

旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

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Hokkaido News Top 5



December 2013

Compiled by TAKADA Nobuhiro

October 19

Co-op Sapporo, a major supermarket chain, announced that deer meat will be sold at some of their stores from November 22nd. Six stores will be carrying venison, including the one in Toko, Asahikawa, for some time to come. According to Hokkaido Prefectural Government, the population of deer in Hokkaido was around 590,000 in 2011 which has increased 60 percent since a decade ago.

October 24

Sapporo District Meteorological Observatory predicted the weather for this coming winter in Hokkaido. According to the forecast, the temperature from December to January is likely to be normal or below normal. The amount of snowfall will be around normal or above normal in the western part of Hokkaido, including Sapporo and Asahikawa.

November 1

"Advics Tokoro Curling Hall," an indoor athletic facility for curling in Tokoro, Kitami City, opened on November 1. The facility includes six curling sheets, as many as the largest one in Karuizawa, Nagano, and is available throughout the year like the one in Sapporo. Tokoro in Kitami is active in curling, but used to have an old facility built in 1988.

November 15

"Restaurant Asperge," a popular French restaurant in Biei, has decided to do business at a ski resort in Niseko only for winter. "Asperge Hanazono," the new restaurant in Niseko, will open from December 20 to March 10 and provide 4,500-yen lunch and 15,000-yen dinner. The one-star restaurant of the Michelin Guide Hokkaido 2011 is reducing business in Biei during winter every year.

November 18

The population of the Town of Higashikagura has reached 10,000 on November 18th as the result of the town's efforts to attract younger people. The town has developed a residential estate in Hijirino area next to Asahikawa City and also has provided favorable supports to families raising children. Its population once dropped to 5,109 in 1975 due to increasing number of retiring farmers.



For further information or to register for events contact:

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

Location:

International Affairs Division, Civic and Community Services Dept.

Address:

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

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Special Thanks to KAWAI Tatsuo, Proofreader & Advisor

Forest of Primorye “Russian Maritime Province” Dersu Uzala Illustrated Story Exhibition プリモリエ<ロシア沿海州>の森 デルス・ウザラ絵物語展

Dersu Uzala is a memoir written by a Russian explorer, Vladimir Arsenyev, about his exploration of the Russian Far East in the early 20th century. This exhibition will introduce 28 pieces of artwork created in 2006, based on the original works of the time.

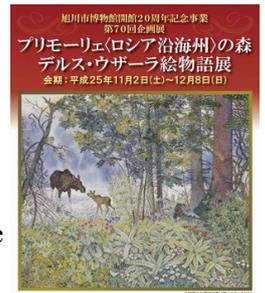
Date: now to December 8th (Sunday),

Time: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Venue: Asahikawa City Museum (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome, inside Taisetsu Crystal Hall)

Admission: General—¥300, High School Students—¥200, Elementary and Middle School Students—Free

For Further Information Contact: 0166-22-3310 (Asahikawa Literary Museum)



The Hokkaido Bank Collection 北海道銀行コレクション

In commemoration of partnership agreement between Hokkaido Bank and Asahikawa City, 120 pieces of paintings and 12 sculpture works from the Hokkaido Bank Collection will be in display in the Asahikawa Art Museum over the next two weeks. This same collection was also shown and well-received in Sapporo last year, in celebration of Hokkaido Bank's 60th anniversary.

Date: now to December 15th (Sunday), except on Mondays

Time: 9:30 am to 5:00 pm (admission is until 4:30 pm)

Venue: Asahikawa Art Museum (inside Tokiwa Park)

Admission: Free

For Further Information Contact: 011-233-1256 (Hokkaido Bank Secretarial Office), between 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on weekdays.



Asahikawa City's 2013 Weekly Event, in Commemoration of the Disabled 旭川市平成25年度 障害者週間記念事業

This event includes various activities for people of all ages: a picture story show, greetings from Asappi, dance performances and sign language choruses, to name a few. The main event of the day will be a memorial lecture from a former professional baseball player of Asahikawa's own, Usami MAKITANI, who will be giving a lecture on his life as an outfielder in Tokyo Yakult Swallows, in addition to information on his current baseball academy. There will also be a chance to win the raffle drawing in the end to receive Hokkaido Nippon-Ham Fighters' goods.

Date: December 1st (Sunday)

Time: 11:00 am to 4:00 pm

Venue: Asahikawa City Welfare Center for Persons with Disabilities “OPITTA,” at gymnasium on the second floor (Miyamae-dori Higashi)

Admission: Free

For Further Information Contact: 31-2226 (OPITTA)



Special Exhibition of Yasushi INOUE's Modern Civilization Criticism 企画展 井上靖現代文明批判

Yasushi INOUE was a famous writer originally from Asahikawa, known for his serious historical fiction of ancient Japan and the Asian continent. His work also included semi-autobiographical novels and short fiction, which depicted Japan of the early mid 20th century in revealing perspective. This special exhibition will focus on three of his novels, in attempt to convey INOUE's thoughts on modern civilization at the time. On December 7th from 1:30 to 3 pm, there will be a special lecture on INOUE's work in regards to this special exhibition. Open to public for free, and sign-up is available by phone or fax.

Date: now to February 16th (Sunday), except on Mondays and holidays (Dec 30th-Jan 4th)

Time: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm (admission is until 4:30 pm)

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

Admission: General—¥200, High School Students—¥100, Children—Free

For Further Information Contact: 0166-51-1188



Forest and Firewood Festival in Ueno Farm 薪fes 森と薪のフェスティバル in上野ファーム

Is cold Asahikawa winter keeping you inactive and bored? Would you like to get out and do something fun on Sunday? Well, Ueno Farm is hosting Firewood Festival filled with interesting activities for people of all ages; baked sweet potato sampling, marshmallow by a bonfire, firewood splitting, bath salt making, you name it! To best suit various participants' preferences, the event location will be divided into five areas: Firewood Stove, Bonfire, Story of a Professional, Aroma of a Forest and Wood Chopping.

Date: December 8th (Sunday)

Time: 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Venue: Ueno Farm (Nagayamacho 16-chome 186)

Admission: Free, separate food and drinks (aside from sampling) at café will be charged.

For More Information: call 0166-76-2006 (Morinet Hokkaido) or visit www.morinet-h.org



Benny Goodman Orchestra Swing Jazz ベニー・グッドマンオーケストラ スウィング・ジャズ

Known to many as 'The King of Swing,' Benny Goodman was a legendary American jazz and swing musician that had a huge influence on countless musicians in the jazz world, including Ken Peplowski. Peplowski, who will be performing at this concert, actually played tenor saxophone with Goodman in his orchestra at an early stage of his career and is often compared to Goodman in terms of tone and virtuosity. Benny Goodman Orchestra will be performing some of his famous pieces and an internationally acclaimed singer and pianist, Carol Welsman, will be accompanying in vocal with her expressive and dynamic stage presence.

Date: December 17th (Tuesday)

Time: 6:30 pm

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

Admission: All Seats ¥6,000 (members ¥4,800)

Ticket Offices: Ticket Pia at 7-Eleven (P-Code: 207-332), Gyokkodo Asahikawa

For Further Information Contact: 0166-57-0244 (MIN-ON)



The 2nd Asahikawa Winter Photo Contest: In a Snowy Town 雪の降る街を 第二回旭川冬の写真コンクール

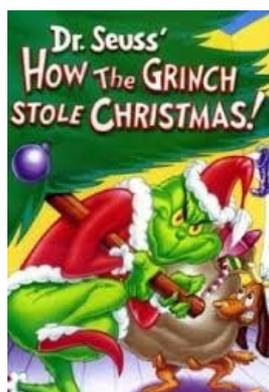
Asahikawa City Planning Citizens' Committee is waiting for submissions of photo depictions of Asahikawa winter, with the theme of a song "Yuki no furu machi wo (In a Snowy Town)." Anybody can submit three photographs maximum that best capture winter of Asahikawa. For those who are interested, detailed description of this contest is written in page 6 of this month's Asahikawa Info.

Period: December 25th-January 27th, 2014 (Thursday)

Submission Procedure: Use a form on website or print on a 2L (A5) sized photo paper only. Please include a title, your name, and address on the back.

For Further Information Contact: 0166-56-3476 (between 9 am to 4 pm)

Or Visit: <http://asahikawa-photo.info/>



Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before!
"What if Christmas," he thought, "doesn't come from a store?
What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more?"

-Dr. Seuss, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*

EVENTS IN ASAHIKAWA FOR DECEMBER



Hello Asahikawa!

Name: Wayne Yeh
Hometown: Taipei, Taiwan
Interviewed: November 23rd, 2013 by AIC

AIC: *Why did you decide to come to Japan, well, especially to Asahikawa?*

Wayne: I came to Japan because I wanted to learn the Japanese language, culture, and the way people think. I am also especially interested in how Japanese people do business. As for the reason that I came to Asahikawa, I just happened to have a connection here. I have a family friend who owns a company here, so I came and joined the company to learn the Japanese way of doing business.

AIC: *Was Japan different from your expectation?*

Wayne: Before I came, everything I knew about Japan was from Japanese drama and movies. I would say that such depictions were pretty close to the real life I have experienced here, but Japanese people sure don't eat sushi or ramen every day.

AIC: *I guess you are right. Well, could you tell us a little about where you are from? Where did you grow up?*

Wayne: I was born in Taipei, Taiwan and spent most of my childhood there until I immigrated to Canada when I was twelve years old. As many people know already, Taiwan is warm all the year round and the population density is pretty high. Meanwhile, Vancouver, where I lived in Canada, was a rainy city, but I really enjoyed its nice environment. There are lots of places to go for outdoor events, and I would say it is a great place for vacation as well. As for Toronto, where my university was located, it is the largest city and also the financial center of Canada. Funnily enough, the weather in Toronto is very similar to Hokkaido.

AIC: *So you have lived in Canada for quite a long time. Do you go back to Taiwan often?*

Wayne: Yes, I have been going back to Taiwan once every year or two since my family lives there. Since there is a direct flight to Taiwan from Asahikawa Airport, it is quite convenient to travel back and forth.

AIC: *That is great. So you've been back to Taiwan a few times already. What kind of a Japanese souvenir is most well received from your friends and family?*

Wayne: Well, all my family and friends love Japanese sweets, candies and cookies. But of course, girls like Japanese cosmetics.

AIC: *Do you like to travel? Where have you been to in Asahikawa and in Hokkaido so far? I assume you've already been to Asahiyama Zoo? (laugh)*

Hello Asahikawa!



Wayne Yeh Interview (Part Two) Continued from Page 4

Wayne: Absolutely! Asahiyama Zoo is one of the first places I went when I first arrived. Actually I have been to many cities in Hokkaido, mostly the ones up in the north of Asahikawa: Nayoro, Shibetsu, Kamikawa, Wakkanai, to name a few. But the place I enjoyed the most was Abashiri and Shiretoko area.

AIC: *What place in Hokkaido would you recommend other foreigners to visit?*

Wayne: Actually there are many places that I would love to recommend. Night view in Hakodate, flower viewing in Furano, great nature and hot spring in Sounkyo, and the World Heritage Site in Shiretoko are just a few things that cross my mind at the moment.

AIC: *How do you like to spend your free time here? Is your typical weekend in Asahikawa significantly different from back home?*

Wayne: No, it is actually not that different. On weekends I hang out at a friend's place, play some games, enjoy watching movies or eat together. But since I came to Asahikawa, I have been practicing cycling long distances. One of my goals for next summer is to bike to Furano and back in one day.

AIC: *That sounds like a fun and feasible plan. Is there anything else you would like to learn about or try while in Asahikawa?*

Wayne: Yep, there is something that I would definitely want to try while I am here—skiing! I've heard from many that Asahikawa and its surrounding areas have great and affordable places for skiing. But we haven't had much snow this year yet, so I am just impatiently waiting at the moment.

AIC: *I bet you miss Canada. What do you miss the most?*

Wayne: I would say my friends back home. It is kind of hard to come to a foreign country alone, especially not being able to speak the language well. It was very difficult to make friends in the beginning.

AIC: *Must have been challenging to start a new life here. Do you mind sharing us your plans for the future?*

Wayne: No, not at all. At least for now, I am planning on staying in Asahikawa until next summer. Then I think I will try to look for other full-time jobs in some big cities in Japan.

AIC: *Well, thank you very much for coming in today, Wayne. Wish you all the best on your future adventures.*

Wayne: Thanks for having me.

Hello December

The Second Asahikawa Winter Photo Contest: In a Snowy Town 雪の降る街を 第二回旭川冬の写真コンクール

Asahikawa City Planning Citizens' Committee invites all ambitious photographers to enter The Second Asahikawa Winter Photo Contest, from December 25th (Wed) to January 27th (Thurs). The theme of the contest will be a song "Yuki no furu machi wo (In a Snowy Town)," which is said to have been inspired by the beautiful sceneries of Asahikawa during winter.



Last year's second place "With Memories Behind" by Masato IKEDA

Anyone can submit up to three original images that best represent winter of Asahikawa. A competing photograph can include anything, as long as the filming was done within the city. Please do not submit a photograph that has been published before.

The submission can be made via online or mail. Please use the designated form on <http://asahikawa-photo.info/form/> or print on a 2L (A5) size photo paper. If submitting by mail, be sure to include a title, your name and address on the back. You can drop it in person or mail it to:

City Planning Citizens' Committee Secretariat
Asahikawa City, 3-jo-dori 9-chome, miji 8 go (Inside IAI Dentistry) 〒 070-0022
 〒 070-0022 旭川市3条9丁目右8 いあい歯科内 まちづくり市民の会事務局

Contest entries will be judged not just on technical quality, but also on originality, and most of all, citizens' response. Gold, Silver, Bronze and Special Award will be awarded to one participant each, and ten Honorable Mention will be announced as well. The winning entries will be displayed in *Kaimono Kouen*, Taisetsu Crystal Hall, and other public institutions, so good luck!

For further information, please call 0166-56-3476 or 090-7657-2694 between 9 am to 4 pm. Official contest website is also available at <http://asahikawa-photo.info/> (in Japanese only)



The special award went to Shoichi TANAKA's "First Snow" in 2012

* Photographs and relevant contest information used above were taken directly from the official website, <http://asahikawa-photo.info>. Asahikawa International Committee does not own, nor claims to own, information and photographs on this page.

★ Movies ~ December ★

*Every Wednesday is "Ladies' Day." Admission is ¥1,000 (tax included) for women at all theaters.

*<Dinos Cinemas Only> Every Thursday is "Men's Day." Admission is ¥1,000 (tax included) for men.

*The 1st day of every month is "Movie Day" in Asahikawa. Admission (tax included) is ¥1,000 for Adults, ¥800 for Senior High School Students and Under at all theaters.

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

URL: <http://www.kadokawa-cineplex.co.jp/asahikawa/> (Japanese)

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

Now Showing

- Kaguyahime no Monogatari (Japanese/Animation)
- SPEC ~Close~ Ko no Hen (Japanese)
- Captain Phillips (English)
- Subete ha Kimi ni Aetakara (Japanese)
- Pekorosu no Haha ni Ainiiku (Japanese)
- The Councelor (English)
- Kiyosu Kaigi (Japanese)
- Carrie (English)
- Hidamari no Kanojo (Japanese)
- SPEC ~Close~ Zen no Hen (Japanese)
- Precure the Movie (Japanese/Animation)
- Maho Shojo Madoka Magika (Japanese/Animation)
- Kaze Tachinu (Japanese/Animation)
- Shazai no Osama (Japanese)
- Soshite Chichi ni Naru (Japanese)
- Red 2 (English)

Coming Soon

- 47RONIN (English) 12/6
- Rikyu ni Tazuneyo (Japanese) 12/7
- Lupin the Third VS Detective Conan (Japanese/Animation)12/7
- Gravity (English) 12/13
- Kanojo ha Uso wo Aishisugiteru (Japanese) 12/14
- Walking with Dinosaurs (English) 12/20
- Eien no Zero (Japanese) 12/21
- Planes (English/Animation) 12/21

★ **Dinos Cinemas:** Taisetsu-dori 5-chome / ☎ 21 – 1218

URL: http://www.geodinos.jp/cinema/asa_schedule.php?StoreID=5 (Japanese)

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

Now Showing

- Kiyosu Kaigi (Japanese)
- Kaguyahime no Monogatari (Japanese/Animation)
- SPEC ~Close~ Zen no Hen (Japanese)
- SPEC ~Close~ Ko no Hen (Japanese)
- Shazai no Osama (Japanese)
- Hidamari no Kanojo (Japanese)
- The Councelor (English)
- Kujikenaide (Japanese)
- Carrie (English)
- Subete ha Kimi ni Aetakara (Japanese)
- Malavita (English)
- 42 (English)
- Kaze Tachinu (Japanese/Animation)
- Roommate (Japanese)

Coming Soon

- 47RONIN (English) 12/6
- Rikyu ni Tazuneyo (Japanese) 12/7
- Lupin the Third VS Detective Conan (Japanese/Animation)12/7
- Gravity (English) 12/13
- Kanojo ha Uso wo Aishisugiteru (Japanese) 12/14
- Bushi no Kondate (Japanese) 12/14
- Walking with Dinosaurs (English) 12/20
- Eien no Zero (Japanese) 12/21
- Planes (English/Animation) 12/21

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

Christmas Eggnog

Eggnog is a delicious creamy drink that we drink around this season in America. It tastes like Christmas, when you combine just a few simple ingredients. This time, a current American consul in Sapporo, Carlton L. Benson, will lead this special event, so be sure to come out and enjoy!

Date: December 21st (Saturday)

Time: 1:30-3:00 pm

Venue: Asahikawa International Center
Feeeal Asahikawa 7F, 1-jodori 8-chome

For Further Information or to Sign Up, Call:
25-7491

Catholic Churches

5-jo Church (5-jo-dori 11-chome)
Suehiro Church (Suehiro 2-jo 3-chome)
6-jo Church (6-jo-dori 22-chome)
Omachi Church (Omachi 1-jo 10-chome)
Kamui Church (Kamui 4-jo 9-chome)

Temples

Keijoji 慶誠寺 (Toyooka 5-jo 4-chome)
Kinkokuji 錦谷寺 (Omachi 1-jo 5-chome)
Daikyujji 大休寺 (5-jo-dori 5-chome)
Myohoji 妙法寺 (6-jo-dori 19-chome)
Daihoji 大宝寺 (Higashi Asahikawa, Kita 1-jo 7-chome)
Kyokuzanji 旭山寺 (Higashi Asahikawa, Kuranuma 44)



Protestant Churches

6-jo Church (6-jo-dori 10-chome)
Seventh-Day Adventist Church (27-15-22 8-jo-dori)
Toyooka Church (6-jo-dori 25-chome)
Seiko Church (Shunko 6-jo 1-chome)
St. Mark's Church (2-jo Nishi 3-chome)
St. Paul's Lutheran Church (7-jo-dori 8-chome)
Asahikawa Church Kawabata (1-jo 10-chome)
Asahikawa Baptist Church (8-jo Nishi 1-chome)
Toko Baptist Church (Toko 11-jo 3-chome)
Nazarene Church (Kawabata 1-jo 4-chome)
Holiness Church (Toyooka 12-jo 6-chome)
Eiko Church (Kagura 4-jo 11-chome)
Kamui Assembly Church (Kamui 4-jo 13-chome)
Zion Church (Toko 3-jo 7-chome)
Mennonite Church (Suehiro 4-jo 2-chome)
Megumi Christ Church (Toyooka 12-jo 10-chome)
Nagayama Evangelical (Nagayama 6-jo 21-chome)
Midorigaoka Evangelical (Nishi Kagura 2-sen 4-go)
Christ Evangelical Church (Toyooka 12-jo 10-chome)
Yo no Hikari (Nagayama 4-jo 21-chome)
Shin'ai Christ Church (Akitsuki 1-jo 1-chome)
Tojo Christ Church (Omachi 1-jo 10-chome)
Chuwa Bible Baptist Church (Chuwa 4-jo 1-chome)

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.

Center Computers: The Asahikawa International Center (Feeeal Asahikawa 7F 1-jo-dori 8-chome) has two computers available for public use free of charge. There is a time limit for use and prior registration is necessary. Please feel free to come by and use them 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.



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****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.****