



新年あけましておめでとうございます。

本年も「石川県からのお知らせ」を、どうぞよろしくお願いいたします。

石川県が8年の歳月をかけて開発した7色のフリージアが、この春から本格出荷を迎えます。名前は「優雅な春の女神」を意味する「エアリーフローラ」、この花言葉は「希望」です。今年が、石川県そして皆さんにとって「希望」に満ちた1年となりますように、心からお祈りしております。

正月三が日は天候には恵まれませんでしたが、白山比咩神社などで長蛇の列ができるなど、一年の幸せを願う人が詰めかけました。

さて、県内の偉人を題材にした安部龍太郎さんの小説が直木賞を受賞しました。七尾出身の桃山時代を代表する画家である長谷川等伯の波乱の半生をたどる歴史小説「等伯」です。2年後の新幹線開業に向けて能登のPRに一役買ってくださるといいですね。

最後に、年末にプロ野球選手としての引退を発表した本県出身の大スター松井秀喜さんについてですが、県内にお住いの方はもちろん、海外の皆様の中にも、異国の地で活躍された松井選手に励まされた方も多かったのではないのでしょうか。これまで勇気を与え続けてくれた松井さんの第二の人生、みんなで応援したいですね。

今回の新聞情報

(1)旅立ちを祝う花 いしかわのフリージア名称決定 「エアリーフローラ

<http://www.pref.ishikawa.lg.jp/kensei/koho/photogallery/2012/12/20121213-2/index.html>

(2)荒天でも初詣混雑 石川県内「幸多い一年に」

<http://www.hokkoku.co.jp/subpage/H20130103104.htm>

(3)直木賞で等伯に注目 石川県内書店、図書館にコーナー

<http://www.hokkoku.co.jp/subpage/H20130118104.htm>

(4)「大学で学びたい」松井秀喜さん第二の人生語る

<http://www.hokkoku.co.jp/today/godzilla/tsuusin/>

※次回は2月末にお届けする予定です。

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

Happy New Year! This year, we look forward to continuing to bring you the latest news about Ishikawa Prefecture. This spring, Ishikawa Prefecture will begin full-scale shipping of the “Airy flora”, a seven-colored freesia which was developed in Ishikawa over the course of eight years. The flower’s name comes from the Latin for “magnificent goddess of spring” and symbolizes “hope”. This represents our wish that Ishikawa Prefecture and all of you will be filled with hope during this new year. Although the weather during the first three days of the new year was far from ideal, many people lined up in front of Shirayama Hime Jinja Shrine to pray for happiness in the new year. Ryutaro Abe’s novel depicting a famous person from Ishikawa was awarded the prestigious Naoki Prize. The historical romance named “Tohaku” tells about the turbulent period in the life of Tohaku Hasegawa, a prominent painter who was born in Nanao during the Momoyama Period. We hope that the buzz around this novel will boost Noto’s popularity as Ishikawa gears up for the start of the Hokuriku Shinkansen service in two years’ time. Last, but not least, in the end of 2012, the Ishikawa-native and major league baseball star Hideki Matsui announced his retirement. Many Ishikawa residents, as well as many foreigners from abroad, have been inspired by Matsui’s achievements in a foreign land. We would like to thank the great sportsman for all the courage he has given us to this way, and wish him the best of luck in his new life.

Recent News

(1)A new species of freesia developed in Ishikawa was named “Airy flora”. Because the flower blooms in spring when graduation and school entrance ceremonies take place, the flower is being called a flower of hope that celebrates new beginnings.

(2)Shinto shrines and Buddhist temples were full of people who came for Hatsumode (traditional New Year’s Day shrine visits) on January 1st and 2nd. Despite the rainy and snowy weather on both days, crowds lined up to buy good luck charms and exorcising arrows. People joined their hands in prayer to wish for health, economical prosperity, and happiness in the upcoming year.

(3)People line up to buy the two volumes of author Ryutaro Abe’s “Tohaku”, winner of the Naoki Prize. The book depicts the story of Tōhaku Hasegawa, a master painter from Nanao. When the award was announced on Jan. 17, Ishikawa Governor Masanori Tanimoto expressed his hope that “the book will raise awareness of Tohaku Hasegawa and his homeland of Nanao in the Noto Region, as well as reawaken recognition of Ishikawa’s cultural assets.”

(4)Hideki Matsui (38), who has just retired from a 20-year professional baseball career, revealed his plans for his life after professional sports in a one-to-one interview in New York. Although he will never fully give up baseball, he wants to leave the sport for a while and “acquire a different kind of knowledge”. Matsui is considering attending university, and would also like to contribute to the friendship between Japan and the U.S.

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

(1)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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