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FREE

Dive safely in Okinawa

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Japan lights up the night sky!

BY SHOJI KUDAKA & TAKAHIRO TAKIGUCHI,
STRIPES OKINAWA

Throughout the summer, Japan's night skies light up with the brilliance of "hanabi," or fireworks.

Japan's fireworks are known worldwide for their artistic qualities – perfect shape, exquisite colors and enormous size, as well as the poetic sense of ephemerality they produce. In many cases, a single firework changes colors two to three times after it is launched.

During the pandemic, the colorful displays were either postponed or put on as a surprise to avoid crowds gathering. This year, however, many cities around the country are bringing back

their elaborate fireworks displays.

On Okinawa, COVID-19 is still casting a cloud, but some of the annual fireworks displays are coming back to light up the skies over the island. Catch the pyrotechnics at some of the local Eisa festivals or hosted by resort hotels.

Most events often offer other forms of fun, including food and game booths. While some fireworks events highlight tourist attractions, others go along with traditional local matsuri festivals. This summer, why not get off base and take in some of the local hanabi?

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SEE SKY ON PAGE 2



Sumida River Photo courtesy of Sumida-ku

Ready, Set, **AFN go**
LISTEN NOW



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SKY: Beautiful displays

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Huis Ten Bosch
Photo courtesy of Huis Ten Bosch



Atsugi
Photo courtesy of Atsugi City

Eisa & Summer Festival

Zento Eisa Matsuri (All Island Eisa Festival)

Date: Postponed until further notice

Time: TBD

Location: Okinawa City KOZA Sports Park
(South of Kadena Air Base)

GPS Coordinates: N 26.333288,
E 127.788523

*No parking available on site.



Website

Uruma City Eisa Festival

Date: August 27, 28

Time: TBD

Location: Uruma-shi Yonashiro Sogokoen
Rikujo Kyogijo
(near the Kaichudoro Causeway)

GPS Coordinates: N 26.328637, E 127.906171

*No parking available on site

*Fireworks expected to start around
8:30 p.m. on each day.

Kids Festival Adventure World

Date: Through August 14 (Closed on
Mondays)

Hours: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. (close 9 p.m. on
Saturdays)

Venue: Naminoue Umi-sora Park

GPS Coordinates: N 26.221570, E
127.667645

Parking coordinates: N 26.220488, E
127.664592 (maximum fee 500 yen for a
day)



Website

*Due to the ongoing pandemic, the events
listed below are subject to changes and
cancellations.



Atsugi
Photo courtesy of Atsugi City

Fireworks event at Resort Hotels

Manza Natsuno Uchiage Hanabi

Date: August 6, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 20, 24, 27,
September 3, 10, 17, 24

Time: 9 p.m.

Location: ANA Intercontinental Manza Beach
Resort

GPS Coordinates: N 26.506035, E 127.859112

*Parking fee costs 3,000 yen per regular car
or motorcycle

Natsu no Hanabi

Date: August 4, 6, 9, 11, 13, 16, 18, 20

Time: 9 p.m.

Location: Sheraton Okinawa Sunmarina
Resort

GPS Coordinates: N 26.461109, E 127.811839

Parking fee: 600 yen per hour

Natsu no Hanabi Taikai

Date: August 4, 6, 9, 11, 13, 16, 18, 20

Time: 9 p.m.

Location: Tiger Beach

GPS Coordinates: N 26.454355, E 127.806083

Parking fee: 500 yen

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The fried shrimp with mayo was a real crowd pleaser



The yellowtail collar melts in your mouth and incredibly costs under \$3



Adachiya and its dueling chefs provide a truly enjoyable and unique dining experience.



Adachiya offers collaborative dining experience

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
MATTHEW M. BURKE, STARS AND STRIPES
Published: July 7, 2022

A popular saying holds that too many cooks may be a bad thing, but nowhere is that farther from the truth than at Adachiya in Okinawa city.

Adachiya is a small izakaya, or Japanese-style pub, near the back gate to Kadena Air Base. It offers a wide variety of small, affordably priced dishes made by a team of chefs that specialize in Japanese culinary disciplines, from sushi to yakitori.

Facing one another from their various stations, the chefs look like competing DJs, collaborating to offer a truly enjoyable and unique dining experience.

Adventurous Americans that stray from Kadena's popular Gate 2 Street past the shopping arcade to Park Avenue Dori, a once vibrant commercial hub now nearly empty thanks to COVID-19, will recognize Adachiya's glowing pub lanterns.

The pub is a beacon among the shuttered storefronts and concrete stained with tropical mold. It's at capacity nearly every night; even its cozy outdoor tables fully occupied.

On a weekday night in June, my family and I tried the "sen-bero" special for outdoor customers only, one per customer. For around \$8, an incredible deal, the meal includes three drinks and one dish,

either motsu-nikomi, pork tripe hot pot, or kushiage, the chef's choice of four fried skewers.

I ordered a lemon highball to stave off the steamy Okinawa heat and the pork tripe hot pot. Pig stomach is not something typically found in an American diet, but I've learned to be adventurous living in Japan. My wife ordered a soft drink and the skewers.

The stew came steaming, topped with shaved scallions. The meat was clean and delicious, tender and not chewy as tripe can sometimes be. The broth was earthy and flavorful.

I feel crazy saying this, but you must try the pig stomach. Portions of the pork tripe hot pot come in small and large sizes for 275 and 385 yen, or \$2 and \$2.85, respectively.

The fried skewers – 110 to 220 yen – came piping hot from fresh, clean oil. The quail eggs were soft and delicate; they exploded with flavor. The pork belly was cooked perfectly and seasoned to perfection.

Adachiya also offers a variety of grilled skewers, cheese and bacon, chicken, pork and various vegetables, ranging from 55 yen to 385 yen.

We next tried a chef's choice of five different pieces of sushi for 440 yen. The sushi chef gave us the greatest hits,

including tuna and salmon. It was fresh, light and fatty.

Five fried shrimp with mayo for 550 yen was also a crowd pleaser. The dish came with a couple of large potato wedges and some chopped and dressed cabbage.

But the star of the show was their burikama, or yellowtail collar, which cost a shocking 385 yen (one per customer). Any fisherman knows this is one of the most desirable cuts.

The meat was sublime, with a pinch of salt and pepper, and literally fell off the bone. It was soft and dripping with the fish's natural oils and melted in your mouth.

The izakaya offers an expansive menu of more than 100 items – from fried tofu in bonito stock to jerk chicken and Chinese dumplings – so no two dining experiences will ever be alike. The dishes were small, but they were enough to share with a group.

Starting at under \$1, the size and affordability of each item made me feel like a Rockefeller; we could sample anything we wanted, and money was no object. Seeing my wife and kids smile as they sampled each dish and dug back in for seconds made for a memorable Okinawa night.

burke.matt@stripes.com
Twitter: @MatthewMBurke1



The sushi was fresh and tasty.

Location: 1 Chome-20-9 Central, Okinawa city
GPS 26.33912588405855, 127.80069863862842

Directions: From Gate 2, Kadena Air Base, turn left at Koza Music Town onto Route 330. After a half-mile, bear left on Park Avenue Dori. Look for Adachiya on the left. Parking is available past the restaurant on the right. Follow the signs.

Hours: Open daily, 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. Last order at 12 a.m.

Prices: Prices start under \$1 and rise to approximately \$4.83 for their most expensive dish.

Dress: Casual

Information: Adachiya is a bar that serves food and not a restaurant. However, children seated outside early in the evening will not be turned away. For more information, please call 098-937-1654.

(We are open this month please check our website for August business hours and details.)

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Dive safely *in* Okinawa

BY SHOJI KUDAKA,
STRIPES OKINAWA

Mermaid's Grotto in Onna Village is a popular diving spot known for beautiful sights. But, as beautiful and serene as the area may be, the water can quickly become dangerous. In June of 2019, a servicemember was swept out to sea while swimming in the area, also known as Apogama, and had to be rescued by a Japanese coast guard helicopter. With a high-seas warning reportedly in effect that day, the servicemember was fortunate to have not sustained any serious injuries. In an interview with Stars and Stripes, Matt Lewis, a diving instructor at MCCS Okinawa's Tsunami Scuba, described the views at Mermaid Grotto as "alluring." But, he also described the potential for risk. "Where it becomes dangerous is the way the coral is structured," Lewis said.

"When the tide is coming in or going out, it can cause significant rip tides."

While Okinawa's great swimming, snorkeling and diving spots and amazing marine life may be calling adventurous minds, first things first – water safety.

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Know your own limit

"The most common mistake is overconfidence," said Gary Joyce, the scuba program manager of Tsunami Scuba and has more than 30 years of experience as a diver.

"The most important thing to stay safe while diving is to know your own limits and use good sound judgment within those limits," Joyce said. "Those limits are internal to your own comfort level, but there are also limits based upon the amount of training you received and adhering to the information you've learned."

Dave Burrows, a scuba diving coordinator with Destiny Charters, an off-base diving shop, noted the importance of diving with a reasonably small group, and also with an experienced person.

"If you have five people, a good thing to do is to break it into two groups of three and two. This way, you can put the most inexperienced person with the most experienced person," said the veteran diver with over 30 years of diving experience.

Decompression sickness

A common threat to divers is decompression sickness, or DCS.

According to the Divers Alert Network (DAN), the largest association of recreational scuba divers in the world, decompression sickness is "thought to result from bubbles growing in tissue and causing local damage," which happens if pressure on a diver reduces too rapidly. The DAN cites "joint pain" and "numbness" as common symptoms. Lack of treatment can lead to permanent damage such as "bladder dysfunction," "sexual dysfunction" and "muscular weakness."

According to the DAN, exceeding or coming close to diving table limits too quickly is the most common cause of DCS.

"These days, people rely on computers, but they often forget to pay attention to the depth (dive computers indicate)," said Aaron Burrows of Destiny Charters. He said, "Staying within your decompression limit is important. There are also apps that are helpful."

DCS is defined by DAN as one of the two kinds of Decompression Illness (DCI). The other type of DCI is arterial gas embolism (AGE). The DAN explains that AGE can happen if a diver ascends without exhaling air. The ascend makes air in the lungs expand, which can break lung tissue and send gas bubbles to the arterial circulation. This can lead to brain damage. The network's website says the key to AGE prevention is to "always relax and breath normally during ascend."

Rip currents

When swimming or diving off Okinawa, be cautious of rip currents. Because coral reef surrounds the island, locations where the currents occur are thought to be predictable. But, what if you get caught by one?

"You are not going to be able to swim against it. If you get caught by one, you are going to have to ride it out," Joyce said. "Once it dissipates, you swim perpendicular to it to get out of it. Then you transition back to shore."

Before you visit a dive site in Okinawa, get as much information about the currents as possible as this could better help you to avoid these dangerous conditions.

WEST
SECTOR

East China Sea



"The most common mistake is overconfidence."

– Gary Joyce





File photos

On-base dive shops

Tsunami Scuba
DSN: 645-4206



Kadena Marina
DSN: 966-7345



Torii Scuba
DSN: (315) 652-4659



Off-base dive shops

Reef Encounters International
Tel: 098-995-9414,
Email: info@reefencounters.org
Address: 1-493 Miyagi, Chatancho, Okinawa



Deep Emotion
Tel: 098-921-9131
Address: 6-13-7 Mizugama, Kadena-cho, Okinawa



Okinawa 39ers
Tel: 080-2085-9138,
Email: info@okinawa39ers.com
Address: 185-1 Hamagawa, Chatancho, Nakagamigun, Okinawa



Aloha Divers Okinawa
Tel: 080-9168-0902,
Email: alohadiversokinawa@hotmail.com
Address: 41-9 Toguchi, Yomitan-son, Nakagami-gun, Okinawa



Destiny Charters
Tel: 090-9569-4080,
Email: aaron.burrows@destiny-charters.com
Address: 1 Chome-41-12 Awase Facebook



Piranha Divers
Tel: 080-4277-1155
Address: 2288-532, Nakama, Onna village, Okinawa



English Empire Divers
Tel: 090-8777-1983,
Email: englishempiredivers@outlook.com



Sun Kissed Divers Okinawa
Tel: 098-800-2139,
Email: info@sunkisseddivers.com
Address: 527-3 Maeganeku (Uema Apart 301), Onna village, Kunigami-gun, Okinawa



Useful sites



Divers Alert Network



Sea conditions by Shogun Weather



MCCS Dive site list



Cape Maeda

“Dangerous” marine life

Beyond the risk of open seas on the surface, there is also a long list of marine life that can pose potential danger to swimmers and divers. Box jelly fish, lionfish, moray eels and sea snakes may be enough to discourage some from testing the waters, but experienced dive instructors have a different view.

“The biggest problem with dangerous animals in the water, is typically caused by divers themselves - either inadvertently or on purpose,” Joyce said. “Most sea creatures will avoid competition.

Fight or flight syndrome. Most of them are going to take off. If they come to you, they are basically there to check you out. If you just ignore it, it is going to be aware of (you) but ignore (you). It will go away.”

Be cautious

Several diving instructors refer to the “10-second rule” as a rule of thumb. “Before you take anything out of the car, look at the water. If it takes longer than 10 seconds to decide, ‘Yes, this is a good time to dive,’ you should not dive that day,” a Tsunami Scuba instructor added.

Sometimes, being cautious may require listening to your gut and going against all the time and effort you put into making the trip out to the diving spot. Equipment is also a vital component to ensuring safety. A Torii Scuba Locker employee advises rental gear is not always well-maintained: “We tell our customers to make sure that they check their gear as they were taught. If your gear is not good, that could get you killed.”

The employee also noted that social media is a very useful tool when it comes to getting information about diving safety.

“There are many communities of divers on social media. If you go on Facebook and type ‘Okinawa divers,’ it will give you many divers’ communities,” he said. “If you ask questions there, you will get many answers. Sometimes, you find someone (with good experience and skills) who is planning to go to a dive site that you want to go to.”

Monitoring sea conditions prior to and during a dive or swim is yet another component to keeping safe.

Some locations offer live webcams to show the current conditions and there are also flags at some dive spots and beaches. At Maeda Point, blue means there are no problems, yellow means “OK to swim only with diving companies and instructors,” and red means “NO Swimming.”

Okinawa is a good place for divers

Needless to say, Okinawa is known as a great location to enjoy diving and experts agree.

Diving has afforded me the opportunity to visit six out of the seven continents and enjoy the culture of lands I visited.” Joyce said. “It allowed me to be an ambassador to the ocean to protect it, but in reality, diving off Okinawa is probably one of the best all-around places I have been able to visit.”

HAZARDOUS MARINE LIFE FOUND IN OKINAWA

Hazardous Marine Life in the waters of Okinawa is the same as you will find in sub-tropical areas of the Pacific. Prior to entering the water, personnel should familiarize themselves with the common marine inhabitants.

1. STONE FISH



2. LION FISH



3. CONE SNAILS



4. SEA SNAKES



5. SEA URCHINS



6. CROWN OF THORN STARFISH



7. BLUE RINGED OCTOPUS



8. BOX JELLYFISH



9. FIRE CORAL



10. MORAY EEL



11. BARRACUDA



12. SHARKS



Speakin' Japanese

Fireworks talk

In mainland Japan and Okinawa, you can enjoy fireworks nearly every weekend throughout the months of July and August. If you haven't seen fireworks in Japan, then you haven't seen fireworks. It's quite a spectacle, with tens and sometimes hundreds of thousands of people, many dressed in traditional Japanese wear, enjoying the lengthy display of fireworks. And, of course, where there's fireworks, there's colorful booths selling food. To make your Hanabi experience more special, try using some of the following lingo.

"Hanabi" = Fireworks
"Mirare(ru)" = can see
"suki" = like
"Oto" = sound
"Kaijo" = site

"Konderu" = crowded
"Yukata" = summer kimono
"kuru" = wear
"Kirei" = beautiful

"watgashi" = cotton candy
"Tsumetai mono" = something too cold
"Kaitai" = want to buy
"yatte mitai" = want to do

"Hanabi wa suki desu ka?" = Do you like fireworks?
"Dokode hanabi ga mirare masuka?" = Where can I see fireworks?
"Itsu mirare masuka?" = When can I see it?
"Nanjikara desu-ka?" = What time does the show start?
"Yukata wo kite ikimasu." = I'll go there in my yukata.
"Ashimoto ni kiwo tsukete." = Watch your step, please.
"Konde masu ne?" = It is crowded, isn't it?
"Tsumetai mono wo katte kimasho ka?" = Shall I go buy something cold?
"Watagashi wo kaitai desu." = I want to buy cotton candy.
"Yakisoba ga tabetai desu." = I want to sample yakisoba.
"Kingyo-sukui wo yatte mitai desu." = I want to try the goldfish scooping.
"Kirei desu ne?" = It is beautiful, isn't it?
"Tamaya" or "Kagiya" = "Brabo" (shouting)
*Tamaya and Kagiya are the names of old pyrotechnician.
"Tanoshikatta desu." = I enjoyed it.

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

Bon/Eisa banter

It's Bon Odori and Eisa season in mainland Japan and Okinawa, respectively. While checking out the music, dance and delicacies at one of the many seasonal festivals near you, try using some of these useful words and phrases.

"Eisa/Bon Odori ga mitai desu." = I want to see Eisa.
"Eisa/Bon Odori wa itsu desu ka." = When is the Eisa/Bon Odori (festival)?
"Itsu" = When

"Bon odori/Eisa ni iki masho." = Let's go to the Bon Odori/Eisa (festival).
"Iki masho" = Let's go

"Kaijo wa doko desu ka?" = Where is the location?
"Kaijo" = Location "Doko" = Where

"Yukata no ki kata wo oshiete kudasai." = Please teach me how to wear yukata.
"Yukata" = Summer kimono "Oshiete" = Teach

"Odorikata wo oshiete kudasai." = Please teach me how to dance.
"Issho ni odotte iidesu ka?" = May I dance with you?
"Demise ga takusan detemasu ne?" = There are many stalls, aren't there?
"Takusan" = Many "Demise" = Stalls

"Atsui desu ne?" = It is hot, isn't it?
"Kakigoori wo katte kimasu." = I'm going to buy shaved ice.
"Kakigoori" = Shaved ice "Katte" = Buy

-Takahiro Takiguchi, Stripes Okinawa



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Cynthia McKeague

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Stripes Sports Trivia

Utah Jazz legend, and fan of the short-shorts, John Stockton is the NBA's all-time leader in career assists with 15,806. Jason Kidd is second with 12,091, while six-foot-eight, 250 lb. LeBron James is currently No. 11 with 8,208. Only one active player currently sits in the top 10. Who is he?

Answer

Chris Paul

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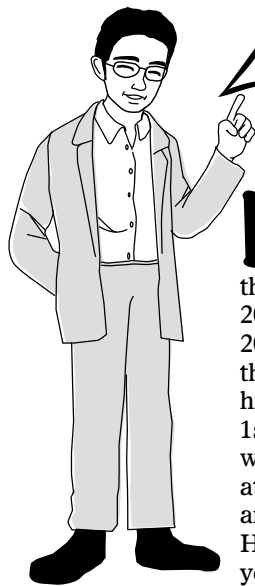
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DID YOU KNOW?

In Japan, we follow both the Western calendar interchangeably with the "Gengo" calendar. Gengo is the name of the Imperial era for the Japanese calendar. 2019 was Heisei 31 in Japan. On April 1st, 2019, Japan revealed the new era name as the emperor would abdicate the throne to his son at the end of April. Beginning May 1st, 2019, the new era was named "Reiwa," which according to the Japanese consulate means "beautiful harmony." In records and history, 2019 was associated as both Heisei 31 and Reiwa 1. The current year 2022 is Reiwa 4.

Kanji of the week



Yama/san (mountain)

Language Lesson

Large/big – short/small

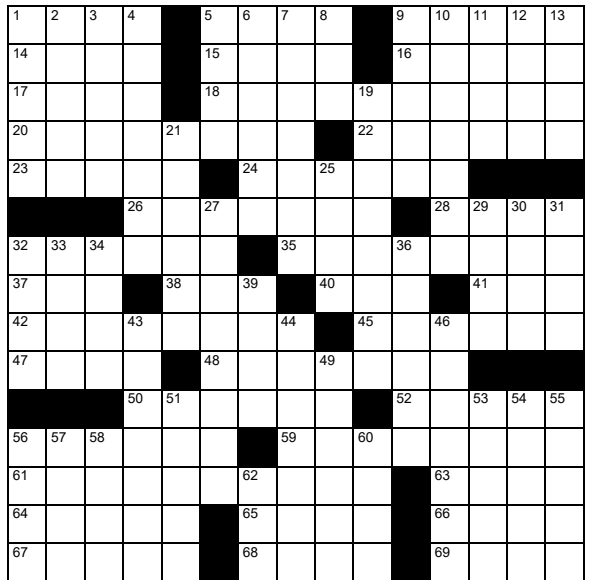
Ookii - Chiisai

Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 "Let There Be Rock" band
- 5 Wound covering
- 9 Specialized lingo
- 14 Foal's mother
- 15 Medic or legal starter
- 16 "Gone With the Wind" star
- 17 Clothes presser
- 18 Impossible to fill
- 20 Limb's partner
- 22 Cash in
- 23 Geyser output
- 24 Gas guzzler
- 26 Caustic criticism
- 28 Carry on
- 32 Galaxy rival
- 35 Picnic side dish
- 37 Salon service
- 38 Hunter's quarry
- 40 Soften, as lighting
- 41 It may be inflated
- 42 Christmas ball, e.g.
- 45 Dwell on
- 47 More or
- 48 Head wreath
- 50 Flatware finisher
- 52 Send payment
- 56 Waikiki welcomes
- 59 "Honest Abe", for one
- 61 Heartbroken
- 63 Pull one over on
- 64 Anoint, old-style
- 65 Barbie, for one
- 66 Tree of life site
- 67 Blanc et al.
- 68 Standards org.
- 69 Count (on)



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- 7 1944 film, "_____ and Old Lace"
- 8 Call to Little Bo-Peep
- 9 Visitor from afar
- 10 Library patrons
- 11 Cutting remark
- 12 Eye flirtatiously
- 13 "It's us against _____"
- 19 A million million
- 21 Slim Shady
- 25 Cape of _____ Hope
- 27 Program airing
- 29 Nautical adverb
- 30 Badgers
- 31 Rare bills
- 32 One to worship
- 33 Fiery heap
- 34 Brooding mothers
- 36 Start, as a voyage
- 39 Gut feeling?
- 43 Parking lot covering

- 44 Garden State capital
- 46 Like most models
- 49 Bay windows
- 51 Zaps in an OR
- 53 Title role for Bea Arthur
- 54 Urge onward
- 55 Itsy-bitsy
- 56 Resident of 66-across
- 57 Carson's successor
- 58 Bakery fixture
- 60 451, to Caesar
- 62 Toothpaste tube letters

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Easy

Edited by Margie E. Burke

HOW TO SOLVE:

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

Answer to Previous Sudoku:

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

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

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