

旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

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Hokkaido News Top 5



January 2018
Compiled by AIC

Nov. 23

Due to the recent disappointingly small catches of Pacific saury (sanma), fish prices have soared and catches containing a higher concentration of underdeveloped saury have increased. Maruyu K.K., one of the leading makers of canned fish located in Nemuro, has decided to temporarily stop manufacturing most of its canned saury products. The catch was reported to be 36% less than last year's, which was the record low in the last 80 years.

Nov. 30

A stone fragment painted with a human face dating back 4,300 years (during the Jomon period) was found in the Koren five archaeological sites, located in Kikonai Town. It was the first of such stone artifacts found in Japan, and it is believed to be an important discovery to help ascertain what the spiritual culture was like for the Jomon people.

Dec. 3

The Red Brick Government Building, the former Hokkaido government building designated as national important cultural property, will soon be undergoing renovations. As a result, the Hokkaido government has decided to open its octagonal tower to the public by 2022 at the earliest. It hasn't been opened to the public since 1888, the year it was built. It is expected to be a new tourist attraction for Sapporo.

Dec 6.

The number of foreign tourists visiting Hokkaido in the first quarter of 2017 showed a 21.5% increase compared to last year. During this period, 505,400 foreign tourists visited Hokkaido, and the number of Korean tourists totaled an impressive 131,000 (a 98.2% increase.) The increase is believed to be the result of easier access of transportation between Korea and Hokkaido.

Dec. 10

A community FM radio station FM Nibutani, better known as FM Pipausi, celebrated its 200th once-a-month Ainu language program. Shigeru SUGANO, a former Ainu parliamentarian, set up the radio station in 2001 and now his second son plans and hosts the show. It airs a live 2-hour program on every second Sunday from 11 a.m. to noon. You can check out the program at www.geocities.jp/fmpipausi



For further information or to register for events contact:

Asahikawa International Committee
(SUGANO Ayumi, Daniel LIZARRAGA,
or SAITO Emmy)

Location:

International/City Affairs Division,
Regional Development Dept.

Address:

Asahikawa International Center Feeeel
Asahikawa 7F, 1-jo-dori 8- chome,
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Premium Collection**プレミアム・コレクション**

The Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of art opened in 1982 in Asahikawa, the hub of northern Hokkaido. Over the past 35 years, the museum has amassed a collection of 686 individual pieces, and from that, only select works have been chosen to be displayed. Wood-carved pieces are the backbone of this collection. Explore the appeal of these beautiful pieces!

Date: Now to 1/14 (Sunday)

Time: 9:30-17:00 (No entrance permitted past 16:30)

Venue: Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art

Admission: General Admission ¥510, High School Student ¥300 (Junior High School students and below are free)

For Further Information Contact: 0166-25-2577

Premium Collection**6th Annual Asahikawa Winter Photography Contest****第6旭川冬の写真コンクール**

Let's show the world the beauty of Asahikawa's winter season! The purpose of this contest is to convey the uniquely beautiful winter in Asahikawa to the rest of Hokkaido, Japan, and the world. There are even awards given to best photo taken on a smart phone and a separate category for kids! Award winning photos are displayed at various locations throughout the city.

Theme: Conveying the Beauty of Winter in Asahikawa

Entry Period: Now until 2/15 (Thursday) for web submissions and until 2/19 (Monday) for print submissions

Applying by printed submission: Please either mail or bring your photo printed in size 2L (paper size A5) to the address listed below. On the back of your submission, please write name, gender, telephone number, photo title, location the photo was taken with any comments, and if the submission was taken with a smartphone. Send submissions to:

Ureshiba Asahikawa Administration Office, 3-jo-dori 9-chome mi-gi-8 Asahikawa, Hokkaido 070-0033, Japan

Applying online: You can find the application form by scanning an associated QR code or by visiting the official home page. Be sure to fill out all of the required information. Submitted images should be in JPEG format and under 5MB.

Eligibility: Photos must be taken within Asahikawa city limits. 3 submissions are allowed per person. Photos that have won prizes in prior competitions or have been published are ineligible. Photos that have been previously uploaded on personal social media accounts are not considered "published."

**Solo Rakugo Performance by KATSURA Shikou****桂枝光独演会**

Good fortune comes to the homes of those that laugh and smile! This is your chance to listen to an Osaka comedic storyteller. Come and let out your first laughs of the New Year!

Date: 1/3 (Wednesday)

Time: Opens 13:30, Starts 14:00

Venue: Asahikawa Toyo Hotel, Tanchonoma Hall, 2nd floor. (7-jo-dori 7-chome)

Admission: General Admission ¥1,000, Day of ¥1,500

Ticket Office: Machinaka Bunkagoya, Gyokkodo, Takasago Shuzo Sake Brewery, Juncobo, ULU

For Further Information Contact: 080-7000-6403

**Muse Saxophone Quartet 36th Regular Concert****ミュージアムサクソフォンカルテット第36回定期演奏会**

This concert is held in remembrance of Muse Saxophone Quartet member UNO Kiyoshi who passed away last year. The three members will be playing a variety of songs such as "The Rose," "Left Alone," and "Summer Sketch."

Date: 1/11 (Thursday)

Time: Opens 18:00, Starts 18:30

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

Admission: General Admission ¥1,000, Junior High School and under is free.

Ticket Office: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall Shop, Yamaha Music Retailing Store, or please request to purchase tickets directly from the performing group. Tickets will also be sold on the day of the event.



Magical Mystery Snow Shoe Tour マジカル・ミステリー・スノーシューツアー

Learn about nature and wild animals through this fun-packed snow shoe tour with guide TO-BA Koichi! We will be taking a leisurely walk through the mountain going slowly at our own pace. You will be able to feel the energy of the natural surroundings through all of your senses as we learn about the nature and wildlife around us. If you are interested in participating, please thoroughly read the information below.

Date: 1/20 (Saturday)

Time: Meet at the Kamikawa General Subprefectural Bureau (Nagayama 6-jo-dori 19-chome) at 8:30 or the Higashikawa Michi no Eki at 9:00

Tour Site: Depending on the weather and conditions, the tour could take place at Mt. Asahidake's Sugataminoike Pond, at the base of Mt. Asahidake by the hot springs, or at the Tenninkyo Kurumi Valley

Participation Fee: ¥1,000 (Includes rental fee for snow shoes and insurance)

Sponsored by: Kamikawa General Subprefectural Bureau Consumer and Environmental Protection Division

For Further Information Contact: 0166-46-5922. If you would like to register please contact this number.

Notes: The number of participants is capped at 20 and the deadline to register for the tour is 1/12 (Friday). In the event that more than 20 people apply, participants will be decided via lottery. Be sure to bring warm, waterproof clothes (something like ski wear), a hot drink, and lunch.



TANIMOTO Hikaru Guitar Concert with MONMA Rui

谷本 光 ギター・コンサート with 門馬瑠衣

TANIMOTO Hikaru started playing acoustic guitar at 16 and was already performing shows the next year. He broke past the boundaries of conventional acoustic guitar and is able to imitate the sounds of other musical instruments such as the shamisen, African percussion, sitar, and steel pan drums. Performing with him in the second half of the show is jazz vocalist MONMA Rui. Born and raised in Hokkaido, she now holds the majority of her concerts in Tokyo and is also working as a vocal instructor.

Date: 1/21 (Sunday)

Time: Opens 13:30, Starts 14:00

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

Admission: General Admission ¥2,700, Senior (65 and older) ¥2,200, Student ¥1,000.

Ticket prices will be ¥500 more on the day of the concert

Ticket Office: Play Guide/Kawai Asahikawa Shop, Gyokkodo, Yamaha Music Retailing Store, Potato Service Center, Asahikawa Civic Culture Center, Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall

For Further Information Contact: 0166-69-2000



Kevin Kenner Piano Recital

ケヴィン・ケナー ピアノリサイタル

In 1990, Kenner placed highest in the International Chopin Piano Competition and his achievements have won him critical acclaim from across the world. The distinguished Polish-American conductor Stanislaw Skrowaczewski stated that Kenner's interpretations of Chopin were the most sensitive and beautiful that he could remember. Now Kenner has come to Asahikawa and will be performing his specialty, an "All Chopin Program". This will truly be a recital to remember.

Date: 1/29 (Monday)

Time: Opens 18:00, Starts 18:30

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

Admission: General Admission ¥4,000, Senior (65 and older) ¥3,500, Student ¥2,000.

Ticket prices will be ¥500 more on the day of the concert

Ticket Office: Kawai Asahikawa Shop, Gyokkodo, Yamaha Music Retailing Store, Potato Service Center, Asahikawa Civic Culture Center, Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall

For Further Information Contact: 0166-69-2000



EVENTS IN ASAHIKAWA FOR JANUARY

Life in Asahikawa

By KITAMURA Tadao

“Akemashite Omedetou Gozaimasu.”

It is the dawning of the year 2018, the thirtieth year of Heisei (the reign of the present Emperor), and the year of the Dog in the zodiac sequence.

Like the snow that falls
On the first day of the year
In early spring,
From today may our blessings
Accumulate forevermore!

This is a translation of a WAKA, Japanese poem from the MANYOSHU, an ancient collection of poems compiled by Otomo-no-Yakamochi in 751 AD. The Japanese people share a special sentiment about the New Year. Traditionally, it has been believed that any mischievous acts committed in the previous year are forgiven and that there is potential for good things to come in the coming year. There were many dreadful incidents in 2017: natural disasters, ghastly criminal cases, and threats of war. The more we see things like this keep happening, the more we want to hope for better things to come in the New Year.

WAKA is the most original form of literary expression in Japan. Its origin can be traced back to more than fourteen hundred years ago when the name “Japan” had not even been established, and where people of any rank; Emperor and Empress, nobles, warriors, priests, officials, soldiers, farmers, fishermen, and so on equally enjoyed expressing themselves through simple, short poems. Even to this day, the Royal Family holds the UTAKAI HAJIME (a poetry reading event held on the 1st day of the new year) where many people regardless of social status are invited to the Royal Palace, and WAKA poems composed by Emperor and Empress and members of Royal Family along with exceptional poems selected from the general public. This elegant ceremony is broadcast live on TV as a customary New-year’s program. HYAKUNINN ISSHU is a card game played on New Year’s Day, in which outstanding WAKA poems are chanted, and players compete to find the card that corresponds to the poem. These are few of the wonderful things you can enjoy on New Year’s Day.

I wish all of you a Happy New Year!



Hello Asahikawa!



Name: Sarah Hasselle
Home Country: U.S.A
Interviewed: December 18th, By AIC

If you live in Asahikawa or are just passing through and would like to be interviewed for "Hello Asahikawa," email us at cir_kokusai@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp!

AIC: So Sarah, what brings you to Japan? Is this your first time abroad?

Sarah: I came to Japan with the JET Program, and I did not know that I was coming to Hokkaido until this past summer. And no, I've studied abroad in China before. In Harbin, China. I've also studied abroad in Taiwan and at Shanghai University.

AIC: Where are you from originally?

Sarah: So I was actually born in Puerto Rico but my parents lived on Saint Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Then we moved to Louisiana when I was really little and after that we moved to Tennessee, so I've spent most of my life in Tennessee.

AIC: Is there anything that you particularly like about Asahikawa or Japan in general?

Sarah: I like Japanese food a lot. I'm a really big foodie and I like trying out new foods. I've tried out a lot of Hokkaido snacks, but I need to try so much more. My favorite food is okonomiyaki but it's not really special to Hokkaido. I also like soup curry. As for Asahikawa, it's very snowy and I've never seen this much in my life. It snows non-stop everyday. It's a very different experience than what I'm used to.



AIC: Yeah, the snow here is no joke. What are your hobbies?

Sarah: Well, I really like baking, so I've been trying to bake in Japan. Sometimes it can be difficult because I don't know where to find things, like ingredients. I like reading a lot, and I'm trying to read some of the books I have in my apartment. I also like traveling, so I'm here in Japan... working... but not really traveling (*laughs*), but I hope to travel more on weekends.

AIC: Is there anything that you want to take up now that you're here in Japan?

Sarah: I've tried flower arranging! There's a flower-arranging club at the high school that I work at and I've gone there a few times. I'm still learning a lot. I'll put all the flowers together American style and just clump them up and then the Sensei will come and then she'll spread them apart and I'll realize that I was all wrong! (*laughs*)

AIC: Is there anything you miss about the U.S.?

Sarah: I miss some American foods like barbecue, and I miss Southern food. I also miss seeing my family because it's hard to know when I'll go back to the United States. I'll probably go back in the summer but I'm not sure of the dates yet. I like the snow here a lot, and it's really pretty, but it's really cold!

AIC: Do you speak any other languages?

Sarah: Yes! I speak Chinese. My Chinese is so much better than my Japanese.



AIC: How long have you been studying Chinese? What got you interested in it?
Sarah: I've been studying it for four years. I also took it in high school but I didn't really learn much in high school so I don't really count that (*laughs*). I first took it in high school, and I took it because I thought Chinese characters were really pretty. After that I became interested in Chinese culture from my teacher, and she encouraged me to continue studying so I did. I was interested in studying Japanese too, but learning a whole new language is really hard. When I see Japanese kanji, I think of the Chinese pronunciation. I can recognize some kanji but overall it's pretty difficult. I also don't want to forget Chinese, but I know I need to learn Japanese too to survive here.

AIC: Are you into winter sports?
Sarah: I've never gone skiing or snowboarding at all. I've tried ice-skating but I've only done it two times. I fall down so much! I can't skate at all, but I'm hoping I can go at least once while I'm here.

AIC: Do you like karaoke? If you do, what kind of songs do you like to sing?
Sarah: It's so fun! But I always feel like it's super expensive so I don't go often. I really love karaoke when I do go. I like to sing American pop songs and some Chinese songs. I hope I can one day include Japanese songs!

AIC: That's all we have. Thank you for letting us interview you!
Sarah: Thanks!



★ *Movies ~ January* ★

*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

- The Revenge Girl (Japanese)
- That is not a Child but a Minor (Japanese)
- Yo-kai Watch Shadowside: The Return of the Oni King (Japanese/Anime)
- The 8-Year Engagement (Japanese)
- Star Wars: The Last Jedi (English)
- Destiny: Kamakura Monogatari (Japanese)
- Kamen Rider Heisei Generations Final: Build & Ex-Aid with Legend Rider (Japanese)
- Murder on the Orient Express (English)
- Fullmetal Alchemist (Japanese)
- The Detective is in the Bar 3 (Japanese)
- Anonymous Noise (Japanese)
- Kaiketsu Zorori Movie: ZZ no Himitsu (Japanese/Anime)
- Hibana: Spark (Japanese)
- Justice League (English)
- HiGH & LOW the Movie 3: Final Mission (Japanese)
- The Last Recipe (Japanese)

Coming Soon

- Kingsman: The Golden Circle (English/PG12) 1/5
- Dear Girl 3:the United Kingdom of Kochi (Japanese) 1/6~1/19
- Monkey King: Hero is Back (Japanese/Anime) 1/13
- Paddington 2 (English) 1/19
- Geostorm (English) 1/19
- Uso wo Aisuru Onna (Japanese) 1/20
- Colors of Wind (Japanese) 1/26~2/22
- The Crimes That Blind (Japanese) 1/27
- The Dark Tower (English) 1/27
- Funouhan (Japanese/PG12) 2/1
- Interlude in Prague (English) 2/3~2/16
- Tonight, at the Movies (Japanese) 2/10

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

★ Movies ~ January ★

*<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 Feeeal Asahikawa Department Store (1-jo-dori 8-chome). Get off at “Nagayama 10 (ju)-jo 3 (san)-chome.”

Now Showing

- Tales of Chigasaki: My Little Hometown (Japanese) ~1/5
- Kung Fu Yoga (English)
- Yo-kai Watch Shadowside: The Return of the Oni King (Japanese/Anime)
- The 8-Year Engagement (Japanese)
- Star Wars: The Last Jedi (Japanese2D, Japanese 4DX3D, English2D, 4DX3D)
- Destiny: Kamakura Monogatari (Japanese)
- Kamen Rider Heisei Generations Final: Build & Ex-Aid with Legend Rider (Japanese)
- Fullmetal Alchemist (Japanese)
- The Detective is in the Bar 3 (Japanese)
- Justice League (English)
- The Last Recipe (Japanese)

Coming Soon

- Kingsman: The Golden Circle (English/PG12) 1/5
- Renegades (English) 1/12
- Mazinger Z: Infinity (Japanese2D, 4DX) 1/13
- Evil and the Mask (Japanese) 1/13
- Geostorm (English4DX) 1/19
- Paddington 2 (English) 1/19
- K Ballet Company: Cleopatra in Cinema (Japanese) 1/20~2/2
- CINEMA FIGHTERS: 6 short films (Japanese) 1/26
- The Crimes That Blind (Japanese) 1/27
- Funouhan (Japanese/PG12) 2/1
- Fate/stay night [Heaven's Feel] I. presage flower (Japanese4DX/Anime) 2/3

★ **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 Feeeal Asahikawa Department Store (1-jo-dori 8-chome). Get off at “Nippon Seishi mae.”

Now Showing

- Fate/stay night [Heaven's Feel] I. (Japanese/Anime)
- Get Out (English)~1/19
- The Revenge Girl (Japanese)
- The 8-Year Engagement (Japanese)
- Yo-kai Watch Shadowside: The Return of the Oni King (Japanese/Anime)
- Star Wars: The Last Jedi (English)
- Kamen Rider Heisei Generations Final: Build & Ex-Aid with Legend Rider (Japanese)
- Destiny: Kamakura Monogatari (Japanese)
- Murder on the Orient Express (English)
- Fullmetal Alchemist (Japanese)
- The Detective is in the Bar 3 (Japanese)
- Hibana: Spark (Japanese)
- Justice League (English)
- It (English/R15+) ~1/11

Coming Soon

- Kingsman: The Golden Circle (English/PG12) 1/5
- Is the Order a Rabbit?? ~Dear My Sister (Japanese/Anime) 1/6
- Ito-kun A to E (Japanese) 1/12
- Geostorm (English) 1/19
- An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power (English) 1/20~2/2
- The Dark Tower (English) 1/27
- Funouhan (Japanese/PG12) 2/1
- The Scythian Lamb (Japanese) 2/3

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

Vasaloppet Registration Opens

Attention cross-country skiers! Registration for the 38th Vasaloppet Japan will start 1/6 (Saturday) and will be open until 2/9 (Friday). You are able to register for the cross-country skiing "Mini-loppet" event up until the day of the race. Register at the following Asahikawa locations:

- **Organizing Committee Office #1:** Hanasaka 5-chome, Inside the Asahikawa-shi Total Gymnastics building.
- **Organizing Committee Office #2:** 6-jo 10-chome, Government Office building #3, 1st floor.
- **Community Centers within Asahikawa**
- **Asahikawa Tourism & Local Products Information Center:** Miyashita-dori 8-chome (Inside Asahikawa Station)
- **Sapporo Sports House:** Miyashita-dori 7-chome (Inside Eki-mae AEON mall)

In addition to the above locations, you can find more registration locations on the official Vasaloppet Japan website. You can also register online.

Asahikawa Kitasaito Winter Garden

The Asahikawa Kitasaito Winter Garden will be opening up to the public! These attractions are located around Asahikawa Station and behind it at Kitasaito Garden.

Opening Event

Date: 1/12 (Friday) 16:00-19:00

Location: Yukki Rink Asahikawa (Area in front of the Asahikawa Station North Entrance)

Yukki Rink

1/13 (Saturday) - 2/12 (Monday, Holiday) 10:00-19:00

Snowmobile Sleigh Ride

1/13 (Saturday) - 2/12 (Monday, Holiday) 10:00-16:00

Snow Raft/Banana Boat Rides

1/13 (Saturday) - 2/3 (Saturday) 10:00 -16:00

The skating rink is free of charge (includes shoe rentals). You must be wearing a hat and gloves to use the rink. Admission fee for each ride: ¥200 (Elementary school students and below are free with paying adult)

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: January 12th & 26th, February 9th & 23rd, March 9th & 23rd

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

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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.****