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Hokkaido News Top 5

December 2019 Compiled by AIC



Oct. 21

The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism New-Chitose Airport Office announced data from their September review, indicating that the number of passengers using the airport has increased by 32.9% compared to the same month last year. The number of passengers on international flights increased by 194,517, partly due to a 45.1% increase in the usage of Chinese lines.

Oct. 25

The first ever ramen shop using Asahikawa-made fresh ramen noodles, "Asahikawa Ramen", opened in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, Russia. Alexei Kim, a Korean-Russian business person, experienced fresh ramen noodles at a business meeting arranged by the city of Asahikawa and decided to use them at his restaurant.

Nov. 1

The International Olympic committee, The Tokyo Organizing Committee for the Olympic and Paralympics Games, The Tokyo Metropolitan Government, and the Japanese government came to the decision to hold 2020 Olympics' marathon and competitive walking events in Sapporo, with Tokyo Governor KOIKE calling it a "painful decision."

Nov. 6

The owner, as well as several staff members of the Asahikawa Japanese Language School have been arrested for arranging work for two Vietnamese students that had them work more hours than allowed by law under their student visa status. The Hokkaido prefectural police suspects that the school has been systematically arranging work for students in this fashion.

Nov. 17

An evacuation drill specifically designed for foreign tourists was conducted at Shakotan Town for the first time. The drill was designed to evacuate tourists staying at a ryokan style hotel to Sappporo, about 30 km away. Twenty three foreigners from 14 countries and regions participated in the drill.



For further information

or to register for events contact:

Asahikawa International Committee (SUGANO Ayumi, Daniel LIZARRAGA, or SAITO Emmy)

Location:

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

Address:

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

Asahikawa 070-0031 **Tel:** (0166) 25-7491 **Fax:** (0166) 23-4924

E-mail:

cir kokusai@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp

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ASAHIKAWA Info

Paintings by Asahikawa Artists 旭川ゆかりの画家たち 七彩の美

The history of art in Asahikawa goes back over 100 years. In this exhibition, you will see over 60 works of art created with a variety of hues similar to that of a rainbow with its seven brilliant colors. In these gloomy winter months, make a trip to the art museum for a breath of life!

Date: Now~3/15/2020 (Sunday), Closed Mondays

Time: 9:30-17:00 (Last entry is at 16:30)

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

Admission: General ¥800 (¥600), High school students ¥500 (¥400), Junior high and elementary school students ¥300 (¥200). Prices in parenthesis are for groups of 10 or more purchased in advance. Those holding a disability identification booklet can enter for free.

For Further Information Contact: 0166-25-2577

Notes: Contact for more info on repeater discounts, the Museums' Linking System, and for information on the museum's irregular holidays.

The World Famous Glenn Miller Orchestra Japan Tour 2019 ザ・グレン・ミラーオーケストラ Japan Tour 2019

Glenn Miller was a famous trombonist in the 1930s, known alongside Benny Goodman as the "King of Swing." The orchestra he founded in 1938 is still alive 80 years later, and is now touring all of Japan! The orchestra has a repertoire of over 700 songs, and their biggest hits include "In the Mood," "Moonlight Serenade," "Little Brown Jug," and "American Patrol." Don't miss your chance to hear one of the greatest musical groups to ever perform!

Date: 12/6 (Friday)

Time: Opens 18:30, Starts 19:00

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

Admission: "S" Seating ¥5,500, "A" Seating ¥4,400. Reserved seating. Please refrain from

bringing small children.

Ticket Office: Doshin Playguide (Sapporo), Sapporo Civic Exchange Plaza Ticket Center, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall Shop, Yamaha Music Retailing Store, Gyokkodo, Ticket Pia (P code: 156-803), Lawson Ticket (L code: 12256), Seven Eleven Multi Copy Machine **For Further Information Contact:** Doshin Playguide at 0570-00-3871 from 10:00-18:00 (Closed Sundays)

The Chamber Music Concert by Brilliant Artists from Taipei and Asahikawa. Vol. 1 第1回 旭川台北交流コンサート

Asahikawa musicians are joined by distinguished students and a professor from the National Taiwan Normal University. They will be playing a variety of classical pieces from notable composers like Brahms, Schuman, and Mendelssohn.

Date: 12/7 (Saturday)

Time: Opens 14:30, Starts 15:00

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

Admission: Free, however, a ticket is needed to attend. See below for more details.

Ticket Pick-up Locations: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall Museum Shop, McDonald's (Miyamae-dori shop and Kagura Seikyo shop), Asahikawa Fukido (Suehiro shop and Toyoka

shop)

For Further Information Contact: Koshiro Accounting Office, MIURA at 0166-31-2313

5th Asahikawa Shinkin Joint Concert 第5回 旭川しんきん ジョイントコンサート

Three bands in one concert! Come see the Higashikawa Junior High School, the Asahikawa University High School, and the Asahikawa Shiritsu Hokumon Junior High School brass band clubs put on a stellar winter performance.

Date: 12/8 (Sunday)

Time: Opens 13:30, Starts 14:00

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

Admission: Free, however, a ticket is needed to attend. See below for more details. Free

seating

Ticket Pick-up Location: Asahikawa Shinkin head and branch offices. Go to the teller

counter to pick up a ticket.

For Further Information Contact: Asahikawa Shinkin head and branch offices, or the Hello Ask Telemarketing Center at 0120-74-3874 from 9:00-17:00, M-F









NTS IN AS

ASAHIKAWA Info

Family Concert From Pop Songs to the Classics

ファミリーコンサート 歌謡曲からクラシックまで

This concert will have nostalgic Japanese pop music, a full choir, and even two opera singers in attendance! With so much musical variety, this concert will be entertaining for the whole family.

Date: 12/22 (Sunday) **Time:** Starts 14:30

Venue: Community Support Center CoCoDe (Miyamae 1-jo 3-chome) **Admission:** General ¥500, Junior high school students and under are free

Ticket Office: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall Shop, Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall

Museum Shop

For Further Information Contact: ISHIGURO at 090-1523-9034 or UEDA at 090-3890-

5451



Asahikawa Industrial High School Brass Band Club Kyokko 13th Concert 旭川工業高校吹奏楽部 Kyokko 13th Concert

The program for this concert includes a selection of pieces from "Die Csardasfurstin," a medley of songs by Deep Purple, a medley of Lupin songs arranged by Kyokko, "Disco Kid," and much more!

Date: 12/22 (Sunday)

Time: Opens 17:30, Starts 18:00

Venue: Asahikawa Public Hall (Inside Tokiwa Park)

Admission: General ¥500, Elementary school students and under are free

Ticket Office: Yamaha Music Retailing Store, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall Shop,

Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall Museum Shop

For Further Information Contact: Asahikawa Industrial High School at 0166-65-4115



Hokkaido Asahikawa Agricultural High School Brass Band Club 12th Regular Concert 北海道旭川農業高等学校吹奏楽部 第12回 定期演奏会

The program for this concert includes "Make Her Mine –in swing-" by Eric Leese, a selection of songs from the famous Ghibli film, "Kiki's Delivery Service," and a medley of songs arranged by the Agricultural High School.

Date: 12/22 (Sunday)

Time: Opens 17:30, Starts 18:00

Venue: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Large Hall (7-jo-dori 9-chome) **Admission:** General ¥500 (Includes students), Preschool children are free

Ticket Office: Yamaha Music Retailing Store, Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall Muse-

um Shop, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall Shop, Coach and Four

For Further Information Contact: Asahikawa Agricultural High School, MIKAMI at

0166-48-2887 or email at bxx00751@gmail.com

上海直通用農業高等学校改革業務 (2回 定期演奏会 (2回 定期演奏会 (2月 22日(日) (開版 17:30 期間接定於所大布・ル (第版 18:00 (知用主集97日30 移地 (フェラス) (本教学規模) (本教学規模)

How About Trying Winter Sports? Skating 冬のスポーツ「スケート」はじめませんか?

This free ice skating session is for elementary school students and their guardians! Learn the basics of figure skating and speed skating from former professionals. Never skated before? No problem! This class is for those of all levels. Let's have some fun with winter sports! There are also classes on 1/11 (Saturday) and 2/8 (Saturday) at the Hanasaki Rink, and you can register for those classes from 12/20 (Friday) $\sim 1/6$ (Monday) and 12/20 (Friday) $\sim 2/3$ (Monday) respectively. Contact the Asahikawa Taisetsu Arena Office for more information.

Date: 12/26 (Thursday) **Time:** 10:00-12:00

Place: Taisetsu Arena (Kagura 4-jo 7-chome)

Participation Fee: Free (Shoe Rental and Skating Fee Included)

Where to Register: Taisetsu Arena information desk from 9:00-17:00. Registration is

from now until 12/21 (Saturday)

For Further Information Contact: Asahikawa Taisetsu Arena Office at 0166-61-9952

from 9:00-17:00





ASAHIKAWA Info



Hello Asahikawa!

Name: Beni Noguchi Home Country: China Interviewed: 11/06/2019

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: So Beni, where are you from?

Beni: I'm from China.

AIC: Where did you live in China?

Beni: The city I lived in is called Kaifeng, and you could say it's like the Kyoto of China. It

has a lot of historical importance, and is a popular tourist destination. On weekends,

Kaifeng is packed with tourists.

AIC: And what brings you to Japan?

Beni: The first time I came here was as a tourist just to have fun. Afterwards, my friend intro-

duced me to the man who would eventually be my husband. We got married, and

we've been in Japan ever since.

AIC: How long have you been in Asahikawa?

Beni: About 15 years. Quite some time (*laughs*).

AIC: That's quite a while! How does living in Asahikawa compare to living in China

for you?

Beni: Even though both are in Asia, they are quite different. The culture is completely differ-

ent, and the way you treat other people is different. There are so many differences be-

cause of how different the cultures are.

AIC: Is there anything that has surprised you about living in Japan?

Beni: I came from China such a long time ago, and at that time, there were no convenient

stores where I lived in Kaifeng. I was so surprised when I first saw convenience stores in Japan. Another difference is that you can drink the tap water in Japan. Hokkaido especially has good tap water. You can't drink it in China. Hokkaido has some of the pur-

est water there is, and you can even drink the tap water. That's what surprised me.

AIC: Hokkaido has such nice water! What do you like about Asahikawa in particular?

Beni: I like that Asahikawa isn't crowded and that the air is very clean. I live very close to the

I like that Asahikawa isn't crowded and that the air is very clean. I live very close to the river, so I like to take my dog out for walks on the bike path. The view is beautiful and there aren't very many people. Many parts of China have high PM2.5 levels (an index for air pollution). Hokkaido has really good air quality so it must be great for your lungs

(laughs).

AIC: What are some of your favorite places in Asahikawa?

Beni: It's not Asahikawa, but I really like going for drives to Biei because it's only 30 minutes

by car. It's so close! It's also close to Furano. In Asahikawa, I really like the Asahiyama

Zoo. I've been there so many times. I go there at least once a year.

ASAHIKAWA Info

AIC: The zoo is really great, isn't it?

What are your hobbies?

Beni: Recently I've just been playing

games (laughs). It's bad, I know. Actually, I also like watching American dramas and movies. When I'm free I'm usually watching something. I also really like swimming, but I've been busy recently so I haven't

been able to go.

AIC: It's definitely hard to make time

for all your hobbies. What kind of

movies do you like?

Beni: I like American movies. Especially

shows about zombies. I'm almost done with all of the different series. There are so many different kinds of zombie movies and series, and I've

seen most of them.

AIC: You must like zombies a lot!
Beni: They're so interesting! (laughs)

AIC: Do you like winter sports?

Beni: I went three or four years ago, but I haven't been since. I like it. When my daughter

was younger I went with her often. Right now she doesn't live with me anymore so we

haven't been able to go.

AIC: What languages do you speak?

Beni: I can only speak Chinese and Japanese. I'm not very good at English (laughs). I com-

pletely forgot it.

AIC: Two languages is still very impressive! Is there anything you miss about China?

Beni: I miss Chinese food the most. I like Japanese food, but Chinese food is definitely my

favorite. I also miss my family. My parents have both passed away. It's very sad.

AIC: I'm so sorry to hear that. What kind of Chinese food do you like?

Beni: There are hundreds of kinds of Chinese food... I suppose I like sui-gyoza. I also like a

lot of foods you can find in Japan, like stir fried dishes, meat dishes, Mapo-tofu and

Shrimp with Chili sauce.

AIC: Hearing about it makes me want to eat Chinese food too! Do you cook Chinese

food at home?

Beni: Sometimes I do. My husband is Japanese, so if I cook Chinese food every day I don't

think he'd like it very much. About half and half.

AIC: That's true. Eating it every day might be difficult for him. Do you plan to stay in

Asahikawa, then?

Beni: Not forever. Maybe for about two more years. My husband usually has to move for his

job every six or seven years. Asahikawa has been the longest so far. In about two years, there's a chance he may have to work somewhere else, but he's not sure when

that will be.



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ASAHIKAWA Info

AIC: You've lived in a lot of different places, right?

Beni: That's right. First we were in Ebetsu, then Sapporo. Next we went to Tsukigata, and

now we're in Asahikawa.

AIC: So just Hokkaido, then?

Beni: Yeah. My husband gets moved around here and there in Hokkaido. In about two years

there's a good chance we'll be going back to Sapporo.

AIC: How do you like Sapporo?

Beni: Sapporo is so big... It's also a lot livelier than Asahikawa. There are so many young

people in Sapporo, whereas in Asahikawa it's almost the opposite.

AIC: Last but not least, do you like karaoke?

Beni: I love karaoke, but I don't sing that often in Japan. If I go do karaoke in Japan, I sing

Chinese songs.

AIC: What kind of Chinese songs do you sing?

Beni: I haven't been in China for over 20 years, so I only know old songs (*laughs*). I don't

know any of the popular songs nowadays. It would be like only knowing songs from

the Showa era.

AIC: That's all I have. Thank you so much!

Beni: You're welcome.

* Movies ~ December *

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

*<Aeon Cinema Only> Every Monday is "Happy Monday." Admission is \(\frac{1}{2}\),100 (tax included) for all.

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

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

Now Showing

- Doctor Sleep (English)
- Nicky Larson et le parfum de Cupidon (French)
- The 47 Ronin in Debt (Japanese)
- Frozen 2 (English)
- Black School Rules (Japanese)
- It: Chapter Two (English/R15+)
- Matinee (Japanese)
- Family of Strangers (Japanese/PG12)
- Terminator: Dark Fate (English)
- One Night (Japanese/PG12)
- Sumikko Gurashi (Japanese/Anime)
- The Journalist (Japanese)
- Kyofu Ningyo (Japanese/PG12)
- Shadowfall (Japanese)
- Maleficent: Mistress of Evil (English)
- Way to Find the Best Life (Japanese)
- Joker (English/R15+)
- Weathering with You (Japanese/Anime)

Coming Soon

- Lupin III: The First (Japanese/Anime) 12/6
- Kiss Me at the Stroke of Midnight (Japanese) 12/6
- Yokai Gakuen Y Neko wa Hero ni Nareruka (Japanese/ Anime) 12/13
- Murder at Shijinso (Japanese)12/13
- Jumanji: The Next Level (English) 12/13
- Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker (English) 12/20
- My Hero Academia: Heroes: Rising (Japanese/Anime) 12/20
- How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World (English/Anime) 12/20
- Kamen Rider Reiwa the First Generation (Japanese) 12/21
- Tora-san, Welcome Back (Japanese) 12/27
- Shinkansen Henkei Robo Shinkalion: The Marvelous Fast ALFA-X That Comes From the Future (Japanese/Anime) 12/27
- Parasite (Korean/PG12) 1/10



*<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 \(\frac{1}{2}\),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

- Love and Murder of Sheep and Wolf (Japanese/PG12)
- Doctor Sleep (English/PG12)
- Frozen 2 (English 4DX)
- The 47 Ronin in Debt (Japanese)
- Zombieland: Double Tap (English/R15+)
- Angel Has Fallen (English/PG12)
- Wings Over Everest (Japanese/PG12)
- Terminator: Dark Fate (English/PG12)
- One Night (Japanese/PG12) ~12/5
- IT: Chapter two (English/R15+)
- Gemini Man (English)
- Star Twinkle PreCure (Japanese/Anime) ~12/5
- Maleficent: Mistress of Evil (English)
- Joker (English/R15+)
- Weathering with You (Japanese/Anime)

Coming Soon

- Lupin III: The First (Japanese/Anime) 12/6
- Yokai Gakuen Y Neko wa Hero ni Nareruka (Japanese/Anime) 12/13
- Murder at Shijinso (Japanese)12/13
- Talking the Pictures! (Japanese) 12/13
- Jumanji: The Next Level (English) 12/13
- My Hero Academia: Heroes: Rising (Japanese/Anime) 12/20
- Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker (English) 12/20
- Kamen Rider Reiwa the First Generation (Japanese) 12/21
- Tora-san, Welcome Back (Japanese) 12/27
- Ford v. Ferrari (English)) 1/10

★ 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

- Doctor Sleep (English)
- Dreaming Murakami (English) ~12/12
- Frozen 2 (English)
- The 47 Ronin in Debt (Japanese)
- Brightburn (English)
- Terminator: Dark Fate (English)
- Matinee (Japanese)
- It: Chapter Two (English/R15+)
- Saekano: How to Raise a Boring Girlfriend Fine (Japanese/Anime)
- Joker (English)
- Hit Me Anyone One More Time (Japanese) ~12/5
- Weathering with You (Japanese/Anime)

Coming Soon

- Lupin III: The First (Japanese/Anime) 12/6
- Hitotsubu no Mugi: Life of HAGINO Ginko (Japanese) 12/6~12
- T-34 (Russian) 12/6~19
- The Legend of Hei (Chinese/Anime) 12/6~12
- Talking the Pictures! (Japanese) 12/13
- Yokai Gakuen Y Neko wa Hero ni Nareruka (Japanese/Anime) 12/13
- Jumanji: The Next Level (English) 12/13
- Bokura no Nanokakan Senso (Japanese/Anime) 12/13
- Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker (English) 12/20
- How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World (English/Anime) 12/20
- Kamen Rider-Reiwa the First Generation (Japanese) 12/21
- Tora-san, Welcome Back (Japanese) 12/27
- Ford v. Ferrari (English)) 1/10

AIC BULLETIN BOARD

American Movie Screening: "Shrek" & Gingerbread Man Ornament Making Activity

Shrek is an ogre who lives alone in his swamp. One day, he wakes up to find that fairytale creatures from all over have been forced onto his property, and he embarks on an adventure to find out why! In addition to this fantasy-comedy-adventure, Sapporo Consul General Andrew Lee will give a talk on Christmas, and participants will make Christmas ornaments that look like the gingerbread man that appears in the movie!



Date: 12/7 (Saturday) **Time:** 13:30-16:30

Venue: Asahikawa International Center (Feeeal Asahika-

wa 7F 1-jo-dori 8-chome) **Participation Fee:** Free

How to Sign Up: Please call the Asahikawa International/ City Relations Division at 0166-25-7491, 8:45-17:15, M-F

Hokkaido Foreign Resident Support Center

This support center offers consultation services concerning visa applications, work, hospitals, taxes, pensions, birth, parenting, child education, housing, marriage, divorce, domestic violence, and more in over ten different languages! The center also holds events throughout Hokkaido where local foreign residents can receive consultation. If you need assistance, don't hesitate to contact or visit the center!



Phone Number: 011-200-9595 Email: support@hiecc.or.jp

URL: http://www.hiecc.or.jp/soudan

Office Hours: 9:00-12:00, 13:00-16:00, M-F (Excludes New

Year's Break, Holidays)

Location: HIECC (Hokkaido International Exchange and Cooperation Center), Docho Annex Bldg, 12 Floor, West 7, North 3, Chuo-ku, Sapporo. *10 min. walk from JR Sapporo



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: December 13th & 20th, January 10th & 24th, February 14th & 28th 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?

<u>Homestay:</u> 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.



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

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

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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.