



The Moon Above, Reflected Below

The late summer heat continues, but September brings the feeling of autumn. As the autumn equinox nears, looking up at the night sky makes everyone stop and wonder about the patterns on the moon. The moon on August 15th of the old lunar calendar is called "Jugoya," and it has always been considered especially beautiful. On today's calendar, this is from mid-to-late September, a time when the air is very clear. Moon viewing started in China and became popular among Japanese nobles during the Heian period. Back then, they did not look directly at the moon. Instead, they enjoyed music and poetry while admiring the moon reflected on the water or in their cups. This shows the concept of



"yugen"—the refined custom of finding deep beauty in things that are hidden or faint. Later, during the *Edo* period, moon viewing spread to ordinary people. The moon became a way to give thanks for the harvest. People began displaying pampas grass because it looks like rice plants, and they offered rice flour dumplings. In Japan, people say **there is a rabbit making rice cakes on the moon**. This comes from an Indian folklore:

"Long ago, there were a rabbit, a monkey, and a fox. They met a starving old man and looked for food for him. The monkey found nuts, and the fox caught fish. But the rabbit could not find anything. So, the rabbit jumped into a fire to offer itself as food. The old man was actually a god testing them. Feeling sorry for the kind rabbit, the god brought it back to life inside the moon." In Europe, people see the moon's patterns as a human face and call it "**The Man in the Moon**." Looking at the dark parts as eyes and a mouth makes it look like the moon has an expression. What will this year's Mid-Autumn Moon look like on September 25? In its gentle glow, the moon seems to hold a different beautiful story for every heart. "*Jugoya*," is another name for the Mid-Autumn Moon.



Director Hosokawa



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Population of HIRO
At the end of June,
compared to May
Total 41,846(−36)
● M E N 20,336(−11)
● WOMEN 21,510(−25)



This is an image for reference.

Water leads by its own action and inspires others to move. Water is ever seeking its path and never stops advancing. Confronted by obstacles, water multiplies its power many times over. Though pure itself, water washes away impurities and embraces both the pure and the impure alike. Water fills the vast oceans; it becomes vapor, cloud, rain, snow, and hail. Frozen, it turns into a crystal-clear mirror, yet through every change it never loses its true nature.

Kanbei Kuroda

Information from Hiro C.D.C. Registration starts on Saturday September 20

① Art of Elegant Penmanship Calligraphy Learn the Basics of Brush Pen Calligraphy and Create Beautiful New Year's Cards

Eligibility: 18 years & older who can attend both sessions

Dates: 1 Tuesday, October 20
 2 Tuesday, October 27

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Venue: Room 601, Kure Civic Center

Fee: ¥1,300 **Capacity:** 15

Adult Course



② Hands-On Baking for Kids Let's Make Halloween Pull-Apart Bread!

Eligibility: Elementary and Junior high school students

Children in Grade 3 or younger must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Date: Sunday, October 25

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Venue: Room 603, Kure Civic Center

Fee: ¥1,700 **Capacity:** 12

1st~9th graders



Information from HIRO Collaboration Center Community Development Roundtable

Would you like to become more involved in your community? Have you ever thought, "I have ideas, but I'm not sure where to start"? Why not join us for a casual conversation? Talking with others may help you discover new ideas and opportunities. This is an informal roundtable discussion, so feel free to drop by and join us.

Date & Time: Friday, September 25, 2026

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. You are welcome to arrive late or leave early.

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

Eligibility: Residents of Kure City

Admission: Free **Registration:** Not required

Inquiries: Kure Collaboration Center Tel: 25-5602

Opening Hours: Tuesday–Saturday: 9:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m. Sundays & Public Holidays: 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. *Closed on Mondays. If Monday is a public holiday, we will be closed on the following day instead.



Information from Hiro Library

Operating Hours: 9:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Closed on Thursdays and National Holidays

September closure days : 3-10-17-21-23

Special September Closures:

The Kure City libraries will be closed from Thursday, September 24, through Thursday, October 1, 2026, for the annual collection inventory. If you wish to return library materials during the closure, please use the book return slot located at the entrance of the Hiro Civic Center. Please do not return large-format picture books through the book return slot. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

There will be no Picture Book Storytime in September.



☎ 71-7470

An Announcement from 'Hirohiro·Ba' Dad's Workshop – Second Session

Supporting Men Who Want to Enjoy Parenting and Family Time
Who Can Join: Fathers or grandfathers with their children (Infants from the tummy-time stage to 2 years old, and preschool-age children aged 3 and over who are not yet attending kindergarten or nursery school)

Date & Time: Saturday, September 26,
 2026 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Venue: Hirohiro·Ba Training Room
 3rd Floor, Hiro Civic Center

Program: Have Fun with Dad Through
 Sensory Play! Experience the
 excitement of Sensory Play, an
 internationally popular hands-on activity
 that engages the five senses.

Capacity: 10 parent-child pairs (first come, first served)

Fee: Free **Registration:** Advance reservation required.

Registration period:

Tuesday, September 1 – Friday, September 11

Inquiries: Kure City Healthy Childcare Support Center

"Hirohiro·Ba" Tel: 76-1616



Thank You for Your Feedback!

A Long-Lasting Swag Made with Preserved & Dried Flower Swag!



* I would like the workshops to be held on weekends and public holidays. * It was more difficult than I expected, but thanks to the instructor's advice, I was able to make a lovely, refreshing-looking swag. I'm very satisfied! * I made a beautiful swag! It was

challenging, but manageable. I'm looking forward to the next workshop. * Since fresh flowers tend to wilt quickly in summer, it was a valuable experience to work with preserved flowers. * I have taken the fresh flower arrangement workshop twice before, but I found working with dried flowers much more difficult.



* It was my first time, so it was a new and enjoyable experience. * I had a great time. * I always enjoy participating in these workshops. * I found dried and preserved flowers more difficult to work with than fresh flowers. I couldn't have done it well without the instructor's help, but I really enjoyed it.

Notice from the East Health Center

Physical Fitness Test

"Free Community Health & Fitness Check"

Date: Tuesday, September 15, 2026

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (Registration closes at 11:00 a.m.)

Venue: 3rd Floor Hall, Hiro Civic Center

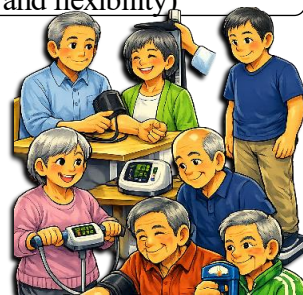
Health and Fitness Assessments Participants can receive the following measurements and physical fitness assessments:

- *Blood pressure *Height *Body composition *Bone density
- *Handgrip strength (muscle strength) *One-Leg Standing Test with Eyes Open (static balance) *Timed Up & Go (overall mobility and functional fitness) *10-Meter Walk Test (walking ability)
- *Functional Reach Test (dynamic balance and flexibility)

What to Bring Comfortable clothing suitable for light exercise A towel and any personal items you may need

Additional Information Participants will be covered by recreational activity insurance. Please sign in at the reception desk upon arrival.

Inquiries Mr. Hori Mobile: 080-1919-6088



Our office is normally closed on 4th Monday
Monday, September 28

Information from HIRO Sports Association

67th Hiro Townspeople Softball Tournament



Date & Time: Sunday, October 4, 2026, from 8:30 a.m.

Location: Nijimura Park Grounds (Courts E, F, G, and H)

Eligibility: Male and female residents of the Hiro district.

Teams should, in principle, be formed based on local community associations (*Jichikai*). Joint teams formed by multiple associations are permitted upon mutual agreement. Associations that do not meet the full player requirement may still register a team.

Note: High school students and younger are not eligible to participate (except for part-time high school students aged 18 and older).

Entry Fee: ¥2,500 / team (Payable upon registration)

Note: Entry fees are non-refundable in the event of cancellation.

Registration Period: From Wednesday, September 9, to Wednesday, September 23, 2026, by 5:00 p.m.

Please submit the application form with the team representative's seal (*hanko or inkan*). Strict deadline adherence is required.

Where to Submit: Hiro Sports Association Secretariat (Tel: 71-2151)

Managers' Meeting: Wednesday, October 1, 2026, from 6:30 p.m. at Room 501. Punctuality is strictly required.

57th Hiro District Junior Soft Tennis Tournament

Date & Time: Saturday, October 3, 2026, from 9:00 a.m.

Location: National Institute of Technology, Kure College (Kure Kosen) Tennis Courts

Eligibility: 1. **High School Division:** Students currently enrolled in high schools within the Hiro district, Municipal Kure High School, or the National Institute of Technology, Kure College (3rd-year students and below).

2. **Junior High School Division:** Students currently enrolled in junior high schools within the Hiro district.

Entry Fee: Free

Registration Deadline: Submit by Tuesday, September 20, 2026

Where to Submit: Hiro Sports Association Secretariat (Tel: 71-2151)

Inquiries: Mr. Yatsu (Head of Soft Tennis Division)
Tel: 73-5351 Mobile: 090-8363-1400

24th Hiro Town Mini-Basketball Tournament

Date & Time: Sunday, October 4, 2026, from 9:40 a.m.

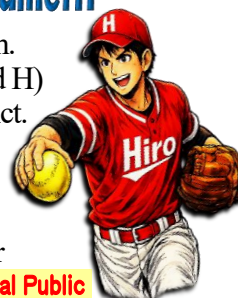
Location: Shishinyo Oak Arena (Kure City General Gymnasium)

Eligibility: Elementary school teams from the Hiro district and surrounding areas, as well as invited elementary school teams. **Tournament Format:** Separated by gender. The tournament will consist of round-robin qualifiers within blocks, followed by ranking matches.

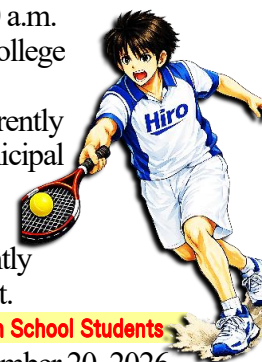
Registration Deadline: Please submit the application form by Friday, September 12, 2026.

Where to Submit: Hiro Sports Association Secretariat (Tel: 71-2151)

Inquiries: Hiro Sports Association, Basketball Division;
Kiyonobu Tsubokawa (Mobile: 090-1353-3916)



General Public



Middle & High School Students



Elementary School Students

Notice from the Elderly Support Division

Healthy Aging Salon Senior Community

Participants Wanted! It's Never Too Late to Start

Preventive Care! Healthy Living Salon The Healthy Living Salon is a community gathering place designed to help prevent social isolation among older adults. Participants will enjoy a variety of recreational activities, including singing, brain-training exercises, and other enjoyable programs. **Eligibility:** Residents of Kure City who are 65 years of age or older. **Please note:** For safety reasons, participation may not be possible depending on your health condition. **Fee:** Approximately ¥100 per session (Some activities may require an additional materials fee.)

Capacity: 40 participants **Schedule:** From Wednesday, October 14, 2026, to Wednesday, March 25, 2027 Every Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (18 sessions in total) **Venue:** Room 702 (Medium Conference Room), 7th Floor Hiro Civic Center **Registration:** Apply in person between Monday, August 10, and Tuesday, September 1 at any Community Center, the Senior Citizen Support Division, or any Senior Consultation Office (Community Comprehensive Support Center) in Kure City. **Please note the following:** 1. An application form must be completed. 2. Applications cannot be accepted by telephone. 3. If the number of applicants exceeds capacity, participants will be selected.

Smartphone Class for Older Adults

Would you like to learn the basics of using a smartphone and discover how it can make your daily life more convenient?

A smartphone will be provided for each participant during the class.

Topics: 1. Learn how to use LINE 2. Using Your Smartphone for Health Management (Frailty Prevention)

Eligibility: Residents of Kure City who are 65 years of age or older

Capacity: 20 participants **Fee:** Free **Date & Time:** Friday, September 4, 2026 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. **Venue:** Room 601 (Small Conference Room No. 2), 6th Floor Hiro Civic Center

Registration: Applications will be accepted by telephone on a first-come, first-served basis, beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, August 20. **Inquiries:** Senior Citizen Support Division Tel: 25-3104

Editorial Note A Long Way Home Under the Moon

"The moon is so blue, let's take the long way home."

This is a line from a hit song by Tsuzuko Sugawara that became a huge hit in 1955. In reality, the moon rarely appears blue. Yet, this song has remained in the hearts of many people, perhaps because the word "blue" evokes a sense of beauty and the image of a clear, serene landscape. This song is not simply about wanting to take a detour because moon is the beautiful. It expresses a desire to spend just a little more time with the person walking beside you. Such feelings are gently entrusted to the moon. It is now the season of the full harvest moon. When we look up at the night sky, we realize that people in the past looked at the exact same moon, thinking of someone precious to them and feeling the changing of the seasons. The moon remains unchanged, then and now. It is only the feelings of the people illuminated by its light that are quietly passed down through the ages. Tonight, perhaps there are some who might feel like taking a little detour on their way home....

