

Children & Adults Captivated Alike

“Family Puppet Show Theater”

The puppet show group “Hipopotaamu,” represented by Mutsumi Nagano, performed “Chip and Choco” at Kumihama City Hall on September 7th. It drew a large crowd that thoroughly enjoyed the puppet performance and totaled 85 parents, children and the like.

This show was put on by the Kyotango Cultural Town Development Executives Committee, chaired by management board chairman Takumi Kushida, in an effort to have families enjoy a genuine puppet show. Its warm story was centered on two puppy siblings who tried new things, and fought, failed, and worked together to overcome challenges.

In addition to the children, the adults in attendance had stars in their eyes as they were enthralled by the precise movements of the puppets and realism of the stage, which was brought to life by lighting and sound effects.

Afterwards, theater-goers expressed their thoughts on the event. They said things like, “I had fun with my children,” and “40 minutes went by in a flash.”

The Kyotango Cultural Town Development Executives Committee takes part in urban development by promoting cultural performing arts through the mediums of: Opera, *Nō*, *Kyogen*, Ballet, the Hand-made City Musical “Silas Marner,” the local art festival “Tango no Matsuri,” and more.



Nostalgic Faces on Obon Night

Local Reminder of Summer: the “Mineyama Odori”

The yearly event “Mineyama Odori” was held at the Mineyama General Welfare Center parking lot on August 14th. This event is put on by the Mineyama Promotional Association of Traditional Arts--chaired by Jinichi Ono--every year during Obon, and is aimed at livening up the region and passing on tradition. It boasted an attendance of over 80 people, with residents accounting for a large percentage. Attendees were heard saying things like, “I always look forward to seeing all the nostalgic faces of those who have left Kyotango,” and “The choreography was simple and easy to act out.”

The Mineyama Odori is said to have a history that dates back over 200 years. Chairman Ono commented, “I would like to continue to pass this dance down as a regional custom.”



16000-Year-Old Relics Discovered

Doshisha University Department of Archaeology “Excavation Study Tour”

The Doshisha University Department of Archaeology, led by Professor Kazutomo Mizunoe, conducted an excavation at the Hamazume Ruins and opened a study tour at the site thereafter on August 31st. Around 50 participated and learned about the accomplishments and works of the dig.

The same archaeology department discovered the remains of Jomon-period housing during an excavation conducted in 1958, and at the present day site, a restored *Tateanajukyo* (pit dwelling) is displayed.

During the most recent excavation, the latest radar probes were used to inspect the ground beneath the site, and starting August 17th, 20 students stayed overnight in Kyotango to conduct excavation work in two locations west of the *Tateanajukyo*. Their goal was to find a layer of shells left from the Jomon-period. Masaoki Oishi, captain of the excavation and first year university student, commented, “We weren’t able to find the shell layer, but we were able to find a previously undiscovered spearhead from the stone-age layer, which dates back 16000 years. This is a great discovery.” A tour participant also shared their thoughts, tickled with excitement: “I was surprised to hear that people lived here 16000 years ago!”



Mesmerization on a Diverse Stage

“Yasaka Geinō no Tsudoï”

The Yasaka Branch of The Kyotango City Cultural Association held the “Yasaka Geinō no Tsudoï”--an event where Yasaka’s cultural and performing-arts organizations perform in front of a crowd by singing, dancing, etc.--at the Yasaka Regional Community Center on August 25th.

On this 38th iteration of the event, 11 organizations belonging to the cultural association at Yasaka made appearances and showed off the fruits of their daily activities on stage. The large audience enjoyed a deep program which included: a choir performance, Japanese-style and non-Japanese-style dances, a reading of Chinese poems, and *Yosakoi* and Ocarina performances.

Ninety-two-year-old Kaoru Fujiwara of the “Yasaka Shigin & Senbu Club” danced the *Senbu* while dressed in family-crest *Hakama*. She was the eldest performer of the event, and shared her thoughts, “We always have fun when we practice. It’s encouraging being able to perform in front of everyone like this.”

On November 2nd and 3rd, the cultural association at Yasaka will host the “Yasaka Cultural Festival,” at which its member organizations will display pressed flowers, haiku, calligraphy, paintings, and more.



Yearly Release of Picture Scrolls

“Temple Treasures” displayed at Taniuchi’s Iwaya Temple

A guided visit exhibiting the Oeyama Oni Taiji Picture Scroll and other stored items of that era was held on August 18th at Iwaya Temple in Taniuchi.

This event is put on by the Taniuchi Community Center once a year in parallel with “Airing-out day,” a day where the scrolls are removed from storage to prevent damage from insects and mold. These “temple treasures” can be viewed in person and include picture scrolls, Buddhist paintings, and more. One of the treasures--the Oeyama Oni Taiji Picture Scroll--depicts Yorimitsu Minamoto exterminating ogres. It is considered to be a Kano-style work created in the early Edo period and has been named a “Designated Cultural Asset” of Kyotango City.

Kyotango locals were joined by outlanders in the guided visit, all of whom paid special attention to the explanations given by chief priest Kyosho Daido. Curator Nobuhiro Wada reflected on the event and said, “This is a once-in-a-year chance. I am glad that so many people were able to experience such a historically important cultural asset.”



Bonds of Friendship Forged through Baseball

Interleague Match with Kizugawa City Youth Baseball Team

On August 18th, an interleague youth baseball match was held at Tango Junior High School as a joint exchange project with Kizugawa City, a friendship city of Kyotango City. On this day, members of the local team--the “Taiza Seagulls”--mixed with members of the Kizugawa representative team. Players were able to break through the “team barrier,” create new, mixed teams, and have an energetically good time. Haruki Nishioka of Kizugawa City looked back on the experience and said, “It was fun cooperating with Kyotango players in the mixed teams. I was also able to go to the beach and make some great summer memories!” Natsuki Yoshida of the Taiza Seagulls commented, “I am a 6th grader, so this was my last interleague match, but I will keep playing baseball and am excited to play them again in the future.”

