

What's Happening in Japan

The New Guy



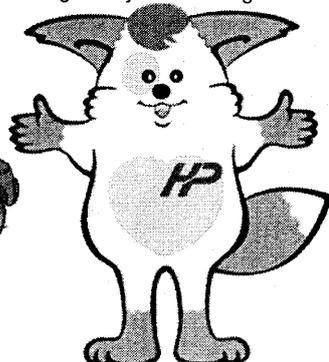
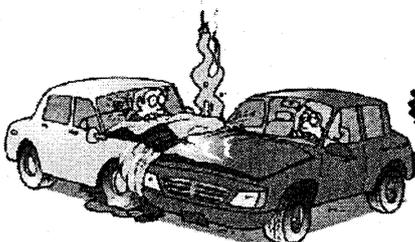
The NEW prime minister of Japan, Mr. Yasuo Fukuda has a rough road ahead of him. The major reforms initiated by Koizumi (PM from '01 to '06) are still causing large repercussions throughout Japanese society, and the scandal ridden legacy left behind by Abe (PM from '06 to '07) and his ministers have damaged the image of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). The LDP, which has been in power for most of the years since WWII, lost the majority in the upper house of the Diet, and Fukuda has been harrowed by his political opponents since day-one of taking up his new office. After serving exactly one year as PM, Abe left office due to (mental) health problems, but the very reason Fukuda is so popular is because people expect him to calm things down. He seems very calm and doesn't seem the type to cause controversy, so maybe he'll be able to put out a few fires before anymore spring up in Japan's turbulent political arena!

Abe's out →



Hokkaido has been named the "Worst One" in automobile accidents across Japan. Compared to all the other prefectures of Japan, Hokkaido has had more deaths from traffic accidents than any other. So far this year there have been over 200 deaths in traffic accidents and this is much higher than last year's number so, the Hokkaido police and other public officials are scrambling to find a solution to this increasing problem. Some leading causes of traffic fatalities are drunk driving, sleepy driving, and speeding. There have also been many accidents because people don't look both ways before crossing an intersection! To slow people down and stop people driving under the influence, police are out in bigger numbers and there have been traffic checkpoints in certain cities where drivers are forced to take a blood alcohol level breath test. Be safe when you're out driving and watch your speed. Remember, in Japan, there is NO TOLERANCE for alcohol when driving, so if you drink even a small amount, make sure someone else (who isn't drinking) has your keys.

Aww, the Hokkaido Police mascot wants to give you a hug!



There is a new Obihiro tourism pamphlet being printed right now. It is written completely in English (there is a Chinese one too, if you prefer), and it has information about everything from hotels to restaurants to onsen and sightseeing spots. If you're still holding the old guide, I recommend you come in and get yourself self a copy of the brand-spankin' new one! They are available here at city hall, or in the tourism center at the JR Obihiro Station (go up the escalators).



Tokachi Events

2007

November

Japanese Calligraphy "Fun"



When	What	Where/Contact #
10/30- 11/4 (Tue – Sun) 9:00-17:00	Obihiro Chrysanthemum Gala: There's going to be over 3000 chrysanthemums on display for you pleasure.	中央公園 Obihiro Central Park (two blocks East of City Hall) 0155-22-8600
11/3 (Sat) 10:00~16:00 11/4 (Sun) 10:00~15:00	Let's Eat Tokachi! Yes, that's the real name of this event. Pretty much every single type of food that each town in Tokachi is famous for will be sold here! They are even going to have "American Donuts" on sale from 13:00 at the Toyokoro booth. Git'em while they're hot!	農協連家畜共進会場 From Obihiro, ride 241 north across the Heigen bridge (at West 18 or so) . If you stay on that road, you should see the festival on your left after a bit. 0155-38-8808
11/4 (Sun) 10:00-14:00 20min/session (FREE)	Winter Tea Ceremony: Let some traditional Japanese tea warm your chilly bones before you freeze completely! Experience one of Japan's oldest traditions. There will be explanations about the tools used to brew the tea and all the fascinating aspects of the ceremony. RSVP by TEL, FAX, or email. → → → → → →	森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center TEL 0155-34-0122 FAX 0155-34-0165 tirc@city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp
11/3 – 11/4 (Sat-Sun) 11am-Midnight	Obihiro-U Festival: The theme of Obihiro University's festival this year is "Fresh Love Storm". I also discovered that there is a hidden theme of "Escape Metabolic Syndrome" so maybe they're going to help us escape from getting fat somehow? One interesting point I saw was the barbeque that starts at 1pm on the 4 th .	畜大際 実行委員会 Obihiro University Festival Committee www.geocities.jp/chikudaisai
11/11 (Sun) 10:40~13:00	Introduction to Japanese food: Come eat your fill of delicious handmade Japanese food for FREE. Seats are limited (though we won't be sitting) so sign up ASAP! RSVP by TEL, FAX, or email. → → → → → →	森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center TEL 0155-34-0122 FAX 0155-34-0165 tirc@city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp
11/15	7 5 3 (Shichi-go-san) Holiday	帯広神社 Obihiro Shrine (and other shrines)
11/15 - 20 (Thu - Tue) 10:00 - 19:00 (10am – 4pm on 20 th)	All Tokachi - Great Harvest Market: Farmers from all around Tokachi will be selling the foodstuffs they have freshly harvested this year on the 7 th floor of the Fujimaru department store downtown.	藤丸デパート Fujimaru Department Store (large white building 3 blocks east of City Hall) 0155-24-2101
11/17 (Sat) 14:00 – 15:00	Story Telling Around the World: This month's children's book is going to be from Thailand , read in both Thai and Japanese. We're going to play games and have fun while listening to a story from a distant, yet wonderful land. Our target audience is children from 3 to 8 yrs. old.	森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center (in the library room) 0155-34-0122
11/18 (Sun) 9:30 – 12:00	Flea Market: There's going to be all kinds of goods on sale from local people. The things on sale differ depending on what people decide to sell. Clothing, bikes, coffee, tea, and toys are just some examples.	とかちプラザ Tokachi Plaza 0155-36-3430
11/22- 3/26 (Sun) 10:00 – 17:00	"Art Zoo": Can an art museum change into a zoo? Come enjoy the birds, beasts, and all manner of mysterious creatures featured in the works of art on display.	北海道立帯広美術館 Hokkaido-Obihiro Museum of Art 0155-22-6963