

旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

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Hokkaido News Top 5

December 2020
Compiled by AIC



Students Push for Starbucks to Come to Kitami. Starbucks Delivers 10/31

The famous coffee chain “Starbucks Coffee” opened its first shop in Okhotsk Prefecture in the city of Kitami. Five students from Kitami Hokuto High School conducted a research product in their first year to convince Starbucks to open a shop in their city. After contacting the company and reporting their findings, the company decided to speed up existing plans to build a shop in Kitami after seeing the determination of the students.

Group of Citizens Aim to Promote Town of Higashikawa through Beer 11/10

Five citizens of the town of Higashikawa held an event for the debut of their beer, “Higashikawa Ale,” at the Higashikawa Arts Exchange Center “Centpure.” The beer utilizes the local area’s notoriously pure groundwater, has a captivating aroma, and a rich flavor. Malt was imported from the United Kingdom, while hops were imported from the United States. The five hope to promote their town by making their beer well-known.

3D Printed Toilet Facility Created for Use in India 11/14

Major concrete manufacturer “Aizawa High Pressure Concrete” (Tomakomai) has developed an off-grid, 3D printable toilet facility that will significantly reduce construction time. In order to achieve the U.N.’s SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals), which in part, aim to promote higher standards of sanitation around the world, the new toilet facility will be produced large-scale for use in India, where many have no choice but to defecate outdoors due to a lack of sanitation facilities.

Buy “Asahi-kau Project” Supports Asahikawa’s Local Businesses 11/14

The city of Asahikawa and various other groups such as the Asahikawa Products Association have joined forces to back the “Asahi-kau Project,” which aims to help local businesses by bundling their products into sets of assorted foods. ¥3,000 and ¥5,000 sets are available, containing products with prices nearly half of what they usually sell for. Sales are limited to residents and businesses of the city. Product sets can be ordered now, and will be delivered to households around mid to late January.

Farmed Hamanaka Oysters Make National Debut 11/16

The Hamanaka Marine Products Promotion Council launched an initiative to unite Hamanaka sea urchin producers under one brand to more efficiently promote their 100% kelp-fed, high quality sea urchin, and sell it nationwide. Product labels will feature “Lupin the Third,” a popular fictional character created by comic book writer “Monkey Punch,” who was born in Hamanaka.



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.

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

Asahikawa's Local Specialties

Shinkoyaki

By Daniel Lizarraga

*Shinkoyaki is a well-known dish unique to Asahikawa.
Let's learn more about it!*

What is Shinkoyaki?

Shinkoyaki is a grilled half-piece of a young chicken that includes the wing (From Asahikawa's Famous Food "Shinkoyaki" Association, Article 3, "Definition of Shinkoyaki")

What's in Shinkoyaki?

Tenderloin: High protein and low calorie. All around very healthy!

Breast: The low-fat breast meat and flavorful sauce are a winning combination.

Thigh: The high fat content gives the thigh its juicy and delicious taste.

Wing: Soft and juicy! Its fat content rivals the thigh.

Shinkoyaki's History:

Shinkoyaki was invented in Asahikawa during Japan's postwar recovery period. For the people of that era, Shinkoyaki was a hearty meal that was so delicious, people would forget about the fatigue of their daily lives. At that time, meat was expensive and wasn't eaten often by the public. However, the citizens of Asahikawa were strengthened in mind and body thanks to Shinkoyaki, and were able to continue to work hard towards recovery. Shinkoyaki is a true "soul food" of Asahikawa that is loved by all generations of citizens.

Fun Fact: It is said that if you eat Shinkoyaki together with your significant other, the two of you will get married! (not confirmed)



Where does the name "Shinkoyaki" come from?

For the people of Asahikawa, the name "Shinkoyaki" is fairly normal, but for people who live outside the city, it is quite an odd name. The name originates with a fish called the "Japanese gizzard shad" that has several names depending on its stage of growth. As the fish grows larger, it changes names four times! Its smallest stage of growth is called "Shinko," and it is a delicious delicacy.

In post-war Asahikawa, they decided upon the name for this grilled chicken-half by combining "Shinko," because the little fish were tasty, with "yaki," the word for grilled. Since Shinkoyaki is grilled as one big piece, all of the flavors and juices are trapped inside. It's absolutely delicious!

In Memory of Ken, the Wolf

Translated from November's "Asahibashi" by Daniel Lizarraga

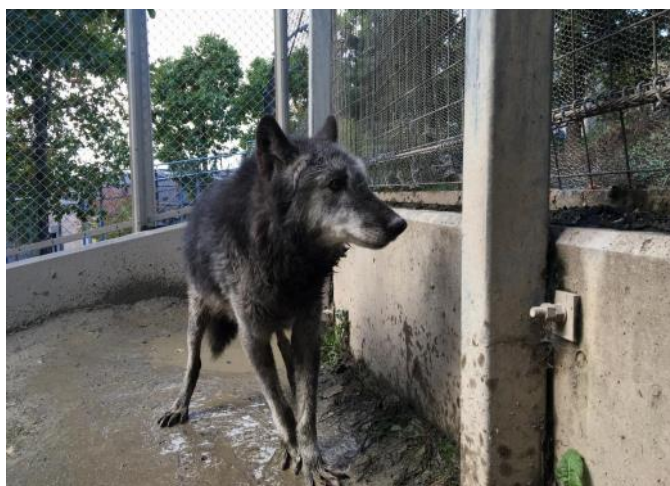
The Asahiyama Zoo's "Wolf Forest" exhibit opened 12 years after the zoo last had a wolf exhibit. The old wolf house was so cramped and small, that the wolves just looked like ordinary dogs. Nonetheless, the two wolves in the wolf house bred successfully. The mother was isolated in the period just before her birth. She and the cub were reunited with the father one month later. The cub was then sent to another zoo, as raising wolves in pairs was common practice. Unfortunately, the zoo was not able to replicate the same natural behavior and sociability of wolves that are found in the wild with its wolves in captivity.

When the wolves were unable to shed their hair properly, some zoo visitors said that they looked like "old rags." After the last wolf passed away in Heisei 8 (1996), the zoo decided to stop raising wolves—partially due to some of the negative feedback they had received. However, the zoo eventually decided that they would not give up on their wolf exhibit, and reinstated it 12 years later.

Wolf packs are highly social groups, with a breeding pair usually at the top of the hierarchy. The concept of the "Wolf Forest" is that you are able to see the pack just like you would in nature. The zoo scrapped its past method of raising wolves and started anew by created a large outdoors space that functions as their territory, where they spend their time during the day. They receive food in their sleeping quarters through simulated hunting. The wolves Ken and Maas were brought up in this environment. They dug out a burrow together, and when Maas gave birth, Ken brought her food to eat. When she was weaning her cub, Ken regurgitated food he ate in the sleeping quarters to Maas and the cub. The howls that you hear at the Wolf Forest are just like those you would hear in nature.



Ken (left) and Maas (right) sitting together



Several days before his passing

On October 10th at the age of 13, Ken passed away. Since two years prior, he had shown visible signs of physical deterioration. Until the very end, he had planned on how to maintain harmony in the pack after he was no longer leader. In September, his son Nochiu succeeded him as leader in a smooth transition of power that kept the pack intact. One week before he passed away, Ken's lower half of his body became paralyzed, and it was judged necessary for him to be separated from the rest of the pack. Despite all this, he had a calm expression on his face as if he were at last free from all his burdens. Ken lived as a true wolf, and the memories of his wonderful life will be etched into the hearts of zoo visitors forever.



Hello Asahikawa!

Name: Z. A.

Home Country: Canada

Interviewed: 11/26/2020

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: Hello Z. A.! Where are you from?

Z. A.: I'm from Montreal, Canada.

AIC: And what brings you to Japan?

Z. A.: I used to live in Japan when I was younger, and I've always wanted to come back. Both countries are very important to me, so I wanted to contribute to the relations between them.

AIC: Very cool! How long have you been living in Higashikawa?

Z. A.: I've been here for just over 4 years.

AIC: How does life in Higashikawa compare to life in Canada?

Z. A.: The climate and weather here are very similar to where I'm from in Canada. There is a bit more snow here, though. In a lot of ways life here is quite similar: the people are friendly, the nature is beautiful, and the food is great.

AIC: Now that you mention it, Hokkaido does seem very similar to Canada. What are some differences between Japan and Canada?

Z. A.: I think the biggest differences are multiculturalism and style of communication. Canada is a country quite literally built by immigrants, and the mix of these diverse cultures is visible every single day and almost everywhere you go, while Japan is much more homogenous both ethnically and culturally. The style of communication in Canada is as a whole much more direct than in Japan.



Higashikawa ice festival sculpture made by a Canadian Taiko group that visited Higashikawa which symbolizes the friendship between Japan and Canada

Another major difference is the societal structure. Canada is more of an individualistic culture, which values independence, while Japan is more of a collectivist culture, valuing interdependence. I think a lot of the cultural differences between the two countries stem from this.

AIC: What do you like about living in Higashikawa? What are some of your favorite spots there?

Z. A.: I like the combination of the warmth and community of a small town with the convenience of a city only 20 minutes away. Higashikawa is very lively, with lots of events, and is very open to new people and new ideas. There are many of spots with beautiful views; in particular, I like the view from Kitoushi tenboukaku, which offers a bird's-eye view of the whole town. There are also lots of fantastic cafés and restaurants that I enjoy going to.



View from Kitoushi Tenboukaku

AIC: Sounds like a really great town! Do you come to Asahikawa much?

Z. A.: Since I don't have a car, I don't go to Asahikawa very often, but I have been to a few of the nice parks and have really enjoyed that.

AIC: Asahikawa does have some nice parks! So, how do you like Japanese food?

Z. A.: I love Japanese food. If I'm being honest, it's part of the reason I moved here!

AIC: I feel you. I could eat ramen every day! What are some of your favorites?

Z. A.: When it comes to home cooking, some favorites are oyakodon, nikujaga, and kiriboshi daikon. But if I had to choose one food, I'd have to pick sushi.

AIC: You can never go wrong with sushi! What do you like to do in your free time?

Z. A.: I enjoy exploring new places, cooking, skiing, and reading. Since the coronavirus started, I've also started a couple of new hobbies that I can do at home. I've enjoyed learning to cross-stitch and to bake!



My first cross-stitch

Continued on Page 6

- AIC:** Funny enough, I actually know a lot of people who started baking since the coronavirus started! So, how long do you plan to be in Higashikawa?
- Z. A.:** This is difficult to answer, especially with the uncertainty that the coronavirus is causing all around the globe. I know I'd like to stay here as long as possible, as I really enjoy living here.
- AIC:** Do you miss anything about life back in Canada?
- Z. A.:** Of course, I miss my friends and family. As for other things I miss, they're mostly foods! It's hard to find Mexican food here, and good bread and cheese is so expensive...
- AIC:** Last but not least, do you like Karaoke?
- Z. A.:** Yes, of course! It's a great way to have fun with friends ☺
- AIC:** That's all I have. Thank you so much for participating!
- Z. A.:** You're welcome!



Cinnamon Rolls

★ Movies ~ December ★

*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

- One in a Hundred Thousand (Japanese)
- Kimi wa Kanata (Japanese/Anime)
- Shin Samejima Jiken (Japanese)
- Stand By Me Doraemon 2 (Japanese/Anime)
- Food Luck! (Japanese)
- Flight on the Water (Japanese)~12/3
- The Legacy of Dr. Death: Black File (Japanese)
- Hotel Royal (Japanese/PG12)
- Paw Patrol Ready Race Rescue (Japanese/Anime)
- Ora, Ora be Goin' Alone (Japanese)~12/3
- Monster Strike: Lucifer (Japanese/Anime)
- Kanshari, Zutto Isshoni (Japanese)~12/3
- The Voice of Sin (Japanese)
- Your Eyes Tell (Japanese)~12/3
- Demon Slayer: Mugen Train (Japanese/PG12/Anime)

Coming Soon

- Silent Tokyo (Japanese) 12/4
- Shin Kaishaku • Sangokushi (Japanese) 12/11
- The Promised Neverland (Japanese) 12/18
- Wonder Woman 1984 (English 4DX) 12/18
- Kamen Rider Saber/ Kamen Rider Zero-One (Japanese) 12/18
- Josee, the Tiger and the Fish (Japanese/Anime) 12/25
- Pouppelle of the Chimney Town (Japanese/Anime) 12/25
- Pocket Monsters the Movie: Coco (Japanese/Anime) 12/25
- Adult's Situation (Japanese) 1/8

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

★ Movies ~ December ★

*<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

- Hayabusa 2 ~Reborn (Japanese/Anime)
- Stand By Me Doraemon 2 (Japanese/Anime)
- Remi Sans Famille (Japanese)
- Legend of Hei (Japanese 4DX/Anime)
- The Legacy of Dr. Death: Black File (Japanese)
- Hotel Royal (Japanese/PG12)
- Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (Japanese 4DX3D)
- Monster Strike: Lucifer (Japanese/Anime)
- 461 Lunch Boxes (Japanese)
- PreCure Miracle Leap: A Wonderful Day with Everyone (Japanese/Anime)
- The Voice of Sin (Japanese)
- Your Eyes Tell (Japanese)
- Demon Slayer: Mugen Train (Japanese/PG12/Anime)
- Midnight Swan (Japanese)

Coming Soon

- Silent Tokyo (Japanese) 12/4
- Takizawa Kabuki ZERO 2020 the Movie (Japanese) 12/4
- Evangelion: 1.0 You Are (Not) Alone (Japanese 4DX/Anime) 12/4
- The Witches (English) 12/4
- Shin Kaishaku・Sangokushi (Japanese) 12/11
- Evangelion: 2.0 You Can (Not) Advance (Japanese 4DX/Anime) 12/11
- Tengaramon (Japanese) 12/11
- Wonder Woman 1984 (English 4DX) 12/18
- Kamen Rider Zero-One (Japanese) 12/18
- The Promised Neverland (Japanese) 12/18
- Evangelion: 3.0 You Can (Not) Redo (Japanese 4DX/Anime) 12/18
- Pocket Monsters the Movie: Coco (Japanese/Anime) 12/25
- Peninsula (Korean) 1/1
- Iwago Mitsuaki no Sekai Neko Aruki the Movie (Japanese) 1/8

★ **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

- Cells at Work! (Japanese/Anime)~12/10
- Ainu Mosir (Japanese)~12/3
- Stand By Me Doraemon 2 (Japanese/Anime)
- The Legacy of Dr. Death: Black File (Japanese)
- Hotel Royal (Japanese/PG12)
- Majo Mminarai wo Sagashite (Japanese/Anime)
- Legend of Hei (Chinese/Anime)
- The Voice of Sin (Japanese)
- Your Eyes Tell (Japanese)
- Demon Slayer: Mugen Train (Japanese/Anime)
- Yoake wo Shinjite (Japanese)

Coming Soon

- Silent Tokyo (Japanese) 12/4
- The Witches (English) 12/4
- Evangelion: 1.0 You Are (Not) Alone (Japanese/Anime) 12/4
- Fate/Grand Order Wandering: Agateram (Japanese/Anime) 12/5
- Shin Kaishaku・Sangokushi (Japanese) 12/11
- Evangelion: 2.0 You Can (Not) Advance (Japanese 4DX/Anime) 12/11
- Kamen Rider Saber/Kamen Rider Zero-one (Japanese) 12/18
- Wonder Woman 1984 (English 4DX) 12/18
- The Promised Neverland (Japanese) 12/18
- Evangelion: 3.0 You Can (Not) Redo (Japanese 4DX/Anime) 12/18
- Pocket Monsters the Movie: Coco (Japanese/Anime) 12/25
- Poupelle of the Chimney Town (Japanese/Anime) 12/25
- Sailor Moon Eternal (Japanese/Anime) 1/8
- Gintama: the Final (Japanese/Anime) 1/8
- Adult's Situation (Japanese) 1/8

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

Abe Hiroshi Exhibition for "Carnival on Ice"

This picture book depicts an annual carnival that was held from the end of the Taisho era to the beginning of the Showa era in Sapporo. When February arrived, the people of Sapporo celebrated the end of the harsh winter by dressing in handmade clothes and holding a carnival at the skating rink in Nakajima Park. Come and enjoy the wonderful illustrations!



Date: Now~12/25 (Friday), closed Mondays and Tuesdays

Time: 10:00-18:00

Location: Gallery Puru Puru (7-jo 8-chome)

For Further Information Contact: 0166-73-8289

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! 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

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: December 11th & 25th, January 8th & 22nd, February 12th & 26th

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.****