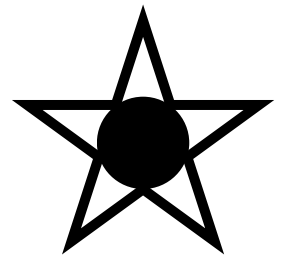


ASAHIKAWA INFO



November 2023, Volume 324

Hokkaido News Top 5

September 2023 - October 2023, compiled by the AIC

Under the Fall Sky, 2,225 Runners Rush to the Finish Line (9/24)

On Sunday September 24th, 2,225 runners participated in the Asahikawa Half Marathon. It has been 4 years since the previous marathon in 2019. Participants of all ages and backgrounds came to participate at the marathon with the voices of family, friends, and spectators cheering them on from the sidelines. Among the runners included 2 representatives from Asahikawa's Sister City, Suwon, Korea, Kang Hyunseon (56 y/o), and Choi Unkyeong (42 y/o). Ms. Choi was the victor for the Women's 10 kilometer marathon.

Marukatsu Reopening Unlikely (10/6)

It has been a year since Marukatsu's closing as of October 2023. Prior to the imprisonment of the department store's proprietor, there were originally plans of selling the property, however, at this point there is no concrete direction at the moment. With the fashion department store, Okuno, planning to close in 2023, the future for these department stores are unclear. With all the closures occurring, Board Chairman of Heiwa Dori Shopping Street, Onishi Katsuichi, believes that the government should be involved in opening a deeper discussion of the issue in order to ensure the prosperity of the shopping street.

All Kinds of Fun for Halloween (10/12)

During the month of October, Halloween festivities can be seen all throughout the Asahikawa area. In Ueno farm has been adorned with more than 200 pumpkins including a human-sized pumpkin figure of the world-renown baseball player Ohtani Shohei. In Motomachi, Ningyou no Yoshida doll store is lined up with about 100 Halloween-themed goods. In Higashikagura-cho, Yui Yui Head Office, an employment support center for people with disabilities have started selling Halloween-themed rice cookies. In Higashikawa-cho, there will be a Halloween Island event on October 22nd with lantern-making as well as light snacks. Lastly, in Asahikawa's Heiwa Dori Shopping Street, there will be a Halloween Festival at Ash Atrium, 4pm on October 29, hosted by the Asahikawa Women's Improvement Committee where participants with a unique costume will win a prize.

1st Year Foreign Technical Trainee Transfer Conditions Proposal Under Review (10/19)

On October 18th, the government Advisory Committee held a meeting with the secretariat office opening the discussion on the new transfer conditions for foreign technical workers. Under the new proposed policy, the technical worker must possess N4 in the Japanese Language Proficiency Test and must have passed some kind of technical exam in order to be approved work place transfer within the same field. The supervising organization that guides and oversees business are making the regulations for managerial positions stricter in effort to deter overdue salary payments, workplace harassment, and human rights violations by managers and executives.

One Heart for the Finale : Creative Play Tracing Asahikawa's Story to Be Performed in November (10/24)

The original play tells the story of Ainu culture memory keeper, Chiri Yukie, who's soul descends from heaven and goes on a journey from the Meiji era to the Showa era where she meets several historical figures such as Miura Ayako. Breath acting troupe representative Mori Tadahiro promotes the play to be full of Asahikawa's historical figures and the troupe hopes that through this play, viewers are able to enjoy Asahikawa's history. The play will take place on November 4th and 5th at Asahikawa Civic Culture Large Hall and will also later be performed at Shinagawa Tokyo.



For further information or to register for events, contact:

Asahikawa International Committee (AIC)
(SUGANO Ayumi, SAITO Emmy, or MABILANGAN John)

Location:

International/City Affairs Division, Tourism, Sports and International/City Affairs Dept.

Address:

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

Tel: (0166) 25-7491

Fax: (0166) 23-4924

Email: cir_kokusai@city.asahikawa.lg.jp

Inside this issue...

- Hokkaido News Top 5.....1
- Upcoming Events.....2
- Asahikawa Eats.....4
- Movies.....6
- Bulletin Board.....8

November Events

Upcoming events and activities in Asahikawa and the rest of Hokkaido



Asahikawa Comedy Fest 旭川演芸祭

Finish the weekend with some laughter! Six comedians, one stage, and an evening full of jokes and humor coming this November!

Date: 11/5 (Sunday)

Time: Entry for the 1st act at 11:30, performance begins at 12:00. Entry for the 2nd act at 15:00, performance begins at 15:30

Location: Asahikawa Public Hall (Tokiwa Park)

Admission: Pre-purchased tickets (¥2,500), Same-day tickets (¥3,000)

Ticket Office: Sushi Dokoro Kiyohama (Suehiro 1-jo6-chome-1-28) R-Crew (3-jodori 6-chome), Karaoke Snack Kinta(3-jo 6-chome)

Kamuimintara Quartet : Lunchtime Jazz Concert

Experience a transcending performance of jazz, soul, funk, rock by the superbrass trio unit!

Date: 11/8 (Wednesday)

Time: 12:00-13:00

Location: Hokkaido Kamikawa Join Government Office Taisetsu Kamuimintara Hall (Nagayama-6-jo 19-chome, Asahikawa Kamikawa-gun)

Admission: ¥2,500 (General Admission) , ¥1,500 (High School Students & below)

Ticketing Office: Gyokkoudou (Asahikawa Station Aeon Mall), Coach and Four (Miyamae-1-jo-2-Chome-4-1), Fuukidou (Suehiro & Tomioka Locations)

For more information: Asahikawa Jazz Orchestra Office (080-3290-4941)



Kenbuchi Anko (Red Bean) Festival 2023 けんぶち あんこフェスティバル 2023

The highly rated Kenbuchi Anko Festival is back again this year with a menu made from Kenbuchi beans taking the stage.

Event Details

Date: 11/11 (Saturday)

Time: 10:00-15:00

Location: Kenbuchi Civic Center (Nakamachi 37-1, Kenbuchi-cho)

Admission: FREE

For more information: Kenbuchi Tourism Association (0165-34-3848)

Modern Japanese Art and Kitaoji Rosanji Special Exhibit : Rediscovering the Beauty of “Wa”

近代日本画と北大路魯山人特別展：和の美、再発見

Coming from Shimane Prefecture are several modern art paintings from renown Japanese painters as well as several ceramic pieces by Kitaoji Rosanji.

Event Details

Date: ~11/12 (Exhibit Duration)

Time: 9:30-17:00 (Open everyday except Mondays and national holidays)

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

Admission: General Admission (¥1,700). High School & University Students (¥1,000), Middle School Students (¥700), Elementary Students and below (FREE but must be accompanied by an adult)

For more information:

<https://artmuseum.pref.hokkaido.lg.jp/knb/english/exhibition/program/128>



November Events

Upcoming events and activities in Asahikawa and the rest of Hokkaido

Lottery Town Music Recital: Heartsong Concert

宝くじまちの音楽会：心のうたコンサート

Listen to the sounds of folk singer Minami Kousetsu, featuring guzheng musician Wu-Fang as they perform their notable works : “Princess Kaguya”, “Kanadagawa River”, “Daughter”, and many more.

Date: 11/14 (Tuesday)

Time: Entry at 18:00, performance begins at 18:30.

Location: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall (7 jo-dori 9-chome, Asahikawa)

Admission: Pre-purchased tickets (¥2,000), Same-day tickets (¥2,500)

Ticket Office: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall Office (7 jo-dori, 9-chome), Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome), Coach and Four (Miyamae 1-jo 2-chome), Gyokkodo (Miyashita-dori 7-chome)



Yanagiya Sankyou Solo Performance: Mature Storytelling that Pierces Through the Heart

柳家さん喬 独演会：心に沁みる、円熟の話芸

An orthodox classical rakugo with a dramatic life story that will bring you to tears, and a funny one to have you bursting in laughter.

Event Details

Date: 11/18 (Saturday)

Time: 13:30 (Afternoon Performance), 18:30 (Evening Performance)

Location: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall Small (7-jo-dori 9-chome, Asahikawa)

Admission: Reservation Price ¥2,000, Day-Of Price (¥2,500),

Ticketing Office: Gyokkoudou (Asahikawa Station Aeon Mall), Coach and Four (Miyamae-1-jo-2-Chome-4-1), Kodomo Fuukidou (7-jodori-8-Chome)

For more information: Asahikawa Rakugo Arts Association (090-3773-0853)

Lisa Larson : Seen and Unseen

リサ・ラーソン展知られざる創造の世界

Enjoy the masterpieces of renown artist Lisa Larson.

Event Details

Date: ~11/19 (Exhibit Duration)

Time : 9:30~17:00 (Open everyday except Mondays and national holidays)

Location: Hokkaido Obihiro Museum of Art (Midorigaoka 2-banchi, Obihiro)

Admission: General Admission ¥1,300. High School Students (¥800),

Middle & Elementary School Students (¥500)

For more information : <http://event.hokkaido-np.co.jp/lisalarson/>



Asahikawa Jazz Orchestra 6th Recital

旭川ジャズオーケストラ第6回リサイトル

Experience a transcending performance of jazz, soul, funk, rock by the superbrass trio unit!

Date: 11/19 (Sunday)

Time: Entry starts at 17:00, Performance starts at 18:00

Location: Takasu Melody Hall (Minami-2-jo 4-chome-1-1, Takasu, Kamikawa-gun)

Admission: ¥2,500 (General Admission) , ¥1,500 (High School Students & below)

Ticketing Office: Gyokkoudou (Asahikawa Station Aeon Mall), Coach and Four (Miyamae-1-jo-2-Chome-4-1), Fuukidou (Suehiro & Tomioka Locations)

For more information: Asahikawa Jazz Orchestra Office (080-3290-4941)

Asahikawa Eats

旭川グルメ

A series of local restaurants and cafes to try in Asahikawa**

By John Daniel Mabilangan

Santouka 山頭火

Location: 1-jo-dori 8-chome 348-6 MANNY BLD 1F, Asahikawa

Price: ¥

Genre: Ramen

Notes: Santouka is one of the few restaurants that draws a crowd of both tourists and locals waiting to try their ramen. After waiting 30 minutes in line, I was able to get in the restaurant to taste what the hype is all about. The spicy miso ramen was full of with a light but rich broth and a slight kick from the spice. Depending on preference, you can add extra spice for a small cost. Overall, I believe this ramen was worth the wait and definitely stood out among the ramens from downtown.



Aaha アハ

Location: Shintomi 2-jo 1-chome 14-13, Asahikawa

Price: ¥ ¥ ¥

Genre: Nepalese/Indian

Notes: Located near Shin Asahikawa station, Aaha curry offers a vast array of options ranging from Nepalese and Indian style curries as well as a nice assortment of Tandoori and appetizers. For me, the highlight of Aaha was the steamed momos (Nepalese Dumplings) with a soft chewy texture, a nice tender and flavorful chicken filling, and a hot tangy dipping sauce. In addition to the momos, the saag mutton curry which had a rich creamy spinach flavor full of spices that go well with rice or nan!

Jiyuken 自由軒

Location: 5-jo-dori 8-chome hidari-2-go, Asahikawa

Price: ¥ ¥

Genre: Tonkatsu, Katsudon, Curry

Notes: Walking north into Heiwa Doori, I ran into a Showa-era building that goes through an alley way. There I found Jiyuken which specializes in tonkatsu, katsudon and curry. This restaurant appeared in the drama "Solitary Gourmet" (孤独のグルメ), making it a popular tourist destination. Jiyuken offers a generous portion of meat that will surely make you full. I ordered the Yokubari Curry, a hearty dinner option with tonkatsu, omelet, and curry all-in-one which I think is a must-try here! The restaurant has a very traditional Japanese vibe, friendly customer service, and good food which makes this an overall wonderful place for lunch or dinner.



Matatabi Crystal BBQ 水晶焼肉 木天蓼

Location: 6 jo-dori 7-Chome 31-13 1F, Asahikawa

Price: ¥ ¥ ¥

Genre: Japanese BBQ; Wagyu

Notes: Matatabi has the meats. Deep in Heiwa Doori is this homey BBQ restaurant that offers an assortment of wagyu, gengis khan, and more. For an affordable price, my friends and I enjoyed delicious meats cooked on a crystal grill! The 和牛おまかせ4点盛 (wagyu omakase 4-ten mori) which had four kinds of wagyu was definitely the star of the menu! In addition to the wagyu, there is a nice selection of beef, pork, and chicken to enjoy until you are full. The meats were juicy and tenderful that made me want to order more.



Asahikawa Eats

A series of local restaurants and cafes to try in Asahikawa**

By John Daniel Mabilangan

Suriya カレーカフェスリヤ

Location: Kawabatacho-6-jo 10-chome 1-13, Asahikawa

Price: ¥ ¥ ¥

Genre: Nepalese/Indian

Notes: This cafe was small and a little bit cramped, but full of energy with diners seated left and right. What was great about this location was not only their extensive menu option, but also the option to set preferred spice levels which is really hard to find in Asahikawa. I ordered the garlic cheese nan set which came with salad, 2 pieces of tandoori chicken, and a choice of curry which I selected sag mutton. The nan was well seasoned and the cheese was delectably stringy and the curry was really rich that I was quite full after my meal. For drinks, this paired well with mango lassi which tasted like a mango-flavored yakult!



Miso Ramen Yoshino みそラーメンよし乃

Location: Kagura-4-jo 6-chome 1-12, Asahikawa

Price: ¥

Genre: Ramen

Notes: While I was in Kaguraoka, I made a quick stop to Yoshino's Miso Ramen where I had the pleasure of trying their ピリ辛みそラーメン (Piri kara miso ramen), This had a lot of veggies and a broth that had just the right amount of flavor. It was a good value at ¥ 900 per bowl. I look forward to trying it again when I am back at Kaguraoka.

Sweets Shop Chiaki

スイーツショップちあき

Location: 5-jo-dori 7-chome 1070, Asahikawa

Price: ¥

Genre: Dessert

Notes: After some lunch at Food Terrace, I went for some dessert at Sweets Shop Chiaki and got the sesame pudding! The sesame pudding was nice and soft with a delightful sweetness. The fruit toppings and cream on the top added a nice tangy flavor which paired well with the sweetness of the pudding.



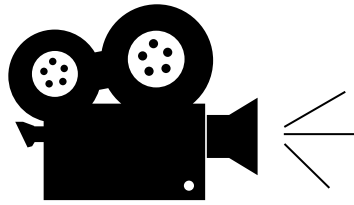
Cafe du Collins カフェ・ドウ・コリンズ

Location: 1-jo-dori 7-Chome B1 (ASH), Asahikawa

Price: ¥ ¥

Genre: Dessert

Notes: Cafe du Collins is located on the basement of the ASH building. This cafe was well lit with an extensive menu of desserts, coffee, teas, and even dishes. They offered a cute sesame parfait with a charming seal design. During my visit, I ordered the strawberry cheesecake parfait with a mellow whipped cream and a rich and flavorful cheesecake layer.



MOVIES IN NOVEMBER

*The 1st day of every month is Movie Day in Asahikawa. Admission (tax included) is ¥1,100 for Adults, ¥800 for High School Students and Under at all theaters.

Aeon Cinema Only: Every Monday is Happy Monday! Admission is ¥1,100 (tax included) for all.

Cineplex 7 Asahikawa Cinemas Only: Every Wednesday is Ladies' Day! Admission is ¥1,100 (tax included for women at all theaters).

CinePlex 7 Asahikawa: Nagayama 12-jo 3-chome Western Powers Nagayama

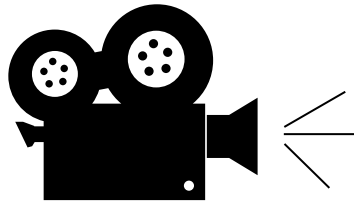
URL: <http://www.unitedcinemas.jp/asahikawa/index.html> (Japanese)

Now Showing

- Hypnotic (English)
- The Creator (English 4DX)
- Confess to Your Crime (Japanese)
- Gurren Lagann the Movie: The Lights in the Sky are Stars (Japanese 4DX/Anime) ~11/2
- The Concierge at Hokkyoku Department Store (Japanese/Anime)
- Yutori Desu tga Nani ka International (Japanese)
- Kyrie no Uta (Japanese)
- The Nun 2 (English 4DX/PG12)
- Operation Fortune: Ruse de guerre (English)
- Analog (Japanese)
- The Silent Service (Japanese)
- Bad Lands (Japanese/PG12)
- Hatachi ni Kaeritai (Japanese)
- Don't Call It Mystery (Japanese)
- Pretty Cure All Stars F (Japanese/Anime)
- Kingdom 3 (Japanese)
- How Do You Live? (Japanese/Anime)
- The Super Mario Bros. Movie (Japanese, English 4DX/Anime) ~11/12

Coming Soon

- Godrilla Minus One (Japanese 4DX) 11/3
- Houtei Yugi (Japanese) 11/10
- Seiyoku (Japanese) 11/10
- The Marvels (English) 11/10
- Girls und Panzer das Finale : Part 4 (Japanese/Anime) 11/17
- Kubi (Japanese/R15+) 11/23
- Plane (English / PG12) 11/23
- Tonde Saitama: Biwako yori Ai wo Komete (Japanese) 11/23
- Kamui no Uta (Japanese/PG12) 11/23
- Girls und Panzer das Finale : Part 4 (Japanese/Anime) 11/23
- Rascal Does Not Dream of a Knapsack Kid (Japanese/Anime) 12/1
- Lumberjack the Monster (Japanese/PG12) 12/1
- Napoleon (English) 12/1
- Rinjin X: Giwaku no Kanojo (Japanese) 12/1
- Madogiwa no Totto-chan (Japanese/Anime) 12/8
- I Wish I Could Meet You Again on the Hill Between That Flower Blooms (Japanese) 12/8
- Wonka (English) 12/8
- The Imaginary (Japanese/Anime) 12/15
- Wish (English/Anime) 12/15
- Kizumonogatari: Koyomi Vamp (Japanese/Anime) 1/12
- Mobile Suit Gundam SEED Freedom (Japanese/Anime) 1/26
- Poor Things (English/R18+) 1/26



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Cineplex 7 Asahikawa Cinemas Only: Every Wednesday is Ladies' Day! Admission is ¥1,100 (tax included for women at all theaters.

Aeon Cinema: Miyashita-dori 7-chome / 0166-74-6411

URL: cinema.aeoncinema.com/wm/asahikawa (Japanese)

Now Showing

- Six Singing Women (Japanese/PG12)
- Hypnotic (English)
- Confess to Your Crime (Japanese)
- Resort Baito (Japanese)
- The Creator (English)
- Killers of the Flower Moon (English/PG12)
- Kyrie no Uta (Japanese)
- Yutori Desu tga Nani ka International (Japanese)
- Analog (Japanese)
- Antonio Inoki wo Sagashite (Japanese)
- The Equalizer 3 (English/R15+)
- The Silent Service (Japanese)
- Bad Lands (Japanese/PG12)~11/2
- John Wick: Chapter 4 (English/R15+)~11/2
- Don't Call It Mystery (Japanese)
- Pretty Cure All Stars F (Japanese/Anime)
- Kingdom 3 (Japanese)
- How Do You Live? (Japanese/Anime)

Coming Soon

- Sumikko Gurashi: Tsugihagi Kojo no Fushigi na Ko (Japanese/Anime) 11/3
- Godzilla Minus One (Japanese 4DX) 11/3
- Houtei Yugi (Japanese) 11/10
- The Marvels (English) 11/10
- Komada Joruisho he Yokoso (Japanese/Anime) 11/10
- Kitaro Tanjo: Gegege no Nazo (Japanese/Anime) 11/17
- OUT (Japanese/PG12) 11/17
- Kamui no Uta (Japanese/PG12) 11/23
- Tonde Saitama: Biwako yori Ai wo Komete (Japanese) 11/23
- Sylvanian Families: A Gift from Freya (Japanese) 11/23
- Kubi (Japanese/R15+) 11/23
- Lumberjack the Monster (Japanese/PG12) 12/1
- The Exorcist Believer (English) 12/1
- I Wish I Could Meet You Again on the Hill Between That Flower Blooms (Japanese) 12/8
- My Next Life as a Villainess: All Routes Lead to Doom! (Japanese/Anime) 12/8
- PAW Patrol: The Mighty Movie (Japanese/Anime) 12/15

AIC BULLETIN BOARD

Need Assistance?



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

FUN Friday

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

Dates: October 13th & 27th, November 10th & 24th, December 8th & 22nd

Times: 1:00pm-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 an afternoon visit.



The Asahikawa International Center (Feeeal Asahikawa 7F 1-jo-dori 8-chome) has free Wi-Fi available for public use. If you reside in Asahikawa, registration for a user card is required. Please feel free to come by anytime, as well as check out some of the other services and activities available at the Asahikawa International Center!

Spread the Word...

Contribute to the AIC newsletter and share any interesting information you may have with other readers. You may write on any topic including: items to buy/shell, offers for culture/language exchange, 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 AIC or the City of Asahikawa.****