

Winter's Snow Crab Season Opens

The Long-Awaited First Auction Livens Up Taiza Fishing Harbor

November 6, Tango

The snow crab fishing season opened on November 6th, and the first auction was held in Taiza fishing harbor. The total catch of the first day was 676.7 kilos of male crabs, and 2685 kilos of female crabs, which is slightly below that of an average year.

When the auction began, the wholesalers judged the crabs with skilled eyes and their lively voices rang out in the fishing harbor.

After the auction for the female crabs, called Koppe crabs, the auction for the male crabs, or Taiza crabs, began. As Kyotango's high-grade brand of foodstuffs, the popular Taiza crabs are given as gifts that non-locals receive if they choose to pay Kyotango's local "furusato nouzei" tax. Five Taiza crabs can sell for as much as 1.11 million yen.

One business person said "There are plenty of types of high quality crabs being caught, so Taiza Fishing Harbor is a very good port. Its forte is providing customers with freshly caught goods. After pricing it for the first time this year today, we hope that the seafood will popular this season."

In Kyoto, the season for catching male crabs is until March 20th, and for female crabs, just until the end of the year.



↑ Wholesalers gather around the snow crabs at the auction



↑ A box overflowing with female Koppe crabs



↑ To preserve freshness, the male Taiza crabs are spread out on top of ice

Tight Competition in Wheelchairs – A Race Unaffected by Disability

Kyotango City Wheelchair Relay Race Finale

November 12, Mineyama

On November 12th, the 9th Kyotango City Wheelchair Relay Race was held in the area around City Hall. This year, 27 teams entered the race, which is held every year by the Wheelchair Relay Race Committee in order to promote social welfare and create a place where townspeople can interact regardless of disability. The course is a wheelchair relay for about 1.3 kilometers along the Konishi River. Though the participants were fighting against heavy odds by operating wheelchairs they were unfamiliar with using, all teams still finished the race. This was the last time the competition will be held, and committee Chairman Masao Yamazaki said “We are full of gratitude to have been supported by so many citizens, groups, and businesses.” At the finish line, local mascots cheered, and the Mineyama Junior High School concert band performed for the finishing teams.



↑ Local mascots look on as the race starts

International Designers Visit School

An Exchange to See the Appeal of Tango Chirimen in a New Light

October 30, Yasaka

International fashion designers Livia Stoianova and Yassen Samouilov came to Tango from France for the projects leading up to Tango chirimen's 300th anniversary, and they visited the Yasaka Branch of Mineyama High School on October 30th. This visit was prompted by their acquaintance with Kyouji Tamiya of the company Tamiya Raden, whom they met when they presented clothes made from Tango chirimen in their Paris Collection.

After a welcome assembly with all the students in the gym, the two moved to a tatami room, where they were treated to handmade Japanese sweets and green tea. The pair also often eats Japanese cuisine in France, and they listened attentively to the explanation of how to make green tea. Then they looked at the practice displays of the 2nd and 3rd year home economics students, and gave them new ideas and advice on the importance of conveying one's message.

At the end of the exchange, the students asked "What is the appeal of Tango chirimen?" and the pair answered "There are so many that we can't say them all, but it's wonderful that its long history has fostered a lot of art. The clothes made from Tango chirimen that we displayed in our Paris Collection were inspired by that history. We want to continue to passionately convey that long and continuing history."



↑ Left: Yassen gives advice to a student on her practice display

Right: Livia (left) and Yassen (right) listen to how the green tea is made

Goodwill and a “Can”-Do Attitude!

Amino Elementary and Junior High School’s Combined Volunteering

October 26 – November 2, Amino

In Amino School District (Amino Junior High, Amino Kita Elementary, Amino Minami Elementary, Tachibana Elementary, Shimazu Elementary), the junior high school student government organized a combined volunteer effort in the elementary schools to support the area struck by the Tohoku Earthquake. This year, they made a collection of aluminum cans, pet bottle caps, and milk cartons.

On the morning of November 1st, the student government of the junior high school met with the student leaders of each elementary school, and together they received the cans and cartons while politely greeting each person.

Class President Tomoya Umeda (Amino Junior High, 3rd year) said “I’m happy that so many people came out to help us. This group volunteer project started when we were in our 3rd year at elementary school, and now that we are the ones asking for volunteers, I really understand the importance and meaning of volunteering much a lot more. I hope this continues as a tradition of Amino School District.”



↑ Amino Junior High School class officers collect aluminum cans with children at Amino Kita Elementary School

Taking a Look at Abundant Nature

Viewing Autumn Leaves in Mt. Uchi's Beech Forest

November 5, Omiya

Seven participants came to the Mt. Uchi Beech Forest Autumn Leaves Observation Walk on November 5th, under a clear autumn sky. This observation walk is held every year in order to give people a chance to enjoy precious nature like the beech forest, and to pass it on to future generations.

While they walked through the groves of beech trees, participants admired the vividly colored autumn leaves and multicolored wild grasses, and listened to the explanations of the lecturer. After having lunch on the summit, they descended down a different route, and planted seedlings received from local people near the entrance to the mountain path.

Participants discussed their experiences, saying "I'm glad I got to really see and actually interact with nature" and "It's reassuring to know that there are people planting trees and protecting natural forests."



↑ Participants walk while looking up at the vividly colored beech trees

Aiming to Be a Hospital Beloved by the Region
600 Attendees at the 4th Kumihama Hospital Festival
November 5, Kumihama

The municipal Kumihama Hospital held their 4th Kumihama Hospital Festival on November 5th, and about 600 people came to enjoy the clear autumn weather, stage event and exhibition corner, and food stalls. A committee made up of hospital staff concentrates on planning this event every year in order to become a hospital that local people love. In the afternoon, there was a special speech, and for the finale staff threw mochi treats into the crowd.



↑ The Kumihama Hospital Chorus sing “365-Step March” with movements