

旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

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Hokkaido News Top 5



October 2014

Compiled by TAKADA Nobuhiro

August 20

The accumulated total number of visitors to Asahiyama Zoo surpassed 40 million since it opened in 1967. The 40 millionth visitor was a seven-year-old boy from Saitama Prefecture in the Tokyo Metropolitan area. Half of the 40 million visitors have come to the zoo within the past ten years when it gained popularity across Japan.

August 26

A group of student volunteers at Hokkaido University has started a project to support high school students who are unable to attend private tutoring schools for economic reasons. Before starting the project, the six students had a meeting to talk about teaching methods among other things. Hokkaido University has a long tradition of helping children from needy families since it was established as Sapporo Agricultural College in 1872.

August 28

“Akarenga Terrace,” a commercial complex next to “Akarenga (red bricks) Building of Hokkaido Government” in Sapporo, has opened. The commercial complex is situated midway between Sapporo Station and Odori Park, and has 27 restaurants, cafés, and shops. It is expected to attract two million customers per year, thanks to its advantageous location.

August 30

A departing ceremony of a horseback journey down Japan took place on the campus of Hokkaido University. A veterinary department student, who also belongs to equestrian club, plans to travel with his two “Dosanko” horses (native horses in Hokkaido) from Cape of Soya in Wakkanai down to Yonakuni Island in Okinawa. He has already finished the travel from Wakkanai to Sapporo in June and will arrive in Okinawa in February of next year.

September 6

Two new sections are added on to “Kawamura Kaneto Ainu Memorial” in Hokumoncho 11-chome in Asahikawa. One is to play DVDs of various Ainu rituals on the screen, and the other is to display a personal history of Kaneto KAWAMURA as a survey engineer for railroads. The memorial was founded in 1916 by Kaneto’s father, Itakishiroma KAWAMURA, to show and keep the traditional culture of Ainu, the indigenous people of northern Japan, including Tohoku and Hokkaido.



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.

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Asahikawa International Center
Feeeal Asahikawa 7F, 1-jo-dori 8-
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By TAKADA Nobuhiro

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Special Thanks to KAWAI Tatsuo, Proofreader & Advisor

Masterpieces of Japanese Paintings from the collection of Mizuno Museum of Art 水野美術館所蔵 日本画の巨匠たち - 横山大観から平山郁夫まで-

Paintings of major figures in the Japanese painting technique of "Nihonga," a method of drawing that departed from the traditional line drawing, will be in display for this exhibition. You will see that these paintings concentrate on soft, blurred polychromes. The featured works are by the most influential painters of the modern Japan, including HASHIMOTO Gaho, YOKOYAMA Taikan, KAYAMA Matazo, and HIRAYAMA Ikuo.

Date: now to October 19th (Sunday)

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—¥1,100, High School Students—¥600, Middle School Students—¥300, Elementary School Students and Under—Free

For Further Information Contact: 0166-25-2577 (Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art)



Jesus Christ Superstar

ジーザス・クライスト=スーパースター

Shiki Theater Company is one of Japan's best-known and largest theatrical companies that also found success staging western musicals and plays. As some of you might already know, *Jesus Christ Superstar* began life as a rock-opera album, and debuted on Broadway with great popularity. It will be interesting to see how this musical was interpreted and adapted in Japan.

Date: October 1st (Wednesday)

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

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

Admission: SS Seats—¥8,000, S Seats—¥6,500, A Seats—¥5,000, B Seats—¥3,000

Ticket Offices: JR Hokkaido (Twinkle Plaza), Gyokkodo Feeeal Asahikawa, FM Riviere Ticket Box, Ticket Pia at 7-Eleven and Coach&Four (P-code: 437-734), Lawson Ticket (L-code: 19389), Shinki On-line Ticket (<http://489444.com>)



MIN-ON Yoshimoto Live 2014

民音よしもとライブ2014

Yoshimoto Kogyo is a major Japanese entertainment conglomerate based in Osaka. It is one of the most influential companies for producing and promoting *owarai* (comedy) shows in Japan. This Yoshimoto Live will put on a comical historical play, featuring Tomochika, Ehara Masahiro, and Trendy Angel, to name a few. If you need a good laugh after a long week, this might be for you.

Date: October 10th (Friday)

Time: 6:30 pm

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

Admission: All seats—¥4,500 (¥4,000 for members)

Ticket Offices: Gyokkodo Feeeal Asahikawa, Ticket Pia at 7-Eleven (P-code: 438-599)



5th Autumn Concert of Asahikawa Ryouin High School Wind Orchestra

第5回オータムコンサート 旭川凌雲高等学校吹奏楽部

This annual autumn concert is celebrating Ryouin High School's qualifying to all-Japan high school Wind Orchestra Competition for the 16th time. You can enjoy relaxing classical music while supporting the local high school.

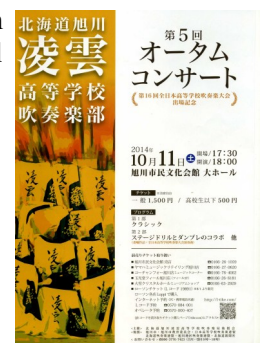
Date: October 11th (Saturday)

Time: Doors 5:30 pm, Show 6:00 pm

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

Admission: General—¥1,500, High School Students and Under—¥500

Ticket Offices: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall Sales Stand, Yamaha Music Retailing, Coach&Fout Asahikawa Music Corner, Gyokkodo Feeeal Asahikawa, Taisetsu Crystal Hall Museum Shop, Lawson Ticket (L-code: 19891)



Concert for Kids “Classics for 0 And Up”

Concert for Kids 「0才からのクラシック」

As part of celebration for the 30th anniversary of Sony Music Foundation, this concert was designed to be enjoyed by the whole family. There will be a fun story time and rhythmical music of trumpet, marimba, and piano, among others, that your kids will love for sure. At the concert venue, a nursing room and a diaper changing station will be available for your convenience. This is a great chance to go enjoy classical music and relax with your family.

Date: October 12th (Sunday)

Time: Doors 10:30 am, Show 11:00 am

Venue: Fureai Exchange Center (Higashi Kagura Hijirino Kita 1-jo 1-chome)

Admission: Adults—¥ 500, Children (up to middle school)—¥ 300

Ticket Offices: Higashi Kagura Comprehensive Welfare Hall, Fureai Center



TATENO Izumi's Piano Concert

館野泉 ピアノ・コンサート

TATENO Izumi is a pianist from Tokyo who is highly rated in both Japan and Finland, where he currently resides. TATENO is known for reinventing himself to play a one-handed repertoire after having had a stroke that paralyzed the right side of his body back in 2002. He is back on stage performing music composed especially for the left hand, sitting on a custom-made chair that will give his left hand full sweep of the piano.

Date: October 16th (Thursday)

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

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

Admission: General—¥3,500, Senior (over 65)/Disabled—¥3,000, Students—¥1,500

Ticket Offices: Kawai Asahikawa Shop, Gyokkodo Feeeal Asahikawa, Yamaha Music Retailing, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Taisetsu Crystal Hall

For Further Information Contact: 0166-69-2000



Swing Jazz Orchestra A-Flats' Regular Concert

スウィングジャズオーケストラ・アフラッツコンサート

Asahikawa Swing Jazz Orchestra first started in 1964 and has been growing ever since. This year's concert will include a special guest Nobuyoshi KUWANO, aka Kuwa-man, from Rats&Star. Get ready for an adrenaline filled evening with dynamic swing jazz.

Date: October 19th (Sunday)

Time: Doors 5:30 pm, Show 6:00 pm

Venue: Asahikawa City Public Hall (inside Tokiwa Park)

Admission: ¥1,500 (¥1,800, when purchased at the door)

Ticket Offices: Yamaha Music Retailing Asahikawa, Coach&Four Asahikawa Music Corner, Gyokkodo Feeeal Asahikawa, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall Sales Stand, Lawson Ticket (L-code: 11527), 100Man Bolt Nagayama, Fukido Suehiro/Toyooka

For Further Information Contact: 0166-23-5048 or Visit: <http://a-flats.net>



10th Annual “Gaede Quartet” Friendship Concert

第10回フレンドシップ「ゲーデ弦楽四重奏団」

The German Quartet, which was founded at the Nuremberg Academy of Music is holding its 10th annual concert in Asahikawa. The players include Daniel Gaede (Violin,) Stephan Hoever (Violin,) Sebastian Gaede (Cello,) and Mathias Schessl (Viola). The program will include works by Mozart, Dvořák, and E. Grieg.

Date: October 30th (Thursday)

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

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

Admission: General—¥3,000, Students/Senior Citizens over 65—¥2,500

Ticket Offices: Taisetsu Crystal Hall Sales Shop, Takasu Melody Hall, Yamaha Music Asahikawa, Gyokkodo Feeeal Asahikawa, Coach&Four Asahikawa Music Corner



Life in Asahikawa

Momiji-gari (紅葉狩り) By SAKURABA Satoshi

It is getting colder, and we would grow lazy and avoid going outside. However, leaves will become beautiful as the weather gets colder and colder. They say that autumnal leaves turn more beautiful with drastic temperature changes in the air. That is, when it becomes cold at night and warm during the day-time, you will most likely see very colorful fall foliage. Asahikawa is located in the basin and its temperature changes a lot. So, you have a chance of enjoying gorgeous leaves.

“*Momiji-gari* (紅葉狩り)” refers to the traditional Japanese pastime of viewing fall foliage. In spring, Japanese people love to go see cherry blossoms with some food and drinks (*Ohanami* お花見). However, unlike *Ohanami*, we do not take food when we go see *Momiji-gari*, because it gets a bit too cold to spend a long period of time outdoors. Instead, some people enjoy autumnal leaves at hot spring resorts.

The most famous *Momiji-gari* spot in Hokkaido is probably Shiretoko World Natural Heritage site (知床), but it is quite a distance from Asahikawa. There is actually a popular *Momiji-gari* spot pretty close to Asahikawa called Sounkyo (層雲峡). Sounkyo is located about an hour east of Asahikawa by car, and is famous for its hot spring. Sounkyo is surrounded by rocky cliffs, which provide unique sight of leaves.

October is considered the best time to enjoy fall foliage in Hokkaido. However, for areas of high altitude, such as Sounkyo, the starting period for fall foliage would be earlier than that of Asahikawa. If you are planning on seeing autumnal leaves this year, I recommend that you keep an eye on the condition of the leaves of the area. You can easily do this online by visiting a website like 「2014全国紅葉最前線」 (<http://kouyou.nihon-kankou.or.jp>), for instance.



Photo by www.kouyou.nihon-kankou.or.jp



Hello Asahikawa!

Name: Meagan LeMay
Hometown: Woodbury, Minnesota, U.S.A.
Interviewed: September 16th, 2014 by AIC

AIC: *Hi, Meagan. First of all, may I ask what brought you to Hokkaido? What do you do here?*

Meagan: Well, I studied abroad for 4 months in Chiba and loved my experience in Japan. I thought to myself “the only thing that could make this better would be a snowy winter.” I already knew that I wanted to return to Japan by the time I finished college, but when it came time to choose a location, I knew I needed a place with snow. Hokkaido fit the bill, and has not disappointed. I currently teach English at AEON English conversation school. It has been a pretty great experience overall!

AIC: *We have a very snowy winter here, so you found the right place! How did you become interested in Japan, by the way?*

Meagan: When I was a child I always wanted to speak another language. Most of my friends came from families that had immigrated to the U.S. and spoke more than one language. By far, the most interesting to me was Japanese. In high school I had an opportunity to go to a Japanese language camp in northern Minnesota. I didn’t learn a lot (which was totally my fault!) but I started getting excited about the Japanese language and culture. At this time, I was also introduced to several Japanese comics that fostered my love for art and Japanese culture. Although I only studied Japanese for one semester before moving here, I never thought twice about my decision.

AIC: *That is great to hear. Where are you originally from? Please describe your hometown to us.*

Meagan: I was born in Nebraska, but I only lived there for two years before my family relocated to Minnesota. What I would consider my hometown is a nice city just located east of St. Paul (about the size of Asahikawa) called Woodbury. It is a decently sized city that gets bitterly cold in the winter and gets pretty warm in the summer. The people are pretty friendly and give credence to the phrase “Minnesota nice.” Minnesota is a rather flat area of the U.S. so even though it gets bitterly cold, we have no mountains that are suitable for skiing. Hockey is extremely popular though! If you ever visit Minnesota, I recommend checking out our beautiful museums! Also it is the home of Snoopy, so keep an eye out for the many Peanuts-themed statues scattered around St. Paul and Minneapolis.



Snoopy “The Northstar Aviator” at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport

Hello Asahikawa!

Meagan LeMay Interview (Part 2) Continued from Page 5

AIC: *You've been living in Asahikawa for over a year now. What is the most memorable experience from your time in Japan so far?*

Meagan: There have been so many, I don't know if I can just choose one. I'd have to say going rafting in Furano with some fantastic friends.

AIC: *Rafting sounds fun during summer. What else do you like to do in your free time?*

Meagan: I love to visit cafes, go on long walks, and read good books! This is beginning to sound like a dating website profile. (laugh) But seriously, I'm a bit boring. If the spirit moves me, I will go on a small adventure by myself, but I do like to sit at home and do crafts or watch movies. I'm a big Legend of Zelda fan and have played 神々のトライフォース 2 twice already. I spend a lot of free time writing comics of my daily life and funny things that happen to me as well.

AIC: *Yes, as a matter of fact, I've seen many of your comic strips and I think they are awesome. I am going to publish a few in our upcoming Asahikawa Info under your permission. Let's change the topic a bit. How do you stay connected to your families and friends back home?*

Meagan: As I say this, I realize that I have done a terrible job of doing so. I normally Skype with my family at least twice a month, but they are used to me moving out of the country by now, because I spent almost a year abroad in college in Japan and China. I keep in touch with friends through Facebook and send the occasional postcard.

AIC: *Here comes my must-ask question. What is your favorite Japanese food and why?*

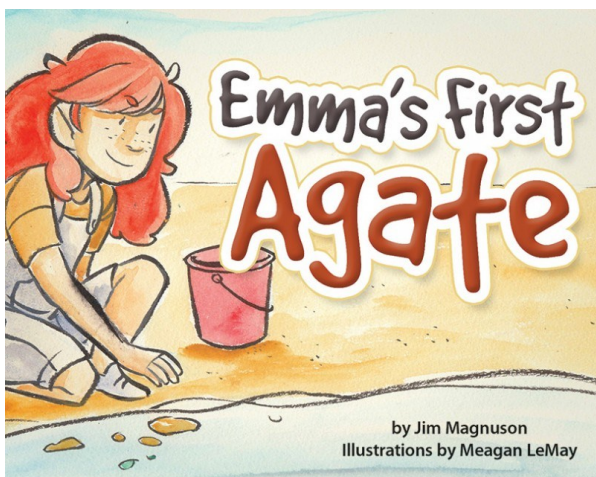
Meagan: Katsudon, hands down. All my coworkers know this about me and laugh when they see me walk in carrying conbini katsudon for lunch. It's just the perfect combination of sweet and savory, and I can't get enough of it. I love so many Japanese foods, but katsudon is just the best.

AIC: *Before we close, please tell us your future plans. Where do you see yourself?*

Meagan: My dream is to become an illustrator. I want to do a combination of my own project as well as other people's projects. Basically I want to make things that make people smile. When people see my art, I want them to be inspired to make their own dreams come true! When I see a really great piece of art, I feel inspired and excited to work on my own projects. I'd like to inspire that in others. I plan to move back to the U.S. in order to fulfill my dream. I will continue to study Japanese and become as fluent as I can. My first children's book, *Emma's First Agate*, came out earlier this year and I am going to continue to draw and work towards my dream. I will definitely come back to Japan in the future.

AIC: *Thanks for your time today. Looking forward to seeing many of your works in near future.*

Meagan: Thank you. It was my pleasure.



Cover of a children's book, with illustrations by Meagan.

★ Movies ~ October ★

*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.

*The 1st day of every month is "Movie Day" in Asahikawa. Admission (tax included) is ¥1,100 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

- Out of the Furnace (English/PG12)
- Promised Land (English)
- Dawn of the Planet of the Apes (English)
- Guardians of the Galaxy (English)
- Rurouni Kenshin -Densetsu no Saigo Hen - (Japanese)
- Maiko wa Lady (Japanese)
- When Marnie Was There (Japanese/Animation)
- Soreike! Ampanman (Japanese/Animation)
- In the Hero (Japanese)
- Tokyo Tribe (Japanese/R15)
- Into the Storm (English)
- Hotroad (Japanese)
- Transformers: Age of Extinction (English)
- Stand by me Doraemon (Japanese/Animation)
- Lupin the Third (Japanese)
- Rurouni Kenshin ~Kyoto Taika Hen~ (Japanese)
- GODZILLA (English)

Coming Soon

- Higurashi no Ki (Japanese) 10/4
- Budo no Namida (Japanese) 10/4
- Fushigi na Misaki no Monogatari (Japanese) 10/11
- Happiness Charge Precure (Japanese/Animation) 10/11
- Mahoro Ekimae Kyosokyoku (Japanese) 10/18
- Hercules (English) 10/24
- Dracula Untold (English) 10/31
- Expendable3 (English) 11/1
- Clover (Japanese) 11/1
- Kamisama no Iutori (Japanese) 11/15

★ **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

- Zakurozaka no Achauchi (Japanese)
- Great Beauty (English)
- Dawn of the Planet of the Apes (English)
- Rurouni Kenshin -Densetsu no Saigo Hen - (Japanese)
- Rurouni Kenshin ~Kyoto Taika Hen~ (Japanese)
- Guardians of the Galaxy (English)
- Non-Stop (English)
- Lupin the Third (Japanese)
- LUCY (English)
- Hotroad (Japanese)
- Stand by me Doraemon (Japanese/Animation)
- Transformers: Age of Extinction (English)
- GODZILLA (English)
- When Marnie Was There (Japanese/Animation)

Coming Soon

- Higurashi no Ki (Japanese) 10/4
- Aooni (Japanese) 10/4
- Homefront (English) 10/4
- Ogawacho Serenade (Japanese) 10/11
- Fushigi na Misaki no Monogatari (Japanese) 10/11
- Getaway (English) 10/18
- Grace of Monaco (English) 10/18
- Hercules (English) 10/24
- Shanti Days 365 (Japanese) 10/25
- Onodera no ototo, Onodera no Ane (Japanese) 10/25
- The Equalizer (English) 10/25
- Dracula Untold (English) 10/31
- Expendable3 (English) 11/1
- Clover (Japanese) 11/1

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

Japanese Lessons

“Asahikawa Nihongo no Kai” is available to help foreigners near Asahikawa area with their Japanese studies. The lessons are provided weekly for anyone who wants to learn Japanese for an hour to an hour and a half.

Textbook: You will need to provide your own.

Location: Varies

Charge: ¥300/lesson

For more information or registration:

Call Asahikawa International Committee at 0166-25-7491 or stop by Asahikawa International Center (Feeeal Asahikawa 7F)

Halloween at International Center

Asahikawa International Center will be celebrating Halloween with various events again this year!

From **October 20th** to the **31st**, we will be offering trick or treat for all visiting children.

And on **October 31st (Fri)**, there will be a Halloween Story Night from 6:30 to 7:30 pm.



Get your Halloween spirit on and stop by the Center!

FUN FRIDAYS

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: October 10th&24th, November 14th&28th, December 12th&26th

*Fun Fridays are held on every 2nd and 4th Friday

Time: 1:00-2:00pm & 7:00-8:00pm

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.



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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.****