

旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

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Hokkaido News Top 5

July 2020
Compiled by AIC



Musical Wooden Contraption Attracts Attention on Social Media 5/25

A video of a musical wooden contraption, made by a teacher from the Asahikawa Agricultural High School, playing along to the song "Uchi de Odorou" by famous musician HOSHINO Gen, is receiving an unexpected amount of attention on social media. The teacher made the video to encourage his students to keep working hard after his students were unable to compete in the national "All-Japan Agricultural Club Competition." The video has been played over 20,000 times.

Exchange Students in Hokkaido Face Financial Hardship 6/13

Due to the impact of the coronavirus, many exchange students in Hokkaido are being let go from their part time jobs as restaurants and hotels close. While the government has provided Japanese students with financial aid, only the top 30% of exchange students (based off of grades) will be able to receive financial aid. Many are critical of this policy, with some saying that it is "unbelievable" that the government would use good grades as a condition to receive desperately needed financial aid.

Learning About the Nature Around Us Through Mountain Climbing 6/14

The opening ceremony for the 40th class of "Higuma University," where students learn about various aspects of nature, was held in the Northern Wild Plants Garden. 31 students from Asahikawa, Takasu, Biei, and other surrounding towns, came to learn about topics like mountain climbing and the equipment one should bring when for summer mountain climbing.

Hokkaido Travel Discount: Details Revealed 6/17

In order to support Hokkaido's struggling tourism sector, a new program called the "Hokkaido Travel Discount" or "Dominari" will help lower costs and give discounts to citizens of Hokkaido who are sightseeing within the prefecture. For example, at participating hotels, a one night stay for one person that ranges from ¥10,000-¥14,999 would give the traveler a ¥5,000 discount. It is also possible to receive discounts on sightseeing bus tours and day-trips. See page 10 for more info.

Size of Sapporo Snow Festival to be Reduced 6/17

The Sapporo Snow Festival Executive Committee announced that the size of the popular festival, held each year from January to February, will be reduced in size. In addition, the festival's famous large snow sculpture will not be built this year. In order to combat the spread of the coronavirus at the festival, the executive committee will be taking measures such as having only small and medium-sized snow sculptures at the festival, as well as putting more space in between each snow sculpture.



**For further information
or to register for events contact:**
Asahikawa International Committee
(KAMIMAE Ayumi, Daniel LIZARRAGA, or
SAITO Emmy)

Location:

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

Address:

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

Tel: (0166) 25-7491

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cir_kokusai@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp

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		※ Due to the ongoing outbreak of COVID-19, events will not be listed this month.	

Hi there! Thanks for taking the time to read my experiences trying take-out in downtown Asahikawa. Sadly, many restaurants in the downtown area are shutting down from a lack of customers following the outbreak of the coronavirus. Most restaurants are realizing they must adapt or risk shutting down, and are now offering take-out for lunch and dinner. Many of the restaurants offering take-out now have banners outside their shops to advertise their new to-go menu so they are easier to find. Ordering take-out is a great way to still enjoy the delicious food Asahikawa has to offer while supporting local businesses, so try some of these for yourself when you have the chance! - *Daniel Lizarraga*

5-jo Shokudo

五条食堂

For just 500 yen, you get quite a lot of food: rice with a pickled plum, pumpkin potato salad, a green bean and eggplant side dish, tonkatsu (fried pork), and a shiromi fry (a small fried fish). Everything was great, but the pork and the fish really stood out. The bentos were prepared and were already sitting out in the open for customers to buy them, so I didn't expect them to taste like they were freshly made, but I was wrong! These definitely beat convenience store bentos, and at a price of ¥500, what more could you ask for?



Dish: 500 Yen Bento

Price: ¥500

Address: 5-jo-dori 7-chome

Phone Number: 0166-73-5793

BEATRICE

べあ鶏いちえ

After opening the container of my chicken and egg bowl, I noticed the vegetables looked a little overcooked and it didn't look how I expected it to. I thought I had made a mistake until I had my first bite. It was delicious! The teriyaki sauce dripped down to the rice below so every last bite had the nice sweet and salty flavor of teriyaki. BEATRICE recently changed it's look to reflect its emphasis on a more chicken-themed menu. Come try their chicken when you have the chance!



Dish: Sweet and Spicy Chicken and Egg Teriyaki Bowl

Price: ¥600

Address: 4-jo-dori 7-chome

Phone Number: 0166-73-9538

Café de Collines

カフェ・ドゥ・コリンズ

Café de Collines has a variety of items on their lunch menu, including risottos and sandwiches, but my favorite is their omelet curry. An extremely fluffy omelet sits on a bed of rice in a pool of a rich, slightly spicy curry. Despite being a relatively simple dish, Café du Collines has a unique way of making it especially tasty!



Dish: Omelette Curry

Price: ¥800

Address: 1-jo-dori 7-chome

Phone Number: 0166-26-8656

Cocina de Maria

コシナデマリア

Maria has put a Filipino twist on a famous Japanese dish, and it is one of the restaurant's biggest sellers! Glass noodles are mixed in with traditional yakisoba noodles and stir-fried with pork, a variety of vegetables, and seasoned with a way that combines Japanese and Filipino flavors. In addition to the Yakisoba, there is a full menu of delicious Filipino food. I had never been to a Filipino restaurant before, but was excited to try as I have had the chance to try Filipino food growing up when visiting a Filipino friend's house. If you have never had Filipino food before, you're missing out.



Dish: Philippine-style Yakisoba

Price: ¥600 (Only when you order it as take-out)

Address: 7-jo-dori 8-chome

Phone Number: 080-1895-2436

Omusubi Hacchi

おむすび はっち

First, choose one of the three entrees that change weekly: a pork dish, a chicken dish, or a fish dish. I chose the simmered pork belly and egg, and do not regret my decision! The entrée is accompanied by four to five unique traditional side dishes (various simmered vegetables, eggplant, tsukemono, tofu, etc.). For ¥700, the amount of food you get is incredible. You can even request a larger portion of rice for no extra charge. Just by tasting the pork belly, you can tell that it is a tried and true recipe. I highly recommend Omusubi Hacchi for anyone looking for good Japanese food at a reasonable price.

Dish: Simmered Pork Belly and Egg

Price: ¥700

Address: 2-jo-dori 8-chome

Phone Number: 0166-74-3339



Kan no Daidokoro

韓の台所

Kan no Daidokoro is a Korean restaurant that boasts quite a few Korean dishes that are hard to find in Japan. I opted to try two of their types of grilled meat at once with the Korean BBQ Pork and Chicken Bowl. It was amazing! The chicken and pork had a rich, semi-spicy flavor and tasted like it was fresh off the grill. The side of kimchi was spicy, unlike kimchi you will find in the supermarket, so that was another plus for me. What I ordered was a little pricey for a rice bowl, but well worth it in the end.

Dish: Korean BBQ Pork and Chicken Bowl

Price: ¥972

Address: 5-jo-dori 7-chome

Phone Number: 0166-23-6693



Komagen

こま弦

Komagen is an izakaya that decided to start offering take-out after the outbreak. In addition to a line-up of izakaya-style foods, they also serve soup curry for their lunch take-out menu! The chicken soup curry comes with a large, extremely tender chicken leg served over rice with fried locus roots and tsukemono on the side. The curry itself contains potato, eggplant, green pepper, carrot, pumpkin, cabbage, quail egg, and pea sprouts. This soup is a great, healthy option to fuel you for the rest of your day!

Dish: Chicken Soup Curry

Price: ¥1,080

Address: 3-4 Naka 8-chome

Phone Number: 0166-25-0426



Machibar

マチバル

Machibar's Loko Moko Bento is an assortment of deliciousness. Inside the box you will find a meat hamburger covered in sauce with fried eggs over rice for the main portion of the meal, with several other small sides, including: a salad, Machibar's signature juicy drumstick, a rice croquette, and a potato salad. It's perfect for people that love variety and it tastes great! Machibar also serves Taco rice and Omelet curry.

Dish: Loko Moko Bento

Price: ¥750

Address: 2-jo-dori 8-chome

Phone Number: 0166-23-5977



DOWNTOWN TAKE-OUT IN ASAHIKAWA

Life in Asahikawa

July under the Pandemic

By KITAMURA Tadao



It is hard to imagine what July will be like this year. We cannot expect this July to be like those of previous years. This year should have been the climax of excitement for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic games. The month of July is usually when athletes are the most active training and playing matches. High school baseball players would normally be playing fierce preliminary matches in local tournaments that precede the “Countrywide High School Baseball Tournament” held at the Koshien Stadium in August. Even the Starukhin Baseball Stadium in Hanasaki-cho used to be packed with cheering fans.

For athletes of every discipline, whether it be track and field, swimming, wrestling, gymnastics, team games, or other types of sports, July was their chance to fight to become the national representative of their respective sports. The people were looking forward to watching these exciting games. Matches for almost all professional sports, including baseball, soccer, and sumo, should have been held in this exciting month. The terror that is the coronavirus has completely changed this aspect of summer. All sports facilities closed down in order to avoid people being in close contact with each other. Athletes now have a more difficult time honing their skills. Many sports events leading up to the Olympic Games have been postponed.

The government, as well as several health-related organizations have warned against crowding in close proximity to one another as much as possible, promoting phrases like “Stay Home” and “Social Distance.” Students of all grades, from kindergarten to university, have either had their classes suspended or are now taking them online. The government’s “State of Emergency Declaration” was lifted in late May, however, people are keeping alert for the next wave of infections. Entertainment and service facilities are proactively thinking of ways to avoid overcrowding, while events and facilities will be limiting the number of people that can enter. Transportation services will also put coronavirus countermeasures into effect.

Despite this, the flowers outside are still beautiful, and the view of the mountains is as wonderful as ever. No matter what misfortunes the pandemic brings, the people of Asahikawa are proud of the surrounding natural scenery. Outside there are no crowds—just clean air, an open sky, green fields, serene woods, and pretty flowers.

Coronavirus Vocab You Should Know

By Daniel Lizarraga

The coronavirus has become and will be the focus of attention for quite some time. If you have not had the chance, now is the time to learn basic Japanese vocabulary related to the virus! I'm sure you will come across a situation where you will hear or read some of these words, so get studying!

Symptoms: 症状 (しょうじょう)			
Japanese	English	Example Sentence	Example Sentence Translation
せき 咳	Cough	さいきん で 最近、よく咳が出ます	I have been coughing a lot recently
いきぐる 息苦しい	Hard to breathe, trouble breathing	息苦しいです	I have trouble breathing
だる 怠い	Tiredness, fatigue	さいきん からだ 最近、体 が怠いです	I have been feeling fatigued recently
ねつ 熱	A fever	熱があります	I have a fever

Preventing Infectious Spread: 感染予防 (かんせんよぼう)			
マスク	A mask	マスクをつける	To wear a mask
ちやくよう 着用	To wear	マスクの着用をお願いします ねが	Please wear a mask
しょうどくえき 消毒液	Hand sanitizer, disinfectant	みせ いりぐち お店の入口に消毒液が置いて あります	Hand sanitizer is available at the entrance of the store
てあら 手洗い	Handwashing	わたし 私はよく手を洗います	I wash my hands frequently
がいしゅつ 外出 する	To go out, to leave your house	かのじょ たず 彼女を訪ねたが、外出していた	I went to visit her, but she was out
ひか 控える	To refrain from, to abstain from	できるだけ外出を控える	To avoid going out as much as possible
きより 距離	Distance	ひと 人との距離をとる	To keep your distance from others
かんせん 感染	Infection	コロナウイルスに感染する	To be infected with the coronavirus
かんせんしや 感染者	Infected person	かぜ ふ 感染者の数が 増えている	The number of infected persons is increasing



Hello Asahikawa!

Name: Keith Dickens
Home Country: USA
Interviewed: 6/17/2020

If you live in Asahikawa or are just passing through and would like to be interviewed for "Hello Asahikawa," email us at cir_kokusai@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp!

AIC: Where are you from?

Keith: I am from Wyoming.

AIC: What brings you to Japan?

Keith: I work as an English teacher.

AIC: How long have you been living in Japan?

Keith: Roughly 4 years.

AIC: How does your life here in Japan compare to your life in the U.S.?

Keith: I don't know if it's any different than back in the United States. I am from a small city so there are farms everywhere and everyone knows each other. Generally speaking, the two are about the same.

AIC: You must have gotten used to living here fairly quickly, then. Are there any big differences between Higashikagura compared to where you live in Wyoming?

Keith: There are a lot of rice fields in here. That was one of the first things that surprised me when I first arrived. Another thing was the amount of snow Higashikagura would get every winter; which far outweighs the amount that we get in Wyoming.



AIC: What do you like about Japan? What have been some of your favorite spots in Higashikagura and Asahikawa?

Keith: I like the health care system. It's very affordable. One of my favorite spots in Asahikawa is the Takasago Bowling Center because its very similar to the bowling alleys I used to go to as a kid.

AIC: That's an interesting find! Next, do you like Japanese food? What are some of your favorites?

Keith: For starters, I really like the food here. Things like ramen, sushi, and nabe have become some of my favorite foods here in Japan. One of my favorite spots in Higashikagura is yaki-niku restaurant called 高麗苑. It's really good. When it comes to ramen, I usually go to ラーメン蔵 and 火ぷり家. Also, shout out to Nepal Curry!



AIC: Nepal Curry is great! It's definitely one of my favorite types of food here. So, what do you like to do in your free time?

Keith: In my free time I like to study Japanese and cook food.

AIC: Do you speak any Japanese?

Keith: Yes I do.

AIC: And how long do you plan to be in Japan?

Keith: I plan on being in Japan until the end of summer.

AIC: Woah, that's coming up soon! Do you miss anything about life back in the states?

Keith: Yes, I do. I miss my friends and family back home. It's been about 2 years since I last went saw them. So it would be nice to see them again soon.

AIC: 2 years is a long time. I'm glad you'll be able to see them soon! Last but not least, do you like Karaoke?

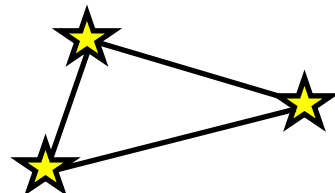
Keith: Yes, I do. However, I'm not very good at it though. One of my favorite songs to sing for karaoke is 上を向いて by Sakamoto Kyu. It's a really good song and among one of my favorites.



AIC: Thank you so much for participating, Keith!

Keith: You're welcome.

Observing Stars in the Summer Night Sky



The most recognizable shape in the summer night sky is the “Summer Triangle,” known in Japanese as *natsu no dai-sankaku*. The stars that make up this triangle are so bright, you can see them clearly despite the light pollution given off by the city. The three stars of the summer triangle are the magnitude 1 star in the Lyra constellation, Vega, the magnitude 1 star in the Aquila constellation, Altair, and the magnitude 1 star in the Cygnus constellation, Deneb. In Japan, Vega is known as the “Orihime star,” while Altair is known as the “Hikoboshi star” according to a legend that tells the tale of two lovers separated by a heavenly river of stars we call the Milky Way. In the lower portion of the southern sky, you will find a peculiar constellation that resembles a fish hook called Scorpio. If you locate the constellation Sagittarius, you will find nearby the planets of Saturn and Jupiter.

But why read about the stars when you can see them for yourself?

Asahikawa’s SciPal Science Center is hosting a small gathering in the evening on **7/28 (Tuesday)** to observe stars in the science center’s very own observatory! A 30 minute planetarium show will precede the use of the observatory so everyone will learn about what stars they will see that night.

Time and Date: 7/28 (Tuesday), 19:30-21:00

Location: Asahikawa SciPal Science Center (Miyamae 1-jo 3-chome)

For Further Information Contact: 0166-31-3186

Notes: Please arrive at the science center between 19:00 and 20:00. Junior high school students and below must be accompanied by a guardian. May be cancelled in order to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

★ *Movies ~ July* ★

*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 / 0166 – 74 – 6411

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

Now Showing

- Rambo: Last Blood (English/R15+)
- Lesson of the Evil (Japanese)
- Little Women (English)
- Sonic the Hedgehog (English)
- Tales from Earthsea (Japanese/Anime)
- Spirited Away (Japanese/Anime)
- Princess Mononoke (Japanese/Anime)
- Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind (Japanese/Anime)
- Iron Man 3 (English)~7/2
- Black Panther (English)~7/2
- Dolittle (English)
- Juliet, Naked (English)
- The Blackout (English/PG12)
- Weathering with You (Japanese/Anime)~7/2
- Howling Village (Japanese)~7/2

Coming Soon

- Cinderella (English) 7/3~16
- Beauty and the Beast (English) 7/3~16
- Iyashi no Kokoromi (Japanese) 7/3
- Mother (Japanese) 7/3
- Coma (English) 7/3
- Kiss Him, Not Me (Japanese) 7/10
- The Invisible Man (English) 7/10
- From Today, It’s My Turn!! (Japanese) 7/17
- Ride Like a Girl (English) 7/17
- The Confidence Man JP: Princess (Japanese) 7/23
- Doraemon: Nobita’s New Dinosaur (Japanese/Anime) 8/7
- Grand Blue (Japanese/PG12) 8/7

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

★ Movies ~ July ★

*<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 / 0166 – 49 – 1000

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

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

Now Showing

- Tales from Earthsea (Japanese/Anime)
- Spirited Away (Japanese/Anime)
- Princess Mononoke (Japanese/Anime)
- Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind (Japanese/Anime)
- Rambo: Last Blood (English 4DX/R15+)
- The Current War: Director's Cut (English)
- Dolittle (English 4DX)
- Gone Wednesday (Japanese)
- Iron Man 3 (English)
- Black Panther (English)
- Guardians of the Galaxy (English)
- Little Women (English)
- The Real Exorcist (Japanese)

Coming Soon

- Cinderella (English) 7/3~23
- Beauty and the Beast (English) 7/3~23
- Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales (English) 7/3~23
- The Dark Knight (English 4DX) 7/10
- Waves (English/PG12) 7/10
- Kiss Him, Not Me (Japanese) 7/10
- Patlabor: the Movie (Japanese 4DX/Anime) 7/17
- From Today, It's My Turn!! (Japanese) 7/17
- Hachioji Zombies (Japanese) 7/17
- The Confidence Man JP: Princess (Japanese) 7/23
- Doraemon: Nobita's New Dinosaur (Japanese/Anime) 8/7
- Grand Blue (Japanese) 8/7

★ **Dinos Cinemas:** Taisetsu-dori 5-chome / 0166 – 21 – 1218

URL: <http://cinema.sugai-dinos.jp/pc/> (Japanese)

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

Now Showing

- Tales from Earthsea (Japanese/Anime)
- Spirited Away (Japanese/Anime)
- Princess Mononoke (Japanese/Anime)
- Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind (Japanese/Anime)
- Dolittle (English)
- Guardians of the Galaxy (English)~7/2
- Iron Man 3 (English)~7/2
- Black Panther (English)~7/2
- Little Women (English)
- Barking Dogs Never Bite (Korean)~7/2
- The Real Exorcist (Japanese)~7/2
- Fukushima 50 (Japanese)
- Parasite (Korean)~7/2

Coming Soon

- Snowpiercer (English) 7/3~9
- Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales (English) 7/3~16
- Beauty and the Beast (English) 7/3~16
- Cinderella (English) 7/3~16
- From Today, It's My Turn!! (Japanese) 7/17
- The Confidence Man JP: Princess (Japanese) 7/23
- Grand Blue (Japanese) 8/7
- Doraemon: Nobita's New Dinosaur (Japanese/Anime) 8/7

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

Hokkaido Travel Discount (Domin-wari)

Hokkaido Travel Discount Chart		
Category	Price Per Person	Discount
Lodging (per night, per person)	¥6,000-¥9,999	¥3,000
	¥10,000-¥14,999	¥5,000
	¥15,000-¥19,999	¥7,500
	Over ¥20,000	¥10,000
Overnight tour with lodging and transportation included	¥10,000-¥14,999	¥5,000
	¥15,000-¥19,999	¥7,500
	Over ¥20,000	¥10,000
Day-trip tour or outdoors activity with transportation included	¥4,000-¥5,999	¥2,000
	¥6,000-¥9,999	¥3,000
	Over ¥10,000	¥5,000
*Prices include tax.		

The Hokkaido government announced a program called the "Hokkaido Travel Discount" (Domin-wari) that allows citizens of Hokkaido to stay at hotels, participate in tours, etc. for a discounted price. The prices per person in the lodging categories are for one night. The discount can be used for a maximum of 5 nights in a row, for a total possible savings of up to ¥50,000. The higher the price for a hotel/tour, the higher the discount.

This discount will only be available to businesses that have signed up to participate in this program. On the first day signups for this program were made available to businesses, about 300 companies signed up. The prefecture expects more than 1,000 businesses to sign up in total. The traveler will simply book their hotel or tour at the post-discount price, and the hotel will receive special funds equal to the discount from the prefectural government afterwards. If the price of a hotel reservation per person per night falls below the lower limit of ¥6,000, the lodging facility may factor add-ons, such as breakfast, etc. into the total price so that the stay for one night per person exceeds ¥6,000 and qualifies for the ¥3,000 discount. What a steal!

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: July 10th & 31st, August 14th & 28th, September 11th & 25th

Times: 1:00pm-2:00pm ~Afternoon~ 2nd and 4th Friday of the month
6:30pm-8:30pm ~Night~ 2nd Friday of the month

Location: Asahikawa International Center, Common Meeting Room (1) (Feeeal Asahikawa 7F 1-jo-dori 8-chome)

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

The AIC offers many services to make your life in Asahikawa more enjoyable. Here are just a few:

Volunteer Guide: Volunteers are registered to help translate and interpret.

Event Volunteer: The AIC plans many exciting events throughout the year, such as Friendship Parties. Why not become a volunteer and help plan these events?

Homestay: Families are registered to welcome you into their homes for an overnight stay or just for an afternoon visit.

For further information or to register, please contact AIC.



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.****