

## What's Happening in Obihiro?

What is this? Obihiro Pioneer? What happened to What's Happening in Obihiro?! In an effort to spice things up slightly we decided to change the name of What's Happening in Obihiro. It was a good run (I actually have no idea how long, there are old issues in my desk from the 90s), but it's time for a change. Due to the starting of a new fiscal year and all that goes along with it, this issue won't be much different from previous issues, but expect some new features starting next month!

We would also like to announce that we will be publishing letters from readers. However, that requires you, the reader, to send in letters! So if you have something you would like say (please keep it appropriate), then please send us your letters and emails (FYI, the address is on the back).

We look forward to getting your feedback and hope that you enjoy reading the newsletter!

## Mori no Playtime (森のプレイタイム)

### Exchange events for children: one step towards a friendlier city to foreigners

Being an island nation with no neighboring countries, many in Japan are not used to outsiders. But many of them want to interact with foreigners and learn from them. Why not give them the chance?

We are looking for foreigners to help out at Mori no playtime, an exchange event for children taking place May 15th.



Kids crawling their way inside Mr. Takotonneru.



Parading about with Mr. Jaja.

We're going to have fun crafting cardboard into Mr. Takotonneru, a huge octopus-shaped tunnel, and Mr. Jaja, a cool wavy dragon like those seen in Chinese festivals. Come join us!

Having the experience of making things and playing with a foreigner, Japanese children may grow to become more receptive to different cultures and customs and more aware of the world that surrounds them.

Mori no playtime is taking place on May 15th from 13:00 to 16:00, at the Tokachi International Relations Center (TIRC). Want to help us? Sign up for the event by sending a message to [tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp](mailto:tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp)



Email Us Here!

いろいろな国の人と工作をして楽しく遊びましょう！今回は、段ボールとビニールチューブで大きなタコと一緒に作りましょう！足のトンネルを抜けると、タコの顔に到着、別の足から抜け出すことができます！タコの体内に潜り込んで、さあ、プレイタイムの始まりです！

日時：5月15日(日) 13:00～16:00

場所：森の交流館・十勝

申込：電話 0155-34-0122 メール：[tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp](mailto:tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp)

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## Events in Tokachi and Obihiro

When	What	Where/Contact
 5/11 (Wed) 19:00-21:00	<b>Mini-Volley (ミニバレー)</b> Held every 2nd Wednesday of the month. A simple sport to play and enjoy!	森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center TEL 0155-34-0122 FAX 0155-34-0165 tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp
 5/15 (Sun) 13:00-16:00	<b>Mori no Playtime (森のプレイタイム):</b> We are looking for foreigners to help out at Mori no playtime, an exchange event for children taking place May 15th, so why not sign up and help us out?	森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center TEL 0155-34-0122 FAX 0155-34-0165 tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp
 5/17-7/19 (Tues)	<b>Free Japanese Classes (日本語講座):</b> Come learn the ropes of Japanese and make your life here in Japan easier. Classes will be held every week Tuesday for 10 weeks. See the back page for details.	帯広市役所 Obihiro City Hall TEL 0155-65-4133 FAX 0155-23-0171 international@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp
 5/21 (Sat) 10:00-11:30	<b>Kids Playground (キッズプレイグラウンド)</b> Bring your kids on down to our play ground and let them interact with other kids in Tokachi, while you interact with parents in the area. It's a great time, come join us! Children age 0-6 welcome!	森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center TEL 0155-34-0122 FAX 0155-34-0165 tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp
 5/25 (Wed) 19:00-21:00	<b>Tokachi Amigos Mini-Volleyball (とちあミーゴスミニバレー):</b> Let's meet friends from all over the world while enjoying a fun and easy sport! Fee: 100 yen	森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center TEL 0155-34-0122 FAX 0155-34-0165 tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp
 5/28 (Sat) 19:00-21:00	<b>International Talk (インターナショナルトーク):</b> This month we will be learning all about Ireland.	森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center TEL 0155-34-0122 FAX 0155-34-0165 tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp



Love trees?  
Then come  
join us at the  
Tree Festival !

## 62nd Annual Hokkaido Tree Planting Festival in Obihiro (第62回北海道植樹祭inおびひろ)

Come celebrate the greatness of trees! While the deadline to sign up for the actual tree planting has passed, you can still come enjoy a lot of fun activities and games planned for the day.

The following events are planned for the day: Tree Climbing, Log Sawing Contest, Wood Splitting Experience, Wooden Ball Pool, Pizza Making Experience (Fees Apply), Forest Creation Group Exhibit, Forest Aroma Oil Exhibit, Forestry Equipment Display, And More!

There will also be local gourmet food stands, wooden craft stands, and stands selling local hand crafted items.

The even will be held on 5/29 (Sunday) from 9:00 to 14:00 at the Obihiro Forest. The opening ceremony is from 10:00-11:00. Note that the even will NOT be cancelled in the case of bad weather.

Parking is limited and the event coordinators ask that you only use the 4 lots indicated on the map. Other parking lots are not controlled by the event coordinators. If you are not sure where Obihiro Forest is, you can search for Shirakaba High School on google maps and it should get you where you need to go.

## Chef Hector's Cuisine Corner (ヘクター調理人の料理コーナー)

Welcome to the first edition of Cuisine Corner, a new section in our revamped monthly newsletter. In this corner, we will introduce to you recipes for various international dishes, reviews of restaurants and cafés in Obihiro, as well as announcements for food-related events in Obihiro and Tokachi.

Last month, we had a big Potluck Night at the Tokachi International Relations Center, where participants had a fun time making delicious Vietnamese spring rolls. Here we introduce to you the recipe we used for the spring rolls. In case you missed it, the next Potluck Night will be on June 18!

### Vietnamese Spring Rolls

#### Cooking Directions:

1. In a medium saucepan, bring water to a boil then boil the pork and shrimp until cooked. Let cool on a plate.
2. Boil the rice noodles until soft and drain.
3. Slice the cucumber, pineapple, carrots and fried beaten egg into 5 cm long strips.
4. Dip a sheet of rice paper in water then place it on a plate.
5. Put a lettuce leaf in the middle of the rice paper then place the pork, rice noodles, egg, cucumber, carrots, pineapple, and finally the shrimp on top of the lettuce.
6. Fold the bottom and sides of the rice paper in then roll the rice paper tightly from the bottom. Repeat with the remaining ingredients.
7. In a small bowl, mix the ingredients of the sauce together.
8. Serve the spring rolls with the sauce.

#### Ingredients (for 5 rolls):

- 5 sheets rice paper (cut in half)
- 5 leaves lettuce
- 1/2 piece cucumber
- 1/2 carrot
- 1 egg, beaten and fried
- pineapple slices
- 5 pcs peeled headless shrimp, sliced lengthwise in half
- 100g sliced pork
- 30g rice noodles

#### Sauce:

- 2 tbsp fish sauce
- 2 tbsp vinegar
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- Minced garlic
- Red chili pepper



今月から、新しいコラム「クイジーン・コーナー」がスタートします。ここでは、世界の料理レシピや、帯広市内のレストラン・お店のレビュー、地域の食関連のイベントのお知らせ等を掲載いたします。今回は、先月のポットラック・ナイトで話題になったベトナムの生春巻きのレシピをご紹介します。ぜひお試しください。また、次回のポットラック・ナイトは6月18日(土)です。どうぞお見逃しなく！



A new monthly corner dedicated to everyone's favorite subject, food.

# Movies At Cinema Taiyo, in Obihiro

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

Times and movies are subject to change! 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
SP The Motion Picture VI - Kakumei	Japanese	Ends 13th
The Rite	Japanese	Ends 13th
Crayon Shinchan - The Storm Called: Operation Golden Spy	Japanese	Ends 15th
Detective Conan: Quarter of Silence	Japanese	All Month
Gantz: Perfect Answer	Japanese (PG12)	All Month
Gulliver's Travels	Japanese	Ends 20th
Nintama Rantarō	Japanese	Ends 19th
Gaku	Japanese	Starts 7th
Unknown	English	Starts 7th
Black Swan	English (R15+)	Starts 11th
Manzai Gang	Japanese	Starts 14th
Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides	English & Japanese	Starts 20th
Princess Toyotomi	Japanese	Starts 28th

**Movies Ending This Month:** SP, The Rite, Crayon Shinchan, Gulliver's Travels, Nintama Rantarō

## Japanese Classes (日本語講座)

As noted in last month's issue, we will be holding Japanese classes starting May 17th. There is still room so please sign up if you are interested in learning Japanese, or if you know someone who could use some help with their Japanese, let them know about the classes.

### Class Information:

5/17– 7/19

Every Tuesday (10 weeks)

Fun Conversation Class: 10am-12pm

Beginner Class Level 1: 7pm-9pm

Beginner Class Level 2: 7pm-9pm

Cost: **Free**

For more information or to sign up you can call or email us at:  
(0155)65-4133 (city hall), (0155)34-0122 (TIRC),  
international@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp, tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp.

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**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, Cinema Taiyo, Joy English Academy  
and online at [www.city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp](http://www.city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp)

"Obihiro Pioneer" is a newsletter published monthly by the Obihiro International and Domestic Relations 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 International and Domestic Relations 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.