In the Kagura play "Katsuragiyama", a wounded spider demon flees to its mountain, only to be slain by Yorimitsu's four guardians following its trail of blood. It is a popular, dynamic piece famous for its flying spider webs.

"Katsura Beicho III" revived classical Kamigata rakugo with his refined storytelling. He was the second rakugo master named a Living National Treasure and remains the sole recipient of the Order of Culture in rakugo.

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

Web Site 飾り職人工房

HIRO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTER

KOHO HIRO

HIRO COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

2026 DECEMBER



Published monthly on the 10th No.359
【Editorial and Publishing Office】
Hiro Community Development Center
2-1-3 Hiro Koshingai, Kure City, Hiroshima 737-0112
☎ 71-2151 📠 73-5034

Population of HIRO
At the end of Sep compared to Aug
Total 41,821(− 2)
●M E N 20,336(− 6)
●WOMEN 21,485(+ 4)

This is an image for reference.



Katsura Beicho

If you regard someone as your equal, they are above you. If you regard them as beneath you, they are your equal. And if you regard them as above you, they are far above you. There is no one beneath you. So don't worry about whose shoes they are. Just line them all up neatly. There were difficult times, but I never once thought of giving up. In the end, what truly matters is the kind of person you are.

From Winter Flowers to New Year Traditions



As the calendar turns to its final page, we find ourselves approaching the quiet threshold of winter. And yet, with warm days giving way to sudden cold snaps, the changing seasons seem less predictable than they once were. When December arrives, florists' windows fill with the vivid red of poinsettias, reminding us that Christmas is just around the corner. Native to Mexico, poinsettias can grow into impressive trees more than three meters tall. It is remarkable to think that a plant originating in a distant land has crossed oceans to become part of Japan's winter landscape. And yet, even as these familiar flowers mark the changing season, the rhythms of nature around us may be shifting in subtle ways. Perhaps this is a good time to pause, take a closer look at the small changes in the world around us, and reflect on the importance of living in harmony with nature.

After Christmas, ***kadomatsu*** begin to appear at the entrances of homes. In old Japan, it was believed that the ***Toshigami***, or New Year deity, visited each household at the start of the year. ***Kadomatsu*** served as a signpost to guide the deity to the home. Pine was chosen because it remains green through winter and thus came to symbolise longevity and vitality. The word ***matsu***"松", meaning "pine", was also associated with ***matsu***"待つ", "to wait" — suggesting that the household was waiting to welcome the deity. But why is the bamboo cut so sharply on the diagonal? You may have heard that the gods descend upon the pointed tip. The idea is appealing, but perhaps too neat. In ancient Japanese rituals, tall bamboo, trees and pillars were erected, with sacred branches or ritual paper placed at their tops to receive the gods. The point, then, was not so much the sharpness of the tip as the act of raising something skyward to welcome the divine. Seen in this light, ***kadomatsu*** is more than a New Year decoration. It seems almost an act of hospitality from another age: "**Here is where people live. Please, come this way.**" As the year draws to a close, let us look back with gratitude for all those who have supported us, and welcome the New Year with quiet hearts.



An Image of the New Year Deity

To everyone in the ***Hiro*** District, I wish you a peaceful and happy New Year.

Director Hosokawa



Notice from the Hiro Community Development Promotion Council

The 78th Hiro District Education Festival

Monday, November 23 (National Holiday)



Opening Ceremony 9:00–9:10 Entrance
Nada Nursery School, Certified Childcare Center
Calligraphy Performance 10:00– 1F Gallery
Hiro H. S., ***Kure-Sho*** H. S., ***Ichi-Kure*** H. S.
Historical Lecture 12:40–13:30 3F Hall
Topic: **Discovering "Hiro"**
The Origins of "Hiro" and Why "Education First"?
Speaker: ***Hiroyuki Kamayama***
(Together, Let's Learn About the Town of Hiro Committee)





Presentation by the *Hiro-Minami* Junior High School Student Council 13:30–13:40 3F Hall



Hiro District Ondo Dance 13:40–13:50 3F Hall
Performance: Hiro District Women's Federation
Hiro District Education Achievement Awards Ceremony 13:50–14:30 3F Hall

Mount Katsuragi

Hasatake Kagura Troup
Special Performance 15:00–16:30 3F Hall_
Captivating the audience with "***Mount Katsuragi***" and "***Yamata-no-Orochi***"!
First performance in four years
MC: ***Tamaki Nakagawa*** Freelance Announcer, born in Kure

Tickets Now on Sale - ¥500
Available at HIro Civic Center



Yamata-no-Orochi ***Tamaki Nakagawa***

News from the HIRO Collaboration Center

Community Collaboration Center continuously posts information on local volunteer opportunities, community development projects, and neighborhood events. In our display area, you will find local newsletters, organization bulletins, and maps of the Kure area.

If you would like to learn more about volunteering or local community activities, please feel free to drop by the Hiro Community Collaboration Center on the 4th floor of the Hiro Civic Center.

Hours: 9:00 – 17:00 **Closed**: Wednesdays **Tel**: 71-0321

Information from Hiro C.D.C.

Registration Opens: Sunday, December 20

①Learn to Wear Kimono by Yourself

Covering a Wide Range of Styles: Light Yukata and Stylish Kimono



Eligibility: Women aged 16 and older
Dates & Time: Jan 12, 19, 26
Feb 2, 9, 16 Mar 2, 9, 16, 23
Tuesdays, 6:30–8:30 p.m. (10 sessions total)
Location: Hiro Civic Center, 6th Floor, Japanese-style Room 604
Fee: 4,000 yen
Capacity: 12 Participants (First-come, first-served)

②Let's Make Chocolate Tarts!

Happy Valentine's Day with Homemade Sweets!

Eligibility: Elementary and junior high school students and their parents (Elementary students must be accompanied by a parent)
Date & Time: Saturday, January 30, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Location: Hiro Civic Center, 6F, Room 603
Fee: 1,800 yen per person
Capacity: 12 Participants (First-come, first-served)



"Hirohiro-ba" Christmas Show

Eligibility: Preschool children (ages 0–2 and 3+) and their parents/guardians
*Older siblings are welcome.
Date & Time: Sat, Dec 12, 2026
Location: Music Hall, 4th Floor, ***Kure City Lifelong Learning Center***
Address: 6-2-9 Chuo, Kure City, Hiroshima
Event Details: A special holiday performance by LCF, a student volunteer club from Hiroshima International University. **Capacity**: 200 participants **Fee**: Free

Please note: The venue is NOT Hiro Civic Center

☎ : 76-1616



Thank You for Your Feedback!

Delicious & Fun Medicinal Cooking ~Summer Health-Restoring Cuisine~



*"It was really fun. I wish there were more sessions." *"It was great because the recipes were so easy to make." *"We got to eat so much for the price! There was so much food I was almost worried the instructor might be running at a loss." *"This was my third time participating. Thank you so much for teaching us various things every time. I love that the flavors are enjoyed by my family and that I can make these dishes with ingredients I already have at home. I look forward to the next one!" *"I used to think medicinal cooking (***Yakuzen***) was difficult, but I was glad to learn that we can make delicious dishes using everyday ingredients that I can easily recreate at home. It was also wonderful to enjoy cooking together with everyone." *"I was very satisfied with the clear explanations and the use of healthy ingredients." *"I'm so glad I came today. I would love to come back again. Thank you very much!" *"It was great to take a cooking class after a long time. I'm looking forward to the next one." *"I was glad to learn new things." (Adult Course)

Let's Make Stick Cookies!



*"It was fun." *"The teacher was very kind. It was fun!" *"It was so much fun." *"It was fun working together as a parent and child." *"It was a bit difficult, but I had a lot of fun." *"The cookies were delicious! I was happy that I could make them myself!!" *"It was a great opportunity to see the children making the cookies and washing up all on their own. Thank you very much."



*"I learned a lot and had a lot of fun." *"The cookies were delicious. They were easy to make." *"It was easy to do and delicious." *"It was easy to do and very convenient." *"It was easy to do." *"I was glad I could make so many." *"I had fun making them, so I want to participate again." *"I had a lot of fun baking cookies well, and I made friends with the other participants."

(Elementary School / Parent-Child Course)



Hiro Community Development Center Closure Dates

Holiday Closure: Mon, Dec 28 – Sun, Jan 3

Information from HIRO Sports Association

Results of the 57th Hiro District Junior Soft Tennis Tournament

Date & Time: Saturday, October 3, 2026 / Starts at 9:00 AM
Venue: Kure Kosen Tennis Courts **Participant**s: 100 players

1st-Year Junior High Boys

1st : *Nagano / Yamashita* (Hiro Chuo)
2nd : *Nakahara / Une* (Yokoro)
3rd : *Yanagihara / Hiromoto* (Hiro Chuo)
3rd : *Uchishiba / Noda* (Yokoro)

1st-Year Junior High Girls

1st : *Yokomichi / Hamada* (Hironami)
2nd : *Fujio / Kawasaki* (Yokoro)
3rd : *Kamigaki / Isogai* (Yokoro)
3rd : *Iwamoto / Shiode* (Yokoro)

2nd-Year Junior High Boys

1st : *Inoue / Furumitsu* (Hiro Chuo)
2nd : *Wakabayashi / Ihara* (Hiro Chuo)
3rd : *Yamaguchi / Fuchigami* (Yokoro)
3rd : *Komiya / Okazaki* (Hiro Chuo)

2nd-Year Junior High Girls

1st : *Tanojima / Matsuoka* (Yokoro)
3rd : 2nd : *Nakamura / Kushioka* (Yokoro)
3rd : *Mori / Morita* (Yokoro)
3rd : *Yoshinaka / Higa* (Hironami)

High School Boys

1st : *Kittaka / Matsuoka* (Kure Kosen)
2nd : *Okita / Terashige* (Kure Kosen)
3rd : *Yoshimura / Togawa* (Hiro)
3rd : *Ito / Shintani* (Kure Kosen)

High School Girls

1st : *Ota / Ishida* (Kure Kosen)
2nd : *Iwasaki / Kotani* (Hiro)
3rd : *Tanoue / Tanaka* (Kure Kosen)
3rd : *Wakabayashi / Shimizu* (Hiro)

The 67th Hiro Town Softball Tournament Results

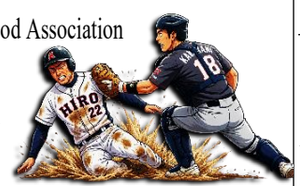
Date & Time: Sunday, October 4, 2026 / Starts at 8:30 AM
Venue: Nijimura Park Multi-Purpose Ground
Participation: 9 Neighborhood Associations / 172 Players

Block A

Champion: **Nishi-Yokoro** Neighborhood Association
Runner-up: **Shiyaki・Tokumaru** Neighborhood Association

Block B

Champion: **Nakasako** Neighborhood Association
Runner-up: **Obiro** Neighborhood Association



Results of the 24th Hiro Town Mini-Basketball Tournament

Date & Time: Sunday, October 4, 2026 / Starts at 9:00 AM
Venue: Shishinyo Oak Arena (Kure City General Gymnasium)
Participation: 12 Teams / 190 Players

Division 1 (Girls)

1st Place: **Shiratake** Mini-Basketball Club
2nd Place: **Hiro** Mini-Basketball Club

Division 2 (Boys)

1st Place: **Shiratake** Mini-Basketball Club
2nd Place: **Yokoro** Mini-Basketball Club



Walking Event Information



◎ **Date**: Tuesday, December 15, 2026
◎ **Meeting Place**: Hiro Civic Center
◎ **Meeting Time**: 9:00 a.m.
Route: *Round trip to Nagahama Park – 5 km*

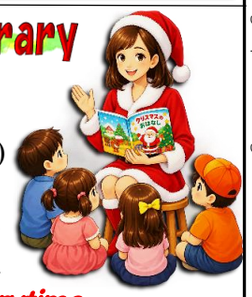
Hiro Civic Center → ***Hiro*** Intersection → ***Oban*** → ***Nagahama*** Park → ***Oban*** → ***Hiro*** Intersection → ***Hir***o Civic Center

※The route may be changed or the event may be canceled due to weather conditions or other circumstances.

For inquiries, please contact **Mr. Hori**: 080-1919-6088
Please sign in at the reception desk for accident insurance purposes.
This project is carried out with financial support from Kure City.

Organizers: Hiro District Health Promotion Council; Kure City Public Health Center, East Health Center
Co-organizers: Hiro District Neighborhood Associations Federation; Hiro District Council of Social Welfare

Information from Hiro Library



Opening Hours: 9:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Closed: Thursdays and public holidays
December Closing Dates: **3**, **10**, **17**, & **24** (Thu)
Year-End and New Year Holidays:
Monday, December 28 – Monday, January 4
The library will reopen on Tuesday, January 5.

◎Babar's Christmas Picture Book Storytime

Date and Time: Saturday, December 12, 10:30 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.
Venue: Japanese-Style Room 604, 6th Floor, Hiro Civic Center.
Advance registration is required. Further details will be announced on notices posted inside the library and on Facebook as soon as they are available.* **Registration: At the Kure City Hiro Library counter or by phone. **Contact**: Kure City **Hiro Library** Tel: 71-7470

Editorial Note *Sharp Cuts, Long Life*



Drawn by the comforting aroma of ***dashi*** drifting through the streets in December, we step into a ***soba*** shop and savor those long, slender noodles. With every mouthful, we are reminded of the many wishes woven into this Japanese New Year's Eve tradition. ***Soba*** symbolizes longevity, while its tendency to break easily is said to represent cutting away the year's misfortunes. Add the lucky charm of attracting wealth, and you have a dish brimming with good fortune! Never mind the contradiction of noodles that break easily yet symbolize a long life. The spirited people of old ***Edo*** clearly knew how to make tradition work in their favor. This charming blend of clever shopkeepers' ingenuity and everyday wisdom lives on in ***toshikoshi soba***. To everyone in the Hiro district, may bad ties be severed and happiness stretch on and on, like a strand of ***soba***. Wishing you a happy and prosperous New Year! ⓚ

"Toshikoshi Soba" symbolizes severing the past year's bad luck. Eating it past midnight carries that misfortune into the new year, so finish your bowl before midnight on New Year's Eve.