

旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

July 2019 VOL. 272

Published by AIC

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Hokkaido News Top 5



July 2019
Compiled by AIC

May 18

Three new hotels equipped for long-term stays for foreign tourists are opening in Susukino (Sapporo's downtown district) in June. Targeting families and large groups, rooms are equipped with kitchens, furniture, and home appliances. Demand is high for these types of hotels, and people can expect to see more of them in the future.

May 23

Hokkaido University is opening an office in Moscow in June, hoping to attract more students. The opening of the new office was made possible by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology to increase Japan's global competitiveness in education.

May 24

According to the Hokkaido government, 10,032 technical intern trainees from overseas are working in Hokkaido. This number has increased for its seventh consecutive year, up 18% since the previous year. Most trainees are working in the food manufacturing business, however, more and more construction and fishing businesses are now accepting them.

June 3

The Sapporo district meteorological observatory announced that the average temperature in May was 3.1°C higher than usual, the highest ever since records began in 1946. Saroma Town recorded a temperature of 39.5°C on May 26th, the hottest May temperature ever recorded in Japan.

June 8

Small-scale handmade cheese factories are on the rise in Kamikawa subprefecture. In Asahikawa alone there are seven of such factories, and if you include surrounding towns, the number goes up to 13. A farming style called "fermier" (cheese is produced on the farm where the milk is produced) is still the main style employed. An increase in the overall number of cheese factories, including industrial style factories, is believed to be the main reason for this rise.



Inside This Issue...

For further information

or to register for events contact:

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(SUGANO Ayumi, Daniel LIZARRAGA, or
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Asahikawa Jazz Orchestra 3rd Recital 旭川ジャズオーケストラ 第3回リサイタル

Come out and listen to three different styles of jazz at this downtown concert: swing, Latin, and contemporary. There's something for everyone to enjoy!

Date: 7/7 (Sunday)

Time: Opens 16:30, Starts 17:00

Venue: Apisu Hall (4-jo-dori 8-chome Apisu Building 4th Floor)

Admission: General ¥1,500

Ticket Office: Yamaha Music Retailing Store

For Further Information Contact: AKJO Recital Executive Committee Member FUJIWARA at 080-3290-4941



Join the Traditional Music Revolution 3

伝統と革命を喰らえ 3

KANNO Yuto was born into a household of Tsugaru Shamisen players; his father and grandfather are both professionals. He has traveled domestically and abroad performing with his father and grandfather as the "Three generations of Tsugaru Shamisen." KANNO won 1st place at national competitions in 2012, 2016, and 2017 and was bestowed with "Best Tsugaru Shamisen Player in Japan" awards.

KANNO hopes to inspire the next generation to have a greater interest in Japanese traditional culture. In order to achieve this dream, he is showcasing the versatility of the Tsugaru Shamisen by collaborating with artists from a variety of genres. Experience taiko drumming, a live band, and traditional dance that is infused with the energetic tones of the Tsugaru Shamisen!

Date: 7/13 (Saturday)

Time: Opens 16:30, Starts 17:00

Venue: Asahikawa Public Hall (Inside Tokiwa Park)

Admission: Tickets bought in advance ¥2,000, Day of ¥2,500

Ticket Office: Gyokkodo, Yamaha Music Retailing Store, Onuma Instrument Shop

For Further Information Contact: Kouzankai Association at 0166-26-7162



Kamikawajinja Shrine Festival

上川神社例大祭

A portable shrine will make its way through the city at the Kamikawajinja Shrine Festival. A parade with a portable shrine will be making its way out of the Kamikawajinja shrine on the 21st. It will head all the way to the Tongu Shrine in Tokiwa Park where the portable shrine will rest for the night before heading back to the Kamikawajinja Shrine on the 22nd. As such, food stalls will line Tokiwa Park's walking paths during this time. Come and join one of Asahikawa's most traditional festivals!



Date: 7/20 (Saturday) ~ 7/22 (Monday)

Time: 7/20: Starts 20:00, 7/21: Starts 8:00, 7/22: Starts at around 13:00 (After the portable shrines returns to the Kamikawajinja Shrine)

Location: Asahikawa Kaguraoka Park, Kamikawajinja Shrine

For Further Information Contact: 0166-65-3151

33rd Annual Nagayama Tonden Festival

第33回 永山屯田祭り

Impressive paper lanterns and an enormous Taiko drum make its way through the streets at the Nagayama Tonden Festival! The finale will take place in the park in front of the Nagayama Community Center and it will feature a dance group that shouts in rhythm alongside the beatings of the taiko drum. This is an energetic festival that you won't want to miss!

Date: 7/27 (Saturday) ~ 7/28 (Sunday)

Time: 11:00-21:00

Location: Nagayama Community Center Festival Site (Nagayama 3-jo 20-chome)

For Further Information Contact: 0166-46-1000



EVENTS IN ASAHIKAWA FOR JULY

Explore Asahikawa!



In our July edition of Explore Asahikawa, we interviewed Yuki, the owner of Smooch Coffee. What inspired Yuki to open a California inspired coffee business in the cold Hokkaido north? What kind of shops does Smooch Coffee own and how are they different from other coffee shops in Hokkaido? Read more about Smooch Coffee and Yuki's thoughts in the interview below!

- AIC:** **Why did you decide to start up a coffee shop?**
Yuki: All the coffee we sell in this shop is imported from Santa Cruz, California, where I lived for a while. I saw so many cool coffee shops while I was there so I was inspired to open up my own.
- AIC:** **So you've lived in the U.S. before?**
Yuki: Yes, I have. I've lived in Santa Cruz, Monterey, Los Angeles, and even Seattle. My favorite was Northern California. The weather is so nice and sunny all the time. You can't live there anymore, though. It's too expensive.
- AIC:** **How did "Smooch" get its name?**
Yuki: It was actually my business partner who thought of the name. We wanted a name with a double "O." Groove, Smooch, something like that. To us, "Smooch" is like a greeting. Coffee in itself is a greeting from us to the customer, so that's how we got our name.
- AIC:** **What kind of atmosphere do you hope to create at Smooch?**
Yuki: A peaceful and positive atmosphere, but it depends on the location of the shop. I was inspired by the coffee shops in Santa Cruz so I try to create a similar atmosphere.
- AIC:** **What are some differences between your coffee shops in Asahikawa and Sapporo and the ones you went to in Santa Cruz?**
Yuki: We have four months of snow here so it's not exactly the same environment as Santa Cruz. The weather has been getting warmer recently, so right now it's pretty similar. The goal is to take Santa Cruz's relaxed atmosphere and put a Hokkaido twist on it. It has been about six years since we opened our first store in Sapporo. Even though we import the beans from Santa Cruz, our cafes definitely have a Hokkaido feel.



Come in to and take advantage of specials only offered during the summer!

AIC: Do you have a specific preference for how you like your coffee?
Yuki: As long as it tastes good. That's what it's all about, right? There are so many different types of coffee, and the same goes for people. Every person is unique, and every type of coffee is unique. As long as that coffee tastes good, I'm satisfied. All the coffee we import from Santa Cruz gets here two to three days after it has been roasted, so you know it tastes good. The company that we import our coffee from has two shops in Santa Cruz and a roasting factory in Watsonville, right in between Monterey and Santa Cruz next to the coast.

AIC: What's your favorite type of cookie that you sell here?
Yuki: I love them all. We use a delicious recipe from a cookie shop in Stanford, California, and make the cookies with local ingredients. They all taste great.



Chocolate chip, peanut butter, oatmeal, walnut chocolate, and more. So many flavors to choose from!

AIC: Do you have any goals for Smooch in the future?
Yuki: Hmm... This is a tough one. Well, I want to work hard to make the Smooch Coffee shops more comfortable and fun for our customers.

AIC: What makes Smooch unique?
Yuki: We have a lot of unique items and decorations in our shop. Every item in Smooch has meaning. I could talk about each one for five minutes. Mass produced, brand new stuff can't do that for you. You'll get tired of them in no time. You will never get bored of things that are unique and have their own personal story. For example, here's a picture of a used horse trailer we imported from the States. To think that this trailer would be given a second life as a coffee trailer in Japan is unimaginable. Here's a picture.

AIC: Wow! It looks incredible.
Yuki: It's really amazing, and it's a hit with the customers, too. We've been using it in Sapporo recently, and one of them even drew a painting of the trailer by the lakeside for us.



This remodeled horse trailer is the perfect portable coffee stand!

AIC: I love it. Lastly, please give a message for our readers.
Yuki: Many Japanese people really want to talk to more foreign people, but they are too shy to start up a conversation. Please try talking to more Japanese people! As far as our shop goes, I have some good advice for activities and places see in Hokkaido, so if you're interested come give us a visit!

We would like to thank Yuki of Smooch Coffee for granting us the opportunity for an interview. To learn more, go to www.smoochcoffee.com, or visit the Asahikawa location at:
Akebono 1-jo 2-chome
Hours: Open every day except Wednesday (closed), 12:00-20:00
TEL: 0166-22-8233

Life in Asahikawa



July, Mid-Summer By KITAMURA Tadao

When midsummer comes around, people are reminded of just how hot summer can be, and some feel apprehensive about the weather of when the 2020 Tokyo Olympics will take place. Earlier this year, an unusually strong heat-wave surged through Japan. Even here in Hokkaido, where people enjoy a rather mild climate every year, days of blistering heat higher than 35°C occurred on the last week of May. Surprisingly, Saroma Town, a neighboring town of Abashiri City in Eastern Hokkaido, recorded a high of 39.5°C. It was the highest recorded temperature in the town's history. In addition, the JR- railroad temporarily stopped service on express trains due to a concern that the rails would be distorted by the heat.

Japan has had a humid subtropical climate throughout most of history, however, the environment is changing. 'Global warming' is making headway. In recent years, a considerable number of lives (mostly school-children and the aged) were lost to severe heatstroke. This occurred all over the archipelago during the summer season, sometimes on school grounds and other times in facilities for aged people. When a heat wave is approaching, the Japan Meteorological Agency and the media give warnings through television broadcast or through the internet. They advise not to stay outdoors for an extended period of time, to drink plenty of water, not to stay in a car for a long time, to remember to put your air conditioner on, and other pieces of advice.

Days of scorching summer heat, known as *moshobi*, are defined as a days having recorded temperatures of higher than 35°C, and they occur more often than one would think in the many districts of the archipelago. When a hot mass of air comes from the Sea of Japan and leaps over the mountain ridges of the archipelago down to an out-skirt plain, it emits tremendous heat energy. This phenomenon is called "Foehn wind." The 2020 Tokyo Olympics will be held between July 24th and August 7th. People are excited for this incredible event, and desperately hope that a heat wave will not occur. However, do not worry too much. Our city of Asahikawa is located on the west side of the Daisetsu Mountains. The wind from west passes over our city to the mountains, so the Foehn wind does not occur on our side.

Although the weather is especially hot in the day-hours, the nighttime is chilly and wonderful. After sunset, people will often go for a stroll outdoors wearing light garments like *yukata*, admiring the Milky Way and constellations of the Swan, the Eagle, the Harp, and so on. On the seventh of July is a festival that originates from a myth telling the love story between two stars, Vega and Altair, separated by the Milky Way.



Hello Asahikawa!

Name: Steven Campbell
Home Country: United States
Interviewed: June 10th, 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 Steven, where are you from?**

Steven: I'm from Bloomington, Illinois, which is in the central part of the state of Illinois. It's about 120 miles or so away from Chicago.

AIC: **What brings you to Japan?**

Steven: I'm a member of the Bloomington-Normal-Asahikawa Sister City Committee, and every year we send students we call "Junior Ambassadors" to Japan to take in the culture and learn about the country. It also acts as a look-see to students who may want to come and spend a year as a foreign exchange student. We don't want them to come and then two or three weeks later have them say "It's not what I thought it would be."

AIC: **How did you get involved with the Bloomington-Normal Sister City Committee?**

Steven: Well, I retired from Caterpillar Inc. in 2014, and I wanted to give something back to my community. I happen to know the mayor of Bloomington which helped in terms of me getting in contact. He pointed out to me that we have a number of different committees that needed members like the Bloomington-Normal-Asahikawa Sister City Committee and I thought, "I'd like to be on that." That's how I got started.

AIC: **So then, is this your first time in Asahikawa?**

Steven: It's actually my third time in Asahikawa. In 2016 I was a chaperone for three boys and a girl for the Junior Ambassadors program. In 2017 I was here for the 55th anniversary of the sister cities relationship between Bloomington-Normal and Asahikawa. It's actually one of the longest sister city relationships in all of the United States.

AIC: **Are there any big differences between Asahikawa compared to where you live?**

Steven: You don't have as many potholes (laughs). I also like how you have a lot of little gardens all over the city. Buses and trains here run on time. It's a beautiful city. Bloomington-Normal is a beautiful city as well, but here you have mountains all the way out and around Asahikawa, so no matter where you look there are mountains. In Bloomington-Normal, when you get outside of the city it's flat. Just corn and beans (laughs). That's one thing that impresses the Junior Ambassadors. There are many places in the city you can go to and in the background you see mountains. It's a real treat for them.

AIC: **What do you like about Asahikawa, or Japan in general?**

Steven: Uhh, lavender ice cream (laughs). I really do like it. The ramen is also good, and the Junior Ambassadors would say so as well. Overall, being completely immersed in another culture is such an incredible learning experience.

Continued on Page 8

AIC: What are your hobbies?
Steven: I like golfing. As a matter of fact I went golfing Sunday. I can't remember the country club's name, but it was by the Asahikawa Airport and it was one of the most beautiful courses I've ever been on. I had a great day.

AIC: How long do you plan on being in Asahikawa?
Steven: We left Bloomington-Normal on May 31st, and we'll be leaving June 16th. The entire trip is 17 days including travel time. It's a solid two weeks for actually being here.

AIC: Do you like Karaoke?
Steven: Yes I like karaoke, but I promise everyone that I won't sing because I have a very very terrible voice. It's been known to shake buildings it's so bad (laughs).

AIC: Well, I hope I never hear it! (laughs)
Steven: I'd like to try karaoke, but I'd have to be like a mime. That's the only way I could do it.

AIC: Thank you so much for participating in this interview!
Steven: Thank you! I want to thank the sister cities committee and the city of Asahikawa for giving the Junior Ambassadors the opportunity to come here and learn about Japanese culture!



★ *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:** Miyashita-dori 7-chome / 0166 – 74 – 6411
 URL: cinema.aeoncinema.com/wm/asahikawa (Japanese)

Now Showing

- Bento Harassment (Japanese)
- Spider-Man: Far from Home (English)
- Newspaper Reporter (Japanese)
- Aru Machi no Takai Entotsu (Japanese)
- Ride Your Wave (Japanese/Anime)
- X-Men: Dark Phoenix (English)
- The Fable (Japanese)
- We Are Little Zombies (Japanese/PG12)
- Men in Black International (English)
- Kaiju no Kodomo (Japanese/Anime)
- Aladdin (English)
- Almost a Miracle (Japanese)
- Parallel World Love Story (Japanese)
- Godzilla: King of the Monsters (English)
- The Confidence Man JP (Japanese)
- Kingdom (Japanese)
- Detective Conan: The Fist of Blue Sapphire (Japanese/Anime)

Coming Soon

- Diner (Japanese) 7/5
- Toy Story 4 (English/Anime) 7/12
- Pokemon the Movie: Mewtwo Strikes Back Evolution (Japanese/Anime) 7/12
- Weathering with You (Japanese/Anime) 7/19
- Tokyo Ghoul S (Japanese/R15+) 7/19
- The Great War of Archimedes (Japanese) 7/26
- The Secret Life of Pets 2 (English) 7/26
- Kamen Rider Zi-O: Over Quartzer / Kishiryu Sentai Ryusoulger the Movie: Time Slip! Dinosaur Panic!! (Japanese) 7/26
- Dragon Quest: Your Story (Japanese/Anime) 8/2
- Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw (English) 8/2
- One Piece Stampede (Japanese/Anime) 8/9
- The Lion King (English) 8/9

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

- Sore Ike! Anpanman: Kirameke! Ice no Kuni no Vanilla-hime (Japanese/Anime)
- Spider-Man: Far from Home (English 4DX)
- Nagi Machi (Japanese/PG12)
- X-Men: Dark Phoenix (English 4DX)
- The Fable (Japanese)
- Ride Your Wave (Japanese/Anime)
- Men in Black International (English 4DX)
- Uta no Prince-sama (Japanese/Anime)
- Aladdin (English 4DX, Japanese 2D)
- Cold Pursuit (English/PG12)
- Godzilla: King of the Monsters (English 4DX)
- Parallel World Love Story (Japanese)
- Kubo Ibuki (Japanese)
- The Confidence Man JP (Japanese)
- King of Prism - Shiny Seven Stars IV (Japanese/Anime)
- Pokemon Detective Pikachu (English)
- Avengers: Endgame (English 4DX)
- Kingdom (Japanese)
- Detective Conan: The Fist of Blue Sapphire (Japanese/Anime)

Coming Soon

- Tannisho wo Hiraku (Japanese/Anime) 7/5
- Diner (Japanese) 7/5
- Toy Story 4 (English 4DX, Japanese 2D/Anime) 7/12
- Pokemon the Movie: Mewtwo Strikes Back Evolution (Japanese/Anime) 7/12
- Tokyo Ghoul S (Japanese/R15+) 7/19
- Weathering with You (Japanese/Anime) 7/19
- The Secret Life of Pets 2 (English) 7/26
- The Great War of Archimedes (Japanese) 7/26
- Kamen Rider Zi-O: Over Quartzer / Kishiryu Sentai Ryusoulger the Movie: Time Slip! Dinosaur Panic!! (Japanese) 7/26
- Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw (English) 8/2
- Dragon Quest: Your Story (Japanese/Anime) 8/2
- One Piece Stampede (Japanese/Anime) 8/9
- The Lion King (English 4DX, Japanese 2D) 8/9

★ **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

- Spider-Man: Far from Home (English)
- Bento Harassment (Japanese)
- Hot Gimmick: Girl Meets Boy (Japanese)
- The Fable (Japanese)
- X-Men: Dark Phoenix (English)
- Men in Black International (English)
- Kakegurui - Compulsive Gambler (Japanese) ~7/4
- Aladdin (English)
- Erica38 (Japanese)
- Parallel World Love Story (Japanese)~7/11
- Godzilla: King of the Monsters (English)
- A Long Goodbye (Japanese)
- Sadako (Japanese)~7/4
- Pokemon Detective Pikachu (English)
- Kingdom (Japanese)
- Crayon Shin-chan: Honeymoon Hurricane~The Lost Hiroshi (Japanese/Anime)
- Detective Conan: The Fist of Blue Sapphire (Japanese/Anime)

Coming Soon

- Diner (Japanese) 7/5
- Fate/Kaleid liner Prisma ☆II (Japanese/Anime) 7/12 ~ 7/25
- Pokemon the Movie: Mewtwo Strikes Back Evolution (Japanese/Anime) 7/12
- Toy Story 4 (English/Anime) 7/12
- Child's Play (English) 7/19
- Tokyo Ghoul S (Japanese/R15+) 7/19
- Weathering with You (Japanese/Anime) 7/19
- The Great War of Archimedes (Japanese) 7/26
- Kamen Rider Zi-O: Over Quartzer / Kishiryu Sentai Ryusoulger the Movie: Time Slip! Dinosaur Panic!! (Japanese) 7/26
- The Secret Life of Pets 2 (English) 7/26
- Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw (English) 8/2
- One Piece Stampede (Japanese/Anime) 8/9
- The Lion King (English) 8/9

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

Asahikawa Summer Festival!



Can you feel the heat? Grab your sunscreen because Asahikawa's annual summer festival is here! Experience three days packed full of unique events like the Fireworks Display, Citizen Dance Parade, Portable Shrine Procession, Disco Night, and more from **August 1st (Thursday) to the 3rd (Saturday)**!



Date	Time	Event	Location
8/1 (Thu)	18:00 to 19:30 19:45 to 20:45	Opening Ceremony Fireworks Display	Riverine Park Ishikari Riverside near Asahibashi
8/2 (Fri)	17:00 to 19:30 19:20 to 21:00	Citizen Dance Parade YOSAKOI Soran Night	Kaimono Koen Shopping Street 3-jo-dori 6-chome Special Stage
8/3 (Sat)	17:00 to 20:00 17:00 to 22:00 20:20 to 22:00	Portable Shrine Procession Rekka Summer Festival Disco Night	Kaimono Koen Shopping Street / Showa-dori Showa-dori and Tokiwa Park 3-jo-dori 6-chome Special Stage
8/1 (Thu) 8/2 (Fri) 8/3 (Sat)	16:00 to 22:00 14:00 to 22:00 11:00 to 22:00	Sanroku Festival	Around 3-jo-dori 6-chome

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 12th & 26th, August 9th & 23rd, September 13th & 27th

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.****