



年の瀬が近づき、世間では年賀状の準備にそそむ季節となりました。石川県では、北陸新幹線金沢開業PRマスコットキャラクター「ひやくまんさん」が見守る中、幼稚園児たちが元気に年賀状を投函したようです。

さて、北陸新幹線開業を2015年春に控える石川県を後押しするようなニュースが飛び込みました！「和食」の無形文化遺産への登録です。また、時期を同じくして、加賀藩に実在した包丁侍とその家族を描く映画「武士の献立」が公開されました。これらを契機に、国内外から多くの方々が加賀料理を食べに、石川県まで来られることを期待しています。

そして、北陸新幹線は営業車両での試験走行が開始しました。昭和48年に整備計画が決定されてから40年が経ち、初めて北陸を走った新幹線。多くのお客様を乗せて走る日が待ち遠しいですね。一方、地元のと鉄道でもトンネル内にイルミネーションを灯すという温かい取り組みが実施されています。能登地域に暮らす方々の大事な足になっているのと鉄道にも今後ますます頑張してほしいところです。

最後になりますが、今年も本誌をご愛読いただきありがとうございました。来年からもひと月ごとに石川県のニュースをお届けいたしますので、よろしくお願います。それでは皆さま、よいお年を！

今回の新聞情報

- (1) ひやくまんさんと年賀状投函 金沢で園児
<http://www.hokkoku.co.jp/subpage/H20131216105.htm>
- (2) 石川の食、広める好機に「和食」、無形文化遺産に登録
<http://www.hokkoku.co.jp/subpage/E20131205002.htm>
- (3) 映画「武士の献立」 石川県内で先行上映
<http://www.hokkoku.co.jp/subpage/E20131207001.htm>
- (4) 営業車両、北陸走る 北陸新幹線試験走行
<http://www.hokkoku.co.jp/subpage/E20131206001.htm>
- (5) トンネルに光の輪 のと鉄道
<http://www.hokkoku.co.jp/subpage/H20131212102.htm>

※次回は1月末にお届けする予定です。

* The next edition is scheduled to be issued at the end of January.

It is almost the end of the year and we are in the festive season where everyone is busy preparing their New Year's cards. The PR mascot character for the Hokuriku Shinkansen Kanazawa service "Hyakuman-san" was on the lookout whilst pre-school children were happily posting New Year's cards.

We have some news that gives a boost to the Hokuriku Shinkansen service that will be coming in spring 2015! "Washoku" traditional Japanese cuisine has been registered as an Intangible Cultural Heritage. Around the same time, the film "A Tale of Samurai Cooking - A True Love Story" was released in cinemas, which tells the story of a samurai chef and his family in the Kaga domain. With this momentum we are expecting to see an influx of people from Japan and abroad make their way to Ishikawa to try some Kaga cuisine.

Furthermore, the test runs for the train carriages that will be used on the Hokuriku Shinkansen have commenced. 40 years have passed since the development project was given the go-ahead in 1973 and we now have the first Hokuriku Shinkansen run. We can't wait till the day comes when we can see waves of passengers on these trains. Elsewhere, the local Noto Railway tunnels are being lit up on the inside to give a warmer feel to passengers' journeys. We would really like to see a big push being made for the Noto Railway that is becoming really important for the people living in Noto.

On a final note, we would like to thank all of our readers for reading our newsletters this year. We will be bringing you News from Ishikawa every month next year as well so we hope you continue reading on in 2014. Happy New Year!

Recent News

(1) Post offices across the nation started accepting deliveries for 2014 New Year's Cards on 15th December. In Ishikawa, the central post office in Kanazawa held a ceremony in which pre-school children lined up to post their cards whilst the Ishikawa mascot character "Hyakuman-san" watched over.

(2) "Washoku" Japanese traditional cuisine was added to the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list which was seen as great news for Ishikawa Prefecture. Chefs and people related to the food industry expressed that it was "started from rediscovering the food culture of the hometown" and "the defined spirit of hospitality".

(3) "A Tale of Samurai Cooking - A True Love Story" is a film about a samurai chef's family in the Kaga domain and was released in cinemas in Ishikawa ahead of the rest of the country. Aya Ueto who plays the wife of the samurai chef Hana Funaki, and

Kora Kengo who plays the husband Yasunobu Funaki gave a few words of greeting on stage and wished the film success for the region.

(4) On 6th December at dawn, the Hokuriku Shinkansen E2-Type train carriages that are scheduled to be in service from spring 2015 began test runs, with top speeds reaching around 110km/h. The trains speeds will be increasing in stages from January next year and is expected to hit 260km/h in early March whilst checks are being made on the traffic signals.

(5) Test lights for an illumination installation were put up on the walls of the Noto Railway Otogasaki tunnels in Anamizu Town - Otogasaki on 11th December. The lights will be turned on from 13th December and they will coincide with the "Christmas Train" event that will start from 15th December.

詳しい情報のアクセス先 For more information, please access the following links:

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| (1) 公益財団法人石川県国際交流協会 IFIE (Ishikawa Foundation for International Exchange) | http://www.ifie.or.jp/index.php |
| (2) ほっと石川旅ねっと Hot Ishikawa Tabi-Net (Ishikawa Prefecture Tourism Guide) | http://www.hot-ishikawa.jp/ |
| (3) 石川県 Ishikawa Prefectural Government Official Website | http://www.pref.ishikawa.lg.jp/ |
| (4) 首相官邸 Prime Minister of JAPAN (Countermeasures for the Great East Japan Earthquake) | http://www.kantei.go.jp/ |

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IFIE (Ishikawa Foundation for International Exchange)

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