

Chirimen Broadcasted through Art and Music

Takakurazome & Bim Bom Bam Concert

The “Takakurazome & Bim Bom Bam Live Concert” was held on November 16th at the main hall of Anyou Temple.

As Tango welcomes 300 years of Tango Chirimen, the region continues to spread the word of its specialty product throughout the world. This event’s sponsoring organization “Happy 300th Birthday, Tango Chirimen” is represented by Yasuko Tani and organizes events targeted at young people to find inheritors to the Tango Chirimen craft. They organize events like the Bim Bom Bam concert, Tango Chirimen Kimono Shows, and “Live Painting” sessions.

At the “Takakura Live Painting,” Yasaka cho’s Kazuhiko Takakura, an artist and dyer, splashed paint onto a kimono-wearing model using his “Takakura Dying Style.” The performance was done to the beat of music in front of a large crowd, and the finished design turned out very colorful.

The spectators talked about how Mr. Takakura had them on the edge of their seats, and when the final product was revealed they responded with a huge round of applause.



Soba-making Enjoyed with Eye, Hands, and Tongue

Elderly College at Tango Gakuen has “Soba Making” Course

On December 4th, The Elderly College at Tango Gakuen conducted a “Soba Making” course at the Former Toyosaka Elementary School. They welcomed Kazutaka Honda as the day’s lecturer, and 22 participants experienced everything from making to eating the soba. This is the 4th time the event has been conducted so the participants were used to the process. After the work was completed, everyone taste-tested the fruits of their labor and enjoyed the flavor and aroma of soba.

A participant commented, “Rolling the dough, cutting it to the proper thickness, and lengthening the soba was difficult. It is hard to buy all of these tools yourself, so this isn’t something you get to do every day. It was great being able to experience this.”



Advertising Midono, a Land Related to Garasha

Pamphlet “Unmei no Tobira” Published

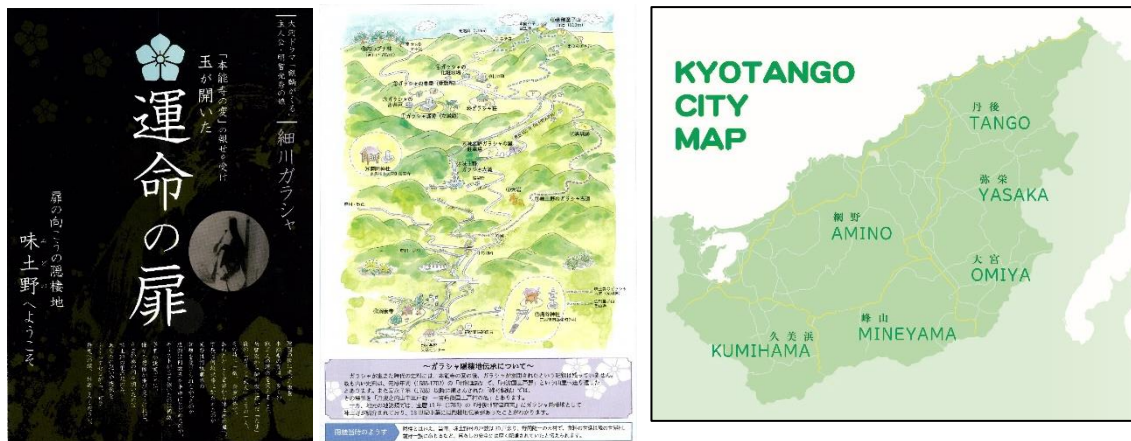
“Unmei no Tobira,” a pamphlet introducing Midono, Yasaka-cho, has been published.

Garasha Hosokawa, the daughter of Mitsuhide Akechi who is the main character of this year’s Okawa Drama “Kirin ga Kuru,” once lived in solitude in Midono. The Kyotango Kirin ga Kuru Project Promotion Council hopes to use this fact to advertise the region.

The pamphlet is filled with maps and illustrations, which were drawn by locals, that introduce explanations of folklore, as well as restaurant information and the locations of the Garasha Stone Monument and other tourist spots.

Hajimu Umeda, representative of the promotion council, commented, “We want many people to visit and really feel the charm of Midono.”

The pamphlet is distributed free of charge at the Kyotango City Tourism Association, Kyotango Civic Affairs Offices, Libraries and Roadside Stations.



Walking through a Buna Forest

“Buna Forest Autumn Viewing” at Uchiyama Old-Growth Buna Forest

Under a Clear Autumn Sky on November 4th, the “Buna Forest Autumn Viewing” was held at Uchiyama Buna Forest. Thirty-two people participated.

Participants listened to the lecturer give explanations on vegetation. For example, how global warming makes it hard for Buna trees to grow. Everyone walked through the coloring trees, ate lunch at the summit, gazed upon the humongous Buna Trees, and descended down a different path than the ascent.

Participants said things like: “I was able to directly feel the beauty of nature by looking at the Buna trees,” and “The old stories of Uchiyama were really interesting.” By experiencing Buna trees, participants were able to recognized the importance of nature preservation anew.



Welcoming the New Year with a “Squeaky” Sale

Customary Zodiac Ornament-Making at Yotsuba House

At Yotsuba House, a disabled persons welfare office, “users” make ceramic utensils and other small things under the instruction of facility staff. Again this year, they made small decorations shaped as the new year’s zodiac sign.

Fifteen members of the ceramics team decided on a design and have been making prototypes of this year’s mouse ornaments since last spring. They started making real pieces in Summer and were able to make over 100 by the beginning of December.

This year’s designer, Yoshiyuki Hirose, commented, “We wanted to make the mice cute, so we had them stand on their hind legs. Everyone tried their best. It would make me happy if many people bought them.”

Ornaments are not only sold at Yotsuba House, but at Create Shop “Kurikuri” (located within Mine) and Amity Tango as well.



Thinking about the Future of Food

“Five Places of Learning: Vol. 1”

“Five Places of Learning: Vol.1” was held at Tenjo no Sato on December 7th. Local organizations organized the “5 Project” in hopes of providing people places to learn the things they truly want to learn. Hiroyuki Takahashi, CEO of Pocket Marche, was invited to lecture, and 48 people participated. He spoke, “Farming feels like it is becoming production. For example, how we ask that produce be all the same shape.” He also went on to say, “It is important to experience nature at a young age, as well as food and life itself.” The day was filled with talks on the “food problems” that society is currently facing

There are other “Places of Learning” scheduled to be created in the region.

