

Goodbye Winter, Hello Spring! 春の準備・片付け

The days are getting longer and warmer here in Obihiro, Tokachi! While we still have piles of snow and ice around town, many parts of Japan are already seeing sakura (cherry blossoms) bloom weeks ahead of schedule. Obihiro and Hokkaido are sure to be next on the schedule, so we will introduce some tips to welcome the spring!

Clean Your Winter Gear BEFORE Putting It Away!

Have you been regularly cleaning your winter clothes and bed ware this winter? Probably not! Give your gear a good deep cleaning before they hibernate this summer. Dry cleaners can wash most items from bedding to down coats. If you choose to wash your items yourself, make sure you dry them well BEFORE putting them away to prevent mold.



Try going to a コインランドリー *coin ranndorii* or a laundromat to give your items a thorough cleaning for less than what dry cleaning would cost. Many

places offer automatic alerts to your phone to let you know that your laundry



be will done soon. Although the name is “coin laundry,” more modernized laundromats also use a cashless system so you don’t have to carry a pocket full of coins around! Be sure to thoroughly dry your items with the drying machines that are also available.

Want More Room to Stretch this Spring?

There are many ways to make space in your home besides throwing away your old or unused items. Consider donating, recycling or even selling some of your items! リサイクルショップ *risaikuru shoppu* or second-hand shops can take a look at your items and offer a price for free. Some places even offer to donate any clothes that they can’t sell, but you no longer want.



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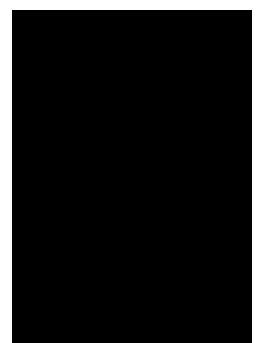
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Events at TIRC and in Tokachi and Obihiro

Please be aware that these events may be cancelled to prevent the spread of the 2019 novel coronavirus.
To find out if these events are still running, please contact the respective organizers.

When	What	Where/Contact
	<p>In order to prevent the spread of the 2019 coronavirus, <u>we have decided to cancel or postpone the events planned for the month of April at TIRC.</u></p> <p>Cancelled events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● International Mini-Volleyball Night (4/11) ● Japanese Learning Table (4/11, 25) ● International Potluck Night (Indonesia) (4/18) 	<p>Tokachi International Relations Center 森の交流館・十勝 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihiko.hokkaido.jp</p>
<p>4/11 (Sat) 11:30-12:00</p>	<p>Fuwa Fuwa Dome Cleaning and Opening ふわふわドームお掃除&OPEN</p> <p>The Fuwa Fuwa Dome has been dormant all winter under a pile of snow, just waiting for spring to come! Bring a towel and help give the Fuwa Fuwa Dome a good cleaning on its opening day of the season.</p>	
<p>4/12 (Sun) 10:00-12:30</p>	<p>Boy Scout Experience ボーイスカウト体験隊</p> <p>Scouts will gather branches to build a fire. They will cook rice in a "hangou" or an outdoor camping pot, over the fire they built. Participants are limited to 15 elementary school students. There is a fee of 500 yen. Please call the Tokachi Ecology Park for details and to save a spot.</p>	<p>Tokachi Ecology Park 十勝エコロジーパーク財団 0155-32-6780 http://tokachi-ecopark.jp/</p>

Hokkaido Foreign Resident Support Center 北海道外国人相談センター

Have you heard of the Hokkaido Foreign Resident Support Center? Just as the name implies, they offer a range of support to foreign residents in Hokkaido. Their office is located in Sapporo, but they serve the entire prefecture of Hokkaido in a variety of languages! Feel free to contact their office if you have any concern about living here in Hokkaido!



Hokkaido Foreign Resident Support Center

北海道外国人相談センター

Tel: 011-200-9595

Email: support@hiecc.or.jp

URL: <http://www.hiecc.or.jp.soudan>

Hours: Weekdays 9:00-12:00,
13:00-16:00

*Excluding Public Holidays.

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Some municipalities even offer to take old clothing to be reused as rags or to be made into other items! Although it is not as common as in western countries, some municipalities offer bins for collecting old clothing and fabric items (such as curtains and bed sheets). Check with your local government for details and locations on these collection bins.

Gear up for Summer!

Spring is notoriously short here in Hokkaido. It'll feel like summer by the time you finish putting away your winter gear! If you own and drive a vehicle



here, start taking a look at your summer tires and wipers. It isn't odd to have a sudden snow day in April, so many drivers choose to keep their winter tires and wipers until the end of Golden Week (usually, the first week of May). On the other hand, keeping your tires on too long can affect the longevity of your tires. The soft rubber on winter tires is what keeps your car from slipping in winter. Leaving those tires out in hot weather will dry out and harden the tires, leaving them useless in winter. Also, if you need to bring in your vehicle in for any work, make a reservation early! Everyone and their mom will be getting their tires changed at the same time! We hope that these tips help you to welcome in the long awaited spring and summer!

Health Centers In Tokachi 十勝管内の保健所

In the last issue of Obihiro Pioneer, we introduced some basic tips to keep yourself safe during the 2019 Novel Coronavirus pandemic. While we ask that you continue to practice those prevention techniques, the possibility of contracting COVID-19 is very real.

If you experience the following symptoms, contact your designated health center.

- If you experience cold or flu-like symptoms and have a fever of 37.5 degrees or higher for 4 days
- If you have had contact with an individual who has tested positive with COVID-19

If you have a preexisting medical condition and/or of an older age, you should contact a health center after 2 days of a fever.

Health Centers in Tokachi

- Obihiro Health Center
TEL: 0155-27-8634

For residents of: All municipalities of Tokachi

- Shintoku Health Center
TEL:0156-64-5104

For residents of: Shikaoi Town, Shintoku Town and Shimizu Town

- Hiroo Health Center
TEL:01558-2-2191

For residents of: Taiki Town and Hiroo Town

- Honbetsu Health Center
TEL:0156-22-2108

For residents of Honbetsu Town, Ashoro Town and Rikubetsu Town

If you need assistance in a language other than Japanese, you can contact the Hokkaido Foreign Resident Support Center at 011-200-9595 for translation support over the phone.

Movies At Cinema Taiyo, in Obihiro

(Nishi 3, Minami 11)
Tel: (0155) 20-1525

Times and movies are subject to change! (for space reasons not all movies are listed)
To confirm, call or check online at: http://www.taiyogroup.jp/cinema/theater/_obihiro/movie.shtml

Title	Language	Dates
Harley Quinn: Birds of Prey (ハーレイ・クインの華麗なる覚醒/ <i>Hārei Kuin no kareinaru kakusei</i>)	Jpn Sub	Until 30th
1917	Jpn Sub	Until 16th
Bombshell (スキヤンダル <i>Sukyandaru</i>)	Jpn Sub	3rd to 16th
Midsommar	Jpn Sub	3rd to 16th

Events Continued

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When	What	Where/Contact
4/26 (Sun)	Fish Day 魚の日 Every month in Hiroo town (twice in December!), there is "Fish Day", during which fish and other ingredients taken from the sea are used to make healthy dishes native to the north. A variety of products are on sale for the event.	Hiroo Town Fisheries Cooperative Food Division 広尾漁業協同組合食品部 01558-2-3202 http://www.pref.hokkaido.lg.jp/sr/ske/osazu/oz06gok/gok032.htm
4/29 (Wed)	"Totoroodo" Fish Pass Observation Room Opening 魚道観察室「ととろーど」オープン Learn about Tokachigawa River and the fish that live in it. You can watch the fish in the Chiyoda area swim up the ladder-type pass from the "Totoroodo" observation room!	Tokachi Ecology Park 十勝エコロジーパーク財団 0155-32-6780 http://tokachi-ecopark.jp/
4/29 (Wed)	Tokachi Ecology Park Camping Area Opening 十勝エコロジーパーク「キャンプ場」オープン Enjoy the joys of nature through camping! The Tokachi Ecology Park camping area will be opening again this year from April 29 to October 31. Please contact the Tokachi Ecology Park for more details and to make reservations.	

Obihiro Pioneer can be found at the following locations: Obihiro City Hall, Tokachi International Relations Center, Obihiro University International Center, Obihiro Tourism and Convention Center inside the Obihiro JR Station, Obihiro Public Library, Tokachi Plaza, Cinema Taiyo, Joy English Academy and online at www.city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp (click on "Information for Foreigners")

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