Chuseok, one of the most important holidays for Koreans, is just around the corner. Chuseok literally means “night with best autumn moonlight” and for us, it is a day as rich and relaxed as its poetic name.

This year, Chuseok will be observed Sept. 12-14, which means many Koreans will be off from work and will be heading to their hometowns to visit relatives. The holiday is a celebration of the harvest and signifies...
8th Army looks to improve spouse hiring

BY KENJI THULOWIT
U.S. ARMY

In recent discussion forums around installations in Korea, there is one common concern among military spouses who accompany their Soldier on a tour to the Republic of Korea - employment opportunities. Challenges facing those spouses in the hunt for jobs include not meeting specific federal requirements, lengthy hiring procedures and perceptions that hiring managers do not want spouses. These obstacles can discourage spouses from applying or successfully attaining a job, according to personnel managers.

In response to these voiced concerns, Eighth Army leadership has implemented changes to help spouses seeking employment at the command.

“I consider this a national security issue,” said Brig. Gen. Patrick Donahoe, Eighth Army deputy commanding general for operations. “Even the perception of a lack of emphasis for hiring a spouse will automatically send you the matches for the position to complete drug testing and physical examinations. Designated Positions and those with mandatory requirements for physical examinations.

Additional changes have been made to Army Korea Regulation 690-335, Merit Promotion and Placement Plan. The regulation authorizes all areas in Korea to be one commuting area, as some job announcements restrict hiring to the local commuting area only. The military spouse employment initiative started at the highest levels of the Army, said Jose Villarreal, Eighth Army Ready and Resilient program manager. “Many spouses have expressed frustrations with the hiring process and the Eighth Army command is passionate about addressing these issues.”

Another initiative in the works is aimed at help job applicants to use the Military Spouse Preference selection when applying to allow job applicants to use the Military Spouse Preference selection when applying 30 days prior to arriving in Korea. Currently, Defense Department regulations already authorize spouses to apply and claim the spouse preference for the position 30 days prior to the reporting date, but candidates must be physically in Korea to qualify for the preference and job offer.

This initiative will require Department of Defense approval before any agency or unit regulations can be revised, according to Eighth Army’s Directorate of Civilian Human Resources Management. If approved, the same initiative will also give managers direct hire authority without having to advertise positions on USAJOBS.gov.

Additionally, to help with spouse employment, Army Civilian Human Resources Agency at U.S. Army Garrison-Humphreys has created a resume repository where spouses can submit resumes for future employment consideration. Upon receipt, candidates will receive a direct response from one of the local human resources specialists and afforded the opportunity to meet one-on-one to review qualifications and help guide spouses through the federal hiring and employment process.

“The best way for spouses to apply for jobs is still USAJOBS,” said Thomas Williams, Eighth Army Staffing Classification and Benefits Division chief. “They can build their resumes, attach documents and also use settings to build automated job referrals. In other words, once a search is built the system will automatically send you the matches via email. The reason USAJOBS is recommended is because they can maintain that resume and make updates even after they rotate from the overseas area back to (continental United States).”

Eighth Army and personnel managers say they want to make sure that military spouses have as many opportunities as possible to achieve employment while serving with their service member in the Far East Region.
How spouses can get jump on jobs

“Learning how to navigate and use USA Jobs, attending job fairs, and talking with other spouses who have been successful is important.”

– Shawn Pressley, military spouse

CAMP WALKER – Her husband was serving on an unaccompanied tour of duty to Korea when she was working on her degree, but when her husband was placed on orders to Korea for another tour, they decided she and their three boys would go with him.

It wasn’t easy to get hired at first, Melissa Roletto said, but she wasn’t going to give up easily. She was volunteering at Army Community Service and applying for jobs using the USA Jobs website when she was selected and hired by the Child Development Center on Camp Walker as a child and youth program assistant.

“Volunteering at ACS definitely helped me find a job,” said Roletto. “Learning how to navigate and use USA Jobs, attending job fairs, and talking with other spouses who have been successful is important.”

He first met his wife in Doha, Qatar. She was an Army officer and he was a contractor. Now married with two children and living in Korea, Shawn Pressley said he did everything he could possibly do to get hired as a federal employee.

“I went to ACS to speak with employment readiness. I took a resume writing class. I spent a lot of time on USA Jobs. I searched USA Jobs for available employment opportunities in this area. And I got hired at the newly opened Aquatics Center on Camp Walker,” said Pressley, a lead recreation aide at the center.

Both Pressley and Roletto used their military spouse preference option when applying for positions listed on the USA Jobs website. Pressley’s spouse is an Army major at the 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command. Roletto’s spouse is an Army first sergeant with C Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery.

“Military spouse preference is important. It puts you at the top of list,” said Pressley, who since being hired at the aquatics center received his life guard certification paid for by USAG Daegu Family and MWR.

“We currently have four open spots to hire, and all will require the person applying to be certified as a fitness instructor,” said Rob Kemble, the chief of Sports, Fitness and Aquatics, Family and MWR.

Whether applicants apply online using USA Jobs or volunteer through ACS, if selected they will teach Zumba, Functional Fitness, Yoga, Spin or other fitness classes they are certified in. Their instructor certifications will be paid for by Family and MWR, for people who do not already have them, and the new employees will be required to work or volunteer a certain number of hours to cover the cost of the certifications.

“This is a great service for our community members. Not only does this hit the number one Army Family Action Plan issue here in Korea, it’s also something they can take with them to their next duty stations,” Kemble said.

The fitness classes are scheduled to begin in the middle of September, said Kemble. The classes will be offered in the mornings, evenings, at lunch and potentially on the weekends, once the fitness center gets enough instructors.

This is good for the community members and good for the community, he said.
One giant leap for military spouses

While Congress has worked out the details of President Donald Trump’s proposed “U.S. Space Force”—who will oversee it, how many personnel are needed, whether we can afford it, where will it be located—I am selfishly wondering what the future holds for the military spouse community after this sixth branch of the armed forces stands up.

If Trump’s plan is implemented, there will be 15,000 personnel serving in the Space Force in 2024. Since about 51 percent of military servicepeople are married, that means there could be up to eight thousand new Space Force military spouses in a few years.

What will life be like for Space Force spouses, and what effect will they have on our military spouse community?

As a military spouse of many years, I’ve learned that, although we undoubtedly have our fellow spouses’ backs when the chips are down, we’re also pretty competitive. If I had a dollar for every time I heard pretty competitive. If I had a typical spouse club brunch, in a combined club dining room, on a joint base a decade from now. Spouses from the various branches exchange idle chit chat at their table while they wait for crystal bingo to begin.

“Billy’s going downrange again,” one Army wife laments with a pitiful sigh. “Jimmy’s been at sea all summer,” a Coast Guard wife moans, spearing a cube of cantaloupe with her fork.

“Tammy’s off to Bosnia for 170 days,” an Air Force husband says while picking his one-year IA tour,” a Marine wife sighs while absentmindedly munched, sipping a croissant. “Ricky’s halfway through his routine expedition, and now they’re telling me he won’t be back until 2050. The good news is, he’s promised to bring home jewelry from the Mars BX.”

The other spouses slump in their chairs in silent defeat.

“The existence of a U.S. Space Force presents more ridiculous scenarios than there are stars in the galaxy, but we’d better buckle up and get ready to blast off, because it’s coming in 2020 whether we like it or not. Before long, this new corps of military spouses will be prancing around our base neighborhoods like Jane Jettson, slipping Tang martinis and bragging about their spouses’ latest exploits on the final frontier. Our own tales of our spouses’ experiences with state-of-the-art ships, tanks, drones, cyber technology, missiles and fighter jets will be dwarfed by their stories of rocket launches and moon landings.

There’s no way for us to compete without looking pathetic. What can we say? “Well, at least Navy wives don’t put freeze-dried snickerdoodles in our husbands’ care packages!”

Let’s face it—the best thing for military spouses to do is to stop competing altogether. Why do we pit ourselves against one another in a competition for who has it worse, anyway? It’s pretty ridiculous when you think about it. We all face the ups, downs, rewards and challenges of this unique lifestyle. So whether our spouses fulfill their duty to serve on land or in air or outer space, let’s all take this giant leap into the future— together.

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

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WASHINGTON – The Army has implemented changes to its Total Army Sponsorship Program to ensure Soldiers and families have appropriate sponsors upon transfer to new assignments.

Under a revision to Army Regulation 600-8-8, Soldiers, noncommissioned officers and officers within the ranks of private to staff sergeant and second lieutenant to captain must be assigned sponsors at unit levels before leaving their current installations.

Further, warrant officers up to chief warrant officer 2 also are required to have sponsors before permanent changes of station, said Robert Bush, Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management program analyst.

While eligible Soldiers can still choose to decline sponsorship, first-term Soldiers are required to have sponsors before, or upon arrival to their next assignments, Bush said.

“We do not want to leave that Soldier at high risk of not having the necessary sponsorship, which prevents them from developing some risky behaviors, or ending up in harm’s way,” Bush said. “The sponsorship program is not just about establishing contact. It’s about welcoming that new Soldier (and leading them) through the process.”

Above all, commanders will maintain full responsibility over the sponsorship program, and are required to set local standard operating procedures to meet sponsorship requirements, Bush said.

Previously, commanders could assign responsibility for the program to other individuals.

While commanders can still delegate responsibilities down for support, they are ultimately responsible for the sponsorship program, Bush said.

“This is a commander’s program. (The sponsorship program) is one of those issues that has a big impact on readiness,” he said. “They are ultimately responsible for the health and welfare of the Soldiers.”
Students on overseas military bases returned to class Monday at schools run by the Department of Defense Education Activity, which reduced its teaching staff over the summer in order to spend elsewhere. At Yokosuka Naval Base in Japan, parents assigned to the USS Ronald Reagan arrived home from deployment Saturday, just in time to take part in back-to-school rituals. Last year, the aircraft carrier was at sea on the first day of school.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Ron McGinnis Sr. smiled wide as he brought his first-grader, Ron “R.J.” McGinnis Jr., to Sullivan Elementary School for the first time. “It means so much to able to see him off,” McGinnis said. “He was so excited last night.”

Cuts and changes

Beyond the first-day excitement, DODEA’s decision to eliminate more than 300 teaching positions this school year also means reduced course offerings and larger class sizes.

DODEA’s director Thomas Brady said Friday the cuts free up funds for other areas. He did not say how much money was saved but said it would be “put back into student achievement in a different way,” such as the purchase of new computers.

Average teacher-student ratios will range from 1-to-17 at middle schools to 1-to-25 at the largest high schools. Ratios at DODEA schools are still lower than those of stateside public schools, Brady said.

“The DODEA educators’ union criticized the staff cuts, saying the decision was made despite federal funding for DODEA remaining the same. After the decision was announced in January, Federal Education Association spokesman Gary Hritz told Stars and Stripes that “no teaching position should ever be cut from any school system unless there is no other option.”

Association executive director H.T. Nguyen said Monday that he couldn’t believe “DODEA is trying to justify cutting teachers by saying they are buying more computers.”

“That’s like an NFL team cutting its star player so it can buy more helmets,” Nguyen said.

Course offerings

Course cuts this year include The Foreign Language in Elementary Schools pilot program, which accounted for 87 of the 300 jobs.

Another 174 positions were cut for grades six through 12 in Europe and the Pacific; and in South Korea, school closures eliminated 43 teaching positions. Teachers across DODEA have reported cuts to electives such as drama, speech, foreign language and music, the teacher’s association said.

Brady said course offerings at some high schools were eliminated after scrutinizing enrollment data, adding that high school staffing levels hadn’t changed in 10 years.

“There was a remarkable number of classes there were at two or three students,” he said. “We just don’t have that kind of resourceing.”

At Yokosuka’s Nile C. Kinnick High School, the Chinese and journalism programs were eliminated, principal Craig Maxey said.

The former journalist teacher will teach English this year instead and will sponsor a club that will continue to publish a school newspaper.

While some courses went away, Brady said other programs are growing, such as the Career and Technical Education Program.

Kinnick sophomore Jessabell Tarun, 15, said she was looking forward to taking a culinary arts class for the first time.

“I want to be a pastry chef,” she said. “I love to bake cakes.”

Not all schools suffered the same cuts. For example, while Kinnick lost Chinese, Humphreys High School in South Korea kept the class.

In South Korea, schools at Camp Humphreys absorbed many of the staff and students from Seoul American High School. Seoul American closed in June after six decades as the Army prepares to return Yongsan to the South Korean government.

More than 660 students are enrolled at Humphreys High School, and school principal Erin Grazak said she capitalized on the opportunity to provide additional options for her students.

“I’m a huge foreign language advocate,” she said. “Because of our increased enrollment and staffing, not only did we not lose anything, we added several classes to include a fifth language, French.”

“Nomadic” students

The nomadic lifestyle of military families often makes forging new friendships at schools a regular challenge for many, including Toddi Sinclair, a 10th-grader new to Humphreys High School.

“Because I’m going into my sophomore year, I’m afraid most of my classmates already have their friends established,” she said Monday.

Sinclair and her family will be at the large Army base south of Seoul until her graduation in 2022.

“I’m also excited to meet new people, I like learning about where people come from — especially since this is a military base,” she said. “It’s nice to know I’m not the only military kid who has traveled around.”

On Okinawa, 10-year-old Malachi Hannah was nervous on his first day at Kadena Elementary School after moving in July from Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas.

His mother, Air Force Capt. Brittany Hannah, said she brought him to the Kadena Youth Center before starting fifth grade to help him meet other children. While Malachi made some friends, it wasn’t enough to shake the first-day butterflies in his stomach.

“I’m nervous,” he said. “(Kadena Elementary) is a lot different than Lackland. It’s huge.”

Malachi said he was most looking forward to classes in reading and technology. “He’s a big tech guy,” Brit- tany Hannah said. “He’s excited to make new friends.”

At Yokota Air Base in Tokyo, 1st Lt. Edgar Vila and his family have moved among about 30 airmen from the 374th Medical Group who high- fived kids from Joan K. Mendel Elementary School as they headed into classes.

“I know I’m going to be a parent someday and I know how hard it is for kids to move from school to school and be scared on their first day,” he said.

Four walls are ‘old school’

Vogelweh Elementary School in Kaiserslautern, Germany, is so new that the furniture was still being unpacked last week. But the school is ready to go, principal David Lee said.

“We just got the keys to the building on Thursday and we’re rocking,” he said.

Some are traditional classrooms with four walls.

Instead, each grade has its own section, called a neighborhood, with a common area and places with tables and smart boards. Neighborhoods can be open or sectioned off using adjustable walls.

In the fourth-grade neighborhood, students were organized into three groups. Each group will go together for classes like art and music.

For core subjects like math and science, students will work across groups with all three fourth-grade teachers.

“I like how you have your own space but you can still see all your friends because it’s just one big class, essentially,” said fourth-grader Tim Cotter.

Allison Koch, who has two children at the school, liked the concept but had some reservations.

“I’m not quite sure how it will work on a day-to-day basis … if it’s going to be too loud, if the kids are going to be distracted. It’s a lot of openness,” she said.

The principal, said he was “looking forward to doing something different.”

“We’ve done the same thing in education for hundreds of years, right? It’s dif- ferent to have a neighborhood approach and have a lot of collaboration among teachers.”

Stars and Stripes reporters Matthew M. Burke, Matt Keeler, Seth Robson and Jennifer H. Svan contributed to this report.
KUNSAN AIR BASE – In his debut role as a wing command chief for the 8th Fighter Wing, better known as the Wolf Chief, Chief Master Sgt. Steve Cenov has already hit the ground running.

“I’m too excited about being a member of the Wolf Pack team to be nervous,” said Cenov. “I look forward working shoulder to shoulder with the Airmen, the Republic of Korea Air Force servicemen and women, mission partners and civilians that make this wing great.”

He was notified in December 2018 by Col. Todd Clark, 8th Fighter Wing commander, that he was selected to be command chief of the Wolf Pack.

“I remember it like it was yesterday,” recalls Cenov. “I received countless phone calls and emails from active and retired Chiefs alike. Some who previously served in this position and others that never got the opportunity, but dreamed of the job. They all called to relay the honor and privilege of becoming Wolf Chief.”

As a first-generation American, he joined the Air Force for reasons similar to most Airmen, which was to live a positive life, travel and get an education.

“When I was younger, my goal was to be a police officer with the [New York Police Department],” said Cenov. “It ultimately drove me to enlist in security forces.”

He entered the Air Force approximately 20 years ago as a defender and upon the completion of this assignment, he will have spent eight years separated from his family.

“It’s a struggle and I miss my family all the time,” said Cenov. “I’m very lucky because they have always been extremely supportive but, I’ll be the first to admit that I’ve sacrificed my family more than I should have. I owe my successful career to my family.”

Cenov wants 8th Fighter Wing Airmen to focus on goal accomplishment during their tour. He has set also set high expectations for all senior non-commissioned officers here.

“While it’s easy to embark on the pursuit of a worthwhile goal, the ability to maintain the momentum to ensure its accomplishment is another issue altogether,” said Cenov. “Unless we stay motivated, determination and passion is tested,” said Cenov.

“I want our teammates to seize the day and make their days count while stationed here at Kunsan Air Base.”

Cenov wants 8th Fighter Wing Airmen to focus on goal accomplishment during their tour. He has set also set high expectations for all senior non-commissioned officers here.

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—I want our teammates to seize the day and make their days count while stationed here at Kunsan Air Base.

—Chief Master Sgt. Steve Cenov

Cenov wants 8th Fighter Wing Airmen to focus on goal accomplishment during their tour. He has set also set high expectations for all senior non-commissioned officers here.

“I am personally meeting with more than 200 SNCOs because the development of our enlisted force is a primary concern of mine,” said Cenov. “My expectation is for them to then sit down with all their NCOs and civilians to supervise to further strengthen their own relationships.”

Part of Cenov’s goals include creating an environment that enables supervisors to engage with their subordinates outside of scheduled, mandatory feedbacks.

“I am talking about really getting to know our team on a personal and professional level so we all can grow stronger together,” said Cenov.

From the Cenov’s perspective, the smallest changes can have largest impacts. His intent is to strengthen the Wolf Pack by enabling a stable, goal-achieving team.

For the Wolf Chief, his follow-up is not a concern right now. He is focused on his responsibility to lead and ensure he and all Airmen here use every day of their tour to accomplish the Wolf Pack’s goals.
The beauty of Beomeosa Temple

One of the first things on any visitors agenda to Busan should be Beomosa Temple. Beomeosa is one of Korea’s “Great 5 Temples.” This large, incredibly serene, temple complex is accessible by subway and then a short taxi or bus ride to the foothills. Founded in 678, the temple offers a unique view into the life of Korea’s Buddhist Monks. The original Beomeosa Temple building was lost during the Imjinwaeran Invasion (Japanese Invasion of Korea in 1592) but was renovated in 1713, which remains as it now is. Daengjeon is one of the most delicate and luxurious architectures of the Joseon Dynasty (1392–1910). There is Ijumun, the three-story pagoda with four pillars, built in the 9th century, and seven royal palace wings, pavilions, three gates, and eleven hermitages. Designated as a natural monument, the wisteria woods and valleys are most beautiful in May.

Getting there

SUBWAY + BUS: At Beomeosa Station (Busan Subway Line No.1) Exit No.5 or No.7, walk between the two exits along the road for about 5 minutes and you will reach the Samsin bus stop. Take Bus No.90 and you will arrive at Beomeosa Temple Ticket Office.

— Take Bus No. 32, 47, 49, 49-1, 50, 50-1, 80-1, 147, 148, 247, or 301, get off at the last stop and take bus no. 90
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Chuseok, Korean Thanksgiving Day, is one of the biggest and most important holidays in Korea. Family members from near and far come together to share food and stories and to give thanks to their ancestors. This year, Chuseok will be celebrated Sept. 12-14.

Many Koreans visit their hometowns to spend quality time with their family, as well as spend time with friends. The holiday also provides a good opportunity to enjoy traditional cultural experiences throughout Korea. Let's take a closer look at the traditional Korean holiday of Chuseok.

Meaning of Chuseok (Hangawi)

Chuseok is one of Korea’s three major holidays, along with Seollal (Lunar New Year’s Day) and Dano (the 5th day of the 5th lunar month). Chuseok is also referred to as hangawi. Han means “big” and gawi means “the ides of the 8th lunar month or autumn.” According to the lunar calendar, the harvest moon, the largest full moon of the year, appears on the 15th day of the eighth month.

Chuseok is a traditional Korean holiday of bountiful harvest.

Foods

A variety of foods are prepared during Chuseok to celebrate the bountiful harvest of the year, and one of the most significant foods that represent Chuseok is songpyeon. Songpyeon is prepared with rice powder that is kneaded into a size that is a little smaller than a golf ball, and then filled with sesame seeds, beans, red beans, chestnuts, or other nutritious ingredients. When steaming the songpyeon, the rice cakes are layered with pine needles to add the delightful fragrance of pine. It is an old tradition for the entire family to make songpyeon together on the eve of Chuseok. An old Korean anecdote says that the person who makes beautifully shaped songpyeon will meet a good spouse or give birth to a beautiful baby.

Other significant Chuseok foods include traditional liquor and jeon (Korean pancakes). Jeon are made by slicing fish, meat and vegetables and then lightly frying them in a batter of flour and eggs. They make a perfect pair with traditional Korean liquor.

FancyJEON.png

Chuseok foods include traditional liquor and cakes.

Charye (ancestor memorial services) and Seongmyo (visit to family graves)

In the morning of the day of Chuseok, family members gather at their homes to hold memorial services called charye in honor of their ancestors. Formal charye services are held twice a year: during Seollal (Lunar New Year’s Day) and Chuseok. During Chuseok’s charye, freshly harvested rice, alcohol and songpyeon (half-moon rice cakes) are prepared as an offering to the family’s ancestors. After the service, family members sit down together at the table to enjoy delicious food.

Another traditional custom of Chuseok is seongmyo, or visit to the ancestral graves. Seongmyo is an old tradition that is still carried out to show respect and appreciation for family ancestors. During seongmyo, family members remove the weeds that have grown around the graves and pay respect to the deceased with a simple memorial service.

Traditional folk games

As Chuseok is a celebration of harvest and abundance, the holiday period is made joyful with various entertainment and folk games such as samulnori (traditional percussion quartette), talchum (mask dance), ganggangsullae (Korean circle dance), and ssireum (traditional Korean wrestling). Ganggangsullae is performed during Jeongwol Daeboreum (celebration of the 15th day of the first lunar calendar) and Chuseok. In this dance, women dressed in hanbok (traditional Korean clothing) join hands in a large circle and sing together on the night of the full moon and on Chuseok. There are several stories about its origin. One of the most well-known stories says that the dance dates back to the Joseon Dynasty (1392-1910) when the Korean army used to dress the young women of the village in military uniforms and have them circle the mountains to give off the appearance that the Korean military was greater in number than it actually was from the enemy side. The Korean army enjoyed many victories thanks to this scare tactic. Ssireum, another significant traditional entertainment, is a one-on-one wrestling match held on a circular sand pit that requires strength and skills.
a type of homecoming to memorialize our ancestors. During these days, there are a few rites that take place. One of them is Charye, a memorial service honoring our ancestors. This service is usually held at home in the living room or a large room, and usually begins between 7 a.m. and 10 a.m. on the day of Chuseok. Back in the day, older relatives usually wore hanbok, traditional Korean dress, but nowadays most wear casual clothes.

In particular, playing traditional games such as Yut Nori with all of my family gathered around after the ceremony, was one of the great pleasures that I couldn’t miss. To foreigners Yut Nori may seem like a complicated game, but it’s actually quite simple involving a large amount of strategy. The game uses a cloth gameboard and sticks and is won when one team or player brings the sticks “home” on the gameboard. Families huddled together, shouting loudly and wishing for a certain score was a common spectacle back then. The competition and cheering for fellow team members made for a great evening spent bonding together and having fun.

Today, the meaning behind Chuseok seems to have faded. My family is spread out, some of my relatives moved to Gyeonggi Province, or to Seoul, complicating the plan of trying to get together. From my early-teens on, my family and I started to see less and less of each other on Chuseok, meaning no more Yut Nori.

And, it’s not just my family that has abandoned this tradition. South Koreans are starting to lose their ties with distant relatives. Although Charye, the memorial rite, is still a must for most families, more and more people are going on family trips without doing any of the worship rituals. Or, as a compromise, some families will hold the memorial service before Chuseok and enjoy the holidays freely.

This Chuseok, I have decided I will go home and stay off my smartphone. I plan to talk with my parents more and help prepare the ritual food. Spending time with my family and enjoying their company is what I want for this holiday. Because that is the real meaning of Chuseok.

What is Chuseok?
Chuseogeun museun tteusieyo?
Chuseok is the Korean Thanksgiving Day.
Chuseokeun hangugui chusugamsajeorieyo.
Are you going to visit your hometown?
Kohyang gaaminna?
It’s a time to honor ancestors.
Josangeul senggakhaneun siganieyo.
The roads are very busy today.
Oneu-eun doro ga hon-jab-hae-yo.
The holiday food looks delicious.
Myeongjoeul eumsigi masisseo boeyeoyo.

CHUSEOK: Great childhood memories

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

After Charye, we have special Chuseok foods made on the eve of the holiday. These include songpyeon, half-moon-shaped rice cakes, and rice wine, set on the table in a certain manner. Families gather around the table to remember their ancestors, bow and then the Chuseok feast begins. My family usually has jeon, a type of fried Korean pancake, and japchae, Korean fried glass noodles, and other Korean dishes at our dinner table.

A second traditional ceremony, Seongmyo, is held when families visit ancestral graves and help clear and clean the gravesites of weeds and debris. A simple rite table is prepared, and we bow again to show respect to the deceased. During Chuseok, the cemeteries are filled with people and many cars.

As a child, for me Chuseok meant my elder relatives would give me pocket money and I’d get to see my cousins whom I hadn’t seen in a while. I would look forward to this more than showing respect to my ancestors at the memorial service.

In particular, playing traditional games such as Yut Nori with all of my family gathered around after the ceremony, was one of the great pleasures that I couldn’t miss.

To foreigners Yut Nori may seem like a complicated game, but it’s actually quite simple involving a large amount of strategy. The game uses a cloth gameboard and sticks and is won when one team or player brings the sticks “home” on the gameboard. Families huddled together, shouting loudly and wishing for a certain score was a common spectacle back then. The competition and cheering for fellow team members made for a great evening spent bonding together and having fun.

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This Chuseok, I have decided I will go home and stay off my smartphone. I plan to talk with my parents more and help prepare the ritual food. Spending time with my family and enjoying their company is what I want for this holiday. Because that is the real meaning of Chuseok.
Off the southern coast lies a port city with views so beautiful, it has earned the title of Korea’s "Naples." Tongyeong is a small city but it is a great starting point when exploring the peninsula’s many islands by ferry. This “Naples,” has many great eats, local culture and mural villages to pique the interest offoodies and art lovers alike.

My family chose Tongyeong as our destination for the rare opportunity to go on holiday together. Unfortunately, there would be a few complications because of one of our furry family members also joined. Toto, our Maltese, came along for this adventure, but finding a pet-friendly hotel proved difficult. When I did find a room, it was only available for one night. So, our family vacation went from a long weekend to a short stay.

Take note, Tongyeong has no offseason, but it is especially busy in the summer. The streets around many of the city’s attractions are narrow, thus heavy traffic might prevent you from enjoying a relaxed coastal vacation. Either way, if you’re heading off to other islands on your trip, stay closer to the port for easier access to the ferry.

**Turtle ship & fish market**

Since we did, in fact, choose to head to Tongyeong during the summer holiday, most of our quality time was spent in our Hyundai sedan stuck in traffic. Eventually, we made it to our first destination, Gangguan Port.

As soon as I stepped out of the car, I saw Geobukseon, a turtle ship which contributed greatly to the Joseon Dynasty’s victory during Japanese invasions in 1592 and 1597. History buffs and curious visitors can enter the turtle ship for free and check out a few exhibits dedicated to Admiral Yi Sun-shin, who designed the battleship.

![Turtle ship](Photo courtesy of Tongyeong City Hall)

The odor of fish from the half-century-old seaport that hauls tons of seafood every morning led us to the Jungang Fish Market. My father and I walked through the narrow alleys of the open-air market filled with grannies selling fish out of plastic tubs. It was a challenge to pick one amongst the dozens of fresh catches for our dinner. I loved the old, rustic atmosphere of the market and enjoyed haggling for the best prices. We bought flat fish, rock fish, red sea-bream, clams and conches to have later.

The merchants’ Gyeongsangnam-do dialect was amusing to me, probably because the area is not far from Jinhae, where I served in the Korean Navy 15 years ago.

If you purchase seafood from the market, you can grab a table for 3,000 won (or $2.47) per person in the eateries nearby and enjoy a raw fish meal. They’ll also cook up your purchase if you’d like. The price includes sauces and greens for veggie wraps. It was...
Dongpirang Mural Village

If you’d like. The price includes sauces nearby and enjoy a raw fish meal. won (or $2.47) per person in the eater market, you can grab a table for 3,000 Navy 15 years ago. Jinhae, where I served in the Korean ably because the area is not far from do dialect was amusing to me, prob

For bibimbap, we chose Wonjo-milmul-sikdang because the cooks aren’t heavy-handed on the red pepper paste, allowing diners to appreciate the flavors of the native ingredients used in every dish.

Sea squirt bibimbap is made up of bright orange sea squirt, veggies, seaweed, and sesame oil all mixed together with rice in a bowl. With every bite of the sea squirt, the fresh taste of the ocean filled my mouth. I was delicious!

Next, we went to Bul-sikdang to try jol bokguk, which has over 40 years of history behind it and is considered a local hangover cure. At 12,000 won for the bowl, it was a good-sized serving. It came with rice and various side dishes, including a few slices of fresh raw fish. The soup was light, and the bonyless pufferfish had a wonderful silky texture.

Bul-sikdang is the kind of place you go to after a long night of drink-
ing on the port and a way to relieve a hangover the Teongyeong-way.

What the heck is a sea squirt?

Sea squirt, or sea pineapple, is a marine invertebrate filter feeder permanently attached to a water-filled hide-out or tube (i.e. rocks, crabs) at the bottom of the sea, according to Encyclopedia Britannica. Known as meongge in South Korea, sea pineapple is a type of edible sea squirt mostly consumed in the country. More than 70 percent of meongge in South Korea are caught around Tongyeong and Geojedo island.

Although they do not look too appetizing, meongge have proven to be quite a tasty delicacy. The rubbery red sea squirt resembles a red rubber balloon with tiny bumps. More than 70 percent of meongge in South Korea are caught around Tongyeong and Geoje island. The rubbery red sea squirt resembles a red rubber balloon with tiny bumps. More than 70 percent of meongge in South Korea are caught around Tongyeong and Geoje island. It is commonly served in thin slices with red chili sauce. Only the watery golden flesh is consumed, and its texture is soft and slippery with a unique marine fragrance. The taste is strong with a hint of bitterness and an aftertaste which lingers on the palate.

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On our next stop, Dongpirang Mural Village, we are preserved for the residents and converted into a beautiful attraction with colorful alleyways, amusing murals and sculptures. Don't miss the snow-white angel wings mural, a favorite of local students stepped in to protect it by painting the walls and changing the city officials' minds. The village was set to be torn down, but local students stepped in to protect it by painting the walls and changing the city officials’ minds. The village was set to be torn down, but local students stepped in to protect it by painting the walls and changing the city officials’ minds.

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Dongpirang Mural Village

Our next stop, Dongpirang Mural Village, is a 10-minute walk from the fish market. The working-class village is a lovely place to take photos as it is covered in colorful murals. In 2007, the village was set to be torn down, but local students stepped in to protect it by painting the walls and changing the city officials’ minds.

The various attractions dedicated Admiral Yi Sun-shin, who designed the battleship. In Tongyeong, fresh sea squirt (or sea pineapple) bibimbap and jol bokguk (or panther pufferfish) soup are must-eat dishes. You'll find plenty of restaurants serving these local delicacies.

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Delicious sea pineapple & pufferfish

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BBQ & electric kickboards

Nestled in the surrounding area of Mount Mireuksan, we stayed the night at the Tongyeong-Guest Pension with a great view of the ocean. It was a lovely place and only a 10-minute drive from Tongyeong Jungang Market. The pension has a beautiful fenced garden where Toto had plenty of space to run.

Though not a fancy place, my family was happy that we were able to have Toto with us and that he could enjoy the room freely without a leash. I also liked that my dog was able to socialize with other guests' pets as well.

For 20,000 won (for four people), we used the pension’s BBQ grill service, which includes charcoal and tongs. We grilled the seafood we picked up at the market earlier and spent a nice evening dining al fresco together. The clams and conches were overcooked because of my poor cooking skill, but it was a pleasure to share this meal with my family.

After dinner, my brother and I enjoyed riding electric kickboards along the beach near our hotel. We rented these from EI MAR, a café near our hotel offering rentals for 10,000 won per hour. This is a great way to explore the city quickly and efficiently.

Order a drink at EI MAR, like coffee, and save 1,000 won off your rental. We really enjoyed the kickboards as we explored the area.

Though it was a short trip, my family and I enjoyed the time we spent together. Even our dog had a good time. Next time, we’ll definitely plan ahead to make sure we get to see more of Korea’s Naples.
Meet Toto

Toto is an 8-year-old maltese. He is pretty independent and will not listen to me unless there is a dog snack involved.

I adopted Toto when he was a puppy, and he is one of the reasons why I am often at my parent’s house. I miss him a lot when I’m away.

This trip was my first time traveling with Toto and since it went so well, I’m thinking of taking him on more trips in the future. Toto had never seen the ocean before and he seemed to enjoy it. As for my family and I, we really enjoyed creating some nice memories with Toto.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

Tasty honey bread

Born after the Korean War and made to calm fishermen’s hunger, ggul bbang is similar to doughnut holes popular in the States. Here, however, the soft dough balls are filled with mashed red beans, fried, and then generously glazed with plenty of honey. The bread itself is quite sweet, so I prefer it without the honey. Almost all of the food stands near the entrance of Tongyeong Jungang Market sell this sweet snack.

TONGYEONG-GUEST PENSION
ADDRESS: 8-11 Yeongun-ri, Sanyang-eup, Tongyeong-si, Gyeongsangnam-do.
PRICE: From 120,000 won per night (peak season), Dog boarding: 10,000 to 20,000 won per night
TEL: 055-645-0060, 010-6399-3517
WEBSITE: http://www.guestpension.net/ (KOR)

El MAR electric kickboard
ADDRESS: 40 Yeongun-ri, Sanyang-eup, Tongyeong-si, Gyeongsangnam-do
TEL: 055-645-1047
OPERATION HOURS: 10 a.m. to 11 p.m

Thrilling VR Roller Coaster is kicking off in Gwangmyeong Cave now!

Gwangmyeong Cave + VR Mine Roller Coaster fulfill your thrilling fantasy.

Mine Adventure
GM Miner
Hang-gliding
Climbing
Smooth travels on KORAIL’s KTX-I and KTX-Sancheon

BY CHIHON KIM,
STRIPES KOREA

When exploring South Korea, traveling by train is definitely one of the safest, convenient and most useful ways to get around. However, choosing the right trainline opens up a set of challenges for people unfamiliar with the pros and cons of each option. The white and blue KTX is KORAIL’s flagship train and the fleet is split in two: KTX-I and KTX-Sancheon. The KTX-I, first unveiled in 2004, is an 18-car express train with both forward and backward-facing seats. I rode the train in a backward-facing seat and was dizzy, so be weary of that. Or you ride first-class, which offers rotating seats.

KTX-Sancheon, is an updated version of the KTX-I and operates either 8- or 16-car trains. All seats in this train are rotating and provide a little more room between rows. KTX-Sancheon is also quieter than the KTX-I.

In your journey around Korea, you will come across the purple express SRT. This train offers useful power sockets to charge your devices in all seats, but there is no standing room on this train. The KTX shares its rail route with SRT including Gyeongbu Line and Honam Line. Ride either train if you’re planning to go to Gyeongbu or Honam Provinces. SRT does not operate on the Jeolla Line and Gangneung Line, thus requiring a transfer at Iksan station for Yeosu and at Seoul Station for Gangneung, where you can catch the KTX train that does go to those provinces.

As far as cost is concerned, SRT is up to 15 percent cheaper than KTX, but the SRT lines are still limited to certain areas. A good way to choose a train is to consider your destination and travel time rather than train fare.

Korea’s train systems may be daunting to some, but they don’t have to be. Pay attention to the color of the trains and figure out which of the two will work best for your next trip around the peninsula.

KTX OPERATES 5 LINES

KTX GYEONGBU LINE: This oldest line in South Korea connects Seoul to Busan. The line is a very busy route that runs through the country.

KTX HONAM LINE: South Korea’s second busiest line connects Yongsan Station to Mokpo. Second Honam line starts from Daejeon and ends in Mokpo.

KTX GYEONGJEON LINE: This line connects Samnangjin Station in Miryang to Gwangju.

KTX JEOLLA LINE: This line starts from Seoul and ends in Yeosu.

KTX GANGNEUNG LINE: The line runs between Seoul to Gangneung.
If you have been in Korea for awhile, many can attest to some quite bizarre pizza options than they are normally used to at home. Pizzas with salad set in the middle of it, pizza with fruit and no cheese and even recently, a pizza with soap on it, has made the rounds in the kitchens of what would likely be an Italian chef’s worst dream.

That being said, though by no means the worst Korea has to offer, here are five bizarre pizzas you can order at Domino’s Pizza in Korea.

**Domino’s slices up interesting options**

**Octopus Bomb Shrimp**

**TOPPINGS:** Whole Shrimp, Octopus, Mushroom, Pepper, Red Onion, Parsley, Parmesan, Feta Cream, Mozzarella, Horseradish Sauce, Deep Cheese Sauce

**PRICE:**
- Medium — 31,000 won
- Large — 36,900 won

According to the Domino’s website, this pizza is inspired by American, Irish, and Kiwi tastes. Not quite sure where they came up with that, but if you’re really into seafood and octopus on your pizza, well, here you go.

**Black Angus Steak**

**TOPPINGS:** Mozzarella, Feta, Ricotta Cheese, Roast Tomato, Horseradish Sauce, Sundried Tomato, Arribbata Sauce, Angus Beef, Lobster Ball

**PRICE:**
- Medium — 31,000 won
- Large — 36,900 won

The Black Angus Steak is itself a little deceptive in title, as they fail to mention the “lobster ball” topping which makes this surf and turf pizza a nutritional nightmare. The six types of super seeds — flaxseed, chickpea, oat, quinoa, hemp seed, and lentils — along with 100% Korean black rice which comprises the pizza dough, are not quite enough to make this sound like the healthiest option out there.

**Wagyu & Bistecca**

**TOPPINGS:** Bistecca, Wagyu Crumble, Romano Cream Cheese, Provolone, Bocconcini, Parmesan, Mozzarella, Smoked King Oyster Mushroom, Arribbata Sauce, Red Onion, Green Pepper, Roasted Potato

**PRICE:**
- Medium — 30,000 won
- Large — 35,900 won

Simplicity this is not, with 5 types of cheese and 13 ingredients in total. This mess of a pizza looks rough enough in its promo picture, and don’t imagine what it would come out looking like when coming out of the box for real. I don’t really even want to know.

**Glamping Barbeque**

**TOPPINGS:** Whole Beef, Whole Pork, Special BBQ Sauce, Roast Potato, Mushroom, Bulgogi Sauce, Mozzarella, Romano Cream, Cheddar, Provolone Cheese, Parmesan Cheese, Parsley, Sundried Tomato

**PRICE:**
- Medium — 30,000 won
- Large — 35,900 won

Another 13 ingredient gut bomb, this one features a hodge-podge of meat, vegetables, cheeses, and sauces. The test chefs must have worked extra-hard on this one to really get your 30,000 won worths of toppings. Still trying to figure out where the glamping part of this pizza comes in.

**Korean Sweet Potato**

**TOPPINGS:** Mozzarella, Ricotta Cheese, Camembert Cream Cheese, Wagyu Crumble, Pineapple, Corn, Red Onion, Mushroom, Truffle Cream, Parsley, Bacon, Sweet Potato Cube, Sweet Potato Mousse

**PRICE:**
- Medium — 23,000 won
- Large — 29,900 won

It wouldn’t be right to leave a classic sweet potato pizza on the list, and especially one with corn and pineapple on it. The kitchen-sink of Korean pizzas, meat, cheeses, vegetables, with locally grown sweet potatoes making “the best harmony” have always been a hard-pass on dinner night.

And there you have it. By far not the weirdest choices in Korea, but give me a simple pepperoni and cheese any day!

Bon appetit!
A 30-foot-long, red and yellow cloth dragon with daggerlike white teeth blocked our way as my wife, Shirin, and I strolled down Singapore’s famed Orchard Road, a tree-lined boulevard known for its upscale stores and hotels. Drums beat rhythmically as a dozen men maneuvered the undulating dragon along the broad sidewalk. This symbol of strength, power and good luck in Chinese culture was part of the lingering festivities following the Chinese New Year 10 days earlier. As we paused to watch the colorful show, I thought to myself, “You have to expect the unexpected in Singapore.”

Our five days in Singapore were meant to be a warmup for our six-week Southeast Asia tour, but I discovered belatedly that Singapore should have been the grand finale, since it proved to be one of the highlights of our five-country trip. In fact, Singapore has become my favorite major, modern city in the world.

There is much to like about Singapore, but I’ll start by getting out of the way the only two drawbacks I can think of. First, Singapore is consistently ranked among the most expensive cities in the world, along with Paris and Hong Kong. Second, due to its proximity to the equator, Singapore’s average temperature hovers around a daily high of 88 degrees and a low of 75 degrees, with 84% average humidity and rain showers possible on most days. The all-time low temperature is 66.9 degrees.

Modern Singapore was founded by Sir Stamford Raffles in 1819 as a trading post for the British East India Company. The island city state (just 279 square miles) blossomed in just six decades from a place of strife and relative poverty to a global powerhouse for entertainment, education, finance, health care, manufacturing, technology, tourism and transportation.

During our visit to the National Museum, we were struck by the magnitude of the country’s accomplishments, displayed in what could be called “the bragging rights room”: Singapore is consistently rated as one of the world’s safest and cleanest countries; it has the world’s top rated airport and airline; its students year after year rank No. 1 in the world for science, reading and math; it is the world’s second busiest container port, third largest global foreign exchange market and third largest oil and refining center; and Singapore ranks as the eighth healthiest country.

As we toured various parts of the city, invariably we found the Singaporeans to be kind and helpful. Fortunately for us, English is their main official language, followed by Malay, Mandarin and Tamil. We never perceived any tension as people from Malaysia, China, Indonesia, Philippines, India and Europe mixed freely everywhere.

“Even though we have a very mixed population,” explained a local man, “we all get along well because from the earliest days our country focused on policies that ensured that people from different countries and cultures could live and work together peacefully. That’s why every year on July 21 we celebrate Racial Harmony Day, to remind ourselves of how important this is for our success.”

My wife and I opted for an unorthodox way to explore the city by staying in hotels in three different areas. Our first hotel, the Six Senses Duxton, placed us near Chinatown, the elaborate Buddha Tooth Relic Temple and across from the Maxwell Hawker Center, one of the city’s best places to try tasty yet inexpensive Singaporean dishes. The boutique hotel is located in a row of carefully restored trading houses, which accounted for...
The iconic Singapore Lion fountain at Merlion Park.

360-degree view of Singapore was especially down by the bay. The horse-shoe-shaped bay presented a Las Vegas-like fountain show with sound and light effects painted the statue in endlessly changing colors and textures. The Singapore Lion spouted a massive stream of water from its jaws as hidden lights twinkled in the water while the city's signature Singapore-like fountain show with sound and light effects painted the petals of the unique structure.

Behind the Marina Bay, on a 250-acre man-made island, is another of Singapore's must-see attractions, the Gardens by the Bay. We visited the site in the late afternoon in order to appreciate it during the daylight, especially the glass-enclosed Flower Dome and Cloud Forest, with the world's tallest enclosed waterfall. As the night sky darkened, a sound and light show began in the Supertree Grove where a stand of hundred-foot-tall, man-made trees changed colors to the rhythm of the music, glowing majestically in hues of lavender, orange, purple and magenta.

Wherever we walked, we appreciated Singapore's efforts to create a more eco-friendly environment. As a result, large, lovely trees graced most streets, while many buildings had walls and roofs covered with plants. In some areas, pastel-colored, historic shophouse rows stood in stark contrast to the surrounding modern buildings with their stunning architectural designs. One of our taxi drivers boasted, “Dining is our national pastime,” and it certainly seemed true, based on the number of international restaurants and the 114 hawker centers that offered every kind of food imaginable.

For our final exploration of the city, we decided to splurge and stay at the five-star Capella Singapore on exclusive Sentosa Island, known for its beaches, golf courses and attractions including Universal Studios Singapore. Inside our hotel's courtyard, we found a brass plaque embedded in the sidewalk, marking the spot where President Donald Trump first shook hands with North Korea's leader, Kim Jong Un. Our room overlooked the cargo ship-filled South China Sea and a nearby Indonesian island bristling with oil refinery structures. A path behind the hotel led us down to a sandy beach and a free shuttle that transported visitors around the island. Our sense of contentment with our elegant room was enhanced by an exquisite meal in Cassia, the hotel's Cantonese-food restaurant.

As we prepared to leave Singapore and continue our Southeast Asia sojourn, Shirin and I agreed that someday we will return, stay longer and savor even more of the specialness of Singapore — a bold, vibrant, attractive and innovative city-state with pleasant surprises around every corner.
HAPPENINGS
OFF BASE
FESTIVALS

Muju Firefly Festival

DATE: Until Sept. 8
LOCATION: 326-17, Hanpungnu-ro, Muju-gun, Jeollabuk-do
INTRODUCTION: The Muju Firefly Festival takes place in the pure environment of Muju, a natural habitat for fireflies and the marsh snails the fireflies feed on. The festival offers many attractions and activities but the highlight of the festival is the fireflies beginning to light up the night sky.

TRANSPORTATION: Bus
From Seoul Nambu Bus Terminal, take an intercity bus to Muju. From Chunju Intercity Bus Terminal, take a taxi to World Martial Park. (5-10min)
HOMEPAGE: www.martialarts.or.kr (Korean, English)

Hongseong Namdanghang Port Jumbo Shrimp Festival

DATE: Until Sept. 15
LOCATION: Namdanghang Port, located at the west end of Hongseong, is a famous west coast port known for its exceptional seafood. Surrounded by the clean waters of Cheonnuman Bay, Namdanghang Port is home to a wide array of sea life including blue crab, cockle and webfoot octopus. Namdanghang Port alone receives dozens of visitors from early September to mid-October every year for the country’s largest Jumbo Shrimp Festival, which has been held since 1907.

A major jumbo shrimp party unfolds along the west coast of Korea from October to November, and as the shrimp are in season, this is the ideal period to enjoy the savory food. The Jumbo Shrimp Festival offers not only food but also various activities for visitors to take part in such as catching clam in the mud flats or even personally catching jumbo shrimp. It also holds a diverse range of events such as traditional rites (rituals for a big catch of fish), fishing boat parades, singing contests as well as hands-on experience programs for catching and peeling jumbo shrimp. Regional products are also sold, making it possible to purchase quality jumbo shrimp at low prices. With much to offer, the festival draws over 700,000 visitors each year.

TRANSPORTATION: Train
From Yongsan Station (Seoul Subway Line 1, Jangdang Line), take a train bound for Hongseong.
Bus
From Seoul Central City Terminal (Express Bus Terminal Station, Subway Line 3,7,9), take an express bus bound for Hongseong.
From Hongseong Station (Janghang Line) or Hongseong Terminal, take Bus Hongseong-Galsan(Namdang) (Hongseong Station) bound for Namdanghang Port.
HOMEPAGE: tour.hongseong.go.kr (Korean only)

Yangyang Songi Festival (Pine Mushroom Festival)

DATE: Sept. 26 - Sept. 29
LOCATION: Yangyang Namdaecheon Stream Event area, Yangyang Market, Yangyang Songi Valley Natural Forest
INTRODUCTION: Yangyang Songi Festival offers hands-on programs to enjoy Yangyang songi mushrooms that naturally grow on Taebaeksanmaek Mountain Ridge. These local specialties feature a strong mushroom scent and thick texture thanks to the low percentage of moisture compared to other region’s mushrooms, making it possible to preserve them for a long time. At the festival, visitors can participate in a farming experience through the mushroom picking program. The program also allows foreign visitors to learn about the nutritional effects of Yangyang songi mushrooms.

TRANSPORTATION: Bus
From Seoul Express Terminal, take an express bus to Yangyang Bus Terminal.
HOMEPAGE: festival.yangyang.go.kr (Korean only)

Seogwipo Chilsimni Festival

DATE: Sept. 27 - Sept. 29
LOCATION: Seogwipo Jaguri Park area and Chilsimni Food Specialized Street
INTRODUCTION: Seogwipo Chilsimni was originally the name of a 27 km-long strip of land from Seongeup Village to Seogwipo Harbor on Jeju Island. However, over the years it has come to mean “homeland” for Jeju residents. The Seogwipo area is also one of the most popular tourist destinations in Jeju due to its beautiful ocean landscapes.

The festival’s program includes folk performances rooted in Jeju’s history, legends, and natural environment. There is also a variety of ocean sports activities, which are very popular with visitors.

TRANSPORTATION: From Jeju International Airport, take the Airport Limousine Bus 600. Get off at New Ryungnam Tourist Hotel Bus Stop. Walk 500m towards Chilsimni Park.
HOMEPAGE: i7oni.com (Korean only)

Hongseong Hero Festival

DATE: Sept. 27 - Sept. 29
LOCATION: The area of Hongjuseong Fortress, Hongseong-gun, Chungcheongnam-do
INTRODUCTION: Hongseong is a provincial capital of Chungcheongnam-do. Its old name was “Hongjumok,” ruling 16 counties between Pyeongtaek and Seocheon. With this history, it is an important traffic center throughout the west coast of Chungcheong-do and it features abundant agricultural, fishery and meat products as well as warm-hearted people. Hongseong is also the hometown of many historical figures including General Choi Yeong, a great commander during the late Goryeo dynasty; Seong Sam-mun, a scholar-official fighting against injustice; Han Yong-un who was a resistance fighter against Japanese influence with his fidelity and integrity; Kim Jwa-jin who won the Battle of Cheongsanni against Japan; Han Seong-jun who was a Korean folk dancer and a master dancer of Jeseon, and Lee Eung-no who is famous overseas as a modern artist. Hongseong Hero Festival welcomes visitors with various programs.

TRANSPORTATION: Bus
Take an intercity bus or express bus from Central City Terminal, Seoul Nambu Terminal, or Dong Seoul Bus Terminal to Hongseong Bus Terminal. Walk towards the Hongseong Bus Stop. Take the No. 114 bus to GwangcheonTongDari Bus Stop. Walk approximately 387 meters to Hongseong County Office.
HOMEPAGE: hero festival.co.kr (Korean only)
Bonghwa Pine Mushroom Festival

DATE: Sept. 27 - Sept. 30
LOCATION: Bonghwa Sports Park, Songsan Mountain area
INTRODUCTION: Bonghwa’s songi (pine) mushrooms are regarded as a special delicacy as they grow only on the very best types of pine trees called Chunyangmok. Pine Trees. They can be stored for long periods of time. At the Bonghwa Pine Mushroom festival, visitors will be able to observe the mushrooms in their natural habitat, and get the chance to harvest them. They will also be able to sample various alcohols and specialty dishes made from the delicious pine mushroom.
TRANSPORTATION: Express/Intercity Bus
- From Dong Seoul Terminal, take an intercity bus to Bonghwa Terminal. From the bus terminal, walk toward Gumi Intersection and take Bus 150 in front of Electronics Land. Get off at Cheongsonyeon Suryeongwan Bus Stop. Get off at the Chuncheon Puppet Theater Bus Stop. From drone Seoul Terminal, take an intercity bus to Chuncheon Intercity Bus Terminal. From Gangnam Express Bus Terminal, take Bus 221.
- From Dong Seoul Bus Terminal, take an intercity bus to Chuncheon Intercity Bus Terminal.
- From Bonghwa Bus Terminal, it is a 5min-walk to the festival grounds.
HOMEPAGE: bonghwaefestival.com (Korean only)

Chuncheon Puppet Festival

DATE: Sept. 28 - Oct. 6
LOCATION: Area of Chuncheon Puppet Theater
INTRODUCTION: Chuncheon Puppet Festival first began in 1989 as a local event and has now developed into the largest puppet festival in Korea that attracts performers and visitors from all over the world. Apart from stage performances, diverse art experience programs are prepared to entertain both children and adults alike.
TRANSPORTATION:
- Subway
  - Sangbong Station (Seoul Subway Line 7 or Jungang Line or Gyeonchun Line) → Chuncheon Station, Exit 1.
  - ITX train: Yongsan Station → Chuncheon Station, Cheongnyangni Station → Chuncheon Station, Exit 1. From Chuncheon Station Exit 1, take a bus 30, 31, 32, 33-1, 36, 37, 38 or 39 (located across the street). Get off at Cheongsonyeon Suryeongwan Bus Stop. Bus
- From Dong Seoul Bus Terminal, take an intercity bus to Chuncheon Intercity Bus Terminal.
- From Gangnam Express Bus Terminal (Central City Terminal), take a bus to Chuncheon. From the bus terminal, walk toward Gumi Intersection and take Bus 150 in front of Electronics Land. Get off at Chuncheon Puppet Theater Bus Stop.
- From Cheongsonyeon Suryeongwan Bus Stop. From the bus terminal, walk toward Gumi Intersection and take Bus 150 in front of Electronics Land. Get off at Cheongsonyeon Suryeongwan Bus Stop. From the bus terminal, walk toward Gumi Intersection and take Bus 150 in front of Electronics Land. Get off at Cheongsonyeon Suryeongwan Bus Stop.
HOMEPAGE: www.cocobau.com (Korean, English)

Baekje Cultural Festival

DATE: Sept. 28 - Oct. 3
LOCATION: Area of Chuncheon Puppet Theater
INTRODUCTION: Baekje Cultural Festival first started in 1955 to commemorate the three loyal subjects of the Baekje era, namely Seongchung, Heungsu, and Gyebaek through a Samchunje rite. The festival aims to bring the history and culture of the Baekje era to life, taking place at UNESCO-recognized sites.

TRANSPORTATION:
- Subway
  - From Gudeurae Plaza (Buyeo-gun) to Gudeurae Plaza (구덕리광장, S-10min). Take an intercity bus to Gudeurae Plaza (구덕리광장). From Gudeurae Plaza (구덕리광장), take an intercity bus to Buyeo Intercity Bus Terminal. Geumgang Singwan Park is located 500m from the bus terminal.
- From Songisan Mountain area (Chungju), take a bus to Buyeo Intercity Bus Terminal.
HOMEPAGE: www.baekje.org (Korean, English, Japanese, Chinese)

Goyang Autumn Flower Festival

DATE: Sept. 28 - Oct. 13
LOCATION: Goyang Ilsan Lake Park
INTRODUCTION: With autumn flowers peaking in the garden and flower art work in the indoor exhibition hall, visitors can take in various performances, flower market and traditional experiences.
TRANSPORTATION:
- Subway
  - Jeongbalsan Station (Seoul Subway Line 3), Exit 2. Walk for approx. 5 min to arrive at Ilsan Lake Park.
- Bus
  - Get off at Lake Park Bus Stop. Bus No. 33, 88A
  - Get off at Lake Park Management Office Bus Stop. Intercity Bus No. 3000
  - Airport Bus No. 7300, 7400
HOMEPAGE: www.loveflower.or.kr (Korean, English)

Gangneung Coffee Festival

DATE: Oct. 3 - Oct. 6
LOCATION: Gangneung Green City Experience Center e-zen
INTRODUCTION: The Gangneung Coffee Festival held its first event in 2009 as part of a project in making Gangneung a city of coffee. The festival celebrates the emerging coffee culture of Gangneung, which in recent years has welcomed in famous coffee chains and artisan coffee shops. The festival celebrates the scenic city’s past and present culture with a variety of coffee-related events such as exhibitions, photo exhibitions, coffee-making and coffee bean-roasting experience programs. Coffee entrepreneurs can also sign up for on-site seminars about the coffee industry.
TRANSPORTATION:
- To Gangneung Port
  1) From the Gangneung Intercity / Express Bus Terminal, take Bus 221. Get off at Anmok (the last stop) and walk to the festival grounds (10-min walk).
  2) From Gangneung Station, take Bus 223 to Anmok (the last stop).
- Taxi
  Take a taxi from Gangneung Bus Terminal to Gangneung Port (20min).
HOMEPAGE: www.coffeefestival.net (Korean only)

NOTE: Festival dates and info subject to change.
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The 17th Annual Daegu International Opera Festival will be entertaining folks until Oct. 13. Held at the Daegu Opera House, the theme of this year’s festival is the same last year’s—“Opera and Humans.”

On the 100th anniversary of the March 1st Movement and the establishment of the provisional government of Korea, festival organizers want the audience to consider the power and meaning that can be evoked through opera.

The Daegu Opera House is preparing various programs throughout the festival that can be enjoyed by people of all walks of life and different cultures.

While the four main operas will be held at the Daegu Opera House, small theater operas will be held at the Daegu Opera House (Buk-gu), the Cheon Center (Seo-gu), the Cheongna Hill Missionary Chamber House (Jung-gu), and Camera, the annex to Daegu Opera House (Buk-gu).

An exciting event being held this year is the “Square Opera.” It’s like bringing the opera to you. Just walk up and watch and listen to The L’elisir d’amore. Square Opera will be held at Lotte Outlet Imsilopolis on Sept. 14-15, and at Samsung Creative Campus on Oct. 3.

For more information, go to http://www.daeguoperahouse.org or call 053-666-6176, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Mon.-Sat.
Stripes Sports Trivia

The self-proclaimed ‘Greatest of All Time,” this speedster holds some remarkable Major League Baseball records. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2009, and hit a record 75 homers to start a game - one reason he is considered one of the best leadoff hitters in history. Who is this quotable outfielder who always had a thing or two to say about himself?

Answer

Joe Morgan

Over 20% of South Koreans have the last name Kim. Other common last names are Park and Lee. In South Korea, when someone introduces themselves or is signing a document, they say their last name first.

Hangul of the week

눈 (snow)

Language Lesson

I’m thirsty.

Mogi mallayo.

SUDOKU

Edited by Margie E. Burke

Difficulty: Easy

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.

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Biweekly Crossword - Week of 9/2/19

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Answers to Previous Crossword:

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K N E E L
O N S E T
C O M P E N S A T E
A C A I
A N T I
B E E R
S P R A Y
A B E L
T U C K E R E D
T O A D
I R E
L I S P
R E L I S H

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