visit neighborhood homes. The boar, or *inoshishi*, symbolizes fertility and vitality, and was believed to bring blessings of abundant crops and family prosperity. Regional variations of the ritual—lifting, shaking, or touching the stone to the ground—carry layered meanings, such as warding off misfortune or invoking good luck. Through this play, children learn cooperation and inherit unspoken rituals of communal prayer. At night, during the **Hour of the Boar** (9–11 PM), families

eat *Inoko Mochi*, believed to protect against illness. These boar-shaped confections vary by region—some with striped patterns resembling wild piglets (uribō). others made from soft gyūhi, or coated

in red beans. Because boars are prolific breeders, people once prayed for similarly bountiful harvests, healthy families, and long life. *Inoko Mochi* is shared at home or given to neighbors as part of the celebration. Children strike the ground at doorsteps with *Inoko-zuchi* mallets, chanting festive verses and receiving sweets or small gifts—a tradition reminiscent of Halloween. Each year on November 1, Kyoto's Goo(護王) Shrine, affectionately called the "boar shrine," holds its own *Inoko* Festival, complete with *Heian*-style ceremonies

and offerings of *Inoko Mochi* to attendees. Even today, the shrine remains a space where community prayers endure.

This November also marks the 77th Annual *Hiro* District Educational Festival. We hope it becomes a moment for children and adults to rediscover the local culture—and help carry its spirit into the future. We warmly invite your Director Hosokawa participation.



Published monthly on the 10th № 346 Population of HIRO

Editional and Publishing Office As of the end of Aug, Hiro Community Development Center

₹737-0112 Total 42.139 (-55)

2-1-3 Hiro Koshingai Kure-City ●M E N 20,407 (-44)

☎ 71-2151 **★ 73-5034 ●WOMEN** 21,732 (-11)

compared to July

As long as one continues to challenge even the slimmest possibility, life will never be boring. Those who can accept constructive criticism will continue to grow; those who seek comfort instead will stop evolving at that very stage. Knowledge can be acquired with relative ease, but true wisdom demands great effort and experience. You can still go further. It's not over vet."

Momofuku Ando

Notice from Hiro C. D. Center Registration will open on Thu, Nov 20

Christmas Kids Cooking with Vegetable Sommelier Fluffy Omelet Rice & Grilled Chicken with Colorful Seasonal Vegetables

Who: Elementary school children

When: Sunday, December 21, 2025 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Where: Room 603, 6th Floor, Hiro Civic Center Fee: 1,900 JPY Capacity: First 12 applicants



Yosakoi Dance for a Sharper Mind and Stronger Body Stay Sharp - A Celebration of Health through Mindful Motion

Who: Aged 18 and above

When: January 6 & 20, February 3 & 24,

March 3 & 17 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Where: Room 701, 7th Floor, Hiro Civic Center

Fee: 2,400 JPY Capacity: First 20 participants

Notice from Hiro Library

Library Hours: 9:30 AM - 8:00 PM **Closed**: Thursdays and Public Holidays Closed days: November 3(Mon), 6 (Thu), 13 (Thu), 20 (Thu), 24 (Mon), 27 (Thu)

For inquiries: Hiro Library Tel: 71-7470

*There will be no picture book reading sessions in Nov.

Notice from Elderly Support Division Healthy Body Fitness Class (East Health Center)

Participants Wanted! "Stay Active: Fitness Class for Preventing Elderly Care Needs" This class focuses on exercises and stretches to help improve physical strength and maintain health. **Eligibility**: Residents of Kure aged 65 or older

Note: Participation may not be permitted depending on individual health conditions for safety reasons.

Capacity: 25 participants **Fee**: Free of charge

Schedule: Schedule: Fridays, December 12th, 2025 – March 13th, 2026 Time: 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM (12 weekly sessions)

Location: Multipurpose Room, *Higashi* (East) Health Center ← 2nd Floor, Hiro Civic Center

How to Apply: From Friday, October 10th to Tuesday, November 4th, please apply in person at any of the following locations: Hiro, Aga, Nigata, or Gohara Community Centers, Elderly Support Division, or any Senior Consultation Office (Community General Support Centers) in Kure City.

* Applications are not accepted at the Hiro Community **Development Center.** A completed application form is required. Applications by phone are not accepted. If the number of applicants exceeds capacity, participants will be selected.

Contact: Elderly Support Division, Tel: 25-3104



Announcement of Scheduled Closure Next: Monday, November 10

Notice of Community Walk Event

Date: Sunday, November 23, 2025
Meeting Point: Hiro Civic Center
RAIN OUT!

Meeting Time: 9:00 AM

Route:

A 5km Walk Around O-shingai and Ko-shingai

Hiro Civic Center → Oak Arena → Yoshimatsu → Bentenbashi Park → Kurose River Path → Hiro Civic Center

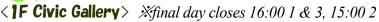
*This event is held as part of the Hiro Educational Festival.

Please note that the route may be altered due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances. Participants are asked to sign in at registration for recreational insurance coverage.

The event will be canceled in the event of a Heatstroke Alert.

Inquiries: Mr. Hori (080-1919-6088)

The 17th Hiro District Education Festival



- 1. Joint Exhibition of Nursery and Kindergarten Works IIII Sat, November 1 − Tue, November 4
- 2. Children's Association Wall Newspaper Exhibition Mon, November 10 – Sun, November 23 (National Holiday) Theme: "Summer Vacation"
- 3. Elementary and Junior High School Letter Exhibition Thu, November 20 – Sun, November 23 (National Holiday) Theme: "Wishes"

<3F Hall - Stage Performances>

Cultural Performance Showcase by Hiro Cultural Federation

- IIII Sat, November 8 ⊙12:30 PM 3:30 PM
- ①Ondo Kiyomori Taiko ②Yuzuriha-Naruko-Kai
- 3Nene-no-Kai 4Shin-pū-kai 5Yōjirō-no-kai 6Shōseikai 7 Rishōkai 8 Shijufuku-no-Kai
- Sun, November 9 12:30 PM 3:15 PM
- 1) Ōhō-no-Kai 2) Rihōkai 3) Kvūshu Hawaiian
- Association *Hiroshima* 4 Enjoy *Kimono* Club
- 5 Kawaguchi Ballet Studio 6 STUDIO E.M.I

Workshop & Circle Stage Presentations

- IIII Sat. November 15 ⊙1:00 PM 3:30 PM
- 13B Fitness 2 Japanese Classical Dance (Fujima School)
- (3) Chorus (4) Classical Ballet & *Manabi* Ballet
- IIII Sun. November 16 ⊙10:00 AM 11:35 AM
- (1) Yosakoi Dance for Health & Wellness
- 2) Himawari 21 (3) Gentle Hula for Beginners (4) Tai Chi

<5F & 6F - Exhibitions>

■ Sat, Nov 1 - Tue, Nov 4 Room502 **Elementary**, Middle, and High School Student Art Exhibition

III Fri, Nov 21 − Sun, Nov 23 ⊙10:00 AM − 4:00 PM

5th Floor Room501: *Sewing Club,

Room502: *Calligraphy *Painting *Senryū *Haiku *Japanese Painting

*Rattan Craft *Origami Circle

Room503: *Suzume-kai

Room504: *Ikebana - Saga Goryū & Ikebana Akatsukikai (from 22nd)

6th Floor Room601: *Illustrated Letter Circle

Rooms604&605: **Tea Ceremony* – *Urasenke* (23rd only)

Room606: **Ikebana* – *Ikenobō* School (from 22nd)

<7F Exhibitions Awards Ceremony>

Sun, November 23 (Holiday) **⊙9:30** AM - 10:30 AM

Room702 Hiro Sports Association **Achievement Awards Ceremony**



Notice from HIRO Sports Association HIRO Sports Association

66th Hiro Town Martial Arts Tournament - Judo Division

Date: Sunday, November 16, 2025 — 10:00 AM Venue: Martial Arts Hall, Shishinyo Oak Arena Eligibility: Children residing in the *Hiro* area or neighboring regions, or those attending kindergartens, nursery schools, or elementary schools in these areas.

Registration Deadline: By Sunday, October 26, 2025 Submit to: Hiro Sports Association Office Tel:71-2151

66th Hiro Town Martial Arts Tournament – <mark>Kendo</mark> Division

Date: Sunday, November 23, 2025 — 9:30 AM

Venue: *Shishinyo* Oak Arena

Eligibility: Residents of the *Hiro* district, students attending kindergartens, nursery schools, elementary, junior high, high schools, or universities within the

district, and individuals employed at workplaces in the *Hiro* area.

Registration Deadline: By Sunday, October 26, 2025 **Submit to**: Hiro Sports Association Office Tel:71-2151

1st Hiro Town Distance Challenge

Date & Time: Sunday, December 7, 2025 – 9:00 AM Note: Event will be canceled in case of rain. **Venue**: Kure City General Sports Center (*Gohara* Town) **Eligibility**: Primarily for Residents of the *Hiro* area

Participation Fee: Free of charge

Categories:

- 1. Family Run: Preschool children accompanied by a parent
- **2.** Elementary School Division: Boys and girls, Grades 1–6
- **3.** Junior High School Division: Boys and girls, Grades 7–9
- **4.** General Division: High School Students and Adults (men & women Course

1.1,000m (2.5 laps): Family Run, Elementary Grades 1-4

2.2,000m (5 laps): Elementary Grades 5-6, Junior High General (Women)

3.*3,000m* (7 laps): General (Men)

Registration Deadline: By Friday, October 24

Submit to the Hiro Sports Association Office.

Note: Elementary & junior high students must apply through their schools. **Other Information**: In case of inclement weather, the event status will be determined by 7:00 AM based on ground conditions. Only first aid will be provided for any injuries sustained during the event; no further liability is assumed. However, all participants will be covered by one-day accident insurance arranged by the Hiro Sports Association. 2:71-2151

60th Prefectural Open Soft Tennis Tournament

Date: Sunday, November 16, 2025 — 9:00 AM Venue: Tennis Courts, National Institute of

Technology, Kure College

Eligibility: Open to adult men and women

Note: Participation is not permitted for elementary,

junior high, or high school students.

Registration Deadline: By Thursday, October 23, 2025 **Submit to:** Hiro Sports Association Office Tel:71-2151 Inquiries: Mr. Yatsu (Soft Tennis Head) @ 090-8363-1400

From the Hiro Collaboration Center

perspectives. Whether you're ready to take action or just want to listen, all are welcome. Sometimes, a simple conversation is the first step toward something meaningful.

Date & Time: Friday, Nov 28, 2025 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

(Feel free to drop in or leave at any time)

Venue: Hiro Collaboration Center (4th Floor, Hiro Civic Center)

Eligibility: Kure City residents

Fee: Free Registration: Not required

Inquiries: Kure Collaboration Center Tel: 25-5602 **Hours**: Tue–Sat: 9 AM–8 PM Sun & Holidays: 9 AM–5 PM

*Closed Mondays (or the next day if Monday is a holiday)

Editorial Note Innovation Is Born in Adversity

There are moments in life when we ask ourselves, "Why do our efforts so often go unrewarded?" Everyone experiences this doubt at some point. But one man transformed adversity into the seed of innovation: Momofuku Ando, the inventor of instant ramen. After World War II, Ando lost his business, was unjustly imprisoned, and was stripped of both his wealth and reputation. Yet he held onto one unwavering belief: "I want to create something that serves society." Seeing people suffer from hunger, he had a radical idea: ramen that could be prepared with just hot water. With no funding, no technical support, and only a backyard shed, he experimented

with over a thousand prototypes. The breakthrough came as he watched his wife fry *tempura*. "What if noodles could be preserved by frying them in hot oil?"

From that humble domestic moment, a revolutionary idea took root. In 1958, at age 48, Ando launched the world's first instant noodle: **Chicken Ramen**. His life reminds us that hardship and failure are not signs of defeat, but opportunities for reinvention and resilience. And perhaps that's why, when we come across a packet of Chicken Ramen at the store—even after many years—we feel a sudden, nostalgic urge to pick it up and enjoy it once again.





