

旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

February 2011 VOL. 171

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Hokkaido News Top 5



February 2011
Compiled by TAKADA Nobuhiro

December 27

- Maruyama Zoo in Sapporo announced that a 16-year-old polar bear had given birth. According to the zoo, a monitoring microphone in the breeding room recorded sounds of a baby polar bear. The zoo said that the bear cub will be shown to the public in early April.

December 27

- An employee of a fisheries firm in Hakodate reported that 2.7 tons of live king crabs had disappeared from a storage building. The crabs are worth almost ¥6,900,000. Hakodate West Police Station has launched a criminal investigation.

January 5

- A blue-fin tuna caught off Hakodate was co-purchased by an owner of a sushi restaurant chain in Hong Kong, and a high-end sushi shop in Ginza, Tokyo. The tuna was sold for ¥32,490,000 in the first auction of the year at Tsukiji Seafood Market in Tokyo. A market official said that it is the highest bid price in the 12 years that they have been keeping records.

January 7

- Six "Year-End Jumbo" lottery tickets sold in Kitami won a total of ¥600,000,000, including the first prize of ¥200,000,000. The Sapporo branch office of Mizuho Bank, the lottery operator, said that it is very unusual for winning tickets amounting to ¥600,000,000 to be sold at once in such a small city as Kitami.

January 17

- 269 JR Hokkaido trains were cancelled due to a heavy snowstorm. According to Sapporo District Meteorological Observatory, 32 centimeters of snow had fallen in Ishikari, 31 centimeters in Yubari, and 29 centimeters in Iwamizawa. They've registered a maximum wind velocity of 20.3 meters per second in Ishikari and 22.2 meters per second in Cape Erimo in the Hidaka region.



For further information or to register for events contact:

Asahikawa International Committee
(SASAKI Mai, Sergej NESIC, or SAITO Emmy)

Location:

International Affairs Division, Civic and Community Services Dept.

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Special Thanks to KAWAI Tatsuo
Proofreader & Advisor

THE 24th ASAHIKAWA COMMERCIAL HIGH SCHOOL WIND BAND REGULAR CONCERT 旭川商業高等学校第24回定期演奏会

Two days of exhilarating music to send off the Asahikawa Commercial Wind Band to the All-Japan High-School Wind Band Competition. This year's concert program will include Puccini's "Turandot," Brahms' "Symphony No. 14th Movement," Mascagni's Opera "Cavallera Rusticana," and much more. Come and show your support to these talented musicians as they prepare to take on Japan's best.

Date: February 5th (Saturday,) & 6th (Sunday)

Time: February 5th Doors 5:30pm, Show 6:00pm; February 6th Doors 12:30pm, Show 1:00pm

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

Admission: S-Seats ¥1,500, A-Seats ¥1,300, General ¥1,000, Students ¥500

Ticket Office: Lawson Ticket, Yamaha Music Asahikawa Store

For further information contact: 080-3231-5975 (Parent's Association) *9:00am ~ 5:00pm



2011 WINTER MUSIC FESTIVAL IN ASAHIKAWA

“NAKATA YOSHINAO 10th ANNIVERSARY CONCERTS”

第10回旭川「雪の降る街を」音楽祭り 田中喜直記念演奏会

To mark the 10th year since the passing of NAKATA Yoshinao, the 2011 Asahikawa Music Festival is dedicating two concerts in his honour. NAKATA was born in Shibuya in 1923 and had become one of Japan's most famous music composers of the 20th century, fondly known as Japan's "Shubert." His representative works such as "Chiisai Aki Mitsuketa," "Medaka No Gakkou," and "Natsu No Omoide" are sung today by elementary and junior high school students all over Japan and abroad. NAKATA had also written numerous school songs and chorus works. The first concert will be a violin recital by violinist, SATO Madoka, accompanied by AGEHARA Shoko on piano. The program will include a String Ensemble rendition of HAYAKAWA Masaaki's "Fuyu" (Winter) from the his "Nihon No Shiki" (Japan's Four Seasons), Vivaldi's "L'iverno (Winter) 2nd Movement Largo" from his "Four Seasons," and NAKATA'S "Yuki No Furu Machi O." The second part of the first concert will feature a violin and piano rendition of various works by Sibelius, Grieg, Massenet, and others. The second concert is titled "The World of NAKATA Yoshinao." the program will be an extravaganza of TANAKA'S children's songs, lyrical poetry, mixed chorus, and piano pieces. On Sunday the audition for the best rendition of NAKATA'S "Yuki No Furu Machi O" will be held.

Date: February 12th (Saturday) & 13th (Sunday)

Time: February 12th First Concert 2:00pm, Second Concert 5:30pm
February 13th Audition 2:00pm

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

Admission: General ¥1,000 (the entry for the Sunday audition is free)

Ticket Office: Yamaha Music Asahikawa Store, Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall

For further information contact: 69-2000 (Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall)



YAMAHA ELECTRIC PIANO CONCERTS

ヤマハピアノ・エレクトーンコンサート

Come and enjoy students of electric piano from the Yamaha Music Asahikawa Store's Music School performing their favourite tunes. The annual Yamaha Music School Electric Piano

Recital is a unique opportunity for the young students to publicly display their talents in the brilliant acoustics of the Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall.

Date: February 19th (Saturday), 20th (Sunday), & 27th (Sunday)

Time: February 19th First Concert 10:45am, Second Concert 2:00pm, Third Concert 5:15pm
February 20th First Concert 10:45am, Second Concert 2:00pm, Third Concert 5:15pm
February 27th First Concert 1:15pm, Second Concert 3:30pm

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

Admission: Free

Ticket Office: Yamaha Music Asahikawa Store

For further information contact: 27-0616 (Yamaha Music Asahikawa Store)



“THE PANORAMA OF ASAHIKAWA” PHOTO CONTEST

旭川景観コンテスト

Asahikawa City wants you to submit your photo of your favourite spot in Asahikawa. This city is surrounded by beautiful natural scenery which transforms dramatically through the 4 seasons, as well as having a bustling downtown area where there's always something going on. There is ample and diverse imagery to choose from, so get the camera out .

Period for Submissions: Now to December 31st (Saturday) 2011

Submission Requirements: Anyone is eligible to apply (limit of 3 photos per season)

How to Apply: You may send in your pictures by post, e-mail, or submit it in person. With it you must attach your full name, address, age, telephone number, the season, the month in which the photo was taken, the names of person(s) and place in the photo, a title, and a comment. The photo may be either taken by a film, digital, or a cell-phone camera. The photo may be in either print form or data.

Prize Giving: The prize giving ceremony will be held around April 2012, after all the submitted photos and comments have been judged.

For further information contact: 25-8561 or E-mail: keikan@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp

Visit the website: http://www.city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp/files/tosi_kei/



22nd ANNUAL “CREATING THE NORTH” ASAHIKAWA CULTURE AND ART ASSOCIATION’S STAGE PERFORMANCE

「北を創る」旭川文化芸術協会舞台公演

Japanese dance and music is gradually becoming more western and less traditional. The Asahikawa Culture & Art association is dedicated to preserving traditional Japanese and western performing arts. This annual event, lasting 4 hours, brings together various traditional performers of different genres. This year's concert will showcase 13 performers including *Koto* musicians, Japanese folk singers, *Ikebana*, ballet and flamenco dancers, and more.

Date: February 27 (Sunday)

Time: Doors 10:30am, Show 11:00am

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

Admission: General ¥1,000

Ticket Office: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall



CZECH PHILHARMONIC STRING QUARTET

チェコ・フィル ストリング・カルテット

The Czech Philharmonic String Quartet is one of the most renowned string quartets in the world. It was formed in 1992 and includes Petr Novobilsky (violin), Frantisek Bartik (violin), Jan Shimon (viola), and Joseph Spatchek (cello). The quartet is known for its diverse range of music genres and this concert will include over 20 works ranging from classical composers such as Bach, Mozart and Albinoni to The Beatles and Janis Joplin.

Date: February 25th (Friday)

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

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

Admission: General ¥3,500, Silver Pass Holders ¥3,000, Students ¥1,500

Ticket Office: Yamaha Music Asahikawa Store, Gyokkodo, Potato Asahikawa Cable TV Store, Kawai Gakki Asahikawa Showroom, Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall

For further information contact: 69-2000 (Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall)



SAXOPHONE QUARTET “MAGICO” 3rd RECITAL

サクソフォン・クワルテット「マジコ」リサイタル

This quartet was formed in 2006 from members of the Self-Defense Forces 2nd Music Corps Saxophone Section. They have performed extensively throughout Hokkaido including Sapporo's annual “Sax For All” concert. Their repertoire includes classical and popular works.

Date: March 5th (Saturday)

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

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

Admission: General ¥500 (preschool children free)

Ticket Office: Yamaha Music Asahikawa Store

For further information contact: 090-2237-3390 (Honma)



EVENTS IN ASAHIKAWA FOR FEBRUARY



Hello Asahikawa!

Name: Leosam Undag Lagarde
Hometown: Kidapawan City,
 Cotabato Province, Philippines
Interviewed: 24th November, 2010
By Sergej Nestic (AIC)

AIC: *Tell us a little about your home-town?*

Leosam: My hometown is not as developed as Asahikawa but it is the capital of the Cotabato Province on the island of Mindanao, the second largest and easternmost island in the Philippines. It has a population of around 120,000 and it's fondly referred to as "A Spring in the Highland." Kidapawan comes from the words "Tida," meaning spring, and "Pawan," meaning highland. The city is located at the foot of Mt. Apo, the highest mountain in the Philippines, which is 10,311 feet above sea-level. The schools in Kidapawan are not as convenient for the students as the schools in Asahikawa and there aren't as many public facilities and institutions. In fact, I believe we only have 3 hospitals. Kidapawan is predominantly an agricultural city, so there are many trees and a lot of greenery. The beautiful natural scenery around Mt. Apo makes Kidapawan a popular tourist destination with Filipino and foreign tourists. It has a wet and dry season with December and January being the coldest, and May and April the warmest times of the year. The first settlers were predominantly Manobos, but today the main three ethnic groups are Cebuanos, Ilonggos, and Ilocanos.

AIC: *What do you do here in Asahikawa?*

Leosam: I'm here as a foreign exchange student on the AFS program at Asahikawa Kita (North) High School and I've been there now for just over 8 months.

AIC: *What did you do in the Philippines?*

Leosam: Just before I came to Asahikawa I graduated from high school, so I'm actually an out of school youth in my country. During my time at high school in the Philippines I didn't really have any free time. I didn't live with my family. Instead I lived with another family for whom I also worked. I helped with various house chores after school, and on Saturdays and Sundays I would go to the local market to work in that family's clothes store. My life was very busy, so I didn't have an opportunity to participate in club sports or hang out with friends freely.

AIC: *How do you spend your free-time here in Asahikawa?*

Leosam: Well, actually my host-family's house is in Takasu. It's a town next to Asahikawa. I mostly spend my free-time with my host-family, talking with them, watching movies, and cooking and eating. I really enjoy eating together as it's the best time for me to learn basic Japanese. I think the best way to learn a new language is through food and laughter and we certainly have a lot of that in my host-family's house.

AIC: *What would you like to study at university?*

Leosam: In the Philippines all senior high school students are required to sit for what's called "The National Career Assessment Examination (NCAE.)" This examination is aimed at determining the best-suited college course for the examinees after graduating from high school by gauging the students' abilities in various subjects. Unfortunately, I scored best (97%) in the field of medicine, and second-best (96%) in mathematics. Therefore, I have little choice but to aim at being a doctor or a mathematician.

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AIC: *Do you like Japanese food?*

Leosam: I love Japanese food, especially *Sushi* and *Ramen*. I often eat *Gyudon* (beef on rice bowl) because it's so cheap. However, I don't like *Natto* (fermented soy beans) and *Dashimaki* (Japanese-style omelet.)

AIC: *What is Filipino cuisine like?*

Leosam: It really varies from region to region. Especially northern and southern cuisine. I come from the southern Philippines island of Mindanao and there are two major religions there. They are Christianity and Islam. In the Islamic regions they don't eat pork, so food in those regions predominantly consists of chicken and seafood dishes. Also, almost every dish is eaten with coconut. In the north they tend to eat a lot of pork. Two of the most popular dishes are *Lechon Baboi* (suckling pig on spit,) which is said to have been introduced by the Spaniards, and *Lechon Manok* (roasted chicken.) *Lechon* in the Philippines implies that the whole animal is roasted but it's derived from the Spanish word *Leche*, meaning milk; thus *Lechon* refers to a suckling pig that is roasted whole. *Lechon* cuisine is also very popular in other Spanish speaking nations in Latin America, as well as in Spain itself. However, the Filipino national dish is called *Adobo*. I can't really compare it to any other dish. It's uniquely Filipino. It's made with pork or chicken (most commonly chicken), stewed in coconut vinegar, soy sauce, and a range of spices, especially red pepper. The history of *Adobo* is quite interesting. When the Spanish first invaded the Philippines in the late 16th century they discovered the indigenous people preparing food in this way (stewing in coconut vinegar.) They termed this method, *Abodo*, and today there are different variants of it in Latin American countries. *Balut* is another uniquely Filipino dish, a fertilized duck or chicken egg with a nearly-developed embryo inside it that is boiled and eaten in its shell. My true family runs a *Balut* vending business. My father sells it at the market and at cock-fights.

AIC: *Which countries would you like to visit in the future?*

Leosam: I'd love to go to the US, Australia, and countries in Europe. I'd also like to visit Sub-Saharan Africa. One of my dreams is to see giraffes and elephants in the wild.

AIC: *Have you been to Asahiyama Zoo?*

Leosam: I've been there twice. Once with my host-family and the other time was on a school excursion with Kita High School. I hope to visit the zoo at least once more before I leave for the Philippines. You need to go there a few times to really see all it has to offer.

AIC: *Did you make many friends in Asahikawa Kita High School?*

Leosam: Yes, I've made many great friends; however, we don't often go out because they are so busy with their studies and after-school club activities. I also have friends from other high schools, especially from Asahikawa Fuji Girls' High School. I enjoy going with them to the central library in Tokiwa Park. We don't have such a large library in Kidapawan. In Asahikawa Central Library one can watch movies, listen to music, choose from a very wide range of books, and there's the beautiful view of Tokiwa Park. The library in my city is much smaller and less convenient.

AIC: *What are some differences between schools in Japan and the Philippines?*

Leosam: The two major differences for me are the after-school club activities and the methods of teaching. We don't have compulsory after-school club activities in the Philippines, so I was really surprised at the amount of time Japanese students spend practicing with their clubs after school. Also, in Filipino high schools the teacher would allocate the page or topic to be studied for the lesson and the students form groups and study amongst themselves. We call this peer group teaching. Whereas here, the teacher is lecturing the class throughout the whole lesson. Both methods have their plus and minuses but I seem to prefer the Filipino style as it offers more freedom and flexibility.

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AIC: *What do you want to become after graduating from university?*

Leosam: My dream is to help make my city as developed and progressive as cities in Japan. I want to help my compatriots better their quality of life and try and bring together Christians and Muslims. I have been affected by the civil war in Mindanao and I want to contribute any way I can in creating a peaceful and stable Kidapawan. Although I haven't been directly involved in the fighting I have witnessed numerous bombings and was lucky to survive one of them 3 years ago. My mother is Maranao (indigenous people of Cotabato), so I want to become a politician. My mixed heritage reflects the mixed ethnic make up of Mindanao, and I believe this would make me the ideal person to bridge the religious and ethnic divide. My time in Japan has taught me the importance of a peaceful and safe society. I want to use this experience to help my compatriots also understand the benefits of peace and prosperity.

AIC: *Thank you very much.*

Leosam: Thank you.

Restaurant Review

Five Star Asahikawa

By Sergej Nesic

At the end of every year the Asahikawa Junior Wrestling Club celebrates its End of Year Party (*Bounenkai*—忘年会) at the "Five Star" buffet restaurant in *Toyooka*. There are a number of reasons why we always go back to Five Star:

1. *It's very spacious.* 2. *It's family friendly, which means noise allowed.* 3. *It has an incredible variety of dishes, including dessert.* 4. *It caters for kids and adults alike.*

And these are just to name a few.

The variety of food in Five Star is too extensive to name here but it's bound to have what you want. It's the perfect place for a party or if you're taking friends out from abroad. The following choices are offered:

Mon to Fri 11:30 –15:30

"Child Pass (3years & above)" ¥490

"Junior Pass (elementary school students) ¥690

"Silver Pass" ¥1,090 (over 65)

"Gold Pass" ¥1,090 (junior high school & over)

*Soft Drink Bar ¥100 extra. All you can drink alcohol ¥1,390 extra

Mon to Fri 17:30- 22:00 Sat, Sun, & Public Holidays

Child Pass (3years & above)" ¥590

"Junior Pass (elementary school students) ¥990

"Silver Pass" ¥1,790 (over 65)

"Gold Pass" ¥2,190 (junior high school & over)

*Soft Drink Bar included. All you can drink alcohol ¥1,390 extra.

All you can eat buffet is for 90 minutes every day.

Address: Toyooka 14-jo 8-chome 3-6

Telephone: (inquires & bookings): 37-6611



Head Coach Kawashima with some of the wrestlers enjoying Yakiniku.



The jovial family atmosphere at Five Star.

Life In Japan

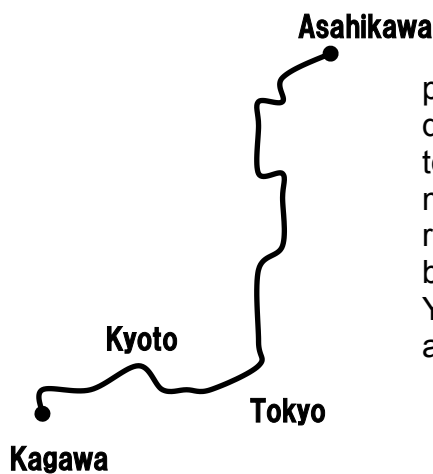
Train Trip to Kagawa

By SEO Ayumi

It is the smallest prefecture in Japan. Its specialty is noodles known as *Sanuki-udon*. It has a bridge linking Honshu and Shikoku called *Seto-Ohashi*... This would be just about all that people know of Kagawa. I even wonder exactly how many people know its location. It is true that it doesn't have many attractions but I think its location and modesty are the very appeal of Kagawa. Here are the highlights of my homecoming trip and some information on Kagawa Prefecture.

From Asahikawa to Kagawa

I left Asahikawa on the afternoon of December 30th 2010. It took me 5 days and 20 train transfers to get to my hometown, stopping in Tokyo and Kyoto. I used 2 rail passes to make the trip as easy as possible during the holiday season. However, it was anything but easy. On the way to *Hachinohe* in *Aomori*, the train suddenly stopped in the middle of nowhere due to stormy weather. Although the train resumed running there were a series of train cancellations. I barely made it to Tokyo for the last day of 2010. The New Year had already come by the time I got out of the shower at the hotel.



From Tokyo, the train traveled to the Pacific coast in good weather and I could see beautiful scenery from the window. I had several specialties in each place I stopped. Especially good was the eel in *Hamamatsu*, *Shizuoka*. In *Kyoto* I went to *Fushimi-Inari* shrine for *Hatsumoude* (the first visit to a shrine of the year) and wished for this year's good health, happiness, and a safe trip. Then, I was finally able to get home safely on the afternoon of January 4th 2011.

Kagawa

Kitahama alley is a commercial complex in an old warehouse located in *Kitahamachō Takamatsu* in *Kagawa*. It opened in 2000 as a trendy spot on the *Takamatsu* Port waterfront and it's about a 10 minute walk from *Takamatsu* station. There are galleries, boutiques, café-restaurants, beauty salons, grocery stores. Also, a flea market and concerts are held in the square. I really like the café '*Umie*.' Inside there are different kinds of chairs, tables and books. The café has a high ceiling and harbor views are sensational. It is so comfortable that you feel like staying there the whole day.

Okayama

Kagawa

Tokushima

(Editor's note: Kagawa is the smallest prefecture in Japan. It is smaller than the total area of Kitami City in Hokkaido.)

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Iya Valley (*Iya Keikoku* 祖谷溪谷 / Miyoshi, Tokushima)

Iya Valley is 2~3 hours away from Takamatsu by car and is said to be one of the three unexplored places in Japan. *Iya Valley* is a scenic place known for spectacular valleys and old vine bridges. In addition, *Iya* hot springs is also known as one of Japan's three major hidden springs. There are 2 hotels where you can take a bath and I went to one of them, *Hikyouno-yu* (秘境の湯). The large bathroom floor is tiled with local stones. You can see lush *Iya Valley* forests from the big window and there is an open-air bath, a mugwort scented bath, and a salt sauna. Time will pass quickly as you enjoy all the baths. Also, the hotel restaurant serves local dishes.



Kurashiki Bikan Historical Quarter (*Kurashiki Bikan Chiku* 倉敷美観地区 / Kurashiki, Okayama)

It's about an hour and a half train trip from *Takamatsu* to *Kurashiki* and a 15 minute walk from *Kurashiki* station. In a national survey, *Kurashiki Bikan* Historical Quarter was chosen as the most picturesque merchants' quarter in Japan. When the Shogunate took control of the area about 300 years ago, a magistrate's office was established and the town and its canal were developed into a trade center. The beautiful historical city has been so well preserved that when you walk along the canal you feel as if you were going back in time to old Japan. It's lined with cafés and shops, so drinking tea with a view and savoring local specialties is a lot of fun.

As mentioned earlier, *Kagawa* does not stand out too much in Japan and does not have a large-scale attraction like Tokyo Disneyland. However, it can be said that its appeal is unique, so please come and visit *Kagawa*. You're sure to find something very special.



Incidentally...I took a plane back to Asahikawa.



"Seeing Double Duty" Crossword *By Dave Fisher*

Across

1. Span's partner
5. Prefix with body or freeze
9. Pearl or peridot
14. Broke
15. What a litigant does
16. Spanish birthplace of St. Theresa
17. Choir section
18. Con's game
19. Flax fabric
20. Like a stunned beachcomber?
23. ___ loser
24. Choose
25. Mar's follower
28. Part of SUV
31. Flavor enhancer
34. Fleece
36. It could be white
37. Salmon type
38. Anxious cigarette consumer?
42. Go ___ (nag)
43. Use 52 Down
44. Speeds
45. ___-Mex
46. Black and white
49. ___ for the money
50. See 51 Across
51. Uses 50 Across
53. Soviet actors take a bow?
61. Nasty necktie?
62. Seed coat
63. Popular cookie
64. Market opener
65. Takeout place
65. Await judgment
67. Acid and litmus
68. Put up
69. Lessen

Down

1. Ems et al
2. Vault necessity
3. Tiny Greek letter
4. Ticked off
5. State categorically
6. Cell centers
7. Colorful duck
8. Doctrines
9. Hillbilly's car
10. Turn out
11. 'Just kidding' signal
12. Robert ___
13. Bring down
21. Mythical Muslim maiden
22. Roomy place?
25. Cravat
26. Booth item
27. Send a document again
29. 'Camel' of the Andes
30. Davis Love letters?
31. Slogan
32. Martin in "Apocalypse Now 33. Furze
35. Buccaneer's back
37. KGB adversary
39. S. Pacific island with important phosphate deposits
40. Goose egg
41. Providence, R.I. university
46. Riot cops at times
47. Schools
48. Daily preparation
50. Early stage
52. It magnifies the game
53. MIT, for example (abbrev.)
54. Libertine
55. Trip taker's exclamation
56. Parking garage feature
57. 30 Down, for example
58. W x H
59. Part of SLR
60. It makes a prospector prosperous

(Answers in the next month's issue)

Alicia's Corner

By Alicia Denise Bradley

A Few Of My Favorite Things

Family time

Early morning strolls

Baby kicks inside my belly

Receiving snail-mail sent from abroad

Undisturbed rest

Asahikawa covered in snow

Real, joyous laughter (from myself or others)

Young love



Word of The Month

Paraprosdokian : (plural **paraprosdokians**)

Figure of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected; frequently used in a humorous situation.

Examples of Paraprosdokians

1. Do not argue with an idiot. He will drag you down to his level and beat you with experience.
2. Where there's a will, I want to be in it
3. I want to die peacefully in my sleep, like my grandfather, not screaming and yelling like the passengers in his car.
4. The last thing I want to do is hurt you, but it's still on the list.
5. Light travels faster than sound; this is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
6. To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism, to steal from many is research.
7. I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.
8. You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.
9. I've had a perfectly wonderful evening, but this wasn't it.
10. If I could say a few words, I'd be a better public speaker.



Movies ~ February



*Every Wednesday is "Ladies' Day." Admission is ¥1,000 (tax included) for women at all theaters.

*The 1st day of every month is "Movie Day" in Asahikawa. Admission (tax included) is ¥1,000 for Adults, ¥800 for Senior High School Students and Under at all theaters.

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

Now Showing

- Space Battleship Yamato (Japanese)
- Harry Potter & The Deathly Hallows Pt1 (English)
- Kaitanshi Jokei (Japanese)
- Boku To Tsuma No 1778 No Monogatari (Japanese)
- Inu To Anata No Monogatari - Inu No Eiga (Japanese)
- Saigo No Chushingura (Japanese)
- Motherwater (Japanese)
- Byakuyako (Japanese)
- Aibou – The Movie 2 (Japanese)
- Norway No Mori (Japanese)
- Due Date (English)
- Wall Street (English)
- Gantz Pt.1 (Japanese)
- Red (English)
- The Green Hornet (English 3D)
- The Green Hornet (Japanese 3D)
- Social Network (English)
- Unstoppable (English)
- Tron: The Legacy (English 3D)
- Shrek Forever After (English)

Coming Soon

- The Chronicles of Narnia (Japanese 3D)
- The Chronicles of Narnia (Japanese 3D)
- Tomorrow's Joe (Japanese)
- Jean Waltz (Japanese)
- How Do You Know (English)
- The Town (English)
- Hereafter (English)
- Morning Glory (English)

★ **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 Marui Imai Department Store (1-jo-dori 8-chome). Get off at "Nippon Seishi mae."

Now Showing

- Social Network (English)
- Harry Potter & The Deathly Hallows Pt1 (English)
- Tron: The Legacy (English)
- Robin Hood (English)
- Inazuma Eleven – The Movie (Japanese/Animation)
- Norway No Mori (Japanese)
- The Green Hornet (English)
- Aibou – The Movie 2 (Japanese)
- Saigo No Chushingura (Japanese)
- Unstoppable (English)
- Tensou Sentai Goseiger vs. Shinkenger: Epic on Ginmaku (Japanese)
- Red (English)
- Gantz Pt.1 (Japanese)

Coming Soon

- The Town (English)
- Wall Street (English)
- Gegege No Nyobou (Japanese)
- Patterserie Coin de Rue (Japanese)
- Tangled (English/Animation)
- Taiheiyo No Kiseki (Japanese)
- Tourist (English)
- Mainichi Kaasan (Japanese)
- Nowhere Boy (English)
- Hereafter (English)
- Paranormal Activity 2 (English)
- A Better Tomorrow (Chinese)
- The Chronicles of Narnia (English)

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

Asahikawa Winter Festival

Featuring fireworks, ice sculptures, light shows, and of course the largest snow sculpture in the world, the Asahikawa Winter Festival is back again. Don't miss what will surely be the highlight of the winter season here in Asahikawa!

Dates: February 8th (Tuesday) to February 13th (Sunday)

Times: Events throughout the day and night

Charge: Free

Locations: Asahibashi Bridge, Kaimono Koen Shopping Street, Tokiwa Park, Ishikari Riverline ,etc.



Fun Fridays

Leaders coordinate a variety of interesting activities such as games, discussions, introductions, and quizzes. Meet new people, relax, relate, and communicate through English.

Dates: *Winter Session:* January 14th, February 18th, March 11th

Time: 1:00 ~ 3:00pm & 6:30 ~ 8:30pm, 2nd Friday of the month

Location: AIC Study Room (6-jo-dori 10-chome)

Charge: ¥1,500 for 3 months (Free for volunteer leaders)

To register contact AIC.

Tel: 25-7491

AIC Snow Statue Day

Join us as a member of the AIC International Team in making a snow sculpture for the Asahikawa Winter Festival.

Date: February 5th (Saturday)

Time: 1:00pm ~ 3:30pm

Charge: Free

Location: Ishikari Riverfront (Specific location TBA)

To register or for further information, please contact the AIC.

Tel: 25-7491

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 has many exciting events planned for this year, including Friendship Parties and a Halloween Party. 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.

AIC Computer:

The AIC has a computer available for public use free of charge in the International Corner (6-jo-dori 10-chome). There is a time limit for use. Please feel free to come by and use it anytime as well as check out some of the other services and activities available at the AIC.

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.



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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.****