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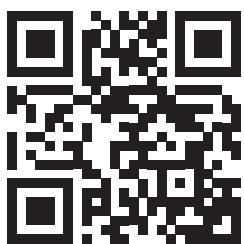
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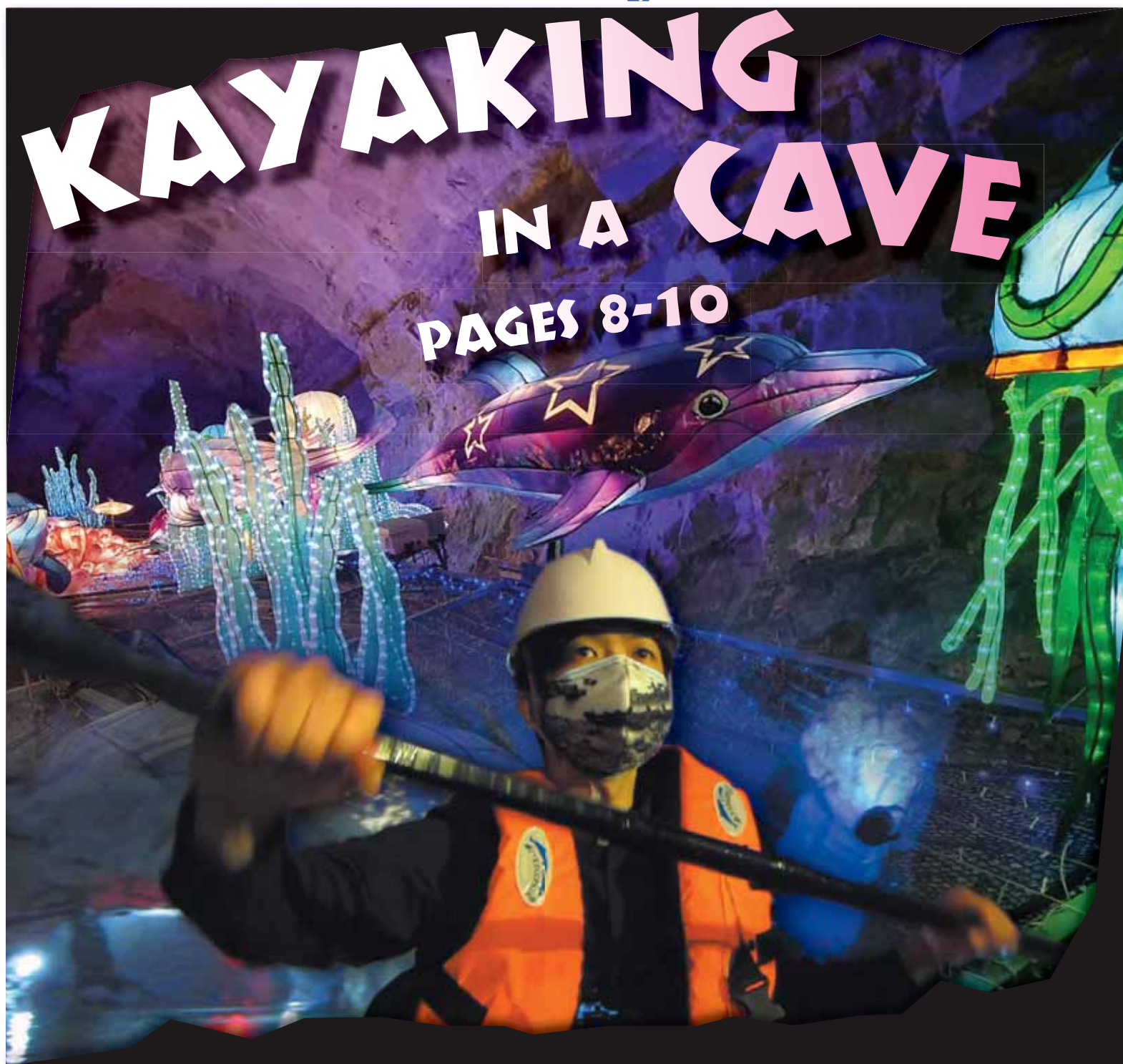
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Hometown friends take to the sky

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SENIOR AIRMAN NOAH SUDOLCAN,
51 FW/PA

OSAN AIR BASE – It's not every day that you get to pilot an F-16 fighter jet while one of your best friends fills the back seat. Let alone, a friend whose medical expertise, saved your Air Force flying career.

For Capt. Louis Bloom, 36th Fighter Squadron F-16 pilot and Maj. Christopher Ng, 51st Medical Operations Squadron general surgeon, their tour at Osan Air Base marks an unexpected milestone in both their friendship and career.

Both hailing from Randolph,

Massachusetts, the Randolph High School graduates took on similar paths to serve their country and initiated their Air Force careers by attending the United States Air Force Academy.

The hometown friends successfully graduated from USAFA and continued onto their specified career training. Ng was on his way to technical training school to become a general surgeon and Bloom to Undergraduate Pilot Training.

It wasn't long before the Air Force landed them both at Osan Air Base



Maj. Chris Ng (left), and Capt. Louis Bloom are all smiles at Osan Air Base on July 28.

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HOMETOWN: Friends there for one another

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

where they reconnected after several years. In the hopes of gratifying their reunion and hard work, Bloom requested for approval of a familiarization flight with Ng on board the F-16 Fighting Falcon.

Unfortunately for the hometown friends, a motorcycle accident put a halt to the approved FAM flight.

"I was certain I was in a bad spot the moment I observed my wound," Bloom said. "I had no idea how extensive my injury was or what would be required to fix it. I told Chris I had been in an accident and probably needed surgery. He said he'd meet me in the ER and sure enough, he was there waiting for me when I arrived."

As Bloom was rushed through the emergency room doors, Ng tended to Bloom who suffered a serious knee injury. Leading the charge for Bloom's surgical procedure and rehabilitation process, Ng's expertise was instrumental to Bloom's full and speedy recovery.

"The thoughts of my career began setting in," Bloom said. "I was sure my flying career would be on hold for months, if not forever."

While Bloom patiently waited



Chris Ng (left), and Louis Bloom (center), at the United States Air Force Academy orientation in 2008. Courtesy photo

with an uncertain future, Ng was there from start to finish. Bloom credit's Ng's persistence for speeding up the recovery process. Because Bloom healed faster than expected, they were finally able to pull G's, an increased gravitational pull, in a Fighting Falcon.

"Chris led the entire medical team from start to finish and made sure I knew exactly what I could expect from the procedure," Bloom said. "After sharing my story with family and friends in the medical field, I am certain he and the rest of the 51st Medical Group helped me return to flying well ahead

of the expected timeline."

Taxiing the flightline, the two reminisced about their fondest high school, USAFA and Osan memories while passing the F-16 hangars. Finally, the two brace to launch thousands of feet in the air at over 400 miles per hour. While taking in the majestic view, Ng asks Bloom if he can pull a 'G.'

Rolling the jet sideways and plugging the afterburner in, Bloom shared the rare experience with Ng of a high-G turn. After leveling out, Ng asks, "Can we do that again?!"

"The whole reason I entered the medical field was to be able

to help people," said Ng. "Being in a position to aid Louis when he sustained his injury gave me renewed purpose. Friendships like these are what forge camaraderie and encourage understanding among our troops, no matter the vast differences between our specialized fields."

According to Bloom, it was a gratifying to honor the long awaited celebration and to solidify their friendship.

"It was very rewarding to take Chris for a familiarization flight in the jet," said Bloom. "I felt like it was an unbeatable way to say thanks for encouraging me to pursue a journey in the Air Force and also for patching me up after my accident. Lifelong bonds like this are a huge part of what makes serving in the Air Force so special. You can't make the mission happen without the people."

After descending to land and departing the aircraft, Bloom was all smiles, glad to pay it forward to a loyal friend.

"It puts a smile on my face any time the 36th Fighter Squadron can share the thrill of fighter aviation with a member of Team Osan," said Bloom. "This instance is exceptionally rewarding to me because of the positive impact Chris has made on my life."

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

On May 14, 1945, Stars and Stripes published its first newspaper in the Pacific. To commemorate 75 years serving the military community in the theater, we're taking a look back at Stripes history through the writing and photography of a dedicated staff spanning generations. Stars and Stripes has proudly supported the Pacific military community since the beginning and will continue to serve the troops and families at the heart of our work.

— Rip-roaring ROK crowd welcomes Johnson —

BY D. MOREHEAD-YOUNG,
STARS AND STRIPES
Published: November 2, 1966

SEOUL — President and Mrs. Johnson got a rousing Texas-style welcome here Monday.

They were greeted by an enthusiastic crowd estimated at 2 million as they flew to the Republic of Korea on the last leg of a 7-nation trip.

Officials traveling with the presidential party called the welcome the largest and most enthusiastic of the trip.

At times, the ecstasy almost resulted in tragedy.

Frenzied crowds estimated at 250,000 at Seoul's City Hall Plaza roared approval at the sight of Johnson so loud and long that the speech of Korean President Chung Hee Park was drowned in the din.

The mob also overran a 2,000-member girls' chorus near the presidential stand, trampling some of the girls underfoot, and at one time threatened to break Secret Service lines and overflow onto the speaker's stand.

One 57-year-old Seoul woman was hospitalized with serious injuries after being trampled and 12 persons were treated for minor injuries.

The entire 9-mile motorcade route in Seoul was lined with crowds 20-30 persons deep.

Much of the crowd was made up of schoolchildren waving U.S. and Korean flags and carrying hand-painted signs bearing greetings to the President and First Lady. The city's schools were closed for the occasion.

The President stopped the motorcade five times to shake



A sign welcoming Lyndon B. Johnson to Seoul is carried by students awaiting the president's arrival at City Hall Plaza..
Photo by Fred Braitsch Jr., Stars and Stripes

hands with Koreans along the route between Kimpo International Airport, where he landed at about 3 p.m., and Seoul's city hall. Several times along the route, the crowd surged forward past police lines and flooded around the car bearing the two presidents.

At city hall, order among the roaring crowd was restored only after Deputy Prime Minister Key Young Chang personally took charge of police lines and appealed to the front ranks of the crowds.

Johnson told the city hall crowd that Koreans should be "rightly proud" of the rebuilding job they have done after the Korean War leveled the nation, and suggested that Asia was

experiencing "a new spirit of cooperation.

"That spirit of cooperation in this part of the world was shared by the seven nations who met at Manila last week.

"That historic meeting, which you first suggested ... affirmed the broad partnership and the common purpose of free Pacific nations — a partnership that will endure long after the communist aggression is ended in Vietnam," Johnson said in his speech.

("Here in Korea, our fighting men stand with your own along the Demilitarized Zone, and we shall come once again

to your defense if aggression — God forbid — should occur here again," he added, AP said.)

("To an American, the free soil of Korea is hallowed ground," Johnson told the throng police estimated at some 350,000.)

("More than 54,000 Americans died in the bitter 1950-53 battle to save this mountainous peninsula country from communist invaders from the north. Today South Korea has around 45,000 soldiers helping the allied cause in South Vietnam.")

The two partnership efforts against Red aggression and Korea's remarkable recent

economic progress were main themes of the visit.

Park said Korea had "undiminished appreciation" for the help the United States has given it during the past quarter-century.

"We have been much indebted to you as comrades-in-arms," he said.

"Please be assured that ours is not a nation which will indefinitely continue to be indebted to others, but rather is a nation which knows how to requite its obligations, which has a keen sense of responsibility, and which abides by good faith."

At city hall, Johnson was officially welcomed to Korea and presented a gold key to the city of Seoul by Mayor Hyun Ok Kim.

President and Mrs. Johnson were honored Monday night at a state dinner given by the Korean first family at the national capitol. After the dinner they attended an art festival in Seoul's Citizens' Hall.

Tuesday, Park and Johnson had a private, 30-minute talk.

Johnson was to visit the Korean 26th Inf. Div. and the U.S. 36th Engineer Group, both near Uijongbu, 13 miles north of Seoul later Tuesday. He was to lunch with U.S. troops.

In the afternoon, the President was to visit an agricultural display at Suwon, 20 miles south of Seoul, where he was also to have a hill named after him.

Johnson will wind up his Far East trip Wednesday with visits to the National Cemetery and Korean National Assembly, where he will give a speech on nationwide television.

Medal of Honor recipient Donlon heads training academy in Korea

BY HAL DRAKE,
STARS AND STRIPES
Published: January 14, 1968

WITH THE U.S. 2ND INF. DIV., Korea — Maj. Roger Donlon looked with both bitterness and admiration at the mangled and blasted remains of what had been two large barracks.

It had been a fast, neat job of sabotage and killing — this Donlon had to admit. The North Korean commando team came in after dusk and went out before dawn, May 22, 1967. They

had done their work with lethal efficiency and two American soldiers were dead in a heap of shattered rubble.

"At first," said Donlon, "you admire a professional job. Then it makes you mad."

The death and sabotage was one of the first sights to greet Donlon when he came into the U.S. 2nd Inf. Div. in May, a major for only two months.

You could spot him as a soldier anywhere. The close-cropped blond hair, the steady blue eyes, the set and

determined features, the erect posture — it's all there, to mark Donlon's profession and trade.

But when Donlon came to Korea, he did not wear two distinctive marks of the career he chose several years ago. He left his green beret back in Vietnam when he left in 1964 as a severely-wounded casualty. And the blue, white-starred ribbon that marks him as a Medal of Honor winner is not worn on his plain, no-frills uniform. An all-business soldier, Donlon only wears his Combat

Infantryman Badge.

Donlon, the first soldier to win America's highest award in the Vietnam War, is now in Korea. But the infiltration, terrorism and sudden death Donlon knew in another land are still part of his life. As a Special Forces man, he appraised the bombing with a coldly professional eye. As an American and a soldier, he felt grief and anger.

Where once the enemy was a stealthy little man named Charlie, who wore black pajamas and fought from waist-deep

paddy slime, now Donlon must deal with an expertly silent intruder named Joe. Joe breaches barbed wire and creeps over dead, winter-browned farmland to blast sleeping men and attack frontline guard posts along the 18-mile sector of the Demilitarized Zone manned by Americans.

Joe deserves a very respectful kind of enmity and Donlon knows it. But Donlon feels that Joe has a long way to go before he can match the Vietnamese farmer who turns

into a death-dealing guerrilla at dusk.

“They (the North Koreans) are well trained, and no doubt they’re very professional. But they’re not as good as the Viet Cong — not yet. If you look at that one incident, yes, they did a job. They’re just not as tough and smart as Charlie, though. And there’s not as many of them, thank God.”

Donlon is commander of the division’s Advanced Combat Training Academy at Camp Sitman. The name might stir visions of Belvoir or Benning. But the campus is just a colony of tents on a bare and rugged rise, a short distance from the armed frontier facing North Korea. Around it are hills and flatlands stripped of cover. The area reminded Donlon of the Special Forces camp at Nam Dong, 370 miles northeast of Saigon. While remote and isolated, it was so seldom bothered by the Viet Cong that fellow Green Beret wearers ribbed Donlon and his A-team about being assigned to a “vacation land.”

On June 6, 1964, some 500 Viet Cong regulars hit it in force. Donlon, despite wounds in the stomach, leg, shoulder and face, blasted the attackers with his M16 rifle and moved among his American-South Vietnamese garrison, directing a costly hand-to-hand defense.

Finally, the Communists broke off the attack and retreated. Six months later, Donlon stood at stiff and nervous attention as the President of the United States draped the Medal of Honor around his neck.

He says nothing about himself and very little about the battle, except to praise the men who were with him — the ones who came out, the ones who did not. But others say much of the valor shown by Donlon.

Turning aside a question about himself, Donlon instead may quietly turn your attention to a sign in front of his command post. It tells of how a 2nd Div. soldier, Sgt. William S. Sitman, stood almost alone against a charging swarm of Chinese Communists during the Korean War and saved his buddies’ lives by throwing himself on an exploding grenade.

Donlon is “dean” of a tough academy, and has made it so himself. He looks upon it as a whetstone to sharpen the basic skills of an infantryman and a millstream to glean the gold of leadership where it can be found. Everything centers around operations in the DMZ — the tense job of watching, snaring infiltrators, keeping disciplined nerves and warding off the attacks that have killed 21 Americans in a year.

One hundred and fifty men at a time go through the most rigorous 19 days Donlon can devise for them — river crossings, mountain climbing, adjusting artillery fire, and actual patrolling along the zone.

Donlon believes in personal leadership and graphic example. His first students saw half a dozen mamushi snakes he had snared and thrown into a cage. A sign on the cage warned the wide-eyed students, “Know Your Enemy,” and compared the slithering mamushi with Joe — also a stealthy, short-range killer.

Donlon’s students will know what an enemy weapon sounds like. He takes them out at night and fires bursts from a Russian-made PPS-1.

How did he come by the weapon? Donlon tells how one of the 43 members of his hand-picked faculty, a sergeant, led 10 students out on a patrol one night. They ran right into an infiltrating North Korean patrol.

“Their weapons went south and they went north,” Donlon relates. “I got me a whole pile of training aids.”

Another of Donlon’s sergeants warned his students to step carefully around the line, still seeded with landmines left over from the war days. He demonstrated his point that very night by stepping on a shrapnel-throwing Bouncing Betty, depressing one prong of a rusty detonator. The mine did not explode.

“That man volunteered to read the text at the next chaplain’s call,” Donlon recalls.

Donlon had one controversial policy in effect months before he went through the formality of getting permission from his battalion commander. Some of his classes, he noted, were all young lieutenants — eager, fresh-faced graduates from Officers Candidate School.

For one night, they are demoted to privates. Donlon drops them into foxholes right along the line. Anything can happen during the long night — harassment, contact with infiltrators, an attack by an enemy killer team.

“One youngster asked me, ‘Officers in foxholes?’ I told him, ‘Sure. When one of your men tells you he heard something out there, you’ll know what he’s



Maj. Roger Donlon, the first Medal of Honor recipient in the Vietnam war, poses outside his headquarters tent at the Advanced Combat Training Academy. With him is the camp’s mascot, “Lieutenant.” Photo by Peter Macqueen, Stars and Stripes

talking about.”

One other officer swore somebody was throwing rocks at him. Smiling thinly, Donlon replied: “You’ll know when one of your privates tells you.” It was a point well made; the North Koreans often throw rocks as they try to rattle men on line into opening up and exposing their positions.

“We work all our students pretty hard,” Donlon says, “but nobody ever died from overwork. You can die from not being worked hard enough.”

Donlon rarely relaxes. There is too much hard-learned knowledge to pass along. He can be seen most of the time striding around the campus with the academy mascot, a scruffy-looking pup named Lieutenant, trailing at his heels. There is always a class to teach, a field problem to critique, a training schedule to revise.

When Donlon does sit down for a cup of coffee, it will likely be with Sgt. 1.C. Robert L. Mahaffey, a 35-year-old veteran of two wars who is Donlon’s Tactics Committee chief.

There is little relaxed, purposeless conversation. The topic is how the training can be improved — how it can be made tougher and more instructive.

Donlon’s attention is turned for a moment to a week-old copy of Pacific Stars and Stripes. It tells of a massive demonstration outside the Pentagon, opposing U.S. involvement in Vietnam.

“I’m glad I wasn’t there,” says Donlon reflectively. “I would have really been in trouble. I don’t know what’s the matter with those people. If someone hadn’t gone with us, into Korea, Vietnam and every other war we had to fight, we wouldn’t be here.”

“Those students. When do they study? I know one Korean soldier I’d trade for every one of them. He had a year of college before he went in. He’s a soldier now but he still studies English whenever he can. Picks it out of newspapers and off the radio listening to AFKN (American Forces Korea Network). He learned President Kennedy’s whole inaugural address and can recite it to you.”

Donlon is a hero in the Alvin York and Audio Murphy mold. He came from a large, poor family in upstate New York. All of his four brothers have served in the military and one, an Air Force technical sergeant, is stationed in Thailand. One of three sisters keeps an encyclopedia-sized scrapbook on Donlon.

“We never had much money but money isn’t everything,” he said. “We were taught pride in ourselves and our family. Defense of freedom is perpetual. This is what a lot of our young bucks don’t understand. Defending your country is like defending your family. I don’t understand why people won’t defend their country the same way they would their family. I wonder if they have any pride either way.”

Medal of Honor recipient recalls Korean War bayonet attack

BY MIKE RUSH,
STARS AND STRIPES
Published: October 13, 1975

OSAN AB, Korea — “I’m proud to be back. I get sentimental, I lost a lot of friends over here, and it brings back bad memories as well as good,” said the tall mustachioed figure with the star-studded pale blue ribbon of the Medal of Honor around his neck as he looked over the area he captured from Communists nearly 25 years ago.

“I can’t remember the weather being as nice as it is today,” remarked retired Col. Lewis L. Millett, the man who became one of many legends in the Korean War. On Feb. 7, 1951, Millett and his 100-man company took a lofty hill overlooking the flat expanse that now holds Osan AB.

Of the many similar hills and other objectives that United Nations troops seized and held up and down the peninsula, that particular height, known in military parlance as “Hill 180,” fell from Communist control in a unique manner.

Millett, then a captain in command of E Co., 27th Inf. Regt. — the “Wolfhounds” — personally led an assault on the hill — with bayonets. That mode of fighting had hardly been heard of in American military circles since World War I when Marines earned the name “Devil Dogs” as a result of their fearsome charges at St. Mihiel and the Meuse-Argonne sector more than 30 years before.

The command “Fix Bayonets” had been almost forgotten since then, but not by Millett. He and his company were on a line of smaller hills south of Hill 180. They were one of several units in “Operation Killer,” he explained as he surveyed the site of his battle, an event that won him the Medal of Honor.

Part of “Killer” was a series of attacks on smaller enemy strongholds during daylight hours, he added.

“I guess I’m a chauvinist,” Millett said as he explained why he ordered and led a bayonet attack on North Korean troops entrenched on the hill.

“The Chinese had put out the word that we were afraid of bayonets.

“Americans afraid of bayonets’ is just ridiculous, I thought, so I intended to prove a point.”

He did just that three times as his company approached Hill 180. The first attack, he recalled, on Feb. 4 and 5 threw the defending North Koreans back each time.

The third attack, on Feb. 7, started out with a march of about 2,000 yards from a line of smaller hills. Showered with Communist machine gun and antitank “buffalo gun” fire, his men advanced to a point where Millett halted to rally one of his platoons that was receiving heavy fire.

“I stopped them momentarily to put the bayonet on my rifle.”

He recalled.

“I said ‘fix bayonets and follow me’.”

Push up toward the Hill Easy Co. did, goaded on by Millett’s shouts of “Grenades and cold steel!” Once close enough to make out emplacements on the hillside, Millett saw the antitank gun nest and rushed it himself, killing the three-man gun crew with his own bayonet, silencing the gun.

The battle that followed on the hillside saw Millett waving his rifle overhead as his men followed up, exchanging rifle shots and bayonet jabs with the Communist troops until they were driven from the hill. Of the 47 North Korean and Chinese dead, 18 fell to the bayonets of Millett and his men of Easy Co.

The company suffered nine killed in the battle, all in a squad on the extreme right flank during the attack, he said.

“They were very dedicated, but they had one-track minds,” the Maine-stater-turned-Texan said of his adversaries of nearly a quarter-century ago. “If they were told to do something and there was a change in plans, they didn’t react like we would,” he said, explaining that after the commander of the Communist force on the hill was killed in the attack, they broke contact and left their positions.

Millett and his wife, Winona, spent part of a

SEE ATTACK ON PAGE 6

ATTACK: ‘Sacrifices not in vain’

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Sunday afternoon reminiscing as he walked around the hill here, occasionally pausing briefly to point out a position or area that he remembered from war days, the flat paddy fields intertwined with dirt paths appearing as they must have on that February afternoon in 1951.

In Korea for a revisit to his old battle site as part of the Korea Veterans and Korea Tourist Associations’ programs, Millett joined 10 other Medal of Honor winners from the United States for observances marking South Korea’s recent Armed Forces Day and dedication of the U.S. War Memorial in Korea.

Reflecting on what he saw and heard during those observances, Millett said, “you have to stop and think of the price we paid, but one thing about it, the people here have done something amazing with the bloodshed that happened here 25 years ago.

“They’ve proven that we were right in coming over here and helping them retain their independence,” he continued.

“I was surprised, I never expected it,” he said of winning

the nation’s top award for heroism in combat. “Of course, a lot of real fine people had to die so that a few might get decorated. There’s an awful lot of men who lie buried over here, and the only recognition they received was the purple heart.”

Millett explained the success of his company in taking the objective, which has since come to be known as “Bayonet Hill,” with a long-unused method of battle as due to his “typically American” unit.

“I had a composite unit, from every national group in the United States. We had black, white and brown — I would say typically American — and typically American, they took the objective and typically American, they were very proud after it,” he said with an occasional trace of emotion in his voice.

Millett was awarded the Medal of Honor, which he wears along with many other decorations, on July 5, 1951, a year to the day after another American commander, named Smith, and a handful of men known as “Task Force Smith,” shed the first American blood in the Korean War on a hill less than five miles north of Bayonet Hill.

Recalling some of the sites



Lewis Millett describes his Korean War experiences during a 1975 visit to Osan Air Base..
Photo by Tae Won Chung, Stars and Stripes

he saw here during the war years of misery and desolation, Millett said, “when I come back and see what the South Korean people have done under liberty and freedom, it makes me feel good.

“You realize the sacrifices

that some made were not truly in vain and that these are the kind of people we should support and continue to support.”

Millett, who retired from active service two years ago, now lives in Merkel, Texas, serving as Justice of the Peace.

After he retired, he explained, “I couldn’t find a job, so I ran for election and they elected me.”

A native of Mechanic Falls, Maine, he said he is known as “the only Damn Yankee in the State of Texas.”



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Teaming up to support quarantined troops

STORY AND PHOTOS BY MATTHEW KEELER,
STARS AND STRIPES
Published: August 23, 2020

OSAN AIR BASE – Seventh Air Force teamed up with two nonprofit groups Friday to deliver the first of many care packages filled with things like snacks and hygiene kits for quarantined troops transitioning to new assignments in South Korea.

The partnership between the American Red Cross and Operation Gratitude began in July to provide U.S. service members and their families with comfort items as they begin their mandated quarantines. Operation Gratitude was founded in 2003 and has since delivered more than 2.7 million care packages to service members deployed to countries around the world, according to its website.

“In the normal world these items would be going to places like Kunsan Air Base, Camp Casey and Chinhae, where the hardships and single soldiers are at,” Mark Hooper, the Red Cross regional director for South Korea, said Friday. “But since we are doing the quarantine, there is a need, and the hardships are here at Osan, Humphreys and Kunsan.

Two cargo pallets loaded with more than 11,000 items, including coffee, candy bars, Girl Scout cookies and hygiene kits, arrived at Osan after departing from Travis Air



Members of the 51st Logistics Readiness Squadron at Osan Air Base, South Korea, prepare to organize donations for care packages that will go to service members quarantined.

Force Base, Calif., aboard a military aircraft provided by 7th Air Force.

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“While we are in COVID operations, quarantine is not fun,” said Chief Master Sgt. Brandon Dunston, the 7th Air Force’s logistics, engineering and

force protection chief enlisted manager. “It’s 14 days and everybody is trying to come together to make sure all of our

components, airmen, soldiers, sailors and Marines are being taken care of.”

COVID-19 is the respiratory disease caused by the coronavirus.

Since the initial outbreak in the southern city of Daegu, 160 people associated with U.S. Forces Korea have tested positive for the coronavirus, 112 of them active-duty service members.

“As we continue to battle COVID and focus on our number one priority, which



Chief Master Sgt. Brandon Dunston, a superintendent with the 7th Air Force, speaks with members of the American Red Cross.

is our people, I think we will find creative ways to do that until we go back to whatever the new normal looks like,” Dunston said.

Members of the 51st Fighter Wing’s Logistics Readiness Squadron assisted the Red Cross in separating the supplies to be taken to the quarantine facilities. Most will find their way to Camp Humphreys where the majority of incoming personnel complete the required quarantine period.

“No one can do this alone,” Hooper said. “We could not do this without the help and partnership with all the other people in play with this. A big thank you goes out to those here on Osan; trying to do this without them would be very difficult.”

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HOP IN A CLEAR KAYAK CHUNGJU HWA

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CHIHON KIM,
STRIPES KOREA

I wanted this summer to be one of excitement and exploration. My bucket list included surfing, rafting, hiking and river tubing, but the longer-than-usual rain season (not to mention a streak of rainy days), put a damper on my plans.

Severe weather, no matter what the season, can definitely affect travel, so I had to be careful what activity of my list I chose to check off. This is why my determination to have an adventure led me towards Chungju Hwalok Donggul, or the Chungju Jade Cave in North Cheungcheong province, for an underground kayaking experience.

Visitors here get the unique opportunity to explore Chungju Hwalok's LED-illuminated passageways both on foot and in a kayak. There was heavy rain on the day I visited, but that didn't matter inside the cave. Getting out and enjoying a nice day trip despite the weather made the nearly-two-hour drive from Camp Humphreys through Chungju's scenic countryside worthwhile.

HIDDEN GEM OF CHUNGJU

The cave itself used to be a mine and is now considered one of Asia's biggest former mines. It was carved out over centuries by



Korean miners and the deepest depth reached. To explore the cave by foot, the 800-meter-long cave is divided into sections and there are no stairs, so it can be easily navigated. I paid 6,000 won for the fee and then an extra fee for the experience. Plan on wearing long pants as the cave is around 60 degrees Fahrenheit year-round. The ways were pretty lit.

there were other with low ceilings, so be careful with your head on these.

Each section of the cave has a different theme. I saw many taking a rest in the Health Therapy Room, sitting on the heated stools in the cool cave. The mine hoists that used to drag rocks out of the cave are one of the other special features. I found after passing the therapy room.

Eventually, you'll enter the cave's experience spot where you can see a mine. And you'll notice the presence of bats, so look up and watch them fly above.

The cave lighting and the overall feeling, perfect for children. I enjoyed the luminous photo-op wall so much that I look like I was on a different planet.





KAYAK AND EXPLORE HWALOK DONGGUL

It is 8.2-kilometers long with its ceiling 711 meters. Visitors can enjoy a leisurely stroll through the passageways. The course is flat and wide, so all visitors young and old can enjoy the cave.

For about \$5 for the entrance fee and extra 3,000 won for the kayaking fee, visitors can head ahead and bring a sweater and a hat. The cave stays between 51 to 60 degrees Celsius. Some of the passages are as large like a highway tunnel, but visitors should watch out and avoid hitting the ceiling.

At a different point in the cave, visitors can try their hand at working in a mine. Signs pointing out the presence of various minerals will see these critters sleeping in the cave.

The decorations give it a magical feel, even for the kids in all of us. I went there because it made my pictures look better.

UNIQUE KAYAKING EXPERIENCE

At the end of the tunnel, you'll reach the wine cellar where you can indulge in a nice glass of mulled wine for 5,000 won (bottle wine costs 49,500 won). Across from the cellar were people splashing around on kayaks in the water, so I knew I'd finally reached the launch point.



I waited about 30 minutes before it was my turn to gear up with a helmet and life jacket and hop into a clear kayak. A clear kayak is the same as your average kayak except it is made of see-through plastic so you can see the water (and the school of fish that live here) surrounding your vessel. It's neat!

I visited on a weekday, so my wait wasn't too bad, but if you're planning to visit on a weekend expect longer lines and wait times.

The kayaking portion of this journey doesn't last very long—about 30 minutes from departure to return to the dock. The good thing is that it wasn't expensive, and I got as many photos as I wanted while I navigated in my kayak.

Spending the day in the Chungju Jade Cave and the surrounding areas was truly a nice way to get a little adventure in before the summer is over. If you're looking for a quick getaway near Camp Humphreys, I would definitely suggest you swing by and check out this area, especially if you're determined to not let bad weather ruin a good time.

kim.chihon@stripes.com

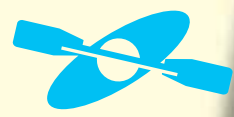
THINGS TO KNOW

- *Face mask required for all visitors.
- ADDRESS: 26, Mokbeoran-gil, chungju-si, chungcheongbuk-do
[NAVER map] <http://naver.me/xFHV5R0Z>
- HOURS: Summer season (Apr - Oct) 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. (Last admission 5 p.m.),
Winter season (Nov-Mar) 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Last admission 5 p.m.) closed Mondays
- PRICE: • Entrance fee - Adults: 6,000 won, children under 18: 5,000 won, children ages 2 to 7: 4,000 won.
• Kayaking - Adults: 3,000 won, children ages 2 to 18 years: 2,000 won. Groups of 20 or more can get a 1,000 won discount for those over 7 years old. children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult. No experience required.
(Note: Kayaking ticket sales end at 3 p.m.)
- PHONE 043-848-0503



Speakin' Korean

- What are you planning to do this weekend?
I-beon ju-mal-e mwo-hal geo-ye-yo?
- I haven't decided yet. Ajik mot jeong-hae-sseo-yo.
- Why don't we go to the cave?
U-li dong-gul-e ga-neun-geon eo-ttae-yo?
- That sounds like a good idea! Joh-eun saeng-gak-i-ne-yo.
- It's really cool in here. Yeo-gi neo-mu si-won-hae-yo.
- I'd like to three entrance tickets please. Ip-jang-gwon (se jang) juseyo.
- I'd like (three tickets) for kayaking, please. Ka-yak tiket (se jang) juseyo.
• two tickets: du-jang • four tickets: ne-jang /
• five tickets: da-seot-jang • six tickets: yeo-seot-jang)



SEE MORE
HWALOK DONGGUL CAFÉ ON PAGE 10

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

HWALOK DONGGUL CAFÉ (JADE CAVE CAFÉ)

Outside the cave, you'll find a café with a nod to the area's mining history. Large machinery and mining equipment parts make up the décor of this conveniently located eatery, which is known for its ham and cheese sandwiches.

The kids will love the replica dinosaurs and other fun décor both inside and on the premises of the cave grounds. If you want something a little more involved than a ham and cheese sandwich, try the seafood ramen from the chef's table.

HOURS: 10:30 a.m. – 7 p.m. closed on Monday



BARAMGGOT CAFÉ

Wild vegetable bibimbap at Boritgogae (보릿고개) or rice with seasoned vegetables at Silhuiwon (실회원) were what I had originally planned for my dinner after my day of cave exploration. Unfortunately, both restaurants do not accept solo diners, so I had to choose something else.

Lucky for me, the Baramggote café (바람꽃 카페), only 15 minutes away from the jade cave, does take solo diners. This café is known for its fragrant flower teas and signature pork cutlet coated with a tasty sauce made of apples.

I opted for spicy pork for 15,000 won and was not disappointed. The pumpkin soup that was served as an appetizer was also really delightful. Thanks to its location nestled in the hills, the café dining room has amazing views of Chungjuho Lake. Dinner and a show!



- ADDRESS:** 1364, chungjuhosu-ro, chungju-si, chungcheongbuk-do
[Naver map] 충북 충주시 충주호수로 1364 <http://naver.me/xy5tE2cx> (바람꽃)
- HOURS** 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. (Last order 8 p.m.), Break Time 3 to 3 p.m. closed on Fridays.
- PHONE** 043-847-0216
- WEBSITE** http://instagram.com/_anemone_flower_



Photographer: Kim Yong-seon / Korea Tourism Organization

Oreum: Parasitic Volcano

There are 368 oreum on Jeju island. "Oreum" is a local dialect that refers to the volcanic cone. Locals and tourists climb up the oreum and enjoy the panoramic view at the top. This is Darangswi Oreum which sits in the east side of the island. It's known as "Queen of Oreum".

Jeju Travel Information

Jeju Travel Hot Line

064-740



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Namhae's Jijok Fishing Village tourism Complex

HAPS KOREA MAGAZINE

Namhae-gun in Gyeongnam province has completed its Jijok Fishing Village Tourism Complex construction project under the theme 'Jukbangryum'.

Jukbangryum is a nationally designated cultural property and is a type of primitive fishing gear that usually catches anchovies on the southern coast of the Jijok Strait between Samdong-myeong and Changseon Island.

In addition, a promotional



Namhae Army

and exhibition hall has opened to promote the local fishing culture.

The halls are open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. except Monday's and admission is free.



HeungSoon from Pixabay

Changdeokgung Palace moonlight tour

HAPS KOREA MAGAZINE

Entering its 11th year, the Changdeokgung Palace moonlight tour in Seoul brings out a dazzling night display of the UNESCO World Heritage Site.

At dusk, cheongsa lanterns are lit to transform the area into a romantic atmosphere in the city center accompanied by traditional music performances.

Performance times are every 15 minutes from 7:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. on Thursday through Sunday.

Tours are conducted only in Korean.

Event Information

- **DATES:** Until September 13, 2020
- **LOCATION:** Changdeokgung Palace, Jong-no, Seoul
- **WEBSITE** (Korean Only): <http://www.chf.or.kr/>
- **TICKETS:** <http://ticket1.auction.co.kr/VIP/Item?IdPerf=38250>
- **ADMISSION:** 30,000 won
- **NOTE:** A limited amount of tickets will be sold and masks and social distancing are required.

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New lights add beautiful night views to nation's longest cable car

Sacheon City

HAPS KOREA MAGAZINE

Located in South Gyeongsang Province, the Sacheon Ocean Cable Car has added more night lights to attract more tourists to enjoy the stunning views of the local scenery.

The 2.43-kilometer cable car is the nation's longest and provides stunning views of the oceans and mountains — a first that combines both on the 25-minute ride.

The service provides 45 cars that can transport 1,300 passengers per hour, also has 15 Crystal cars with glass floors that provide views from as high as 74 meters.

Along the route, Changseon,

Samcheonpo Bridge, and the green sea, bamboo forests, the windmill at Chongno Park and nearby uninhabited islands provide spectacular views.

The new night lights are along Samcheonpo Bridge and the Daebang Tourist Complex until the middle of September and will run from 8 pm until 11 pm daily.

Fares for the cable car are 15,000 won for adults and 12,000 won for children. Crystal cabins are 20,000 won for adults and 17,000 won for children.

It runs from 9 am to 6 pm and to 7 pm on weekends until the end of October when it changes into its winter operating hours.

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STARS AND STRIPES

Appreciating the art of baloney

Throughout the coronavirus pandemic, people have sought information to quell fear. Over the past five months, the advice given by “experts” has fluctuated wildly, despite having been given with seemingly well-informed confidence.

By now, I think we realize that it’s all baloney, bunk, BS. No one really knows, “Is it safe for kids to go back to school?” “Can people contract COVID-19 twice?” “Will a vaccine be ready by the end of the year?” “Will this pandemic ever end?” But when the public demands answers, experts must deliver.

In the military community, baloney is not generally tolerated. We respect clear communication, pinpoint accuracy and straight talk. However, months of widespread pontificating about the pandemic has shown that BSing actually requires skill and chutzpah.

Anyone who has been to a golf course has undoubtedly been in the midst of a talented BSer. Or two. Or 27.

Ex: “Now, unless you want to chili dip that thing into the frog hair and risk

army-putting another triple bogey, you oughta milk the grip and let the big dog eat,” Chaz quips between swigs of Bloody Mary, leaning heavily on his Cobra driver after duffing two balls into the pond.

The Golf BSer may not be good at the sport, but his commitment to the craft of baloney-slinging is undeniable. Imagine the hours spent perusing Golf Digest in the proctologist’s waiting room to memorize golf terminology. The thousands spent on trendy golf equipment and over-priced, insignia-embroidered, moisture-wicking golf apparel to overcompensate for his lack of skills. The sunburns he endures while secretly tanning in his backyard wearing his golf glove, so he can sport a characteristic golfer’s pale left hand. Now that’s dedication.

Lawyers, politicians, car salesmen and stockbrokers are branded, sometimes unfairly, as BSers, because they are paid to have all the answers whether they do or not.

Ex: “You see, George, your mutual funds tanked last quarter due to the unprecedented

The Meat and Potatoes of Life

Lisa Smith Molinari



SUV yelling into the drive-thru window. Essentially, anyone who has uttered the word “Vente” or referred to something with 20 grams of sugar as “skinny” is a card-carrying BSer, whether she likes it or not.

Even parents are masterful BSers. Think about it — what does Dad say when his 6-year-old daughter looks adoringly into his eyes and asks, “Daddy, where do babies come from?” And what baloney must Mom come up with to explain what happened to Gus the Guppy who was last seen napping on the bottom of the tank?

Let’s face it — we are a nation of baloney-slingers, and it’s about time we wake up and smell the Grande iced latte. Let’s finally give BSing the respect it deserves!

And if you believed that, I’ve got some really nice swamp-land in Florida to sell you.

Read more of Lisa Smith Molinari’s columns at: themeatandpotatoesoflife.com
Email: meatandpotatoesoflife@googlemail.com

negative rumors of predicted speculations, so I’d be inclined to take the long view here,” a financial adviser might hedge to keep his client confused enough to continue forking over his life savings.

But this questionable style of communication is not reserved for fast-talking professions alone. Even the well-intentioned must sometimes BS. Unable to say, “I don’t know” to her incessantly curious first grade students, my mother mastered the skill of bluffing as a first grade teacher, making stuff up on the fly to answer questions like, “Why is the ocean blue?” and “Why does Mrs. Fletcher have a mustache?”

Graduate students must also maintain their reputation for

knowing everything there is to know about everything. Take a stroll through any campus quad across this nation, and you will see them with their longish hair, graded term papers in hand, leaning against ivy-covered walls, arguing over whether or not the international relations theory of holistic constructivism is a useful tool in analyzing the efficacy of postwar U.S. foreign policy.

And all those people in Starbucks deserve some recognition here, too, from the employee with the nose piercing who steams the non-fat milk for your double espresso macchiato, to the metrosexual with the European scarf who ordered a chai tea, to the yoga-pant-wearing mom in her

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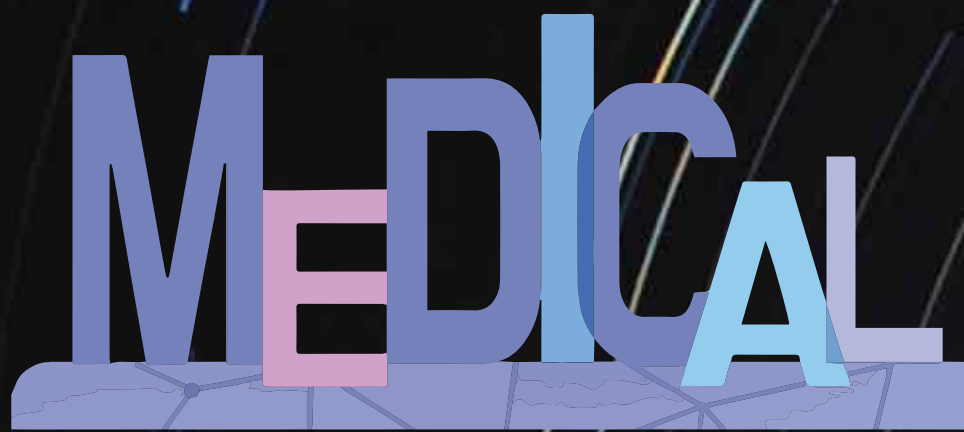
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A Guide for Medical Tour in Jeollabuk-do



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Stripes Sports Trivia

Who is this former LA Galaxy player who is also the all-time leading goal scorer in Major League Soccer (MLS) with 144 goals in 334 games played?

Answer

Landon Donovan



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Hangul of the week

출산
chulsan (childbirth)

Language Lesson

Don't worry.

Geok-jeong-haji maseyo.

Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Furthermore
- 5 Greeting at sea
- 9 City of Light
- 14 Put one over on
- 15 Back of the neck
- 16 Bigger than big
- 17 Crude wooden cross
- 18 Spanish three
- 19 Australian "bear"
- 20 Seller of frames
- 22 Assistant
- 23 ___ Royal Highness
- 24 African adventure
- 26 Pop-ups, e.g.
- 28 With little effort
- 30 Lose traction
- 34 Dow dabbler
- 36 Like sushi
- 37 Fine-tune
- 38 Allegiance
- 40 Cuts in half
- 42 Declare positively
- 43 Charged item
- 45 Vacation spot
- 46 Withered
- 47 Appropriate
- 49 Dairy farm sound
- 50 Scarcity
- 52 Gloppy stuff
- 54 Spelunker's spot
- 57 Nerve ending
- 61 Full of pep
- 62 Starch source
- 63 Carnival attraction
- 64 Rap or rock
- 65 On the peak of
- 66 Cosmetics company founded in 1886
- 67 Refine, as ore
- 68 Say "No way!"
- 69 Grazing group

DOWN

- 1 Roundish do
- 2 Aerial maneuver
- 3 Fortune teller
- 4 "Golden" song
- 5 Social starter
- 6 Pester persistently
- 7 Kind of market
- 8 Triumphant cry
- 9 Bluffer's game
- 10 Makes illegal
- 11 Anagram for "pear"
- 12 Wight, for one
- 13 Burn slightly
- 21 Angler's basket
- 22 Out of control
- 25 Spare tire
- 26 Rand's shrugger
- 27 Took the wheel
- 29 Glassblower, e.g.
- 31 Train puller
- 32 Opening words
- 33 Basil-based sauce
- 35 Evel Knievel, for one

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Easy

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

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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 Previous Sudoku:

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

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