

Running While Eating Crab

Kani-kani Marathon in “Shoku-no-Miyako” Tango Kingdom

Nov 6 Yasaka



↑ Runners dashing through the course



↑ Participants tasting crab at the “crab stations”

On November 6th in “Shoku-no-Miyako” Tango Kingdom (Yasaka), the Kani-kani Marathon celebrating the start of the snow crab fishing season was held for the first time. About ninety participants from inside and outside the city ran through the grounds.

This event was created by Tango Kingdom with the aim of promoting Tango crab and drawing in more tourism. Participants grouped in teams of 2-5, and wore sashes while running a course of approximately 6 kilometers. Next to the water stations were specially prepared “crab stations,” and as a special rule the participants had to stop there and eat crab shabu-shabu (Japanese hot pot).

About twenty teams participated in the marathon, clad in crab hats and costumes from Lilo & Stitch and Kiki’s Delivery Service, as well as other unique outfits. Participants were saying “the piping hot crab shabu-shabu is delicious” and “I want to eat more” while they hurriedly stuffed their faces.

Snow Crab Fishing Begins: First Auction of the Year

5 Male Taiza Crabs Sell for ¥500,000

Nov 6 Tango



↑ Preparations for the first auction at Taiza Fishing Harbor

At the start of the snow crab fishing season on November 6th, in Taiza Fishing Harbor (Tango) and Asamogawa Fishing Harbor (Amino), fresh crabs were unloaded and the season’s first auctions took place.

The first day of fishing unfortunately had strong winds and many waves, so the

haul was smaller than the average year. The fishing staff quickly withdrew from the water and began preparations for the first auction, such as sorting the crabs.

At Taiza Fishing Harbor's first auction, cases of 88 male crabs and 260 female crabs were lined up, and the jobber's powerful voice rang through the harbor. The highest priced sale was five male snow crabs for 500,000 yen.

Elephant Footprints? Fossil Discovery in Minatomiya
Excavation in Geopark Area
November Kumihama



↑ Fossilized footprints could be from an elephant (Provided by Toshikatsu Yasuno)

Through the academic survey and research activities conducted by the San'in Kaigan Geopark Promotion Association, fossils of mammal footprints and fish from about 18 million years ago (during the Cenozoic Era, formerly called the Tertiary period) have been found in Minatomiya ward, Kumihama. They are from a time when the islands of Japan and the continent of Eurasia were still one piece, and these precious

materials are attracting attention.

Footprint fossils have been excavated that could possibly be from proboscideans (like elephants), perissodactyls (like rhinos), and also artiodactyls (like deer). As for fish fossils, a piece of a carp-like body and a tooth have been found. Daijima-type plant fossils such as dabunoki (*Machilus thunbergii*) and *Comptonia naumanni* have also been excavated. In the Miocene epoch, a great forest spanned the region, which helps us understand the extent of southern Kyushu's current warm climate.

High school lecturer from Fukui University of Technology, Toshikatsu Yasuno, is participating in this excavation, and commented that “more important than this particular excavation's results is the possibility of finding fossils in different regions. From future surveys in Tango and Tajima, I think it will become clearer that large-scale mammals lived over a larger area than previously believed.”

Amino's 13-Group Art Showcase

“Festival on Stage”

Nov 13 Amino



↑ Everyone in “Harmony Wakakusa” performing

The Amino Cultural Festival, “Festival on Stage,” organized by the Kyotango Cultural Association, was held on November 13th in Amity Tango (Amino).

At this cultural festival, Amino residents of all ages presented the achievements of their dance and song practice, with the goal of showing their progress and development every year. This year, groups belonging to the cultural association and groups hoping to recruit new members totaled thirteen groups that presented their arts and livened up the venue.

For the opening, “Harmony Wakakusa” showed off their skills to attendees with an ensemble musical performance including piano, musical bells, koto, and saxophone. Also, “Amino Yosakoi Dancer’s Group” members danced yosakoi together to tunes like “Naniwa Iroha-Bushi,” and performed a sword dance in excellent coordination, exciting the crowd.

3500 People in Omiya Iki-Iki Festa

Nov 6 Omiya



↑ Omiya Middle School Brass Band Club performs

On November 6th, in front of Omiya City Hall, the “Omiya Iki-Iki Festa 2016” (organized by an executive committee of the same name) was held, with the theme

“Let’s Build an Energetic Omiya!!” From inside and outside the city came about 3500 people toting families along to enjoy the varied performances and autumn tastes.

At the festival, Omiya’s Community Development Committee and commerce and industry groups grabbed the attention of attendees by setting up food stalls, offering menus made from fresh foods such as rainbow trout and matsutake mushroom rice.

After an opening performance by a yosakoi dance group, there was a joint performance by Omiya Children’s Choir and Omiya Middle School’s Brass Band Club, which livened up the venue. There were also live band and cheerleading performances, and the attendees enjoyed the autumn show.

Pink and Red Cosmos Spread
Goka Ward’s Customary “Cosmos Festival”
Oct 23 Mineyama



↑ Participants enjoy the event, admiring the view of the spreading cosmos flowers

On October 23rd in the Goka ward, residents enjoyed an event for admiring the pink and red cosmos flowers waving in the wind, organized by the Goka Environment Conservation Committee (Chairman: Yoichi Obata). For seven years this customary

event has been a time for ward residents to carefully raise the cosmos flowers, working together on scattering seeds and weeding the field. This year the planting area was expanded to about two hectares (nearly 2.5 acres). About 160 people participated in the event to look at the flowers. They enjoyed the view before them while smacking their lips on barazushi and inoshishi nabe (wild boar stew) made by neighborhood volunteers.