

Stonehenge in England is a mysterious monument of large stones. On the summer solstice, the sun rises between them, helping people without clocks or calendars understand the seasons.

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

Web Site

Hiro-Community-Development Center

KOHO HIRO June

Hiro-Community Newsletter

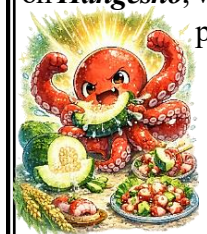
Dogwood quietly blooming, swaying in the spring breeze.

June is just before the start of the rainy season. The gentle scent of rain in the air reminds us that the seasons are changing. Day by day, the sun shines more strongly, and we are entering a brighter season. When people hear the term summer solstice, many think of it as “the day when the daytime is the longest and the night is the shortest of the year.” That is true. However, interestingly, the earliest sunrise occurs a little before this day, and the latest sunset comes a little after it. This happens because of a small cosmic effect created by the Earth’s rotation speed and the tilt of its axis. In 2026, the summer solstice falls on June 21. In Kure City, the sun will rise at around 4:57 a.m. and set at 7:00 p.m. If you look at your shadow on the ground at noon on this day, you will see that it is the shortest it will be all year. The summer solstice is a special day when you can actually feel the sun at its highest point in the sky.

In Japanese mythology, there is the story of *Ama-no-Iwato*, the Heavenly Rock Cave. The day of the summer solstice can be thought of as the day when the sun goddess *Amaterasu* shows her greatest power. When you look up at the sky and imagine saying, “*Amaterasu* is shining brightly and doing her best today!” doesn’t it make you feel a little excited? In terms of food, there are also charming and somewhat humorous traditions. In the *Kansai* region, it is customary to eat octopus on *Hangeshō*, which falls about ten days after the summer solstice. This practice reflects wishes such as “may the rice roots spread firmly through the ground like the legs of an octopus” and “may the ears of rice grow abundantly like an octopus’s eight legs.” In addition, *tōgan* (winter melon), whose name comes from the idea that it can be stored until winter, is a seasonal summer food. It is rich in water, making it helpful for hydration when you have little appetite, and it also contains plenty of vitamin C and potassium. It helps cool excess heat in the body and is a gift from nature.

As the temperatures continue to rise in the coming weeks, please take care to avoid heatstroke and summer fatigue. Let’s enjoy delicious, nutritious seasonal foods and the blessings of sunlight, and stay healthy as we move through the early summer.

Director Hosokawa



2026

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Population of HIRO
 At the end of January,
 compared to December
 Total 42,001 (-47)
 ●M E N 20,365 (-9)
 ●WOMEN 21,636 (-38)



This is an image for reference. You are talented and wise, able to understand many things from just one point. I am slower; even one point takes me time to grasp. That is why I think carefully before making decisions. People who give an opinion and immediately say, “Leave it to me,” rarely stand by it. The person who asks questions again and again about what they do not understand is the one who truly understands. *Kobayakawa Takakage*

Information from Hiro C.D.C. Registration Opens on Saturday, June 20.

① Summer Vacation Homework Workshop - Learn How to Create A Poster -

Eligibility: Elementary school students
 (Children in 2nd grade or below must be accompanied by a guardian)
Dates & Times:
 Session 1: July 25 (Sat), 1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.
 Session 2: July 31 (Fri), 1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.
 *Please choose one session. **Fee:** ¥500
Capacity: 15 participants per session



ROOM 606

② Summer Vacation Homework Workshop -Improve Your Grade-Level Title & Name Writing-

Eligibility: Elementary to junior high school students
 (Children in 2nd grade or below must be accompanied by a guardian)
Date & Time: July 29 (Wed), 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Fee: ¥900 **Capacity:** 15 participants



ROOM 606

③ Seated strength exercises—dance and train your brain -Live Life with Energy & Vitality!-

Eligibility: Ages 18 and over
Dates: August 22, 29; September 5, 19;
 October 3, 17 (6 times) 19:00–21:00
Fee: ¥2,400 **Capacity:** 20 participants



ROOM 701

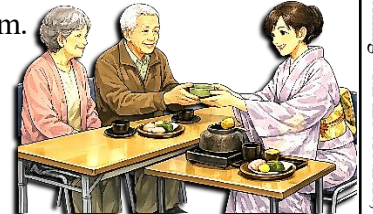
Information from Hiro Library

Opening Hours: 9:30 a.m.–8:00 p.m.
Closed: Thursdays and national holidays
Closed Dates in June: June 4, 11, 18, 25
Babar’s Toddler Picture Book Reading
Date & Time: Tuesday, June 23,
 10:30 a.m.–11:10 a.m.
Location: Hiro Civic Center, 6th Floor, Room 604 ☎: 71-7470



Hiro Cultural Federation Spring Festival

The Hiro District Spring Cultural Festival was held over two days, on Saturday, April 11 and Sunday, April 12. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the many visitors, including those from the Hiro District, who honored us with their presence. At the stage performances in the third-floor hall, a total of ten groups took part in a wide range of genres, including traditional Japanese music, Japanese dance, *taiko* drumming, and Western-style dance. Each group fully showcased the results of their daily practice. From graceful traditional performances to dynamic and energetic acts, all were highly engaging, and the venue was filled with lively enthusiasm. In addition, an *ikebana* (Japanese flower arrangement) exhibition was held on the fifth floor, featuring works from the *Sogetsu* School,



Saga Goryu, Hiromi-kai, and Seiko School. Each piece demonstrated thoughtful creativity, reflecting both dedicated practice and a rich artistic sensibility. Furthermore, on Sunday, April 12, a tea gathering was held,

where members of the *Senchado Baicha* School provided warm and heartfelt hospitality. Many visitors enjoyed a calm and refined atmosphere during this occasion. The Cultural



Organizations Federation is always welcoming new members. If you are interested, please feel free to contact us. We look forward to your participation. **Director Hosokawa**

Kobayakawa Takakage, the son of Mori Motonari, was a Sengoku-era commander known for his calm judgment. Working with his brothers, he helped strengthen the Mori clan and expand its power in the Chūgoku region.

Icebox cookies are made by chilling dough, shaping it into logs, slicing, and baking. The cross-section forms patterns, creating designs like checkerboard or swirls with two colors.

Thank You for Your Feedback Send Your Love on Valentine's Day ♥ Make a Homemade Shortcake



○ I had a lot of fun. ○ It was exciting and fun because I got to make a kind of cake that I don't usually make at home. ○ It was really fun. Making a cake again after a long time was the best. ○ I had so much fun. ○ It was really fun, and the cake I made was super delicious. ○ I was happy to take such a great class, and I really enjoyed it. ○ I especially liked making the batter.



Let's Make Icebox Cookies!



○ I had so much fun. ○ Everything was really good. The way we made the cookies and the



way you taught us were kind and easy to understand. ○ It was really fun. ○ It was yummy and fun.

○ Some parts were a little hard. I liked making cookies in lots of different shapes. Even though it was difficult, I was happy I could make them nicely, and I was glad I learned how to make them. ○ It was fun but also a bit hard. The explanations were easy to understand, and I liked measuring



the sugar by myself. ○ I had a great time. I was happy to learn how to make cookies. I also liked learning about shapes like  and . That was really cool.



Announcement of Scheduled Closure Monday, May 22

Information from HIRO Sports Association



57th Hiro & Surrounding Area Table Tennis Tournament

Date & Time: Monday, July 20, 2026, starting at 9:00 AM
Venue: 1. Kure City General Gymnasium (Shishin-Yo Oak Arena)
Eligibility: 1. Residents of the *Hiro* District or adjacent districts (*Aga, Gohara, Nigata*). 2. Employees of businesses, schools, government offices, or shops in the *Hiro* District. 3. Students and instructors of table tennis classes at the *Hiro, Aga, Gohara, or Nigata* Community Centers. 4. Students enrolled in schools in the *Hiro* District or adjacent districts (*Aga, Gohara, Nigata*).



Participation Fee: 1 General Division: ¥500
2 Junior High and Below: ¥200.
* Fee collected at venue. Fee charged even if absent.
Application destination: Hiro Sports Association Office
*applications accepted by telephone, fax, or e-mail
Tel: 71-2151 **Fax:** 73-5034 **E-mail:** hirokom@city.kure.lg.jp
Application Deadline: Friday, June 19, 2026 *Deadline strictly enforced
Notes: Avoid wearing white; wear match-appropriate clothing.

Notice of Tournament Postponement

57th Hiro District Junior Soft Tennis Tournament

The 57th Hiro District Junior Soft Tennis Tournament, which had been scheduled to be held on **Sunday, June 14, 2026**, at the tennis courts of the National Institute of Technology, Kure College, has been rescheduled to **Saturday, October 3, 2026**.



Results of the 56th Hiro and Surrounding Area Table Tennis Tournament

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Boys (Junior High School and Under) | Girls (Junior High School and Under) |
| 1st: Akimasa Morita (Gohara J.H.S.) | 1st: Mei Nishihira (Hiro Table Tennis Club) |
| 2nd: Shoki Yoshikawa (Hiro Table Tennis Club) | 2nd: Nanaka Takeda (Kumoto Club) |
| 3rd: Kensei Yashiro (Shiratake J.H.S.) | 3rd: Moha Isomoto (Hiro Table Tennis Club) |
| Men (General Division) | Women (General Division) |
| 1st: Kazuya Iwaishi (Hiro Table Tennis Club) | 1st: Yua Masakawa (Hiro Table Tennis Club) |
| 2nd: Kazuma Takatsuka (Kure Minami Special Needs School) | 2nd: Yuna Harada (Kure Technical High School) |
| 3rd: Yoshiyuki Koyama (Hiro Table Tennis Club) | 3rd: Ayano Niina (Kure Kosen) |
| Men (60 Years and Over) | Women (60 Years and Over) |
| 1st: Yasunori Yamane (Nigata Sports Association) | 1st: Hisako Nishi (Sukoyaka Table Tennis Club) |
| 2nd: Hiroshi Miyaji (Nigata Sports Association) | 2nd: Yuko Norimatsu (Kure Veterans) |
| 3rd: Minoru Okada (Individual) | 3rd: Junko Shindo (Independent) |

Results of the 10th Hiro Open Soft Volleyball Tournament

	Free Division	180 Division	Queen Division
Champion	Torigara Club	Soredeiko Sorede	Ran
Runner-up	Shichifukujin	Haguremono	clover



Information from "Hirohiro-ba" 1st Father's Workshop 2026

We at "Hirohiro-ba" support men who want to enjoy parenting and spend time with their families.
Target: Fathers and grandfathers with children aged 0-2
Date & Time: Saturday, June 20, 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Location: Hirohiro-ba Training Room (3rd floor, Hiro Civic Center) **Fee:** Free
Program: "Child First Aid & Preventive Emergency Care"
Capacity: Approximately 15 parent-child pairs
Application: Reservation required (opens June 1)
Contact: Kure City Sukoyaka Childcare Support Center "Hirohiro-ba"
Phone: 76-1616 E-Mail: kosodate@key.ocn.ne.jp



Community Walking Excursion

Date : Tuesday, June 16, 2026
Meeting Location: Hiro Civic Center
Meeting Time: 9:00 a.m.
Route Shiraito-no-taki 7km
Hiro Civic Center → **Kurose River Path** → **Kotaki Bridge** → **Shiraito Falls** → **Ishiuchi Senior Citizens' Hall**
(Participants will be dismissed at the final location.)



Important Information : The route may be adjusted depending on weather conditions or other factors. If you have any questions, please contact **Hori** at 080-1919-6088. Please sign in at the reception desk to be covered by recreational insurance.

Information from HIRO Collaboration Center

At the Hiro Collaboration Center, we regularly post notices recruiting volunteers and information on volunteer activities, community development, and local events. The display area also features local newsletters, organizational bulletins, and maps of communities in Kure City. If you'd like to learn more about volunteer activities or community information, please feel free to visit us on the 4th floor of the Hiro Civic Center. **Closed:** Wednesdays
Opening Hours: 9:00-17:00 **Inquiries:** Tel. 71-0321

