

## See You Later Elaine!

## さようならイレイン国際交流員



This August, we bid farewell to Elaine, the American Coordinator for International Relations (CIR). Elaine has been working for Obihiro City Hall for the last 5

years and will end her contract this month. Obihiro Pioneer had the chance to interview her before the end of her term.

OP: Hi Elaine. Thank you for taking the time to allow us to interview you today. And thank you for your 5 years of work for Obihiro City Hall.

Elaine: No problem! After 5 years being a CIR, I've gotten pretty used to interviews!

OP: It's been a while since we've had a CIR stay the max 5 year term. How do you feel about that?

E: It feels both long and short! I feel like I just got the hang of the job! There has been new challenges every year,

providing a new source of stimulation and a chance to learn something new. It has been quite the learning experience, but I think it's about time for me to move on to the next chapter of my career. I just wish that the situation in the world (...COVID-19) was a little better though.

OP: Please share with us what you are most proud to have done while being an Obihiro CIR.

E: I could go on and on the work that I've done over the years, but I am the most proud of the work that

I've done in English. For

example, being a writer for Obihiro Pioneer! The translations and newsletters that I've written in English are mostly read by people who do not understand Japanese as well as the occasional Japanese people wanting to learn English. I'm happy if my work helps someone understand even just a little more than before.



Elaine hanging out at the Obihiro Heigen Festival.

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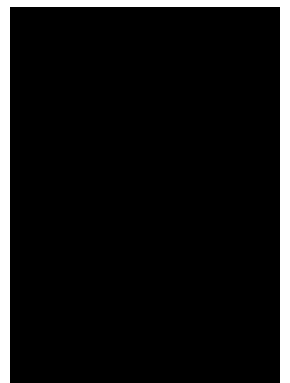
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Learn *Nihongo*!: Typhoon Season (pg 3)



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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 COVID-19.

To find out if these events are still running, please contact the respective organizers.

When	What	Where/Contact
8/12 (Wed) 19:00-21:00	<b>International Mini-Volleyball Night</b> <b>国際ミニバレー・ナイト</b> Meet new friends from around the world while enjoying a fun and easy sport. TIRC Multi-purpose Hall Fee: Free of charge Organized by the Tokachi International Association	Tokachi International Relations Center 森の交流館・十勝 0155-34-0122 <a href="mailto:tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp">tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp</a>
8/22 (Sat) 14:00-16:00	<b>International Potluck Party (Farewell Barbecue)</b> <b>ポットラック・パーティー(フェアウェル・バーベキュー)</b> Meet local and international residents while enjoying dishes from around the world. This time, let's bid a farewell party to outgoing Obihiro City's Coordinators for International Relations, Gan Bongkoch from Thailand and Ning Wenyang from China. You can try Thai barbecue and homemade Chinese food.  TIRC Summer Garden/Kitchen Fee: Free of charge (registration is required) Limited to first 30 people To register, contact the Tokachi International Relations Center Please bring either ingredients suitable for barbecuing or a dish and drinks to share.	
8/1-2 (Sat-Sun) 9:30-19:00	<b>Ecopa "Tanabata" (Star Festival) Festival</b> <b>エコパ歳時記「七夕まつり」</b> According to legend, the deities of two stars are lovers, but can only meet during "tanabata," or star festival. Celebrate the lover's reunion at the Ecology Park with food and activities!	Tokachi Ecology Park 十勝エコロジーパーク 0155-32-6780 <a href="http://www.tokachi-ecopark.jp">www.tokachi-ecopark.jp</a>



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OP: When you first came to Obihiro, you told us that you were looking forward to facing new challenges. What has been your most memorable challenge during your time as CIR in Obihiro?

E: By far, working on the 50<sup>th</sup> sister city anniversary project between Obihiro and Seward, Alaska in the United States. Let's just say it was a long and winding road that lasted close to a year...I learned a lot during that time, so I am glad that I did it.

OP: Well, we're glad you made it out fine. Do you have plans to go back home to Hawaii?

E: While I do miss my family, I plan to stick around in Japan, but visit when it is safe to do so.

After working 6 years in the public sector (including 1 year in Wakkanai City), I would like to try working for an agriculture-related business in the Tokachi area. My parents run their own business back in Hawaii, so I guess you could say I have business in my blood!

We would like to thank Elaine for her 5 years working for the City of Obihiro. We wish you the best of luck in your next journey!

If you like to see more of Elaine, check out her International Talk online! Scan the QR code below or use the following url to access the video!

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=318901792488750>



## Learn *Nihongo*!: Typhoon Season にほんごをまなびましょう！: 台風シーズン

Japan is heavily effected by natural disasters.

During this time of year, typhoons can occur. The typhoon season in Japan is from July to October. In this month's issue of Obihiro Pioneer, we will introduce some common words you might hear in conversation related to typhoons.

台風 たいふう *taifuu*

Meaning: Typhoon

雨 あめ *ame*

Meaning: Rain



暴風 ぼうふう *boufuu*

Meaning: Strong, violent winds

大雨 おおあめ *oome*

Meaning: Heavy rain

警報 けいほう *keihou*

Meaning: Warning

避難 ひなん *hinan*

Meaning: take refuge/shelter

防水 ぼうすい *bousui*

Meaning: Water-proof/resistant

While typhoons aren't common in Hokkaido, it's better to be safe than sorry!

# Movies At Cinema Taiyo, in Obihiro

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

Due to COVID-19, release dates for new films have been postponed. Cinema Taiyo Obihiro will be showing past films at discounted rate. Please contact Cinema Taiyo directly for more details.

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](http://www.taiyogroup.jp/cinema/theater/_obihiro/movie.shtml)

Title	Language	Dates
Little Women ( <i>Sutoori obu mai raifu</i> )	Jpn Sub	1st—6th
The Current War ( <i>Ejisonzu geemu</i> )	Jpn Sub	1st—13th
Honeyland	Jpn Sub	1st—13th
Onward ( <i>nibun no ichi no mahou</i> )	Jpn Dub	From 21st

## Events Continued

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When	What	Where/Contact
8/9 (Sun) 9:00	<b>Tokachi Summer Festival &amp; Hyper Meeting</b> <b>十勝夏祭り&amp;HKSハイパーミーティング</b> Celebrate the summer at Hokkaido's largest racing circuit! Various activities will be available for car lovers of all ages. You can even get on the track yourself! Please contact for more details.	Tokachi Speedway 十勝スピードウェイ 0155-52-3910 <a href="http://tokachi.msf.ne.jp/">http://tokachi.msf.ne.jp/</a>
8/29 (Sat) 10:00-13:00	<b>Ecopa Experience: Picking Vegetables</b> <b>エコパ体験隊「豊作だ収穫しよう」</b> Pick and enjoy the vegetables planted during spring. Participation Cost: 300 yen per child. Limited to 20 elementary school students. ※Please contact for 1-3 graders Please wear clothes you can get down and dirty in!	Tokachi Ecology Park 十勝エコロジーパーク 0155-32-6780 <a href="http://www.tokachi-ecopark.jp">www.tokachi-ecopark.jp</a>

**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](http://www.city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp) (click on "Information for Foreigners")

"Obihiro Pioneer" is a newsletter published monthly by the Obihiro City Tourism and Goodwill Exchange Section for residents of the Tokachi District and related parties. The contents of this newsletter do not necessarily represent the official views or opinions of the Tourism and Goodwill Exchange Section or the City of Obihiro. Questions? Tel (0155) 65-4133 or send e-mail to the Editing Team at [international@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp](mailto:international@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp).