

旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

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Hokkaido News Top 5



July 2015

Compiled by TAKADA Nobuhiro

May 26

Furano and Biei Tourism Promotion Conference decided to open up an 80-kilometer-long route for cycling across Biei, Kamifurano, Furano, and Nakafurano area. There will be marking on the road to guide cyclists around the route by August. Cyclists can enjoy the idyllic scenery such as lavender fields and rice paddies, and the outlook of majestic the Mount Tokachi.

May 31

Miori SHIMOSAKA, a professional “go” player from Obihiro, won a game against “Zen,” a software that took the first place in the “International Computer Go Congress” last year. The match was held at “Future University Hakodate.” It is one of the events of the Japan Society for Artificial Intelligence 2015. “Go” is an intellectual game played on a wooden board with two people placing black and white go stones in turn.

June 2

Asahikawa Seibu Department Store set up a duty-free counter where all the goods that tourists from abroad buy at duty-free shops on Kaimono Koen Shopping Street can be exempt from tax. Paperwork for duty exemption and packing of duty-free goods are completed at the counter. Eleven shops on the shopping street such as a jewelry shop, a draper’s shop, green tea sellers, and a camera store have become tax-free shops.

June 8

The executive committee of the 7th Asahikawa Half Marathon will start receiving entry for the event. This is the first half marathon which will have about half of its course on open road. The marathon runners will start from Chikabumi Athletic Stadium in Hanasaki-cho, run through Self Defense Force army post, double back in the vicinity of Driver’s License Center, go through Asahibashi Bridge, “Rotary” (roundabout), and Tokiwa Park, then finish at the athletic stadium.

June 8

“Asahikawa Enka (fire and flower),” a dancing team of which members’ average age is 67, joined the 24th Yosakoi Soran Festival in Sapporo held in early June. Leaders of the team are 75-year-old Susumu HAYASHIKAMI and his 72-year-old wife, Tomoko. Both of them started learning ballroom dancing in their thirties. Mr. HAYASHIKAMI choreographs their performance.



For further information or to register for events contact:

Asahikawa International Committee (SASAKI Mai, Kim LACEY, or SAITO Emmy)

Location:

International/City Affairs Division, Comprehensive Policy Dept.

Address:

Asahikawa International Center
Feeeal Asahikawa 7F, 1-jo-dori 8 - chome, Asahikawa 070-0031

Tel: (0166) 25-7491

Fax: (0166) 23-4924

E-mail:

cir_kokusai@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp

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Special Thanks to KAWAI Tatsuo, Proofreader & Advisor

Squares and Circles: The Story of Art and Form

シカクイ、マルイ - 形のわけあり物語 -

Various forms in furniture have both functional and artistic meanings behind. For example, you can take a look at different angles in chairs and sit on them at this exhibition. Shapes in many different paintings, crafts, and sculptures are also examined for their characteristics and symbols.

Date: now to August 30th (Sunday), except on Mondays**Time:** 9:30 am to 5:00 pm (admission is until 4:30 pm)**Venue:** Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art (inside Tokiwa Park)**Admission:** General—¥170, High School Students—¥100**For Further Information Contact:** 0166-25-2577 (Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art)**Aya SHIMAZU's 2015 Concert: With Pride and Confidence**

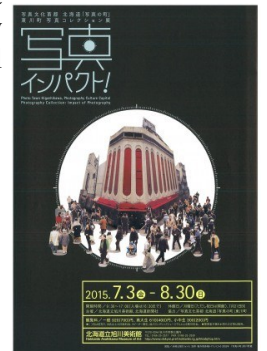
2015島津亜矢コンサート 矜持～自信・誇りを持って～

Aya SHIMAZU is a Japanese enka singer known for her strong voice and emotion she puts into her songs. Ever since she made a breakthrough in 1991 with her single that sold over 3 million copies, she has been making appearances on the prestigious Kouhaku Uta Gassen a few times.

Date: July 1st (Wednesday)**Time:** Daytime 2:00 pm, Nighttime: 6:30 pm**Venue:** Asahikawa City Culture Hall (7-jo 9-chome)**Admission:** ¥6,500**Ticket Offices:** Lawson Stores, Ticket Pia, Doshin Play Guide, Coach & Four Asahikawa Music Corner, Gyokkodo Asahikawa**Photo Town Higashikawa's Photography Collection: Impact of Photography**

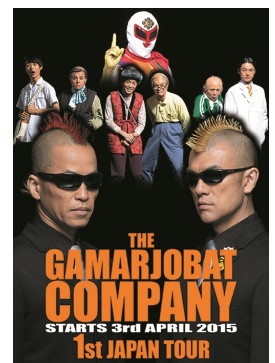
写真文化首都北海道「写真の町」東川写真コレクション展 ～写真インパクト！～

Ever since the Town of Higashikawa declared itself a "Photo Town" in 1985, it has planned a town renewal project through photographs. Higashikawa has also produced many photographers who are thriving in their fields. This exhibition will show 180 original photographs that reflect each artist's original take on Higashikawa Town.

Date: July 3rd (Friday) to August 30th (Sunday), except on Mondays and July 21st (Tuesday)**Time:** 9:30 am to 5:00 pm (admission is until 4:30 pm)**Venue:** Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art (inside Tokiwa Park)**Admission:** General—¥920 (¥700), High School Students—¥610 (¥400), Elementary and Middle School Students—¥300 (¥200) *prices shown in parenthesis are for tickets purchased in advance or for groups of 10 or more**The Gamarjobat Company's 1st Japan Tour**

ザ・ガ～まるちよばカンパニー1st Japan Tour

Gamarjobat, which means "Hello!" in Georgian, is the award winning comic mime duo formed in 1999. The pair emerged as a staple of performing-arts festivals worldwide after the acclaim of winning a Tap Water Award at the 2005 Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Gamarjobat then further expanded the group by admitting four new members, which created the Gamarjobat "Company" for better and longer silent comedy acts. Come and see the world of mime portrayed by six Japanese performers, and marvel at their "theater without words," as one of the members Hiro-pon put it.

Date: July 4th (Saturday)**Time:** Door 5:30 pm, Show: 6:00 pm**Venue:** Asahikawa City Culture Hall (7-jo 9-chome)**Admission:** S Seats: ¥5,500, A Seats: ¥5,000**Ticket Offices:** Lawson Ticket (L-code: 13044), Doshin Play Guide, Gyokkodo Asahikawa
Purchasing Ticket Online: Sept (<http://www.sept-sh.com/shop>)

Kamui Ski Links Fruits Festival カムイスキーリンクスフルーツフェスティバル

Kamui Ski Links is hosting their 2nd Fruits Festival this year which will include exciting activities that make use of slopes of the ski resort, such as mountain bike lesson for beginners, mountain climbing race with pets, among others. Other unique programs include cherry seed spitting contest, snowball throwing tournament using the actual snow saved up from winter, and local fruits market. It will be interesting to see what Kamui Ski Links has to offer in summer.

Date: July 5th (Sunday)

Time: 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Venue: Kamui Ski Links (Kamui-cho, Nishioka 112)

Admission: Free

For Further Information Contact: 0166-72-2311 (Kamui Ski Links)

Official Website: <http://www.kamui-skilinks.com> (available in Japanese, English, and Chinese languages)



Sakhalin Oblast Puppet Theater's 2015 Hokkaido Show サハリン州立人形劇場2015北海道公演

Sakhalin Oblast is located in the far east of Russia and has a very close relationship to Hokkaido Prefecture. The Oblast's administrative center, Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, is also one of the four sister/friendship cities of Asahikawa. The Sakhalin Oblast Puppet Theater will bring the story of Thumbelina, a fairy tale by Hans Christian Andersen that has been captivating kids around the world, to Wakkanai, Asahikawa, and Sapporo during this Hokkaido tour.

Date: July 6th (Monday)

Time: 6:00 pm

Venue: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall (7-jo 9-chome)

Admission: ¥1,800



Afternoon Recital Series at Yashushi INOUE Memorial Hall Lounge 井上靖記念館ラウンジにて午後の朗読会

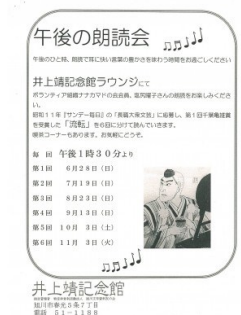
How about spending your Sunday afternoon relaxing with a cup of tea while listening to an award winning piece by Asahikawa's famous writer, Yasushi INOUE, read aloud to you? Afternoon recital series of INOUE's 流転 *ruten*, which won the first Chiba Kameo Prize, is now available once a month at Yashushi INOUE Memorial Hall Lounge.

Date: July 19th (Sunday), August 23rd (Sunday), September 13th (Sunday), October 3rd (Saturday), and November 3rd (Tuesday)

Time: 1:30 pm

Venue: INOUE Yashushi Memorial Hall Lounge (Shunko 5-jo 7-chome)

Admission: Free for this recital series



Lisa ONO World Tour 2015 in Japan 小野リサ World Tour 2015 in Japan

Lisa ONO was born in San Paulo, Brazil, where she was naturally exposed to samba music. She is considered one of the biggest contributors to the popularity of Bossa Nova (a lyrical fusion of samba and jazz developed in the 1950s) in Japan. This year she will perform many of her hit songs, including "The Girl from Ipanema (イパネバの娘)."

Date: July 24th (Friday)

Time: Doors 6:30 pm Show 7:00 pm

Venue: Asahikawa City Public Hall (inside Tokiwa Park)

Admission: ¥5,500 (At the Door ¥6,000)

Ticket Offices: Ticket Pia (P-code: 258-305), 7-Eleven Stores, Lawson Ticket (L-code: 13724), Doshin Play Guide, Gyokkodo Asahikawa, Yamaha Music, A. Evans, FM Riviere Ticket Box, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Taisetsu Crystal Hall Museum Shop

For Further Information Contact: 090-6695-8777 (Lisa ONO's Asahikawa Concert Support Team)



EVENTS IN ASAHIKAWA FOR JULY



Hello Asahikawa!

Name: Chidchanok Hongtipparat (Nok)
Hometown: Chonburi, Thailand
Interviewed: June 15th, 2015 by AIC

AIC: *First of all, please tell us a little about yourself and where you are from.*

Nok: Hi, everyone. My name is Nok, and I am from Thailand, the land which is totally different from Hokkaido. Now I live in Higashikawa, a small town near Asahikawa.

AIC: *How did you first get interested in Japan?*

Nok: It happened when I was in junior high school. I was interested in Japanese manga and anime, but my passion for studying foreign languages also influenced me. So when I entered high school, I decided to study Japanese as my major.

AIC: *I see. I am curious to find out what brought you here to this cold Hokkaido from Thailand. How long have you been here and what kind of work are you doing?*

Nok: I came here through the JET (Japan Exchange and Teaching) program and I am working as a Coordinator for International Relations in the Higashikawa Town Hall since August of 2014. I decided to join the program because I wanted to work in Japan and I had never been to Hokkaido. Also, I was into an anime called “Silver Spoon,” which is about an agriculture school life in Hokkaido. That is why I am here. About my work... I am involved in work related to the international exchange between the town of Higashikawa and overseas countries, including Thailand. We have a Japanese language school here in my town, so there are a lot of foreign students in Higashikawa. Furthermore, because our town is a door to Asahidake, there are many tourists visiting.

AIC: *I think it's great that you are helping building cultural bridges between Thailand and Hokkaido. What are some of your hobbies?*

Nok: I love to go out to see something new. Sometimes I bike around the town and go somewhere I have never been and try some new restaurants and cafés. I also love to take photos so I really enjoy spending time slowly with my camera.

AIC: *What are some of your favorite Japanese food?*

Nok: Sushi and Udon. Oh, and I also love Japanese sweets.

AIC: *What have been your impressions of Hokkaido and Asahikawa so far?*



Nok talks about her country while visiting schools in Higashikawa

Hello Asahikawa!

Chidchanok Hongtipparat Interview (Part 2) Continued from Page 4

Nok: Hokkaido has very beautiful nature and delicious food. As a neighboring city to Higashikawa, Asahikawa has many interesting tourist spots. Also, it is so convenient that I can go to many places in Hokkaido from Asahikawa Station. On weekends, I am often in Asahikawa for shopping and traveling around.

AIC: *Yes, the new Aeon Mall by the station adds more fun. How did you survive your first winter here by the way?*

Nok: Ah, winter!! This past winter was actually the very first time in my life that I experienced the real winter and snow. Because I come from a tropical country, we don't have winter in Thailand. At least I was a bit lucky since I arrived in Higashikawa during summer. I had some time before winter so that my body could get used to the cold little by little in preparation. When it snowed for the first time, I really loved it. It was so pretty and just unreal. But soon after, I realized how tough Hokkaido's winter can get. First of all, it was hard to walk on the snow (and on the ice), so I could not go out as often as I wanted to. Thanks to so many kind people around me, though, I



learned a lot of stuff. For example, they gave me practical advice on how to get through Hokkaido's winter, like what to do to improve the window insulation, how to choose winter boots, and so on. Also, I got a new winter hobby—skiing! I joined a town ski class for three days, and after that when I had time I could just go to Canmore Ski Village, a ski area of the town which is not so far from my place. Moreover, I have picked up yet another new hobby, kendo. I practice every Friday with the town people. It's a very nice workout and also great in a sense that I can learn the Japanese martial arts from the local. Both ski and kendo have been so enjoyable and I made new friends from the two activities.

AIC: *I am glad you could stay active in winter. What do you do when you get homesick?*

Nok: I talk with my family and friends via Line and Skype. The time difference between Thailand and Japan is only 2 hours, so I can talk with them almost every day. I also cook Thai food at home and watch Thai TV programs on the Internet. That helps a lot. Sometimes I go hangout with other JET friends. We also have a Higashikawa JET dining party.

AIC: *Is there anything you are looking forward to doing this year?*

Nok: Yes, I am planning on climbing to the top of the Asahidake this summer.

AIC: *Sounds great. I think Asahidake is beautiful in any season of the year. Lastly, what is your future plan after the JET program?*

Nok: I think I want to work as a Japanese instructor at a university in my home country.

AIC: *Thank you for your time today, Nok.*

Nok: You are welcome.

Life in Japan

Midsummer Day of the Ox By SAKURABA Satoshi

Warm summer days are ahead in July. Since Asahikawa is located in a basin and surrounded by mountains, the temperature tends to get pretty high. As some of you may know, summer fatigue (夏ばて *natsubate*) occurs when you are repeatedly exposed to high temperature; you feel lethargic, and symptoms of heat illnesses, such as headache and dizziness, might occur. It is important that we take preventive measures not to get sick during this time of the year.

In Japan, there is a unique day known as the “Midsummer Day of the Ox (土用の丑の日 *Doyo no Ushi no Hi*).” On this day, Japanese people customarily eat freshwater eel (うなぎ *unagi*) to regain energy and stamina. The Midsummer Day of the Ox falls on July 24 (and August 5) this year. Though the exact date changes every year based on the lunar calendar, the Midsummer Day of the Ox falls in the peak of summer heat. Since the Edo Period, Japanese people have been practicing this ritual of eating eel on this day with the belief that eel’s nutrients can help fight off summer fatigue. Freshwater eel is indeed rich in omega 3, vitamin A, and calcium. A popular way of eating eel for the Japanese is by charcoal-grilling and glazing with a sweet, rich sauce. It is often served on a bed of steamed white rice. Nothing quite triggers the appetite like the sweet aroma of grilled eel.

However, there are many people who do not eat eel on this day, because freshwater eel can be quite expensive. On top of the recent situation of Japanese eels’ declining population, the peak season for catching natural eels is in fact from autumn to early winter. But rest assured—eel is not the only thing that we eat on the Midsummer Day of the Ox. It is also believed that foods with names that start with the letter

“う (u),” is good for health. For example, “うどん (udon noodles)” is easy for digestion even if you have no appetite, and “うめぼし (pickled Japanese plum)” contains citric acid which can help you to ward off summer lethargy.

Food that is readily available around us can actually keep us from getting sick. To prevent summer fatigue, it is essential to take in enough nutrition. What is important, in my opinion, is that you consume sufficient amount of vegetables, fruits, and digestible foods. But while you are in Japan, how about trying some Japanese eel this summer to give your body strength to help fight off summer fatigue?



Life in Asahikawa

海水浴 Sea Bathing By KITAMURA Tadao

The season for the sea-loving is coming. If you are not sure where to go, I suggest you sea bathing at the coasts of this northern Sea of Japan, or the Sea of Okhotsk. It might give you something to boast about, or more stories to share with your family and friends back home.

For us who live here in Hokkaido, going sea bathing (海水浴 *kaisuiyoku*) is essential for enjoying this short summer season. For visiting tourists and foreigners, though, going sea bathing might not be an easy thing when not familiar with manners and customs here. When I was traveling to a certain country, sea-bathing was allowed only in a private beach attached to a designated hotel, for instance. People in Asahikawa mostly go sea bathing on the west coast of the Sea of Japan. There are actually several beaches on or nearby Rumoi City which are open for a limited period of time during July and August.

The right of use for those beaches basically belongs to a local union of fishers, and approved local entrepreneurs may open a facility so-called “海の家 *umi-no-ie*,” or a beach house. *Umi-no-ie* facilitates you a locker room, a shower room, resting space, and so on. They are usually in forms of temporary sheds or big tents. You can use such facilities at a charge of 500 - 2,000 yen. It is convenient for visitors who are just stopping by. If you want to stay overnight, “民宿 *minshuku*” is recommended. Local households nearby the beach open their rooms for visitors' use in a reasonable charge. Many even provide accommodations with meals.

People enjoy various activities on a beach. Swimming, rowing a boat, wind surfing, or just lying on the sand... anything is possible. Some groups have their picnic on the beach and enjoy fresh food that is easily obtainable from the region. In case of a rocky beach, children look for tiny sea creatures, such as crabs, shrimp, or shellfish. Those who are confident about their fishing skills swing their rods at the depth of water. The northern beaches up here actually have seawater that is cooler than other regions. You will sometimes encounter rather a rare scenery where people make a fire on the beach to warm their chilled bodies after coming out of cold seawater. Understandably, *umi-no-ie* also provides warm water bath for the same purpose.

Beaches easily accessible from Asahikawa may not sound appealing due to their cold water, but they are sure to provide you a very unique experience in this country.



Holidays Around the World

Holidays and Fireworks By Kim LACEY

Fireworks are a long-standing tradition to celebrate and commemorate holidays and events around the world. In celebration of Independence Day of the United States of America, known informally as “The Fourth of July,” I decided to write a piece about fireworks in relation to holidays in different countries, because for many Americans, the Fourth of July celebration wouldn’t be the same without a dazzling display of fireworks lighting up the skies.

First of all, let’s look at the brief history of how these celebratory explosives were invented and implemented for cultural and religious purposes over time. The earliest documentation of fireworks are said to date back to China, which continues to produce and export more fireworks than any other country in the world to this day. It is thought that as early as 200 B.C., the Chinese had already stumbled upon a sort of natural firecracker: roasted bamboo! When bamboo is heated, it explodes with a loud blast due to its hollow air pockets. Some believe that it was used to ward off evil spirits. In the 13th century, gunpowder samples and formulas began trickling into Europe and Arabia, and fireworks became increasingly popular first to commemorate military victories and later to enhance public celebrations and religious ceremonies.



Celebrating Australia Day 2013—edited
(source: www.fantasticmelbourne.com.au)

As you may already know, the big holiday for setting off fireworks is New Year’s Day in many countries. Dazzling firecrackers and fireworks illuminate the skyline to greet the New Year in Dubai, Sydney, Paris, Edinburgh, Rio, and other cities across the world. So, why the fireworks? Apparently, enormous fireworks displays have become the ultimate status symbol for moneyed cities. The purpose is to invite the world’s eyes to admire your city looking at its most magical. Fireworks also play a major role during the ceremonies for the Summer and Winter Olympic Games. But are there any other holidays or annual events that are more closely associated with fireworks in some countries? Well, let us look at some examples:

1. **Australia Day:** On January 26, Australia’s national holiday is celebrated in style in Sydney’s Darling Harbour with a mesmerizing fireworks display. A delightful boat parade is also held, which adds to the thrill of this annual event.

Holidays Around the World

Holidays and Fireworks Continued from Page 8

2. Fourth of July: If you don't mind a crowded environment, try watching breathtaking fireworks erupting over the Capitol Building and the Washington Monument in the U.S. capital of Washington D.C. Other famous shows also take place over the Hudson River in New York City and along Boston's Charles River.
3. National Day of Singapore: Singapore celebrates its independence from Malaysia on August 9 every year. Local and foreign fireworks teams put on shows over several different nights, making this long-running annual fireworks displays. Singapore Flyer, which towers 165 meters above ground, is said to be one of the best places to watch the National Day fireworks.
4. Guy Fawkes Night: Also known as Bonfire Night, Guy Fawkes Night is observed around the United Kingdom every year on November 5. It's a British tradition dating back to the Gunpowder Plot of 1605, when Catholic conspirator Guy Fawkes tried to blow up the Houses of Parliament and King James I. Hence the day is celebrated each year with fireworks and bonfires throughout the capital and country.
5. The Dubai New Year's Eve Fireworks: The city not only has the world's tallest building, but it now puts on one of the most impressive New Year's Eve fireworks displays. In 2013, Dubai broke the Guinness World Record for the world's largest fireworks display, setting off 500,000 shells in six minutes. The event cost six million dollars, making it also the world's most expensive display.



Fireworks light up the Thames River during the Lord Mayor's Show

(Source: Lord Mayor's Show/Facebook)

What was originally used to ward off evil spirits has a long history in Japan, as well. Summer is the season of fireworks in Japan, and some firework shows, called 花火大会 *hanabi taikai*, can draw hundreds of thousands of spectators. A secondary attraction of Japanese fireworks is the relaxed festival atmosphere that accompanies them. Street vendors set up stalls to sell various drinks and staple Japanese food, such as yakisoba, okonomiyaki, takoyaki, and shaved ice. You can also play games like 金魚すくい *kingyo sukui* (goldfish scooping) at many stalls. Enjoying fireworks or summer festivals with local people wearing the traditional yukata will definitely become an unforgettable memory in your life.

Some of the oldest and most popular fireworks festival in Japan includes the Sumidagawa River Fireworks Festival and the Tokyo Bay Fireworks in the nation's capital, the Fukuroi Fireworks Festival in Shizuoka Prefecture, the Miyajima Fireworks in Hiroshima Prefecture, and the Omagari National Fireworks Competition in Akita Prefecture. These popular fireworks show tend to be VERY crowded and the competition for good viewing spots can be quite intense. People often show up and reserve the best spots hours in advance, especially in cities like Tokyo where skyscrapers limit the number of spots with unobstructed views. For those who just don't have the patience or time, an alternative is to purchase reserved seats available at most displays.

Holidays Around the World

Holidays and Fireworks Continued from Page 9

It will be a good idea to bring a bug spray, a pack of tissues for the public bathrooms, some extra cushions, and packed food and drinks. When the fireworks is over, expect crowded buses and trains especially after the end of the show. Because of traffic congestions, it is often faster and more comfortable to walk if you can.



Fireworks are set off every night in the Lake Toya hot spring resort

(Source: japan-magazine.jnto.go.jp/en/1307_hanabi.html)

One of the fireworks that have distinguishing features in Hokkaido is the Lake Toya Long-Run Fireworks. The fireworks show, in which fireworks are set off every night for as long as 6 months, has the longest running length in Japan. Since fireworks are set off from a boat moving across Lake Toya, the fireworks can be viewed from anywhere in the lake hot spring resort. If you can't travel to Lake Toya, here is good news; Asahikawa City also has an annual fireworks display on Ishikari riverside which marks the beginning of the Asahikawa Summer Festival that will be held from July 30 to August 1 this year. Don't miss this chance to enjoy the ephemeral beauty of fireworks the Japanese way!

★ *Movies ~ July* ★

*The 1st day of every month is "Movie Day" in Asahikawa. Admission (tax included) is ¥1,100 for Adults, ¥800 for High School Students and Under at all theaters.

*<Aeon Cinema Only> Every Monday is "Happy Monday." Admission is ¥1,100 (tax included) for all.

★ **Aeon Cinema:** Miyashita-dori 7-chome / ☎ 74 - 6411
URL: cinema.aeoncinema.com/wm/asahikawa (Japanese)

Now Showing

- Ai wo Tsumu Hito (Japanese)
- Mad Max: Fury Road (English)
- Juon: The Final (Japanese)
- Sakanakun Kenkyujo Let's Gyo (Japanese)
- Tomorrowland (English)
- Yokokuhan (Japanese)
- Umimachi Diary (Japanese)
- Okaasan no ki (Japanese)
- Anata wo zutto aishiteru (Japanese)
- Initiation Love (Japanese)
- Shinjuku Swan (Japanese/PG12)
- An (Japanese)
- Birigal (Japanese)
- Cinderella (English)
- Crayon Shinchan: The Movie (Japanese/Animation)
- Detective Conan: The Movie (Japanese/Animation)

Coming Soon

- Avengers: Age of Ultron (English/3D) 7/4
- Terminator Genisys (English) 7/10
- Bakemono no ko (Japanese/Animation) 7/11
- Pokemon: The Movie (Japanese/Animation) 7/18
- Inside Out (English/Animation) 7/18
- Minions (English/Animation) 7/31



Movies ~ July

(Continued from Page 10)

*<Cineplex 7 Asahikawa and Dinos Cinemas Only> Every Wednesday is “Ladies’ Day.” Admission is ¥1,100 (tax included) for women at all theaters.

*<Dinos Cinemas Only> Every Thursday is “Men’s Day.” Admission is ¥1,100 (tax included) for men.

★ **Cineplex 7 Asahikawa:** Nagayama 12-jo 3-chome Western Powers Nagayama / ☎ 49 – 1000

URL: www.unitedcinemas.jp/asahikawa/daily.php (Japanese)

Directions: Take Dohoku Bus No. 66, 72 or 665 at Bus stop No. 18 in front of Feeeal Asahikawa (1-jo-dori 8-chome). Get off at “Nagayama 10 (ju)-jo 3 (san)-chome.”

Now Showing

- Ai wo Tsumu Hito (Japanese)
- Gokudo Daisenso (Japanese/PG12)
- Mad Max: Fury Road (English)
- Umimachi Diary (Japanese)
- Yokokuhan (Japanese)
- Tomorrowland (English)
- Shinjuku Swan (Japanese/PG12)
- Cinderella (English)
- Initiation Love (Japanese)
- Strayer's Chronicle (Japanese)

Coming Soon

- Avengers: Age of Ultron (English/3D) 7/4
- Terminator Genisys (English) 7/10
- Bakemono no ko (Japanese/Animation) 7/11
- Masochistic Ono Band Live Tour 2015 ~What is Rock?~ (Live Viewing) 7/12
- Pokemon The Movie (Japanese/Animation) 7/18
- Inside Out (English/Animation) 7/18
- SM Town Live World Tour IV in JAPAN Special Edition (Live Viewing) 7/25
- Minions (English/Animation) 7/31

★ **Dinos Cinemas:** Taisetsu-dori 5-chome / ☎ 21 – 1233

URL: cinema.sugai-dinos.jp/pc/asahikawa/schedule.php (Japanese)

Directions: Take Dohoku Bus No. 61, 62, 67 or 667 at Bus stop No. 18 in front of Feeeal Asahikawa (1-jo-dori 8-chome). Get off at “Nippon Seishi Mae.”

Now Showing

- Mad Max: Fury Road (English)
- Ai wo Tsumu Hito (Japanese)
- Shinjuku Swan (Japanese/PG12)
- Tomorrowland (English)
- Yokokuhan (Japanese) until 7/3
- The Maze Runner (English)
- Chappie (English/PG12)
- Birigal (Japanese)
- Juon: The Final (Japanese)
- Detective Conan: The Movie (Japanese/Animation)
- Strayer's Chronicle (Japanese)

Coming Soon

- A Walk Among the Tombstones (English) 7/4 ~ 7/17
- Avengers: Age of Ultron (English/3D) 7/4
- Terminator Genisys (English) 7/10
- Bakemono no ko (Japanese/Animation) 7/11
- HERO (Japanese) 7/18
- Inside Out (English/Animation) 7/18
- Minions (English/Animation) 7/31

Movie schedules change often. Please call the theater for confirmation and details.

29th Nagayama Tonden Festival

This festival, which celebrates the arrival of the pioneers of Hokkaido, is known for featuring Hokkaido's biggest taiko drum, which weighs more than 600kg. There will also be an enormous assortment of floating paper-covered lanterns of various colors for you to enjoy.

Some of the events were canceled or delayed last year due to rain, so hopefully it will be sunny this year. The festival will start around noon and go on until about 9 pm. If you arrive early, you can check out food stalls and flea markets at the venue.

Date: July 25th (Saturday) and 26th (Sunday)

Time: Around 12:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Venue:

25th: Nagayama Ekimae-dori's specially set-up stage

26th: Kamikawa Office and Nagayama ekimae-dori

For Further Information Contact: 090-6695-8777



Asahikawa Summer Festival

The largest festival of the year is finally here. Come out and enjoy all the fun! From fireworks over the river and the Citizen Dance Parade to the Yosakoi Soran Night and the Disco Night, you can be sure to have three days of nonstop fun and excitement. Oh, and don't forget to check out *mikoshi* (portable shrine procession.) Hope to see you there!

Dates: July 30th (Thursday) to August 1st (Saturday)

Time: Various Events Throughout the Evenings

Locations: Asahibashi Bridge & In and Around the 3-jo-dori 6-chome Area.

Charge: Free

Interesting activities, such as quizzes, discussions, songs, games, handcrafts and many more, all in English! Come meet new people, relax, and relate on Fun Fridays!

FUN FRIDAYS

Dates: July 10th&24th, August 14th&28th, September 11th&25th

*Fun Fridays are held only on the 2nd Friday of every month for the evening session (2 hours)

Time: 1:00-2:00pm & 6:30-8:30pm

Location: Asahikawa International Center, Common Meeting Room (1)
(Feeeal Asahikawa 7F 1-jo-dori 8-chome)

Charge: ¥1,500 for 3 months (Free for volunteer leaders)

The AIC offers many services to make your life in Asahikawa more enjoyable. Here are just a few:

Volunteer Guide: Volunteers are registered to help translate and interpret.

Event Volunteer: The AIC plans many exciting events throughout the year, such as Friendship Parties. Why not become a volunteer and help plan these events?

Homestay: Families are registered to welcome you into their homes for an overnight stay or just for an afternoon visit.

For further information or to register, please contact AIC.



The Asahikawa International Center (Feeeal Asahikawa 7F 1-jo-dori 8-chome) has free wifi available for public use free of charge. Registration for a user card is needed, if you are residing in Asahikawa. Please feel free to come by anytime, as well as check out some of the other services and activities available at the Asahikawa International Center .

Spread the Word...

Contribute to the AIC newsletter and share any interesting information you may have with other readers. You may write on any topic including, items to buy or sell, offers for culture/language exchanges, or write an essay about your life in Asahikawa or your hometown. The article should not be profit related! Please send your submissions to us at the AIC.



Asahikawa International Committee

Asahikawa International Center Feeeal Asahikawa 7F, 1-jo-dori 8-chome, Asahikawa 070-0031

Tel: (0166) 25-7491 Fax: (0166) 23-4924

E-mail: cir_kokusai@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp

****The opinions expressed in the essays are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Asahikawa International Committee or the City of Asahikawa.****