

A Kyotango Summer Colored with Song and Dance

Festa Hiten's Exciting Midsummer Stage

August 6, Mineyama

Based on the legends of Hagoromo and Tanabata passed down in Kyotango, the event “Festa Hiten 2017 in Kyotango” (organized by the committee of the same name) was held on August 6th in front of Kyotango City Hall.

Children from the city's kindergartens, nursery schools, and elementary schools wrote their wishes on long strips of paper, and the colorful paper brightened the area alongside over 100 Tanabata decorations. A full stage program ran alongside over 25 different booths for food and drink. There was also a haunted house and a pool set up for the many excited participants.

The stage show opened with an opening ceremony by Mineyama Junior High School's Brass Band, and then a yosakoi dance performance by younger children. There was a horsehead fiddle performance, and more live music by Mineyama High School's Light Music Club. “The Seven Princesses of Tango” group also took to the stage for a dance. For the finale, Kyotango native rock band UNCHAIN pleased the crowd with a passionate performance.



↑ Children doing a yosakoi dance



↑ Mineyama High School

Light Music Club performance



←A dance from The Seven Princesses of Tango group

A Fun Summer Night of Song and Fireworks

Cool Evening Festival on Ayumigaoka Campus

August 2, Omiya

On August 2nd on Ayumigaoka Campus, a care facility in Omiya for people with disabilities, they held their yearly Cool Evening Festival.

The facility staff works hard to put on this event every year, and this year they planned stage performances with song and dance, target practice attractions, and a refreshment booth that about 400 visitors came to enjoy. About 80 facility residents were able to enjoy the food and stage show on a beautiful summer night with their families. The finale was a fireworks show that colored the night sky, closing up the event with great success.



↑ Saya Yamane (2nd from the right) sang onstage and attendees were welcome to jump in and participate.

Yasaka Branch School's Sign Language Class

Aiming to Present at School Festival

July 10, Yasaka

On July 10th in Mineyama High School's Yasaka Branch School, a sign language class was held. To further their understanding of people with auditory and speech disabilities, 3rd-year home economics students learned the fundamentals of sign language.

Ms. Kumiko Miyashita of the Kyotango branch of the Tango-Chuutan Auditory Disability Association served as lecturer, and after a total of three lessons, the students are aiming to perform a song of their own choice in sign language for a school festival.

The students in general have had very little experience with sign language and got a bit lost, but they carefully watched and followed Ms. Miyashita's sign language movements.

There are many difficulties in the life of those with hearing impairments, and the students listened with rapt interest to Ms. Miyashita's positive outlook in her stories.

After they were taught how to introduce themselves, students presented one-by-one in front of their classmates. Though there was a lot of trial and error with the unfamiliar sign language, the classroom was filled with smiles.



↑ Ms. Miyashita (the woman in front of the blackboard) teaching sign language to the high school students.

All Across the Finish Line!

Ukawa Elementary Schooler 5th and 6th Year's Long-Distance Swimming Competition
July 29, Tango

Ukawa Municipal Elementary School's Long-Distance Swimming Competition was held on July 29th at Nakahama Beach.

This competition is held every year and aims to improve children's swimming ability and teach them how to safely swim in the sea, in addition to giving them a sense of accomplishment and joy for being able to swim the target distance.

The kids built up experience practicing in both the pool and the sea, and on the day of the event they formed a circle on the sandy beach, yelled that they would all do their best, and worked up a fighting spirit with shouts and cheers of encouragement before they began. Under careful watch by teachers and guardians, the 18 kids all finished the distance swim in about an hour. The kids who finished first supported those still swimming with loud cheers, and after they finished kids went to hug their guardians in a moving scene.

Rin Harada (6th year) said proudly "Last year I was frustrated that I couldn't swim one kilometer, so today I did my best to make sure I could swim it. I'm very happy!"



↑ Children who just finished swimming the target distance cross the finish line with wide smiles.

Fairytale Lanterns at Kumihama's Summer Festival

Sennichie Festival Lit up with Lanterns and Fireworks

August 9, Kumihama

The Sennichie Tourist Festival (sponsored by the Sennichie Tourist Festival Committee and the Kumihama Tourism Association) was held on August 9th in the area surrounding Kumihama Beach Park, and the midsummer night was lit up with lanterns and launched fireworks.

They say if you go to Nyoiji Temple on this day, you will be blessed for a thousand days, and this festival was born from that idea. This year was the 62nd celebration of the festival. At 7:30pm, the daimonji on Mt. Kabuto was lit up, and at the same time, fireworks began firing off one by one, leaving big rings of sparks like flowers floating in the night sky. About 3000 paper lanterns were floated out onto Kumihama Bay, and spectators enjoyed the magical appearance of the lights.



↑ The venue was lit up by about 3000 lanterns floating out onto Kumihama Bay, as the daimonji was lit up on Mt. Kabuto and fireworks were set off.

Sunflowers Blooming on the “Demon Road”

Residential Project for Traffic Safety

Early August, Amino

In Amino, there is a road that spans between the Go and Takahashi wards that is known as the “demon road” due to the high frequency of traffic accidents that occur there. In July, a traffic safety project was started to brighten the side of this road with sunflowers. The Kyotango Police Department, the local wards, and also schools joined together for these efforts, and this is the 2nd year in a row that the project has taken place.

Amino Minami Elementary School children and regional volunteers planted a field of sunflower seeds near Go Post Office, and the best time to see the blooms was early August, when the vibrant yellow blooms lit up the roadside.



↑ The “demon road” where many traffic accidents repeatedly occur is lit up with bright sunflowers