

旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

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Hokkaido News Top 5



February 2019
Compiled by AIC

Dec. 15

The Hokkaido District Transport Bureau demonstrated a website prototype on a tablet designed for use by foreigners who get ill while traveling. Tablets will only be available at two accommodation facilities in Kutchan Town and three in Niseko Town for two months starting on the 20th. The aim is to reduce non-emergency visits during outside normal clinic hours and on holidays.

Dec. 21

A study done by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology shows children in Hokkaido aged 5 to 17 are overweight compared to the national average. This is the fifth year in a row children in Hokkaido has been recorded to be overweight. The tendency is more apparent for boys aged 13 and 14. Both ages rank number one nationally in terms of weight, with age 13 being 16.2% over the average and age 14 being 13.3% over.

Jan. 1

The number of traffic deaths occurred in Hokkaido in 2018 fell by seven from the previous year to 141, hitting the lowest level since the data collection started in 1947. The 2018 data showed that death in a traffic collision was 56, the highest ever, which includes 36 head on collisions. The reasons behind the increase in collisions are because tourists (in and out of Japan) are driving long distances and on unfamiliar roads. In addition, 11 Alcohol-impaired driving related deaths were recorded, a similar level to the previous year.

Jan. 9

The Hokuren Federation of Agriculture Cooperatives announced that the price of raw milk collected from designated raw milk producers will increase when this milk is sold to dairy companies for consumption as a beverage. The price per kilogram of milk will be four yen higher, the first time in four years that the price of raw milk has seen an increase. Raw milk used for processed products such as cheese and butter will remain the same.

Jan 14

The Furano Grape Research Institute, the maker and seller of "Furano Wine", announced that the price for all of its products, including 14 regularly consumed products, will increase by about 10 to 20%. The increase is due to poor grape production and soaring raw material prices. The institute said that until now, it has never increased the price other than due to tax increases.



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.

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

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Asahikawa Kitasaito Winter Garden**旭川北彩都冬ガーデン**

The Asahikawa Kitasaito Winter Garden will be opening up to the public! These attractions are located around Asahikawa Station and behind it at Kitasaito Garden.

Yukki Rink

Now until 2/11 (Monday, Holiday) 10:00-19:00

Snowmobile Sleigh Ride

Now until 2/11 (Monday, Holiday) 10:00-16:00, No service on 2/3 (Sunday)

Snow Raft/Banana Boat Rides

Now until 2/2 (Saturday) 10:00 -16:00

The skating rink is free of charge (includes shoe rentals). You must be wearing a hat and gloves to use the rink. Admission fee for each ride: ¥200 (Pre-school children and under are free with paying adult)

**Zodiac Exhibition “Anyone Can Be An Artist! Boar Exhibition”****干支展「だれでもアーティスト！いのしし展」**

This time of the year, Gallery Puru Puru hosts an exhibition featuring animals of the Chinese Zodiac. You will be able to see artwork of this year’s animal, the wild boar, from not only Hiroshi ABE, but from artists all around the country! A popularity vote will be held for the different pieces of art, so be sure to vote for your favorites. Welcome the new year by heading over to Gallery Puru Puru!

Date: Now until 2/23 (Saturday)

Time: 10:00-18:00

Venue: Gallery Puru Puru (7-jo-dori 8-chome)

Admission: Free

For Further Information Contact: 0166-73-8289

Notes: Closed on Mondays and Tuesdays.

**2019 Asahikawa Kitasaito Garden Day-Camping in the Snow****2019旭川北彩都ガーデン 雪中デイキャンプ**

Interested in getting out in the snow with the family? Want to introduce your kids to campfires in a safe environment? Join this short camping excursion for lunch! Stay warm with help from both wood stoves and bonfire stands, and make delicious food fit for a camp adventure with a dutch oven! Register soon, as the number of participants is limited to 30 (or 10 total groups).

Date: 2/9 (Saturday)

Time: 11:00-13:00

Meeting Place: Kitasaito Garden (Miyamae 2-jo 1-chome)

Participation Fee: Adults ¥1000, Children (elementary school and above) ¥500

Registration: Visit www.kitasaito.garden, mail adcom-@potato8.hokkai.net, or call 0166-27-2700 to reserve your spot. The registration cap is 30 participants.

**Madoka SATO and Miho TORIYABE Joint Recital****佐藤まどか&鳥谷部美帆 ジョイントリサイタル**

Two extremely talented Asahikawa musicians will be performing side by side in this upcoming concert! Hear tunes from J. Massenet, C. Debussy, F. Chopin, and more performed beautifully through this piano-violin duet!

Date: 2/9 (Saturday)

Time: Opens 14:30, Starts 15:00

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

Admission: General ¥1000

Ticket Office: Yamaha Music Retailing Shop, Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall Shop



Winter Concert ウインターコンサート

This concert is put on by amateur musicians from the Asahikawa area. 10 groups of musicians will be performing with a variety of instruments, including the piano, flute, accordion, fogelhorn, and more. Get in the winter spirit and come see this free concert!

Date: 2/11 (Monday, Holiday)

Time: Opens 13:30, Starts 14:00

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

Admission: Free, but a numbered ticket is needed. You can get one at any of the ticket offices listed below.

Ticket Office: Kawai Asahikawa Shop, Yamaha Music Retailing Shop, Gyokkodo, Potato Service Center, Asahikawa Civic Culture Center, Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall

For Further Information Contact: 0166-69-2000



30th Fostering the Culture of Hokkaido Commemorative Performance

第30回 北を創る 記念公演

Enjoy a celebration of culture and welcome Hokkaido's musicians and performers to the stage! This concert aims to introduce traditional Japanese dance and music to more people, to put on an incredible performance for the viewers, and to foster the growth of up-and-coming performers and musicians in Hokkaido. See performances such as ballet, flamenco, Japanese traditional dancing, and musical performances of folk songs, shamisen and more.

Date: 2/17 (Sunday)

Time: Opens 10:30, Starts 11:00

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

Admission: Free for foreign residents, but you must pick up your tickets at the Asahikawa International Center (Feeeal Asahikawa 7F, 1-jo-dori 8-chome). General ¥1000, elementary school students and under are free

Ticket Office: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Coach and Four, Potato Service Center (These ticket offices are for General ticket purchases only)



Exploring Art and the Art Museum

探検!?美術館

Not only will you find pictures at this exhibition, but also peculiar figures like a growling cheetah and a chair that sprouted wings! After you're done looking at the wonderful pieces of art, head over to the craft corner and make some art for your own! This is a great exhibition for children and adults alike.

Date: 2/22 (Friday) until 4/17 (Wednesday)

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

Venue: Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art

Admission: General ¥510 (¥400), high school and university students ¥300 (¥250). Prices in parenthesis are for groups over ten or for tickets purchased in advance. Junior high school students and those above 65 years of age are free

For Further Information Contact: 0166-25-2577

Notes: Closed on Mondays.



Reims Chamber Music Orchestra Family Concert

ランス室内音楽 ファミリーコンサート

This isn't your ordinary chamber music concert! Kids will be able to get up, move around, and experience playing different instruments throughout the concert! If you prefer to sit and listen, you will be able to do that as well!

Date: 2/24 (Sunday)

Time: Opens 13:30, Starts 14:00

Venue: Asahikawa Public Hall (In Tokiwa Park)

Admission: General ¥500

Ticket Office: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall Office, Taisetsu Crystal Hall Office, Coach and Four, Gyokkodo, Yamaha Music Retailing Shop, Kodomo Fukido.

For Further Information Contact: 0166-25-7331

Notes: Children 3 and under are free if they share a seat with you. Please contact the Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall office in advance for wheelchair seating at the number above.





Hello Asahikawa!

Name: Daniel Lizarraga
Home Country: United States
Interviewed: January 23rd, 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: **What brings you to Japan?**

Daniel:

I'm here on the JET Program as a CIR (Coordinator for International Relations) and I work at the Asahikawa International Center! I do a variety of things from translating documents to helping out at events, but the most consistent thing I do every month is put together a newsletter for foreign residents. Maybe you have read it before! I have loved Nintendo games since I was a kid, so that was one of my motivations to start learning more about Japan. Through studying Japanese in high school and studying abroad in university, I was able to make Japanese friends and had a ton of great experiences. Now I'm doing something I only dreamed about in high school so I consider myself pretty lucky!

AIC: **Where are you from originally?**

Daniel:

I'm from Seattle, Washington in the United States. We're known for Starbucks, Microsoft, and an onslaught of rain throughout most of the year. Come visit if you have the chance!

AIC: **Is there anything in particular you like about Asahikawa or Japan in general?**

Daniel:

Overall, I love the sense of security and level of respect people have for each other and their belongings. I also like how Japanese people pay special attention to the change of seasons. There's a joke among foreign residents here that you always hear Japanese people proudly say "Japan has four seasons" as if it's an unheard of phenomenon throughout the rest of the world. However, I do feel that in Japan that the seasons are highlighted very well with seasonal dishes (not just using the food you can harvest), special events, activities, festivals, decorations, etc.

To be honest, I wasn't sure if I would like living in Asahikawa when I first got here. Now that I have been living here for a year and a half, I can safely say I love it! As an agricultural powerhouse, Hokkaido has some of the best and freshest food in Japan. The snow is a little inconvenient sometimes, but it makes for beautiful scenery during the winter. In terms of size, Asahikawa is perfect. There are a lot of things to do (if you look hard enough) because it's still a city, but it's still small enough where you can get to know the local residents and feel at home.



AIC: How does Asahikawa compare to Seattle?

Daniel: Seattle is much larger than Asahikawa, so it really feels like you're living in a city. There's also a lot to do in Seattle so no matter what your hobbies are you'll find people who share the same interests. Asahikawa has a much slower pace of life, which is nice if you don't like crowded areas and traffic. Seattle has been growing like crazy nowadays so it's nice to live in a city without all of that. In terms of temperature, Asahikawa is much colder. Seattle gets around 2 weeks of snow at most while Asahikawa has close to five months.



AIC: Do you speak any other languages?

Daniel: Yes, I can speak Japanese. I have a lot of relatives in Peru on my father's side so I'm making an effort to learn more Spanish, but I'm still a complete beginner.



AIC: Is there anything you miss about the US?

Daniel: I miss my family and friends a lot. Of course I can talk to them online, but it's not the same, you know? Among other things, Mexican food, peanut butter, cilantro, people saying "bless you" after you sneeze, and good pizza. Corn on pizza is a sin.

AIC: What are your hobbies? Do you do any winter sports?

Daniel: I mentioned this earlier, but I love playing video games, particularly Smash Bros. Unfortunately I don't have a lot of time for video games anymore, but I'm hoping to get back into them. I also like playing and watching soccer. During the summer, I like to go out and bike the trails by the river. They go out pretty far and it's a good way to get yourself acquainted with the geography of the city. The scenery is beautiful! Also, I've never done winter sports but I'm excited to try out snowboarding.

AIC: What are some of your favorite places here?

Daniel: I'm a big fan of eating so I love the sheer variety of restaurants located in and around the downtown area. I also work downtown so it's pretty convenient for me to go try different restaurants in the area. If you're looking for good food, I have a lot of recommendations! Also, the Ice Crystal Museum is also a big favorite. The design of the building is incredible and it's a great place for pictures.



Continued on Page 6

AIC: How long do you plan to be in Asahikawa?
Daniel: Forever! Just kidding, maybe a few more years. I want to work somewhere else in Japan after my contract ends here but I haven't planned the details. If there were a wider variety of jobs for foreign residents in Asahikawa I would love to stay longer.

AIC: Do you like Karaoke?
Daniel: I used to dread Karaoke but now I love it! I don't speak English that often at work, so it's my one chance to get all that pent-up English out of my system.

AIC: Thank you for participating!
Daniel: Thank you for reading my interview! It's about time I participated considering how long I've been here. If you have any recommendations for Asahikawa Info or if you are interested in seeing any particular content, please shoot me an e-mail. Please look forward to another year of Asahikawa Info!



★ Movies ~ February ★

*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

- School-Live (Japanese)
- 12 Children Who Want to Die (Japanese)
- Ai Uta: My Promise to Nakuhiro (Japanese)
- Restaurant from the Sky (Japanese)
- Masquerade Hotel (Japanese)
- Yoake (Japanese)
- Creed 2 (English)
- A Banana? At This Time of Night? (Japanese)
- Kamen Rider Heisei Generations FOREVER (Japanese)
- Ralph Breaks the Internet (English/Anime)
- A Star is Born (English/PG12)
- Nisekoi (Japanese)
- Dragon Ball Super: Broly (Japanese/Anime)
- Yo-Kai Watch: Forever Friends (Japanese/Anime)
- Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald (English)
- Bohemian Rhapsody (English)

Coming Soon

- Snow Flower (Japanese) 2/1
- The Seven Conferences (Japanese) 2/1
- Mary Poppins Returns (English) 2/1
- Korasho no Kaitei Wakuwaku Daiboken! (Japanese/Anime) 2/1
- City Hunter (Japanese/Anime) 2/8
- First Man (English) 2/8
- Aquaman (English) 2/8
- Fortuna's Eye (Japanese) 2/15
- Torasan~Boku ga Neko ni Natta Wake (Japanese) 2/15
- Egao no Mukoni (Japanese) 2/15
- Chieri and Cherry (Japanese) 2/15
- Alita: Battle Angel (English) 2/22
- Tonde Saitama (Japanese) 2/22
- Samurai Marathon (Japanese) 2/22
- Doraemon: Nobita's Chronicle of the Moon (Japanese/Anime) 3/1
- Kugatsu no Koi to Deau Made (Japanese) 3/1
- Ultraman R/B: Select! the Crystal of Bonds (Japanese) 3/8

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

★ Movies ~ February ★

*<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

- 12 Children Who Want to Die (Japanese)
- Restaurant from the Sky (Japanese)
- Reborn (Korean)
- Masquerade Hotel (Japanese)
- Darwin's Amazing Animals!: New African Legacy (Japanese)
- Fafner: Heaven and Earth (Japanese/Anime/4DX)
- Taxi 5 (French, Japanese)
- Token Ranbu (Japanese)
- Creed 2 (English)
- My Hero Academia: Two Heroes (Japanese/Anime/4DX)
- Love Live! Sunshine!! The School Idol Movie Over the Rainbow (Japanese/Anime)
- A Banana? At This Time of Night? (Japanese)
- Kamen Rider Heisei Generations FOREVER (Japanese)
- Ralph Breaks the Internet (English, Japanese/Anime)
- A Star is Born (English/PG12)
- Dragon Ball Super: Broly (Japanese/Anime)
- Yo-Kai Watch: Forever Friends (Japanese/Anime)
- Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald (English, Japanese)
- The House Where the Mermaid Sleeps (Japanese)
- Bohemian Rhapsody (English)

Coming Soon

- Snow Flower (Japanese) 2/1
- The Seven Conferences (Japanese) 2/1
- Mary Poppins Returns (English) 2/1
- Aquaman (English 2D, Japanese 4DX) 2/8
- First Man (English 2D, 4DX) 2/8
- Another World (Japanese) 2/15
- Alita: Battle Angel (English 2D, 4DX) 2/22
- Tonde Saitama (Japanese) 2/22
- Doraemon: Nobita's Chronicle of the Moon (Japanese/Anime) 3/1
- Even If the World Ends Tomorrow (Japanese/Anime) 3/8
- Rin (Japanese) 3/8
- Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse (English 4DX) 3/8

★ **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

- Restaurant from the Sky (Japanese)
- 12 Children Who Want to Die (Japanese)
- Masquerade Hotel (Japanese)
- Mile 22 (English/R15+)
- Fate Stay Night Heaven's Feel II. Lost Butterfly (Japanese/Anime)
- Creed 2 (English)
- Kamen Rider Heisei Generations FOREVER (Japanese)
- A Banana? At This Time of Night? (Japanese)
- A Star is Born (English/PG12)
- Ralph Breaks the Internet (English/Anime)
- Dragon Ball Super: Broly (Japanese/Anime)
- Yo-Kai Watch: Forever Friends (Japanese/Anime)
- Bohemian Rhapsody (English)

Coming Soon

- The Front Runner (English) 2/1
- Snow Flower (Japanese) 2/1
- Mary Poppins Returns (English) 2/1
- The Seven Conferences (Japanese) 2/1
- Aquaman (English) 2/8
- First Man (English) 2/8
- City Hunter (Japanese/Anime) 2/8
- Alita: Battle Angel (English) 2/22
- Tonde Saitama (Japanese) 2/22
- Haha o Nakushita Toki, Boku wa Ikotsu o Tabetai to Omotta (Japanese) 2/22
- Doraemon: Nobita's Chronicle of the Moon (Japanese/Anime) 3/1
- Captain Marvel (English) 3/15
- Dumbo (English/Anime) 3/29

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

ASAHIKAWA WINTER FESTIVAL

The 60th Asahikawa Winter Festival will take place 2/6 (Wednesday) through 2/11 (Monday, Holiday)! There are many events and activities happening throughout the festival so pick up the Asahikawa Winter Festival Executive Committee's event leaflet (pictured on the right) in either English or Japanese for the full scoop on all events, including a guide map. There is no parking on festival grounds, so be sure to use the free shuttle bus to get to the festival!

Fireworks and Projection Mapping Light Show:

Every night beginning at 19:00 at the Main Snow Sculpture (Asahibashi Riverside Festival Site).

International Ice Sculpture Competition:

Ice sculptors spend two entire days crafting their sculptures and showcase them throughout Kai-mono Koen all the way to the station. These intricately carved masterpieces are illuminated every night until the festival ends.

Snow Lights in the Zoo:

Don't miss this rare opportunity to observe the zoo animals at night by the light of hundreds of ice candles. "Snow Lights in the Zoo" will run from 2/6 (Wednesday) through 2/11 (Monday, Holiday). Hours are 10:30-20:30.

Ice Slide and Snow Sculptures:

Try out the 100m long ice slide at the top of the Main Snow Sculpture and check out the wide variety of small snow sculptures at the Asahibashi Riverside Festival Site!



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: February 8th & 22nd, March 8th & 22nd, April 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.



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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.****