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Sweet, salty mix of familial emotions

With my hair a rat's nest and still in my pajamas, I tapped on my daughter Anna's bedroom door. She was home for a whole week from New York City. My younger daughter, Lilly, a nursing student, had also just stopped by after her night shift at the hospital to see her big sister.

Slowly opening the door, I delighted at the scene that ranked in my top favorites as a mom: My daughters cozied up on one bed, chatting, gossiping and laughing. With an exaggerated tiptoeing movement that communicated, "Don't mind me!", I made my way to the other side of the already crowded bed and crawled in.

Anna and Lilly, 26 and 24 respectively, told stories of single young adulthood that were exciting, dramatic and hilarious. As a very tired 58-year-old mother, I relished the increasingly rare moments when both daughters were home and I could be a part of their lives. I sat back and took it all in.

For a moment, my attention was diverted, when our yellow Lab nibbled my sock.

"Ouch! Gilligan, stop!" Looking back toward Anna and Lilly, I noticed them whispering.

"What are you whispering about?" I whined in a juvenile tone. "Nothing," Lilly smirked at Anna.

"You guys, that's not fair. You say that you tell me everything, but you really don't," I pouted.

"We tell you too much, Mom," Lilly blurted. "It's not healthy!" "Anna," I pleaded a few minutes later, "Will you please come to Boot Camp with me today?" She agreed, and I was happy again.

That afternoon, I entered the kitchen where Anna sat working at the table and exclaimed, "Hey Anna, I have all the ingredients to make Chex Mix!"

Ever since Anna was in college, I'd been making batches of homemade Chex Mix for her to share with her roommates and friends. Her best friend's mom, a gorgeous bridal gown designer and talented baker, supplied their group of girls batches of her signature Reese's Cup cookies, and I contributed homemade Chex Mix. The girls had always seemed tickled pink to receive our respective sweet and salty offerings, and even though my pedestrian snack wasn't as decadent as the cookies,

The Meat and Potatoes of Life

Lisa Smith Molinari

I was proud of my contribution to the girls' fun nonetheless.

"I just need to get some pretzel sticks ... do you want me to get gluten free?" I asked Anna while I inspected the pantry.

"Mom —" Anna hesitated a moment then said, "— I'm not really that into the Chex Mix."

In an instant, scenes and thoughts flashed before my senses.

The batch of Chex Mix I burned on Anna's birthday. The other mom's pristine home, perfect smile and blonde hair. My paunch. Tumbleweeds of dog hair blowing across my hardwood floors. My cluttered house.

My admittedly weak self-esteem quickly conjured up a yearslong conspiracy: Anna and her friends had never liked my Chex Mix but were afraid to tell me. They had only pretended, to make me feel included.

However, almost as quickly, an alternative theory came to me. "Maybe Anna is just being passive-aggressive?" I thought, but didn't know why.

I hid away in another room, googling for answers, and found a Psychology Today article identifying seven roles mothers play in their daughters' lives that might explain relationship tension. Voraciously reading the list of seven roles, two descriptions jumped out at me. "The Girlfriend," the type of mom who wants to know everything and doesn't respect boundaries. Yep. Bingo. And "The Fixer," a well-meaning mom who wants to help too much, and can't accept that her daughter wants to control her own life. Uh-huh, guilty.

Regardless of whether Anna was being passive-aggressive to throw up boundaries, I was 50% of our mother-daughter relationship and needed to take 50% of the responsibility. I realized that, in my excitement to have my daughters home during the holidays, I planned and expected too much, leaving no room for them to be independent adult women.

Like Chex Mix and cookies, mother-daughter relationships are a complex mix of ingredients. As life stages change, sometimes roles must be carefully adjusted. A little more of this, a little less of that, to strike the right salty and sweet balance.

Read more of Lisa Smith Molinari's columns at: themeatandpotatoesoflife.com and in Lisa's book, *The Meat and Potatoes of Life: My True Lit Com*
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Winter Street Food Battle: What's Your Pick?

KOREA TOURISM ORGANIZATION

Winter is the season of delicious treats and street foods! Bungeoppang, tteokbokki, hotteok, and much more become available on the streets. Here we've put together Korea's most favorite winter treats up for comparison. Read on to see if you can choose your favorite!



Round 1 A sip to comfort even your soul



Photo courtesy of Korea Tourism Organization

Eomuk



Photo by Lee Beom-su, Korea Tourism Organization

Janchi Guksu



A sip of hot eomuk (fishcake) and janchi guksu (banquet noodles) soup immediately brings a warm sensation all through your body, soothing you in a cold day. While eomuk and janchi guksu are both excellent to enjoy in winter, each has its own unique charms. Eomuk is a ground fish fillet that is usually fried or grilled. It's commonly cooked in a broth to bring out the deeper flavors of eomuk. If you happen to pass by a food stall selling eomuk, stop by to enjoy a bite with an eomuk skewer in one hand and a cup of hot soup in the other. Its opponent, Janchi guksu is a noodle soup served in a bowl. The noodles are cooked in anchovy and sweet kelp stock, topped with sliced eggs and zucchini, and garnished with laver flakes. If a light snack with a cup of hot soup is all you need, opt for a eomuk skewer; if you're looking for something more, opt for a bowl of janchi guksu.

Round 2 A taste of spicy kick!

If you are a fan of spicy food, teokbokki is a must-try. One bite of these chewy rice cakes soaked in chili sauce has a surprising spicy kick that is sure to have you looking for water. The spicy flavor may leave your tongue numb, but it'll instantly relieve you of stress. In contrast, dakgangeong (deep-fried and braised chicken) starts with sweet and savory flavors, followed by a slow-burn spiciness that will have you craving for more. Dakgangeong is available in many different flavors like soy sauce or cheese. If you want to challenge yourself to a spicy Korean food opt for tteokbokki; if you're looking for the perfect balance of sweet and spicy flavors, opt for dakgangeong.



Tteokbokki



Dakgangeong



Round 3 Snacks that represent winter in Korea



Bungeoppang



Photo courtesy of Korea Tourism Organization


Hotteok



It's not an overstatement to say that some Koreans look forward to winter because of bungeoppang (fish-shaped small bun) and hotteok (syrup-filled pancake). The two most commonly found bungeoppang fillings are sweet red bean paste and custard cream. Hotteok is a chewy pancake filled with brown sugar, along with cinnamon and nuts, which dissolves into a syrup once the dough is grilled on a hot pan. It's best to eat hotteok while it's warm but be careful not to burn your mouth from the hot sugar filling. If you prefer a soft texture with sweet cream, opt for a bungeoppang; if you like chewy texture and mouthwatering sweetness, opt for a hotteok.



Potato Corn Dog
 Photo by Alex Bundo, Korea Tourism Organization



VS.




Photo courtesy of Korea Tourism Organization

Gyeranppang

Round 4

Bread, but better!

Hot dogs and corn dogs are a favorite treat worldwide, but the potato corn dog, often called the “Korean-style potato hot dog,” is an original characterized by crispy potato bits in the bun that enhance the taste and texture to a whole new level. The potato corn dog is also called as “ugly hot dog” or “dokkaebi bangmangi,” which means dokkaebi’s club, for its appearance is similar to the image of a club used by dokkaebi, mythical creatures in Korean folktales. Koreans coat the corn dog with sugar and add condiments like ketchup before taking a bite, combining the best parts of a hot dog and French fries. In contrast, gyeranppang (egg muffin) is topped with a one whole egg. This hefty dessert has the nutrients and the subtle sweetness that makes for an excellent light meal.

Top 3 places to find street foods in Seoul

- ❖ **Myeong-dong Station Food Street**
 A gourmet street where you can find delicious foods of Korea and from all over the world
LOCATION: Turn left and walk straight from Exit 6 of Myeong-dong Station (Seoul Subway Line 4)
- ❖ **Hongdae Pedestrian-friendly Street**
 The place where you can find all the trending snacks like grilled ice cream, seasoned jjondeugi, and more
LOCATION: Turn left and walk for 145 meters from Exit 9 of Hongdae Station (Seoul Subway Lines 2, Airport Railroad, Gyeongui Jungang Line)
- ❖ **Noryangjin Cup Bap Street**
 Budget-friendly meal retreat hangout popular among the Gen Z
LOCATION: Walk straight for 314 meters from Exit 3 of Noryangjin Station (Seoul Subway Line Lines 1, 9)

Round 5 Convenience-store specials

Hoppang and wangmandu are perfect treats for melting the winter cold away. Hoppang got its name from the onomatopoeia “ho, ho,” a sound people make when they blow air on the hot bun to cool the heat down. Hoppang is characterized by soft and tender steamed bun with fillings like sweet red bean paste or pizza. Sweet red bean paste-filled hoppang and milk is a classic combo, while the pizza-flavored hoppang goes well with a soft drink. While similar in shape, wangmandu, which can be translated to “king dumpling,” is characterized by chewy skin with savory and scrumptious fillings like meat or kimchi. The best way to enjoy wangmandu is to eat it with a hot soup on a cold day. Another upside to these two delicious snacks is that they act as great hand warmers as you eat them away.



Photo by Lee Beom-su, Korea Tourism Organization

Hoppang

VS.



Wangmandu



Photo by Kim Ji-ho, Korea Tourism Organization

Baked Chestnuts

VS.




Baked Sweet Potato

Round 6 Old-fashioned winter treats

If you are looking for warm, sweet treats to indulge on, be on the lookout for gunbam (baked chestnuts) and gungoguma (baked sweet potato) stalls. They both have in common the crusty outer layer, but while the chestnuts are a convenient bite-sized delish, the sweet potatoes bring a tender and heavenly sweetness to your palate. Baked sweet potatoes go surprisingly well with kimchi, a combination that is worth a try if you get the chance. These baked goods were once often found on the streets, but now you can find them at convenience stores or inside subway stations.

Round 7 How many skewers can you eat?

Teok kkochi (rice cake skewer) is a sweet and sour Korean snack prepared by deep-frying rows of rice cakes on a skewer and coating it with sweet and spicy sauce. The result is a rice cake that is crispy on the outside and chewy on the inside complemented by a delicious sauce. On the other hand, Korean-style dak kkochi (chicken skewer) is grilled before coating it with sauce which results in tender, juicy meat. Sometimes, green onions are also added on the skewer to enhance the flavor profile. Common dak kkochi seasonings or sauces consist of salt, soy sauce, and spicy marinade.



Tteok kkochi

VS.




Photo courtesy of Korea Tourism Organization

Dak kkochi

SEE STREET ON PAGE 6

STREET: Tasty food battle

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Round 8 Customize your desserts

Crispy waffles and chewy churros may not be authentic Korean desserts, but they have found their way to the hearts of Koreans thanks to their wide range of customizable toppings. Whipped cream, fruits, nuts, chocolate syrup, and ice cream are few of the many options you can choose from to find the combination that will satisfy your palate. Don't forget to take a photo of the finished masterpiece to post on your social media.



Naver Blog, Courtesy of Korea Tourism Organization

Naver Blog, Courtesy of Korea Tourism Organization

Waffle



Churros



Photo by Alex Bundo, Korea Tourism Organization



Naver Blog, Courtesy of Korea Tourism Organization

Street Toast



Cup Bap

Round 9 A convenient and light meal

A Korean-style "street toast" is not a typical toasted bread slice, but it's closer a grilled sandwich. The most common form of Korean-style street toast includes thinly sliced cabbage strips and omelet-style egg as the main filling ingredients with sugar, ketchup, and mayonnaise as the sauce. Cup bap on the other hand is a quick, one-dish meal where toppings are added over rice in a cup. Common cup bap toppings include fried eggs, bulgogi, tuna and mayonnaise, and laver flakes, which you can add or subtract according to your preference. Both dishes are cheap and convenient, making them a go-to option for students and busy workers who are looking for a quick meal.

Round 10 The classics with a twist

The most recently trending snacks up for the battle are grilled ice cream and jjondeugi, which got its name from the Korean word "jjondeuk," meaning "chewy." Grilled ice cream, an ice cream dessert covered in a layer of toasted marshmallow, is like a bite of fluffy and sweet piece of heaven. Jjondeugi is a junk food often associated with childhood among Koreans. Lately, jjondeugi has made a comeback with a new look and taste – deep fried and seasoned with flavors like honey butter, injeolmi (bean powder), and cheese. This new jjondeugi has been gaining popularity for its enhanced texture and flavor while preserving the chewiness jjondeugi is known for.

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Naver Blog, Courtesy of Korea Tourism Organization



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Grilled Ice Cream



Jjondeugi

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TASTE OF KOREA

3 must-visit cafés near Camp Humphreys

STORY AND PHOTOS BY HYEMIN LEE, STRIPES KOREA

In Korea, many locals have a common hangout routine which involves visiting a good restaurant to enjoy delicious dishes and then heading to a café for delicious desserts. Following this trend, numerous cafés have evolved to stand out among thousands of others.

Fortunately, it's effortless in Korea to find eye-catching cafés with delectable desserts and photogenic interiors!

When it's cold, rainy, or snowy outside and you don't want to travel far but still want to enjoy a delightful time with your favorite people, check out these three must-visit cafes where you can experience a brief, fun escape near Camp Humphreys.

lee.hyemin@stripes.com



1. CAFÉ ARCHIVE (카페 아카이브)

Located right next to the Oseong-gang River, this café is one of the best in the area and is only a 10-minute drive from Camp Humphreys' Adams Gate or Yoon Gate. You will be amazed by two reasons at this café. First, it boasts a stunning river view on all floors! The second floor is perfect for enjoying the river view inside, and the rooftop terrace is a true gem, especially during good weather. The café is three stories and very spacious, great for accommodating many visitors. Free parking spots are also available.

Also, the café surprises visitors with its variety of delicious and tempting bread, pastries, and cakes! Choosing desserts can be a challenge due to the many great options. But that's a good problem to have!

Drinks are priced between 5,500 won to 8,000 won, and pastries range from 4,000 won to 10,000 won. Although the prices are relatively high compared to other cafés, the blend of the beautiful river view and delicious pastries makes it worth a visit. Note that for kids' safety, they aren't allowed on the second and third floors. Keep in mind that as one of the hottest cafes in Pyeongtaek, Café Archive can be quite busy during weekends.

ADDRESS: 468 Gangbyeon-ro, Pyeongtaek-si, Gyeonggi-do
HOURS: 10 a.m. - 11 p.m.
PHONE: 031-8029-0100



NAVER MAP



2. BREAD AND YOU (빵과 당신)

This bakery shop is a renowned three-story café run by master pastry chef In, certified by the Korean government as a top expert in pastry and baking.

It is a must-visit destination for bread enthusiasts, offering a diverse range of treats, from pies and rice cakes to various types of bread, cakes, cookies, and more!

Due to its exceptional taste and design, many people visit for gifts or group gatherings. It's strongly recommended to visit way earlier than around closing time, as popular bread items sell out quickly. The café provides plenty of seating as well as parking, so no need to worry, even if you have a large group of friends. One of the highlights of visiting this café is its proximity to many excellent restaurants in the area, making it an ideal spot for family outings or hosting important guests. Top restaurants nearby include Godeung-eo myeongpum-ee doeda (Premium mackerel), Lee Woo-chul's herbal crispy rice Samgyetang (Ginseng chicken soup), and Firenze 1684 (Pasta), and many others.

ADDRESS: 1720-4, Manse-ro, Pyeongtaek-si, Gyeonggi-do
HOURS: 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.
PHONE: 031-651-4317



NAVER MAP



3. GOOSE COFFEE (구스 커피)

Among the numerous cafés near Pyeongtaek Station, Goose Coffee stands out as a charming and unique one with delightful decorations and a spacious interior. More importantly, this café offers rooms, providing an opportunity for private time with friends. It is beloved by many locals seeking cozy moments with friends or quiet study time.

Everything at this café is adorable, so if you like cute things, this place is for you. Stuffed geese in every corner of the café are sure to make you smile, and the cute dessert options such as rainbow cake, cheese croffle, and goose-shaped madeleine can add more fun.

ADDRESS: Pyeongtaek Station Exit 1 / 15 Pyeongtaek 1-ro, Pyeongtaek-si, Gyeonggi-do
HOURS: 12:30 p.m. - Midnight



Photo by Goose Coffee



NAVER MAP



Enjoy Gyeongsang-do's rich history, culture,

STORY AND PHOTOS BY HYEMIN LEE, STRIPES KOREA

Gyeongsang Province sits in Korea's southeastern region and features a variety of beautiful destinations with cultural and historical significance. Here you can enjoy the breathtaking South Sea from Busan, Tongyeong and Gyeongju cities.

Of the three major cities in the province, Busan stands out as the hands-down top summer vacation spot. Neighboring Tongyeong City offers a comparatively relaxing travel experience while featuring numerous recreational activities.

Gyeongju City is where history meets leisure as it preserves remnants of the Silla Kingdom and Joseon Dynasty while serving up a diverse food and fun scene. While traveling Korea's southeastern region, you're not going to want to miss visiting these three great cities.

lee.hyemin@stripes.com



Tongyeong and Admiral Yi Sun-sin

1 Hansando Island and Jeseungdang Shrine

Hansando Island is only accessible by ferry and its Maritime National Park is a top spot for some great ocean views. The island was the scene of the Battle of Hansando Island, a major conflict during the Imjin War (1592-1598). It was during this battle that Admiral Yi Sun-sin commanded Korean naval force turtle ships to the victory over Japanese warships in 1592.

Many visitors stop by Jeseungdang Shrine, Admiral Yi Sun-sin's former headquarters, to immerse themselves into the war's intense history and to pay respects to the hero.

More information about the ferry schedule is below.



Photo courtesy of Korea Tourism Organization

2 Admiral Yi Sun-sin Park

The park commemorates Admiral Yi Sun-sin's major victory here and features a bronze statue of the admiral facing Hansando Island. The park is known for its beautiful walking trails along the clear blue South Sea. No admission fee is required.

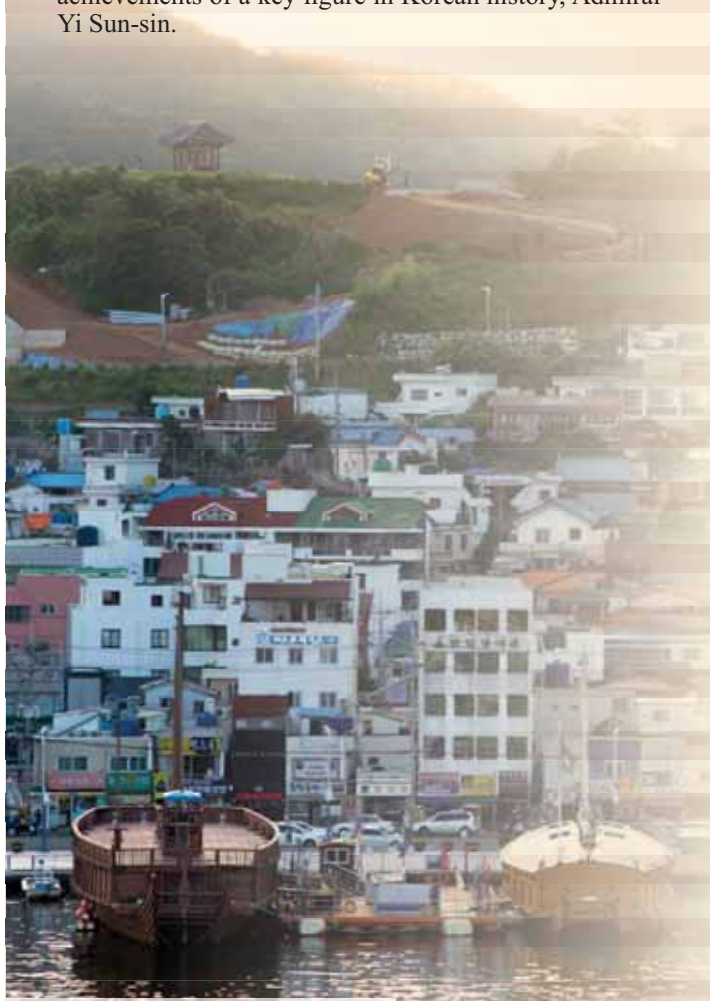


NAVER MAP

ADDRESS: 688-1, Jeongnyang-dong, Tongyeong-si

Tongyeong (Naples of Korea)

Tongyeong, often referred to as the Naples of Korea, is home to the Hallyeo Haesang National Marine Park, which boasts breathtaking sceneries of the southern coast. Beyond its phenomenal landscape, Tongyeong holds a special place for Koreans as it is home to many historical attractions, including some dedicated to the achievements of a key figure in Korean history, Admiral Yi Sun-sin.



Joseon Naval Ships, turtleship

Photo courtesy of Korea Tourism Organization

Must try activities in Tongyeong

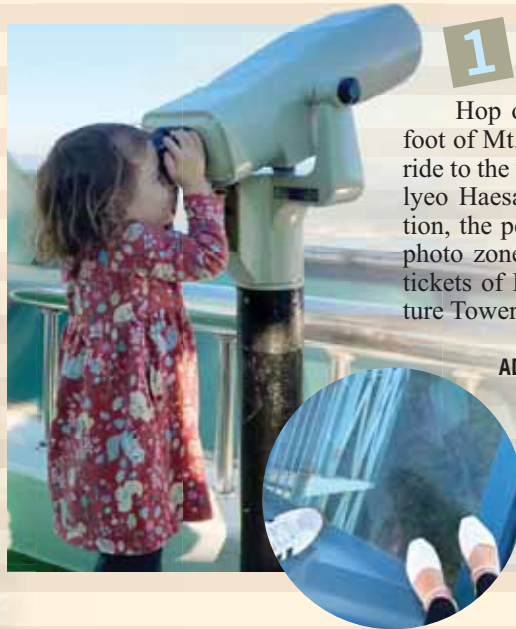
1 Tongyeong Cable Car

Hop on the Tongyeong Cable Car at the foot of Mt. Mireuksan for a quick nine-minute ride to the top for a panoramic view of the Hallyeo Haesang National Marine Park. In addition, the peak has a skywalk, observatory and photo zones for some great pics. If you have tickets of Dpirang, Skyline Luge, and Adventure Tower, a discount is available.

ADDRESS: 205 Balgae-ro, Tongyeong-si

HOURS: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. (May vary depending on the weather)

TICKETS: Adults 17,000 won / Children 13,000 won (Round trip)



2 Skyline Luge

Enjoy a thrilling adventure in a luge cart! visitors can explore four different courses covering 3.8 kms (2.3 miles). Due to its convenient location below Mt. Mireuksan, the luge is often considered as one destination along with the Tongyeong Cable Car.

Take the Skyride, a lift which will shuttle you to the luge departure point. Only individuals taller than 110 centimeters can ride the cart alone, and children between 85-110 centimeters can ride with a guardian who is over 150 centimeters tall.

ADDRESS: 178 Balgae-ro, Tongyeong-si

HOURS: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

TICKETS: 35,000 won for 4 trips / 37,000 won for 5 trips

(Discount is available through Naver or with a cable car ticket)



Photo courtesy of Korea Tourism Organization



Photo courtesy of Korea Tourism Organization



NAVER MAP

beauty



Photo courtesy of Korea Tourism Organization



Jeseungdang Shrine

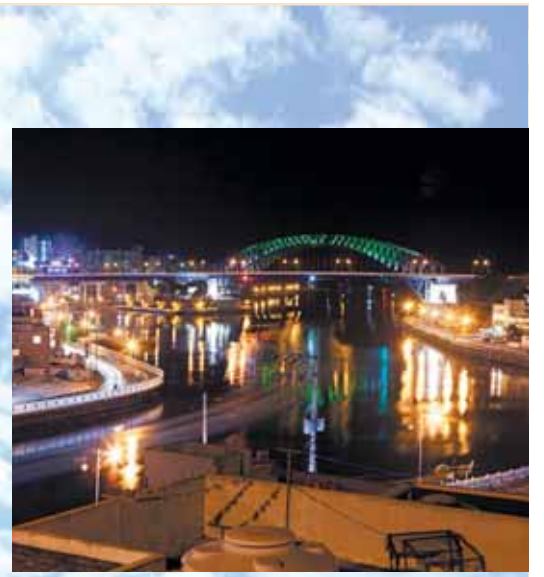


Photo courtesy of Korea Tourism Organization

3 Joseon Naval Ships

Near the park, there are four turtle ship replicas where visitors can explore and observe these warships up close. Visitors also get a chance to try on the Joseon navy uniform. This is a fun spot to check out, especially for kids.



NAVER MAP

ADDRESS: 236, Jungang-dong, Tongyeong-si
HOURS: 9 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
TICKETS: Adults 1,500 won / Teens 1,100 won / Children 500 won



Photo courtesy of Korea Tourism Organization



Photo courtesy of Tongyeong Hansan Battle Festival

4 Tongyeong Hansan Battle Festival

Every year in August, the Battle of Hansando Island is commemorated with a lively festival. Enjoy traditional arts, performances, games, and fireworks while learning about the area's history. The dates of the event change every year, so visit the website for more details.



WEBSITE

ADDRESS: Around Admiral Yi Sun-sin park and Hansando Island



Photo courtesy of Tongyeong Hansan Battle Festival



Photo courtesy of Tongyeong Hansan Battle Festival

3 Adventure Tower

This 15-meter-tall tower offers adventure sports experiences, including climbing and obstacle courses. There are a total of 96 courses divided into beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels which guarantee fun times for visitors. Suit up with safety equipment and explore the tower, shaking bridge and jumps. Do note that the facility has weight restrictions and does not allow visitors below 25 kilos and above 100 kilos on the attractions.



NAVER MAP

ADDRESS: 172-12 Balgae-ro, Tongyeong-si
HOURS: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. (Closed second and fourth Monday)
TICKETS: Adults 19,000 won / Teens 17,000 won / Children 12,000 won



Photo courtesy of Adventure Tower

4 Tongyeong Ferry Tour (daytime)

The ferry tour allows you to explore the battlefields of the Imjin War, Jeseungdang Shrine and Hansando Island. Also, you can choose a tour course for Jangsado Island Maritime Park, renowned for camellia flowers that blossom between January and February. All prices are for round trips. You can book a ticket on-site if there is an available seat. Booking through Naver offers a discount. Don't forget to bring your ID card!



NAVER MAP

ADDRESS: 2nd floor, 269-38 Donam-ro, Tongyeong-si
HANSANDO ISLAND: The ferry leaves every hour from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (2-hour trip)
JANGSADO ISLAND: 10 a.m. / 1 p.m. (3.5-hour trip)
TICKETS: Adults 14,000-22,000 won / Children 8,000-15,000 won
PHONE: 1688-9301



5 Chungmugong Ferry Tour (nighttime)

Don't miss the chance to discover why Tongyeong is called the "Naples of Korea." The artistic beauty of Tongyeong Bridge and the rainbow-colored coastal night views never fail to impress visitors during the night ferry tour. On the weekends, visitors can enjoy fireworks on the cruise as well. Passengers must arrive 20 minutes in advance with their ID card.



WEBSITE (ONLY KOREAN)

ADDRESS: The same place as Tongyeong Ferry Tour, but the ticket booth is located on the 1st floor.
HOURS: 5:20 p.m. (Mon-Sat), 7 p.m. (Fri-Sun)
DURATION: 1 hour
TICKETS: 25,500 - 30,000 won (Booking through Naver offers 10-20 percent discount)
PHONE: 1688-3883

(Note: Schedules may vary based on weather, so it is recommended to check the website before visiting)



Photo courtesy of Korea Tourism Organization

See Busan & Gyeongju on Pages 10

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

EXPLORING BUSAN'S COASTAL GEMS

Gwangalli Beach vs. Haeundae Beach

As Korea's second largest city, Busan is constantly abuzz with activity. In the summer, it is a favorite vacation spot thanks to its abundant charm, fun attractions and beautiful beaches. The city boasts two cherished landmark beaches, Gwangalli and Haeundae, drawing crowds year-round to their shores of soft white sand

and pristine blue waters.

Despite their proximity to each other, the beaches each have their own distinct appeal. Visiting both is a must, but here are all the fun activities you can do at each one.

– Hyemin Lee, *Stripes Korea*

Gwangalli Beach

Known as a true hotspot beloved by young people, Gwangalli Beach has many trendy activities you'll enjoy.

1 Ocean view cafés

Take a stroll on the streets near the beach and stop in at the many trendy cafés and restaurants. These are a haven for visitors seeking the perfect blend of Busan's ocean views, photogenic interiors and delightful treats and cuisine. Here are three ocean view spots to check out!

■ Millac The Market

A multi-cultural complex, this is one of the hottest spots among locals for its unique interiors, trendy cafes restaurants and fun pop-up stores.

ADDRESS: 56, Millaksubyeon-ro 17beon-gil, Suyeong-gu, Busan
HOURS: 10 a.m. – midnight



NAVER MAP



Photo courtesy of Millac the market

■ Ddubucks Gwangan

Enjoy croffles, desserts and a variety of beverages at this stunning café.

ADDRESS: 7th floor, 239 Gwangan-haebyeon-ro, Suyeong-gu, Busan
HOURS: 10 a.m. – 10 p.m.



Photo courtesy of Ddubucks Gwangan



NAVER MAP

■ Sandys

This café is well-known for its delicious cakes, so definitely save room for dessert.

ADDRESS: 5th floor, 38-1 Namcheonbada-ro, Suyeong-gu, Busan
HOURS: 12 p.m. – 10 p.m. (Mon-Fri) / 11 a.m. – 10 p.m. (Sat-Sun)



NAVER MAP



Photo courtesy of Sandys

2 Night view and drone show

The night views of Gwangalli Beach, illuminated by the spectacular lights of Gwangan Bridge, are mesmerizing. Every Saturday night, a 10-minute drone light show adds even more excitement to the stunning view, creating a festive atmosphere.

■ Drone Light Show (Saturdays)

MAR. – SEP.: 8 p.m. & 10 p.m.
OCT. – FEB.: 7 p.m. & 9 p.m.



Photos courtesy of Korea Tourism Organization



3 Diverse water activities

Gwangalli Beach is a year-round marine activity destination, offering jet skis, banana boats, water playgrounds and even bubble parties during the summer. Surfing and paddle boarding continue until early fall, with some places operating yachts even during the winter months.

■ Gwangalli Marine Leisure Sports Center

ADDRESS: 222 Gwangan-haebyeon-ro 54 beon-gil, Suyeong-gu, Busan
PHONE: 010-2898-0027



WEBSITE

■ Crazy Surfers

ADDRESS: 29 Gwangnam-ro 48beon-gil, Suyeong-gu, Busan
PHONE: 010-7708-9804



WEBSITE



Photo courtesy of Korea Tourism Organization

Haeundae Beach

Haeundae Beach caters to visitors of all ages, including families with children. With its magical views and vigorous waves, the beach remains beloved by all who visit Busan.



1 The Bay 101- Night view of Marine City



NAVER MAP

ADDRESS: 52 Dongbaek-ro, Haeundae-gu
HOURS: 8 a.m. – midnight

Surrounded by high-rise buildings of Marine City, this multi-cultural complex showcases a splendid night view unique to Busan. Capturing magical night view photos while enjoying beer and fish & chips at The Bay 101 is a must in Haeundae.



2 Yacht tour

Take a one-hour yacht tour for panoramic views of Haeundae and Gwangalli beaches. Sunset yacht tours, which include fireworks, are especially recommended.

Most yacht tour shops offer the same deal. Most tour operators, like the one you can take from The Bay 101, have yacht tickets that include free water, beverages, tea, blankets, hot packs and fireworks for the night tour.

■ The Bay 101 Yacht Club

COURSE: The Bay 101 → Dongbackseom Island → Haundae Beach → Gwangan Bridge → Gwangalli Beach → Subyeon Park → Marine City → The Bay 101
DURATION: 1 hour
TICKETS: Day Tour 15,000 won / Sunset & Night Tour 25,000 won



BOOKING THROUGH KLOOK



Photos courtesy of Korea Tourism Organization

3 Iconic festivals

Haeundae Beach hosts a number of popular festivals annually, including the Busan International Film Festival, Polar Bear Festival, and New Year Festival. Here is the website for more information about festivals in Haeundae.



WEBSITE

■ Haeundae Light Festival

During the winter, enjoy beautiful illuminations alongside the winter sea.
DATES: Until Feb. 2
HOURS: 5:30 p.m. - midnight



Photo courtesy of Korea Tourism Organization

■ Haeundae Sand Festival

Every May, one of the greatest sand festivals takes place in Haeundae, featuring fascinating sand artworks from artists worldwide.
DATES: May (The specific dates vary every year)



Photo courtesy of Haeundae Sand Festival

THREE COOL ACTIVITIES YOU MUST TRY IN GYEONGJU



For more information about Gyeongju, including trip planning and destinations, please check this out.

Gyeongju City, known as the capital of the ancient kingdom of Silla (57 BC-935), is a unique destination brimming with UNESCO World Heritage sites. Visitors can forge a special connection to Korea's rich history while exploring every corner of the city often referred to as a museum

without walls.

You can appreciate this blending of the past and present in Downtown Gyeongju. Here are three activities in the city's downtown area that will undoubtedly make your trip unforgettable!

– Hyemin Lee, *Stripes Korea*

1 Wearing a Silla hanbok

Wearing hanbok, Korea's traditional clothing, is a must-try experience at many historical sites around the Peninsula. In Gyeongju, you'll find two types of hanboks, Joseon hanbok and Silla hanbok, which is available only in this city. The Silla hanbok is more luxurious and features more elaborate designs than those of the later Joseon Dynasty.

Rent a Silla hanbok and take some stunning photos at beautiful historical sites, such as Daereungwon Ancient Tombs and Woljeonggyo Bridge, as if you are Silla royalty.

Hanbok rental usually includes hairstyling service. Most shops don't offer rental service during rainy weather. Late March to June and September to November are ideal times to try this activity. Wearing hanbok in hot or cold weather isn't ideal, so make sure to check the weather before your visit.



Photo courtesy of Doldam-gil Hanbok

■ Doldam-gil Hanbok

Located near Daereungwon, they rent hanboks originally designed by them. Reservation is recommended (Naver or phone)

ADDRESS: 30-5, Cheomseong-ro 99beon-gil, Gyeongju-si

HOURS: 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. (Closed on Tuesdays)

PHONE: 054-743-9458

PRICES: 15,000 won for an hour (10,000 won is charged every one hour) / All day 50,000 won (10 a.m. – 5 p.m.)



NAVER MAP + BOOKING



Silla hanbok in Woljeonggyo Bridge
Photo courtesy of by Doldam-gil Hanbok

■ Gyochoon Hanbok

It's located near Gyochoon traditional house (Hanok) village and reservation by phone call is recommended.

ADDRESS: 39-6, Gyochoon-gil, Gyeongju-si

HOURS: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

PHONE: 010-5875-0852

PRICES: 15,000 won for an hour (10,000 won is charged every one hour)



NAVER MAP

2 Bicycle trips

Downtown Gyeongju is a cyclist's dream as it is easy to explore via bicycle and most destinations are a short ride away.

Tasilla (타실라) is a public bicycle service operated by Gyeongju City, with over 100 rental stations in the downtown area. You can easily rent one and return it to any station. The one-day pass is only 1,000 won and bikes are easy to rent with the mobile app. However, the app only provides services in Korean, so you will need to inquire by phone with the staff. Also, using Tasilla requires a Korean phone number.



Bicycle in Banwolsong
Photo courtesy of Korea Tourism Organization

RECOMMENDED COURSE: Daereungwon Stone Wall Trail → Hwanglidan-gil Street → Cheomseongdae Observatory → Gyerim Forest → Banwolsong Fortress → Gyochoon Hanok Village and Woljeonggyo Bridge → Bunhwangsa Temple
PHONE: 054-775-1472



TASILLA WEBSITE



Daereungwon Ancient Tombs



Gyochoon Traditional Village and Woljeonggyo Bridge



Woljeonggyo Bridge

Photos courtesy of Korea Tourism Organization

■ Gyeongju Scooter Bicycle Rental Shop

(경주고속스쿠터 자전거 대여점)

Check out this bicycle rental shop if you want a quick and simple rental service. Various types of bicycles and scooters are available.

ADDRESS: Sajeongdong 485-9

PHONE: 010-9003-2352



NAVER MAP



Hwanglidangil Street Photos courtesy of Korea Tourism Organization



3 Hanok café tours

Hwanglidan-gil Street is a true gem in Gyeongju. This street is home to a variety of cool cafés and restaurants in traditional Hanok houses. Many places offer unique fusion food and desserts that will please not only your taste buds but also your eyes.



Photo courtesy of Skunk Works

■ Skunk Works

One of the most beautiful hanok cafés in Gyeongju with ice cream and coffee.



NAVER MAP

ADDRESS: 1058-3, Poseok-ro, Gyeongju-si

HOURS: 10 a.m. – 10 p.m.



NAVER MAP

■ Cafe Marche

Offering delightful desserts such as tiramisu, handmade cakes, apple pie and a fantastic breakfast, including fan cake and French toast at a beautiful traditional house.

ADDRESS: Cheomseongro 81 beongil 22-7

HOURS: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.



Photos courtesy of Cafe Marche

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Make friends with fluffy, cuddly samoyeds at Hongdae's Winter Village café

STORY AND PHOTOS BY DENISSE RAUDA, STRIPES KOREA

Seoul is home to many cafés, and in particular, pet cafés. You may have

visited a cat, owl or reptile café as you've explored the large city.

Tucked away in Hongdae, a hot spot for the hip, young crowd, you'll find Winter Village, a café for Samoyed dogs. Animal cafés aren't really my thing, but I couldn't pass up the opportunity to play with giant fluff balls.

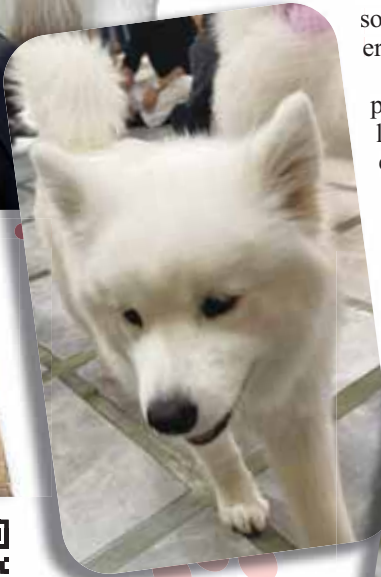
The two-story café houses over 15 of these big white, fluffy, adorable doggos who are treated like celebrities. Visitors can even purchase trading cards and merch of their favorite resident.

During my visit on a weekday, I was surprised to find more than 20 people scattered around the two floors with dozens of dogs either chasing each other or lounging about.

According to the American Kennel Club, Samoyed were originally bred for hunting and herding in Russia and Siberia. These friendly dogs can weigh up to 50 pounds for females and 65 pounds for males.

They have a double coat, so expect to leave covered in white fur.

Before entering the play area, we put our belongings away in lockers and were given a safety briefing. This briefing in English



and Korean included instructions on how to enter and exit, the correct way to pet the dogs and the correct way to present them treats.

Both floors had about 10-15 visitors eager to meet the big puffy pups, who were chasing each other or lounging about looking cute.

We settled in the seats surrounding the play area on the second floor and the dogs approached us because they already knew that new guests bring fresh treats provided by the staff.

The Samoyed are larger than I imagined, especially when they're climbing around you trying to find the treats. They were gentle and I couldn't say no to their cute faces. Some of the gentle giants had pastel pink or purple tails, which the staff said indicated they were female.

After I was out of treats, the attention and love I was getting came to a brief halt. But then the staff gathered all the dogs for a photo op. The dogs were well trained for the flashing lights and cameras, for the most part, and got into their positions while each visitor lined up

to sit for photos.

After I got some pics of the second-floor residents, we made our way down to play with the first-floor dogs.

The play area was smaller, so there were less dogs, but at this point, there were less people, too. Here, amongst all the white fluffy dogs, was a brown-coated Samoyed. The coloring of this dog made it look like a cartoon bear character or team mascot. This pup was a standout, not only because of his coat, but also because of his friendliness. He sat and posed for selfies with every visitor and was in it for the cuddles.

After many, many photos and lots of sticker sheets off the lint roller later, we left Winter Village fluffed out. If you want a nice break to pet some adorable friendly giants, this is the spot to visit.

Admission is 14,000 won (about \$10) per person, and includes all-you-can-drink from a soda fountain near the entrance. No drinks are allowed in the play area.

rauda.denisse@stripes.com

Things to know

ADDRESS: 19-5 겨울이 머무는 집17-gil Wausan-ro, Mapo-gu, Seoul
HOURS: 1 p.m.- 9 p.m. daily; Entry closes a few times a day while dogs get potty breaks.



WEBSITE

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Fried Chicken gizzards fried stuffed green peppers, and spicy mustard sauce at Kyochon Pilbang, Seoul, South Korea on November 21.



Left: The corridor of Kyochon Pilbang. Center: Army Sgt Eric Mendiola pulls the paintbrush to open the door. Right: The dining room.

Sneak away for some clandestine fried chicken at Itaewon speakeasy

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER GREEN, STRIPES KOREA

finally found it! A few months ago, I watched a video of unique and exciting restaurants in Seoul. Several looked interesting, but the one that caught my eye was Kyochon Pilbang, a high-end Korean fried chicken restaurant.

What makes this chicken joint special is that it is hidden in plain sight. Like a 1920s speakeasy where you need a code word to get in on the goods.

If you lean in a little closer, I'll let you in on a little secret: Kyochon Pilbang is down in the basement of a tall building in Itaewon. Just below Off the Record Vinyl Bar.

The exterior of the building is painted to look like fresh brush strokes all over. To enter the chicken spot, find a large paint brush with long white bristles. Push the brush down and slide the door open. The speakeasy facade doesn't end there, once the door opens, a long corridor displaying various brushes leads to a cash register but no cashier. I pressed the call button on a tablet next to the register and suddenly one of the storage cabinets swung open and a host was there to escort me to my seat.

The attentive staff were like Al Capone and kept the table loaded with lemonade, water, pickled radishes and popcorn. The pink radishes were sweet and sour and had the right amount of salt. The popcorn

Things to know
ADDRESS: 127 Bogwang-ro, Yongsan District, Seoul
DIRECTION: The restaurant is in Itaewon and it's unmarked. The only way to find it is to look for a large black paintbrush next to the door.
HOURS: 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. and 4 p.m.-11:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; 11:30 a.m.-11:30 p.m. Sat.-Sun.
MENU PRICES: Their prices range from 5,000 to 33,000 Won.
PHONE NUMBER: 02-6263-1992

was a mix of salt, sweetness, and a hint of white cheddar.

From the menu, which was written in Korean and English, we had too many options to choose from. I settled on the half-and-half fried chicken gizzards and stuffed fried green peppers with spicy mustard sauce for my appetizer. For my main dish, I ordered the half-and-half

combo: half soy garlic sauce and half red pepper sauce fried chicken drumsticks and wings.

When the server delivered my appetizer, the shipment was larger than anticipated. I knew then my eyes were bigger than my stomach and I might have to take my main dish under the cover of darkness hidden in a take-out box. Fortunately,

the staff wrapped up my drumsticks and wings so I could enjoy them later.

The appetizer was filling, and I had no regrets that this would be my main dish. The chicken gizzards and peppers combined with mustard sauce were unbelievable. When I got to the fried chicken later, it was a flavor explosion of sweet, savory and spicy.

Soon my time at the speakeasy was up, but I had more delicious chicken to look forward to later. Kyochon Pilbang is worth the trip, if you can find it.

green.christopher@stripes.com

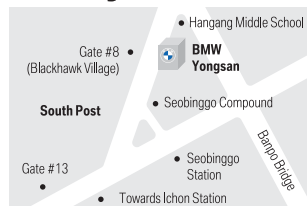


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KOREA KIDS' CORNER

Family fun at spa water parks in Asan City

BY HYEMIN LEE,
STRIPES KOREA

Asan City, located close to Pyeongtaek and renowned as a hot spring vacation spot, is home to two major spa water parks perfect for families during winter months: Paradise Spa Dogo and Asan Spavis. The water at these parks is sourced 100% from natural hot springs, offering numerous therapeutic benefits for skincare and health. While enjoying various spa zones, your body will rejuvenate, and your skin will become soft and glowing. The water is not too hot, so no worries, you can bring young children along.

With a water park pass, you can also access the bathhouse at these two facilities. lee.hyemin@stripes.com



Photos by Paradise Spa Dogo

Paradise Spa Dogo

About 40 minutes away from Camp Humphreys by car, Paradise Spa Dogo is considered the best spa water park in Asan City. It is highly rated for well-maintained facilities, excellent water quality, and temperature. The park offers a variety of exciting spa zones, attracting families, couples, and individuals of all ages. It is divided into indoor and outdoor zones, with the outdoor section featuring diverse fun spas such as a wave pool, lazy river pool, infinity pool, and wooden bath, as well as grape, peach, and mugwort baths. There is also a water playground for kids with slides, and a fountain.

Outside food is not permitted. There are restaurants and shops inside for food and items for playing in the water. Rental sunbeds are available for a fee (30,000 won to 100,000 won), but I'd recommend using free lounge facilities after purchasing food. The park is closed from March to April. Free parking is available.

ADDRESS: 176 Dogo Oncheon-ro, Asan-si

HOURS

- **WATERPARK:** 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. (Mon.-Thu.) / 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. (Weekends & Holidays)

- **SAUNA/BATHHOUSE:** 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. (Mon.-Thu.) / 9 a.m. - 10 p.m. (Weekends & Holidays)

CONTACT: 041-537-7100

TICKET: 50,000 won (price may vary slightly depending on season). A 30% discount is available with your DOD/Military ID card. Booking through Naver also offers a 20-30% discount.



NAVER MAP



WEBSITE

Things to bring to spa parks

- Bring swimwear or a rash guard, swimming glasses, and toiletries.
- Towels, body wash, and shampoo are provided.
- Donut-shaped tubes under 100 cm in size are allowed.
- Aqua shoes are recommended for outdoor activities (Other shoes aren't allowed).
- At Paradise Spa Dogo, a life jacket is required for the wave pool, regardless of your age (Rental fee is 5,000 won). Wearing a cap is optional.
- At Asan Spavis, a life jacket is required for the lazy river pool, regardless of age (Rental fee is 6,000 won). Those under 130 cm in height must wear a life jacket at the water park. Wearing a swim cap or regular cap is a must.

Asan Spavis

Asan Spavis is a more affordable option than Paradise Spa Dogo and is conveniently located about 25 minutes (20 km) away from Camp Humphreys, making it an excellent outing spot for families without much time on the road. Since it's more geared toward families with young children, it may seem a bit simple for those seeking an exciting water park experience. You can explore indoor and outdoor zones with various spas. There is a water playground for young kids, a variety of hot spring baths, lazy river pool and more. The water park also has a wave pool and slides, but they are open only during the summer peak season.

Outside food, snorkeling goggles, swim fins, and slippers aren't allowed. You can purchase food and other items on-site. If you have a big tattoo, you must wear a rash guard or a full-body swimsuit to conceal them. Parking is available for free.

ADDRESS: 67, Asan Oncheon-ro 157 beon-gil, Asan-si

HOURS: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Waterpark) / 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. (Sauna/Bathhouse)

CONTACT: 041-539-2000

TICKET: 50,000 won (the price may vary slightly depending on the season). A 50% discount is available with your DOD/Military ID card. The discount is applicable for up to 4 people in your party. Booking through Naver also offers a 50% discount.



Photos by Asan Spavis



NAVER MAP



WEBSITE

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Stripes Sports Trivia

Who was the first player, after a record-breaking season in which he led his team to an NBA-record 73 wins and set an individual record of 402 three-pointers (smashing his own previous league record of 286 set the year before), in NBA history to be elected league MVP by a unanimous vote?

Answer

Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry






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Hangul of the week

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Gundae (Military)

Language Lesson

Are you in the military?

Gun-in ieyo? (군인이에요?)

Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

1 ___ Romeo

5 It's sold in bars

9 Canned meat since 1937

13 Pale anagram

14 More than suggest

15 Madcap comedy

16 Fluid rock

17 Like the fabled piper

18 Motionless

19 Be in charge of

21 Summer quencher

23 "Hondo", for one

24 Prickly shrub

25 Very skillful

27 Hoops grp.

30 Maintain

33 Sign before Virgo

34 Think tank nugget

35 Krasinski of Hollywood

36 Work shirker

38 In the vicinity

39 Quite often

40 Piece of pipe

41 Parody

43 Detail on some tickets

44 Acme

46 Medium's deck

48 Classic Dodge

52 Bond's drink

54 Franc division

55 Words to live by

56 Flower part

58 Iris's place

59 "Cheers" role

60 Coloring

61 Road turn

62 Vogue rival

63 Adjusts, as a clock

64 Means justifiers, at times

DOWN

1 Give the OK

2 Way off base?

3 Top picks, informally

4 Common rental

5 Lucky horse-shoe, e.g.

6 Get one's bearings

7 Go gray

8 AKC concern

9 Smooths, as wood

10 Made believe

11 Part of a plot

12 Prefix with physics or data

15 Like some speeches

20 Char, as a steak

22 Decorator's concerns

26 Pompeo of "Grey's Anatomy"

28 Bridges of Hollywood

29 Org. for seniors

30 Cracked

31 Without help

32 Rigged court proceeding

34 River float, at times

37 ADA members

42 Zip

44 Kind of number

45 Actor's study, perhaps

47 Make amends

49 1999 film, "Any ___ Sunday"

50 Revise

51 Digests digests

52 Like some beds

53 Leaf-stem angle

57 Corn site



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Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Easy

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.

Answer to Previous Sudoku:

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

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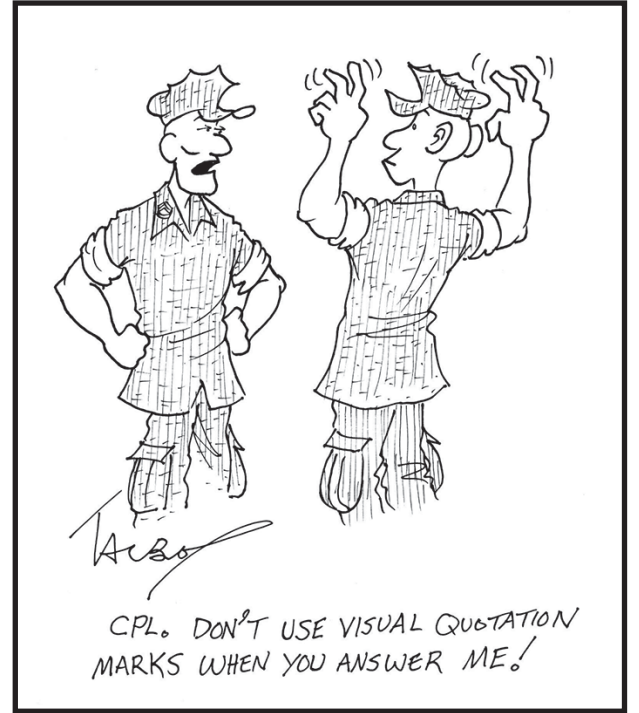
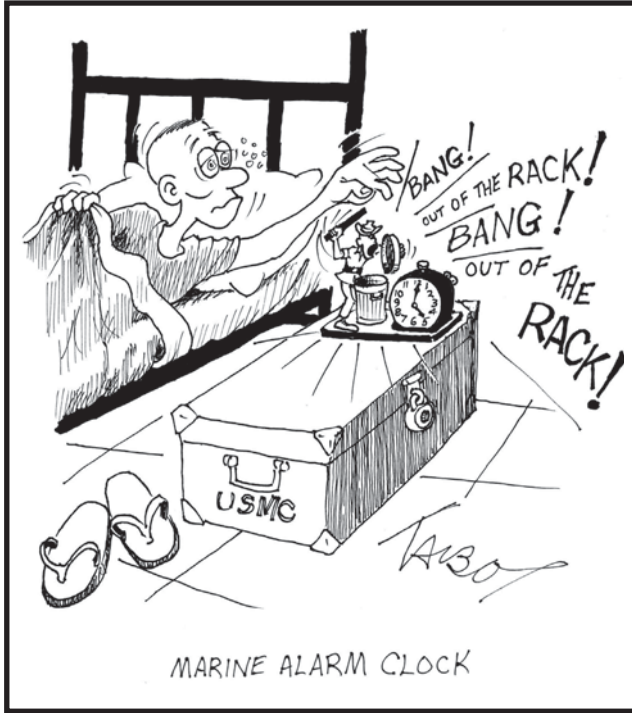
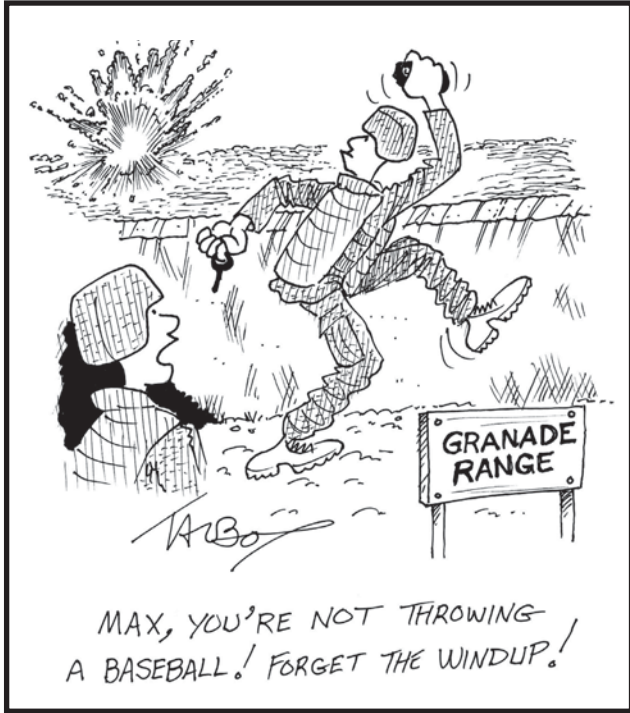



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COMICS CORNER



- Daryl Talbot

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