

旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

January 2016 VOL. 230

Published by AIC

Also visit us at: <http://asahikawaic.jp/en/>



Hokkaido News Top 5



January 2016

Compiled by TAKADA Nobuhiro

November 26

It has become apparent that the Hokkaido Police Department plans to merge five small-or-middle-sized police stations into nearby larger ones in the near future to make police activities more complete. The police department plans to merge Yubari police station into Kuriyama police station, Mikasa into Iwamizawa, and Numata into Fukagawa in April 2017. It also plans to merge Sunagawa into Takikawa, as well as Bifuka into Nayoro in four to five years. Sunagawa City, Mikasa City and Yubari City are against the merger proposal while the towns of Bifuka and Numata are looking forward to the plan.

November 25

The total number of incoming and outgoing passengers at Asahikawa Airport hit thirty million on November 24. After opening in 1996, the number reached ten million in 1997 and twenty million in 2006. A ceremony to commemorate the occasion was held at the airport, giving a commemorative gift to the thirty millionth passenger: Mr. and Mrs. Kato in Wassamu Town who had returned from Tokyo.

December 1

A medical corporative running Moriyama Hospital announced to build a medical complex under the tentative name "Asahikawa Wellness Center" in the "Kitasaito" area near JR Asahikawa Station. Moriyama Hospital on 8-jo-dori 6-chome will move to the new medical complex. The corporative plans to have a yoga dance studio, restaurant providing healthy local foods, café with a bookstore, and local FM radio station in the new complex. The wellness center is planned to be used as a facility for medical tourism for both foreign and domestic tourists. The facility will provide medical checkups and advice on diet and exercise.

December 5

It appears Asahikawa Airport Passenger Terminal, a quasi-public corporation of Asahikawa City, has plans to build an international terminal. The corporation plans to start designing it in 2016, start its work in 2017, and complete it in 2019 using an area that is currently being used as a parking lot for tourist buses. The current terminal building doesn't have enough space for check-in, baggage area, customs, immigration and quarantine do to the increase in international flights.

December 19

JR Hokkaido unveiled the Hokkaido Shinkansen Bullet train timetable on December 18. According to the timetable, it takes four hours and two minutes to go to Tokyo from Hakodate by the fastest bullet train, and four hours and thirty three minutes by the slowest one, which begins operation on March 26 next year. It costs 22,690 yen to travel to Tokyo from Hakodate by the bullet trains without a seat reservation. JR Hokkaido said that their bullet train timetable is more focused on tourists rather than business travelers.



**ASAHIKAWA
INTERNATIONAL
COMMITTEE**

For further information or to register for events contact:

Asahikawa International Committee (SASAKI Mai, Jacob WERSCHHEY, or SAITO Emmy)

Location:

International/City Affairs Division, Comprehensive Policy Dept.

Address:

Asahikawa International Center
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Special Thanks to KAWAI Tatsuo, Proofreader & Advisor

2016 Ainu Craft Exhibition Living with Wood: Ainu Wood Works
平成27年度アイヌ工芸品展 木と生きる アイヌのくらしと木の造形

Since days of old, the Ainu have made everything from ritual instruments to daily tools and clothes out of wood. This exhibition introduces 447 works not just from Hokkaido but from all over Japan with the transmission of these craft skills and Ainu spirit as the focal point.

Date: January 4th (Monday) until January 24th (Sunday)

Time: 9:30am until 5:00pm

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

Admission: General ¥800 University & High school ¥510 Junior High and under ¥300

***Notes:** Closed on Mondays except for the 11th. Closed on the 12th. No entry after 4:30pm

Living with Wood: Ainu Wood Works


Yasushi Inoue et Art
井上靖と美術

Yasushi INOUE was an Asahikawa born novelist awarded the “Order of Culture” as well as being recognized as a “Person of Cultural merit.” Come enjoy his artwork after the holiday break!

Date: January 5th (Tuesday) until January 11th (Monday—Holiday)

Time: 9:00am until 5:00pm*

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

Admission: General ¥200 High school ¥100 Junior high and under get in FREE
Asahikawa citizens 70 years and older also get in for FREE

“Passport” Multi use ticket: General ¥400 High school ¥200

Ticket Office: Yasushi Inoue Memorial Hall

For further information contact: 0166-15-1188

***Notes:** Closed on Mondays except for the 11th. No entry after 4:30pm


Asahikawa City Museum 76th Exhibition 90 Years of Wind and Snow, 100 Faces of Asahikawa
旭川市博物館第76回企画展 風雪の90年 旭川の100人

An exhibition consisting of the portraits of 100 people from Asahikawa. Experience Asahikawa’s recent contemporary history from the middle of the Meiji era to post war through their footprints in time.

Date: January 5th (Tuesday) until January 17th (Sunday)

Time: 9:00am until 5:00pm*

Venue: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, City Museum (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome)

Admission: General ¥300; High school ¥200 Junior High and under get in FREE

“Passport” Multi use ticket: ¥600 High School ¥400

Ticket Office: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall

For further information contact: 0166-69-2004


Swan Pure Sound Bouquet
スワン ピュア サウンド ブーケ

1 Kindergartener, 2 Elementary School Students, 3 Junior High School Students, 4 High School Students and 3 University Students along with 2 graduate performers. Come out and see this Asahikawa talent of all ages!

Date: January 8th (Friday)

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

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

Admission: ¥1000 (¥500 surcharge for buying tickets the day of)

Ticket Office: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Yamaha Music Store

For further information contact: 0166-53-5540



34th Regular Concert Asahikawa Muse Saxophone Quartette 第34回定期演奏会 旭川ミュージックサクソフォンカルテット

More talented Asahikawa musicians to come and see if saxophone is your thing! Includes songs from Amusement Park Suite, Cinema Paradiso, Star Wars, Les Parapluies de Cherbourg and more.

Date: January 8th (Friday)
Time: Doors 6:00pm, Show 6:30pm
Venue: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Small Hall (7-jo-dori 9-chome)
Admission: All tickets ¥1,000 Junior High and under get in FREE
Ticket Office: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Yamaha Music Store
Further information: <http://www5d.biglobe.ne.jp/~muse>



Experience winter fun at Inosawa City Ski Area 伊ノ沢市民スキー場であそび体験

Inosawa City Ski Area has a host of things to do in this event. Come try out a snow strider (a sort of snow bicycle), an airboard, sledding, obstacle courses and more! Slopes are still open as usual during the event. Parking available. Some events limited to children.

Date: January 10th (Sunday)
Time: 10:00am until 5:00pm
Venue: Inosawa City Ski Area (Kamui 7-jo 18-chome)
Admission: FREE
For further information contact: 0166-23-1944 Inosawa City Ski Area
 0166-62-4922 Asahikawa Civic and Communities Services Department Sports Division



The Briosso Brass 11th Concert 2016 The Briosso Brass 第11回定期演奏会

Started in Kitami, "The Briosso Brass" is a British style brass band that seeks show the difference between "Brass" and "Wind" in Japan where brass bands suddenly go by the wayside in junior high schools and up.

Date: January 10th (Sunday)
Time: Doors 5:30pm, Show 6:00pm
Venue: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Concert Hall (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome)
Admission: General ¥500
Ticket Office: Yamaha Music Store, Taisetsu Crystal Hall Music Shop
For further information contact: 050-1095-6556 The Briosso Brass



Asahikawa Crystal Hall Winter Concert 旭川市大雪クリスタルホール ウィンターコンサート

The winter concert program consists of amateur artists from in and around Asahikawa. There will be flute, piano, guitar, as well as mandolin performances by 8 different artists.

Date: January 31st (Sunday)
Time: Doors 1:30pm Show 2:00pm
Venue: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Concert Hall (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome)
Admission: FREE
Ticket Office: Civic Culture Hall, Yamaha Music Store, Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Kawai Asahikawa Shop, Gyokkodo
For further information contact: 0166-69-2000



EVENTS IN ASAHIKAWA FOR JANUARY



Hello Asahikawa!

Name: Artemii Novikov
Hometown: Vladivostok, Russia
Interviewed: December 22nd, By AIC

AIC: **Where is your hometown?**

Artemii: My city, Vladivostok, is located on the far east of Russia, on the sea side. It is a port city. The locals call it “Russian San Francisco” and “The third capital of Russia.” I am proud that I was born in this city. It's hard to compare a city by the sea with a city that is in the middle of an island.

AIC: **How does that compare to Asahikawa?**

Artemii: Asahikawa doesn't have this crazy pace like in metropolitan areas. It gives you time to think which is what I need right now. Here, life is as it should be. The people are peaceful. There is no hostile racial and religious discrimination. Everyone knows his job and does his job well. This internal self-organization is in blood of the Japanese.

AIC: **What brings you here to Asahikawa?**

Artemii: Vladivostok is located close to Japan (about 2 hours by plane), and many Japanese commodities like cars can be found at the market. More than 60% of the cars in Vladivostok are Japanese. So that means that the parts of the Japanese cars need to be constantly replaced. I am working for a Russian



company here in Asahikawa. I am responsible for buying cars and sending the auto-parts from these cars to Vladivostok.

AIC: **Very interesting job. Is this your first time outside of your home country?**

Artemii: No. The first time I visited a foreign country was together with my parents at a very young age. When I was 16 after graduating from school, my mother and I flew to Moscow, and from there we spent 9 days in Belgium, Netherlands and Luxenburg.

Hello Asahikawa

Artemii Interview (Part 2) Continued from Page 4

AIC: **Is this your first time outside of your home country? (continued)**

Artemii: Also, Vladivostok is in a 5 hour car ride to China. When the value of the *ruble* was higher, the people of Vladivostok and other nearby cities rode into the bordering Chinese cities on the weekends to taste the Chinese food, go to bath-houses, get a massage and buy clothes because it was all so cheap.



On my 2013 summer vacation, I went to Columbia West College Los Angeles on a three month program to learn as well as travel. It was a unique experience. For me, this mix of the many different races, ages, and nationalities along with the holistic culture of Los Angeles made for a new, quite unusual world. Being surrounded by lots of creative and open people opens you up to a feeling of

freedom that stays with you forever. After I graduated from CWC I went to Mexico for two weeks. The Mesoamerican pyramids are amazing.

AIC: **Wow you've been all over! Is this your first time in Japan?**

Artemii: When I was 14 years old; I went with a group of folk dancers via boat to Toyama. The first time I came to Asahikawa was in 2012 doing the same job. In 2013 I visited Osaka and Kyoto.

AIC: **How long have you been in Asahikawa?**

Artemii: I arrived in Asahikawa this time at the end of October.

AIC: **How long do you plan on staying?**

Artemii: I will be leaving January 16, but I'm sure I'll be back in Asahikawa soon enough.

AIC: **Any goals while you are in Japan?**

Artemii: For now the main thing is to carry out my work to the best of my ability and to create a good reputation for the Russian company.

Hello Asahikawa

Artemii Interview (Part 3) Continued from Page 5

AIC: **What about outside of work?**

Artemii: In my free time I want to explore Hokkaido and get acquainted with people inhabiting the island. I have already been in Sapporo and Rumoi, which took my breath away.

AIC: **What are your Hobbies?**

Artemii: My hobby is drifting. When I was 16, I was hooked on watching Japanese D1 series videos on YouTube and dreamed that someday I could do it as well. In 2014, I won on Silva s13 at a USS auction. July 2015 was the first time I participated in a light class (as opposed to pro class) street legal Vladivostok drift! I have also been snowboarding for 5 years. I play football and table tennis. I love to travel and expose myself to new places and experiences.

AIC: **Is there something you particularly like about Japan?**

Artemii: People! I like Japanese traditions, Japanese restraint and prudence, etc. The world has much to learn from the Japanese. Of course, I also love the food. Hokkaido has excellent ramen and sushi (which is quite popular in Russia). The landscape and sky is gorgeous. I love watching the sunset.

AIC: **Thank you so much for letting me interview you during your short stay in Asahikawa!**

Artemii: You're welcome.



Life in Asahikawa

Hyakunin-Isshu (百人一首)

One hundred Poets and Pieces their own

By KITAMURA Tadao

“Heavenly light
Coming serenely
On a spring day
Why restlessly
Are these flowers scattering?”

This is a translation of a *waka* poem, by Ki-no-Tomonori (紀友則), one of the most appreciated poets of the Heian era (9th to 10th Century). It is compiled into the *Ogura Hyakunin-Isshu*, the anthology of prominent *waka* poems from the 9th to 10th Century. Today, this anthology is appreciated by most Japanese people and has become one of the great entertainments for the New Year season as a kind of card game, a very elegant one.

As you know, a *waka* poem has a 5-7-5-7-7 syllabic structure: the preceding 5-7-5 structure is called *kaminoku*, and following 7-7 part is called *shimonoku*. As for the card game, every poem is written on two different cards, on one, the whole poem is written and on the other just the *shimonoku* is written. The figure of the poet who has written the poem is also portrayed on the card.

The card game proceeds like this: Several players sit on a *Tatami* floor in a circle. All the *shimonoku* cards are scattered randomly facing upwards within the circle of several players. All of the cards containing the poem in its entirety, called *yomifuda*, are kept by the poem-reciter.



The reciter chants one of poems he or she is keeping. A player hearing the poem promptly fetches the corresponding *shimonoku* card from the scattered cards as soon as possible. Players compete using the number of *shimonoku* cards they have fetched as points. A good player is one who knows and understands every poem, and at the same time, has good physical agility to fetch the cards.

Life in Asahikawa

One hundred Poets and Pieces their own (Part 2) Continued from Page 7

You may see an authentic game on T.V. They usually take place in Kyoto, where a red carpet is spread on over *tatami* mats and players are dressed in *kimono and hakama* (skirt-like wear putted over *kimono* when they are ready for fighting), where the reciter chants poems very solemnly.

You might be surprised at the players' agility. They fetch cards even as soon as the reciter utters the first one or two syllables. The champion is greatly honored. You can think of this as a kind of mental and, at the same time, physical sport. Many new rules have been devised to make this game more exciting.

Here in Hokkaido, the game has grown into a much more physical sport. *Shimonoku* cards are made of wood for more agile and violent fetching. Players wear not *kimono* but casual or sporty wears. A reciter chants not whole the poem but *shimonoku* only. As such, the game proceeds very rapidly and animatedly. Playing rules are devised to accommodate team play, and tournament games of *hyakuninnisshu* frequently take place among young people in Hokkaido.

★ 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

- Chibimarukochan (Japanese/Animation)
- Creed (English)
- Yokai-Watch the Movie (Japanese/Animation)
- Star Wars: The Force Awakens (English/2D/3D)
- Haha to Kuraseba (Japanese)
- Orange (Japanese)
- Sugihara Chiune (Japanese)
- Raintree no Kuni (Japanese)
- Kainan1890 (Japanese)
- Peanuts (English/Animation)
- Spectre (English)
- The Little Prince (English/Animation)

Coming Soon

- Bridge of Spies (English) 1/8
- Jinsei no Yakusoku (Japanese) 1/9
- Hanachan no Misoshiru (Japanese) 1/9
- Pink to Gray (Japanese) 1/9
- PADDINGTON (English/Animation) 1/15
- Nobunaga-Concerto (Japanese) 1/23
- Saraba Abunai Deka (Japanese) 1/30

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

Now Showing

- Creed (English)
- Yokai-Watch the Movie (Japanese/Animation)
- Star Wars: The Force Awakens (English/2D/3D)
- Kamen Rider the Movie Ghost&Drive (Japanese)
- Haha to Kuraseba (Japanese)
- Orange (Japanese)
- Sugihara Chiune (Japanese)
- Peanuts (English/Animation)
- Spectre (English)
- Kainan1890 (Japanese)
- MOZU the Movie (Japanese/PG12)
- Oremonogatari (Japanese)
- The Little Prince (English/Animation)

Coming Soon

- Bridge of Spies (English) 1/8
- Jinsei no Yakusoku (Japanese) 1/9
- PADDINGTON (English/Animation) 1/15
- Les Saisons (English) 1/15
- In the Heart of the Sea (English/2D/3D) 1/16
- The Walk (English) 1/23
- Nobunaga-Concerto (Japanese) 1/23
- Saraba Abunai Deka (Japanese) 1/30
- The Martian (English) 2/5
- The Farewell Party (English) 2/6
- Straight Outta Compton (English/R15+) 2/6

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

Now Showing

- Creed (English)
- Orange (Japanese)
- Yokai-Watch the Movie (Japanese/Animation)
- Sugihara Chiune (Japanese)
- Haha to Kuraseba (Japanese)
- Kamen Rider the Movie Ghost&Drive (Japanese)
- Kainan1890 (Japanese)
- Spectre (English)
- Peanuts (English/Animation)
- The Little Prince (English/Animation)
- GIRLS and PANZER (Japanese/Animation)
- Star Wars: The Force Awakens (English/2D/3D)
- MOZU the Movie (Japanese/PG12)

Coming Soon

- Bridge of Spies (English) 1/8
- Jinsei no Yakusoku (Japanese) 1/9
- Les Saisons (English) 1/15
- In the Heart of the Sea (English/2D/3D) 1/16
- Memories of the Sword (Korean) 1/23
- The Walk (English) 1/23
- Nobunaga-Concerto (Japanese) 1/23
- Black Mass (English/R15+) 1/30
- Zane ~Sundeha Ikenai Heya~ (Japanese) 1/30
- The Martian (English) 2/5
- The Farewell Party (English) 2/6
- Straight Outta Compton (English/R15+) 2/6

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

The allure of Print Art

第2展示室のごあんない

プリントアートの魅力

11/19(木)~2016.3/31(木)

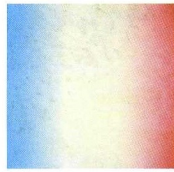
多彩なプリントアートの世界を
その技法とともに紹介します。

観覧料：一般 170(140)円、高大生 100(70)円

* ()内は10名以上の団体料金。

* 中学生以下及び65歳以上の方などは無料。

上欄口は寄送料無別



百瀬寿
(Square-between C and M)
1983年 当館蔵

In addition to the Living with Wood: Ainu Wood Works exhibit, the Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum will also be hosting a print art exhibit.

Date: Now until March 31st

Admission: ¥ 170 High school/University ¥ 100

Notes: Free admission for high school students on Saturday. Free admission for seniors 65 or older as well as middle school and lower.

Lunch Passport

For ¥ 1,058, the Lunch Passport gets you a discount on one item from a variety of restaurants in Asahikawa. With discounts ranging from ¥ 200 to ¥ 850, it pays for itself. Get out and see what Asahikawa has to offer!

Date: Now until January 29th

Notes: Limit one per person. Limit 3 times per restaurant. Not usually usable alongside coupons. Some restaurants limit the number of orders per day. Other stipulations may apply depending on the restaurant.



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: January 8th&22nd, February 12th&26th, March 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.****