

旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

December 2016 VOL. 241

Published by AIC

Also visit us at: <http://asahikawaic.jp/en/>



Hokkaido News Top 5



December 2016

Compiled by TAKADA Nobuhiro

October 27

Bandai, a major toy manufacturer in Tokyo, announced to launch a “Human Size Godzilla 1991 Hokkaido Version,” which is 192 centimeters high and 305 centimeters long including the tail. It is the largest-ever model figure in the history of Bandai. The model figure is modeled after the Godzilla from 1991’s “Godzilla vs King Ghidorah,” whose fight took place on Hokkaido. The company is selling only 10 Godzilla model figures, the price for which is 4,482,000 yen. Those who want to buy one need to access <http://p-bandai.jp/tamashiiwebshouten/> from November 7, 2016 to January 10, 2017.

November 7

Hokkaido, especially northern and central Hokkaido, was hit by record heavy snow for this time of the year due to a winter pressure pattern the dawn of November 6. The snow depth in Horokanai City near Asahikawa City reached 50 centimeters, and in Higashikagura Cho, it reached 32 centimeters, the deepest in recorded history. In Sapporo City they had 23 centimeters of snowfall, having more than 20 centimeters for the first time in 21 years.

November 11

Sapporo District Court decided on a 23-year prison term under the Automobile Driving Punishment Law for the two accused of causing a traffic accident that left four dead and one injured in Sunagawa City last year. The chief judge found the two guilty of ‘dangerous driving causing death or injury offense by conspiracy’ since the accused entered the intersection in spite of being able to see the red traffic signal before entering the site of the accident and one car picked up speed in response.

November 13-14

The Comprehensive Nuclear Emergency Response Exercise for nuclear accidents in Tomari Nuclear Plant near Otaru City was conducted by 13 local governments within 30 kilometers from the nuclear plant. The evacuation drill was carried out for the first time since 2001, and the first emergency drill under the assumption that a tsunami comes over the shore near the plant. 400 organizations including local governments and about 11,000 residents took part in the exercise.

November 18

The president of JR Hokkaido held a press conference to announce that there are 13 sections on 10 lines that the railway company cannot maintain alone, and that makes the company reconsider operating those lines any further. JR Hokkaido is making a proposition to switch from train operation to bus service on 3 sections of 3 lines, to transfer railroad facility to local governments on 9 sections of 7 lines, and to abolish 1 section of 1 line. The total extension of the 13 sections of 11 lines is almost equivalent to a half of JR Hokkaido’s railway distance.



For further information or to register for events contact:

Asahikawa International Committee (SUGANO Ayumi, Jacob WERSCHHEY, or SAITO Emmy)

Location:

International/City Affairs Division, Regional Development 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

Inside This Issue...

Hokkaido News Top 5 <i>By TAKADA Nobuhiro</i>	1	Hello Asahikawa! (Reto Sommer) <i>Interviewed by AIC</i>	5-6
Upcoming Events	2-3	Movies	6-7
Life in Hokkaido “Tokachi Typhoon Damage” <i>By Satoshi SAKURABA</i>	4	Bulletin Board	8

Special Thanks to KAWAI Tatsuo, Proofreader & Advisor

Tamako KATAOKA: An Unknown World of Creation 球子のひみつ - 本画とスケッチで探る片岡珠子の画業

Tamako KATAOKA was a native of Hokkaido and *Nihonga* (Japanese style painting) artist particularly known for her series of more colorful paintings of Mount Fuji. This exhibit features a variety of her sketches.

Date: Now to December 18th (Sunday)

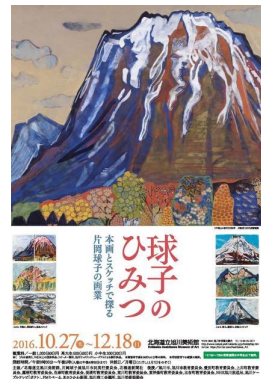
Time: 9:30am until 5:00pm (No entry after 4:30pm)

Venue: Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art (Inside Tokiwa Park)

Admission: General ¥1,000; High School ¥600; Junior High and Elementary ¥300

For further information contact: 0166-25-2577

***Notes:** Closed on Mondays except for holidays, in which case the next day will be closed.



Yasushi INOUE and Journey to the Western Regions 2 ~Dunhuang~ 井上靖と西域紀行II ~敦煌~

Yasushi INOUE was a famous Asahikawa born novelist. When he brought a new light to the story of China's Western Regions and Silk Road when we wrote his novel "Dunhuang" named after Chinese city. The exhibit includes a variety of the other pictures, notes and more that the author took on the city.

Date: Now until January 15th (Sunday)

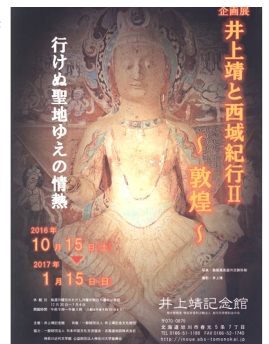
Time: 9:00am to 5:00pm

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

Admission: General ¥200; High School ¥100; Junior High and under FREE

For further information contact: 0166-52-1740

Notes: On break December 30th to January 4th



Handel's Oratorio - Messiah 3rd Christmas Concert ヘンデル作曲オラトリオ メサイア 第三回クリスマス公演

Brought to you by Asahikawa's very own Oratorio Chorus, Orchestra, and opera singers with English conductor Neil Andrew Sharpe at the head.

Date: December 10th (Saturday)

Time: Doors 5:00pm, Show 5:30pm to 8:00pm

Venue: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Concert Hall (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome)

Admission: All tickets ¥1,000

Ticket Office: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Yamaha Music Store, Coach and Four, Gyokkodo (Aeon 3F)

Tickets & further information contact: 080-6098-8902



Asahikawa Shogyo High School Brass Band 90th Anniversary Concert 旭川商業高等学校吹奏楽部 創部90周年 記念演奏会

Asahikawa Shogyo High School has been here for 9 decades and has its fair share of talented alumni. It is these same alumni that will be performing the anniversary concert. Come see some Old Boys and Old Girls play at their Alma Mater.

Date: December 11th (Sunday)

Time: Doors 1:00pm, Show 1:30pm

Venue: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, 3F (7-jo-dori 9-chome)

Admission: ¥1,000

Ticket Office: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Yamaha Music Store, Coach and Four

For further information contact: 080-6075-3690

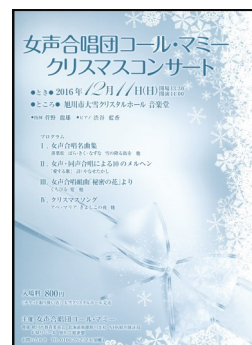


Women's Chorus Call Mommy Christmas Concert 女声合唱団コール・マミー クリスマス コンサート

Well, it's that time of year again. Christmas concerts are plentiful throughout the month. If you can't make it to a concert on Christmas day, get your fill of the Christmas spirit a little early this year.

Date: December 11th (Sunday)
Time: Doors 1:30pm, Show 2:00pm
Venue: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Concert Hall (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome)
Admission: ¥1,000

For further information contact: 0166-35-2324



Hokkaido Asahikawa Agricultural High School Brass Band 9th Regular Concert 北海道旭川農業高等学校吹奏楽部 第9回定期演奏会

It's not often we get performances by Hokkaido Asahikawa Agricultural High School. Come out and see the show!

Date: December 18th (Sunday)
Time: Doors 1:30pm, Show 2:00pm
Venue: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, 3F (7-jo-dori 9-chome)
Admission: General ¥800; Student ¥500
Ticket Office: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Coach and Four, Yamaha Music Store, Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall

For further information contact: 090-6876-5684



TONE CHRISTMAS CONCERT in Asahikawa 遠TONE音 クリスマスコンサート in 旭川

Tone consists of three members who play the guitar, and Japanese traditional instruments: *koto* and *shakuhachi*. The inspiration for their music comes mostly from the scenery of Hokkaido, the northernmost island of Japan.

Date: December 21st (Wednesday)
Time: Doors 2:00pm, Show 2:30pm (Afternoon)
Doors 6:00pm, Show 6:30pm (Night)
Venue: Kagura Public Hall "Kirarin" (Kagura 3-jo 6-chome)
Admission: General ¥2,500; +¥300 Day of surcharge
Ticket Office: Kirarin, Take One, Ticket Application available on the back of flyer

For further information contact: 03-3480-6710 (Take One)



Happy Christmas by Piano ピアノでハッピークリスマス

Another Christmas concert! This one is the day of, so treat the whole family to a concert!

Date: December 25th (Sunday)
Time: Doors 4:30pm, Show 5:00pm
Venue: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome)
Admission: General/Student ¥1,000; Senior/Handicapped ¥1,500;
Student Pair ¥1,800 +¥500 Day of surcharge
Ticket Office: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Yamaha Music Store, , Kawai Asahikawa, Gyokkodo (Aeon 3F), Potato Service Center

For further information contact: 0166-69-2000



EVENTS IN ASAHIKAWA FOR DECEMBER

Life In Hokkaido

**“Tokachi Typhoon Damage”
By Satoshi SAKURABA**

This year, Hokkaido was affected by some typhoons. Many areas of Tokachi were hit especially hard by the typhoon which came in August. Many roads, fields, gardens, and railway tracks are left destroyed even now.

I'm working at a hospital in Obihiro and I had a chance to meet patients who live in the affected area. They said that not all of the fields have been affected but some fields were swept by the raging water meaning the potatoes and pumpkins couldn't be harvested. Moreover, their agricultural instruments were soaked in water and those instruments are ruined. The agricultural instruments are surprisingly expensive. Some machines cost over ten million yen!

Also, the damage to roads and the public transportation system is very serious. The Mikuni mountain path (三国峠) and Karikachi mountain path (狩勝峠), which are on the road leading to Asahikawa from Obihiro, was available until October, but the railway traffic has been affected seriously. The limited amount of trains between Sapporo and Obihiro (or Kushiro) are still unavailable even now. So we have to ride on the highway express bus to go to Sapporo or New Chitose Airport Terminal.

There will not be any typhoons in December, but it is getting colder and we have to watch out for severe winter weather.

Typhoon Damage in Obihiro





Hello Asahikawa!

Name: Reto Sommer

Home Country: Switzerland

Interviewed: November 18th, By AIC

AIC: Where are you from originally?

Reto: Originally I am from Switzerland. In the 6 years before moving to Japan this April I lived in a village called Hausen in the prefecture of Aargau. Compared to Asahikawa it is much smaller in size and population. In 2015, Hausen had 3,409 residents, and 750 of them were foreigners. Hausen doesn't have any industries but it is attached to a highway. People live in Hausen and commute for work to a neighboring village or town. If you end up in Hausen, I recommend you take a walk around in the natural surroundings, go biking bike or roller-skating or just go for a walk. You will encounter many different animals on farmland. For food, I recommend the restaurant Max & Moritz, for sightseeing, a farmhouse built in 1624 or a 2000 year old water line built by the Romans, and for a cultural event, the schoolchildren's annual handmade lantern parade .

AIC: Is this your first time out of your home country?

Reto: It is my second time to live outside my country. When I was a student I lived for a year in Rotterdam, Netherlands. With its plain landscape it is totally different to where I come from. Rotterdam was almost destroyed by the Second World War, there is only a small part of the old town that wasn't affected. For sightseeing in Rotterdam, I recommend visiting the TV Tower, the largest harbor in Europe, and the tulip farms.

AIC: Is this the first time in Japan?

Reto: It is my third time in Japan. My previous visits were for vacation and traveling, but I haven't been to Hokkaido before. I was visiting Kyoto and skiing in Nagano.

AIC: Where else have you been?

Reto: When I was a kid I traveled a lot in Europe with my parents. Switzerland is a small country surrounded by four other countries. Where I lived before, I could be shopping in Germany within a half hour or be on the airport in France in less than an hour. You could travel 2 hours to Austria to enjoy the spas and stand on the border of Italy or visit Lichtenstein in about 3 hours.

AIC: Do you speak Japanese or any other language for that matter?

Reto: When I was a student it was mandatory to learn English and French. I liked the sound of French but unfortunately I never used it after finishing school and I have to admit that I have forgotten almost all of it, whereas I have just started to take Japanese classes once a week with a volunteer. I am trying to catch up as much as possible but I am not in a hurry.

AIC: Is there something you like about the Asahikawa?

Reto: What I really like about Asahikawa is having great, delicious sushi and other tasty local food. Another thing I enjoyed this summer was my short trip to the mountains in Niseko and swimming in the sea. I like nature in general. At the moment I am enjoying the snowflakes and walking through fresh layer of snow.

Continued on page 6...

Hello Asahikawa!

Continued from page 5

Where I come from it snows every year but only in the mountains. The snow stays there for a longer term and is probably around the same amount.

AIC: **What are your hobbies? Are you into winter sports?**

Reto: My hobbies are reading, watching movies, being in nature, meeting friends, and doing sports. When I was a kid, I used to go skiing every year. For the last couple of years I was more into sledging, but I am planning go skiing here.

AIC: **I love Karaoke. What about you?**

Reto: I haven't been to Karaoke in ages. To be completely honest, I have only done it once, and that was when I got to Japan. But I am willing to try it out again though, so I need to think of a Japanese song to prepare.

AIC: **Thanks for letting me interview you!**

Reto: Thank you too, it was my pleasure.



★ Movies ~ December ★

*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

- Correspondence (Italian) ~12/2
- A Silent Voice (Japanese/Anime) ~12/9
- Will You Marry My Wife? (Japanese)
- Museum (Japanese)
- Oke Roujin! (Japanese)
- Your Name (Japanese/Anime)
- Death Note: Light Up the New World (Japanese)
- Drowning Love (Japanese)
- Inferno (English)
- Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them (English 3D,2D/Japanese 2D)
- Satoshi: A Move for Tomorrow (Japanese)
- Somebody (Japanese)
- Shippu Rondo (Japanese)
- Jack Reacher: Never Go Back (English)
- Florence Foster Jenkins (English)

Coming Soon

- A Man called Pirate (Japanese) 12/10
- Monster Strike the Movie (Japanese/Anime) 12/10
- Rogue One: A Star Wars Story (English) 12/16
- Yo-kai Watch the Movie: The Great Adventure of the Flying Whale & the Double World, Nyan! (Japanese/Anime) 12/17
- Tomorrow I Will Date with Yesterday's You (Japanese) 12/17
- The Mole Song 2 (Japanese) 12/23
- Resident Evil: the Final Chapter (English) 12/23
- Pete's Dragon (English) 12/23
- Assassination Classroom the Movie: 365 Days (Japanese/Anime) 1/7~1/20
- Bokura no Gohan wa Ashita de Matteru (Japanese) 1/7
- Honnoji Hotel (Japanese) 1/14

★ Movies ~ December ★

*<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: <http://www.unitedcinemas.jp/asahikawa/index.html> (Japanese)

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

Now Showing

- Shippu Rondo (Japanese)
- Kumagawa Tetsuya K Ballet Company: The Sleeping Beauty in Cinema (Japanese) 11/26~12/9
- L -Eru- (Japanese)
- Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them (English/Japanese 2D, 4DX3D)
- Tom and Jerry and the Wizard of Oz (Japanese)
- Museum (Japanese)
- Jack Reacher: Never Go Back (English)
- Will You Marry My Wife? (Japanese)
- Storks (Japanese)
- Death Note: Light Up the New World (Japanese)
- Mahou Tsukai Pretty Cure!: Kiseki no Henshin! Cure Mofurun (Japanese)
- Inferno (English)
- Man of the Gold Medal (Japanese)
- Somebody (Japanese)
- Your Name (Japanese/Anime)

Coming Soon

- Ranmaru: The Man with the God Tongue (Japanese) 12/3
- A Man called Pirate (Japanese) 12/10
- Monster Strike the Movie (Japanese/Anime) 12/10
- Kamen Rider Heisei Generations: Dr. Pac-Man vs. Ex-Aid & Ghost with Legend Rider (Japanese) 12/10
- Rogue One: A Star Wars Story (English 4DX) 12/16
- Yo-kai Watch the Movie: The Great Adventure of the Flying Whale & the Double World, Nyan! (Japanese/Anime) 12/17
- Tomorrow I Will Date with Yesterday's You (Japanese) 12/17
- Resident Evil: the Final Chapter (English 4DX) 12/23
- The Mole Song 2 (Japanese) 12/23
- Nakajima Miyuki Concert Theater Ver. 2015-2016:Ichie (Japanese) 1/7
- Honnoji Hotel (Japanese) 1/14

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

URL: <http://cinema.sugai-dinos.jp/pc/> (Japanese)

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

Now Showing

- Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them (English)
- A Silent Voice (Japanese/Anime)
- Museum (Japanese)
- Jack Reacher: Never Go Back (English)
- Will You Marry My Wife? (Japanese)
- Zoku Shinya Shokudo (Japanese)
- Death Note: Light Up the New World (Japanese)
- Bridget Jones's Baby (English) ~12/2
- Inferno (English) ~12/9
- Somebody (Japanese) ~12/2
- Your Name (Japanese/Anime)

Coming Soon

- The Beatles: Eight Days a Week the Touring Years (English) 11/26~12/9
- Trumbo (English) 11/26~12/9
- Ranmaru: The Man with the God Tongue (Japanese) 12/3
- Kintaro Mosaic (Japanese/Anime) 12/10~12/22
- Monster Strike the Movie (Japanese/Anime) 12/10
- Kamen Rider Heisei Generations: Dr. Pac-Man vs. Ex-Aid & Ghost with Legend Rider (Japanese) 12/10
- A Man called Pirate (Japanese) 12/10
- Don't Breathe (English) 12/16
- Rogue One: A Star Wars Story (English) 12/16
- Tomorrow I Will Date with Yesterday's You (Japanese) 12/17
- Yo-kai Watch the Movie: The Great Adventure of the Flying Whale & the Double World, Nyan! (Japanese/Anime) 12/17
- Pop in Q (Japanese/Anime) 12/23
- The Mole Song 2 (Japanese) 12/23
- Resident Evil: the Final Chapter (English) 12/23
- Miss You Already (English) 1/7

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

Protestant Churches

6-jo Church (6-jo-dori 10-chome)
 Seventh-Day Adventist Church (8-jo-dori 22-chome)
 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)

Holiday Church and Temple Listing

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)



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!

Dates: December 9th&22nd, January 13th&27th, February 10th&24th

Times: 1:00-2:00pm ~Afternoon~ 2nd and 4th Friday of the month
 6:30-8:30pm ~Night~ 2nd Friday of the month

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.****