

Asahikawa Info

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Hokkaido News Top 5

March 2022, compiled by the AIC

Carl Raymon Remains Open after Merger with Nippon Ham, 2/19

The Nippon Ham company has decided to absorb its affiliate Hakodate Carl Raymon into its Hokkaido factories by April 1st. After the merger the factory will continue production of their original product line and maintenance of their company store. Carl Raymon was a meat meister who established the storefront in Hakodate in 1925, retiring after 58 years. Yoshinori Okoso, an acquaintance and founder of Nippon Ham, took up the business to continue Raymon's techniques. Now popular as gift and souvenir ideas, the German-style ham, salami and sausage are sold in various stores in Hakodate.

Introduction of Deer Trapping in Hokkaido Begins, 3/2

After witnessing an increase in the deer population of Hokkaido, the prefectural government has decided to allow deer trapping within national and prefectural forests. Although once an issue left to individual municipalities, the deer have spread over multiple regions where gun-use is prohibited, forcing Hokkaido to reinforce its countermeasures. While the number of deer had previously been decreasing, the decrease in snowfall in recent years has made the population expand up to over 670,000. Traps will be set up in eight overpopulated areas to put an end to their population growth and any further deer-related damages to the agriculture and forestry industries.

Take Drone Shots of Tokachi's Nature, 3/5

Nineteen municipalities have partnered up with the Hokkaido Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry to open a website called "Let's Fly through Tokachi!" to highlight aerial photos taken by drones and promote outdoor tourism in Tokachi. Anyone can sign up to provide pictures for free use and the site already boasts pictures of over 40 places, from lakes to historical sites. If you wish to participate, go to their website and input the necessary information (what kind of drone you have and what date and time you plan to use it, etc.). Please expect 3+ business days for approval of usage. Please remember there are still many areas where flying drones is prohibited.

Hokkaido's Long-Awaited Bike Course Will Finally Restart, 3/13

After three years, the "All-Around Hokkaido Ride" bike path will reopen on June 6th and go around the island's border. This will be the third holding of the event, spanning 2,400 km and broken up into eight sections to be ridden over a 24-day period (participation in a single section is also possible). While the path contains some difficult areas, such as the Shiretoko Pass with elevations of around 740 m, the majority consists of flatland. Emergency vehicles will also accompany the cyclists to respond when necessary. So far 29 people have completed the course, but the event had to be cancelled in 2020 and 2021 due to the coronavirus.

52% Approve of Sapporo Olympic Bid, 39% Disapprove, 3/17

In a mail survey sent out to Sapporo residents, they found that 52% supported the bid while 39% opposed it. The mayor noted the majority support, calling it "definite approval," however the disapproval rating has increased from 21% in 2014. While the city is poised to speed up the bid in the future, there are doubts as to whether they will be able to get citizens to understand this decision. Approval ratings for the 2030 Winter Olympics and Paralympics bid tend to be higher outside of Sapporo, at around 65%.

Collection Stories: European Prints

コレクション・ストーリーズ ヨーロッパの版画

Influenced by wood-block methods found in the East, European print making has a unique quality that separates itself from any other art form. This exhibition spans over 500 years of printing and its widespread influence amongst artists such as Chagall and Picasso, as well as in art movements such as art nouveau, art deco and op art.

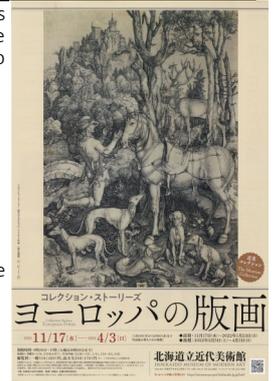
Date: Until 4/3 (Sunday)

Time: 9:30-17:00 (Entry ends at 4:30)

Place: Hokkaido Museum of Modern Art (Sapporo, Chuo-ku Kita 1-jo, 17-chome)

Admission: General ¥510 (¥420*), High School and University students ¥250 (¥170*), 65 and older FREE, Middle School and under FREE (*groups of 10+)

For further information, contact: 011-644-6882 (Hokkaido Museum of Modern Art)



Museum Collection; Art starting from Water

コレクション展 水からはじまるアート

Water can be found all around us in rivers, the sea, and lakes. Taking on forms like snow, clouds and fog, It is an element of nature that has both the power to sustain us and threaten our very lives. In this exhibition, we take a look at how artists see water and express their fascination through their work. Around 70 works of art will be on display.

Date: Until 4/8 (Friday)

Time: 9:30-17:00

Place: Kushiro Art Museum (Kushiro, Saiwai-cho, 4-chome 1-ban 5-go)

Admission: General ¥460 (¥360*), High School and University Students ¥200(¥150), 65 and older FREE, Middle School and under FREE (*groups of 10 or parent-child groups)

For further information, contact: 0154-23-2381 (Kushiro Art Museum), <http://kushiro-artmu.jp>



Sapporo, the City Migishi Loved

三岸が愛した札幌

A man who has left his mark in the realm of Japanese modern art, Kotaro Migishi somehow always found his back to his hometown of Sapporo. His love for the city made him leave behind many landscape paintings and portraits depicting his visits to his home. The exhibit will also have maps, photos and postcards on display.

Date: Until 4/10 (Sunday)

Time: 9:30-17:00 (Entry ends at 4:30), Closed Mondays (the following day if Monday is a holiday), (3/31-4/3 due to changing exhibitions)

Place: Migishi Kotaro Museum of Art (Sapporo, Chuo-ku, Kita 2-jo Nishi 15-chome)

Admission: General ¥510 (¥420*), University and High School students ¥250 (¥170*), 65 and older FREE, Middle School and under FREE (*groups of 10+)

For further information, contact: 011-644-8901 (Migishi Kotaro Museum of Art)



Eriko Kanda's Landscape Collection

神田絵里子風景画展

This exhibit will center on the daughter of the famed artist Nissho Kanda, two-time award-winning painter Eriko Kanda and her landscape paintings.

Date: Until 4/10 (Sunday)

Time: 10:00-17:00 (Entry ends at 16:30), Closed Mondays

Place: Kanda Nissho Memorial Museum of Art (Kato-gun, Shikaoi-cho Higashi-cho, 3-chome 2)

Admission: General ¥530 (¥470*), High School students ¥320 (¥260*), Middle and Elementary School students ¥210 (¥150*) *groups of 10+

For further information, contact: 0156-66-1555 (Kanda Nissho Memorial Museum of Art)



Journey to the Safest Place on Earth

地球で最も安全な場所を探して

Come and watch a showing of this 2013 documentary that discusses the huge quantity of radioactive waste and spent fuel rods being stored at various locations on the planet. Filmmaker Edgar Hagen and nuclear physicist Charles McCombie search for the best location for a nuclear disposal site that won't harm living things or the environment.

Date: 4/23 (Saturday)

Time: 1st viewing) 10:00~, 2nd) 13:00~, 3rd) 16:00~, 4th) 19:00~

Place: San Azalea, Asahikawa Construction Workers Welfare Center (Asahikawa, 6-jo-dori 4-chome)

Admission: Pre-sale/Reservation ¥1,000, Day of ¥1,200 (High School and under FREE)

Ticket Office: San Azalea

For further information, contact: 080-5720-4367 (For questions, pre-sale, and reservations)



Let's Go to the Art Museum! Learn How to Enjoy Modern Art with Dick Bruna

美術館に行こう！ディック・ブルーナに学ぶモダン・アートの楽しみ方

Come and have fun learning about how to appreciate art and design in this collaborative exhibition with Miffy and Dick Bruna's book "Miffy Goes to the Art Museum."

Date: From 4/23 (Saturday) until 6/26 (Sunday)

Time: 9:30-17:00 (Entry ends at 16:30), Closed Mondays

Place: Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art (inside Tokiwa Park, Asahikawa)

Admission: ¥1,100 (¥900*), University and High School students ¥600 (¥400*), Middle School students ¥300 (¥200*), Elementary and under FREE (must be accompanied by adult) *groups of 10+

Ticket Office: (Pre-sale tickets until 4/22, regular tickets after 4/22) Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art, any Fukido in Asahikawa, Lawson Ticket (L-code: 11938), Seven Ticket (Seven-code: 092-741), Ticket Pia (P-code: 685-915), Doshin Playguide (in Sapporo), Doshin Playguide online store, etc.

For further information, contact: 0166-25-2577 (Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art)



Spring Ballet Concert: The Ugly Duckling

～春のパレエコンサート～ みにくいアヒルの子

Enjoy a performance by the Sumi Ballet troupe as they perform a concert program with various musical selections, "The Ugly Duckling," and "Act II: The Land of Sweets" from "The Nutcracker."

Date: 4/24 (Sunday)

Time: Opens 16:00, Starts 16:30

Place: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall (Large Hall) (Asahikawa, 9-jo-dori 9-chome)

Admission: ¥1,000

Ticket Office: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall

For further information, contact: 090-6448-1570 (Sumi Ballet Studio)



Inoue Yasushi—People and Literature XII: On "Chronicle of My Mother"

井上靖 人と文学XII 『わが母の記』を巡って

A compilation of three short stories depicting ten years of his mother's life, Yasushi Inoue's book "Chronicle of My Mother" has gone on to be translated in various languages and adapted into film. This exhibition will dive deeper into the work in question, tracing back the author's footsteps alongside his personal writings and photos from his time with his mother.

Date: Until 5/22 (Sunday)

Time: 9:00-17:00 (Entry ends at 4:30), Closed Mondays (the following day if Monday is a holiday)

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

Admission: General ¥300, High School students ¥150, Middle School and under FREE

For further information, contact: 0166-51-1188 (Yasushi Inoue Memorial Hall)



April Events in Asahikawa

AIC: Please tell about yourself and where your from!

Sam: My name is Sam Carroll and I'm from Hot Springs, Arkansas, United States of America. Have you heard of it? I bet you haven't. We are so named due to the presence of natural hot springs, which tourists (mostly from other parts of Arkansas or nearby) come to drink or bathe in. We are also known as the hometown of former president Bill Clinton. I lived in Hot Springs from when I was born until I went to the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, where I studied biological engineering. After that, I had an internship in Mississippi for a year, and now I'm here.

AIC: How did you first get interested in Japan?

Sam: My hometown is sister cities with a town called Hanamaki in Iwate Prefecture. In my senior year of high school, my family was a host family for a student from Hanamaki named Shu. Shu and the other students were only with us for a week, but this experience left a strong impression on me in that it was my first real exposure to Japanese culture. I discovered I love cultural exchange, and I decided to take Japanese as a minor all throughout college. My love for the Japanese language and culture grew gradually but steadily from there.



Name: Sam Carroll
Home Country: United States
Interviewed: 2022/03/25

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

Hello, Asahikawa!

AIC: Is this your first time in Japan? How long have you been here?

Sam: I have visited Japan two times before, both for rather short study abroad programs. The first was at Shimane University for about two weeks. The second was for about two months at Okayama University. Now I've been in Asahikawa for about two months.

AIC: What brings you to Asahikawa in particular?

Sam: I'm here on the JET program! While I did not get to choose my city specifically, I did get to choose my top three prefectures. Hokkaido was one of my top three and I feel very lucky to have ended up in Asahikawa.

AIC: What kind of work do you do?

Sam: I am an ALT at Asahikawa Commercial High School. This involves participating in English classes, as well as occasional preparation of class materials like games, self-introduction presentations, and as it is to provide a point of cultural contact to the students. That being said, I do occasionally support teachers by explaining certain grammar points, grading essays, etc.

AIC: What are your hobbies? What do you like to do in your free time?

Sam: My favorite thing to do is play soccer. I haven't been able to play lately for a variety of reasons (COVID-19, it's really cold outside, there's snow everywhere, I don't know of any soccer teams in Asahikawa), so I've been passing most of my time indoors. I love to read and have been doing my best to read books in Japanese as well as study for the JLPT in July. I also recently bought a Nintendo Switch and have spent much time playing The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild. I'm planning to get Super Smash Bros. next. I also just got a gym membership, so I'm hoping to get back in shape soon!

AIC: Do you have any favorite foods?

Hello, Asahikawa! Cont.



Sam: It depends what you want I guess. I haven't been to too many places but there are a few that I could recommend. For ramen it would be Yamazaki Shouten and Ramen Mura. I hear Nishi Aeon is really nice, but I haven't been. If you want a gym, JOYFIT is open 24 hours. Also, I definitely recommend Junkudo in the Feeeal building if you like books.

AIC: What have been your impressions of Asahikawa so far and how does it compare to your hometown?

Sam: I have a pretty good impression of Asahikawa so far. It's a nice town. It's bigger than my hometown, but it's pretty comparable in size to the Arkansas state capital, Little Rock. The biggest difference between Asahikawa and my hometown in Arkansas is the weather. Arkansas is very hot and humid in the summer and only slightly less so in the winter. There are times when it gets pretty cold, but it usually doesn't last very long.

AIC: Do you mind sharing any frustrations or challenges you have encountered thus far?

Sam: It's been a bit of a struggle getting used to the cold, but I'm getting through it. This struggle has been compounded by the fact that I don't have a car and have to walk everywhere. Figuring out what to eat has also been challenging at times as well. While I love Japanese food, there are times when the change in diet can be hard on my stomach. Also, I wasn't a very good cook to begin with, and having so many unfamiliar ingredients to work with doesn't help that. Certain easy-to-make foods like curry, shabu-shabu, and fish have treated me pretty well so far, but I've also definitely eaten cup noodles way more often than is healthy.

AIC: Do you have any goals or things you are looking forward to doing here?

Sam: My biggest goals are getting good at Japanese and engaging with the community as much as possible! More concretely, I'm hoping to pass the JLPT N1 at some point before I leave. Maybe this December? We'll see how it goes. Also, being from somewhere with no opportunity to go skiing or snowboarding, I feel like it would be a wasted opportunity if I didn't give it a try. I've been told it's a little late this year, but I'm planning to take lessons next year. I also would love it if I could find a soccer league in Asahikawa. I feel like that would be a great way to engage with and meet new people. It's also worth mentioning that I got the chance a little while ago to fulfill one of my long-time dreams of going ice-fishing!



AIC: Is there anything else you would like to stay to our readers?

Sam: Lastly, I would just say that I think Asahikawa is a great place to live, and there are plenty of opportunities to grow, experience new things, and meet new people if you just go out and look! Although there are plenty of difficult times, there are also plenty of times when I feel that the struggles of moving countries have been amply made up for by both the kindness I've been shown by the people I've met and the opportunities that I have to grow as a person. I hope everyone reading this has the chance to experience the wonderful parts of Asahikawa!



Movies - April

*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.

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.

★ **Aeon Cinema:** Miyashita-dori 7-chome / 0166 – 74 – 6411 URL: cinema.aeoncinema.com/wm/asahikawa (Japanese)

Now Showing

- Nightmare Alley (English)
- Osomatsu-san (Japanese)
- Yumemiru Shogakko (Japanese)
- Thomas the Tank Engine All-Star Parade (English/Anime)
- Forrest Gump 4K (English/PG12) ~4/7
- Sing 2 (English/Anime)
- Kapppei (Japanese)
- Ultraman Trigger: Episode Z (Japanese)
- Wedding High (Japanese)
- The Last 10 Years (Japanese)
- Doraemon: Nobita's Little Star Wars (Japanese/Anime)
- The Confidence Man JP: Episode of the Hero (Japanese)
- Jujutsu Kaisen 0 (Japanese/Anime)

Coming Soon

- The Power of the Dog (English) 4/1~4/7
- Ai Nanoni (Japanese/R15+) 4/1~4/7
- The Cat Escaped (Japanese/R15+) 4/1~4/7
- Morbius (English) 4/1
- Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore (English) 4/8
- Cherry Magic! Thirty Years of Virginity Can Make You a Wizard?! (Japanese) 4/8
- Tonbi (Japanese) 4/8
- Detective Conan-the Bride of Halloween (Japanese/Anime) 4/15
- Free! the Final Stroke Pt2 (Japanese 4D/Anime) 4/22
- Crayon Shin-chan: Mononoke Ninja Chinpuden (Japanese/Anime) 4/22
- xxxHolic (Japanese) 4/29
- Radiation House (Japanese) 4/29
- Doctor Strange in Multiverse of Madness (English) 5/4
- Lesson in Murder (Japanese) 5/6
- 5-tobun no Hanayome (Japanese/Anime) 5/20
- Taiga e no Michi (Japanese) 5/20

★ **Cineplex 7 Asahikawa:** Nagayama 12-jo 3-chome Western Powers Nagayama / 0166 – 49 – 1000

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

Now Showing

- Nightmare Alley (English)
- Ambulance (English/PG12)
- Free! the Final Stroke Pt1 (Japanese 4D/Anime)
- Sing2 (English/Anime)
- Butt Detective: Shiriarty (Japanese/Anime)
- Wedding High (Japanese)
- Doraemon: Nobita's Little Star Wars (Japanese/Anime)
- The Last 10 Years (Japanese)
- Jujutsu Kaisen 0 (Japanese 4DX/Anime)
- Drive My Car (Japanese/PG12)

Coming Soon

- Tengaramon (Japanese) 4/1
- Morbius (English 4DX) 4/1
- Soon to Reach the Sea (Japanese/PG12) 4/1
- I Want to be Killed by a High School Girl (Japanese/PG12) 4/1
- Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore (English 4DX) 4/8
- Tonbi (Japanese) 4/8
- Detective Conan-the Bride of Halloween (Japanese/Anime) 4/15
- Free! the Final Stroke Pt2 (Japanese 4D/Anime) 4/22
- Crayon Shin-chan: Mononoke Ninja Chinpude (Japanese/Anime) 4/22
- C'mon C'mon (English) 4/22
- xxxHolic (Japanese) 4/29
- Radiation House (Japanese) 4/29
- Bubble (Japanese/Anime) 5/13
- Shin Ultraman (Japanese) 5/13
- Wandering (Japanese) 5/13

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

Movies - April

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Dinos Cinemas Only: Every Thursday is "Men's Day." Admission is ¥1,100 (tax included) for men.

★ **Dinos Cinemas:** Taisetsu-dori 5-chome / 0166 - 21 - 1218 URL: <http://cinema.sugai-dinos.jp/pc/> (Japanese)

Now Showing

- Nightmare Alley (English)
- Gunpowder Milkshake (English) ~4/7
- Kappei (Japanese)
- Sing2 (English/Anime)
- Wedding High (Japanese)
- Shimajiro to Kirakira Okoku no Ojisama (Japanese/Anime)
- The Batman (English)
- Mankai Movie 「A3!」 Autumn & Winter (Japanese/Anime) ~4/7
- Doraemon: Nobita's Little Star Wars (Japanese/Anime)
- Drive My Car (Japanese/PG12)
- The Confidence Man JP: Episode of the Hero (Japanese)
- Jujutsu Kaisen 0 (Japanese/Anime)

Coming Soon

- Ware Yowakereba Yajima Kajiko Den (Japanese) 4/1
- Morbius (English) 4/1
- Actors Short Film 2 (Japanese) 4/1
- Tengaramon (Japanese) 4/1
- CODA (English/PG12) 4/8
- Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore (English) 4/8
- Tonbi (Japanese) 4/8
- Belfast (English) 4/22
- Detective Conan-the Bride of Halloween (Japanese/Anime) 4/15
- Crayon Shin-chan: Mononoke Ninja Chinpuden (Japanese/Anime) 4/22
- xxxHolic (Japanese) 4/29
- Shaolin Temple 4K (Chinese) 4/29
- Doctor Strange in Multiverse of Madness (English) 5/4
- Lesson in Murder (Japanese) 5/6
- Shin Ultraman (Japanese) 5/13
- Bubble (Japanese/Anime) 5/13
- Wandering (Japanese) 5/13

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



AIC Bulletin Board

Color Your Japanese!

Need Help?



Improve your Japanese communication skills by using this FREE online resource! Irodori offers Japanese language textbooks and audio files for the A1 and A2 levels of the CEFR language scale. Made to help foreign migrants improve their everyday Japanese, this resource focuses on communication over grammar, words or kanji. It also includes mini-cultural lessons for you to better understand Japanese society! To access, go to: www.iodori.jpf.go.jp

If you ever find yourself in need of assistance, know that the Hokkaido Foreign Resident Support Center is there for you! They are able to provide you with consultation services in various languages (Japanese, English, Chinese, Korean, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Russian, Indonesian, Thai, Nepalese, Burmese) on residence procedures, employment, medical care, welfare, childbirth, child care, education, and more for FREE! Call them at **011-200-9595** or go to: www.hiecc.or.jp/soudan



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

Dates: April 8th & 22nd, May 6th & 20th, June 3rd & 17th
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.



The Asahikawa International Center (Feeeal Asahikawa 7F 1-jo-dori 8-chome) has free Wi-Fi available for public use and is free of charge. If you reside in Asahikawa, registration for a user card is required. 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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E-mail: cir_kokusai@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp