

MURORAN



TIMES



December 1, 2008 No.230
Muroran City Office 1-2 Saiwai-cho, Muroran,
Hokkaido 051-8511 JAPAN <0143-22-1111>

News and Topics



New Ferry Line Sought

The Muroran-Aomori Line of Higashi-Nihon Ferry was suspended at the end of November. As of today no ferries will put into port in Muroran. In order to redeem the ferry line, Muroran Mayor, Mr. Shingu, not only went to Tokyo to promote the port, but also is busy making appeals for Muroran Port at ferry companies in Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya, etc.

On November 11th, the heads of Muroran, Noboribetsu, Date, Touyako-cho, Toyoura-cho and Soubetsu-cho, the chairmen of each government assembly, the leaders of each chamber of commerce and others gathered to establish an association to invite a ferry line to Muroran Port. At the meeting, Muroran Mayor asked these heads to stand by Muroran for fear that the ferry line would end. From now on, the association is calling for Hokkaido Government, Hokkaido Local Assembly, Hokkaido Regional Development Bureau, and the others to reopen ferry line. On top of that, he is positively working on related local organizations, companies, and some others. But due to the high cost of energy, each ferry company is having financial difficulties. Therefore, the prospect does not look good. Incidentally, Muroran City Office estimates that the damage caused by the suspension of the ferry line (for example, payment for water and food, fees for cleaning vessels, etc.) will be ninety million yen.

11月末で室蘭と青森を結ぶフェリーがなくなったこと
から、室蘭市長を先頭に、室蘭港にフェリー航路を

復活させるため、北海道知事や船会社に要請活動
を行っています。

A Blood Donation Campaign in Muroran IT

In 1966 Muroran Institute of Technology (Muroran IT) began cooperating with Japanese Red Cross Muroran Blood Center in their blood donation campaign. Since then, students or staff can donate blood on the premises, without going out to the center. These days Muroran IT started to use an electronic information board on the premises for the campaign. The call for donation using an electronic information board is not very common nationwide. As soon as the stocked blood in the Japanese Red Cross Muroran Blood Center becomes less than 70%, the center has to make up for the shortage in preparation for an emergency. Therefore the center thanks Muroran IT, where some 4,000 people (both students and staff) are studying or working, for a big source of supply. Muroran IT plans to continue to support Japanese Red Cross Blood Center, trying new means of communication, such as portable telephones, and so on.

室蘭工業大学では、緊急の血液確保に協力するた
め、学内の電子情報掲示板を活用して、学生などに
献血を呼びかける取り組みを始めました。

NUTTY, the Girl Version of BOLTA

The girl version of BOLTA or bolt-man which is one of Muroran's special products made from a combination of iron bolts and nuts, has recently been completed and has been given the name NUTTY.

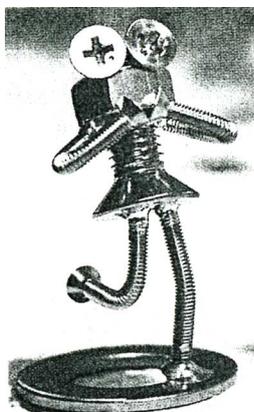
There have been many requests for a girl version of BOLTA from BOLTA's fans so far.

A student of Muroran Institute of Technology designed the basic style of the girl version in compliance with the request.

A request to name the figure was advertised all over Hokkaido, and the name most suggested was NUTTY (45 out of 574 applicants).

A fat screw is used for NUTTY's trunk and the skirt is expressed by using the screw's inverted head.

The manufacturer plans to put the pair of BOLTA and NUTTY on sale in the near future.



NUTTY

ボルトとナットでつくられた人形で、室蘭の人気商品と
なっている「ボルタ」の女の子版ができて、名前も「ナ
ッティ」と決まりました。

Information and Invitations

The Citizens Performance Concert

[Date] December 7(Sun) 1:00 p.m. ~ 3:30p.m.

[Place] Muroran *Bunka* Center

[Performers] Songs and dance, etc.

[Tickets] 500 yen

[More Information] Community chest
association at Social Welfare Council (Tel:
0143-22-1858)

Exhibition of Muroran Landscape Part 2

[Date] December 16(Tue) – January 4(Sun)

10:00a.m.~

[Place] Muroran Citizens Museum

(Underground level at Muroran *Bunka* center)

[More Information] Muroran Citizens Museum
(Tel: 0143-22-1124)

Mental Health Family Workshop

It is a workshop for families who worry about
alcohol and gambling dependence syndrome.

[Date] December 19(Fri) 1:30p.m. ~ 4:00p.m.

[Place] Muroran Citizens Hall

[Admission Fee] free

[Limit] first 60 people

[Contents] Lecture concerning alcohol and
gambling dependence syndrome and group
discussion about methods of action

[Application] by telephone from December 1 to
12

[More Information] Muroran Public Health
Center (Tel: 0143-24-9847)

Opening of *Sanraiba* Ski Area in *Karurusu* Hot Springs



[Date] December 20(Sat) * The opening day

may change due to snow conditions.

Beginners to seniors can enjoy ski slopes
After skiing, enjoy a rest at *Karurusu* Hot
Springs!

[Lift charge] Coupon ticket(11 times):2,300
yen(1,900 yen for under elementary school
children) Ticket for six hours:2,600 yen(2,100
yen for under elementary school children)
One-day ticket:3,000 yen(2,400 yen for under
elementary school children)

[More Information] *Sanraiba* Ski Area in
Karurusu hot spring (Tel: 0143-84-2872)

Hands-on Lecture at Muroran Historical Museum

Experience *MOCHITSUKI* (pounding steamed
rice)

[Date] December 21(Sun) 10:30a.m. ~
12:30p.m.

[Admission Fee] 300 yen

[Limit] first 20 people

[Application] by telephone from December 1

[More Information] Muroran Historical
Museum (Tel: 0143-59-4922)

Happy 10th Year's Final Count Down at Hakucho Bay Bridge

[Date] December 31(Wed) 10:30p.m. ~

[Place] near Hakucho Bridge Memorial Hall
(*Shukuzu*-cho)

[Contents] Count down, Fireworks, Lottery

[Tickets] Lottery ticket is 500 yen. You can get
a ticket at Hakucho Bridge Memorial Hall or

Muroran Sightseeing Association, and also you can get a ticket on that day.

[More Information] Hakucho Bay Bridge countdown executive committee secretariat (Tel: 0143-42-4910)

Initiation Ceremony

[Date] January 11(Sun) 1:00 p.m. ~

[Place] Muroran *Bunka* Center

[Conditions] Persons who was born between April 2, 1988 and April 1, 1989

[More Information] Youth Section at Muroran City Office (Tel: 0143-22-5095)



Japanese Cooking 204

Yosenabe よ せ べ 寄せ鍋



- Ingredients (serve four) -

Prawns	8
Cod fillets	4
Oyster	16
Chicken thighs	200 g
Kinugoshi tofu(smooth tofu)	1 pack
Chinese cabbage	4 leaves
Shiitake mushrooms	4
Leek	1 bunch
Carrot	1/2
Welsh onion	2



《Sauce》

• water	1500 cc
• kelp (konbu)	10 cm
• mirin	50 cc
• soy sauce	50 cc
• salt	1 teaspoon

《condiments》

• shichimi togarashi	to taste
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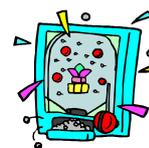
Preparation

- (1) Remove the black from prawns.(Leave the shells on, as they will enhance the flavor.)
- (2) Soak the oysters and wash in water.
- (3) Cut the cod, chicken and tofu into bite-size pieces.
- (4) Cut the welsh onions diagonally, and chop Chinese cabbage roughly.
- (5) Cut carrots into thin round slices.
- (6) Remove the hard tips from the shiitake mushrooms.
- (7) Cut the leeks 5cm length.

Directions

- (1) Put the water and konbu into a clay pot (donabe), and leave for about 20 minutes. Place over high heat and remove the konbu just before the water boils (or leave the konbu in).
- (2) Add the other sauce ingredients, bring back to the boil, and reduce the heat to low.
- (3) Add some ingredients to the pot carefully, cook at high heat until it boils, and then reduce the heat to low.
- (4) Serve the cooked ingredients with some soup, sprinkle with shichimi togarashi, if you like.
- (5) Add the remaining ingredients to the pot. If there isn't enough sauce, add hot water.

About Japan



Life and Customs

<When was *pachinko*, or the vertical pinball game, born in Japan?>

The original form of *pachinko* is the Corinthian game introduced from the United States in the 1920s. The game was modified into *pachinko* in 1925, and after World War II, it instantly gained immense popularity by offering prizes.

In the course of development, the manually-operated system of striking balls was improved to electrically-powered systems, and now the ball distribution is controlled by computers.

Some of the reasons why *pachinko* has

become so popular are that it has stimulated the taste for gambling characteristics with features such as slot machines, and also that there are underground organizations which provide services to exchange prizes for cash.

In 1995 the *pachinko* industry took in over 31 trillion yen, putting it ahead of even the automobile industry in terms of money spent. Compared to this peak year, *pachinko* parlor income dropped to 29 trillion yen in 2002.

<What is appealing about go?>

Go originally developed in ancient times in China. Through its rules are simple, *go* provides a more sophisticated pleasure.



It is played by two players on a square board with 19 vertical lines, 19 horizontal lines, and 361 intersections. The two players alternately place stones of their color, either black or white, and compete in taking stones by surrounding as much territory as possible. The player with the most territory is the winner. There are literally thousands of different tactics in the game, and there is always the possibility of a dramatic comeback.

<What is interesting about shogi?>



The game originated in India and became chess in the West and *shogi* in Japan. By moving the various *shogi* pieces, each of which has its own rules of advance, a player seeks to attack his opponent's camp (*jin*) and ultimately to capture its king piece (*osho*).

Therefore, the movement of pieces and rules are similar to those of chess, but one characteristic peculiar to *shogi* is that a player can reuse captured pieces as his or her own. This rule of *shogi* often generates exciting moments toward the end, with fewer tied games than chess.

<What is the world of the sumo wrestler like?>



The winner in sumo is decided when the opponent is forced out of the ring (*dohyo*) or when any part of his body touches the ground.

In order to become a sumo wrestler, one has to belong to one of the approximately 50 sumo

stables. The stables take care of every aspect of the newcomers' live including food, clothing, and housing, while training them to be strong wrestlers. It is a man's world except for the family of the stable master.

Wrestlers are ranked according to their ability. The lowest rank is called *jonokuchi*, which is the starting point. There are nine other ranks such as *jonidan*, *sandanme*, *makushita*, *juryo*, *maegashira*, *komusubi*, *sekiwake* and *ozeki*. In the top rank are the *yokozuna*, or grand champions.

Wrestlers above the rank of *juryo* are called *sekitori* and receive monthly salaries from the Japan Sumo Association. What the other wrestlers get is a small incentive depending on their record in tournaments.

The doors to the sumo world have also been open to non-Japanese. The first wrestler from abroad made his debut in 1934, and seven others would follow him by the start of World War II. As of the fourth tournament of 2004, there were 61 non-Japanese wrestlers from 11 countries, including the United States, Mongolia, Russia, Brazil, and various European countries.

So far, four wrestlers from abroad have reached the rank of grand champion.

Akebono: Hawaii, 64th Champion, 1993. *Musashimaru*: Hawaii, 67th Champion, 1993. *Asashoryu*: Mongolia, 68th Champion, 2003. *Hakuho*: Mongolia, 69th Champion, 2007.

Cinema Guide

Muroran Gekijo (Higashi-machi)

1. Red Cliff part 1 (Chinese & Japanese)
2. 私は貝になりたい (Japanese)
3. 旅立ち～足寄より (Japanese)
4. ハッピーフライト (Japanese)



About the Muroran Times

The Muroran Times is designed to bring information about local events to the international community of Muroran. Staff: MuroITani Yoichi, Ishizawa Yuko, Yamashita Mayumi, Tagashira Kazui, Nomura Ikuko, Nakamura Mari, English advisor: Jane Takizawa.