

旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

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Hokkaido News Top 5



August 2015

Compiled by TAKADA Nobuhiro

July 4

JR Hokkaido has decided to get rid of station attendants from three railroad stations in Ashibetsu, Akabira, and Noboribetsu. The railroad company has already informed the local governing bodies of this policy to work toward a negotiated agreement. The decision was made to cut expenditures in order to enforce extra security measures. JR Hokkaido is considering a plan of further removing employees at other railroad stations as well.

July 4

Shochiku Co., Ltd., a Kabuki production company, is putting a Kabuki play based on a picture book by a writer in Asahikawa on the stage of Kyoto Minamiza Theater in September. The production will use "Arashi no Yoru ni (At Stormy Night)" as a script for the play, which is the masterpiece by Hiroshi ABE, a picture book writer and a big fan of Kabuki. According to Shochiku, this is the first time for the company to dramatize a picture book for Kabuki.

July 4

The founder of "Farm Tomita," one of the most popular tourist spots in Hokkaido in summer, passed away. Although the farm now lures one million tourists every year, Tadao TOMITA had a hard time when the price of lavender oil dropped in 1970s due to the wide use of compound perfume. Mr. TOMITA ran lavender farms in Nakafurano between Asahikawa and Furano.

July 9

Asahikawa Tourism Convention Association is starting a publicity campaign for a 500-kilometer route for round trip cycling around Taisetsuzan Mountains. Cyclists are to start in Asahikawa, go through Biei, Furano, and Obihiro, surrounded by beautiful scenery, and return to the place of departure. The association has noticed foreign tourists' growing interests in cycling in Hokkaido for the last few years.

July 8

Nikka Whisky Distilling Co., Ltd. announced that "Nikka Whisky From the Barrel" was awarded the trophy for the Best International Blend at the International Spirits Challenge 2015 Awards in London. The company, established in Yoichi close to Otaru, was also recognized as the Distiller of the Year. The best award winning whisky is made of malt from two distilleries in Yoichi in Hokkaido and Sendai in Miyagi.



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.

Address:

Asahikawa International Center
Feeeal Asahikawa 7F, 1-jo-dori 8
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Special Thanks to KAWAI Tatsuo, Proofreader & Advisor

Squares and Circles: The Story of Art and Form

シカクイ、マルイ - 形のわけあり物語 -

Various forms in furniture have both functional and artistic meanings behind. For example, you can take a look at different angles in chairs and sit on them at this exhibition. Shapes in many different paintings, crafts, and sculptures are also examined for their characteristics and symbols.

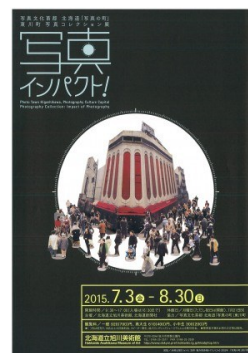
Date: now to August 30th (Sunday), except on Mondays**Time:** 9:30 am to 5:00 pm (admission is until 4:30 pm)**Venue:** Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art (inside Tokiwa Park)**Admission:** General—¥170, High School Students—¥100**For Further Information Contact:** 0166-25-2577 (Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art)**Photo Town Higashikawa's Photography Collection: Impact of Photography**

写真文化首都北海道「写真の町」東川写真コレクション展 ～写真インパクト！～

Ever since the Town of Higashikawa declared itself a "Photo Town" in 1985, it has planned a town renewal project through photographs. Higashikawa has also produced many photographers who are thriving in their fields. This exhibition will show 180 original photographs that reflect each artist's original take on Higashikawa Town.

Date: now to August 30th (Sunday), except on Mondays**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—¥920 (¥700), High School Students—¥610 (¥400), Elementary and Middle School Students—¥300 (¥200) *prices shown in parenthesis are for tickets purchased in advance or for groups of 10 or more

For Further Information Contact: 0166-25-2577 (Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art)**Night at the Asahikawa City Museum**

ナイトミュージアム: 旭川市博物館

During the Obon week, Asahikawa City Museum will be open at night with various interesting events to keep your kids occupied. On August 13th from 5:30 pm to 7 pm, a museum's curator will give a special talk on colonizers and *chise*, a traditional Ainu's house. On August 15th, children can make glass marbles using a blowtorch and glass poles with their parents. Since space is limited to 20 children, prior sign-ups are required.

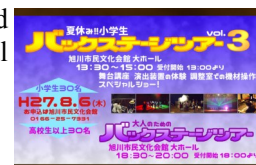
Date: August 12th (Wednesday) to 16th (Sunday)**Time:** 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm**Venue:** Asahikawa City Museum (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome, inside Taisetsu Crystal Hall)**Admission:** Free, some fee might apply if you are participating in special events.**For Further Information Contact:** 0166-69-2004 (Asahikawa City Museum)**Official Website:** www.city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp/files/museum/top.html (in Japanese)**Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall: Backstage Tour**

旭川市民文化会館 バックステージツアー

As a special summer vacation event, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall is hosting a backstage tour both for children and adults. Ever wondered what is going on behind the stage during a show? This is a great chance to find out. There will be a brief lecture on stage settings, and you will even get to operate some production equipment, such as dimmer control and special effect sounds.

Date: August 6th (Thursday)**Time:** From 1st to 6th Graders: 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm (reception opens at 1:00 pm)

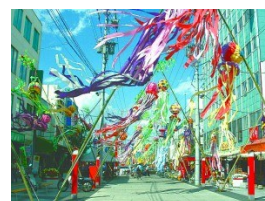
From High School and Up: 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm (reception opens at 6:00 pm)

Venue: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall (7-jo 9-chome)**Admission:** Free, 30 limited space (first-come, first-served)**For Further Information Contact:** 0166-25-7331 (Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall)

Ginza Tanabata Festival

銀座七夕まつり

Summer is definitely a festival season in Asahikawa with each week offering a festival or fireworks. Asahikawa Summer Festival, Sanroku and Rekka Tanabata Matsuri are fairly well-known, but are you aware of Ginza Tanabata Festival? It is modeled after the famous Sendai Tanabata Festival (also known as star festival), which is known for its elegance and gorgeous decorations. This Ginza Tanabata Festival, too, will feature hundreds of colorful streamers throughout the Ginza Shopping District to give you a feel of Sendai. Various events, such as Sendai product exhibition, traditional dance, and others, will be on throughout the festival period.



Date: August 7th (Friday) to August 12th (Wednesday)

Venue: Asahikawa Ginza Shopping District (From 3-jo-dori to 4-jo-dori 15-chome)

Admission: Free

For Further Information Contact: 0166-23-1210 (Asahikawa Ginza Shopping District Promotion Association)

2015 Asahikawa Live Jam Fireworks

旭川ライブジャム 花火大会2015

Summer is in full swing this month and you should enjoy this short summer of Hokkaido while you can. And here is a great event for you where you can enjoy music, dance, and fireworks all in one place. 2015 Asahikawa Live Jam Fireworks will be on with more than 8,000 fireworks launched into the sky, which is said to be the biggest fireworks display in northern Hokkaido. You might recognize some of the artists, such as SEAMO and TRIPLANE, among many others. Special shuttle buses to the venue will be running from Asahikawa Station for ¥800 roundtrip. Parking spaces are also available for ¥1,000 if you prefer driving. Tickets are going fast so you might want to hurry up. (The bench seats are already sold out as of July 24th.)



Date: August 8th (Saturday)

Time: Entry 12:00 pm, Performance 1:00 pm-8:30 pm

Venue: Asahikawa Santa Present Park (Kamui-cho, Tomioka 555-2)

Admission: Regular Seats ¥4,000, Chair Seats ¥3,300, Bench Seats for 4-6 people ¥15,000, Unreserved Seats ¥3,000, Area for People with Disabilities ¥3,000

*Free for elementary school children and under.

Ticket Offices: Lawson Ticket (L-code: 12000), Ticket Pia (P-code: 630-038). You can also purchase by calling 0166-40-3641 for additional delivery and transaction fees.

For Further Information Contact: 0166-40-3641 (Asahikawa Fireworks Display Executive Committee)

Official Website: www.asahikawa-hanabi.com (in Japanese)

Afternoon Recital Series at Yashushi INOUE Memorial Hall Lounge

井上靖記念館ラウンジにて午後の朗読会

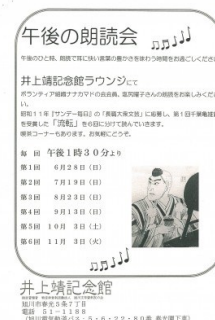
How about spending your Sunday afternoon relaxing with a cup of tea while listening to an award winning piece by Asahikawa's famous writer, Yasushi INOUE, read aloud to you? Afternoon recital series of INOUE's 流転 *ruten*, which won the first Chiba Kameo Prize, is now available once a month at Yashushi INOUE Memorial Hall Lounge.

Date: August 23rd (Sunday), September 13th (Sunday), October 3rd (Saturday), and November 3rd (Tuesday)

Time: 1:30 pm

Venue: INOUE Yashushi Memorial Hall Lounge (Shunko 5-jo 7-chome)

Admission: Free for this recital series



EVENTS IN ASAHIKAWA FOR AUGUST



Hello Asahikawa!

Name: Trygve Bendixen Markset

Hometown: Oslo, Norway

Interviewed: July 16th, 2015 by AIC

AIC: *First of all, what brought you to Japan and how long have you been here?*

Trygve: Well, it was kind of a quick decision. I was about to finish my four years at University of Denver and wasn't quite ready to move back home. Then I came across this cross-country coaching position and decided to give it a shot. I have been in Higashikawa for 11 months, and it's been an amazing experience!

AIC: *Where are you originally from? Do you mind describing what your hometown is like?*

Trygve: I'm originally from Oslo, the capital of Norway. Oslo is a lovely city with a great location, since it is close to everything. I live right by the forest with hundreds of hiking- and cross-country trails. The people who live in Oslo all lead a very active lifestyle.

AIC: *Oslo sounds like a lovely place. Could you please tell us a little about what your job entails? What does your typical day look like?*

Trygve: The official title of my job is Sports Exchange Advisor (SEA), but I am basically a cross-country skiing coach. Together with Yoshikazu TAKEDA we coach the newly founded elementary school team. The team now has about 30 kids and is quickly growing. We are excited for the future of this team! A typical day usually entails waking up and training, whether it be roller-skiing, biking, or running, for two to three hours before going to work. At work we plan the workout of the day and prepare everything that needs to be done. Then we run the actual practice that usually involves a mix of low and high intensity training. Summer is dedicated to running and dry land training. Winter is all about ski-time at various trails nearby and traveling around for competitions. It is a great job, and I feel rewarded when I see the kids make progress.

AIC: *Come to think of it, I remember seeing you competing at Vasaloppet Japan back in March with an impressive result. Glad to hear that you are enjoying your job in Japan as a SEA. How do you like to spend your free time?*

Trygve: What I have of free time is usually spent on outdoor activities. In the winter I am very passionate about back-country skiing and try to spend as much time out in the mountains as possible. Hokkaido has some amazing snow and spectacular scenery. In the summer I like road-biking and hiking in the mountains. I actually just came back from Shiretoko today.

AIC: *Wow. How did you like Shiretoko?*

Trygve: I was awed by the stunning nature and the high density of bears.



Trygve training with his elementary school students

Hello Asahikawa!

Trygve Interview (Part 2) Continued from Page 4

AIC: *What was your first impression of Hokkaido?*

Trygve: My first impression of Hokkaido was how warm and friendly the people here are. Everybody is super welcoming and gives a lot of compliments. In Norway, giving compliments is not that normal unless you know the person very well.

AIC: *Is that so? I think Americans also give lots of compliments to strangers. Is there a favorite food you've discovered since you came here?*

Trygve: My favorite food is Taco-rice at Nomado in Higashikawa. The owner is a very cool guy who loves back-country skiing and possesses a good view of the outside world. Besides this I am a big fan of *miso*, *natto*, and *tsukemono* in general. I believe these soul-foods have a great effect on many people's health and vitality.

AIC: *From your own experience, what are some ups and downs of living and working abroad, well, especially in Japan?*

Trygve: The ups are most certainly based around all the new impressions you get and how they help to put your life in perspective. I feel blessed that I have been able to spend four years in America, and now one year in Japan. When I return to Norway I will have this different view of the world with me, which would not have happened if I had just stayed in my home country. Japanese people are great at lifting you up and appreciating your presence.

The downside of living abroad is the fact that you are living far from home and sometimes miss your home environment, friends, and family. However, I am sure that after a while back home in Norway I will yearn to return to the slow and good life in Higashikawa.



AIC: *Very well put. Hope you make the best out of your remaining time in Japan. Speaking of which, are there any places in Japan that you would like to visit before heading home?*

Trygve: Well, now that my stay is nearly coming to an end I wish I had visited the Japanese Alps in Honshu. I was hoping that I would have time, but oh well. Next time!

AIC: *You will just have to come back to Japan again soon, haha. Before we close, what are your future plans?*

Trygve: I will start working for the premium quality sportswear brand Amundsen Sports. This will align well with my bachelor's and MBA degree from the U.S. as well as my personal interests. I am excited for this new future but I'll make sure to return to Hokkaido many times.

AIC: *Thank you for your time today, T.*

Trygve: You are welcome.

IMPORTANT: Population Census (October, 2015) Information about conducting the Population Census

As of October 1st, 2015, the Japanese Government will be conducting a Population Census. The Population Census is a statistical survey which is conducted according to the law and covers everyone living in Japan, regardless of nationality. You are legally required to respond.

Your responses will not be used in any way for immigration control, police investigations, or other such purposes.

Starting in the middle of September, census workers will visit all households and distribute IDs to fill out the survey data via the internet. We ask for your co-operation in answering the survey on-line. At the end of September, surveys slips will be distributed to those households that did not answer the survey on-line.

The data collected from the Population Census will be used as a baseline for city planning and other measures which benefit foreign residents as well as Japanese citizens.

Don't forget. You are a member of Japanese society.

Population Census Staff—City of Asahikawa

TEL: 24-5550

FAX: 24-7744

★ *Movies ~ August* ★

*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

- Avengers: Age of Ultron (English/3D)
- Terminator: Genisys (English)
- Bakemono no ko (Japanese/Animation)
- Pokemon: The Movie (Japanese/Animation)
- Inside Out (English/Animation)
- Minions (English/Animation)
- Real Oni Gokko (Japanese/R15+)
- Shaun the Sheep: The Movie (English/Animation)
- Mad Max: Fury Road (English)
- Umimachi Diary (Japanese)

Coming Soon

- Attack on Titan (Japanese/PG12) 8/1
- Jurassic World (English) 8/5
- Kamen Rider & Shuriken Sentai Ninninger: The Movie (Japanese) 8/8
- Ted 2 (English/R15+) 8/22
- S-Saigo no Keikan-Recovery of Our Future (Japanese) 8/29



Movies ~ August

(Continued from Page 6)

*<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: www.unitedcinemas.jp/asahikawa/daily.php (Japanese)

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

Now Showing

- HERO (Japanese)
- Inside Out (English/Animation)
- Bakemono no ko (Japanese/Animation)
- Pokemon: The Movie (Japanese/Animation)
- Terminator: Genisys (English)
- Avengers: Age of Ultron (English/3D)
- Strayer's Chronicle (Japanese)
- Mad Max: Fury Road (English)
- Umimachi Diary (Japanese)
- Minions (English/Animation)

Coming Soon

- Attack on Titan (Japanese/PG12) 8/1
- Jurassic World (English) 8/5
- Mission: Impossible - Rogue 8/7
- Nihon no Ichiban Nagai Hi (Japanese) 8/8
- Kamen Rider & Shuriken Sentai Ninninger: The Movie (Japanese) 8/8
- At Home (Japanese) 8/22
- Marie Heurtin (English) 8/29
- S-Saigo no Keikan-Recovery of Our Future (Japanese) 8/31

★ **Dinos Cinemas:** Taisetsu-dori 5-chome / ☎ 21 – 1233

URL: cinema.sugai-dinos.jp/pc/asahikawa/schedule.php (Japanese)

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

Now Showing

- HERO (Japanese)
- Pokemon: The Movie (Japanese/Animation)
- Inside Out (English/Animation)
- Bakemono no ko (Japanese/Animation)
- Avengers: Age of Ultron (English/3D)
- Terminator: Genisys (English)
- Mad Max: Fury Road (English)
- Strayer's Chronicle (Japanese)
- Minions (English/Animation)

Coming Soon

- Attack on Titan (Japanese/PG12) 8/1
- Jurassic World (English) 8/5
- Mission: Impossible - Rogue 8/7
- BORUTO -NARUTO: The Movie (Japanese/Animation) 8/8
- Nihon no Ichiban Nagai Hi (Japanese) 8/8
- Kamen Rider & Shuriken Sentai Ninninger: The Movie (Japanese) 8/8
- Ted 2 (English/R15+) 8/22
- S-Saigo no Keikan-Recovery of Our Future (Japanese) 8/29

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

Hokkaido Garden Show 2015

Daisetsuzan National Park boasts its beauty every season with various colorful gardens of alpine plant.

This Hokkaido Garden Show includes three beautiful gardens that are connected by the Daisetsuzan Mountain Range. It is sure to leave you with an unforgettable impression of Hokkaido and its nature.



Asahikawa Summer Festival

The largest festival of the year is finally here. Come out and enjoy all the fun! From fireworks over the river and the Citizen Dance Parade to the Yosakoi Soran Night and the Disco Night, you can be sure to have three days of nonstop fun and excitement. Oh, and don't forget to check out *mikoshi* (portable shrine procession). Hope to see you there!



Dates: July 30th (Thursday) to August 1st (Saturday)
Time: Various Events Throughout the Evenings
Locations: Asahibashi Bridge & In and Around the 3-jo-dori 6-chome Area.
Charge: Free

Date: now to October 4th (Sunday)

Venue: Daisetsuzan National Park to Kamuimintara
 Daisetsuzan Mori no Garden (kamikawa-cho)
 Ueno Farm (Asahikawa City)

For Further Information Contact: 01658-2-4058
 (Daisetsu Management Committee)

Official Website: hgs.co.jp/en (English page)

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: August 14th&28th, September 11th&25th

*Fun Fridays are held only on the 2nd Friday of every month for the evening session (2 hours)

Time: 1:00-2:00pm & 6:30-8:30pm

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.****