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# OKINAWA

VOLUME 14 NO. 35

JANUARY 7 – JANUARY 20, 2021

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## Coming-of-Age Day incites rite of passage

STORY AND PHOTOS BY TAKAHIRO TAKIGUCHI, STRIPES OKINAWA

Becoming an adult is an important milestone in most cultures, and in Japan it is celebrated on Seijin-no-Hi, or Coming-of-Age Day, the second Monday of January (Jan. 11 this year).

This year the rite of passage, like many other activities, is another victim of COVID-19. Cities all around the country are canceling, postponing or hosting ceremonies online.

Despite the many adjustments this year, the reason for this occasion still rings true: to mark Japan's young men and women becoming legal adults.

In Japan, age 20 is when someone becomes a legal adult.

**SEE AGE ON PAGE 6**

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Cherry blossoms blooming across Okinawa

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Photo by Shoji Kudaka

# USO Okinawa staff spotlight

- **NAME:** Phil VanEtten
- **POSITION/TITLE:** USO Okinawa Area Director
- **TIME WORKED AT USO:** Jan. 4, 2016 to Present
- **CENTER/OFFICE LOCATION:** Camp Foster

**Tell us about them:**

“Phil” VanEtten obtained his B.S. in Aviation Management from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida. He served as a Marine for 27 years in aircraft maintenance, aviation logistics, and installations logistics billets. He obtained a M.S. in National Resource Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces of the National Defense University. He has numerous years of leadership in Defense consulting, military operations, education, training, family readiness programs, and volunteering in United States Marine Corps, Navy, Joint, and civilian environs to include small, medium, and large organizations.

In July of 2009, Phil retired from the Marine Corps and remained on Okinawa. He first started as the Naval Aviation Enterprise advisor to the Commanding General of 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. Later, Phil led a major effort to support III Marine Expeditionary Force and Marine Corps Installations Pacific as a Program Manager. He has been the USO Okinawa Area Director since January of 2016.



Phil hails from Bethalto, Illinois and is the father of one daughter named Christal. He is married to the former Yoshino Hashimoto from the Tokyo area. His interests include watching sumo and baseball and throwing darts.



Courtesy photo

**Fun Questions for Phil**

**Q. What’s your favorite spot or activity on Okinawa?**

**A.** Exploring Okinawa with my wife Yoshino.

**Q. What are your favorite hobbies?**

**A.** Watching Sumo and baseball, jogging, and throwing darts.

**Q. Why do you love working at the USO?**

**A.** I enjoy being part of an organization that gives and the USO is certainly good at giving. The USO gives food, games, programs, smiles, and happiness to our service members and their families. But what I really love about the USO are the people. Our volunteers and staff are amazing and bring me great joy! They work so hard to create and deliver fun programming every day of the year. They don’t rest as our mission is just too important! I can’t wait to get to work every day as I feed off their energy and motivation! They are truly a wonderful group of professionals.

**Q. What is your favorite memory of working at the USO?**

**A.** There are many great memories, but I’ll have to go with a team barbeque at Okuma. I see our staff working all the time and, for the first time, I saw all our employees relaxed and having fun. It truly warmed my heart to see them all having so much fun as a team!!

**Q. Which program do you want to feature from the USO?**

**A.** Operation Holiday Happiness: USO Kadena will deliver stockings to service members at Kadena Air Base, Torii Station and Camp Shields. Loved ones in the U.S. can request the delivery of a stocking to their service member over the holidays. Stockings include candy, holiday messaging and a framed photo submitted by the family member.



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## Mental Notes with Hilary Valdez

BY HILARY VALDEZ, STRIPES OKINAWA

### Compassion

“If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion.” Dalai Lama  
Compassion literally means “to suffer together.” Compassion is the feeling that arises when you are confronted with another’s suffering, which motivates us to relieve that suffering and gives us the desire to help.

Compassion and empathy are fundamental aspects of quality relationships and enable kind and loving behavior. Showing compassion for others makes us feel better about ourselves, but self-compassion also serves an important function for well-being. Plato said, “Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a harder battle.”



The idea of compassion in everyday life encourages positive behaviors that have individual and societal benefits as it promotes resilience, social connectedness. In Asia, Buddhist philosophy applies mindful action toward the reduction of suffering while building a relationship of trust and goodwill. The objective of Buddhism is to enhance a person’s wisdom, kindness, compassion, and achieve unconditional happiness and enlightenment.

For medical professionals, teachers, EMT responders, and social workers, compassion is an important key to their work. Role modeling compassion can reduce hateful behavior while encouraging kindness, love, and understanding. And compassionate people in mass lead to a more peaceful and democratic society.

To become compassionate, don’t be selfish.

Expand your comfort zone: Help people, be kind to animals, be involved with the community. Kind behaviors improve your self-esteem and well-being. Avoid judgment. Compare your similarities to others in hardship. This can help you develop empathy and compassion. Practice gratitude. In your life, what are you grateful for? This will give you a sense of compassion for people facing hardships. Be kind to yourself. Don’t say bad things about yourself. Sweeten up, people make mistakes: We are all “C” students in the school of life. Being negative all the time does not help you, your family, friends, and co-workers. Practice becoming resilient. Bounce back from an unpleasant event. Practice tolerance. This helps you to become a more positive and compassionate human.

Compassionate parenting is a basic part of positive parenting. Provide a positive home environment with plenty of love, practice open communication, provide affection, and emotional warmth. Empathize with your child’s feelings. Teach respect. Role model kind and compassionate behavior toward people and animals. Practice positive discipline with patience, caring, and fairness; not violence.

When under stress, do not create more stress. Put a layer of understanding on top of your gut feelings. This is tough when you’re upset and on the verge of losing control. When this happens: Breathe. Repeat taking deep breaths. Calm yourself and detach yourself from emotions. Try saying something like: “I’m sorry for the suffering I caused you”; “I apologize for my actions”; I feel sad to hear that you experienced this”; “What can I do to help? How can I make things better?”; “Thank you for telling me this”; “I am proud of you. I am here for you, no matter what”; “What has

this been like for you?”

Listening to others is an important part of compassion. Listening will help you to help others, and you will eventually become a skilled empathetic listener. Empathy allows people to build social connections with each other. By understanding what people are thinking and feeling, people are able to respond appropriately in social situations. According to spiritual author Martin Lowenthal, “Compassion is a foundation for sharing our aliveness and building a more humane world.”

Compassion is contagious. Smile more. A smile can have a large impact on people. Hold the door open for someone. Use encouraging words when speaking with people. Lift their spirits. Encourage people with your positivity. Try and perform one or two acts of kindness every day. Help somebody with a task. Set up an hour or two each day from your busy schedule to bond with friends, spouse, and your children. Delay all the “Have To” chores. Show people you care, give positive words, not negative ones. Practice an attitude of gratitude, every day. Say thank you more often to people, just for small things. Having good manners goes a long way, people feel appreciated. Don’t let gratitude go unspoken.

*“A great nation is a compassionate nation.”*  
- Martin Luther King, Jr.

Hilary Valdez is a retiree living in Japan. He is an experienced Mental Health professional and Resiliency Trainer. Valdez is a former Marine and has worked with the military most of his career and most recently worked at Camp Zama as a Master Resiliency Trainer. Valdez now has a private practice and publishes books on social and psychological issues. His books are available on Amazon and for Kindle. Learn more about Valdez and contact him at [www.hilaryvaldez.com](http://www.hilaryvaldez.com) or at [InstantInsights@hotmail.com](mailto:InstantInsights@hotmail.com)



Sgt. John James, of Combat Logistics Battalion 31, saved a local woman after she was bitten by a venomous snake Nov. 6. Photo by Brandon Salas, U.S. Marine Corps

# Marine rescues woman after habu snake attack

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE,  
STARS AND STRIPES  
Published: December 18, 2020

CAMP FOSTER — A Marine on Okinawa was credited Thursday with saving the life of a local woman after she was bitten by a venomous habu snake.

Sgt. John James, a motor vehicle operator from Combat Logistics Battalion 31, was barbecuing with friends at the Saloon bar in Kin town on Nov. 6 when they heard a scream, Marine officials said in a statement Dec. 17.

“We were grilling burgers and hot dogs and suddenly we heard an elderly woman screaming in a language we didn’t understand,” James said, according to the Marine statement. “We didn’t know what was wrong until she started screaming out ‘habu, habu.’”

James, of Dubois, Neb., did not hesitate, the statement said. He found the bitemarks and quickly fastened a tourniquet two inches above the wound, using a friend’s belt.

While the bar owner called emergency services, James contacted a corpsman friend to see what else he could do, the statement said. Local authorities arrived quickly. They found the snake and administered the correct antivenom.

First responders credited James and his quick actions with saving the woman’s life, the statement said.

James said he spoke to the woman earlier this month, according to the statement. She’s doing “really well” and went back to work a few days after the incident.

There are four types of habu snakes indigenous to Okinawa — the habu, Hime habu, Sakishima habu and Taiwan habu — according to the Okinawa prefectural government website.

Up to 50 people on Okinawa — most often farmers or farmworkers — are bitten each year.

Habu venom is hemotoxic, destroying blood cells and tissues, according to the Okinawa

Institute of Science and Technology Graduate University’s website. Snakebite antivenom is available but the bites can be painful and cause permanent tissue damage.

Less than 1% of those bitten by a habu die, according to a 2013 statement from the U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa. The snakes are most active September through November.

Combat Logistics Battalion 31 is a subordinate unit of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit.

burke.matt@stripes.com  
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Sneaky snakes: If you live on Okinawa, watch out for habu!



Photo by Kristan Campbell, U.S. Air Force

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# Cherry blossoms to bloom in the No

*Editor's Note: We are living in uncertain times, so please make sure to follow your base command's rules and guidelines when you decide to travel. Wear a facemask, practice social distancing and proper handwashing procedures.*

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SHOJI KUDAKA, STRIPES OKINAWA

When January's cherry blossom season rolls around on Okinawa, it means it's time to hit the road and head north. Usually this is the time of year where many festivals draw in crowds of people to celebrate the arrival of the blossoms on the island. But, much like last year, many of the seasonal events will be canceled due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The pandemic may still be putting a damper on the season, and yet, nature continues to persevere and soon we'll once again be surrounded by the pink and blush hues of Japan's favorite flower. So, get your facemask on, practice social distancing and head out for a brisk walk under the cherry blossoms.

Okinawa offers several locations for great blossom viewing, but those in Yambaru, the hilly areas in the northern part of the main island, draw special attention for a few reasons.

First, Yambaru is home to the earliest blooms on the island. The "cherry blossom front," which refers to the frontline of cherry blossom blooming, travels north to south. On the mainland, the front goes in the opposite direction due to a difference in the type of cherry blossoms.

Locations like Mt. Yaedake (Mt. Yae), Nakijin Castle Ruins, and Nago Chuo Park, are some of the prime spots to catch the first blossoms of the season in the country.

Second, the mountains and forests of Yambaru are in themselves great attractions for a quick getaway. When they are adorned with the pink color of the cherry blossoms, the dynamic nature of the north becomes even more attractive.

At Mt. Yaedake, which kicks off the season on Jan. 16, visitors can enjoy the view as they drive up a 2.5-mile-long cherry blossom

tree-lined road. In total, there are about 7,000 cherry blossom trees on the second tallest mountain on the island. About 25 minutes from Mt. Yaedake, 600 cherry blossom trees add vibrant colors to Nakijin Castle. This World Heritage Site is thought to have been built around the 13th century and was used as a stronghold for a kingdom which ruled the northern part of the island.

Nago Chuo Park is known for its grand scale presentation with 20,000 cherry blossoms. The 170-acre park includes castle ruins known as "Nangusuku," a playground, an area for hiking, and a promenade that runs through a forest and near a river.

**Though the annual cherry blossom festivals at both Nakijin Castle Ruins and Nago Chuo Park have been cancelled for this year, you will still be able to enjoy the blossoms there. Just make sure to check ahead of what rules each site has for crowd control and safety guidelines on their websites.**

For visitors who go to Yambaru from the middle and southern part of the island, it will most likely take a couple of hours by car. Directions are not so complicated, but they may need some explanation for first timers.

To go to Mt. Yaedake and Nakijin Castle, the easiest way is to take the highway, exit at No. 10 (Kyoda), go north on Route 58, and make a left to head northwest on Route 84, which cuts through Motobu Peninsula. An entrance to Mount Yaedake will be seen to the left-hand side of the road.

To go to Nakijin Castle, take a right on to Route 115 before hitting the coastline of the peninsula.

Nago Chuo Park is not far from Exit No. 10. Go north on Route 58 and make a right on to Route 84 at the first light after passing by an A&W. Turn left at the signal near the Orion Beer factory and make a right at the first signal to go on a road that runs along a river.

In January in Okinawa, the average temperature is expected to be the lowest of the year. However, the flowers give a lot of reasons for people on the island to defy the chill.

kudaka.shoji@stripes.com

## 43rd Motobu Yaedake Cherry Blossom Festival

**DATES:** Jan. 16 - 31  
**LOCATION:** Yaedake Sakura-no-Mori Park  
**GPS COORDINATES (ENTRANCE):** N 26.656959, E 127.911611  
**ADMISSION:** free  
 \* Live entertainment to be held Jan. 16.

## Nakijin Gusuku

**LOCATION:** Nakijin Castle  
**GPS COORDINATES:** N 26.691457, E 127.929023  
**ADMISSION:** 400 yen for adults, 300 yen for Elementary School, Junior/Senior High School Student  
 \* Free admission for elementary school children and under  
 \* Open: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. (last admission at 5:30 p.m.)  
 (Free Parking)  
**WEBSITE (Japanese)** ▶



## Nago Chuo Park

**GPS COORDINATES:** N 26.591213, E 127.997147  
**ADMISSION:** Free



## Yaese Park

**GPS COORDINATES:** N 26.131409, E 127.721109  
**ADMISSION:** Free





Early risers on Okinawa

### Early risers on Okinawa

If you have seen cherry blossoms on mainland Japan in late March or early April, you may wonder why the flowers bloom in January on Okinawa. The gap between cherry blossom seasons between Okinawa and mainland Japan can be traced back to a difference in types of cherry blossoms and how the flowers “wake up.”

Cherry blossoms form floral stems during summer and go dormant without growing until before the new year starts,” Yoshitaka, a member of the Okinawa Regional Headquarters of the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA), said in an interview with Okinawa Times. “To break their sleep, cherry blossoms need to be exposed to low temperatures. To wake up Somei-Yoshino, temperatures need to be around 40s, while 60s are good for Higan-zakura.”

Somei-Yoshino is a type of cherry blossom only seen on mainland Japan. On the mainland, Higan-zakura, is found on Okinawa. Somei-Yoshino’s petals in pale pink draw a sharp contrast with the vibrant colors of Higan-zakura.

Once they wake up, cherry blossoms bloom as the temperature rises. Because it takes a temperature around 40s (to break its sleep), Somei-Yoshino are not fit to grow in Okinawa,” said Yoshitaka.

JMA staff also noted that while Somei-Yoshino waits for the temperature to rise before blooming, Higan-zakura can grow and reach full bloom with little change of temperature in Okinawa.

- Shoji Kudaka



# LET'S TAKE A VIRTUAL VACATION

STRIPES OKINAWA

File photo

We all miss traveling. There’s nothing like hitting the open road, hopping on a plane and exploring new places. And though traveling like we did before COVID-19 seems like a dream, now is the time to stay safe

and get ready for when we can travel again. Below are some beautiful locations around Okinawa to join us for on a short virtual trip. Take notes, and don’t forget to dream big and plan bigger! Bon voyage!



Courtesy photos

## Iriomote Island

To get here, hop on a flight then a ferry ride from mainland Japan. Or, if you’re stationed on Okinawa, a short flight and a ferry ride from Naha will get you there. Despite the distance, Iriomote Island has plenty of nature, culture, activities, and food for those looking for a getaway that’s out of the ordinary.



CHECK THE VIDEO!



CHECK THE VIDEO!

## Amami Oshima Island

The island is about two-thirds the size of Okinawa’s main island, and its population is a fraction of the size in comparison. It is because of this that you’ll find untamed subtropical forests, exquisite flora and fauna and plenty of Amami Oshima’s designated natural treasures—the Amamino kuro usagi rabbit and the kenaganezumi long-tailed rat.



## Ishigaki Island

Host to stunning views and impressive topographical features, Ishigaki is a great spot to get away and relax. Make plans to catch the beautiful sunset at Uganzaki cape and explore the Ishigaki-Jima Shouyudo cave. Plus, make sure you try the local beef as its tender, sweet and savory taste makes this one of the most sought-after products in Japan.



CHECK THE VIDEO!



CHECK THE VIDEO!

## Kume Island

Kume Island is as rich in natural wonders and delicious food as it is in beauty. The island awaits to dazzle both your eyes and taste buds and is definitely one that should be on every island-hopper’s bucket list. Eef Beach on the island’s east coast is a 2-kilometer-long sandy beach which is also a great place for a stroll in the low tide. Hate no hama, another of Kume’s exceptional beaches, offers unobstructed sea views and closeup looks at sand reefs via a 20-minute boat ride.



## Miyako

Beautiful beaches, great views and amazing sites to visit are all found at Miyako. Take time to check out Sunayama Beach, Higashihennazaki cape and Irabu-Ohashi Bridge. While touring Miyako, make sure you try some local mango. Especially during the summer, the juicy taste of the island’s signature fruit dazzles many tourists and locals.



CHECK THE VIDEO!



CHECK THE VIDEO!

## Ie Island

Off Okinawa’s main island, lies a smaller isle perfect for refreshing hikes and views, as well as a lot of history. You’ll find Ie Island just nine kilometers west of Motobu Peninsula, which translates to about a 30-minute ferry ride from the port. You can hop on this ferry four times a day, making it a great place for a daytrip or, if you don’t want your vacation to end so quickly, there is plenty of lodging available on Ie.





# AGE: Day to dress up and celebrate adulthood

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

At age 20, they can legally drink, smoke and get married without parental consent. They also become subject to the laws and social responsibilities that bind adults. However, they need to wait a few more years to run for a public office. The minimum age for a congressman and mayor is 25; it is 30 for a senator and governor.

“The purpose of this holiday is to congratulate and encourage young men and women who attain the legal age of adulthood to fulfill their new-found responsibilities and become self-reliant members of society,” said Masahiko Uchino, of the National

Cabinet Office’s holiday section.

The number of new adults has been decreasing in recent years due to Japan’s shrinking birthrate. According the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication, the number of new adults in 2020 was 1.22 million (625,000 men and 595,000 women) – less than half the 1976 peak of 2.76 million.

The number of new Okinawan adults in 2019 was 16,647 (8,488 men and 8,159 women), increasing 165 from the previous year. The birthrate was 18.9 newborns per 1,000 people in 2018, the highest among all 47 prefectures in the nation. Nothing new for Okinawa, which has been the prefecture with the

highest birthrate for the past 43 years.

The tradition of celebrating coming-of-age in the middle of January can be traced back to ancient times, although the national holiday was established for Jan. 15 in 1948. (In 1998, it was moved to the second Monday in January as part of Japan’s Happy Monday system, which moved several holidays to create three-day weekends.)

Originally, coming-of-age was celebrated on or around Jan. 15 according to the old lunar calendar. Traditionally called “koshogatsu” (Small New Year’s), it was the day of the first full moon of the year. “It was considered right to cel-

brate coming-of-age in the beginning of year with festive atmosphere,” Uchino said.

Although there was no precise age that determined the onset of adulthood throughout Japan’s feudal era, it was usually celebrated when boys reached the age of around 15 and when girls reached about 13. The Meiji government set the legal age of adulthood for both sexes to 20 in 1876.

“Seijin-shiki,” or coming-of-age ceremonies, are generally held the morning of the national holiday at local city offices throughout the country. Those who turn 20 during the current school year, which runs from April 2 to April 1 the

next year, attend. During the ceremony, heads of local government and guest speakers from various backgrounds give speeches and small presents are handed out to the new adults.

On this day, young adults also often visit shrines or have parties with family and friends after the ceremony.

In some Okinawan villages, such as Shiraho, Ishigaki City, new adults perform a dance to thank the villagers for their support.

Though Seijin-shiki will be different this year, the rite of passage will continue in a manner to ensure the safety of others.

takiguchi.takahiro@stripes.com



## Dressing the part in style

For most of young women, Coming-of-Age Day and the related ceremony are an opportunity to dress up in their most formal clothes. Many don “furusode,” a style of kimono with long sleeves that hang down.

The furisode is the most formal style of kimono worn by an unmarried woman in Japan. It is made of very fine, brightly colored silk, and is commonly rented or bought by parents for their daughters to wear to celebrate their coming-of-age.

By wearing a furisode, a young woman signifies that she is both single and a legal adult, and thus available for marriage, since the garment may not be worn either until adulthood or after wedlock. In this sense, a furisode might be associated

with the formal gowns worn by debutantes in the West.

A full furisode set is very expensive, so it is usually borrowed from a relative or rented. Typically, a young woman rents a kimono, dresses up and has her hair styled at salon before having a formal photo shoot at a portrait studio to commemorate the occasion. This can easily cost 150,000 yen (\$1,250) or more. Purchasing a new kimono set may cost more than 1,000,000 yen (\$8,400).

There are some young men who might wear a traditional dark kimono, called a “hao-ri” (half-coat) and “hakama” (loose-legged pleated trousers) on this holiday. However, nowadays most of young men wear a Western suit and tie for the occasion.

## Post-teen shenanigans mar adult day

In recent years, there have been a growing number of complaints about the rude behavior of 20-year-olds celebrating their official arrival into adulthood at “seijin-shiki,” or coming-of-age ceremonies.

The most common problems are youth chatting with friends or talking on mobile phones when local officials and dignitaries give speeches at these Seijin-no-Hi, or Coming-of-Age Day, ceremonies that occur the second Monday every January. However, heckling speakers and other disruptive behavior also is often reported by media.

In some cities and towns, groups of participants have set off firecrackers or created disturbances inside and outside of the venue, sometimes resulting in arrests. Some municipalities have even canceled the annual ceremonies as a result.

Okinawa, in particular, garners

a lot of media attention every year for raucous drunk 20-year-olds that get arrested for reckless driving and other violations at or near these events.

In response to a spate of complaints in Okinawa and throughout the nation, Okinawan officials have issued a memorandum calling on local businesses to help curb the problem.

“We ask liquor shops not to sell new adults too much alcohol and to thoroughly verify their age,” says Keisuke Yamada, from Okinawa Prefecture’s Youth, Infant and Family Division. “We ask clothing rental shops to advise young patrons renting multiple matching sets of flashy traditional clothes (as potential gang-for-a-day uniforms) not to cause trouble. We are also asking car rental agencies not to rent to anyone that seems intent on reckless behavior.”



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San-Ae

# Stripes Sports Trivia

**SAY MY NAME!** On the links, I'm known for my long drives and unique personality. I became a PGA pro in 1987, and currently am doing my thing on the Champions Tour. I've won a couple of PGA Major Tournaments in my life, although many would say I'm not exactly "country-club material". Who am I?

Answer

John Daly



## Memories with STARS AND STRIPES Pacific

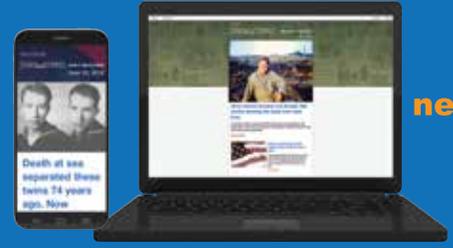
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### DID YOU KNOW?

**I**t is a no-no in Japan to pick up food with your chopsticks when it was already held by someone else's chopsticks. There are many dos and don'ts in Japan, and this one in particular seems innocent, but not so much to Japanese. This dining don't reminds Japanese of an old tradition – one that involves a dead relative, bones and a crematorium. Google it!

Kanji of the week



Cow/beef (ushi/gyu)

### Language Lesson

Happy New Year! (said until Dec. 31)/  
Happy New Year! (said starting Jan. 1)

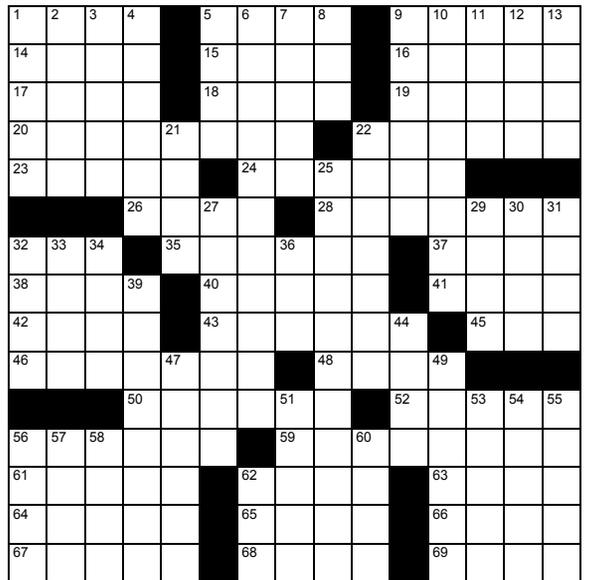
**Yoi otoshi o! / Akemashite omedetou**

### Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

#### ACROSS

- 1 Workout woe
- 5 Lavish party
- 9 Can't stomach
- 14 Advance
- 15 Eve's man
- 16 Vineyard fruit
- 17 Small pie
- 18 Farrier's tool
- 19 In the boondocks
- 20 ETA and DIY, e.g.
- 22 One way to break bad news
- 23 Nursing follower
- 24 Evening wing-ding
- 26 \_\_\_ carotene
- 28 Retirement fund
- 32 Workout site
- 35 Strip bare
- 37 Mermaid feature
- 38 Ill-gotten gains
- 40 Come clean
- 41 Thus
- 42 Fairytale villain
- 43 Toils (away)
- 45 "\_\_\_ what?"
- 46 Dash
- 48 Pupil's locale
- 50 Summer wear
- 52 Andean animal
- 56 Catch in a lie
- 59 747, e.g.
- 61 Hammerin' Hank
- 62 Exile isle
- 63 Campus quarters
- 64 Thieving sort
- 65 Comrade in arms
- 66 Ford SUV
- 67 Oft-killed "South Park" kid
- 68 Dark loaves
- 69 Stalk in a swamp



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- 4 Bury
- 5 Cooper with two Oscars
- 6 "Uncut Gems" star
- 7 Rodeo rope
- 8 Sound booster
- 9 Goes along
- 10 Clairiol choice
- 11 "B.C." cartoonist
- 12 Milky stone
- 13 Trust, with "on"
- 21 Urgent want
- 22 Walmart worker
- 25 Pledge of Allegiance word
- 27 London cafe
- 29 Make, as a salary
- 30 "Junk begets junk" acronym
- 31 Be radiant
- 32 Mushy food
- 33 Meditative exercise
- 34 Daybreak, poetically

- 36 John's "Pulp Fiction" co-star
- 39 Chef's measure
- 44 Window feature
- 47 Like some soups
- 49 Mini burger
- 51 Add up
- 53 Battery cell

- 54 Use the on-ramp
- 55 Packing heat
- 56 Stable gear
- 57 Hard to come by
- 58 Flatten, in a way
- 60 Tanners catch them
- 62 Bud holder?

#### Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

### SUDOKU

Edited by Margie E. Burke

Difficulty: Easy

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

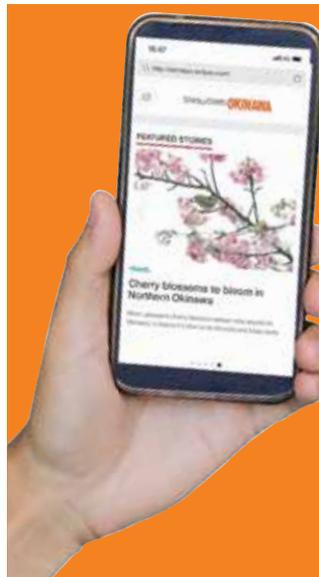
#### HOW TO SOLVE:

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

#### Answers to Previous Sudoku:

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

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