

En is the direction where the deity Toshitokujin, who brings yearly good fortune, resides. It is one of four directions—east-northeast, south-southeast, west-southwest, or north-northwest. In 2026, the lucky direction is slightly south of south-southeast.

<https://www.city.kure.lg.jp/soshiki/111/> *Illustrations created by Microsoft Copilot, Gemini &いらすとや

Web Site

Hiro Community Development Center

KOHO HIRO
Hiro Community Newsletter

February



2026

Published monthly on the 10th No.349 **Population of HIRO**

[Editorial and Publishing Office] At the end of November, **Hiro Community Development Center** compared to October

2-1-3 Hiro Koshingai, Kure City, Total 42,025 (-23)

Hiroshima 737-0112

71-2151

73-5034

● M 20,368 (- 6)

● WOMEN 21,657 (-17)

Our first words and gestures upon meeting someone often shape the course of our lives. Rather than aspiring to be a great moon that shines only by borrowing the sun's light, we should strive to be a small flame that glows by its own power. To know what is enough is, in itself, a form of happiness. And when you have something to say to another person, say it fully and with clarity. If you cannot bring yourself to speak the whole truth, then it is better to remain silent from the start. —Mori Ōgai



Crossing a Seasonal Gate: The Traditions of Setsubun

As the New Year settles in, the next seasonal milestone we observe in Japan is **Setsubun**. Originally, the word referred to the four points that mark the shift between seasons, but because the old lunar calendar viewed spring as the start of the year, **Setsubun** came to mean specifically the day before spring begins. This year it falls on Tuesday, February 3, though the date can vary—some years it has been on the 2nd or the 4th. When people think of **Setsubun**, they often think of scattering roasted soybeans, drinking **fukucha**, decorating with sardines and holly, and more recently, enjoying **ehō-maki**. These familiar customs trace back to an older court ritual known as **Tsuina**, practiced in the **Heian** period. Adapted from an ancient Chinese rite, it was performed to drive away illness and misfortune at the turn of the season. In Japan's imperial court, it became a major year-end ceremony in which a figure called the **Hososhi**, wearing a four-eyed mask and carrying a halberd and shield, symbolically chased away evil as he moved through the

palace. Over time, **Tsuina** blended into the life of ordinary people, and the belief that grains carry protective power helped shape the modern practice of bean-throwing. Roasted soybeans, thought to embody vitality, are tossed to expel misfortune and pray for good health in the coming year. Eating one bean for each year of one's age is also customary, though it can be quite a challenge as the years add up. In such cases, a cup of **fukucha**—hot water poured over three roasted beans with a touch of kelp (**konbu**) and plum (**umeboshi**)—is said to bring the same good fortune. The use of sardines and holly likewise reflects the spirit of **Tsuina**, as these were traditionally believed to ward off harmful influences. **Ehō-maki**, by contrast, is a relatively new addition, often said to have begun with **Osaka** merchants who created a thick **sushi** roll inspired by the Seven Gods of Good Fortune. Despite its name, the “**first day of spring**” arrives during some of the coldest days of the year. This seasonal threshold has long been considered a moment requiring special care. As we move through midwinter, I hope you stay warm, stay healthy, and enjoy a peaceful beginning to the year. **Director, Hosokawa**

Information from Hiro C.D.C.

Registration starts on Fri, Feb 20

1 Let's Make Icebox Cookies

Participants: Elementary school students (Grades 2 and under must be accompanied by a guardian)

Date & Time: Thu, March 26, 10:00–13:00

Venue: Hiro Civic Center, 6F Room 603

Fee: 1,500 JPY **Capacity:** 16 participants



2 Senchado (Ogasawara-Ryu)

Participants: Ages 18 and up

Dates: Apr 10, May 8, Jun 12, Jul 10, Aug 14, and Sep 11 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Time: 13:00–15:00

Venue: Hiro Civic Center, 6F Room 605

Fee: 4,800 JPY **Capacity:** 15 participants



3 Feel the Energy: Yosakoi Seated Dance & Strength Exercises for a Vibrant You!

Target: Ages 18 and up (elementary and junior high school students may attend with an adult)

Dates: April 4 & 18, May 16 & 30, June 6 & 20

Schedule: 6-session course **Time:** 19:00–21:00

Venue: Hiro Civic Center, 7F Room 701

Fee: 2,400 JPY **Capacity:** 20 participants

Please note that for items ② and ③, registration will begin on February 20, as the event is scheduled for April. However, payment will be required in April.



Information from HIRO Collaboration Center

The Hiro Collaboration Center regularly posts information on volunteer opportunities, as well as events related to volunteering, community building and local initiatives. In the center's exhibition space, visitors will find local newsletters, organizational bulletins, and maps of neighborhoods throughout Kure City. Those interested in volunteering or learning more about the local community are warmly invited to visit the Hiro Collaboration Center on the 4th floor of the Hiro Civic Center.

Hours: 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. **Closed:** Wednesdays **Inquiries:** Tel: 71-0321



Information from Hiro Library

Opening Hours: 9:30 AM – 8:00 PM

Closed: Thursdays & National holidays

February Closures

Thursdays: 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th

National holidays: 11th (Wed) & 23rd (Mon)

***Babar Picture Book Storytime in Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Kure City Library**

Date & Time: Sat, Feb 21 10:30 AM–11:10 AM

Location: Hiro Civic Center, 6F Room 604

Community Walking Excursion

○ Date: Tue. Feb 10, 2026

○ Meeting Place: Hiro Civic Center

○ Meeting Time: 9:00 AM

Course: **Around the Nijimura Park 4km**

Hiro Civic Center ~ Around the Nijimura Park ~ Hiro Civic Center

*The event may be canceled or the course may be changed due to weather or other circumstances.

*Please sign up for recreational insurance at the reception.

*For inquiries, contact Mr. Hori at 080-1919-6088.

News from Hirohiro-ba

“Papa Seminar” series III

We warmly invite fathers and grandfathers—current and soon-to-be—who are raising children (ages 0 to 2, or preschoolers aged 3 and up) to join us for a special family-centered event.

Event Title: “Let's Share a Meal: Pork Miso Soup, Made by Dad”

Date & Time: Saturday, February 7 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM

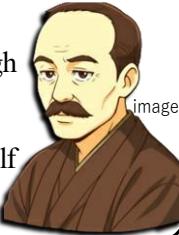
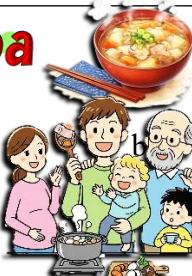
Location: Kure Civic Center, 6th Floor – Kitchen Room 603

Capacity: Limited to 15 families (first come, first served)

Fee: 300 JPY **Registration:** Begins Thu, Jan 15 by phone

Inquiries & Registration: Kure City Sukoyaka Childcare

Support Center **Hirohiro-ba** Tel: 76-1616



Mori Ōgai was a leading modern Japanese writer and a versatile, internationally minded intellectual. With his clear, rational style, he produced classics like *The Dancing Girl*, *The Wild Goose*, *The Boat on the Takase River*, and *The Aoe Clan*, uniting historical research with literature.

Information from HIRO Sports Association



Results of the 66th Hiro Town Students Judo Match

Date: Sun, Nov 16, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

Participants: 25

Venue: Shishinjo Oak Arena (Kure City General Gymnasium)

*All participants are affiliated with the Hiro Judo School.

Kindergarten Division

1st: Tsumugi Tokumitsu

2nd: Yuya Ishii

1st Grade Division

1st: Ryoma Taka

2nd: Taisei Kinoue

2nd Grade Division

1st: Amane Yoshinaga

2nd: Toya Ishii

3rd Grade Division

1st: Sora Fujiwara

2nd: Tairiku Demizu

4th-5th Grade Division

1st: Juichi Nishioka

2nd: Hiromu Uematsu

6th Grade Division

1st: Kyoya Taka

2nd: Kotaro Yoshimoto

Results of the 66th Hiro Town Citizens Kendo Match

Date & Time: Sun. Nov 23, 2025 9:30 a.m. **Participants:** 61

Venue: Shishinjo Oak Arena (Kure City General Sports Center)

Grade 1 and Below Division

1st: Akari Katayama (Hiro-Kenseikai)

2nd: Wakana Yoshioka (Aga Kenkokai)

3rd: Hayato Toyota (Hiro-Shokikai)

2nd Grade Division

1st: Misaki Saito (Aga Kenkokai)

2nd: Yuika Kubo (Aga Kenkokai)

3rd: Hikaru Ikeda (Hiro-Shokikai)

3rd: Mizuki Kado (Hiro-Kenseikai)

3rd Grade Division

1st: Mikuto Yamaguchi (Hiro-Shokikai)

2nd: Akane Yoshioka (Aga Kenkokai)

3rd: Serika Kimura (Hiro-Shokikai)

3rd: Toshiyuki Ishida (Hiro-Shokikai)

4th Grade Division

1st: Miharu Saito (Aga Kenkokai)

2nd: Takahito Ochi (Aga Kenkokai)

3rd: Mikoto Ishida (Hiro-Kenseikai)

3rd: Koshiro Kano (Aga Kenkokai)

5th Grade Division

1st: Haruto Yamaoka (Hiro-Kenseikai)

2nd: Takahito Ishida (Hiro-Shokikai)

3rd: Haruse Kimura (Hiro-Shokikai)

3rd: Soshi Koshobu (Hiro-Kenseikai)

6th Grade Division

1st: Hayato Masumoto (Hiro-Kenseikai)

2nd: Atsuto Ikeda (Hiro-Shokikai)

3rd: Emi Tsukada (Hiro-Shokikai)

Middle School - 1st Year Division

1st: Kota Suenobu (Yokoro J.H.S)

2nd: Aruto Kajiyama (Hiro-Kenseikai)

3rd: Yosuke Kikugawa (Yokoro J.H.S)

3rd: Hisashi Koshobu (Hiro-Kenseikai)

Middle School - 2nd Year Division

1st: Yuto Satomura (Hiro-Shokikai)

2nd: Shoma Sato (Hiro-Shokikai)

Middle School - Girls' Division

1st: Kano Kubo (Yokoro J.H.S)

2nd: Yui Hiroyoshi (Yokoro J.H.S)

3rd: Nene Wakasa (Hiro-Shokikai)

3rd: Akari Murakawa (Yokoro J.H.S)

High School Division

1st: Sosuke Ogata (Kure-Sho H.S.)

2nd: Kohei Matsuda (Kure-Sho H.S.)

3rd: Tsubasa Zenitani (Kure-Sho H.S.)

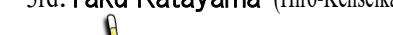
General Division

1st: Takashi Matsumura (Hiro-Kenseikai)

2nd: Hitoshi Ishida (Hiro-Shokikai)

3rd: Yasutaka Nakajima (Hiro-Kenseikai)

3rd: Taku Katayama (Hiro-Kenseikai)



Results of the 60th Prefectural Open Soft Tennis Championship

Date: Sun, Nov 16, 2025, 9:00 a.m.

Venue: Kure National Institute of Technology – Tennis Courts

Men's Division

1st: Hirano & Shimagawa (Gōtama)

2nd: Murakami & Inuyama (Gōtama)

3rd: Kanekiyo & Harada (Kumano Soft Tennis Club)

3rd: Matsuoka (W) & Nakamura (Kure National Institute of Technology)



Women's Division A

1st: Ishimoto & Hibara (Kure STC / Coleman Club)

1st: Yashiki & Takenouchi (Kaita Club)

2nd: Yamamoto & Ono (Hikari Soft Tennis Club)

2nd: Takahashi & Okubo (Kiyomori Club / Theory K)

3rd: Tanaka & Kamita (Kurayoshi Utsubuki Club / Iwami Ginza Club)

3rd: Oka & Inai (STC48 / Japan Air Self-Defense Force - Miho Base)

3rd: Yamamoto & Daido (Theory K)

Senior Division - Group 1

1st: Hayashi & Kakibayashi (Kure Hyakusekai / Theory K)

1st: Yamane & Kinoshita (Ayame / Freed)

2nd: Fukuda & Murai (Theory K / Kure Hyakusekai)

2nd: Ueda & Masumoto (Hiroshima Saturday Club)

Senior Division - Group 2

1st: Yamane & Kinoshita (Ayame / Freed)

2nd: Ueda & Masumoto (Hiroshima Saturday Club)

Women's Division B

1st: Yamane & Kinoshita (Ayame / Freed)

2nd: Ueda & Masumoto (Hiroshima Saturday Club)

List of Regular Courses 2026 at Hiro C. D. Center

Course Name Course Frequency Time Instructor

★Children (from 4 to 6 years old)

Kids Dance 2nd & 4th Saturdays 10:00~ Emi Hatasaka

★ Children (from 4 to 12 years old)

Classical Ballet 4/a month, Saturdays 18:00~ Yukie Furue

★ Adults (General)

Healthy Hula 1st & 3rd Mondays 10:00~ Kazue Minami

Calligraphy 4/a month, Tuesdays 9:30~ Kofu Shmizu

Calligraphy 4/a month, Tuesdays 18:00~ Sofu Iwata

Calligraphy 4/a month, Thursdays 9:30~ Enpu Matsuoka

Tea Ceremony (Urasenke) 1st & 3rd Wednesdays 9:30~ Sugako Nakano

Japanese Dance (Fujima) 1st & 3rd Wednesdays 13:00~ Rishou Fujima

Flower Arrangement (Ikenobo) 2nd & 4th Wednesdays 9:30~ Sugako Nakano

Haiku 2nd Thursdays 10:00~ Yuriko Ishimoto

3B Exercise 4/a month Thursdays 9:30~ Miyori Fuji

Tai Chi 4/a month Thursdays 13:00~ Miki Kurushima

Let's Learn Chinese! 4/a month Thursdays 18:00~ Takashi Aimoto

Go(Igo) 4/a month Thursdays 18:00~ Yoshiki Adachi

Vegetable Smoothie for Gut Health Cooking 1 2nd & 4th Fridays 10:00~ Nozomi Okamura

Vegetable Smoothie for Gut Health Cooking 2 1st & 3rd Fridays 10:00~ Nozomi Okamura

Yoga 1 4/a month Fridays 9:00~ Miyuki Tamai

Yoga 2 4/a month Fridays 11:00~ Miyuki Tamai

W Stimulus: Brain & Foot 3/a month Mondays 10:00~ Mitsue Yabuki

★Women

Flower Arrangement (Saga Goryu) 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 9:30~ Yuho Motonaka

Table Tennis 1 4/a month, Wednesdays 10:00~ Mayumi Omosako

Table Tennis 2 4/a month, Wednesdays 13:00~ Mayumi Omosako

Gentle Aerobics 4/a month, Tuesdays 19:00~ Naoko Oda

Easy Western-style Sewing (Basics) 1st & 3rd Thursdays 9:30~ Shihomi Hamaguchi

Kimono Dressing Workshop 1st & 3rd Thursdays 10:00~ Yuko Aida

Chorus 1st & 3rd Thursdays 13:30~ Fumiyo Takeda

Relaxing Ballet Stretching 1st & 3rd Fridays 14:00~ Mariko Ebisu

★Elderly (60 years and older)

Silver Cheerful Exercise 1 4/a month, Tuesdays 13:30~ Ayako Watanabe

Silver Cheerful Exercise 2 1st & 3rd Wednesdays 10:00~ Ayako Watanabe

Lively Health Exercise 4/a month, Thursdays 10:00~ Mitsue Yabuki

Editorial Note "Honoring the Needles, Honoring Ourselves"

Sunday, February 8, is *Hari Kuyō*—a day when needles that have served faithfully for years, now bent, worn, or broken, are gently laid to rest by being pressed into *tofu* or *konjac*. The old belief that even tools possess a spirit invites a renewed appreciation for the sensitivity of those who came before us. And somehow, the idea that a needle's final resting place should be *tofu* feels like an especially tender stage for retirement. A traditional *kimono*-sewing teacher once explained it to me this way: "This ritual isn't really for the needles. It's for us—to tell ourselves, You don't have to work anymore." As she spoke softly to the needles, she was, in truth, quietly arranging her own heart. Then, with a wide smile, she added, "Besides, *tofu* never breaks a needle. It's the one day of the year when you absolutely can't fail." Her remark brings an unguarded smile.

In everyday life, we move forward with tense shoulders, always trying not to fail. And so, once a year, perhaps we should borrow a line worthy of a television drama and say, with calm conviction, *I don't fail*.

Maybe *Hari Kuyō* is exactly that kind of observance—a moment when forgiveness is offered, gently and silently, to oneself. (k)

Announcement of Scheduled Closure
Monday, February 16

