by one of several different categories, or post about an item. **www.yokotaads.com**

With more than 5,000 members, the Facebook page, "Yokota Swap Page" is a testament to its success. Competing Facebook page "New Yokota Swap" also tops 5,000 members. The "Yokosuka Resale" page also has an impressive 5,000+ membership, searching the name "Yokosuka resale" on Facebook will reveal at least two others. "Misawa Web Sale 2.0" is home to more than 4,000 members, while "Camp Foster Yard Sale" sports more than 2,800.

## OKINAWAN SITES

### NEWS YOU CAN USE

Call us biased, but Stripes Okinawa is the best sources for local restaurants, travel spots and everything Okinawa. **Okinawa.Stripes.com**  
With a host of regular

contributors, this site is chock-full of info such users would want to know: off-base eatery reviews, on- and off-base school resources – including homeschooling – and an army of active forums and blogs. **okinawahai.com**

## GENERAL INFO

Through featuring how-tos for local travel that range from taxis, car rentals and airport shuttles to driving, renting an apartment and buying housing, the site's detailed travel and beach guides alone testify to its usefulness. **www.okinawa-information.com**

The site is geared towards tourists to the island, which makes it perfect for someone just arriving and planning on staying for a few years. **www.beokinawa.com**

## GUIDES

Courtesy of the Okinawa Convention & Visitors Bureau, this searchable, user-friendly site has a detailed destination guide and summaries of topics. **Visitokinawa.jp**

This digital archive, compiled by Okinawa's government, offers a wealth of info on all things Okinawa. **www.pref.okinawa.jp/site/chijiko/kohokoryu/foreign/english/index.html**

On this website, you can enjoy photos and articles on tourist stops and activities on the island. **okinawaclip.com/en**

Information on morale, welfare, and recreation for each branch of service is available at **www.mccsokinawa.com/**, **www.kadenafss.com/**, **www.navymwrokinawa.com/**, **www.toriiimwr.com/**



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## Ride out the storm with Dave

Dave Ornauer has been with Stars and Stripes since 1981, and one of his first assignments as a beat reporter in the old Japan News Bureau was "typhoon chaser." Pacific Storm Tracker is designed to take the technical weather lingo and simplify it for the average Stripes reader. **www.stripes.com/blogs/pacific-storm-tracker**



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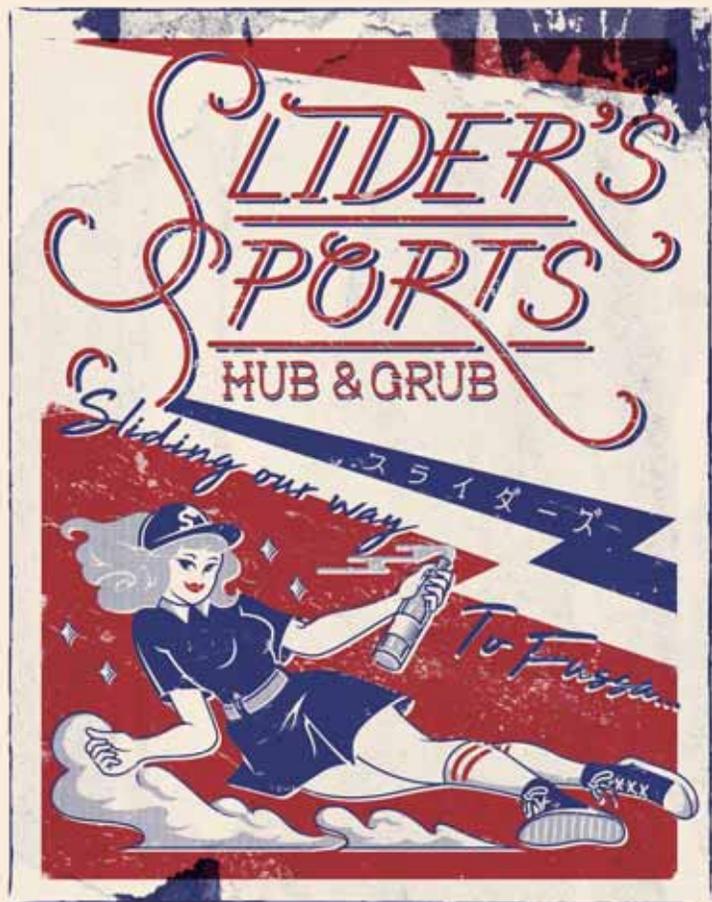
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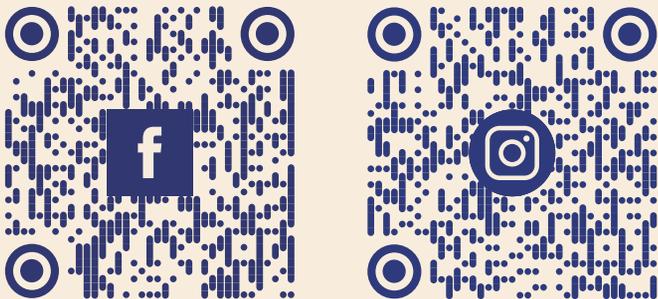
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# Seal the deal with Japanese hanko

STORY AND PHOTOS BY TAKAHIRO TAKIGUCHI, STRIPES JAPAN

If you've received any sort of official document from a Japanese organization, you've likely run across a red seal next to a signature or printed name at the bottom.

In Japan, that seal is called hanko (stamp) or inkan (seal impression). The stamp, which uses a pad of thick red ink called shuniku, actually serves as the official proof of an agreement.

"The seal is very important in Japan, as it serves as personal identification," says Shoichi Nakajima, president of All Japan Stamp Makers Association. "They are indispensable in our daily life as they are necessary when we open a bank account, join a new company or school, get married or divorced, rent an apartment or establish a farm or shop."

Different from a written signature, this seal can work for any registration or contract session without you. Even if you were unable to attend something, you can ask your substitute to sign in your place using your hanko.

And there are different hanko for different occasions. Personally, I possess three different stamps, as do many Japanese adults.

Among my three stamps, I have a registered seal called jitsuin (literally, real seal), and it's the biggest in size. I've used it for my large purchases,

including my house, car and my daughter's tuition. But, before I used the stamp, I had to register the seal at City Hall.

My second stamp is for opening a bank account and withdrawing money and is a middle-size stamp, called ginkoin (bank stamp). To receive packages or other



general use, I use a small stamp, called mitomein (private stamp).

The size of jitsuin is legally determined according to each city, town or village government.

"Usually, the stamp should be 9-20 millimeter in

diameter or square with the exact name of the person in the family registration," Nakajima said.

So, if you're ever in a position where you need a registered seal, talk to your city hall

for more information.

For bank and personal stamps, there are no rules. While some use a cheap instant rubber stamp, many use a round-shaped hand-engraved stamp of 10.5 or 12 millimeter in diameter, according to Nakajima.

You can use the registered seal for bank and personal purposes, as well. However, Nakajima doesn't recommend that as frequent use of stamp may cause damage or deformation.

Just like your signature, the seal of a stamp is unique, usually hand engraved by skilled stamp maker.

"We engrave each stamp to make it original," Nakajima said. "Even if the name is the same, we make each seal in different."

Stamp makers will write inverted names on the circular surface of stamp, then engrave it with various chisels. Strong material, such as boxwood, ivory, crystal or metal are usually chosen for stamp to prevent its edge from breaking after long periods of use.





### All Japan Stamp Makers Association

**LOCATION:** 2-4 Kanda Jimbocho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo  
**URL:** www.inshou.or.jp/ (Japanese)  
**Email:** mail@inshou.or.jp  
**Tel:** 03-3261-1015 (Japanese)



According to Nakajima, the culture of the seal goes back to Mesopotamian Civilization in 5,000 B.C., and it was introduced to Japan through Song Dynasty of China in the 12 or 13th century.

“During the Edo period (1603-1867), the custom of stamping the seal was widely established in Japan, and that was legislated in the following Meiji period (1868-1912),” Nakajima said.

While many of you will never need a hanko to sign your documents in Japan, these original pieces of art that identify its owner, are a symbol of Japanese life and culture, which can make for a great souvenir.

So, where can you make one for yourself or that relative back home?

“There are nearly 8,000 stamp shops in Japan, and any shop near your location can make you one,” Nakajima said.

It would cost 3,000 – 4,000 yen (\$25-35) depending on material, and it would take a couple of days to a week to engrave it, he added.

You can engrave your name using kanji, hiragana, katakana or alphabet letters. Chris can

be engraved as “栗栖” (kanji), “クリス” (katakana), “くりす” (hiragana) or “Chris” on a stamp.

For souvenir purposes, a stamp with kanji or katakana are ideal as they look more Japanese.

If you want to make your stamp in kanji, you have to be careful when choosing the kanji to represent your name, as sometimes the wrong combination might be odd to Japanese.

In fact, there are countless combinations of kanji that can describe your name. Chris can be spelled in kanji, like 久里洲, 栗栖, 繰須 and many more. While the pronunciation is the same, the looks and meanings are different. So, ask your Japanese friends to translate your name with good meaning kanji, and make sure you understand the meaning before asking a stamp shop to engrave it.

If you are not sure how to spell your name in kanji, visit the nearest stamp shop to ask their help. “Although they may not be fluent in English, they sure will be happy to help you,” Nakajima said.

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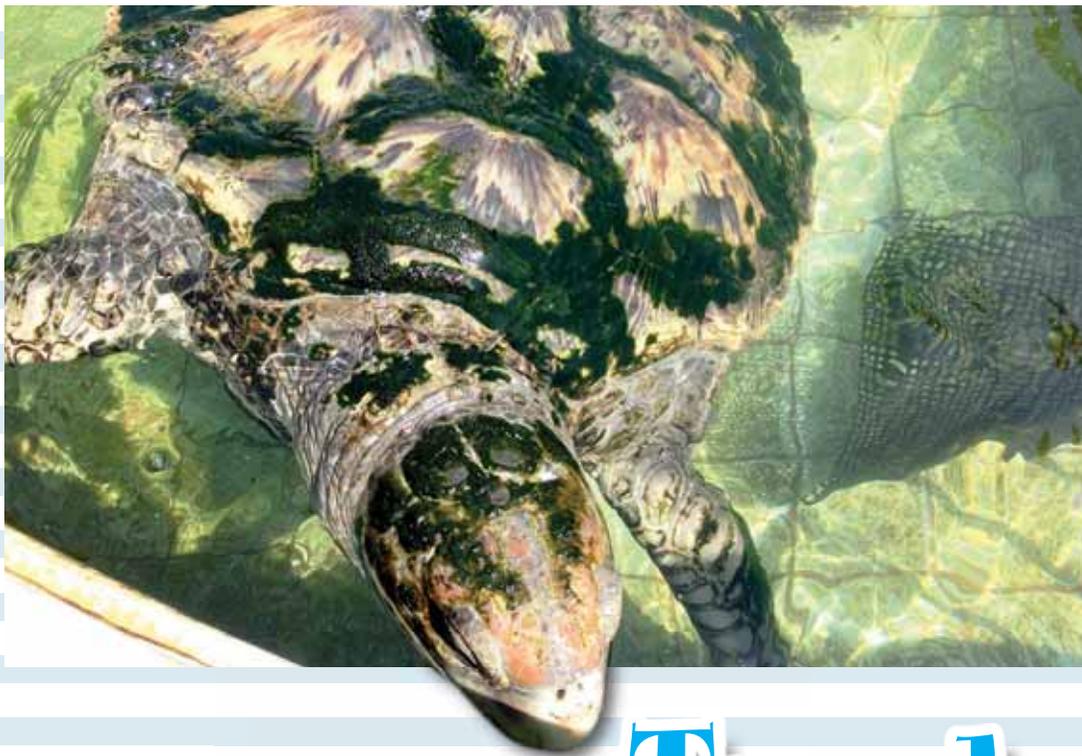
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# Two days on Izu Penin

STORY AND PHOTOS BY ICHIRO KATAYANAGI,  
STRIPES JAPAN

After a harsh spring of suffering from hay fever, I decided to celebrate the end of the season (and my freedom from wearing a face mask) by embarking on a trip to the Izu Peninsula, about a two-hour train ride or drive southwest of Tokyo.

One morning in late May, I boarded an Odoriko Limited Express Train from Tokyo Station to Izu-kyu Shimoda Station. I booked my trip for 18,500 yen (about \$170) through a travel agency and it included a round-trip fare and an overnight stay at Shimoda Tokyo Hotel. If you decide to travel without the help of an agency, a one-way ticket for a reserved ticket will cost you 6,260 yen.

The train runs along on the peninsula's east coast and I was able to enjoy the magnificent ocean and mountain views it is known for. It was rather hot for May and the pleasant sunlight shone inside the train. The train arrived at Izu-kyu Shimoda station around noon.

The peninsula itself extends 50 km south and is part of the Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park. Mt. Fuji is in the center of this national park and the entire area is known for its many onsen, fishing ports and tourist attractions. Shimoda City, in the southeastern part of the peninsula, is home to nine beaches and is a popular summer hangout known for its sun-dried fish, abalone, turban shells and spiny lobsters.

## SHIMODA SEA AQUARIUM

My first stop was the Shimoda Sea Aquarium. I hopped in a taxi for a 10-minute ride to the location surrounded by mountains on one side and the bay on the other. A tank with sea turtles greeted me at the entrance and once inside, dolphins were there to greet me as well. Visitors to the aquarium can also interact up close with some of the sea creatures, including touching the seals and feeding sea turtles and otters. Don't forget to catch shows featuring dolphins, sea lions, seals and penguins. Though smaller than many

other popular aquariums around the Kanto Plain, this is a good stop to learn more about the area's marine life. And it's great for kids!

## PERRY ROAD

After getting acquainted with the sea turtles, penguins and their friends at the aquarium, I caught a bus to Perry Road, about five minutes away. The road is named after Commodore Matthew Perry, the man who helped open Japan for trade, and father of the 1854 Treaty of Amity and Commerce between U.S. and Japan. Shimoda Port is where Perry entered for the treaty signing and many of the souvenirs and buildings in the area are influenced by this history. Look down in Shimoda as even the manhole covers here have designs celebrating the fleet.

My bus took me to Ryosenji Temple, a designated National Historic Site built in 1635, and the location of the treaty signing. Here, the grounds are covered in Brunfelsia latifolia, fragrant purple flowers also known as "American jasmine," due to their scent. I do not have a sensitive nose, but the scent of these blooms was intoxicating.

Afterward, I crossed the street and strolled along the Hiraname River. Private homes and western-style buildings dating back more than 100 years give this road a retro atmosphere. There, mixed in with historical houses, visitors can enjoy small cafes, restaurants and shops. I stopped in at Perry Berry café for a cup of fresh watermelon juice. Naturally sweet, this was a refreshing drink on a hot day. Pay an

extra \$2 and you can have it with vodka. It was quite tough to resist temptation, but I decided to have it without the alcohol. The café opened this year and its specialty dishes include gluten-free pancakes, which I definitely will try next time.

Making the most of the sunlight, I headed next to Shimoda Park at the bottom of Perry Road. This park has a hydrangea festival every June. When I visited, some of the nearly-150,000 flowers had already started to bloom, a treat to the eye. From the park, you can also enjoy the view of the port and town.

When I'd had enough sightseeing, I hitched a ride from Izu-Kyu Shimoda Station to the Shimoda Tokyo Hotel for their hotel bus service. The room I booked had a great ocean view and came with a buffet breakfast. Depending on whether you have an ocean view or parking lot view will determine the size of your room. I didn't mind the smaller room in exchange for the better view. Either way, you'll love it because the buffet breakfast is wonderful.

Besides the typical pastries, salads, and fruit, the buffet includes locally-caught seafood: sushi, sun-dried herring mackerel and fish-head soup. Wine and sake are included at no extra cost. Since I was on vacation and wasn't driving, I treated myself to morning wine.

## DOUGASHIMA

For my second day in the area, I headed to Dougashima, a picturesque town in Nishi-Izu, on the peninsula's western coast. Since the coast has no train service, I had to take an hourlong bus ride from Izu-Kyu Shimoda Station along windy mountain roads to Dougashima. The bus frequently swung like a roller coaster, making me regret the wine from earlier.

Soon I arrived at my stop and headed to Dougashima Park. One of the hotel employees suggested I go to the Tengusa-Tokoroten Festival, which was being held during my visit. Tengusa (Gelidium) is seaweed mainly used for making tokoroten (stringy agar) and similar products in Japan. People gather the seaweed around mid-May every year and the festival



CRUISING TOUR



DOUGASHIMA



TENGUSA TOKOROTEN FESTIVAL



SHIMODA PARK

# insula

ugh is timed for it.

al- Tokoroten is a jelly-like snack sometimes served savory or sometimes sweet, depending on region and was first introduced by China more than 1,000 years ago. and is now used to make noodle-like dishes. It is usually served with vinegar and soy sauce (or mustard, depending on preference), or, the sweeter version is topped with soybean flour and dark molasses. At the festival, the first 1,000 visitors were given free tokoroten. I went for the sweeter snack. The texture was harder than a jelly and had a great taste. I also got to browse tokoroten food products and watch tokoroten-making demonstrations.

After my fill of the seaweed fest, I jumped on a 20-minute boat cruise of the small islands just off Dougashima, the sawtooth coastline and a skylight cave. The cave, Tensodo, was designated a natural monument in 1935 and its ceiling collapse in the center years ago, causing sunshine to illuminate the cave with a natural skylight. I highly recommend the cruise, which costs only \$12 and is available every 10-15 minutes.

I enjoyed the cruise as not only did I get to see the islands only accessible via boat, but I was also able appreciate the view of the Izu coast from the water. The landscape is complex and beautiful, absolutely worth a visit.

After the cruise, I did some souvenir shopping near the station before heading back to Tokyo. My trip to Izu left me relaxed and with great memories. Its close proximity to Tokyo makes it a great getaway with amazing attractions, delicious local seafood and onsen available year-round.

Katayanagi.lchiro@stripes.com



TOKOROTEN



SHIMODA SEA AQUARIUM



### ■ Shimoda Sea Aquarium

**LOCATION:** 3-22-31 Shimoda City, Shizuoka  
**HOURS:** Please ask for business hours  
**URL:** <http://shimoda-aquarium.com>  
**TEL:** 0558-22-3567



### ■ Rosenji Temple

**LOCATION:** 3-12-12  
Shichikencho,  
Shimoda City,  
Shizuoka  
**HOURS:** 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**URL:** <http://www.izu.co.jp/~ryosenji/eigo.html>  
**TEL:** 0558-22-0657

### ■ Café Perry Berry

**LOCATION:** 3-10-12  
Shimoda City,  
Shizuoka  
**HOURS:** 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
(Wednesday closed)  
**URL:** <http://cafeperryberry.wixsite.com/perryberry>  
**TEL:** 0558-66-1017



### ■ Shimoda Tokyu Hotel

**LOCATION:** 5-12-1,  
Shimoda City, Shizuoka

**URL:** <http://www.tokyuhotelsjapan.com/global/shimoda-h/>  
**TEL:** 0558-22-2411



### ■ Dougashima Cruise Tour

**LOCATION:** Nishina, Nishiizu Town, Kamo  
Province, Shizuoka  
**HOURS:** 8:15 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
**URL:** <http://dogashima.jp/>  
**TEL:** 0558-52-0013

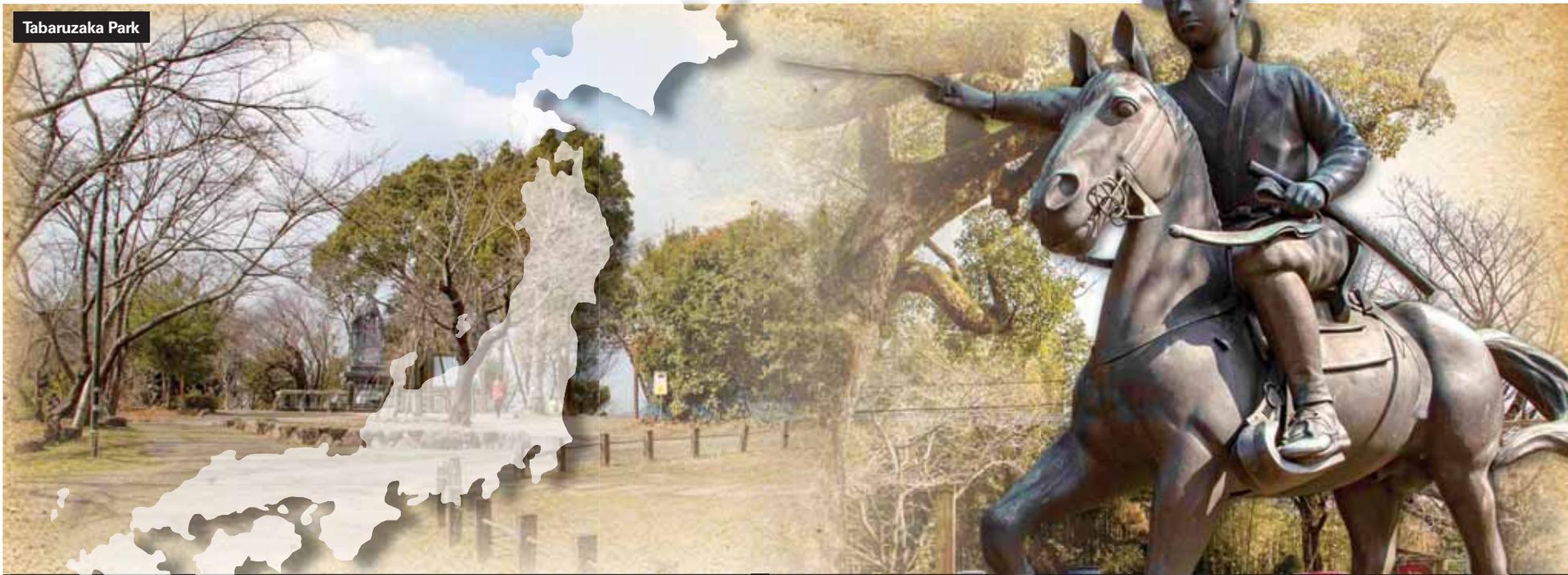
■ Shizuoka official travel site  
<http://shizuoka-guide.com/english/index.html>

■ East Izu official travel site  
<http://www.e-izu.org/language/english.html>

■ West Izu official travel site  
<https://en.nishiizu-kankou.com>

■ Shimoda City official travel site  
<http://www.shimoda-city.com/#we-page-home>

Tabaruzaka Park



Kumamoto

# TABARUZAKA

# Japan's Gettysburg

STORY AND PHOTOS BY DAVID KRIGBAUM,  
WWW.WAYFARERDAVES.COM

Atop a certain hilltop in Kumamoto Prefecture is a serene park, with lanes of cherry trees and azaleas on its terraced hillside. It has a commanding view of the quiet farming community in the river valley beneath it and the forested hills beyond, but this tranquil scene is incidental to the park's existence.

This hill was the focal point of a great deal of violence in the biggest battle of Japan's last rebellion, the Seinan (Southwest) Civil War or Satsuma Rebellion.

## WAR COMES TO KYUSHU

In 1877, war came to Kyushu. After a series of rebellions, the Meiji government had become paranoid concerning the multitude of disgruntled former samurai on the island and none had worried them more than Saigo Takamori. Saigo was a living legend, one of the men who founded modern Japan and field marshal in the Imperial Japanese Army. You may remember him from the 2003's *The Last Samurai*, as Takamori's life was fictionalized for the silver screen.

In 1873, Takamori and others resigned from the government after political maneuvering concerning issues with Korea left him with a bad taste for modern politics and what the new government was

becoming. Going into semi-retirement, he went home to Kagoshima (formerly Satsuma Domain) and ran military academies to employ out-of-work samurai and teach both traditional arts and modern warfare.

Fearing another southern rebellion the government took pre-emptive action sent a ship to empty the prefectural arsenal and spies infiltrated Saigo's academies with orders to kill him. The plans were stopped by radical students and if they hadn't intended to rebel before, these actions ensured that they would now. Donning his field marshal's uniform once again, and with thousands of armed followers at his back, Saigo announced that he was going to Tokyo to "question the government."

Saigo's army made it as far as Kumamoto where they besieged the castle there beginning on Feb.

23, 1877. The Imperial Japanese Army quickly mustered a relief force to break the siege.

There was only one road to Kumamoto capable of supporting artillery and it ran over Tabaruzaka. The battle for this triple hill and its vital road pitted ten thousand student-soldiers and former samurai against an equal number of Imperial Japanese Army soldiers. Like Gettysburg, this was also the farthest point of rebel advance.

The battle began on Mar. 4, 1877. The rebels had the better defensive ground, but rainy weather hampered them as their cotton clothing was unsuited for fighting through cold, wet spring days and many used muzzle-loading rifles which were often rendered inoperable leading to close-quarters engagements with reliable steel. The Imperial Japanese Army was better clothed, only used breach-loading rifles and had superior logistics. They expended 320,000 rounds of ammunition in a day and by the next were resupplied to do it again. After 17 days, the army took Tabaruzaka, opening the road to Kumamoto Castle which they would relieve on Apr. 15, breaking the 54-day castle siege. The army lost 6,843 soldiers and the rebels lost 6,784.



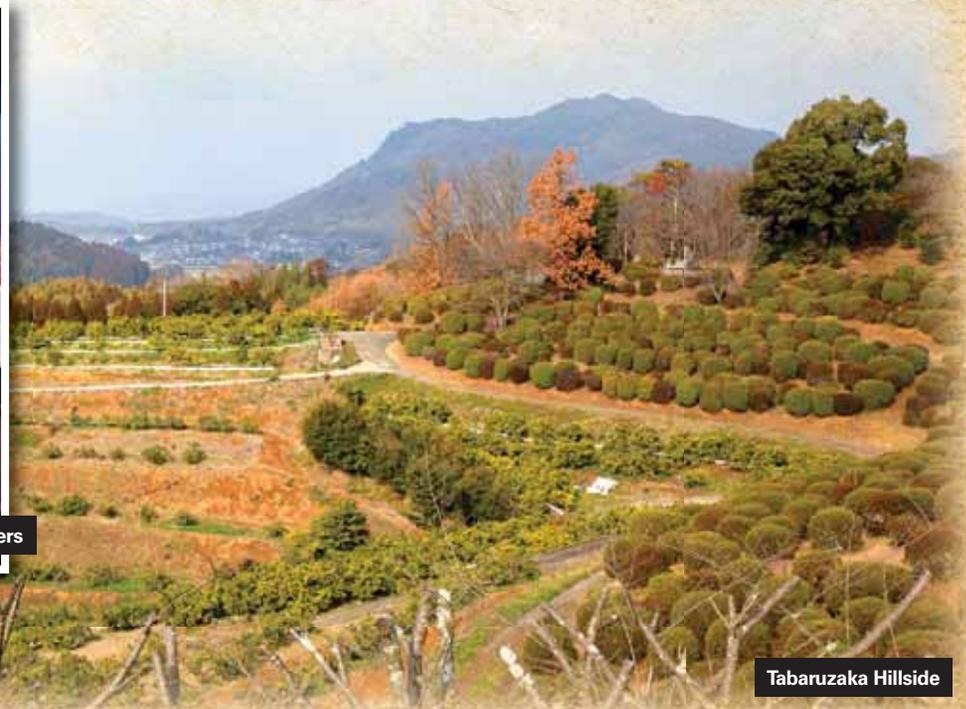
Battle-damaged Storehouse

## BATTLEFIELD TODAY

There's little left of the battlefield itself, the defensive positions have all disappeared



Yachiyozu Lantern dancers



Tabaruzaka Hillside



Tabaruzaka Seinan Civil War Museum



**TABARUZAKA SEINAN CIVIL WAR MUSEUM**  
 ■ 858-1 Toyooka, Ueki-machi, Kita-ku, Kumamoto-shi, Kumamoto 861-0163  
 ■ <https://kumamoto-guide.jp/en/spots/detail/216>

**YACHIYOZA**  
 ■ 1499 Yamaga-shi, Kumamoto Prefecture 861-0501  
 ■ <https://www.yachiyoz.com/english.html>

and a single reconstructed storehouse bearing the scars of battle remains atop Tabaruzaka. The stone bridge at the foot of the hill is the only fully original battlefield structure.

Monuments dot the park sparingly with a single large wall of names behind a white pillar being the biggest. There's but one statue, a teenage soldier on horseback in memory of the young men who rallied to Saigo, set against a massive tree which survived the battle. That sparseness, not being overwhelmed with memorials adds to the contemplative mood and does more to enhance its role as a place of honor and remembrance than would a dozen man-made statues. Like most battlefields the atmosphere is quiet and peaceful almost like a cemetery without bodies or headstones, but my wife thought it too sad and waited for me inside the park's museum.

The Tabaruzaka Seinan Civil War Museum is small but is just enough to explain the battle and is a must if you're going to get the most out of a visit. It's almost entirely in Japanese, but the artifacts are easy to figure out and most have an English title with no further description.

With the hill as peaceful as it is today, there's a sensory theater that recreates a scene from the

battle. The movie's small unit action shows Saigo's troops ambushing an imperial patrol, engaging in fast and bloody combat. Lights flash with rifle shots fired, the room shudders with artillery and perspectives switch between soldiers. It may be a bit much for young children.

Outside the theater room, there's a nice collection of 19th century firearms that would interest American Civil War aficionados as surplus from our conflict went on to serve in theirs such as the Sharps carbine and Remington rifles.

Inside the adjacent reconstructed storehouse is a smaller complimentary museum about Hakuaisya, the predecessor of the Japanese Red Cross which rendered aid during the war.

Except for the movie, the museum is kid-friendly and has replica uniforms so visitors can dress up as Imperial soldiers, Red Cross nurses, Saigo's soldiers, or even Saigo himself.

**WHERE TO STAY AND OTHER DIVERSIONS**

Though no longer on the main road to Kumamoto, Tabaruzaka is 15 minutes away from the Ueki interchange, making it an easy addition to a Kumamoto



vacation itinerary.

When visiting Tabaruzaka you can stay at Kumamoto or for a special end to your day, check out the relaxing onsen in Yamaga. Yachiyoz, a traditional Japanese theater in the Buzen Kaido Edo-era merchant district, hosts traditional Japanese dance and taiko drummers. Both Kumamoto and Yamaga are about half an hour away, but in different directions.

Saigo's rebellion may have made for a great plot in a Hollywood flick, but he was an amazing figure greater than any fictional analog and I highly recommend reading Mark Ravina's *The Last Samurai: the Life and Battles of Saigo Takamori*, which I used for reference writing this article.

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# KIMODAMESHI: Like Halloween in the summer

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Just like horror films and scary stories give you goose bumps, kimodameshi and haunted houses make the Japanese cool with fear and terror - another reason they are considered summer attractions. On a hot summer evening, students will often explore cemeteries or haunted locations and enjoy exchanging horror stories with friends

Kimodameshi is a must-play for students away at summer camp. It can be seen as a rite of passage for teenagers as they

show their courage in public, and is a great chance for them to cling to someone they might have a crush on.

In kimodameshi, challengers, usually paired as boys and girls (sometimes alone or in a small group), walk along a spooky path in dark forests, grave yards, shrines, temples, abandoned buildings or any other haunted and mysterious spaces. In order to maximize fear, the location is scouted and scary objects, such as skulls and horror-props, are planted in advance. Sometimes, audio and visual effects are used

to create an unusual atmosphere.

A good story teller, usually a teacher, provides a horror story before sending them out to the spooky path. To prove that they had walked through the designated course, challengers need to bring something back from the haunted location or leave some sort of token (often a card or stones written with challenger's number or name) at the location, which can be recovered later.

Teachers, volunteering parents or senior colleagues hide along the path in ghost costumes, and jump out at challengers walking along the course.

During the event, students

witness a strong-looking boy unable to move in his terror at haunted location while a gentle graceful girl shows her courage to take him out on the course. Some bust into crying and others leave their partner and run away from the course, and that makes some of great memories of school days that cannot easily be forgotten.

The tradition of kimodameshi goes back to the reign of Emperor Hanayama, about 1000 years ago. An official history book in the era "Ookagami" describes that Emperor sent three young aristocrats to an old house known as home of evils around 2 a.m. to test their courage. Only one of them was brave enough to accomplish his order, and he brought back a chip from the haunted house to show the emperor. The brave young aristocrat, Fujiwara Michinaga, later became prime minister and wielded his power over the nation.

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**Obake-no-Sumika (Nest of Ghosts) in Fukagawa, Tokyo**  
 Fukagawa Edo Museum will display figures of traditional Japanese ghosts in an exhibit set recreating the streets of Fukagawa-Saga Town in the Tempo Period (1830-43). The ghost figures are exact replicas modeled after standards found in historic documents. Get spooky with a visit to this "town" with its old-style streets and traditional buildings and scattered ghosts for you to check out. Enter the row houses, shops, firewatch tower, boathouses and canal-boat to see what is lurking to give you a good scare. Spooky sounds and lighting effects added during this exhibit will add to this ghostly atmosphere.  
**Location:** Fukagawa Edo Museum, 1-3-28, Shirakawa, Koto-ku, Tokyo  
**Hours:** 6 - 9 p.m.  
**Admission:** 400 yen (about \$3.65) for adults, 50 yen for ages 14 and under.  
**URL:** [www.kcf.or.jp/fukagawa/](http://www.kcf.or.jp/fukagawa/)  
**TEL:** 03-3630-8625

# Speakin' Japanese

## Kimodameshi Talk

In Japan, summer isn't complete without visiting a haunted house or enjoying Kimodameshi to test your courage. You may see locals flocked to a temporary haunted houses in shopping malls or amusement parks, while teens enjoy Kimodameshi games in a nearby shrine, temple or graveyard.

Sound like fun? Why not join these summer attractions and enjoy the summer like the Japanese do. The following words and phrases are sure to help you enjoy Kimodameshi with locals.

**"Kimodameshi wo shimasen ka?"** = Let's play Kimodameshi, shall we?

("... wo shimasen ka?" = let's do ..., shall we?)

**"Ohaka ni ikimashoo."** = Let's go to the graveyard.

("ohaka" = grave (yard))

**"Kowai hanashi wa nigate desu."** = I can't stand ghost stories.

("kawai" = frightening, "hanashi" = story, "nigate desu" = can't stand)

**"Kowakute ugoke masen."** = I am so scared I can't move.

("ugoke masen" = can't move)

**"Furue ga tomarimasen."** = (I am so scared) I can't stop trembling.

("furue" = trembling, "tomari masen" = can't stop)

**"Obake ga dete kita."** = Here comes a ghost.

("obake" = ghost, "dete kita" = come out)

**"Watashi ga irukara daijoo bu."** = Because I am here, everything will be all right.

("watashi" = I / me, "irukara" = because I am here, "daijoo bu" = all right)

**"Te wo nigitte ite kudasai."** = Please keep holding my hand.

("te" = hand, "nigitte" = hold/shake, "ite" = stay/keep, "kudasai" = please)

**"Taskutetee!"** = Help!

**"Mou taeremasen."** = I can't take it anymore.

("taeru" = tolerate)

**"Ano obakeyashiki wa sugoku kowai rashii."** = I hear that the haunted house is really scary.

("obakeyashiki" = haunted house, "rashii" = I hear that)

**"Sono hanashi wa zotto shimasu"** = That story creeps me out.

("zotto suru" = creep out)

**"Kono toshidensetsu wo shittemasuka?"** = Do you know this urban legend?

("toshidensetsu" = urban legend, "shittemasuka?" = Do you know?)

**"Sono kowai hanashi wa jitsuwa desu."** = That scary tale is based on a true story.

("jitsuwa" = true story)

**"Hitoride wa sokoni ikitakunai desu."** = I don't want to go there alone.

("hitoride" = alone, "ikitakunai" = don't want to go)

- Shoji Kudaka and Takahiro Takiguchi, Stripes Japan

Pronunciation key: "A" is short (like "ah"); "E" is short (like "get"); "I" is short (like "it"); "O" is long (like "old"); "U" is long (like "tube"); and "AI" is a long "I" (like "hike"). Most words are pronounced with equal emphasis on each syllable, but "OU" is a long "O" with emphasis on that syllable.

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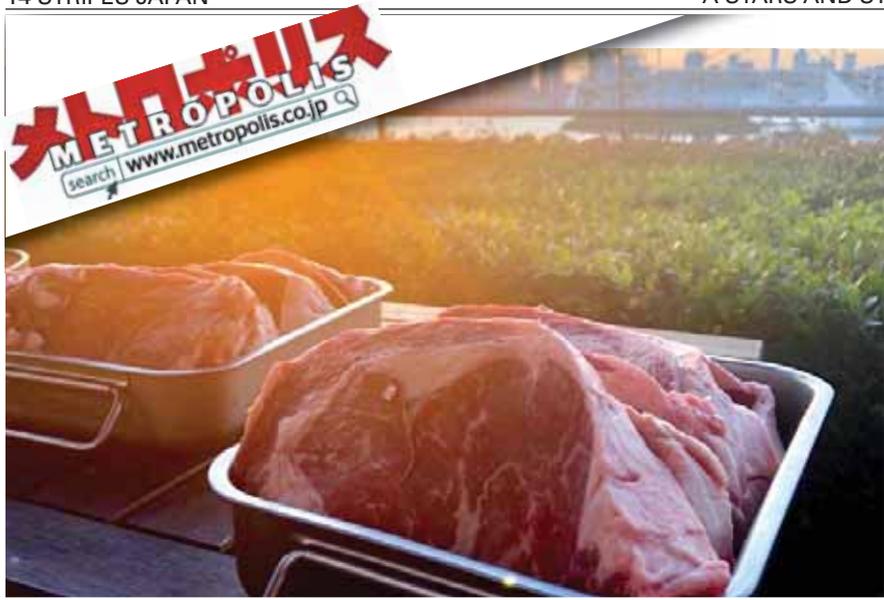
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# Steaks and a view in Odaiba

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CAMILLE MILLER, METROPOLIS MAGAZINE

Against a sweeping view of Rainbow Bridge and Tokyo’s skyline, legendary ex-sumo wrestler Konishiki Yasokichi seared perfect grill marks on his steaks as several giant, hungry men awaited their fill. Situated on the roof of Odaiba’s Aqua City, Weber Park was the perfect venue for a stable of heavyweight wrestlers to celebrate the upcoming tournament season via heaps of delicious meat and beer.

Hawaiian-born Yasokichi was the first non-Japanese sumo wrestler to reach ozeki, the second highest rank in the sport. It’s no surprise that the sport’s heaviest ever wrestler is also a pitmaster and religious barbecue lover. One table over, another distinguished figure was tending to his own feast. Former yokozuna (grand champion) Musashimaru Koyo and his family enjoyed the spacious venue and beautiful weather as servers brought along generous fillets provided by Harnet Corporation, an importer of prime Australian and American meats.



## Weber Park

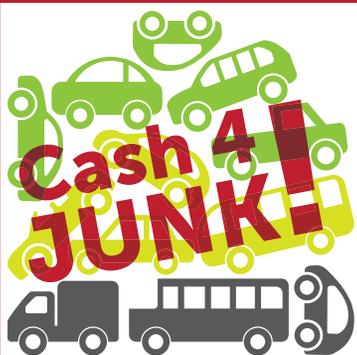
11am – 10pm  
Monday – Sunday  
1-7-1 Daiba, Minato-ku  
[www.weberpark.com](http://www.weberpark.com)

Operated by Weber-Stephen Products, an American company whose outdoor grills have become a cultural icon in the States, the barbecue park opened last June and is the first of its kind in Tokyo. Weber Park provides guests with the tools — literally and figuratively — to create the ultimate grill experience. Three different courses are available,

as well as trained “grill tenders” who teach guests how to season and cook the optimal meal. Veterans like Yasokichi can simply take the reins and enjoy Weber’s premium equipment.

The park is currently reservation-only with plans to become walk-friendly in the near future. In addition to Weber’s menu, guests can bring their own food and drinks through the “Bring Your Own Plan” (¥2,000 per person) and rent a grill for ¥1,000. Gorgeous views of Odaiba’s waterfront come at no extra cost. Also on the roof is the Grill Academy, where beginners and those looking to step up their grill game can learn tips from Weber’s barbecue masters.

The perfect outdoor barbecue might seem like a distant dream in a megacity like Tokyo, but places like Weber Park ensure that even city folk get the best of this universal tradition. With summer on the horizon, it’s never too late to book a spot at one of the city’s newest grill havens — and possibly run into a sumo legend, too.



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# Stripes Sports Trivia

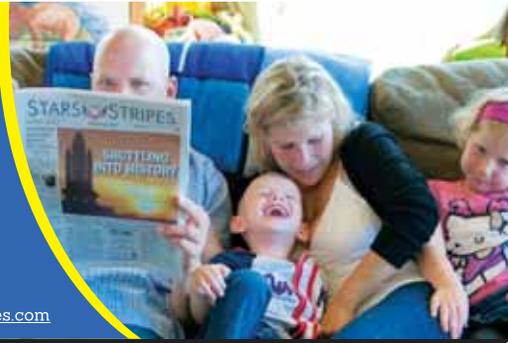
Baseball analytics are becoming more widely accepted, and one of the stats at the forefront of that is Wins Above Replacement (WAR). According to Baseball Reference, the all-time leader in WAR is Babe Ruth with 182.5. With 100, who is the active player with the most Wins Above Replacement?

**Answer**

Albert Pujols

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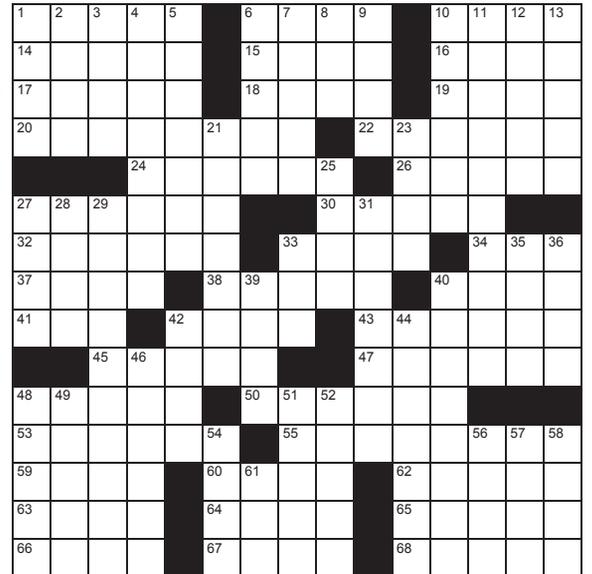
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## The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

### ACROSS

- Place for a massage
- Chowder morsel
- Highway exit
- Teach one-on-one
- "Unfaithful" star
- Burn soother
- Make amends (for)
- Gambler's concern
- Overabundance
- Like summer school classes, often
- Bone brace
- Hook, line and
- Worse for wear
- Informant
- Express a thought
- Track down
- "Cheers" regular
- Kind of race
- State with certainty
- No \_\_\_ or reason
- Corduroy ridge
- Cooking fuel
- Italian import
- Furnace, for one
- Ungraceful one
- Favor
- Case opener?
- Wear away
- Dot above the i
- Priest's helper
- Anagram for "beat"
- 70's hairdo
- Delve into
- Elvis movie, "\_\_\_ Happy"
- Pixar movie set in Mexico
- Prop for Picasso
- Ill at \_\_\_
- Follow, as advice
- Gas additive



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### DOWN

- Hollywood sighting
- Adorable
- Kind of bomb
- Country group with the #1 song "Amazed"
- Do a meteorologist's job, say
- Dagger's companion
- Big dipper
- Here-now link
- State of disorder
- Type of sleeve
- Repeat starting letters, as in "good as gold"
- Everest or Ararat
- Tom who sang "I Won't Back Down"
- Get what was left?
- Stiffly formal
- \_\_\_ and board
- Refinery residue

- Exploding star
- Some Winter Olympians
- Warm up, in the kitchen
- WSJ alternative
- Sheltered, at sea
- School session
- Confusion
- "The Wind in the Willows" critter
- Roll up, as a flag
- One that got away
- Pint-sized
- Theater platform
- Fibula's neighbor
- Ludicrous show
- Biblical disaster
- Inventory unit
- Nonsense
- Follow orders
- Holler
- Friend's opposite

### Answers to Last Week's Crossword:

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



**DID YOU KNOW?**

In mid-summer, similar to the U.S., temporary haunted houses pop up in amusement parks or shopping malls as seasonal attractions. Horror movies and reports of haunted locations are televised, while popular kimodameshi (literally, to test your courage through a scary route) games are enjoyed in schools and local communities, as the goosebumps cool you down with fear and terror.

Kanji of the week

桃

Momo/Tou (Peach)

## Language Lesson

Wait a minute.

Chotto matte kudasai.

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## SUDOKU

Difficulty: Easy

		2	6	8				
			3					
6			9	5	7		2	3
5	1			2			8	
	6					5		
	2			4		7		
								6
		2			9			
4	9		3					5

Edited by Margie E. Burke

### HOW TO SOLVE:

Each row must contain the numbers 1 to 9; each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9; and each set of 3 by 3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 to 9.

Answers to Last Week's Sudoku:

1	7	8	9	2	4	6	3	5
6	4	2	5	3	7	8	9	1
3	9	5	1	6	8	2	7	4
9	3	6	2	4	5	7	1	8
2	1	7	8	9	3	4	5	6
5	8	4	7	1	6	9	2	3
7	5	1	6	8	9	3	4	2
4	6	9	3	5	2	1	8	7
8	2	3	4	7	1	5	6	9

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