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Honoring US, ROK national anthems

Honoring “The Star-Spangled Banner” is a sign of respect for our nation and the sacrifices made for our freedoms. Extending that same honor to the anthems of our allies is a powerful sign of our commitment to them. When outdoors during the U.S. and ROK national anthems, uniformed personnel are required to render a salute, while civilians should stand with their right hand over their heart. If you are in a vehicle on base, safely pull to the side of the road and stop until the music concludes. These customs are a daily opportunity to show honor for our country and our allies.



Susie and Michael Paul pose with their four biological children and their adopted son, Benaiah, in Applegate, Ore., in 2020. Photo courtesy of Susie Paul

Adoption forges bonds that span borders, generations

BY ALEX WILSON AND YOOJIN LEE,
 STARS AND STRIPES
 Published: January 14, 2026

Fifty years ago, U.S. Navy Cmdr. Dixie Dunham set out to adopt a child while stationed at what is now North Dock in Yokohama, Japan.

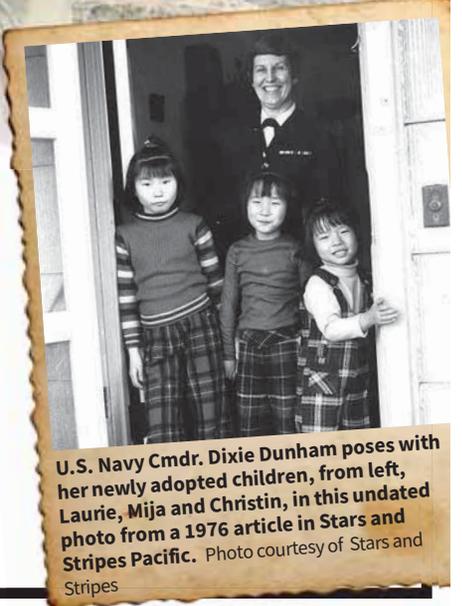
Months later, after rounds of interviews, piles of paperwork and two trips to South Korea, she returned not with one child, but three. Laurie, 10, Mija, 8, and Christin, 4, came to

live with her in November 1975.

Dunham was 46 at the time, single and keenly aware of social changes taking place around her. “In today’s world I can have a career and a family, too — the best of both lives,” she told Stars and Stripes in February 1976.

One of her daughters, Christin Dunham, is now 54 and works as a librarian at Osan Middle High School on Osan Air Base, south of Seoul.

SEE GENERATIONS ON PAGE 4



U.S. Navy Cmdr. Dixie Dunham poses with her newly adopted children, from left, Laurie, Mija and Christin, in this undated photo from a 1976 article in Stars and Stripes Pacific. Photo courtesy of Stars and Stripes

STARS AND STRIPES

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Health risks of getting healthy in 2026

I'm overdue for a mammogram, I haven't had my cholesterol checked and I've been ignoring aches and pains for months. It's time to finally make my health a priority.

I add this resolution to my list, which includes quitting Spider Solitaire cold turkey and going to bed earlier. Making my health a priority won't happen easily. Online portals must be accessed. Records must be checked. Appointments will be scheduled. Authorizations will be requested. Medical professionals must be consulted.

I call my podiatrist, Dr. McCormick, who hasn't administered a cortisone shot for my arthritic left foot since March. I've become accustomed to limping around like Quasimodo. Rather than deal with pains individually like I used to, I've accepted my status as a menopausal woman who experiences multiple pains on a daily basis. Back when my hormones functioned properly, natural collagen cushioned my joints. If I felt pain, I'd say to myself, "Ouch! That shouldn't hurt! I'd better investigate."

Nowadays, when each pain du jour presents itself, which often happens with an audible "snap-crackle-pop!" while getting out of bed, I simply groan and add it to the long list of menopausal inconveniences with which I am now plagued.

However, making my health a priority will require acknowledging and mitigating my various pains. The first step is getting that cortisone shot.

"Your authorization expired over the summer," Dr. McCormick's receptionist says. My blood pressure jumps, anticipating the colossal hassle ahead. Who is my Primary Care Manager anyway? I call the Naval Health Clinic to request a new referral.

"What's your DoD ID number?" the clinic scheduler asks. Since they started asking for DoD ID numbers a few years ago, I'm never prepared. For 25 years while I was an active duty Navy spouse, I'd rattled off my husband's social security number, scribbling it on checks at the commissary in the early days. His SSN is burned into my brain more deeply than my own. But my DoD number is a confusing series of tiny numbers stamped among others on my military ID.

"Oh, geez, let me grab that," I fumble, feeling my blood pressure elevate again. I read off the numbers, pausing at the blurry "65" in the middle to be sure it isn't 56. Thankfully, the authorization is requested

The Meat and Potatoes of Life

Lisa Smith Molinari



without the need for an appointment with my unknown PCM, and my stress dissipates.

"Just check Tricare online to make sure the authorization comes through," the clinic scheduler adds, and my blood surges with traumatic memories of accessing the DoD's Self-Service Logon System (DS Logon) to get access to Tricare. A few days later, I hesitantly type my password into the system.

"Your current password has expired and should be updated," appears on my screen, explaining that passwords expire every 60 days. The vein in the middle of my forehead bulges. I tap a new combination of words, numbers and characters into the little box, but each one is rejected. I focus on the long list of password requirements listed on the page:

- Passwords must be at least 15 characters but no more than 128;
- At least one lowercase letter;
- At least 1 uppercase letter;
- At least 1 number;
- At least 1 special character, no spaces allowed: @_#/,;~`%&=':\$*+().{}!/?><^[]-~";
- You cannot use your birthdate, SSN, name, phone number or ZIP code;
- When changing a password, your new password must have at least 8 characters be different;
- When changing a password, your new password must be different than the current and 5 previous passwords;
- You cannot change your password more than once every 24 hours.

On the fourth try my heart palpitates, as I think of the worst cuss words for another password, but it, too, is rejected. I type new strings of fresh swears and dirty words. By the time one of my foul epithets is finally accepted as my new password, I'm willing to undergo a gynecological exam on a crowded subway platform rather than make one more password attempt.

"Security be damned!" I seethe, my veins about to burst.

"You are confirmed for your appointment on Tuesday," the podiatrist's receptionist says. "Great, but will Dr. McCormick also check my blood pressure?"

Read more of Lisa Smith Molinari's columns at: themeatandpotatoesoflife.com and in Lisa's book, *The Meat and Potatoes of Life: My True Lit Com*
Email: meatandpotatoesoflife@gmail.com

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Army nurse's roadside rescue saves badly hurt puppy

BY ALEJANDRO CARRASQUEL,
STARS AND STRIPES
Published: January 20, 2026

CAMP HUMPHREYS — An Army captain and her husband were driving along a dark road outside this U.S. base early this month when they spotted a small shape struggling in traffic.

They stopped and found a badly injured puppy trying unsuccessfully to crawl out of the roadway as vehicles passed, Capt. Angelique Matusz told Stars and Stripes in an interview at Brian D. Allgood Army Community Hospital.

"The dog was trying to move using her back legs, but she kept kicking herself back into traffic," she said. "She was bleeding, crying and clearly in a lot of pain."

Matusz, an intensive care nurse with the 150th Medical Detachment, said her training took over as soon as she reached the puppy with her husband, 1st Sgt. Patrick Piché of Bravo Company, 3rd Military Intelligence Battalion.

"I went straight into nurse mode," Matusz said. "I checked her breathing, looked for major bleeding, and tried to keep her as still as possible until we could



Photo by Angelique Matusz



Matusz, an Army nurse, comforts Luna, an injured puppy she found near Camp Humphreys. Photo by Angelique Matusz

get her help."

The puppy could not stand and appeared to have multiple broken legs, Matusz said. The couple agreed they could not leave her there that night, Jan. 4.

"If we left her there, we were basically condemning her to death," Piché said by phone. "All it took was giving a damn and deciding to do something."

They drove the puppy to a nearby veterinary clinic, where imaging revealed severe injuries requiring surgery. Veterinarians also determined the dog, about

3 months old, was dehydrated and malnourished.

With medical costs projected at about \$3,400, the couple partnered with Rebel Rescue, a local animal rescue group, to launch a GoFundMe campaign to cover treatment. As of Jan. 20, the campaign had raised nearly \$3,700.

"Within the first day, people had already donated thousands of dollars," Matusz said. "It was overwhelming to see how many people wanted to help."

The puppy, whom Matusz and Piché named Luna, is recovering and temporarily staying with them until she can be placed in a permanent home.

Piché said the experience shows how individual action, even in uncertain or inconvenient moments, can make a

EXCLUSIVE NEWS FROM:

STARS AND STRIPES

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Luna recovers at the home.
Photo by Angelique Matusz



Capt. Angelique Matusz, an Army nurse, works in her office at Camp Humphreys.

Photo by Alejandro Carrasquel, Stars and Stripes

difference.

"People think someone else will step in," he said. "Sometimes you're the only one there, and that choice matters."

Several people have already expressed interest in adopting Luna, the couple said.

They hope the story encourages others to act when they encounter animals or people in need, regardless of whether they have military training.

"Do the right thing," Matusz said. "You never know whose life depends on it."

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GENERATIONS: 'Blood doesn't make a family'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I always tell people, you know, blood doesn't make a family. You could have biological family members you can't stand," she told Stars and Stripes at Osan in November. "I say love makes a family."

While adoption within American military families is not unusual, service members pursue it less frequently than the overall U.S. population.

Between 2016 and 2020, just 2,174 military families fostered or sought to adopt children, according to a 2021 Government Accountability Office report. That figure represents less than 1% of the approximately 1.3 million military members serving during that period.

By comparison, an estimated 2% to 4% of American families have adopted children, and as many as 33% have considered it, according to the Adoption Network website.

Still, for those who do adopt, military life — particularly overseas — can shape family experiences in distinctive ways, from international adoptions decades ago to raising

children in diverse base communities and, in some cases, reconnecting adoptees with their countries of origin.

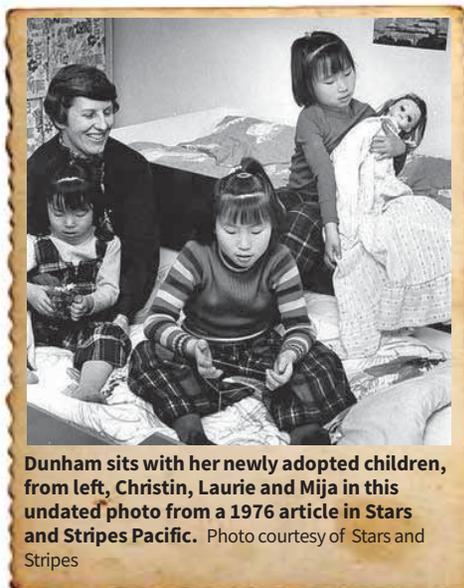
Susie Paul, 56, and Michael Paul, 71, a teacher at Osan, adopted their son, Benaiah, 11, when he was 2. The family said the military community has played an important role in his upbringing.

"One of the really good things about being here, I think in Korea, especially, is there are so many different cultures represented on the base," Susie Paul, a stay-at-home mother, said by phone in November.

"He absolutely fits right in; he's accepted," she said. "There are so many mixed families and that sort of thing — people coming and going — I think it's been a great environment to raise him."

The couple, who also have four biological children, adopted Benaiah from a family friend after fostering him unofficially for several years.

"We really wanted a big family — we love kids — and so we wanted to explore adoption," Paul said. "We felt like if God wants us to do that, then he's going to place a child in our lives, and he did."



Dunham sits with her newly adopted children, from left, Christin, Laurie and Mija in this undated photo from a 1976 article in Stars and Stripes Pacific. Photo courtesy of Stars and Stripes

Paul emphasized that adoption can be deeply rewarding but comes with challenges.

"I will never go down without saying that ... but I think overall it's a really good thing," she said.

Military service has also influenced some

adoptees' efforts to search for their biological families.

At 18, Scott Gleason decided he wanted to reconnect with his Korean birth parents, but his attempts were unsuccessful until he joined the U.S. Army, he said by phone in November.

Gleason — now 32 and a lieutenant assigned to U.S. Army Japan — completed a year-long tour in South Korea beginning in 2023. During that time, he searched for information about his birth family.

"I found out I have a biological mother who's still alive — they don't know anything about my father," he said. "And then she has a sister, my aunt, who's still alive, but when the adoption [agency] reached out to them, they weren't interested in connecting."

Although the outcome was disappointing, Gleason said he made peace with it.

"I went and tried," he said. "I lived out there for a year. I was traveling out there on the weekends. I feel like I've extinguished every option, and I'm satisfied. You know, I think I gave it an honest effort."

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Go beyond tacos for taste of Mexico at Ixchel in Seoul

STORY AND PHOTOS BY DENISSE RAUDA, STRIPES KOREA

While tacos are arguably the most popular export from Mexican gastronomy, there are plenty of dishes and flavors to discover.

At Ixchel in Seoul, while you'll still find tacos on the menu, there are also other unexpected entrees for a trip to Mexico in the middle of Korea's capital.

In Seoul, Ixchel has two locations, its main branch in Hapjeong and a counter at Lotte Department Store's Food Avenue in Myeongdong. According to their Instagram account, the restaurants are run by an unnamed two-Michelin star chef.

If you've visited this food hall in the past, you may recognize that Ixchel is now in the same spot once claimed by Coreanos Kitchen, a Mexican restaurant with a main branch still running in Itaewon District. During a recent visit to Korea with my sister, I was craving Coreanos, but was surprised to find Ixchel there serving some of the standard favorites and other dishes I'd never imagine seeing on a menu outside of Mexico.

My sister and I were hungry after all the shopping we'd done in Myeongdong, so we decided to pivot and give Ixchel a try.

From the small menu, we ordered the Chile Colorado Rice, a beef stew in a spicy red sauce with rice on the side, for 16,000 won (about \$11), an order of birria tacos (of course!) for 14,000 won and two soft drinks. Birria is brisket slowly simmered with herbs and spices like bay leaf, chiles, onions and garlic. The two other menu options are the restaurant's signature, a sweet potato filled with guacamole and yogurt sauce and Birria ramen, which is a fusion dish that is popular stateside, too.

After placing our order, it was time to get aggressive and look for a place to sit among the community tables. I quickly found a corner table and jumped on a seat as if I was

Things to know
ADDRESS: 81 Lotte Department Store Main Branch B1 Expon Food Court, Namdaemun-ro, Jung-gu, Seoul
HOURS: 10:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.



INSTAGRAM

doing a cake walk at a kid's party.

Soon our buzzer went off and our food was delivered straight to our table.

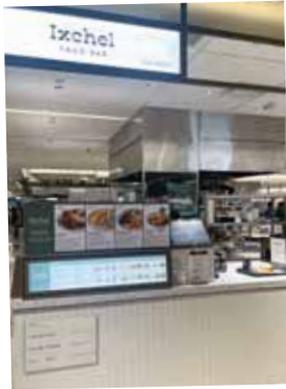
The Chile Colorado came with a generous portion of beef and rice and a dollop of sour cream. The tortilla chips topping the rice were an interesting addition, but the crunch was nice. The beef was a little chewy for stew, but the sauce had a little kick and a little tanginess that we appreciated. It was far from the Chile Colorado my mom cooks up every time I'm home, but it was not bad for all the Mexican food I've had in Asia. And, believe me, I've had a lot.

The tacos were impressive. Two large crisp tacos with a delicious cheese crust crowning each. The filing was a little light, but it had all the makings of a delicious taco: tender, well-seasoned beef, cilantro and red onions. These did come with a birria broth on the side, but it was not enough to give the messiness expected from standard birria tacos. Being greasy, they definitely required the plastic gloves that the restaurant provided on my tray. I was disappointed that this plate did not come with any salsa or guacamole, which could've drastically improved my meal.

All in all, it was a somewhat expensive meal, but the Chile Colorado was the standout and absolutely a taste of home that would keep me coming back for more.

Next time I'll try the main branch and really put this Michelin star claim to the test.

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Pause for pastries at Wagle Wagle Bakeshop in Seoul

Croissant craze!

STORY AND PHOTOS BY DENISSE RAUDA, STRIPES KOREA

If you were older than 10 circa the early 2010s, you may remember the Cronut craze. A Cronut is a delicious mix of croissant and donut in a small, deliciously sweet package. The pastry was a staple of Dominique Ansel Bakery in New York and, for months, crowds lined up to give it a try.

Since then, many other portmanteau pastries have emerged worldwide including the Croffle (croissant waffle), the Cruffin (croissant muffin) and now, the Croigle (croissant bagel).

At Wagle Wagle Bakeshop in Seoul, Croigle pastries resembling large bagel-shaped croissants are the next food craze worth a stop for.

I visited the temporary pop-up in Seoul that ended in January at the LINE FRIENDS Square Store in Myeongdong, but you can find the main branch near Dongdaemun History & Culture Park Station.

During my visit, the display case at the pop-up was nearly empty. I nabbed strawberry cream for 5,900 won (about \$4) and had to also get a Crowaki (croissant cookie) for 6,000 won since it was literally looking at me.

Things to know
ADDRESS: 245 Eulji-ro, Jung District, Seoul, South Korea



INSTAGRAM

I opted for take-out so I could devour my pastries while catching up on some Netflix at my hotel in the evening.

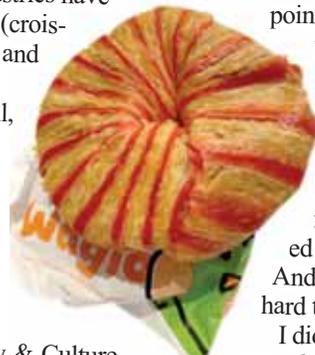
I was not disappointed by my choices; I was only disappointed by the fact that I didn't get more. The texture was as soft and flaky as a croissant and the only thing bagel-y about this was the shape.

The strawberry cream had a beautiful red-striped exterior and was filled with a generous amount of delightful pink cream. Delicious!

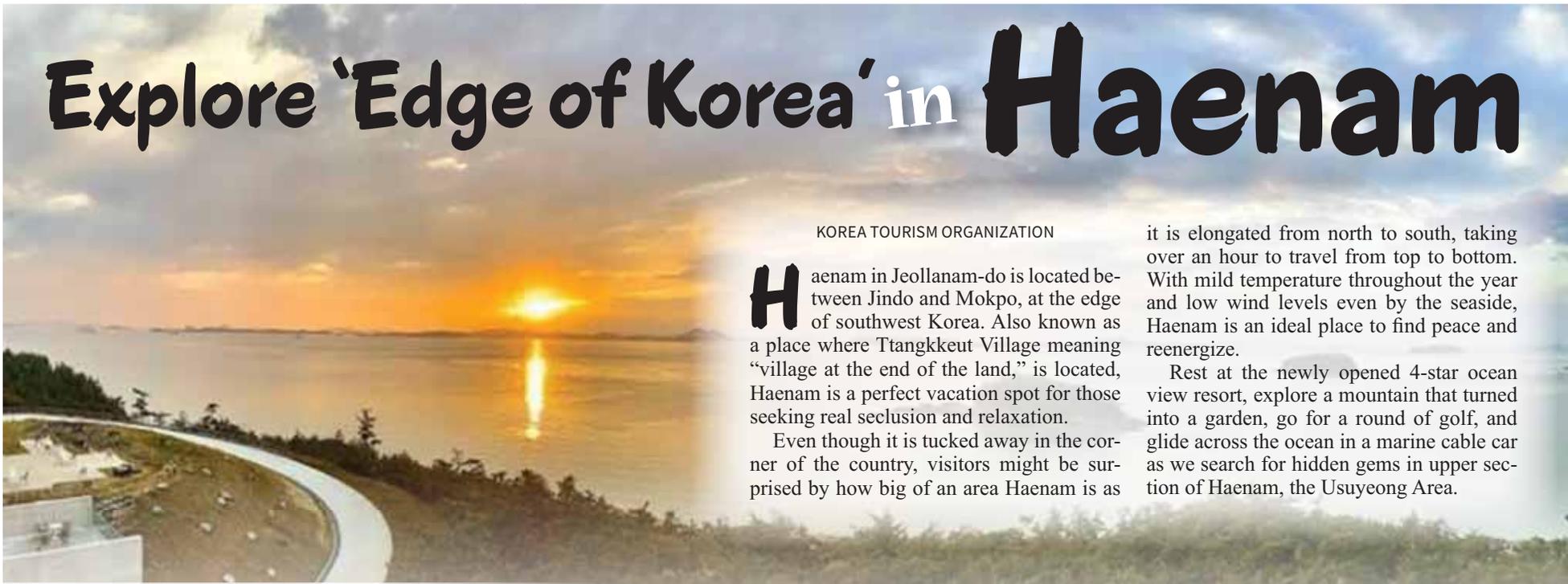
As good as that was, the Crowaki was by far the winner. The chocolate chip cookie-crust croissant is the perfect combination of the two. And, with the two candy eyes staring up at you, it's hard to say no to this adorably delicious delight.

I didn't have time to make it to Wagle Wagle's main store, but the menu looks like there are plenty of other tempting flavors to choose from, including pizza, blueberry cream, chocolate and a full coffee menu for the perfect pairing.

This is one food craze you'll be glad you didn't miss!
 rauda.denissem@stripes.com



Explore 'Edge of Korea' in Haenam



Sunset over nearby island. Photos by Korea Tourism Organization

KOREA TOURISM ORGANIZATION

Haenam in Jeollanam-do is located between Jindo and Mokpo, at the edge of southwest Korea. Also known as a place where Ttangkkeut Village meaning “village at the end of the land,” is located, Haenam is a perfect vacation spot for those seeking real seclusion and relaxation.

Even though it is tucked away in the corner of the country, visitors might be surprised by how big of an area Haenam is as

it is elongated from north to south, taking over an hour to travel from top to bottom. With mild temperature throughout the year and low wind levels even by the seaside, Haenam is an ideal place to find peace and reenergize.

Rest at the newly opened 4-star ocean view resort, explore a mountain that turned into a garden, go for a round of golf, and glide across the ocean in a marine cable car as we search for hidden gems in upper section of Haenam, the Usuyeong Area.

Haenam126

Getting to Haenam is not an easy journey so finding an accommodation to fully relax after a long trip is a must. Haenam126, the first 4-star resort in Haenam constructed by Korea Tourism Organization is an easy choice to make when choosing where to stay.

The resort got its name by combining the city name with 126, the east longitude in the map. Freshly opened on November 1, 2024, the resort offers 120 rooms, all with ocean view, ranging from Standard to Suite rooms for 2 to 4 people.

The rooms are equipped with 55-inch TV and Netflix for those who don't want to leave the room, but you won't be able help yourself but to go out when you see that ocean view from the room window. All rooms are non-smoking, so visitors do not have to worry about any foul smell in the room.

Facilities include an infinity pool overlooking the ocean, a perfect spot to see beautiful sunset while swimming; a sauna for relaxing after a day of traveling; a fitness center to keep your exercise routine; a convenience store for snacks and late-night grub; a coin laundry; a café with an ocean view; a restaurant that offers meals from breakfast to dinner; seminar rooms; a banquet hall; a coastal trail, and more facilities planned to be added soon.

The resort is also the first barrier-free resort in Korea with no steps, making it wheelchair, stroller-friendly. The building was designed to be a modern reinterpretation of Nogudang House of the Haenam Yun Seon-do, a famous poet and politician during the Joseon dynasty. The architectural design made the most of

combining the building with natural environment as well as adding two gardens and adding edges to keep with traditional Korean hanok-style look. Modern design of the exposed concrete walls keep the building simple, and large windows along the hallway make the area less confined.

The best part of the resort has to be the ocean view that can be seen from various parts of the resort including large windows in the guestrooms, outdoor terrace, restaurant, café, swimming pool and more. No wonder the resort is referred by guests as “noeul matjip,” meaning “an excellent sunset spot” in Korean. The sunset and its golden glow falling upon the nearby islands create a picturesque scene, resulting in beautiful photo results even in cloudy weather.

Walk down the pathway to the auto camp site and you can see Oceano Beach, popular for swimming and water sports as well as picking live clams on mudflats during low tides. The sand may be a bit coarse, as it was poured on top of the mudflats, but you can still relax and enjoy the view or sunbathe comfortably. Throughout the walking trail, you can find various photo zones to take memorable photos, especially near Camp Site 5.

During summer season from May to September, Friday to Sunday and on public holidays, you can enjoy playing at the Oceano Fountain with floor fountain and curtain fountain to cool off the summer heat. Fountains operates from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., every hour for 40 minutes.

Next to the Oceano Beach, there is a camp site with a decent-sized convenience store that auto

campers use, as well as shower stalls and a campfire area. You can rent camp fire materials and buy woods at the convenience store. For those who are more adventurous, spending a night camping by the ocean can also be a fun experience.



Infinity pool.

How to get to Haenam126

■ TRAIN

It takes approximately 2 hours and 40 minutes from Seoul Station to Mokpo Station using the KTX, operating 7 times a day with the first train at 6:21 a.m. and the last train at 7:29 p.m. The estimated arrival time changes plus or minus 5 minutes depending on the train. From Mokpo Station, take a taxi for approximately 33 kilometers to the resort.

■ BUS

- **EXPRESS BUS:** It takes approximately 4 hours and 50 minutes from Seoul Central City Bus Terminal to Haenam Bus Terminal, operating 5 times a day with the first bus at 7 a.m. and the last bus at 7:50 p.m. From Haenam Bus Terminal, you can take a taxi for approximately 44 kilometers to the resort. Another option is to take the express bus to Mokpo Bus Terminal, which takes approximately 3 hours and 50 minutes, operating 15 times a day with the first bus at 6 a.m. and the last bus 11:55 p.m., then take a taxi for approximately 35 kilometers.

- **INTERCITY BUS:** It takes approximately 5 hours and 22 minutes from Dong Seoul Bus Terminal to Haenam Bus Terminal via Mokpo Bus Terminal, operating twice a day with the first bus at 7:10 a.m. and the last bus at 3:40 p.m. From Haenam Bus Terminal, you can take a taxi for approximately 44 kilometers to the resort. Another option is to take the intercity bus to Mokpo Bus Terminal, which takes approximately 4 hours and 23 minutes and also runs twice a day, then take a taxi for approximately 35 kilometers.

Things to know

ADDRESS: 576-33 Sia-ro, Hwawon-myeon, Haenam-gun,

Jeollanam-do (전라남도 해남군 화원면 시아로 576-33)

HOURS: Check-in / out: 3 p.m. / 11 a.m.

INQUIRIES: +82- 61-534-3000

TIP: At the moment there aren't any restaurants close by and no delivery service to the area, but there's a chicken franchise 15 minutes away that will deliver to the resort if you order two or more chicken. Ask the reception for more details.



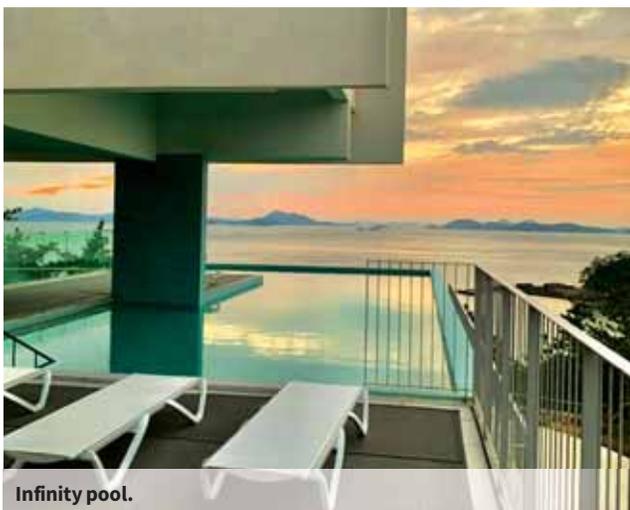
WEBSITE (Korean only)



Standard Twin Room.



Sunset view from the hotel.



Infinity pool.



Oceano Tourist Complex Photo zones.



Campfire at the campsite.

Nearby attractions



Birds-eye view of Pine Beach Golf Course Links.
Photo by ©Photo Korea - Korea Tourism Organization, Lee Bumso



Skywalk.

Pine Beach Golf Course Links

→ Ready for a round at Asia's Pebble Beach? Constantly ranked among Korea's Top 10 Golf Courses, out of over 500 courses throughout Korea, Pine Beach Golf Course Links is the only links course in Korea that combines golf course with open natural landscape in a coastal area for additional challenge and excitement. Beach Course Hole 6, was chosen multiple times as the most beautiful Par 3 course in Korea. With a total of 27 holes, three 9 hole

courses including Pine, Oceano, and Beach, you might forget that you were golfing as you admire the beautiful scenery. Even if you are not a golfer, just visiting the Country Club for other facilities and looking at the breathtaking courses next to the ocean will leave you in awe.

It only takes a 7-minute drive from Haenam126, approximately 4.6 kilometers, for a round of golf or appreciating a beautifully designed golf course.

Things to know

ADDRESS: 224 Sia-ro, Hwawon-myeon, Haenam-gun, Jeollanam-do (전라남도 해남군 화원면 시아로 224)
INQUIRIES: +82-61-530-7700

Usuyeong Tourist Area / Myong Ryang Air Voyager

For anyone that knows Korean history, the name Yi Sun-sin should sound more than familiar. The sea in front of the Usuyeong Tourist Area is the site of the famous Battle of Myeongnyang, where Admiral Yi Sun-sin defeated 133 Japanese warships with only 13 ships of his.

The Battle of Myeongnyang Memorial, a three-story building dedicated to providing historical information about the battle is a must for history buffs. The memorial building includes a 4D theater, exhibition halls, experience programs and more to learn all about the battle that is etched in naval history.

Walk outside and you will see a skywalk curving out to the ocean. Uldolmok Skywalk was built at a vantage point overlooking where the Battle of Myeongnyang took place. The figure 8-shaped skywalk was designed with a motif of Ganggangsullae, Korean folk dance, where women dance in circles and weave in between, a tactical strategy used by Admiral Yi Sun-sin during the Imjin War, making it look as if great number of soldiers were marching from afar against the invading Japanese soldiers. A replica of panokseon, a type of Korean warship used during the battle, can also be seen next to the skywalk. You can see how quickly the water moves and the whirlpool made from the center of the skywalk where the glass-bottom floor gives an extra jolt of freight. The viewpoint was also the filming site of the movie "The Admiral: Roaring Currents (2014)."



View of the skywalk from the cable car. Photo by Kim Jiyeon DANIM 7th Gen.

The main highlight of the area has to be the Myong Ryang Air Voyager, a marine cable car that runs from Haenam to Jindo over the site of Battle of Myeongnyang. It is the first cable car in Korea to go over a historical site making it even more special. There are two types of cabins, regular and crystal, with crystal cabin having a clear glass-bottom for a full view of the sea below and a bird's-eye-view of the whirlpool the water makes near the battle site. Once you get to the Jindo Station, be sure to visit the Jindo Tower and other attractions nearby.

From the resort, it takes approximately 16 kilometers by car.

Things to know

USUYEONG TOURIST AREA

ADDRESS: 12 Gwangwang leisure-ro, Haenam-gun, Jeollanam-do (전라남도 해남군 문내면 관광레저로 12)
OPERATING HOURS: 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
ADMISSION: Free
INQUIRIES: +82-61-530-5541

MYONG RYANG AIR VOYAGER

ADDRESS: 12 Gwangwang leisure-ro, Haenam-gun, Jeollanam-do (전라남도 해남군 문내면 관광레저로 12-20)
OPERATING HOURS: Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. / Sat. 9:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. / Sun. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. (last ticketing 30 minutes before closing)
ADMISSION:
- Regular Cabin Roundtrip: Adults 15,000 won / Children (ages 3 to 6th grade) & senior citizens 13,000 won
- Regular Cabin One Way: Adults 13,000 won / Children (ages 3 to 6th grade) & senior citizens 11,000 won
- Crystal Cabin Roundtrip: Adults 18,000 won / Children (ages 3 to 6th grade) & senior citizens 16,000 won
- Crystal Cabin One Way: Adults 16,000 won / Children (ages 3 to 6th grade) & senior citizens 14,000 won
* Free for babies 35 months and younger
INQUIRIES: +82-61-535-9900



WEBSITE
(Korean only)



Sani Garden

A mountain transformed into a garden, Sani Garden is the first garden-type botanic garden in Jeollanam-do. Opened in May 2024, the garden took over 5 years to complete as it was planned and designed so that it does not disturb the original nature of the area while adding different touches to make the garden more beautiful. The garden not only has a variety of flowers and tree, but it also has walking trails, a museum, café, playground, outdoor sculptures and more.

Out of the 528,925 m², the first phase of the garden consisting of approximately 165,289 m² opened in May 2024, presenting areas like Welcome Garden, Nori Garden, Lake Garden, Story Garden, Promise Garden, Wedding Garden and more. The second phase of the garden consisting of approximately 363,636 m² of land is planned for a grand opening in May 2025 with foot golf course, glamping site, winery, tropical botanic garden and more.

Major highlights of the garden include a sculpture of Le Petit Prince overlooking the lake and the museum; an art installation titled 0121-1110=116501, which is a brass sphere made up of various size circular forms by the lake; and Bridge of Human, a white human shaped sculpture with overly outstretched arms with little human figures on top. There is also an outdoor wedding hall and bridal waiting area with a complete view of the garden, popular for wedding shoots and other photo sessions.

The course can take anywhere between one hour to as much as three hours, depending on how much you would like



Bridge of Human sculpture.

to see, but make sure to have enough time in hand to enjoy all the corners of the garden with new finding everywhere you look.

From the resort, it takes approximately 18 kilometer by car.

Things to know

ADDRESS: 664 Guseong-ri, Sani-myeon, Haenam-gun, Jeollanam-do (전라남도 해남군 산이면 구성리 664)
OPERATING HOURS: Nov.-Feb. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. / Mar.-Oct. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. (last admission 1 hour before closing)
ADMISSION: Adults 10,000 won (weekdays) 12,000 won (weekends) / Teenagers & senior citizens 9,000 won / Children 5,000 won
* Adults (ages 20 and older) / Teenagers (ages 14-19) / Senior citizens (ages 65 and older) / Children (ages 3-13)
* Free admission for babies 35 months and younger
INQUIRIES: +82-61-536-3001



WEBSITE
(Korean only)

Visit National country's most

STORY AND PHOTOS BY HYEMIN LEE, STRIPES KOREA

National Museum of Korea, located in Seoul's Yongsan district, is the largest and most prestigious museum in the country. The museum houses a rich collection of artifacts spanning prehistoric to modern eras, allowing visitors to explore Korea's cultural heritage.

In recent years, National Museum of Korea has become one of the most popular cultural places in the country. As admission is completely free, many visitors come to spend hours learning and exploring or simply enjoying a relaxed indoor experience, especially during the winter.

lee.hyemin@stripes.com



Ten-story Stone Pagoda

Things to know

ADDRESS: 137 Seobinggo-ro, Yongsan-gu, Seoul or Line 4 & Gyeongui Jungang Line. Ichon Station Exit 2

HOURS: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. (Sun.–Tue. & Thu.–Fri.) / 10 a.m. – 9 p.m. (Wed. & Sat.) / Outdoor exhibition area: 7 a.m. – 10 p.m.

ADMISSION: Free (Only special exhibitions require entry fee)

PARKING: Free for the first 20 minutes, then 2,000 won for the next 2 hours, and 500 won for every additional 30 minutes. (The parking lot is very spacious, but please note that there may be some waiting time for parking during peak hours on weekends.)



NAVER MAP



WEBSITE

Permanent exhibits

The museum's permanent exhibits are on the first through third floors. Since admission is free, there's no need to stop by the ticket booth. Simply enter the Exhibition Hall building and be sure to grab a guidebook.

Prehistory and ancient history

This hall displays relics from Korea's earliest civilizations, from the Paleolithic Era (700,000 years ago) to the Three Kingdoms period and Unified Silla. It highlights the evolution of human life on the Korean Peninsula, from the use of stone tools to the development of the rich cultures of the ancient kingdoms.



Medieval

This section covers the Goryeo (1392-1897) and Joseon (1392-1897) dynasties, featuring historical and cultural artifacts, including a bronze Buddha statue.



Calligraphy

The gallery features traditional Korean calligraphy, expressed through diverse styles and mediums.



World

This exhibition explores art and cultural heritage from various countries, including Central Asia, China, Japan, and others.

Photo courtesy of National Museum of Korea



Children

Kids will love the interactive exhibits in the Korea Children's Museum. They can explore replicas of historical artifacts in exhibition halls, learn about traditional Korean culture like an education program, and help children to develop their understanding of Korean heritage. Through various programs, children can learn about the lives of people from the past.

Photos courtesy of National Museum of Korea

Museum of Korea, prestigious museum



Medieval and early modern history

The museum covers the Goryeo Dynasty (918-1392), Joseon Dynasty (1392-1910) and features historical artifacts that highlight the significant events, facts and achievements during these eras.

Room of Quiet Contemplation

The Room of Quiet Contemplation is one of the museum's most interesting exhibits, featuring two Pensive Bodhisattva statues, both designated as National Treasures of Korea. These masterpieces capture the bodhisattvas deep in contemplation with a mysterious smile, reflecting on the cycle of birth, aging, illness and death.

Created in the late 6th and early 7th centuries, the statues were crafted using the advanced casting techniques of the period. This tranquil space invites visitors to pause and reflect, offering a peaceful moment of connection with these iconic figures.

Photo courtesy of National Museum of Korea

Calligraphy and painting

The museum features Korean traditional paintings and calligraphy, showcasing distinctive brush techniques and colors.

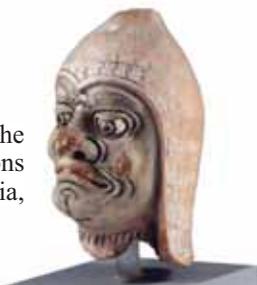
Sculpture and crafts

This hall displays the finest examples of Korean Buddhist sculpture and craftsmanship, offering prime examples of the country's Buncheong ware, white porcelain, celadon, metalwork and sacred art traditions.

World Art

The museum presents a collection of the world's art across diverse regions including Africa, Asia, India, Southeast Asia, and ancient Greece-Rome.

Photo courtesy of National Museum of Korea



More than just a museum

Beyond its role as a museum, National Museum of Korea serves as a cultural hub, educational center and a beautiful place for a peaceful stroll. There is an interactive children's museum, library, Immersive Digital Gallery and outdoor exhibits set within a picturesque garden. Make sure to allow enough time to explore both the indoor and outdoor areas of this magnificent museum.

The museum is also well-equipped with a variety of convenient facilities, including lockers, charging stations, restrooms, lounge areas, souvenir shops, a café, a restaurant, and rental services for strollers and wheelchairs.



Photo courtesy of Korea Tourism Organization

Outdoor garden

The vast gardens have waterfalls and scenic views for a perfect stroll to enjoy nature and the museum's outdoor exhibits, including ancient stone pagodas. National Museum of Korea's outdoor area is known as one of Seoul's best photo spots thanks to clear views of N Seoul Tower. The gardens are also surrounded by Yongsan Family Park, a large urban park with green spaces. Along the way, visitors will also find Hanguk (Korean language) Museum.



National Museum goods store

Don't forget to stop at the gift shops inside the museum. The large variety of items inspired by exhibits and national treasures is why the museum's shops are often praised as the best souvenir shop in Korea.

The museum's merchandise has become so popular that many visitors come to the museum to specifically visit the shop. The museum also operates an online goods shop, but some products are only available at the store on site.



ONLINE STORE

Children's Museum

The interactive displays at National Museum of Korea's Children's Museum. Tiny visitors can see, touch and experience significant artifacts displayed in the permanent exhibition. Popular among parents, the museum functions as a children's café, offering a fun environment for children to develop an interest in Korean history and cultural heritage through various hands-on exhibits and educational programs. Children can learn about the lives and wisdom of our ancestors.

Reservation required

Please note that reservations are required to visit the Children's Museum. The museum accommodates up to 200 visitors per session with five sessions daily. Online reservations open at midnight 14 days prior to the visit date. Reservations can be made on the day of your visit but to secure a spot, it's recommended to make a reservation at least a day in advance. Visit the website and simply sign up and log in to make a reservation. All you need is an email address, and a Korean phone number is not required if you don't have one.

HOURS: 10 a.m. – 5:50 p.m. (Closed on holidays)

DURATION: 1 hour 20 minutes

ADMISSION: Free



BOOKING

Prehistory and ancient history



Medieval and early modern history



Calligraphy and painting



Photo courtesy of National Museum of Korea

Sculpture and crafts



KOREA KIDS' CORNER

Enjoy strawberry season in ROK

BY HYEMIN LEE,
STRIPES KOREA

Starting in winter through early spring, the season of Korea's sweet, plump strawberries begin. This delightful berry is beloved in Korea and you'll notice many strawberry desserts, drinks and events are available this time of year.

Strawberry-picking at one of the many farms open to the public is a popular activity to enjoy during the season. In addition to spending time picking ripe berries, many of the farms also offer strawberry desserts and classes to make strawberry cakes, jams and cookies. You can enjoy these activities at the farms and strawberry festivals.

Reservations are required to guarantee the quality and size of the strawberries for the best experience. Reservations are usually accepted through Naver, but if you encounter any issues with booking, inquire via phone.

Check out some kid-friendly strawberry farms and Korea's strawberry festival!

Note: Strawberry picking programs usually run from late January through late March or early April depending on strawberry availability.

lee.hyemin@stripes.com



Photos by Dreaming Kids Farm



Photos by Korea Tourism Organization

Yulbom Botanical Garden (율봄식물원)

This agriculturally themed botanical garden hosts a special strawberry event during this season. Visitors can pick strawberries and enjoy making strawberry jam and water jelly. There are also other exciting activities like sledding, roasting marshmallows and feeding animals. The garden promises a relaxing time for visitors amidst nature and vibrant fruits.

An admission fee is required for all visitors, whether participating in the strawberry picking activity or not. Admission includes entry to the garden and food to feed the resident animals.

For strawberry picking, available spots open every Monday at noon and Friday at 7 p.m. through Naver. The number of spots may vary depending on strawberry conditions and availability at the farm.

ADDRESS: 84 Domari, Toechon-myeon, Gwangju-si, Gyeonggi-do

DATE: Until the end of March

HOURS: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. daily

PHONE: 031-798-3119

PRICE: Admission 5,000 won/ 28,000 won per team for a 1kg strawberry picking pack (30 minutes)



NAVER MAP



BOOKING

Dreaming Kids Farm (꿈꾸는 키즈팜)

Dreaming Kids Farm is about a 25-minute drive (18 km/11 miles) from Camp Humphreys, but it's not just a farm. It is a kid-friendly cultural complex where children can enjoy various facilities and activities such as playgrounds, European vegetable picking, and food-making classes. The indoor playground features a big air bounce slide, sand zone, and kids' cars. It's a great blend of a strawberry farm and a kid's café where both children and parents can have a fantastic experience. Once you purchase the package program, three visitors can enjoy a three-hour farm experience that includes strawberry picking (200-300g), participating in a strawberry cooking class and access to play zones. The strawberries used in the cooking activities are provided separately from the harvested ones. Also, visitors are treated to roasted sweet potatoes as a snack during the activity.

Booking can be made through Naver or inquiring via phone call.

ADDRESS: 27-26 Bangchuk-ri, Hyeondeok-myeon, Pyeongtaek-si, Gyeonggi-do

HOURS: Part 1: 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. / Part 2: 2–5 p.m. / Closed on Monday

PHONE: 010-7756-9561

PRICE (package program): 60,000 won for three people (weekdays) / 75,000 won for three people (weekends) / an additional charge of 10,000 won for each extra person, up to a maximum of six people per group / Free for children under 20 months



NAVER MAP & BOOKING



Near Pyeongtaek



Photos by Strawberry Picnic

Strawberry Picnic (딸기랑 소풍가기 좋은 날)

This farm is about 15 kms (9.3 miles) away from Osan Air Base and is popular for its fresh strawberries and a kid-friendly environment. In addition to strawberry-picking, visitors can freely enjoy activities such as feeding rabbits and making flip books for free. With additional fees, visitors can also make strawberry chocolates and ice cream. Reservations can be made through Naver without creating an account, and you can pay on-site.

ADDRESS: 8 Jeonwon-ro, Namsa-eup, Cheoin-gu, Yongin-si, Gyeonggi-do

HOURS: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Weekends only)

PHONE: 010-4565-5024

PRICE: 15,000 won per person for a 500g strawberry picking pack



NAVER MAP & BOOKING

Clean Strawberry Farm (청정딸기농원)

This strawberry farm is about a 20-minute drive (12 km/7.5 miles) from Camp Humphreys and offers visitors the pleasing experience of picking fresh and sweet strawberries and making beautiful strawberry desserts. They offer a package program that can accommodate a total of up to six participants, offering a 500-gram pack of strawberries you pick, making strawberry fondue, and a strawberry cake. Reservations in Naver open every Tuesday at 7 p.m. for available spots that week. Keep in mind that as this farm is popular among locals, it can be quite competitive to get a spot.



Photos by Clean Strawberry Farm

ADDRESS: 696-2 Jungjeong-ri, Anseong-si, Gyeonggi-do

PHONE: 010-8729-1710

PRICE: 60,000 won (1-6 people) for a 500-gram pack of strawberries + making strawberry fondue and cake



NAVER MAP & BOOKING



Near Daegu



Photos by Queen Strawberry



Photos by Ddalgiga

Ddalgiga (딸기가)

Taking 20-25 minutes (12 km/7.4 miles) drive from the U.S. military base in Daegu, this farm is not only popular for its fresh strawberries but also for fun activities beloved by kids, such as baking strawberry rice cookies and making strawberry rice cakes. Many kindergartens bring their students to the farm for fun-filled field trips. Available spots open every Monday at 10 a.m. through Naver and you can also inquire by phone.

ADDRESS: 94-21, Palgong-ro, Dong-gu, Daegu
HOURS: 11 a.m. / 3 p.m. (Each session offers a 1-2-hour experience)
PHONE: 010-9690-3988
PRICE: 20,000 won per person for a 500g strawberry picking pack / Additional 18,000 won per two people for a strawberry cooking class
PACKAGE (a 500g strawberry picking pack per person and a strawberry cooking class): 55,000 won for two people / 75,000 won for three people / 110,000 won for four people



NAVER MAP & BOOKING

Queen Strawberry (여왕딸기)

This rural education farm is well known in the Gyeongbuk region for its many farm activities. It is about 22 to 37 km (13.7 ~ 23 miles) away from U.S. military bases in Daegu and has excellent strawberries, photo zones and delicious treats. Try making strawberry fondue and strawberry pizza. Kids can enjoy a fun barrel train ride as well.

The farm is close to many famous attractions like Hwawaaon Amusement Park and Samunjin Quay, making it a wonderful destination for a day trip for families and couples.

Reservations can be made through Naver, and payment is accepted on-site. They offer a package program for 2-4 people that includes one pack of strawberries per person, making a strawberry pizza, one set of strawberry fondue, a train ride, and free fish cake soup.

ADDRESS: 1890, Nogok-ri, Goryeong-gun, Gyeongsangbuk-do
HOURS: 11 a.m., 12 p.m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m. (sessions start hourly)
PHONE: 010-4528-6390
PRICE: 88,000 won for two people / 122,000 won for three people / 156,000 won for four people



NAVER MAP



BOOKING



Festival

Nonsan Strawberry Festival

Every year Nonsan City hosts the largest strawberry festival, drawing strawberry lovers to enjoy a variety of strawberry treats and events. Nonsan is famous for its large, sweet, and firm strawberries.

The festival has numerous strawberry-themed events and activities that are perfect for young kids. Visitors can sample a variety of strawberry-themed desserts, from rice cakes and waffles to parfaits and cakes. There are also family-friendly activities, including making strawberry jam, rice cakes, or even soap, as well as a strawberry dessert competition.

Visitors can pick fresh strawberries directly from the fields and either eat on-site or take them home. Local farmers also sell high-quality strawberries so everyone can enjoy the best of Nonsan's produce.

The festival also features cultural events such as traditional Korean drumming, taekwondo performances, hanbok fashion shows, and K-Pop performances. While there is no entrance fee for the festival, many activities, like strawberry picking, do require a fee.

ADDRESS: Gwanchok-dong 339-1, Nonsan-si, Chungcheongnam-do
DATE(2026): March 26 (Thu.)-29 (Sun.), four days



NAVER MAP



WEBSITE



Speakin' Korean

BY HYEMIN LEE, STRIPES KOREA



- Strawberry: **Ddalgi** (딸기)
- Fruit: **Gwail** (과일)
- I love strawberries!: **Nan ddalgi-reul joahaeyo** (난 딸기를 좋아해요!)
- These strawberries are very fresh: **I ddalgi-neun aju sinseon-haeyo** (이 딸기는 아주 신선해요)
- They're sweet: **Ddalgi-ga dalkomhaeyo** (딸기가 달콤해요)
- Let's eat strawberries!: **Ddalgi meokja!** (딸기 먹자!) - *informal*

■ At a strawberry farm

- Can I eat strawberries here?: **Yeogi-eseo ddalgi meokeul su isseoyo?** (여기에서 딸기 먹을 수 있어요?)
- Can we pick strawberries here?: **Yeogi-eseo ddalgi ttal su isseoyo?** (여기에서 딸기 딸 수 있어요?)
- Is it okay to take them home?: **Jipe gajyeo gado dwaeyo?** (집에 가져가도 돼요?)
- How much can we pick?: **Eolmana ttal su isseoyo?** (얼마나 딸 수 있어요?)
- My child wants to try this: **Uri aiga i-geo hae bogo sipeo haeyo** (아이가 이거 해보고 싶어 해요)
- We had a great time: **Jeongmal jaemi isseo-sseoyo** (정말 재미있었어요)
- Thank you: **Gamsahamnida** (감사합니다)



Top strawberry buffets you can't miss this season!



BY HYEMIN LEE,
STRIPES KOREA

Strawberry buffets, available from December to early April, are a seasonal event at many hotels and restaurants in Korea. Strawberry lovers will be thrilled by the variety of delightful desserts at this strawberry paradise!

Since these buffets are only available during strawberry season, many people, despite the high prices, look forward to enjoying them with family or friends. Below are some popular options. If you're a big fan of strawberries, don't miss out on this unique seasonal experience!
lee.hyemin@stripes.com



Photo by JW Marriott Dongdaemun Square Seoul



Photo by Lotte Hotel World Jamsil



Photo by Eland

JW Marriott Dongdaemun Square Seoul Salon de Strawberry

Located in the classic hotel lounge decorated with soft pink tones, this strawberry buffet offers unlimited premium strawberries along with over 21 beautiful strawberry-themed desserts. In addition to the sweet treats, you can also enjoy savory dishes like creamy shrimp and tteokbokki. What makes this buffet particularly appealing is its relatively affordable price compared to other hotel strawberry buffets. Booking through Naver or phone is required.



- **ADDRESS:** 279 Cheonggyecheon-ro, Jongno-gu, Seoul
- **DATES:** Until March 31 (daily)
- **SESSIONS:** Weekdays - 1:30 & 4 p.m. / Weekends - 11 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. & 4 p.m. - 2-hour time limit
- **PRICE:** Weekdays: Adults 78,000 won / Children aged 4-12: 39,000 won; Weekends and holidays: Adults 88,000 won / Children aged 4-12: 44,000 won; Free for Children under 4 (proof required)
- **PHONE:** 02-2276-3336



RESERVATION
10% discount

Lotte Hotel World Jamsil Sweet Strawberry WORLD

Lotte Hotel in Jamsil offers special chances to enjoy unlimited desserts made with fresh, high-quality strawberries. They are especially known for their famous premium strawberry cakes. The buffet also features special savory dishes such as braised short ribs, grilled abalone and tteokbokki. Reservations fill up quickly, so it's best to book about a month in advance through Naver or by phone. Reservations are available for two or more people.



- **ADDRESS:** Line 2, 8. Jamsil St Exit 3 - Lotte Hotel World Jamsil 1F
- **DATES:** Until Feb. 28 (Fri.-Sun. and holidays only)
- **SESSIONS:** Fri. 6:30-8:30 p.m. / Sat. & holidays: 11 a.m.-1 p.m., 2-4 p.m., 5-7 p.m. / Sun.: 11 a.m.-1 p.m., 2-4 p.m.
- **PRICE:** Adults 115,000 won / Children aged 4-12 75,000 won / Free for children under 4 (proof required)
- **PHONE:** 02-411-7751~2



RESERVATION

Ashley Queens Strawberry Festival

Ashley Queens offers an affordable way to enjoy a strawberry buffet, making it a favorite among many! As a Western-style buffet chain with branches all over Korea, it serves a variety of international cuisines, including American and Asian dishes. From February to March, all branches provide a range of strawberry desserts including cakes, brownies, macarons, drinks and more. If you're looking for an easy option to enjoy a strawberry buffet without making a reservation, Ashley Queens is a great choice.

- **DATES:** Feb. 5 through mid-March (End date may vary depending on strawberry availability. Please check their website for updates.)
- **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-9 p.m. (Operating hours may vary by location.)
- **PRICE:** Adults 25,900 won (Weekday dinner), 27,900 won (Weekends & holidays) / Elementary schoolers 15,900 won / Children aged 36 months to 7 years 7,900 won

LOCATIONS NEAR THE BASES



WEBSITE



Near Camp Casey:
Shinsegae Department Store Uijeongbu Branch



Near Camp Humphreys:
Pyeongtaek Branch



Near Osan Air Base:
Godeok Urban Grove Mall



Near bases in Daegu:
Daegu Eworld



Photo by Seoul Dragon City

Seoul Dragon City Ddalki Studio

Located on the 26th floor of Dragon City Hotel in Yongsan, the buffet offers large, fresh, in-season strawberries and more than 25 different strawberry desserts. The buffet also includes a variety of savory dishes, including sweet and spicy shrimp and chicken, tacos, and selections from Asian and Western cuisines. Reservations are relatively easy and booking must be made through Naver or phone.

- **ADDRESS:** Line 1. Yongsan St Exit 3 - Novotel Suites Ambassador Yongsan 26F
- **DATES:** Until March 29 (Friday evening, weekends and holidays only)
- **SESSIONS:** Fri. 6-9 p.m. / Weekends & holidays: noon-2 p.m., 2:45-4:45 p.m., 6-9 p.m.
- **PRICE:** Adults 110,000 won / Children aged 4-12 60,000 won / Free for children under 4 (proof required)
- **PHONE:** 02-2223-7720



RESERVATION
5% discount



Photo by Banyan Tree Club & Spa Seoul

Banyan Tree Club & Spa Seoul Very Very Berry Dessert Buffet

Banyan Tree Hotel offers fresh, seasonal strawberries and a variety of premium strawberry desserts, including Häagen-Dazs ice cream, parfaits, refreshing drinks and more. You can also enjoy a selection of warm dishes, including meats, pastas and salads. This strawberry buffet is especially popular and reservations fill up quickly, often a month or two in advance. If you're unable to secure a spot through the Naver reservation system, you can still make a reservation by phone.

- **ADDRESS:** 201 Jangchung-dong 2-ga, Jung-gu, Seoul
- **DATES:** Until March 29 (Fridays, weekends and holidays)
- **SESSIONS:** noon-2 p.m., 2:30-4:30 p.m., 5-7 p.m., 7:30-9:30 p.m.
- **PRICE:** Adults 135,000 won / Children 80,000 won
- **PHONE:** 02-2250-8143



RESERVATION



- **Making a reservation (by phone)**
 - Hello (on the phone): **Yeoboseyo?** (여보세요?)
 - I'd like to make a reservation: **Yeyak hago sipeoyo** (예약하고 싶어요)
 - For two people, please: **Du myeong iyeyo.** (두 명이예요)
 - What time is available?: **Eo-neu sigani ganeung-haeyo?** (어느 시간이 가능해요?)
 - My name is _____: **Je ireum-eun [your name] imnida** (제 이름은 _____입니다)
- **At the restaurant**
 - We have a reservation: **Yeyak haesseoyo** (예약했어요)
 - Is there a time limit?: **Sigan jehani isseoyo?** (시간 제한이 있어요?)
 - So delicious!: **Massisseyo!** (맛있어요!)
 - We enjoyed it: **Jal meogeo-sseoyo** (잘 먹었어요)

Study cafés an oasis from distraction

The Bomnal study cafe in Seoul, South Korea, features well-lit individual desks to keep you focused.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY YOOJIN LEE, STARS AND STRIPES
Published: January 15, 2026



Writing on the wall proclaims, "Your spring is coming."



The break room is furnished with a small fridge, water fountain, coffee maker and snacks.

Would you pay to study in a cafe that does not serve coffee?

A study cafe in Seoul is not a Starbucks-style destination that offers caffeinated beverages, breakfast or lunch, but a place like a library filled with desks and chairs for studying. Have you ever felt bored doing the same thing in the same place and thought a change in the environment is what you need to stay motivated? A study café might be the perfect answer.

They are popular with South Korean students who simply want a quiet place to focus away from school and home. Food and conversations are not allowed in the study area, so there is little worry about being disturbed.

You might think paying just to study at a desk is a waste of money.

But the price can be quite affordable. Space is available at 3,000 won — about \$2 — for a two-hour visit and 7,000 won for six hours. You can also save unused time and use it later. A day pass costs 10,000 won, and a monthly pass is available for 100,000 won.

Popular seats are usually taken by the pass holders or people who arrive early in the morning.

Pass holders can leave their stuff on their desks, monitored 24 hours under cameras. Lockers are also available for 9,000 won a month.

Teenagers aren't the only ones visiting study cafes. Many adult students preparing for exams or certifications also use them. But, of

course, during midterm and final seasons, these places get busier.

Almost all study cafes are open 24/7. Some are operated only with a kiosk. So, whether you are a morning lark or a night owl, you have no excuse not to study.

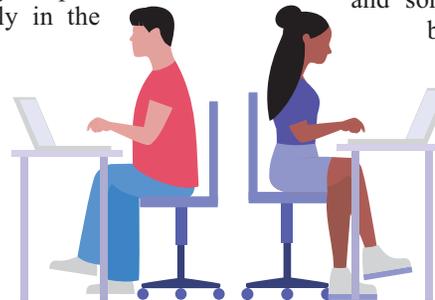
The place I visited is called Bomnal, which means "spring" in Korean. The café is decorated like a park, with real plants, fake trees and an air purifier.

The refreshing environment helped me focus. Bomnal also had a break room equipped with a coffee machine and some snacks. Students can refresh their brain with a cup of tea and regain energy before going back to their desks.

I regularly visited study cafes during middle school and high school in South Korea. They helped me concentrate better and stayed open longer than my school library.

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EXCLUSIVE NEWS FROM:
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Bomnal Study Cafe

LOCATION: 59, Pyeongtaek 4-ro, Gyeonggi-do, South Korea
HOURS: Open all day, every day.
PRICES: 3,000 won for two hours; a monthly pass costs 100,000 won.
DRESS: Casual
DIRECTIONS: A 20-minute drive from the Millet Gate at Camp Humphreys, South Korea.
INFORMATION: 0507-1447-5016

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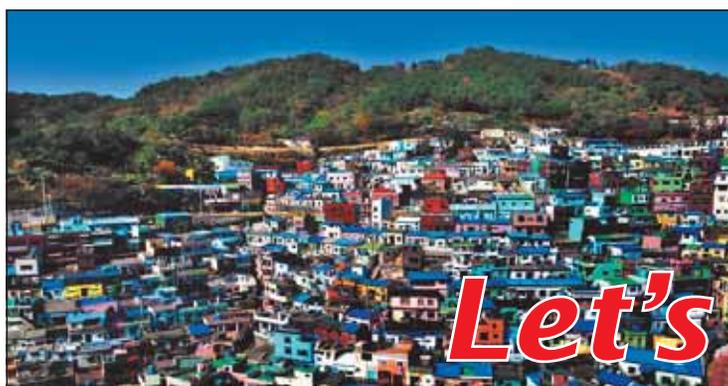
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Finding my true colors with Korean color analysis

STORY AND PHOTOS BY DENISSE RAUDA, STRIPES KOREA

If you know me, you know that my daily wear is almost always all black. As a self-described goth-adjacent, emo millennial, I've mostly leaned into my grungy roots in the last five or six years. But know that it's not a phase, just ask the color analysis I visited in South Korea!

While planning our short trip to Seoul, my sister wanted to try color analysis, a seemingly new trend you see on all social media platforms. These videos show tourists sitting in front of a mirror with pieces of multi-color fabric draped over them while a color expert helps determine what color works best.

I was curious to see what the color expert would think about my monotone choices, so we booked a two-person course with Season of You in Yong-san for \$172.92.

This trend of color analysis isn't new. According to Elle Magazine, it first appeared in 1973 when the book "Color Me Beautiful" categorized people into colors corresponding with seasons like summer and winter. These categories would then determine the compatibility of a person's features with the most flattering colors for clothing, make-up and accessories. The trend gained popularity in the U.S. but as all trends tend to do, it slowly died down.

Recently, there has been a revival of this trend in Korea, albeit with a slight difference. Here, the analysis focuses on skin undertones



makeup, then hair color, and finally, jewelry.

In the end, it was no surprise, black is the most flattering color for me. My emo heart could remain pure. Second was white. Seungji said I should steer from off-white, beiges and grays since they washed my face tone and features out.

The actual shock was that color-wise, I'm the opposite of my sister. My primary season is Winter Deep and secondary is Spring Light. Makes sense considering the matching dresses in different colors my mom would pick out for picture day when we were kids.

The rest of the analysis determined I have pink undertones in my face, so should color-correct with green tinted moisturizer or primer, that my lipstick color choices should be berry tones and mauve pinks, not the reds and dark browns I gravitate towards, and that I am not a gold jewelry girly, but a silver one. You will not believe the Pirates of the Caribbean-level amount of gold costume jewelry I have at home!

The color analysis was about a little over an hour to complete for both of us and completely overwhelming. Fortunately, Season of You provides a booklet with your data, paper swatches to take shopping and a cheat sheet via email with links to their Pinterest boards with examples of clothing broken down by colors.

It's too bad my sister and I don't live in the same city, otherwise we could increase our wardrobe size with all the color options that clearly complement each other.

I left Season of You with renewed appreciation for knowing myself and having confidence in my color choices prior to the analysis. I'm just lucky that what I like and what makes me look my best are somewhat aligned and complimentary to my sister! Color us surprised!

Rauda.Denisse@stripes.com

and what colors will enhance facial features, including hair color, make-up and jewelry metals.

At Season of You, the office was a one-room operation inside a non-descript office building. The stark white walls provided a good backdrop for an hour of color swatching and dissection.

After filling out a basic questionnaire, we took turns sitting in front of a large mirror with good lighting to really appreciate the work of Seungji, our color analysis expert.

She explained that each person is either spring, summer, autumn or winter and from there, the seasons are also broken down into soft or deep tones.

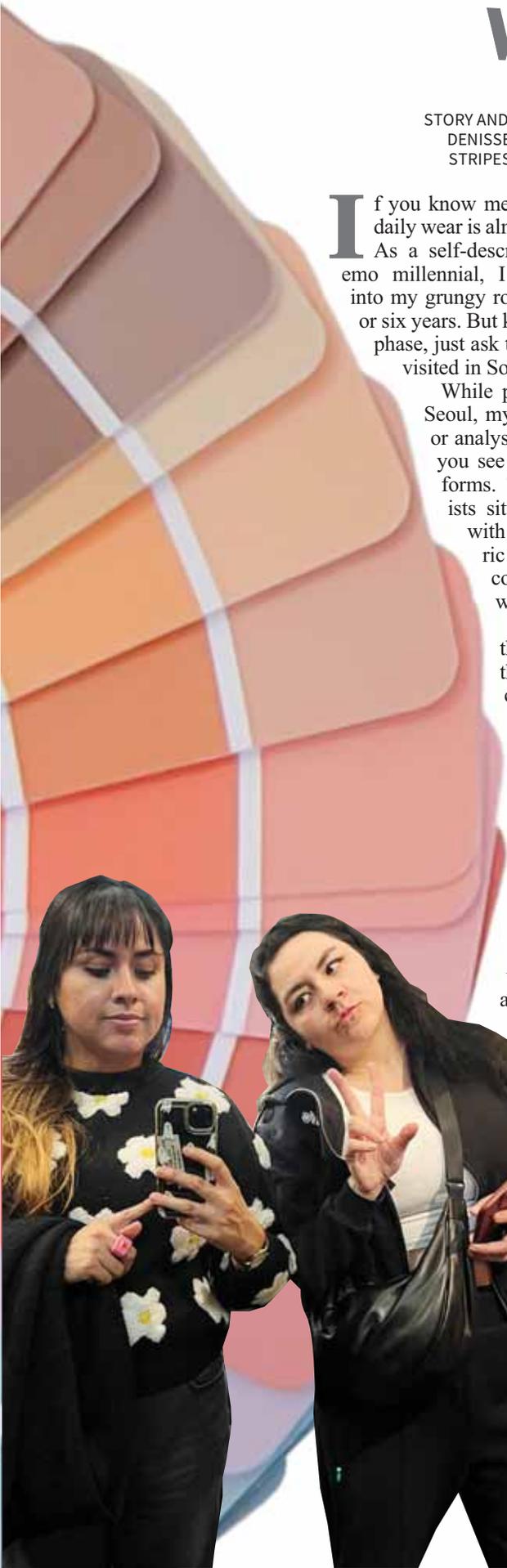
My sister went first and the analysis determined she was a Spring Light, a palette with pastels and lighter hues like lavender, fern green and golden mustard. Her secondary season was Winter Deep, which consists of colors like dark maroon, hunter green and navy blue.

My sister said she was disappointed because she didn't find the Spring Light colors to be flattering and are not the ones she gravitates towards when shopping for clothes and makeup.

After her reveal I was ready for mine. Even though this is just for good fun, I felt a little pressure to impress Seungji that I knew my colors without her help. Or, worse yet, that my true colors would require a complete overhaul of my wardrobe.

I sat nervously awaiting some revelation with the same vulnerability of sitting in the salon chair staring at yourself. Fortunately, Seungji moved swiftly, covering my shoulders with color swatches while explaining the process. She pointed out how certain colors could make features pop, sharpen the jawline and give a glow to dull skin.

After the clothing colors, we moved onto



Season of You

ADDRESS: 78-1 Hangang-ro 2-ga Yongsan District, Seoul, South Korea

HOURS: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. daily

NOTE: We booked through travel website Klook, but there are many travel sites online and color-analysis business on Instagram. Shop around to see what fits into your budget.



WEBSITE



Stripes Sports Trivia

Which MLS team played in the first four MLS Cup finals, winning three of those – including the first?

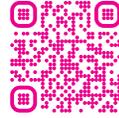
Answer

D.C. United



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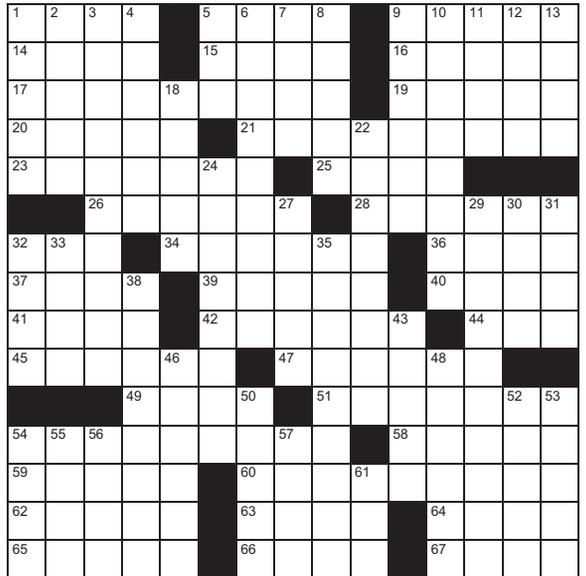


Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Matches, as a wager
- 5 Gambling, e.g.
- 9 Lacquer ingredient
- 14 Teen's torment
- 15 Ticks off
- 16 Preface
- 17 Gives a heads-up
- 19 Kind of number
- 20 Upper crust
- 21 Timeless
- 23 Burton or Gere
- 25 Void's companion
- 26 Medal-worthy
- 28 Experience again
- 32 "Grand" hotel in Vegas
- 34 Rode the wind
- 36 Novelist Bagnold
- 37 Greek god of war
- 39 No longer fresh
- 40 Genesis setting
- 41 Bluish-white metal
- 42 Choir section
- 44 "Surfin' ___" (1963 hit)
- 45 Lure
- 47 Cleansing remedies
- 49 Clay-rich soil
- 51 Warts and such
- 54 Florida, mostly
- 58 ___ 'to go (eager)
- 59 Justice since 2006
- 60 Renee's "Chicago" co-star
- 62 Nashville NFLer
- 63 It may be bright
- 64 Miami's county
- 65 Prophets
- 66 Puts two and two together?
- 67 Disparaging remark



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DOWN

- 1 Less risky
- 2 Dangerous bacteria
- 3 Fertilizer's purpose
- 4 Fume
- 5 By way of
- 6 Light up
- 7 Word on a penny
- 8 German steel city
- 9 Tiny wave
- 10 Course taker
- 11 Culinary directive
- 12 "___ la Douce" (1963 film)
- 13 Playwright Coward
- 18 Becomes frayed
- 22 The 'who' in a whodunit
- 24 Barnyard rousers
- 27 Construction site sight
- 29 ___ Revolution

- 30 Goes head-to-head
- 31 ___ St. Vincent Millay
- 32 Pac-Man feature
- 33 Pleased look
- 35 Stretched out
- 38 Curved sword
- 43 Campfire treat
- 46 Church doctrines
- 48 Oscar and Tony
- 50 Caribbean island: Saint ___
- 52 Like Gandhi
- 53 Nasty look
- 54 Butter bits
- 55 Nobelist Wiesel
- 56 Evening, informally
- 57 Alan or Diane ___-been
- 61 ___-been

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

DID YOU KNOW?

On July 5, 1950, just days after the Korean War began, the U.S. sent the first ground troops: Task Force Smith from the 24th Infantry Division. About 540 U.S. soldiers, lacking sufficient artillery and anti-tank weapons, faced over 5,000 North Korean troops armed with Soviet-made T-34/85 tanks near Osan. The battle was lost, but they fought bravely, delaying the advance. Their sacrifice helped earn precious time for more U.S. troops to arrive and form a strong defense line to save South Korea. They are still remembered with deep respect, and their bravery is honored at Jukmiryeong Peace Park in Osan.



Hangul of the week

용기
Yonggi (Courage)

Language Lesson

They have great courage.

Geudeureun yonggireul gajeosseoyo

(그들은 용기를 가졌어요)

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Medium

Edited by Margie E. Burke

HOW TO SOLVE:

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

Answer to Previous Sudoku:

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

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

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