

旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

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Hokkaido News Top 5



March 2017

Compiled by TAKADA Nobuhiro

January 25

Hokkaido University announced that it will be starting a course in wine production at the Graduate School of Global Food Resources next April. The course intends to foster human resources and start producing wine in Hokkaido. It works together with “Wine Academy,” a project to train entrepreneurs of winery run by Hokkaido Government.

January 30

Joint research between Hokkaido University and Ikeda Town Tourist Association found that the best-selling product for tourists from abroad in “Ikeda Wine Castle” near Obihiro is not wine but plum liquor. 8.4 percent of visitors from abroad purchased plum liquor, 4.1 percent of them bought grape juice and 3.6 percent of them bought a raisins mix, according to the research. It shows that there is not enough publicity for “Ikeda Wine” among foreign tourists.

February 2

The “Ramen Society in Asahikawa” has created a “Asahikawa Soy Sauce” flavor of cup ramen in cooperation with Toyo Suisan Ltd., a major food company. They started making the cup noodle in May, and experimented with about five different versions to reproduce the taste of the typical rich soy-sauce Asahikawa ramen. The cup noodle has launched nationwide as of February 6.

February 14

34 local farmers in and around Asahikawa, who were hired on by an airport maintenance company, worked hard to clear snow away perfectly from the runway, taxiway, and apron in Asahikawa Airport. The farmers are familiar with the local weather and are good at operating heavy machinery. The average number of canceled flights due to snowfall for the last five years is 5.8 flights a year.

February 24

Releasing MURAKAMI Haruki’s latest novel “Killing Commendatore” in two volumes was over a day late in Hokkaido due to the derailment of a freight train on Muroran Line between Toya Station and Usu Station near Lake Toya. The copies of the book on the derailed train were transferred to trucks to deliver to bookstores. Shinchosha Publishing, the publisher of the MURAKAMI’s new novel, had planned to launch 1,300,000 copies of the novel at the same time all over Japan.



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.

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

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Special Thanks to KAWAI Tatsuo, Proofreader & Advisor

Harmony Between Color and Form in Two-Dimensional Art

色と形のポリフォニー 平面の魅力

In the same way that music is about the harmony of sounds, the artists whose art is displayed in this exhibit tried to strike a harmony between the colors and shapes in these works and showcase the charms of two-dimensional art.

Date: Now until April 9th (Sunday)

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

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

Admission: General ¥510; High School ¥300; Junior High and under FREE

For further information contact: 0166-25-2577

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



Asahikawa Crystal Brass The 1st Regular Concert

旭川クリスタル・ブラス 第一定期公演

Come see the freshest music group in Asahikawa! Formed just last year in June, Asahikawa Crystal Brass is the only permanent brass ensemble in the city.

Date: March 4th (Saturday)

Time: Doors 6:30pm, Show 7:00pm

Venue: Kagura Public Hall "Kirarin" (Kagura 3-jo 6-chome)

Admission: General 1,500; High school and under 500

For further information contact: 080-1873-1236

heyhey.music.you@me.com



37th Hokkaido University of Education Asahikawa Branch Concert Band Regular Concert

第37回 北海道教育大学旭川校吹奏楽部 定期演奏会

Program includes classical music as well as "Proof of a hero," the main theme of the Monster Hunter Game series and Hayao Miyazaki's Spirited Away.

Date: March 5th (Sunday)

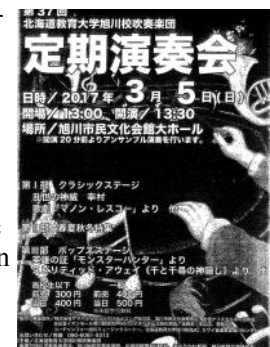
Time: Doors 1:00pm, Show 1:30pm

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

Admission: General ¥400; High school and under ¥300; +¥100 the day of

Ticket Office: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Yamaha Music Store, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, We's (Aeon Nishi), Fukido, Couch and Four, Hokkaido University of Education Asahikawa Campus, Kawai Music Center

For further information contact: 080-6081-9312



Asahikawa Eiryo High School Brass Band 1st Regular Concert—2DAYS

北海道旭川永嶺高等学校吹奏楽部 第1回定期演奏会2DAYS

Eiryo High School is the new name of Ryouun High School. Since the name change and opening in April, the school hasn't had an official regular concert.

Date: March 11th (Saturday) and March 12th (Sunday)

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

Sunday: Doors 12:30pm, Show 1:00pm

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

Admission: Adults ¥1,000 +¥300 day of

High school and under ¥500 +¥200 day of

Ticket Office: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Yamaha Music Store, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Gyokkodo (3F Aeon Mall), Couch and Four, Lawson (L-code: 11678)

For further information contact: 090-3898-1476

sukesan0716@gmail.com



The Ultimate Recital 極上の音楽会

A recital brought to you by Japan's top flutists including world class flutist KUDO Shigenori. Come and enjoy the flute ensemble and a masterful *concertato* to your hearts content.

Date: March 16th (Thursday)
Time: Doors 6:00pm, Show 6:30pm
Venue: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome)
Admission: General ¥4,000; Junior High School and under ¥2,000
Ticket Office: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Yamaha Music Store, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Gyokkodo (3F Aeon Mall), Couch and Four, MINAMI Music Academy
For further information contact: 0166-48-9454 (MINAMI Music Academy)



Choeur Jeunesse Second Concert Choeur Jeunesse 第二回演奏会

Program includes modern religious works, as well as works by KINOSHITA Makiko, and NOBUNAGA Takatomi.

Date: March 18th (Saturday)
Time: Doors 6:00pm, Show 6:30pm
Venue: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome)
Admission: General ¥1,000 High School and Junior High ¥500
Ticket Office: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Yamaha Music Store, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Gyokkodo (3F Aeon Mall), Couch and Four
For further information contact: 0166-23-2801



Dosanko Junior Orchestra Winter Concert in Asahikawa どさんこジュニアオーケストラによる「春のコンサート in 旭川」

Dosanko (道産子) is a word used for people born and raised in Hokkaido. The *Dosanko* Junior Orchestra has talent from Ebetsu, Iwamizawa, Chitose, Otaru, Muroran, and other cities from all over Hokkaido. Asappy (Asahikawa's mascot) will be giving conducting a shot! It might be worth coming to see that alone.

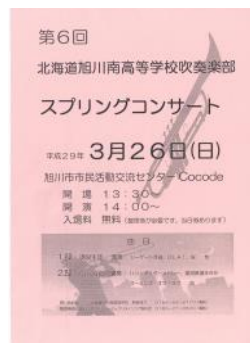
Date: March 20th (Monday—Holiday)
Time: Doors 1:30pm, Show 2:00pm
Venue: Asahikawa Public Hall (Inside Tokiwa Park)
Admission: General ¥1,000 +¥200 day of ;High school and under FREE
Ticket Office: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Yamaha Music Store, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Gyokkodo (3F Aeon Mall), Couch and Four
For further information contact: 0166-23-2801



6th Hokkaido Asahikawa Minami High School Brass Band Spring Concert 第6回 北海道旭川南高等学校吹奏楽部 スプリングコンサート

It's that time of year again folks! Spring is on the way and Asahikawa Minami High School is ready to kick off the season with their spring concert with music from Harry Potter, Galaxy Express 999 and Omens of Love.

Date: March 26th (Sunday)
Time: Doors 1:30pm, Show 2:00pm
Venue: Asahikawa Community Support Center CoCoDe (Miyamae 1-jo 3-chome)
Admission: FREE (Ticket required)
Ticket Office: Yamaha Music Store
For further information contact: 0166-65-8770 (Asahikawa Minami High School)



EVENTS IN ASAHIKAWA FOR MARCH

Life In Asahikawa

“Diamond Dust and Sun Pillars”

By KITAMURA Tadao

It's only natural that you long for the coming of March when the sun is shining bright again and you start hearing news of cherry blossoms blooming. But, prior to that mellow season, you have to endure the coldest days for a week or two. Although they are the coldest days, they may be very interesting days for you.

Staying here in Asahikawa or Northern Hokkaido, you are lucky enough to have a very precious opportunity to experience the wonderful show of metrological phenomena one early morning, when it is minus 25 degrees Celsius or colder. The air must be still, with no wind.

Under such conditions, H₂O molecules in the air freeze into crystals in an instant. That is to say, a myriads of crystals are dancing wildly twinkling in the air reflecting rays from heaven. This phenomenon is called “Diamond Dust.” And a “Sun Pillar,” if you happen to see it, may remind you burning bush which Moses was stricken to see in the desert near Mount Sinai.

Very early in the morning in a quiet forest, right after the sun rises, rays of light shine almost horizontally. Looking down from a higher location there appears a strange yet glorious mass of light. This is the “sun pillar,” the result of light rays diffracting through crystals of H₂O molecules floating in the air. It is not easy to see this strange phenomenon, but you might have a chance to see this rare phenomena early in the morning at Mt. Piashiri, near Nayoro City (about 90-km northwards from Asahikawa) which is a well-known place for seeing sun pillars.

I know some other places near Asahikawa; Biei and Furano, and even Takasu are good places to see this wonderful show of nature, if the conditions are right. After these coldest days have passed, the wind begins to blow easterly, and you might even feel sad about the passing of winter.



Sun Pillar — Taken by MINORU Kubota

Check out the color version of the PDF at
<http://asahikawaic.jp/publication/up/docs/AsahikawaInfoMarch2017.pdf>



Hello Asahikawa!

Name: Robert Cafaro

Home Country: United States

Interviewed: February 16th, By AIC

AIC: So Robert, what brings you to Japan?

Robert: I'd always wanted to visit Japan. I'd long been interested in Japanese culture, history, and food. I came here because I wanted to work abroad and come away with an interesting experience that I'm sure I wouldn't be able to get anywhere else. This is my first time coming to Japan.

AIC: Is this your first time abroad?

Robert: I'd never been outside of the US before. I'd say I picked the right country for my first time abroad. It's a great place to come and live. The only other places I'd been before were the states on the eastern seaboard of the US. Florida, New York, etc.

AIC: Are you learning Japanese? Do you have other language learning experience?

Robert: Other than the obvious English, I speak French quasi-fluently and am currently learning Japanese, mostly through self-study, but I have a great instructor who guides me along and encourages me. Other languages include a bit of Mandarin and a bit of Spanish.

AIC: Is there anything you particularly like about Asahikawa?

Robert: In Asahikawa, it's got to be the friendly people and the small town atmosphere. As for Japan, for me it's a gastronomic dream. The amazing food and drink that can be found is incredible. The kind of attention that is paid to food preparation and presentation is like nothing else one could ever find anywhere else.

AIC: And where are you from originally?

Robert: I'm from a small town in South Carolina, USA of less than 1,000 people. My hometown is about 10 hours by car to Orlando and 10 hours by car to New York. It's a nice little town, about 5 minutes away from one of the nicest beaches in the state.

AIC: How does your hometown compare to Asahikawa?

Robert: Well, Asahikawa has 350x the number of people of my hometown and even with so many people it's still considered to be a small town by the Japanese standard. People in small towns tend to be friendlier, I think because everyone seems to know each other and wants to maintain a good relationship with others. In this respect, I'd say that the towns are similar.

Snow on the other hand is a different story. We rarely would get snow back at home, so coming to a place where snow is the norm is quite a change. Not that I mind, though.

Continued on page 6...

Hello Asahikawa!

Continued from page 5

- AIC:** **Speaking of snow, do you do any winter sports? What are your hobbies?**
Robert: My hobbies include playing the drums and guitar and trying to write songs with meaningful lyrics. I've never been into winter sports. Or summer sports, for that matter. I grew up in a small flat town where it almost never snows and even if it does, it's maybe a tiny dusting. I think the cost for me is prohibitively expensive. That's a rich people thing, in my opinion. I didn't grow up rich.
- AIC:** **Yea that's the big reason why I don't snowboard. What draws you to music?**
Robert: It gives me a chance to channel my emotions into something good and meaningful that may help other people too.
- AIC:** **So do you like karaoke then?**
Robert: Sure, it can be fun.
- AIC:** **Then we should go sometime. Thanks for letting me interview you!**
Robert: No problem thank you for the opportunity.

★ *Movies ~ March* ★

*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

- Kyo no Kira-kun (Japanese)
- Kareraga Honki de Amutokiwa (Japanese)
- La La Land (English) 2/24
- Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children (Japanese 2D)
- Partners: The Movie 4 (Japanese)
- Survival Family (Japanese)
- Honnoji Hotel (Japanese)
- Kimi to 100 Kaime no Koi (Japanese)
- Gukouroku (Japanese)
- Doctor Strange (English/2D)
- Kiseki: Sobito of That Day (Japanese)
- A Loving Husband (Japanese)
- One Week Friends (Japanese)
- In This Corner of the World (Japanese/Anime)
- Hamon: Yakuza Boogie (Japanese)
- Your Name (Japanese)

Coming Soon

- Assassin's Creed (English 2D/3D) 3/3
- Haruta & Chika (Japanese) 3/4
- Doraemon Movie 37: Nobita no Nankyoku Kachikochi Dai-bouken (Japanese/Anime) 3/4
- Moana (English/Anime) 3/10
- Shimajiro a World of WOW!: Shimajiro and the Rainbow Oasis (Japanese/Anime) 3/10
- Let's Go, Jet's (Japanese) 3/11
- Sing (English/Anime) 3/17
- Hirune Hime: Shiranai Watashi no Monogatari (Japanese/Anime) 3/18
- March Comes in Like a Lion Pt1 (Japanese) 3/18
- Hirunaka no Ryuusei (Japanese) 3/24
- Passengers (English) 3/24
- P and JK (Japanese) 3/25
- Kamen Rider X Super Sentai: Ultra Super Hero Taisen (Japanese) 3/25
- Girls in the Dark (Japanese) 4/1
- Thonas & Friends: The Great Race (English) 4/8
- Crayon Shin-chan: Invasion! Alien Shiriri (Japanese/Anime) 4/15
- Kamisama Minarai Himitsu no Kokotama the Movie: Kiseki wo Okose!, Teppuru to Dokidoki Kokotama Kai (Japanese/Anime) 4/28

★ *Movies ~ March* ★

*<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

- Collateral Beauty (English)
- XXX: Return of Xander Cage (English/2D/4DX3D)
- One Week Friends (Japanese)
- Partners: The Movie 4 (Japanese)
- KanColle: The Movie (Japanese/Anime/4DX)
- Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children (English 2D Japanese 2D/4DX3D)
- A Loving Husband (Japanese)
- Hamon: Yakuza Boogie (Japanese) ~3/3
- Doctor Strange (English 2D/Japanese 2D/4DX3D)
- The Magnificent Seven (English) ~3/3
- Silence (English/PG12)
- Shinjuku Swan 2 (Japanese) ~3/3
- Honnoji Hotel (Japanese)
- Your Name (Japanese)

Coming Soon

- Assassin's Creed (English 2D/Japanese 4DX3D) 3/3
- Doraemon Movie 37: Nobita no Nankyoku Kachikochi Daibouken (Japanese/Anime) 3/4
- Moana (English/Anime) 3/10
- Sing (English/Anime) 3/17
- March Comes in Like a Lion Pt1 (Japanese) 3/18
- Precure the Movie: Dream Stars! (English/Anime) 3/10
- Passengers (English) 3/24
- P and JK (Japanese) 3/25
- Kong: Skull Island (English) 3/25
- Kamen Rider X Super Sentai: Ultra Super Hero Taisen (Japanese) 3/25
- The Great Wall (English 4DX3D) 3/25
- Crayon Shin-chan: Invasion! Alien Shiriri (Japanese/Anime) 4/15
- Beauty and the Beast (English) 4/21
- Guardians of the Galaxy Vol.2 (English) 5/12

★ **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

- Kyo no Kira-kun (Japanese)
- Kizumonogatari III: Reiketsu-hen (Japanese Anime) ~3/17
- XXX: Return of Xander Cage (English)
- Haha: Kobayashi Takiji no Haha no Monogatari (Japanese)
- Sword Art Online the Movie: Ordinal Scale (Japanese/Anime)
- One Week Friends (Japanese)
- Partners: The Movie 4 (Japanese)
- Survival Family (Japanese)
- Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children (English)
- A Loving Husband (Japanese)
- Hamon: Yakuza Boogie (Japanese)
- Doctor Strange (English 4DX)
- Silence (English/PG12) ~3/2
- Doubutsu Sentai Zyuohger vs. Nininger: Message from the Future Super Sentai (Japanese)
- KanColle: The Movie (Japanese/Anime)
- In This Corner of the World (Japanese/Anime)
- Your Name (Japanese)

Coming Soon

- Assassin's Creed (English) 3/3
- Doraemon Movie 37: Nobita no Nankyoku Kachikochi Daibouken (Japanese/Anime) 3/4
- Moana (English/Anime) 3/10
- Suki Ni Naru Sono Shunkan Wo.: Kokuhaku Jikkou Iinkai (Japanese Anime) 3/11~3/24
- Let's Go, Jet's (Japanese) 3/11
- Sing (English/Anime) 3/17
- Passengers (English) 3/24
- Kamen Rider X Super Sentai: Ultra Super Hero Taisen (Japanese) 3/25
- Kong: Skull Island (English) 3/25
- Sakurada Reset Pt1 (Japanese) 3/25
- P and JK (Japanese) 3/25
- Ghost in the Shell (English) 4/7
- T2 Trainspotting (English R15+) 4/8
- Crayon Shin-chan: Invasion! Alien Shiriri (Japanese/Anime) 4/15
- Detective Conan: Crimson Love Letter (Japanese/Anime) 4/15
- Beauty and the Beast (English) 4/21
- The Fate of the Furious (English) 4/28
- Blade of the Immortal (Japanese PR12) 4/29
- Teiichi's Country (Japanese) 4/29

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

37th Vasaloppet Japan



This year marks the 36th anniversary of Vasaloppet Japan, which is an annual long distance cross-country ski race originated in Sweden.

Competitive races for professional skiers will take place on the 11th (Sat) with longer distances, up to 45km, at Tomisawa Course. The races on the 12th (Sun) will take place on Kitasaito Course. Mini-Loppet with young skiers under 9 will also be held.

On top of watching the race, you can also enjoy various activities and warm local winter food.

To find out more about Vasaloppet Japan, including the daily schedule, race venue, transportation, and more, please visit the official website:
http://vasaloppet.jp/course_e.html

北彩都特設会場コース図



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: March 10th&24th, April 14th&28th, May 12nd&26th

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.

FREE WiFi

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.****