

OKINAWA

L I V I N G

MATSURI MAGIC

Celebrate like a Local





27TH ANNUAL OKINAWA *Wine Festival*

\$60 FRI, OCT 17
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Matsuri Magic **Celebrate like a Local**

Enjoy local festivals, or *matsuri*, like a pro with this mini guide! We're covering it all—from what to wear and what to bring, to festival games to enjoy as well as a comprehensive break down of all of our favorite Japanese and Okinawan festival foods.

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Karate, Jiu-Jitsu & More

Whether you're a newbie, or a seasoned veteran looking to brush up your skills, Semper Fit has got you covered with a wide range of martial arts classes—including karate!

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...on the DMM Kariyushi Aquarium & Toyosaki Chura SUN Beach Tour

Enjoy a day of fun, relaxation and wonder with MCCS Tours+ as you explore Okinawa's newest destination for experiencing sea life on dry land, before moving on to the relaxing portion of the day.

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Assistance Program

Civilian Employment Bootcamp Workshop

Are you a military spouse seeking employment on Okinawa or an active-duty service member stationed on Camps Hansen or Schwab looking to trade your boots for a briefcase in the near future? Maybe you're a contractor or a DoD civilian just looking for a change? Well, we have a workshop just for you!

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Essential Skills for Vehicle Maintenance

Feel like you don't know the basics of automotive care or need a refresher course to boost your confidence? Join Marine Corps Family Team Building as they collaborate with Typhoon Motors to bring you Auto Care Workshop: Essential Skills for Vehicle Maintenance.

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Celebrate with various types of yoga sessions at MCCS Fitness Centers on Camps Kinser, Foster, Courtney, Hansen and MCAS Futenma this month.

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A well-deserved indulgence adds a little extra joy to your day, and we all deserve to treat ourselves every once in a while. And boy do MCCS Clubs have some delicious treats!

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...at Plaza and McTureous Aquatic Centers

September heat getting you down? We have just the event that will help your family to stay cool in these never-ending summer days, an event that'll keep the kiddos entertained while they enjoy some much-needed time together.

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Learn To Swim with the Dolphins!

Take the first step of your swimming journey by enrolling in Semper Fit Aquatics' Dolphin Swim School at the Camp Hansen Aquatic Center and prepare yourself and your loved ones for a delightful aquatic adventure that'll continue to give you joy (and keep you healthy) for years to come!

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In celebration of Labor Day, Typhoon Motors is putting in the work to bring you sales all September long to help you get the best deals for your old faithful!

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Now with NEW Features!

The Liberty App's latest update introduces the new "Workout of the Day" feature—which provides users with a rotational 30-day schedule of combat-focused workouts designed to enhance agility, functional strength and overall mission readiness. Each day's workout is presented in a format that is intuitive and accessible to users of all fitness levels.

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mensôre

"Welcome" to Okinawa Living

Class is in Session!

For DoDDS students, September signals the beginning of the school year—freshly sharpened pencils (or crayons), colorful spiral notebooks, binders filled with blank, wide-ruled pages of notebook paper and a seemingly endless litany of sleepy grumbling. But a glance into a classroom at a Japanese school during the same month will reveal dozens of pencils worn down to stubs, about a third of each subject's workbooks thumbed through and pencil pouches starting to show signs of wear and tear. Why? For students in Japan, the school year started in April. The Japanese school year is made up of three terms: April to July, September to December and January to March. A four- or five-week summer vacation is usually enjoyed in August (complete with homework, boo!), along with spring break at the end of the school year after graduation. With a literacy rate of around 99%, learning is taken very seriously in Japan.

Learning is also important when it comes to your home-away-from-home. Learning more about the local culture will not only benefit you, as it'll make your stay on the island a more enjoyable one, it leaves a better impression on our hosts.

What is there to learn, you ask? How about enough Japanese to say, "good morning" and "have a great day" to the local school children you pass by in the morning? Or how about learning a martial art? Okinawa is the birthplace of karate, and there's no better place to learn this art that teaches about self-mastery—which enables karate practitioners to harness immense power, blinding speed and an almost inhuman resilience.

To risk a timeworn cliché—the possibilities for learning are endless. And, it doesn't necessarily mean sitting in a classroom taking endless notes needs to be part of the equation (although drawing with crayons can be fun at *any* age). You'll thank yourself for making the effort, we promise!

As always, we thank you for picking up this issue of *Okinawa Living Magazine*. Now, time to turn the page and let your journey begin! **lol**



Mike J. Daley
Mike Daley
Editor-In-Chief



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feedback

from the ICE Program
and Facebook

[The Far East Bodybuilding Competition was] such a fun show and congrats to all the competitors!! Thank you MCCS for taking such great care of the athletes and shining the spotlight on this very demanding sport. Our friends and families had a great time watching!!
—via Facebook

The staff [at TERRA on Camp Foster] is great; but let me tell you what...I can't get enough of that Greek Salad! I try to stay away during lunch since it is always busy, but that salad keeps me coming back.
—via ICE

I had a wonderful experience with Ms. Sakiko Tamaki during my recruitment process for MCCS. From the very beginning, she demonstrated exceptional professionalism and dedication. Ms. Tamaki took the time to make me feel welcome and supported throughout the process, giving me a great impression of MCCS. Throughout the process, she was always available to answer my questions, provide updates and offer valuable insights. Her support made what can often be a stressful experience much smoother and more enjoyable. She is personable, professional and very good at what she does! I truly appreciate Ms. Tamaki's efforts and commitment, which ultimately led to my successful placement at MCCS. I highly recommend her to anyone looking for a dedicated and knowledgeable recruiter!
—via ICE

Ms. Marisel [Hayden with the Transition Readiness Program on Camp Hansen] is OUTSTANDING! I was in a predicament where I needed to get my token signed in order for me to transition out of the Marine Corps. Not only did she help, she also went above and beyond, reaching out to my UTC and contacting the command which ultimately assisted in my transition. She was extremely professional, knowledgeable and was willing to assist by any means within her capacity. I have extreme faith in the transition of service members because of employees like her! Thank you so much.
—via ICE

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to the entire Education [Center] staff at Camp Hansen for their unwavering support throughout my academic journey. While serving on active duty, I was able to earn both my associate and bachelor's degrees, an accomplishment that wouldn't have been possible without their dedication, guidance and professionalism. From helping me navigate tuition assistance, to offering advice on course selections and encouraging me during challenging times, the team consistently went above and beyond. Their commitment to the personal and professional growth of service members truly made a difference in my life, and I can't thank them enough. Camp Hansen is fortunate to have such an outstanding education team, and I hope their efforts continue to be recognized and appreciated. They've played a key role in my success, and I'll always be grateful.
—via ICE

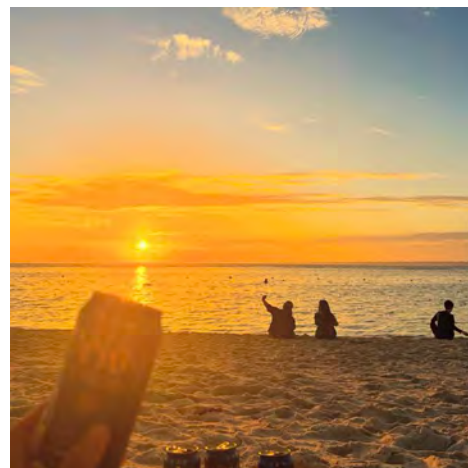
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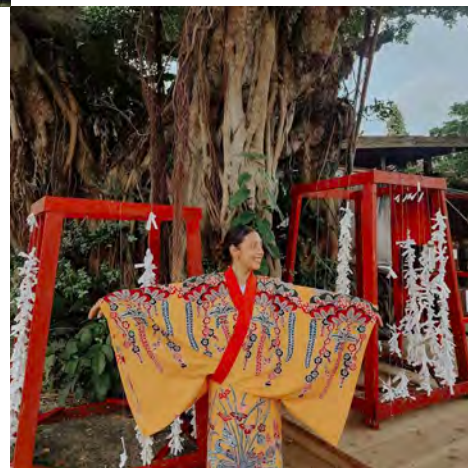


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Just a walk in the park 🚶

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Kimono dreams and banyan trees ✨🇯🇵🌸



Domo arigatou gozaimashita and thank you for your posts!
We can't wait to see what else you love about Okinawa!

—The Okinawa Living Staff

OKINAWA
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SEPTEMBER 2025

OKINAWA LIVING

GET BACK INTO NATURE

GET BACK IN



TEXT BY: MIKE DALEY

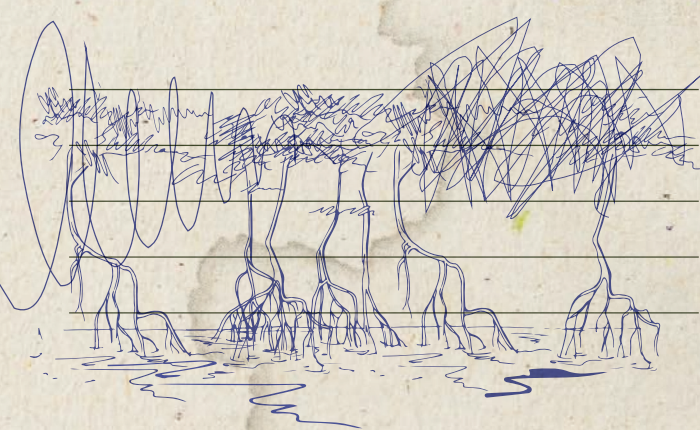
LAYOUT BY: NINA SON-LAGOS

INTO NATURE

Tours+ Yanbaru Kayaking Tour

Whether it's an early morning solo kayaking journey up a mirror-smooth river reflecting the mangroves lining the shores, or the blasts of a towering waterfall's cool, misty spray, there's no better way to escape the busy cities, perpetual traffic jams and daily grind of "the real world" than with a little outdoor adventure.

Okinawa is well-known as a summer mecca—a subtropical island paradise featuring beautiful beaches with diving, snorkeling, jet skiing and tons of other aquatic fun. However, did you know that that's not all Okinawa has to offer in the field of aquatic fun? You could also be kayaking down jungle-lined rivers like Indiana Jones searching for ancient treasures or Dr. Ellie Sattler looking for a Brachiosaurus.



滑走路ラン



2025

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OCTOBER 5 | 7 A.M.



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Registration deadline for Non-SOFA participants: September 24 (11:30 p.m.)

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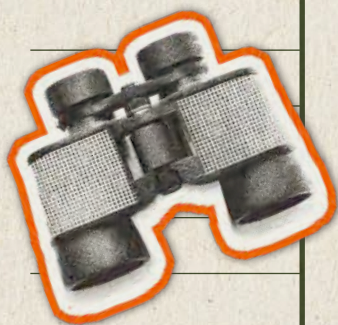
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OKINAWA LIVING

GET BACK INTO NATURE



Kayaking is a popular leisure activity on Okinawa—whether you're gliding over salt or fresh water. A great way to revitalize the psyche, kayaking can also be a great workout for the cardiovascular system and upper body. Now, before you go out and splurge on a \$4K Kevlar touring kayak and matching rack to attach to the roof of your 4WD (which

you also purchased for your new hobby), know one thing: it isn't necessary!

Kayaks are available for rent for very reasonable rates at Outdoor Recreation inside the Ironworks Fitness Center on Camp Courtney. Or, if you prefer to have the kayak there waiting for you ready to launch on a river cruise, sign up for the Tours+ Yanbaru Kayaking Tour!



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OKINAWA LIVING

GET BACK INTO NATURE



Fig. 01
*Periophthalmus
argenteolineatus*



Fig. 02
Uca perplexa



Fig. 03
*Allomyrina
dichotoma takarai*

The heavily forested lands of northern Okinawa, stretching from the north of Nago to the island's northern-most tip are collectively known as *Yanbaru*, (which translates into "mountainous areas"). The emergent trees, dense canopies, nooks and crannies of roots as well as ponds, streams and especially rivers are home to numerous types of birds and countless other creatures—many of which are endangered species

that cannot be found anywhere else in the world.

What are you waiting for? Jump on the MCCS Tours+ bus at the Camp Foster Bowling Center, then sit back and enjoy the ride up to the Yanbaru National Park in Higashi Village where your adventure awaits!

Once you arrive, it's time to get your muscles moving as you kayak down the river—an approximately two-and-

a-half-hour, up-close-and-personal experience through the mangroves—while you learn about Japan's only jungle region.

These trees, which are known as *hirugi* in Japanese, play a crucial role in coastal ecosystems, offering a buttress from erosion and providing shelter for a diverse variety of crabs, mudskippers and many more fascinating creatures.



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SEPTEMBER 2025

OKINAWA LIVING

GET BACK INTO NATURE

Fig. 04, 05
The emergent trees, dense canopies, nooks and crannies of roots as well as ponds, streams and especially rivers are home to numerous types of birds and countless other creatures(...)



- Long-sleeve shirt
- Sunscreen
- Hat + Shoes
- Extra clothes
- Towel
- Water
- Packed lunch

We recommend wearing a long-sleeved top to protect yourself from both the sun and bugs as well as a hat and footwear that can get wet. Life jackets will be provided. Make sure to also pack a change of clothes, a towel, enough water to stay hydrated and a packed lunch.

The Yanbaru Kayaking Tour is \$44 for children (6–12 years old riding with an adult) and \$75 for adults (13+) in a single kayak. Adults can also reserve a double kayak (riding solo) for \$77 and two adults can ride in a double kayak for \$63 per person. Pregnant women and children under the age of 6 are not permitted on the tour. Tour cancellations must be made one week before the tour date. For more information on the next upcoming Yanbaru Kayaking Tour and any other MCCS Tours+ offerings, email tours@okinawa.usmc-mccs.org, call 646-3502 or visit www.okinawa.usmc-mccs.org/tours. | 01



RYUKYU REMIX

Okinawa's Musical Fusion Movements

Text by: Laura C. Pita | Layout by: James Rieth | Translation by: Wataru Yamanoha

Close your eyes and picture the gentle crashing of waves along shores of the East China Sea, the melodic plucking of *sanshin* strings wafting from a practicing *ojisan*, the chirping of birds and cicadas in the thickets, the thunderous booms of practicing *taiko* drummers in the distance and the cheery *yubi-bue* (finger-whistling) at a local *matsuri* (festival). These sights and sounds reflect Okinawa's unique subtropical climate and cultural heritage making up the soundtrack of everyday summer life on the island. But what is a soundtrack without music?





Okinawa has been renowned for its performing arts—which include music, dance and theater—since the days of the Ryukyu Kingdom. Their origin can be traced back to the late 14th century with the introduction of the Chinese *sanshin* (a three-stringed lute), that later evolved into the Ryukyu *sanshin* and subsequently the Japanese *shamisen*. By the 17th century, the *sanshin* was formally adopted by the noble class, becoming an elite instrument played at court, produced by skilled craftsmen trained under the royal government and used in theater performances like *Kumiodori* (musical theater) and Ryukyu Dance. To this day, the *sanshin* is an instrumental part of Okinawan music.

While many Okinawa *minyo* (traditional folk songs) have no known author, the working class penned their own lyrics and used music as a way to convey their stories. This oral tradition plays a crucial role in preserving and transmitting knowledge, culture and history across generations by offering valuable insight into the everyday lives of those that came before us—including their social structures, cultural values, major events and so much more.

Despite the prefecture's status as a former independent kingdom, its tragic WWII history and subsequent occupation by both the United States and Japan, Okinawans have woven together a rich culture with vibrant music that is unique to anything else found in Japan.

During the 20th century these old work songs, heart-wrenching ballads and lively joyful tunes (for celebratory dances called *kachāshi*) began to be recorded by the first stars of Okinawan music. These centuries-old tunes, alongside *shimauta* (modern folk songs) and more contemporary experiments—a result of the island's



exposure to overseas influences—began to surface at clubs, in jukeboxes (once introduced) and released on vinyl, cassette tapes and CDs for the enjoyment of everyone.

In the late 20th century, a new sub-genre of Okinawan music emerged, Uchinaa Pop (or Okinawan Pop) was known for blending traditional Ryukyu folk influences with American pop, rock and other Western genres. Some examples of popular Uchinaa Pop groups include Rinken Band—fusing folk music, pop and celebratory *eisā* traditions to make ballads and dance tunes since the 1980s, BEGIN—incorporating the sanshin and Okinawan melodies into their music since the 1990s, as well as *Ryukyu Underground*—remixing existing traditional folk songs as well as creating original electronic dance music composition since the 2000s. Uchinaa Pop

undoubtedly paved the way for the 21st century musical phenomenon we are currently witnessing, known as Neo-Ryukyu.

Both of these Okinawan-born genres of fusion music are special in that they blend the mellow chords of the sanshin and the unique vocal techniques Okinawan music is known for—with modern pop, rock, electronic sounds and most recently, hip hop. Some experimental tracks gather inspiration from classic minyo and shima uta songs, in some cases they feature samples of those classic tunes recorded back in the day. The lyrics—sung in a mixture of Uchināguchi, Japanese and English—highlight the artists’ cultural identity, their emotional connection to their homeland, its people and their ancestors, evoking a nostalgia for the simplicity of island life. With Neo-Ryukyu being rooted in hip-hop, artists are taking the opportunity to write lyrics that call attention to Okinawa’s complex political history and addressing the island’s ongoing issues, with the goal of educating, sparking dialogue and inspiring social change.

Behind this new sub-genre of Okinawan music is a group of up-and-coming local artists, along with a new record label, who have been actively collaborating to preserve and evolve Okinawa’s musical traditions, while also introducing the island’s presence to the global music scene.





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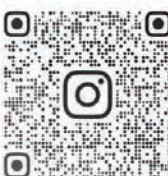


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@CAFE_MOIMOI_OKINAWA





Daichi Komiya and Ega are the owners of the clothing and lifestyle brand, record label and café all operating under the name Big Knot—which represents the intertwining of three countries on Okinawa. The couple was already involved in the local music scene as dancer, DJ, avid collectors of Ryukyu folk records and organizers of various music events. When they came to the realization that the folk song world was in turmoil, they decided to take matters into their own hands and create an initiative themselves.

“Our main focus is folk songs that have a strong cultural identity. We want to introduce and preserve our identity in a way that resonates with the modern era. I think Okinawan, Japanese and American cultures are deeply intertwined. We were raised in this environment, so the blend of these three cultures forms what we call “*champurū culture*.” This mixture defines our cultural identity,” said Ega-san.

In 2021, they released their first collaborative production, a cover of the Okinawan folk song arrangement of Bob Marley’s

classic “No Woman, No Cry” by Okinawan rapper CHOUJI featuring Nēnēs, a popular Okinawan folk group. With the concept of the music video inspired by *moashibi*, traditional Ryukyu field or beach parties, gatherings where folk songs, instrument skills, dances, folktales and other cultural traditions were passed along.

Big Knot Records became official in 2023 and have released ten songs so far, alongside stunning music videos. What sets them apart from other labels in the industry and what makes their songs so important is the effort they put into using traditional music properly, as only people who are deeply connected to Okinawa’s music scene can.

Ryukyu classical musician Kuniko has been spearheading this initiative alongside them and when asked about the fusion between folk songs and hip-hop she shared, “Rather than the music itself, it’s about the connection between people. Folk songs and hip-hop may be different genres, but at their core, they share the same roots. Folk songs are also about improvising and playing together with others.”

DVAM KARAOKE JAM

KAHOOT TRIVIA &
GRAND FINALE PRIZES!

North vs South:

The Palms
Camp Hansen
10/3

Ocean Breeze
Camp Foster
10/17

Grand Finale:

Ocean Breeze
Camp Foster
10/24

Doors open 6 p.m.

This event is FREE and open to SOFA individuals 18+.
Competitors must register via Eventbrite before October 1 (North) and October 15 (South).
Spectators must register by October 1 (North), October 15 (South) and October 22 (Finale).



MARINE
& Family

Family
Advocacy
Program

For more information call 645-2915
or email fapprevention@usmc.mil.
www.okinawa.usmc-mccs.org/fap



Indulge your sweet tooth at

58 SWEETS

Foster Library

Open Daily, 10 a.m.–7 p.m



The feedback from locals, young people, second- and third-generation Okinawans in the diaspora, military personnel currently on island and those that left a piece of their heart on the island, has been nothing but positive. Comments on social media describe the songs as innovative, easy to listen to and nostalgic.

“I think there are also aspects of the music that people haven’t heard before,” shared Ega-san.

Music is a universal language that speaks to the human experience, transcending cultural boundaries and acting as a powerful connector. The same way minyo, shimauta and Uchinaa Pop songs make up an important part of Okinawan history, so will Neo-Ryukyu songs.

“We are focusing on the theme of inheritance and creation for the

next generation, exploring what we can pass on while striving to create something that resonates today,” reflected Kuniko.

You can support their efforts to preserve and evolve Okinawan music by listening to their songs on your preferred music listening platform, stopping by Big Knot Clothing & Cafe near Araha Beach in Chatan or visiting bigknot.jp.

At this moment in time, we find ourselves in an unprecedented era where East Asian music (J-Pop, K-Pop) is topping the global charts and being embraced by people around the world. And while South Korea and mainland Japan are at the forefront, it’s evident that Okinawa is not far behind. Here is a list of Okinawan artists active in the Neo-Ryukyu musical fusion movement that we recommend you check out.

ARAHA YUNTA

KINAMI & KUNIKO



AWICH is an Okinawan rapper, singer and songwriter, born in Naha City. She is considered the Queen of Japanese Hip-Hop and known for her unique blend of Okinawan roots, J-Rap and Josei Rap—a sub-genre of Japanese Hip-Hop performed by women for women. She is also recognized for her powerful storytelling, gaining popularity in and out of Japan.

Grace Aimi is a pop singer and songwriter, born on Okinawa to an American father and an American/Okinawan biracial mother. She is known for her happy, retro and laidback island vibe, soulful vocals with a hint of R&B that blend Okinawan, Japanese and American influences and her empowering messages.

CHOUJI is an Okinawan rapper, born on Ishigaki Island. He is recognized for his unique style that blends traditional Okinawan sounds with modern hip-hop, introspective lyrics and his ability to create a distinct sound through his music. He is also known for his hands-on approach which include writing, recording, mastering in his own studio, distributing as well as designing pieces to market his releases.

OZworld is an Okinawan rapper, born in Kadena Town. He is known for creating a distinctive futuristic and dark fantasy world that matches his post-goth look and while it may clash with his melodic rapping style makes for a unique musical experience. His work also incorporates Okinawan and Japanese culture with influences from American pop culture and has been featured in anime soundtracks.

KUNIKO is an Okinawan singer, sanshin player and DJ. She is recognized for her efforts in preserving, evolving and passing on Ryukyu folk songs for the generations to come. Her inspiring and collaborative work is a testament to her commitment to both conserve Okinawa’s musical heritage while also pushing its boundaries and creating something fresh.





TOYS



**MUSICAL
INSTRUMENTS**



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**VINYL
RECORDS**



AND MORE...



SECOND HAND SHOP
MANGA SOUKO

2024.2 OPEN! MANGA SOUKO NAGO

479-5 Biimata, Nago City, Okinawa Pref.
OPEN 9 A.M. - 10 P.M [Open all year round]

NAHA

3-1-12 Takara, Naha City, Okinawa Pref.
MAIN BUILDING OPEN 9 A.M. - midnight [Open all year round]
ANNEX OPEN 9 A.M. - 9 P.M. [Open all year round]

URASOE

2689-1 Gusukuma, Urasoe City, Okinawa Pref.
OPEN 9 A.M. - midnight [Open all year round]

AWASE

3-13-1 Yogi, Okinawa City, Okinawa Pref.
OPEN 9 A.M. - midnight [Open all year round]

お宝発見
マンガ倉庫
19th Anniversary

Have we convinced you to give Neo-Ryukyu a listen? We've put together a playlist of some of our favorite tracks by our featured artists. lol

RYUKYU REMIX

THIS MONTH

ORDER #0001 FOR OKINAWA LIVING MAGAZINE
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2025

QTY	ITEM	AMT
1	OKI DOKI Bigknot Records, Chouji, Grace Aimi	5:05
2	ARAH YUNTA KUNIKO, Kinami	3:52
3	Tinsagu Nu Hana KUNIKO, MuKuRo, OZworld	3:55
4	RASEN in OKINAWA Awich, Tsubaki, OZworld, CHICO	4:49
5	OKINAWA BOUNCE Matt Cab, (feat. ネーネーズ)	2:39
6	No Woman No Cry BLAQ FLAVOR, Chouji, ネーネーズ	4:32
7	Shonganee BLAQ FLAVOR, Kuniko, RITTO, OZworld	3:29
8	TOYOMU KUNIKO, Chouji	5:00
9	Ryukyuaika Remix Awich	3:50
10	Ryukyu Style CHICO CARLITO	3:53



Scan the QR above to
listen on Spotify.



BANZAI BANANA

The Freshest OKINAWAN Banana Smoothie!!

Sugar-free

Mihama

Yomitan

Ashibinaa outlet



CAMP KINSER REVERSE TRIATHLON

SEPTEMBER 14

5km Run | 15km Bike | 400m Swim

Check-In: 6:30–7:30 a.m. | Mandatory Brief: 7:35 a.m. | Start: 8:05 a.m.

Team (with t-shirt) **\$120** | Team (without t-shirt) **\$30**
 Individual (with t-shirt) **\$50** | Individual (without t-shirt) **\$10**

Register on Eventbrite by **September 10** (11:30 p.m.) for SOFA and **September 3** (Non-SOFA).
 Open to participants island wide ages 12 and older.

MC CS SEMPER FIT



Experience Holiday Magic...

...at Tokyo Disney

There's no better place to enjoy the most magical time of the year than at Tokyo Disney! There's also no better gift than experiences and creating precious memories. Whether you're a parent wishing to create memories that will last a lifetime alongside their kiddos, a couple wanting a romantic escape or simply a Disney-lover looking to treat yo' self to a few days full of Mickey-magic, you should add this tour to your gift list this holiday season!

Tokyo Disney Resort will be dressed in its holiday best with festive decorations and will be pulling out all the stops with seasonal entertainment, treats and exclusive merchandise that will put you and the whole family in a Yuletide mood.

Need more convincing? The MCCS Tours+ Holiday Magic at Disney Tour will take place from December 23 to 26 and will include roundtrip airfare, transportation, hotel accommodations at the Sheraton Grande Hotel Tokyo Bay (with breakfast included), two-day passes to both Tokyo Disneyland and Disney-Sea parks as well as tour assistants. To register visit Tours+ on Camps Foster, Hansen or Schwab before October 15.

For more information on this tour, including pricing, as well as other MCCS Tours+ on and off island offerings, visit www.okinawa.usmc-mccs.org/tours. **10L**

Kinser Festival

The Spirit of *Ichariba Chōde*

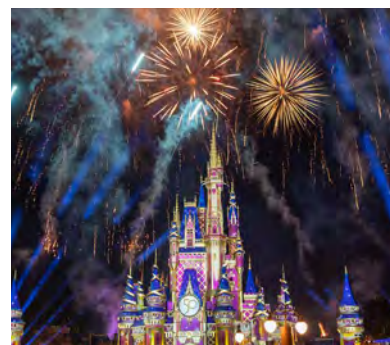
Summer is almost over and that means it's time for Kinser Festival! Gather up the whole family, jump in the car and head down to Camp Kinser for a two-day fun-filled event taking place on Saturday, September 6 and Sunday, September 7 from 1 to 9 p.m., both days. This year's Kinser Festival theme is "ichariba chōde," an Okinawan expression that roughly translates to "once we meet, we are family (or friends) for life." This saying embodies the wishes of fostering friendship between visiting service members and the local community.

The festival will be offering entertainment for the whole family including a military static display, MCCS Fun Land rides and of course, food! The festival fare will include MCCS food trucks as well as a variety of local food trucks. This year's festivities will also introduce a brand-new activity—S.K.A.T.E.

featuring freestyle sessions and professional skating demonstrations. A skate park will be set up on festival grounds with FREE gear rental, and the main competition—S.K.A.T.E.—will pit skaters against each other matching trick for trick in a basketball H.O.R.S.E-style format. Pre-registration for the competition is required.

Exciting, FREE LIVE performances are also on tap at this year's Kinser Festival! Saturday's headliner, Grammy nominated rapper, singer, songwriter and record-producer B.o.B, will hit the stage at 7 p.m. Sunday's headliner is J-Pop/R&B sensation Crystal Kay performing at 7:30 p.m.

Kinser Festival is FREE and open to all DoD ID card holders, Japanese and American citizens; access to the festival will be through Gate 2. For more information on this event, visit www.okinawa.usmc-mccs.org/festivals. **10L**





Lunch
& Sweets
Buffet

Fairies OF THE Emerald Realm

Enchanting Melodies
from the Forest to the Sea

2025 5/24^{SAT} – 9/23^{TUE}

SAT SUN MON P.H.

DoubleTree by Hilton Okinawa Chatan Resort (2F) Restaurant "MaTiira"

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TEL 098-901-4600 FAX 098-901-4601

TIME 12:00~14:30 **PRICE** Adult ¥4,500/Child ¥1,500 [6-12]
*L.O. 13:45 *Price includes tax and service charge



MaTiira
Restaurant

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OKINAWA CHATAN RESORT

Adult Martial Arts Classes

Karate, Jiu-Jitsu & More

Okinawa is the birthplace of karate and there's no better time or place to give martial arts a try than now! Whether you're a newbie or a seasoned veteran looking to brush up your skills, Semper Fit has got you covered with a wide range of classes—including karate!

The Setkudo Mixed Martial Arts class offers a blend of kickboxing, muay thai, karate and capoeira, for those looking to dip their toes and try all of these martial arts. For Okinawan-style martial arts, the Shorin Ryu Karate class teaches fast techniques of evasion and powerful pin-point attacks, while the Isshin-ryu Karate class teaches in-close techniques necessary for self-protection. The Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu class teaches grappling and ground fighting to subdue an opponent without striking them and the Japanese-style Aiki-Jujutsu class teaches how to use an opponent's strength against them, rather than blocking or stopping them.

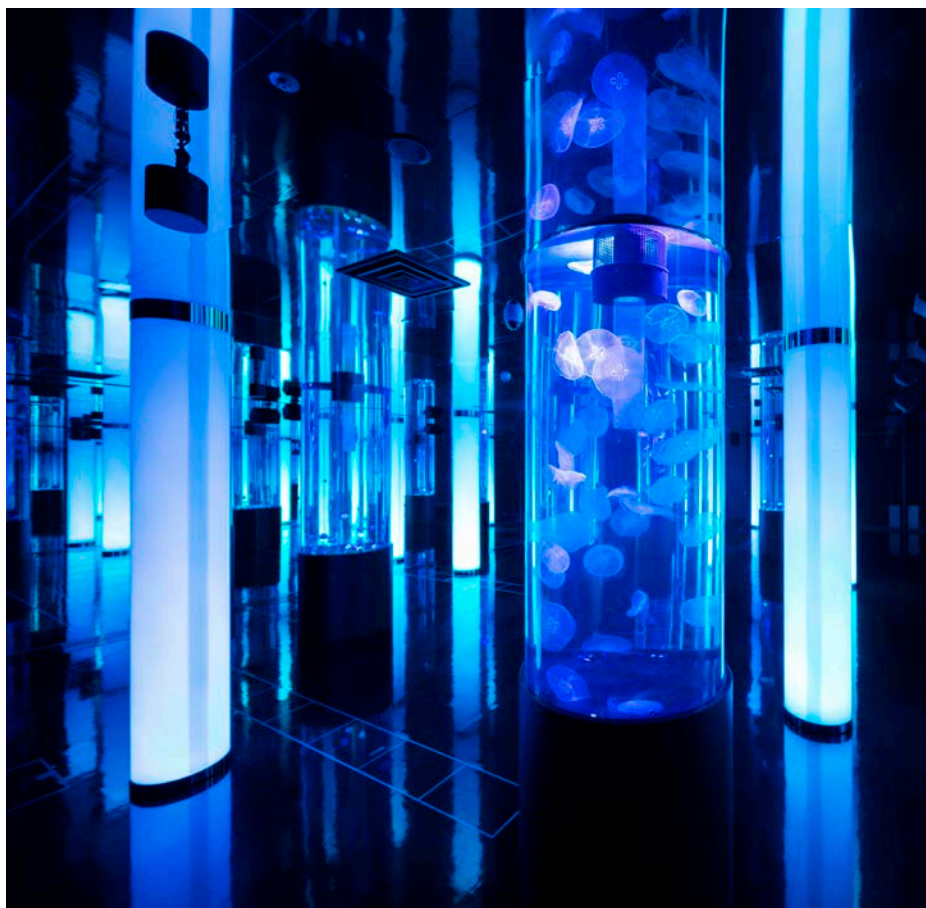
For more information on adult martial arts classes, including fees, instructors, locations and class schedules, visit www.okinawa.usmc-mccs.org/martialarts, call 645-3985 or email fitnesscenters@okinawa.usmc-mccs.org. **101**

Camp Kinser Reverse Triathlon

Goggles, Spokes & Shoes

On Sunday, September 14, clean and de-fog your swimming goggles, check the spokes and tires on your bicycle, don your best running shoes and join Semper Fit for the Camp Kinser Reverse Triathlon. Both SOFA ID card holders and non-SOFA participants ages 12 and older will swim (400m), bike (15km) and run (5km) Kinser's course, which starts at the Kinser Aquatic Center and cuts its way across base in a series of long straightaways perfect for gaining speed and breaking away from the pack. It is bound to be a beautiful, hot Okinawan day, but the competition will be even hotter, with awards going to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in each division and age category.

Interested? Head to Eventbrite and register by September 10 (11:30 p.m.) for \$50 (individuals with t-shirt); \$10 (individuals without t-shirt); \$120 (team with t-shirt) or \$30 (team without t-shirt). For more information on the Camp Kinser Reverse Triathlon, visit www.okinawa.usmc-mccs.org/adultsports or facebook.com/mccsokinawa.sempersfit. If you have questions, please email adultsports@okinawa.usmc-mccs.org or call 637-1869. **101**



Oceanic Adventures...

...on the DMM Kariyushi Aquarium & Toyosaki Chura SUN Beach Tour

Enjoy a day of fun, relaxation and wonder with MCCS Tours+ on the DMM Kariyushi Aquarium & Toyosaki Chura SUN Beach Tour! This excursion, which takes place on September 13 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., begins at DMM Kariyushi Aquarium—Okinawa's newest destination for experiencing sea life on dry land. This aquarium is unique in that it mixes both virtual and real sea creatures in a brand-new experience that the whole family will enjoy.

The entire second floor of DMM Kariyushi Aquarium is home to freshwater fish, reptiles, amphibians and more from a variety of different ecosystems. The "main course" of DMM Kariyushi Aquarium is, of course, the largest tank in the facility, which sports a glass roof you can step on, a large window and smaller circular windows, offering views of schools of Indian mackerel, rays, larger sharks, snappers, groupers and much, much more—including a virtual encounter with a giant squid over 18 meters in length and living in waters at depths of over 500 meters!

After touring the aquarium, enjoy lunch at one of the restaurants inside the adjacent Iias Okinawa Mall before moving on to the relaxing and unwinding portion of the day, unless you prefer partaking in marine activities, at one of the island's premier beaches—Toyosaki Chura SUN Beach.

Those wishing to swim should bring a swimsuit, towel, change of clothes, beach sandals and sunscreen. All participants should bring yen for lunch, snacks, marine sports/activities (if desired), locker/shower use at the beach and souvenirs. For more information on this tour, and other upcoming MCCS Tours+ offerings, email tours@okinawa.usmc-mccs.org, call 646-3502 or visit www.okinawa.usmc-mccs.org/tours. **101**

September is NATIONAL YOGA MONTH



Join us all month long to honor the art of mindfulness, flexibility and strength with existing yoga classes at our fitness centers!

📍 **Camp Foster**
Gunners
Fitness Center

📍 **Camp Courtney**
Ironworks
Fitness Center

📍 **Camp Hansen**
House of Pain
Fitness Center

📍 **MCAS Futenma**
Futenma
McCutcheon
Fitness Center



MCCS
SEMPER FIT

This event is **FREE** and open to all with base access ages **18+**. We encourage and support the participation of individuals of all abilities.

Please contact MCCS Health Promotion at mccshealthpromotions@okinawa.usmc-mccs.org if you need any assistance or require accommodation. For more information, visit www.okinawa.usmc-mccs.org/fitnesscenters.

SEPTEMBER IS...

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

Marines, Sailors and family members, you are never alone.

Fight the stigma. Learn about available resources around mental health and suicide prevention at fitness centers on Camps Kinser, Foster, Courtney, Hansen, Schwab and MCAS Futenma or online.

MCCS
SEMPER FIT

645-3910
mccshealthpromotions@okinawa.usmc-mccs.org
facebook.com/mccsokinawa.semperfit
www.okinawa.usmc-mccs.org/healthpromotion



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Triathlon Training Plans and Coaching

Tailor Your Prep

Getting started with triathlon training can be overwhelming... after all you have not one but *three* sports to train for. Not sure where to begin? Well, the Camp Foster Aquatic Center will be offering Triathlon Training Plans and Coaching this year!

Training plans include an 8-to-12-week course with swimming, biking and/or running workouts designed to get you to the start line in peak condition. Plans are customizable to your preference and will be delivered online so you can access them anywhere, anytime. Additionally, weekly communication with a coach is included. One-on-one coaching

sessions will be 30-minutes long and include swimming, cycling, running, or related triathlon skills based upon your needs!

Triathlon Training Plans and Coaching are available to SOFA-status adults and youths ages 13 and older. Registration required via Eventbrite. For more information, visit www.okinawa.usmc-mccs.org/aquatics.

We encourage and support the participation of individuals of all abilities. Please call 645-3180 and/or email mccsaquatics@okinawa.usmc-mccs.org if you need assistance or require an accommodation. **!OL**

North/South CC Golf Tournament

Putt for the Win!

Although summer is nearing the end, the Commanding General's and Camp Commanders Cup Programs are bringing the heat at Taiyo Golf Club with two FREE golf tournaments.

All active-duty Marines and Sailors from eligible units on Camps Kinser, Foster and MCAS Futenma, save the date for the Southern Camp Commander's Cup Golf Tournament happening on October 1 to demonstrate your best drives and prove why you're the reigning champ of the links.

And for active-duty Marines and Sailors from eligible units from Camps Courtney,

Hansen and Schwab—mark your calendars for October 2 and get ready to show off your best putts for the Northern Camp Commander's Cup Golf Tournament.

Both events are FREE for eligible Marines and Sailors looking to compete against their fellow comrade-in-arms. Awards will be given to 1st and 2nd place teams. Register for either tournament via Eventbrite by September 26 at 1 p.m. For more information, visit www.okinawa.usmc-mccs.org/adultsports or email adultsports@okinawa.usmc-mccs.org. **!OL**

Hansen POW/MIA 5K

Remembering and Raising Awareness

National POW/MIA Recognition Day was established to raise awareness for United States personnel missing and unaccounted for during the Vietnam War (and has since expanded to cover personnel from all conflicts). Diligent efforts by POW/MIA advocates for the improved treatment and response concerning American prisoners of war and those missing in action over the years have played a large role in helping the American government to improve its efforts in resolving the fates of missing service members and bring peace of mind to U.S. personnel, families and friends alike.

To raise awareness for POW/MIA's cause to resolve the fates of these service members, MCCS Semper Fit will be hosting a POW/MIA 5k Run on September 19, at 8:05 a.m. FREE and open to runners 16 and older island wide, the POW/MIA 5k will start at the Camp Hansen House of Pain Fitness Center. Registration will take place the morning of the race at the House of Pain from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. For more information, call 623-5558 or visit www.okinawa.usmc-mccs.org/adultsports. **!OL**



NICE TO MEAT YOU

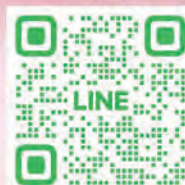
yakiniku with UME(plum)



▼ web site ▼



▼ LINE ▼



- LOCATION -

MIHAMA - chatan

ISO - urasoe

TOMITON - toyoaki

Table Order Buffet

ALL YOU CAN EAT

Yakiniku Restaurant

we are OPEN 365 days! we can't wait to welcome you!



okinawa goen



Free Parking



Credit Card OK



▼ WEB site ▼



焼肉
五苑

Auto Care Workshop

Essential Skills for Vehicle Maintenance

Knowing how to handle the basics of vehicle maintenance comes in handy when you least expect it. After all, cars are the main mode of transportation on island, and changing a flat tire, topping off your windshield washer fluid or changing your oil are some key components every driver behind the wheel should know about.

Feel like you don't know the basics or need a refresher course to boost your confidence? Join Marine Corps Family Team Building (MCFTB) as they collaborate with Typhoon Motors to bring you Auto Care Workshop: Essential Skills for Vehicle Maintenance. This workshop is FREE and open to SOFA-status personnel.

This hands-on program aims to equip participants with essential automotive maintenance skills to enhance vehicle safety and reliability from experienced professionals. The workshop will cover a range of maintenance topics through interactive learning and practical exercises. Knowledge obtained from this course for basic maintenance tasks will ensure that vehicles are working at their optimal potential. Participants will receive comprehensive materials including handouts to support ongoing learning. Lessons from this workshop can be applied to real-life situations.

The next course will be held on Tuesday, September 16 from 1 to 4 p.m. at Camp Hansen Typhoon Motors. Registration is required via Eventbrite. For more information, visit www.okinawa.usmc-mccs.org/mcftb. **101**



Family Member Employment Assistance Program

Civilian Employment Bootcamp Workshop

Are you a military spouse seeking employment while stationed on Okinawa or an active-duty service member stationed on Camps Hansen or Schwab looking to trade your boots for a briefcase in the near future? Maybe a contractor or a DoD civilian looking for a change? If so, the Family Member Employment Assistance Program (FMEAP) is here to help. Join them at their monthly Civilian Employment Bootcamp Workshops where they provide relevant resources for eligible participants as they prepare for post-military life or to accelerate their civilian careers.

At these condensed workshops, attendants will learn about resume writing, the Federal Government employment process, interview skills and how to translate their military experi-

ence into future civilian careers. This is a great opportunity to gain valuable skills and insights before diving into your job-seeking journey.

The next workshop session will take place on September 30 at Bldg. 2339 on Camp Hansen from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. and Bldg. 3000 on Camp Schwab from 1 to 4 p.m. Workshops are offered on both camps, in-person and virtually. Register via Eventbrite or by calling 645-5074. If you need any assistance or require an accommodation, call 645-2104.

For more information on the Civilian Employment Bootcamp Workshops, including future workshop dates, as well as other offerings from FMEAP, visit www.okinawa.usmc-mccs.org/fmeap or email mcbb_fmeap@usmc.mil. **101**

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Depot Island Seaside Bldg. 4F Lunch 11:30 - 15:00 (L.O. 14:30)
Dinner 17:00 - 22:00 (L.O. 21:15)

Korean Dining with Okinawan flair!

Shop's Most Popular
Samgyeopsal

인기 메뉴

Sundubu-jjigae

Angus Beef
Stone-roasted
Bibimbap

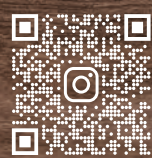
Cold Naengmyeon
Noodles with Plum

Savor our Okinawan Agu Pork and Beef Ribs Samgyeopsal!



Korean Izakaya Ame-no Oto

Distortion Seaside Bldg. 2F TEL 098-923-1511
OPEN DAILY 11:30~15:00 (L.O. 14:30) 17:00~23:00 (L.O. 22:00)



terrace seating available



September is National Yoga Month

Flow with MCCA Health Promotion

Tracing back over 5,000 years in ancient India, yoga is a physical, mental and spiritual practice that focuses on the inner workings of self—connecting the mind, body and spirit. “Yoga” is derived from the Indo-Aryan language of Sanskrit with its origin root word “*yuj*” meaning “to yoke” or “to unite.” In recent years, the practice has grown increasingly in popularity and is now practiced around the world in various formats thanks to its numerous physical and mental benefits.

September is designated as National Yoga Month and what better way to drop down into the flow than with MCCA Health Promotion as they celebrate with various yoga sessions at MCCA Fitness Centers on Camps Kinser, Foster, Courtney, Hansen and MCAS Futen-

ma. Whether you’re a beginner looking to find your balance or a seasoned yogi mastering each asana, every class offers something for everyone at their own level and pace. Explore the ancient world of Vedic wisdom and discover the health benefits of yoga for your mind and body while connecting with a supportive community. Don’t miss this opportunity to prioritize your wellness and embrace the power of yoga through honoring the art of mindfulness, flexibility and strength.

Classes will be offered throughout the duration of the month and are absolutely FREE and open to all with base access 18 years of age or older. No registration is required. For more information, contact MCCA Health Promotion at 645-3910 or visit www.okinawa.usmc-mcca.org/healthpromotion. **101**

MCFTB Presents...

...the Premarital Seminar

Looking to improve connections with your partner? After all, learning about the valuable resources offered by MCCA is a great place to start understanding your new life before tying the knot.

The Marine Corps Family Team Building (MCFTB) team is here to help make your military life a lot simpler with the Premarital Seminar—perfect for couples preparing to marry soon or just wanting to ensure a successful transition into married life.

This seminar will be held on the second Friday of every month at 8 a.m. at Ocean Breeze on Camp Foster. At this informative event, participants will learn about the procedures for marrying in Japan and neighboring countries, with an overview of key family programs and resources also being provided. Participants will also gain insight into important benefits such as IPAC services, TRICARE and legal support. Additionally, the seminar offers valuable information on immigration procedures, financial partnerships and effective communication strategies that are essential for building a strong foundation for marriage in a military environment.

Don’t miss this opportunity to invest in your personal development and build the skills necessary for nurturing fulfilling relationships after learning about the resources available in your new journey as a spouse. Sessions are completely FREE with registration required via Eventbrite. For more information on the Premarital Seminar and other MCFTB offerings, visit www.okinawa.usmc-mcca.org/mcftb. **101**



OCTOBER 4-5
1-9 P.M.

MILITARY AIRCRAFT STATIC DISPLAY
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
FUN LAND RIDES
CAR SHOW
FOOD



This event is FREE and open to DoD ID card holders, Japanese and American citizens. Do not bring outside alcohol, pets, glass bottles, coolers or large bags.

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*No DoD, Marine Corps or MC CS endorsement intended or implied.



Mental Health & Suicide Awareness:

Every Marine, Every Day

September is Mental Health and Suicide Awareness Month, a time to highlight year-round efforts to reduce stigmas, promote an environment in which seeking help is accepted and—most importantly—ensure that Marines and families know they are never alone.

Adverse mental health is shaped by a range of factors, including biology, operational stress, trauma and family history. Problems can be further impacted by common stressors such as relationship challenges, legal or workplace issues and existing mental health conditions.

Mental health directly impacts readiness, resilience and unit cohesion. In 2023, 523 U.S. service members died by suicide—61 of them were Marines. Most were junior enlisted (E1–E4), and nearly 65% of all cases involved

firearms. These challenges can affect anyone, regardless of rank or MOS.

If you, or someone you know, is struggling, dial 988 (from a DSN line or stateside cell phone) and then press 1 or 098-970-8255 (from a local cell phone) to be connected with a trained counselor who understands the unique challenges faced by service members and their loved ones. This lifeline is confidential and available 24/7. Those wishing to reach out via chat can visit 988lifeline.org. Remember, reaching out is a sign of strength.

For more resources, tools, and educational content, connect with the MCCS Health Promotion team on Facebook at facebook.com/mccsokinawa.semperfit, or email them directly at mccshealthpromotions@okinawa.usmc-mccs.org. **101**

9/11 Remembrance Day Yoga

Reflect and Remember

Although the tragedy of September 11, 2001 occurred 24 years ago, the impacts of this horrific event has lasted permanently—with airport security, building safety standards and national security becoming tighter in the aftermath. Alongside these changes, over 2,977 lives were lost which brought together the nation to mourn, pray and remember the fallen every year since. Those who have fallen will never be forgotten as every anniversary we take the time to remember them.

This year, pay your respects with a 9/11 Remembrance Day Yoga group fitness event on September 11 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30

p.m. at the House of Pain Fitness Center on Camp Hansen and the Semper Fit Fitness Center on MCAS Futenma and on September 13 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at Gunners Fitness Center on Camp Foster. All sessions are FREE and are open to all with base access. Patrons ages 12–17 may attend with a parent or legal guardian present with Youth Gym Authorization.

For more information, call 645-3910, email mccshealthpromotions@okinawa.usmc-mccs.org, or visit www.okinawa.usmc-mccs.org/healthpromotion. **101**

Emergency Disaster Preparedness

Plan Ahead & Stay Informed

Typhoon season is in full swing, and with it comes the reminder that emergencies can happen at any time. Whether it is a typhoon, an earthquake, or another possibly hazardous event, the Emergency Family Assistance Center (EFAC) stands ready to help families recover and restore stability.

EFAC services are designed to meet a wide range of urgent needs including crisis counseling, grief and trauma support, chaplain services, family notification coordination through the American Red Cross, translation support with dual Japanese and English speakers, access to internet, telephones, computers and short-term rest areas, legal aid, refreshments and connection to installation support services and referral to other helping agencies such as Navy Marine Corps Relief Society.

Once activated, the EFAC becomes the central hub for coordinating emergency non-medical family assistance and non-combatant repatriation support during an authorized or ordered departure from overseas.

For more information on EFAC and other vital information regarding emergency disaster preparedness, visit www.okinawa.usmc-mccs.org/typhoon. **101**





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Sweet Treats...

...at MCCS Clubs

A well-deserved indulgence adds a little extra joy to your day, and we *all* deserve to treat ourselves every once in a while. Whether its candy picked out at the convenience store, a scoop of *chinsuko* ice cream or a freshly baked pastry, these sweet morsels of deliciousness act as a form of self-care, allowing us to pause and enjoy life's simple pleasures. Sweet treats have a unique way of lifting our mood, offering a break from routine and satisfying cravings. They are a reminder that we deserve to experience the happiness that the little things in life provide. Now we all know the importance of maintaining balance, savoring your favorite sweets occasionally can be a practice of self-love. And boy do MCCS Clubs have some delicious treats!

Stop by 58 Sweets on Camp Foster and

spoil yourself with delightful desserts including an assortment of French macarons with flavors like vanilla, chocolate, salted caramel, coffee, red velvet, birthday cake, coconut and more! There are also various cakes to choose from as well as refreshing frozen yogurt (with several sweet topping choices). Pair your pick of dessert with a rich espresso or a creamy café latte while you peruse the Foster Library shelves.

For a change of pace from the traditional ice cream, La Cocina at Camp Kinser's Surfside offers creamy, cool and decadent flan that transports you to Mexico with their *simplemente deliciosa* flavors.

At TERRA on Camp Foster indulge in an unapologetically decadent slice of coconut bliss. Bite after bite of the four-layer cake will feel like sinking into a sweet

cloud as the layers melt in your mouth giving way to a creamy coconut flavor that is pure heaven.

At Bulldogs Burgers—with locations on Camps Kinser, Foster, Courtney, Schwab, Hansen (coming soon) and MCAS Futenma—you can cool down with a classic milkshake available in chocolate, vanilla, strawberry and coffee flavors that'll bring back cool nostalgic memories with the family.

Inside Globe & Anchor on Camp Foster, choose from one their delectable desserts like warm crisp à la mode made with freshly sliced apples baked with a cinnamon oat crumble and topped with vanilla ice cream.

Treat yo' self to a sweet treat! For more information on MCCS Club and Restaurant offerings, hours of operation, locations and more visit www.okinawa.usmc-mccs.org/clubs. **101**



SHISA PIZZA

CAMP FOSTER

Bowling Center (Bldg. 5670)
098-970-1599 / 645-1599

CAMP COURTNEY

Bowling Center (Bldg. 4234)
098-954-7365 / 622-7365



Dinner and a Show...

...with MCCS Tours+

The Ryukyu Islands have their own culture and identity—separate from the other prefectures of Japan—due to the contact and trade they had with surrounding nations, which influenced everything from the food to styles of dance. The best place to experience the latter is at the Urashima Dinner Theater in Naha, where certified dancers offer audience members an overview of the different Okinawan dance styles, in the form of ten dance numbers.

The best part? Urashima offers dinner and a show, which means you won't go hungry while watching the performances. There are several dinner courses available; the Okinawan course delivers a taste of the Ryukyu Kingdom utilizing high quality ingredients prepared by a skilled chef. The Okinawan/Japanese course offers a little bit of both worlds, and the American course offers a more Western fare including a few steak options and lobster. A vegan course is also available.

The next Urashima Dinner Theater tour will take place September 19 from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Prices for adults are \$86 (with half lobster), \$72 (without lobster) and \$81 (vegan). Prices for children are \$46 (3–12) and FREE for kids under 3 (no meal included). Cancellations to this tour must be made at least three days in advance.

Can't make the date? You can also pick your own! There are two performances daily (7–7:30 p.m. & 8–8:30 p.m.) with a seating time of 6:30 p.m. and tickets are available at Tours+ locations on Camps Foster, Hansen and Schwab. Cancellations must be made at least 48 hours in advance by calling 646-3502. Pricing information, and the full menu is available at www.okinawa.usmc-mccs.org/tours.

For more information on the Urashima Dinner Theater tour or other Tours+ offerings, email tours@okinawa.usmc-mccs.org or call 646-3502. **101**

Hungry?

How About Bulldogs Burgers?

Looking for a new go-to spot on base for when you're extra hungry? How does a juicy burger or a delectable hot dog sound? If you haven't tried Bulldogs Burgers—with locations on Camps Kinser, Foster, Courtney, Hansen (coming soon!), Schwab and MCAS Futenma—what are you waiting for?

Bulldogs Burgers offers a variety of burgers topped with fresh lettuce, tomato, red onion (or grilled onions) and their special Devil Dog sauce in between two freshly baked buns. For the plant-based/vegetarians looking for the occasional indulgent eats, there's the Beyond Burger as well as the option to substitute any beef patty for the Beyond Burger patty for only \$2.

Although the name only mentions burgers, Bulldogs' menu also includes sandwiches, hot dogs and salads. If you're more of a chicken sandwich person, they've got you covered.

With appetizing and satiating options for everyone, Bulldogs Burgers is a one-stop-shop that will fulfill all your burger and hot dog cravings. All Bulldogs Burgers are available as a combo that includes a choice of French fries, sweet potato fries or onion petals and a fountain drink. To see the full menu, hours of operation, phone numbers and location information, visit www.okinawa.usmc-mccs.org/bulldogs. **101**





All About the Options

New Menu Items at TERRA

Text by: Mike Daley | Photography by: Mia Cox

One of the best parts about dining out—other than not having to worry about prep, clean-up and the occasional “Are we having *that* again?!”—is options. When dining out, you can choose from familiar and comforting fare or dare to be more adventurous with cuisine from faraway lands. From exotic Thai curries and refreshing Greek salads to creamy Middle Eastern hummus and goodness from Down Under—the sky’s the limit!

TERRA, located on Camp Foster is one of the best places to go when you’re looking for as many different cuisine choices under the same roof—from “taste of home” comfort foods such as smoked brisket and juicy steaks to something a little more innovative like Thai Shrimp Pasta or Pineapple Curry Chicken Salad. The only thing better than such a wide array of options is... well, *new options*.

New is good. New things are exciting; they broaden one’s horizons and chase away the humdrums. Not satisfied with the fusing of ingredients and cooking methods of different cultures and countries to produce exciting and delicious goodies for your taste buds, TERRA is taking “new” to a newer, higher level.

TERRA has now introduced all-new delights to their menu that are leaving-the-stratosphere-delicious while leaving prices firmly footed on terra firma. And no, these are not freeze-dried entrées with sauces prepared afar and shipped frozen to be warmed before serving; TERRA remains an establishment that allows the culinary prowess of MCCS’ executive chefs to shine and bedazzle diners with the freshest ingredients.

Most of their new arrivals are meticulously engineered to do one thing—knock your socks off! The Australian Burger, a new edition to TERRA’s Handheld lineup is a perfect example, touting itself as a “down under delight stacked with a juicy

patty, grilled pineapple, pickled beet, a fried egg, bacon, lettuce, tomato, BBQ sauce and the spirit of the outback... this burger doesn’t just walk about—it *struts* about!”

The Greek Salad with Grilled Chicken is “a Mediterranean masterpiece—chopped cucumbers, imported olives, red onion, chickpeas, cherry tomatoes and feta cheese, all drizzled with a zesty lemon vinaigrette and topped with grilled chicken.”

Those looking for a new addiction that is both healthy and wholesome should go for TERRA’s new Spicy Edamame (soybeans). “Wok-tossed in sesame oil, chili flakes and *shoyu* (soy sauce); it’s a fiery, salty snack that disappears faster than you’d think.” Alongside this new addition to TERRA’s Shareables section is another addictive appetizer—the Blackened Ahi Sashimi. The Blackened Ahi is “sashimi with swagger; blackened, seared ahi served rare with wasabi mustard shoyu and a beurre blanc drizzle. It’s silky, spicy and a little luxurious.”

Not to be outdone, TERRA’s dessert selection has also been revamped. The new Coconut Cake, served in a portion size generous enough to induce a blissful food coma, consists of “four towering layers of house-made coconut bliss. It’s fluffy, rich and unapologetically decadent.”

You’ve probably already (correctly) assumed that this is just the tip of the iceberg that is TERRA’s new and improved menu. Stop by today for breakfast, lunch or dinner to find your new favorite!

TERRA is open daily; breakfast is served 6 to 9 a.m. Monday–Friday with brunch from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Lunch is served Monday–Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and dinner is available daily from 5 to 9 p.m.

To view TERRA’s new menus for breakfast, brunch, lunch and dinner, head to www.okinawa.usmc-mccs.org/terra or stop by for your next meal and taste for yourself! **101**

Location

Camp Foster, Bldg. 9

Website

www.okinawa.usmc-mccs.org/terra

Phone Number

645-1249
098-970-1249

Beach Cleanup

SATURDAY • SEPTEMBER 20

SIGNUPS • 8:30–9 P.M.

CLEANUP • 9–11:30 A.M.

LOCATION: SURFSIDE GRILL & BAR PATIO

In honor of International Coastal Cleanup Day, Okuma invites you to help beautify our beaches! Sign up at the Surfside Grill & Bar patio – supplies will be provided. After the cleanup, participants can enjoy free camping and receive discounts on camping equipment rentals.



****Event and information subject to change.**

Camping with Pets

SEPTEMBER 5–7

\$10 • PER CAMP SPOT

Pet-friendly camping at Hillside Campground and access to West Beach. Sign up at Golf Shack (Bldg. 115). Spaces are limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Restrictions may apply. ****Pets must be properly immunized, and proof of vaccination records are required.**

Haunted Village

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1

HAUNTED HOUSE: 6:30–9 P.M.

LOCATION: SURFSIDE GRILL & BAR PATIO

OPEN GATE: 5–10 P.M.

Get ready for a spooky, fun-filled night at our Haunted Village! Rooms fill up fast — reserve yours before it's too late. Not afraid of the dark? Come find out...if you really aren't.




Okuma Beach

Contact Information:

 KadenaFSS.com/Okuma

 facebook.com/theokumabeach

 @okumabeach

Okuma Beach • 631-1990

Lodging Reservations • 098-962-1990/1991

Surfside Grill & Bar • 098-962-1805

Okuma Outdoor Recreation • 631-1816

Massage Reservations • 090-3795-8688

Thrive, Grow Workshop

Develop a Positive Household Dynamic

Precious moments are to be treasured when raising children. The days are long, but the years are short. One day you're staying up all night changing diapers followed by fully potty training a toddler and the next, they're off to school.

No matter how much preparation goes into being a parent, new challenges will arise as time passes. Although parenting is difficult and every child is unique, there's truly nothing that will quite prepare a parent to be a parent—it's a journey that unfolds as kids age. Firsthand experience is the best way to learn about the trials, tribulations and triumphs of being a successful parent, but the journey can also be a stressful (and sometimes scary) one.

So, what can a parent do in this situation? Well, the Family Advocacy Program will be holding a "Thrive, Grow" workshop on Camp Foster from September 9 until October 7. The workshop will meet every Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. for five weeks to help parents with kids ages 5–10. Participants will learn how to praise and encourage their children in appropriate ways, understand how to help their children manage their emotions, set healthy boundaries, promote physical health as well as manage stress and anger for children and parents towards a positive dynamic within the household.

To register, email fapprevention@usmc.mil or call 645-2915. Registration is also available via Eventbrite. For more information, resources and upcoming Family Advocacy Program classes, visit www.okinawa.usmc-mccs.org/fap. **!OL**



Dive-In Movies...

...at Plaza and McTureous Aquatic Centers

September is here ... and if you're dreaming of a crisp autumnal temperature shift appearing, we're sorry to be the bearer of bad news; the end of hot and humid days is still nowhere in sight—yep, that's summer on subtropical Okinawa. But we've also got good news: we have *just* the event that will help your family to stay cool in these never-ending summer days, an event that'll keep the kiddos entertained while they enjoy some much-needed time together and that is Dive-In Movies!

There will be two Dive-In Movie events this month, so bring the whole family to the McTureous Aquatic Center on Friday, September 5 and the Plaza Aquatic Center on Friday, September 12 to float under the stars and watch your favorite family friendly films. Movies will begin playing at 7:30 p.m. and will be chosen the day of the event by patrons. There will be FREE popcorn and beverages provided (while supplies last). All ages are welcome to chill poolside and have a good time. Make some *cool* memories at the pool this summer!

For more information about Dive-In Movies, including the movie options, visit the event pages on www.okinawa.usmc-mccs.org/aquatics. For any questions, contact the McTureous Aquatic Center at 622-7397, the Plaza Aquatic Center at 645-2970 or email mccsaquatics@okinawa.usmc-mccs.org. **!OL**

FASHION MEETING

2025.9/12(FRI)-23(TUE)

10:00-20:00

at PARCO CITY 2F CENTER PLAZA

AMIRI/AMBUSH/ALEXANDER WANG/BASKET CASE GALLERY/BE@RBRICK/CFCL
CASABLANCA/CASEY CASEY/CRITICAL SLIDE/DIESEL/DRIES VAN NOTEN/DRKSHDW
DSQUARED2/FEAR OF GOD ESSENTIALS/GUERNIKA/GANNI/GREG LAUREN/JIL SANDER
JW ANDERSON/KID SUPER/KENZO/MYKITA/MAGLIANO/MAISON MIHARA YASUHIRO
MARNI/MARTIN ROSE/MAYO/OAMC PEACEMAKER/OBJECTS.IO/OUR LEGACY
OFF WHITE/OSKLEN/PIERRE HARDY/PAUL HARNDEN/PALY HOLLYWOOD
PERFECT LIBS/PIERRE JEANNERET/PLAN C/QBISM/QUITO/RICK OWENS
READYMADE/RAMIDAS/ROLLAND BERRY/REMI RELIEF/RRR123/SAINT MEXXXXXX
SALOMON/SWJP/SONIA CARRASCO/THE SWINGGGR/TH PRODUCTS/T.T
TSTS/THE ELDER STATESMAN/TAIN/VERYNERD/YOSHINORI KOTAKE DESIGN

PLANNING&MANAGEMENT

WONDERCUBE



PARCO CITY HP

PARCO CITY

OKINAWA'S PREMIERE MALL
OPEN 10 A.M.-10 P.M. *SOME STORE HOURS MAY VARY.



MILITARY DISCOUNT



Embark on an Aquatic Adventure

Learn To Swim with the Dolphins!

Whether you're an eager beginner trying to conquer blowing bubbles underwater or a seasoned swimmer seeking to refine your technique, swimming is an adventure that enriches both the body and the mind. If you fall into the beginner category, the best approach to gaining confidence in the water starts with the development of water safety skills and the cultivation of strength, endurance and flexibility. Take the first step of your swimming journey by enrolling in Semper Fit Aquatics' Dolphin Swim School at the Camp Hansen Aquatic Center and prepare yourself and your loved ones for a delightful aquatic adventure that'll continue to give you joy (and keep you healthy) for years to come!

This comprehensive program caters to adults

and children with group swimming lessons are divided by age brackets. At Dolphin Swim School, participants will learn about water safety and various swim strokes and become more comfortable in the water while improving their swimming skills.

Each session consists of four consecutive weekday classes, subject to favorable weather conditions. The first classes start on September 2 & 3 with registration via Eventbrite available through 11:59 p.m. on August 31. For more information about Dolphin Swim School, please visit www.okinawa.usmc-mccs.org/aquatics

For inquiries about Dolphin Swim School and other Semper Fit Aquatics Program offerings, email mccsaquatics@okinawa.usmc-mccs.org. **101**

ODST Tryouts-

Begin a Lifelong
Passion

Having a little one that can't seem to stay away from the water can get tiring when all they want to do is swim. Sometimes you may think to yourself, "Is my kid part fish and I just don't know it?" with the way they constantly wish they had gills to breathe underwater and a dorsal fin to help them steer like a sailfish. Well, why not help turn their love for swimming into a lifelong passion with the help of the Okinawa Dolphins Swim Team (ODST)? Who knows, they may be a budding Olympic medalist in the making! Tryouts are open for swimmers ages seven or older who have not been part of previous ODST seasons. Participants will be expected to swim a 50m freestyle (front crawl), a 25m breaststroke and a 25m backstroke. A brief rest between the 25m swims is permitted (must be less than 20 seconds). Besides the short rest, each swim must be non-stop with swimmers displaying proper breathing and stroke techniques. The tryouts take approximately 5-10 minutes, and parental interaction is discouraged for the duration of the tryout.

Interested? To schedule a tryout for the upcoming season, email mccsaquatics@okinawa.usmc-mccs.org. Tryouts this year will be at the Hansen Aquatic Center. This is a great opportunity for all the youth swimmers to achieve success at their abilities and swimming level. For more information on the Okinawa Dolphins Swim Team, call 645-2787 or visit www.okinawa.usmc-mccs.org/aquatics. **101**



Seven round-trip flights a day*

*Schedule subject to change



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Home or Office Visits...

...with New Parent Support Program

Are you a parent or caregiver that is embracing the incredible journey of raising children aged 0 through 5, or are you eagerly anticipating the arrival of a brand-new bundle of joy? The MCCS New Parent Support Program (NPSP) is here to support you on your wonderful journey with services that will build confidence as well as enhance the skills you already have!

Amongst their wide variety of offerings, which include classes like Parents in Uniform, Baby Boot Camp and Infant Massage as well as Play Morning, an interactive educational playgroup. NPSP also offers home or office visits from team members to help support you on your journey through parenthood. Through this program, expecting families, and

those with at least one child under the age of six will learn about safety, healthy relationships and vital skills needed to parent successfully.

The dedicated NPSP team is comprised of trained professionals—including social workers, counselors and registered nurses—standing at the ready to provide support through personalized home and/or office visits. The NPSP operating hours are Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and although registration is required for services, the process is simple and quick.

For more information on home/office visits and other services offered by the New Parent Support Program, call 645-0396, email np-spokinawa@usmc.mil or visit www.okinawa.usmc-mccs.org/np-sp. **101**

Homeschool Mixer

An Open-House Resource Event

Homeschooling is a great way to educate your kids as you can tailor their curriculum to their interests, with the added benefit of flexible times and learning pace. However, teaching them on your own, as opposed to the traditional method with several teachers and large classrooms filled with eager students, can also pose challenges.

Are you looking for more information and resources to further your children's homeschooling education but not sure exactly where to find it? The Foster Library would like to extend a warm invitation to their Homeschool Mixer—an event for homeschooling families to connect with one another, share experiences and explore the various programs and resources available to support their educational journey.

The Homeschool Mixer takes place on Wednesday, September 10 from 2 to 3 p.m. During this open house event, the Foster Library will be showcasing the wide variety of resources currently available to the Okinawa homeschooling community—which includes homeschooling books/curriculums, printing resources, supplemental programs relating to STEM and early childhood literacy, FREE computer access and more! So, what are you waiting for? Pencil it in your calendar, you don't want to miss out on this great opportunity to meet others taking the same educational path as your family.

For more information on the Homeschool Mixer and other offerings at MCCS Libraries island wide, visit www.okinawa.usmc-mccs.org/libraries or follow facebook.com/mccsokinawa.educationandlibraries. If you have any questions, email foster.library@okinawa.usmc-mccs.org or call 645-7178. **101**



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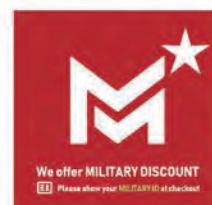
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Typhoon Motors

Labor Day Specials

In celebration of Labor Day, Typhoon Motors is putting in the work with sales all month long to help you get the best deals for your old faithful. Now that summer is nearing the end and it's definitely more bearable to leave your windows down and jam out to some sweet tunes, upgrade your sound system with Typhoon Motors Sundown Audio sale. They will be offering 15% OFF all Sundown Audio equipment from September 2 to 9 at locations on Camps Foster and Kinser.

Need a fully equipped garage with all the bells and whistles to do some DIY work? Typhoon Motors on all camps are offering \$1 Lift and Stall Rentals September 1–3 so you can easily access your car's undercarriage—realign your tires, fix your suspension, change your oil, install a new muffler and much, much more all by yourself!

Also, has your ride been feeling off and showing signs of peculiar symptoms... kind of like it needs an alignment? Typhoon Motors on Camps Foster and Hansen will be offering 50% OFF the Ultimate 3-Axis Laser Alignment, which normally costs \$200. Your car's wheels will be properly aligned for Camber, Castor and Toe which can extend the life of your tires, improve your gas mileage as well as reduce wear and tear on your suspension.

For more information on Typhoon Motors, including locations, phone numbers and services offered, visit www.okinawa.usmc-mccs.org/typhoonmotors. **101**





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In addition, the MCCA Gift Card is usable at just about every MCCA facility—including Bouncers and Party Rentals as well as Semper Fit Outdoor Recreation rentals, at all staffed Semper Fit Fitness Centers (including retail and LifeJuice purchases, martial arts and other classes as well as event and athletic tournament fees) and much, much more! For more information about MCCA Gift Cards, call 645-5809 or visit www.okinawa.usmc-mcca.org/giftcards. **101**

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You'll have access to command information (including PCS details and base policies), liberty tools (including important phone numbers), transportation options and much more to keep you in the know.

The Liberty App's latest update introduces the new "Workout of the Day" feature—which provides users with a rotational 30-day schedule of combat-focused workouts designed to enhance agility, functional strength and overall mission readiness. Each day's workout is presented in a format that is intuitive and accessible to users of all fitness levels.

For leisure activities, the Liberty App still features icons to help you find events galore. Multiple program calendars are included under "Events," and, in addition, you can find where to shop, eat, visit and stay—both on and off base—if you tap the "Things to Do" icon. If you need a ride back home after participating in an event or an outing, the app has you covered there—including an expanded listing of on-base and off-base taxi and daiko services to make sure you have a safe way home.

The app even includes a yen rate calculator, heat flag and sea conditions, typhoon readiness information (TCCOR) and English to Japanese translations of some common phrases.

Last, but not least, a total fitness tool is included to help you find wellness resources and track your health when it comes to four fitness factors: mind, body, spirit and social.

Best of all? The MCCA Okinawa Liberty App is FREE! Visit www.okinawa.usmc-mcca.org/liberty for details or download yours from either the App Store or Google Play. **101**





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MATSURI MAGIC

Celebrate like a Local

Text by: Swetha Gogue

Layout + Illustrations by: Taylor McFarlane

During the month of September, as the days get shorter and the nights longer, the local community on Okinawa basks in the cool evening breeze, a small token reminding us to spend time outdoors and to live life to the fullest—and, there's no better way to celebrate than with a *matsuri* (festival).

Okinawa hosts several festivals throughout the year, but during this month (or August depending on the Lunar Calendar), one of the largest in the prefecture, the Okinawa Zentō Eisa Festival, takes place in Okinawa City. This year, the festival runs from September 12 to 14, which will fill the streets with sounds of reverberating *taiko* drums, melodies of voices singing traditional songs and *eisa* dancers performing lively choreography.

In Japan and Okinawa, *matsuri* are oftentimes connected to seasons, religion, historical events and local customs, to name a few. Although regions and prefectures have slight variations and interpretations on how they commemorate, one thing's for certain—the good times will roll.

Traditionally, females are garbed in colorful *yukata* (unlined summer *kimono* usually made of cotton or linen) with *geta* (wooden sandals) and accessorized with flower hairpins as well as dainty *kinchaku* (small bags) that tie the look together. Contrasting the brilliant colors of the *yukata*, the men wear *jinbei* (traditional set of kimono-style tops and trousers made of cotton or hemp) in somber shades of indigo and green which can also have muted patterns. Since its creation, the *jinbei* has been unisex in structure as it provides a neutral loose shape—with colors and designs the only differentiating factors between male, female and children.

Planning to go to a *matsuri* and are curious as to how locals prepare for such events? Bring plenty of cash, a picnic mat, a small fan, a thermos of water and a small trash bag for ease of clean up. Dress appropriately for the weather (an umbrella with UV protection is *always* a good idea), wear a hat for added protection from the sun and good vibes to further elevate the festive atmosphere.

Japanese Festival Food Favorites

With fun games like *kingyo sukui* (goldfish scooping with a paper scooper) and *wa-nage* (ring toss), you'll surely work up a ravenous appetite as you take in the sights, sounds and smells from the local vendors selling festival food favorites. Intimidated by the options available? Fear not, as we have a compiled list to make your matsuri food experience even more enjoyable!

やきとり

Starting strong with *yakitori*, this grilled skewer is usually made with bite-sized chicken thighs or innards and are a popular snack for its ability to eat on-the-go with simple flavors of *shio* (salt) or *shoyu* (soy sauce). In Japanese, the word "*yaki*" means "grill" and "*tori*" means "chicken," which perfectly describes this delectable meat stick.

たこ焼き

A little foreign to most Americans, *takoyaki* are spherical-shaped delicacies full of incredible textures and bursting with *umami* notes. "*Tako*" means octopus and *takoyaki* are known for being gooey and slightly runny on the inside as they are filled with chopped pieces of chewy octopus enveloped in an all-purpose batter then topped off with bonito flakes, mayonnaise and its signature *takoyaki* sauce, which is a dark sauce similar to that of *okonomiyaki* but both slightly sweeter and saltier.



焼きそば

Noticed a mountain of noodles on flattops? That's *yakisoba* (stir-fried soba noodles). Usually made with thin slices of pork or seafood, a medley of julienned onions, carrots and chopped cabbage flavored with undertones of soy sauce, oyster sauce, mirin, sugar and sometimes even ketchup, this dish is a winner for all walks of life. A hearty meal full of carbs, protein and fiber, yakisoba makes for a great shareable entrée.

お好み焼き

Moving onto another popular dish—*okonomiyaki*, a fun word to say and even more delicious to eat, this savory pancake is another perfect shareable. The name “*okonomiyaki*” means “as you like it” which makes sense as the dish is easily customizable with anything from meat, seafood, vegetables and more, with the base consisting of flour, eggs and shredded cabbage. The exterior is crunchy while the interior is warm and creamy; customize it to your liking as you can top it off with mayonnaise, *bonito flakes* (dried, fermented and smoked tuna), *aonori* (dried seaweed), pickled ginger, *tenkasu* (tempura scraps) as well as *okonomiyaki sauce*, which is made with a blend of Worcestershire sauce, ketchup and spices.



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わたあめ

For dessert, *wata ame* (cotton candy) can be found hanging in large plastic bags or packed in a tub ready to take home. These vibrant confectionary treats will surely catch the eyes of little ones, especially if a vendor is putting on a show twirling around sugary clouds. As much as you want to savor each piece, remember that Okinawa is still *pretty* hot in September which can possibly melt your cotton candy into a sticky situation.



かき氷

A more traditional Japanese sweet treat, *kakigōri* (shaved ice) is a refreshing finisher. Made with a block of ice that is either hand or machine shaven, the frozen dessert is then showered with colorful flavored syrups and sometimes also topped with thick condensed milk. Kakigōri is similar to an American snow cone except its texture is lighter and fluffier.

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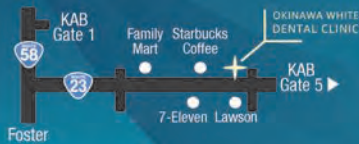
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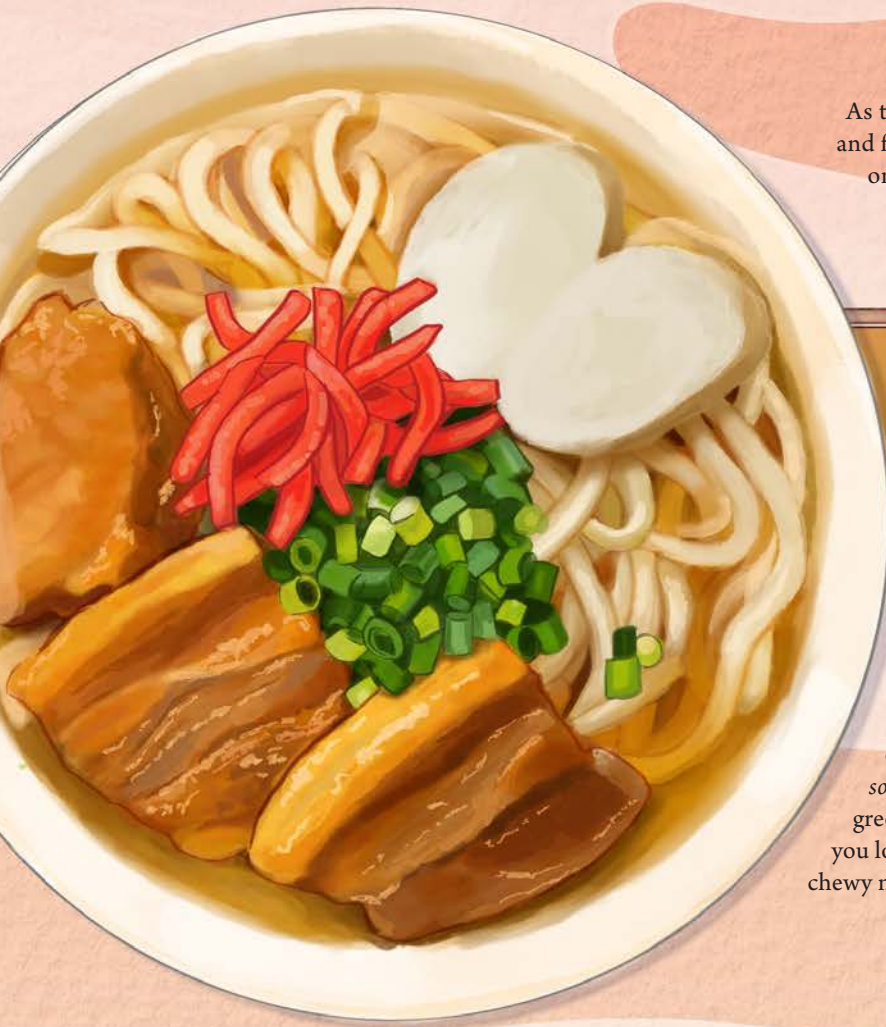


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Okinawa Festival Food Favorites

As the Ryukyu Islands have their own distinct language, culture and food—festival foods are also included in that criteria. While on island, indulge in the prefecture's classic favorites that can be quite difficult to find elsewhere.



沖縄そば

For a true taste of the region, indulge in a comforting bowl of Okinawa soba. Served piping hot, Okinawa soba is a simple yet filling dish featuring a broth made with pork bones and *katsuobushi* (dried bonito), served with wheat flour noodles that range in thickness as well as shape. Oftentimes, bowls are garnished with your meat of choice (simmered pork belly or *sanmainiku*, pork ribs or *soki* and pig's feet or *tebichi*), fishcakes, red pickled ginger and green onions. Replenish your body of the nutrients and energy you lost through walking and sweating with flavorful broth, chewy noodles and protein.

タコライス

Blending Tex-Mex American and Okinawan staples together, taco rice is the perfect mix of local flair and overseas influences. This popular fusion dish is made with ground beef seasoned with cumin and other spices and served with crunchy shredded lettuce over a bed of rice; toppings can include tomatoes, cheese, sour cream and salsa. If you love tacos and rice, you'll surely enjoy this unique dish that is a tried-and-true champion for locals and military personnel alike.



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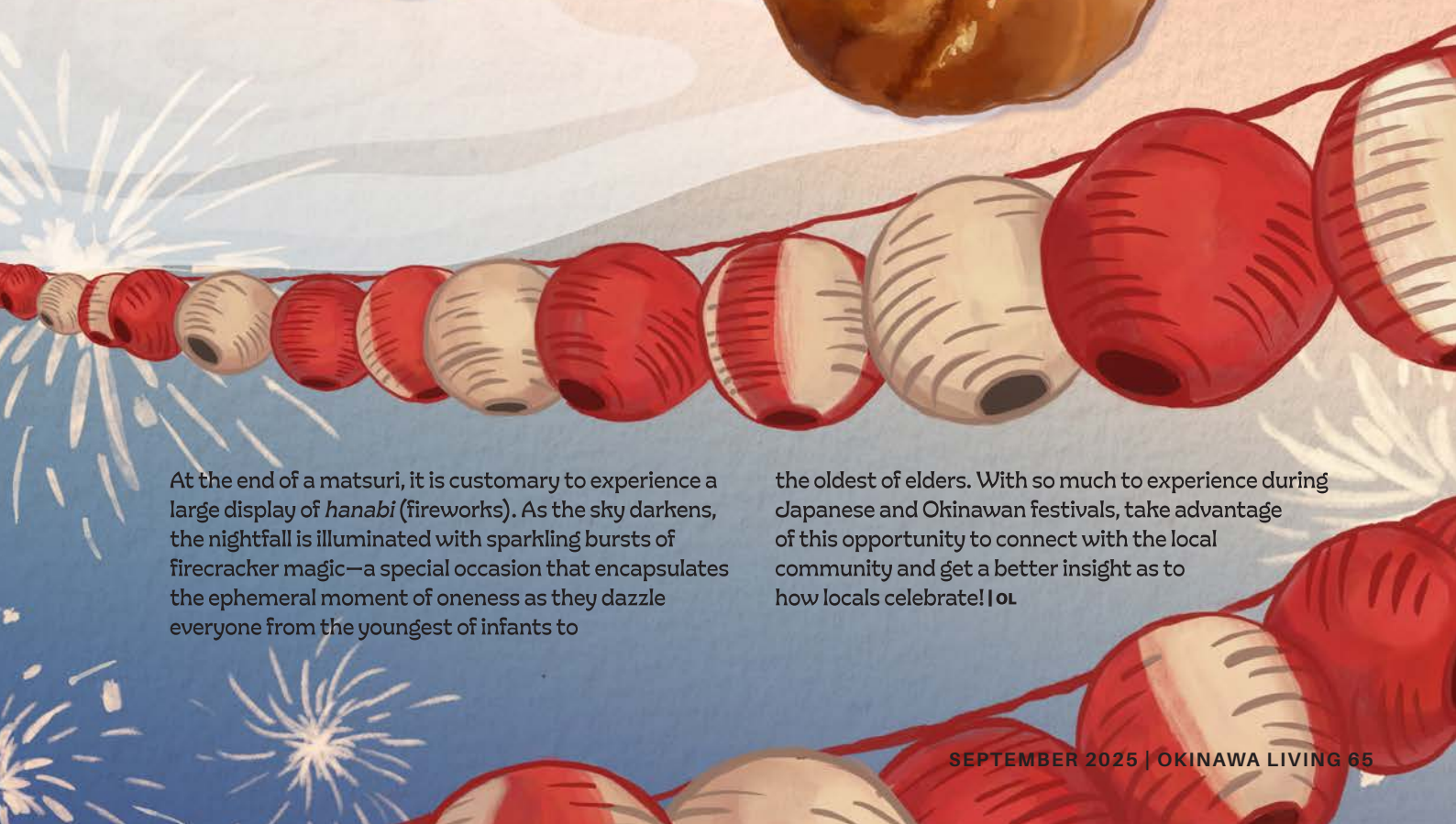
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サターアンドギー

Ending off the festival food favorites only found on Okinawa is the one and only, *sātā andagi* (Okinawan donut). Dense, sweet and crunchy, these donuts are a joy to watch being made as local vendors masterfully plop the thick batter into hot oil and flip them with their choice of utensil (tongs, chopsticks, or mesh strainer). As the dough crisps up in the oil, the exterior cracks and leaves the interior soft, akin to an old-fashioned, except *much* better. Conventionally, *sātā andagi* uses *kokutō* (brown sugar), but can be found in flavors such as coffee, black sesame, coconut, *beni imo* (purple sweet potato) and more. Pro tip: find a vendor making them hot to get the best experience available.



At the end of a matsuri, it is customary to experience a large display of *hanabi* (fireworks). As the sky darkens, the nightfall is illuminated with sparkling bursts of firecracker magic—a special occasion that encapsulates the ephemeral moment of oneness as they dazzle everyone from the youngest of infants to

the oldest of elders. With so much to experience during Japanese and Okinawan festivals, take advantage of this opportunity to connect with the local community and get a better insight as to how locals celebrate! | 01

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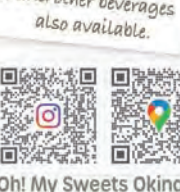
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Marinade

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- Juice from half a lime
- 1 clove garlic
- 1/2 tsp. paprika
- 1/2 tsp. cumin
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- Pinch of cayenne (as needed for spice)

Optional Toppings

- Shredded cabbage
- Sour cream
- Avocado
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- Onions
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Method of Preparation

- Whisk the oil, lime juice, garlic, paprika, cumin, chili powder and cayenne together in a small bowl.
- Season the mahi mahi on both sides with salt and pepper.
- Place fish and marinade in a large Ziplock bag, seal and let sit in the fridge for 30 minutes.
- In an oiled pan over medium-high heat, cook the mahi mahi fillets for about 4 minutes on each side (may vary depending on thickness).
- Heat corn tortillas on a separate pan or in the oven until warm.
- Serve fish on tortillas with desired toppings.

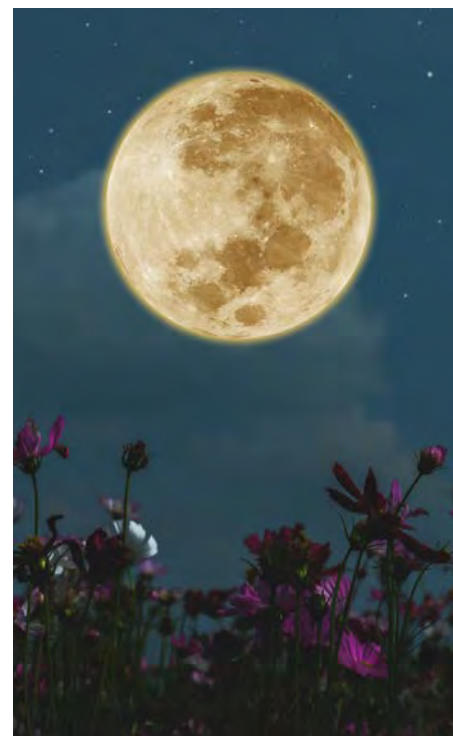
Tsukimi—Moon Viewing

When you were a child, did you believe those stories that said the moon was made of Swiss cheese? Or, were you told that the shadowy shapes in its surface represent the face of the “man in the moon?” In Japan, many children see a different shape on the surface—a rabbit. And not just a boring old rabbit, but an immense lunar hare with a wooden hammer pounding rice into dumplings called *mochi*. Although the patterns on a full moon are pretty much the same throughout the world, oftentimes, people see different things depending on their country of origin. For example, people from some parts of the world see a human face and others see a crab. Many Chinese see the same rabbit that Japanese children describe; only the hare is grinding herbs.

The people of Japan have been admiring the moon since ancient times, celebrating

with moon-viewing parties called *tsukimi* during mid- to late-September every year. These parties were especially popular during the days of the Ryukyu Kingdom and took place high above Naha on the ramparts of Shuri Castle. While *tsukimi* were more solemn occasions during the days of old—a time in which farmers prayed to the moon for a bountiful harvest by offering *mochi* dumplings with pampas grasses—modern day *tsukimi* are a lighter affair for friends to enjoy the beautiful moon together.

Regardless of ancient superstitions, the full moon is especially beautiful this time of the year, mostly because the late summer air tends to be very clear. Take advantage of a clear evening this month to pay homage to that one-and-only lunar rabbit. **101**



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A Taiyo favorite, the USDA Prime
Bone-In Tomahawk Ribeye, cooked to your
specification and brushed with savory butter.

WINTER FESTIVAL

➤ SEPTEMBER 6-7 | 1-9 P.M. ➤

B.O.B.

SAT
7 P.M.



CRYSTAL
KAY

SUN
7:30 P.M.



SKATEBOARDING DEMO & COMPETITION | FOOD TRUCKS
MILITARY STATIC DISPLAY | FUN LAND RIDES

ICHARIBA CHÔDE



This event is FREE and open to DoD ID card holders, Japanese and American citizens island wide. Access via Gate #2. Do not bring pets, glass bottles, outside alcohol, large bags or coolers.

*No DoD, Marine Corps or MCCS endorsement intended or implied.

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