The Asian Reporter

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Read your New Year horoscope! See page 14!

Welcome the Year of the Horse!

HORSING AROUND. *Children play by a horse-shaped pattern made of footprints left by a man after snow fell on an overpass that was closed due to snow and rain, in Wuhan in central China's Hubei province, in this Februray 9, 2014 file photo. Millions across the world will soon celebrate the arrival of the Lunar New Year, the Year of the Horse. This year's Lunar New Year celebration begins February 17, 2026 and ends February 5, 2027. Those born in the Year of the Horse are usually confident, independent, talented, and calm individuals.* The Asian Reporter*'s special section celebrating the Lunar New Year begins on page 9. (AP Photo/Ng Han Guan, File)*

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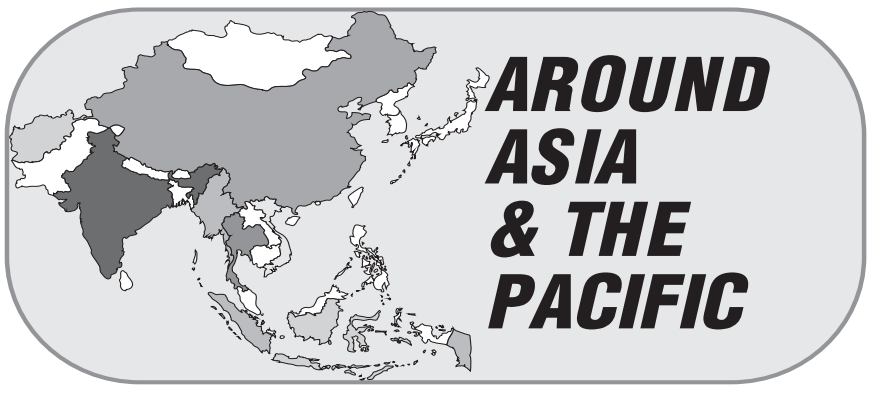
The Asian Reporter is published on the first Monday each month.

The staff at The Asian Reporter wish you and your family a safe and happy Lunar New Year!



Sri Lanka unveils a rare purple star sapphire

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — A purple star sapphire weighing 3,563 carats which is claimed to be the world's biggest of its kind was unveiled in the Sri Lankan capital by the owners, who are ready to sell the precious stone. The round shaped gem named "Star of Pure Land" is the world's largest documented natural purple star sapphire, said Ashan Amarasinghe, a consultant gemologist. "This is the largest purple star sapphire of its kind," he told the media, adding that the gem "shows a well-defined asterism. It has six rays asterism. That's something special out of all the other stones." The gem, which has been polished, is owned by the Star of Pure Land Team, who want to remain anonymous for security reasons. One of the owners said the gem was found in a gem pit near the remote Sri Lankan town of Rathnapura, known as the "city of gems," in 2023. It was purchased together with other gems in 2023 and about two years later, the owners found that it was a special stone. They then got it certified by two laboratories. Amarasinghe said the value of the stone has been estimated at $300 million to $400 million by international valuers. Sri Lankan sapphires are renowned for their unique color, clarity, and shimmer.

Japan's last pair of pandas have arrived back in China

BANGKOK (AP) — Japan's last pair of pandas have returned to China, leaving Japan without the lovable bears for the first time in half a century. The bears are heading back as diplomatic relations between the two countries are at their lowest point in years over the new Japanese Prime Minister's stance on Taiwan, an island Beijing claims as its own, making it unlikely that there will be replacement bears. The twins, brother Xiao Xiao and sister Lei Lei, have an adoring fan base in Japan, where thousands of people flocked to Tokyo's Ueno Zoo ahead of their departure. China first sent pandas to Japan in 1972, a gift meant to mark the normalization of diplomatic ties between the two neighbors. Beijing has long used the bears as a diplomatic tool: a sign of good will and an extension of the country's soft power, and one that it can retract when bilateral relationships turn adversarial. Images from state broadcaster CCTV, showed the two pandas arriving in crates in southwestern China's Sichuan province, where they will stay in quarantine at the China Conservation and Research Center for the Giant Panda. The twins were born in Tokyo's Ueno Zoo in 2021. While Beijing lends pandas to other countries, it maintains ownership over the animals, including new cubs.

India says it has contained Nipah virus outbreak

NEW DELHI (AP) — Indian authorities say they have contained a Nipah virus outbreak after confirming two cases in the eastern state of West Bengal, as several Asian countries tightened health screenings and airport surveillance for travellers arriving from India. India's Health Ministry said two Nipah cases had been detected since December and that all identified contacts had been quarantined and tested. The ministry did not release details about the patients but said 196 contacts had been traced and all tested negative. Nipah, a zoonotic virus first identified during a 1990s outbreak in Malaysia, spreads through fruit bats, pigs, and human-to-human contact. There is no vaccine for the virus, which can cause raging fevers, convulsions, and vomiting. The only treatment is supportive care to control complications and keep patients comfortable. The virus has an estimated fatality rate of between 40% and 75%, making it far more deadly than the coronavirus. There were no reported cases of the virus outside India, but several Asian countries introduced or reinforced screening measures at airports as a precaution. The safety measures were put in place after early media reports from India suggested a surge in cases, but health authorities said those figures were "speculative and incorrect." Indonesia and Thailand increased screening at major airports, with health declarations, temperature checks, and visual monitoring for arriving passengers. Thailand's Department of Disease Control said thermal scanners had been installed at arrival gates for direct flights from West Bengal at Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport. Myanmar's Health Ministry advised against nonessential travel to West Bengal and urged travellers to seek immediate medical care if symptoms develop within 14 days of travel. It said fever surveillance introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic at airports has been intensified for passengers arriving from India, with laboratory testing capacity and medical supplies readied. Vietnam's Health Ministry has urged strict food safety practices and directed local authorities to increase monitoring at border crossings, health facilities, and communities, according to state media. Earlier Nipah outbreaks were reported in West Bengal in 2001 and 2007. A major outbreak in 2018 killed at least 17 people in Kerala.

SK's former first lady sentenced to 20 months

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The wife of South Korea's ousted President Yoon Suk Yeol was sentenced to 20 months in prison for corruption, as her husband awaits a verdict on a high-stakes rebellion charge that could result in the death penalty or life imprisonment. Seoul Central District Court sentenced Kim Keon Hee for receiving luxury gifts like a Graff diamond necklace and a Chanel bag from the Unification Church in return for promises of political favors. "... the defendant exploited her position to seek personal gains," the court said in a televised verdict. Kim said via her lawyers that she would "humbly accept" the court's view and apologized "again to everyone for causing concerns." The presidential couple, who have been jailed separately for months, suffered a spectacular fall from grace after Yoon's martial law debacle in December 2024 led to his impeachment and eventual removal from office.

BEAUTIFUL BIRDS. *An Amur Paradise Flycatcher, left, and a Swinhoe's white-eye are seen painted on the wall of an abandoned house near Wang Tong Village, Lantau, Hong Kong. A flock has landed in Wang Tong Village, a peaceful corner of Lantau Island on Hong Kong's southwestern edge. But this flock is unlike others: Its birds are made of paint. (AP Photo/ May James)*

Across the forgotten walls of a Hong Kong island, a flock of bird murals rises

By May James
The Associated Press

HONG KONG — They perch gently on concrete ledges. They nestle into peeling stucco. Occasionally, they soar across a stone house's rooftop.

A flock has landed in Wang Tong Village, a peaceful corner of Lantau Island on Hong Kong's southwestern edge. But this flock is unlike others: Its birds are made of paint.

They exist on murals designed for a larger purpose — not merely to draw attention to forgotten places but to tell the story of the extraordinary journeys birds undertake.

Dominic Johnson-Hill, who envisioned the flock, was captivated by an account from his ornithologist neighbor about the Amur falcon, a bird that travels from Manchuria, pauses in Lantau, then continues its migration across Myanmar, India, and Madagascar to South Africa.

"I just assumed these birds lived on the island," Johnson-Hill recalls. "But they're not. They're passing guests."

That sense of wonder became the seed for what became the Flock Project. Johnson-Hill looked at the abandoned house next to his own and imagined a red-billed blue magpie painted across the wall. "They just seemed to belong there," he says.

To bring the vision to life, Johnson-Hill sought out someone who could paint birds not just accurately but with soul. He found British artist Rob Aspire, known as "The Birdman" for his intricate, expressive murals of birds.

One bird led to another. A year later, Johnson-Hill invited Aspire back and commissioned seven more murals.

Each bird was chosen for its ecological presence, visual harmony, or symbolic resonance with place. A kingfisher keeps watch over a stream where fishing is no longer allowed. A Swinhoe's white-eye blends into the walls near trees where its bright, fluting call still echoes.

All the murals are painted on abandoned homes except one. High on Sunset Peak, nearly 3,000 feet above sea level, a long-tailed shrike perches naturally on the rooftop of a 90-year-old stone house, watching the mountains unfold below.

The goal is to gradually bring more of Hong Kong's native and migratory birds into view, nestling them into forgotten corners of the island as if they had always lived there.

The murals draw hundreds of people, many from Hong Kong's concrete heart. They wander the trails and alleys of Lantau's quiet corners. On weekends, some bring chalk and mark out arrows, turning village paths into treasure maps for the next bird hunter. Sometimes noticing beauty is the first step toward wanting to protect it.

Johnson-Hill has created an online map for visitors and is planning the next phase. What comes next depends on what reveals itself — a derelict house brought to his attention, or the conditions that make another bird possible.

Birds migrate. They disappear. Sometimes they return, sometimes not. People are the same way. Villages empty, but the walls remain — with a painted bird, or the memory of one.

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Space reservations due: Wednesday, April 1 at 1:00pm
Artwork due: Thursday, April 2 at 1:00pm

Asian Currency Exchange Rates

Units per U.S. dollar as of 1/30

Bangladesh Taka	122.67
Cambodian Riel	4043.29
China Renminbi	6.9513
Fijian Dollar	2.20
Hong Kong Dollar	7.8077
Indian Rupee	91.821
Indonesian Rupiah	16743
Iranian Rial	1136.97
Japanese Yen	154.46
Laos New Kip	21678
Malaysian Ringgit	3.947
Nepal Rupee	146.67
Pakistani Rupee	281.03
Papua N.G. Kina	4.29
Philippine Peso	58.907
Russian Ruble	75.935
Saudi Riyal	3.75
Singapore Dollar	1.27
South Korean Won	1445.8
Sri Lankan Rupee	310.09
Taiwan Dollar	31.525
Thai Baht	31.425
Vietnam Dong	25938

Indonesia's panda cub Rio thriving after birth

By Edna Tarigan
The Associated Press

PANDA'S PROGRESS. *Images of Satrio Wiratama, nicknamed "Rio," the first giant panda cub born in Indonesia, are displayed on screens during a press conference at Indonesian Taman Safari Park, in West Java province, Indonesia, last month. Rio was examined for the first time outside the incubator and veterinarians also took his measurements. (AP Photos/Dita Alangkara)*

CISARUA, Indonesia — Indonesia's conservation park last month released a video showing the progress of a giant panda cub at 40 days after his birth in the country.

The panda named Satrio Wiratama and nicknamed "Rio" was examined for the first time outside the incubator while veterinarians at the Indonesian Taman Safari Park in Cisarua, West Java province, took his measurements. The video showed Rio's growth from a tiny pink baby to a panda with black and white fur.

"The panda cub is developing healthily and growing very well. Its body weight has increased by 46% over the past 30 days, while its body length has increased by 95%," said Bongot Huaso Mulia, a veterinarian who monitors Rio's progress.

Rio was born on November 27 to Hu Chun, a 15-year-old adult female, and Cai Tao. The pair arrived in Indonesia in 2017 on a 10-year conservation partnership with China. They live in an enclosure built for them at the park about 43 miles from Jakarta.

Rio's birth was the result of the fourth artificial insemination, said Mulia.

"So we tried natural mating four times first, followed by four rounds of artificial insemination. It really was not easy," Mulia said.

Pandas are widely considered as China's unofficial mascot and its loans of the animals to overseas zoos have long been seen as a tool of Beijing's soft-power "panda diplomacy."

Giant pandas have difficulty breeding and births are particularly welcomed. There are less than 1,900 giant pandas in their only wild habitats in the Chinese provinces of Sichuan, Shaanxi, and Gansu.

"This is the moment we've been waiting for. After years of hard work, finally we've got real. The baby panda, joining the global panda family," China's ambassador to Indonesia Wang Lutong said.

Japanese and South Korean leaders jam to K-pop hits at a summit

By Mari Yamaguchi
The Associated Press

DIPLOMATIC JAM. *In this photo released on the official website of the Prime Minister's Office of Japan, Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, right, and South Korean President Lee Jae Myung, left, play drums together after their talks in Nara, western Japan, in January. (Prime Minister's Office of Japan via AP)*

TOKYO — The Japanese and South Korean leaders agreed to deepen cooperation between their countries before they let loose with their own surprise cultural exchange in a surprise jam session drumming to K-pop hits.

The musical performance between Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi and South Korean President Lee Jae Myung followed a summit in Japan's ancient capital of Nara, also Takaichi's hometown.

Wearing personalized athletic jackets, they sat side by side and drummed to hits such as BTS' "Dynamite" and Kpop Demon Hunters' "Golden" in a short video posted by Takaichi's office.

The jam session was a surprise by Takaichi, a heavy metal fan and an avid drummer in her college days.

"Playing the drums has been my longtime dream," Lee said on X, thanking Takaichi's hospitality for arranging the jam session.

"Like, we respected our differences and harmonized our rhythms, I hope that Korea and Japan would deepen cooperation and move closer to each other step by step," Lee said.

Takaichi, in a video, complimented Lee as a fast learner, saying he learned to play the drums in just a few minutes.

"In order to develop Japan-South Korea relations in a forward-looking way and stably, we will continue our close communication between the two governments including by proactively carrying out our 'shuttle diplomacy,'" Takaichi said in a message on X.

Associated Press writer Hyung-jin Kim in Seoul, South Korea, contributed to this report.

India, EU reach free trade deal representing 1/3 of global trade

By Rajesh Roy and Sam McNeil
The Associated Press

NEW DELHI — India and the European Union (EU) have reached a free trade agreement that could affect as many as 2 billion people after nearly two decades of negotiations.

The accord, which the head of the EU's executive branch described as the "mother of all deals," will see free trade on almost all goods between the EU's 27 members and India, covering everything from textiles to medicines, and bringing down high import taxes for European wine and cars. It will likely take several months before the agreement takes effect.

The deal between two of the world's biggest markets comes as Washington targets both the Asian powerhouse and the EU bloc with steep import tariffs, disrupting established trade flows and pushing major economies to seek alternate partnerships.

"This agreement will bring major opportunities for the people of India and Europe," Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a virtual address to an energy conference. "It represents 25% of the global GDP and one-third of global trade."

India and the EU also agreed on a framework for deeper defense and security cooperation, and a separate pact aimed at easing mobility for skilled workers and students, signalling that their partnership extends beyond commerce.

U.S. pressure propels deal

The negotiations for the India-EU deal got a new impetus after U.S. President Donald Trump's strong-arm trade tactics, including threatening his European allies with punitive tariffs over their objections to Trump's threats to take control of Greenland.

Modi, speaking at a joint news conference in New Delhi with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and European Council president António Costa, said that the partnership with the EU "will strengthen stability in the international system" at a time of "turmoil in the global order."

"Europe and India are making history today. We have concluded the mother of all deals," von der Leyen posted on X.

In a speech later, she said that the accord was a tale of "two giants" who chose partnership "in a true win-win fashion." She also said that it sends "a strong message that cooperation is the best answer to global challenges."

The deal is expected to further integrate supply chains and strengthen joint manufacturing power between the two economies. It will also cut up to 4 billion euros ($4.7 billion) in annual tariffs for exporters and create jobs for millions of workers in India and Europe.

Easing regulation

A formal signing of the deal could come later this year after officials go through the legal details of the text and the European Parliament ratifies it. India's trade minister, Piyush Goyal, said that he expected the deal to take effect by the end of the

Continued on page 5

Why experts question whether China's one-child policy was necessary in the first place

By Ken Moritsugu
The Associated Press

BEIJING — China's one-child policy, one of the harshest attempts at population control the world has seen, forced abortions on women, made sterilization widespread, and led to baby daughters being sold or even killed, because parents wanted their only child to be a male.

Now, experts say, the question is whether it was all necessary. China's birth rate fell to record lows last year and its population has fallen for four years in a row, official statistics showed in January. Authorities, alarmed by the prospect of a shrinking workforce and an aging population, scrapped the policy in 2015.

"It's hard to escape the fact that China demographically shot itself in the foot," said Mei Fong, the author of the 2016 book, *One Child: The Story of China's Most Radical Experiment*.

Population growth as a threat

China's leaders saw unbridled population growth as a potential threat in 1980 — to both economic development and its ability to feed what had grown into a nation of 1 billion people.

The then impoverished country wasn't the only one worried about having too many people at the time. Population control was a hot topic internationally and experts feared that rapid growth in China, India, and elsewhere could overwhelm the earth's resources.

The birth rate had begun to fall in the 1970s after the government began encouraging people to have fewer children. It's unclear how much its fall since then resulted from the one-child policy and to what degree it would have happened anyway because of the tremendous economic and societal changes over the last four decades.

Stiff fines and sterilization

But the leadership at the time decided to curb population growth more directly, launching the one-child policy and enforcing it with stiff financial penalties for parents who had more than one child, as well as abortions and sterilization campaigns. It lasted for 35 years.

Yi Fuxian, a senior scientist in obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, notes that the number of people getting sterilized plunged from 1.4 million women and 180,000 men in 2014, two years before the policy was eased, to 190,000 women and 2,600 men in 2020.

AP Photo/Liu Heung Shing, File

AP Photo/Andy Wong

POLICY IMPACT. *A man holds a child as he walks past a propaganda billboard, left photo, with the words "practice birth control to benefit the next generation," in the Front Gate area in Peking, China, on February 22, 1983. Experts are questioning whether China's one-child policy was necessary. In the right photo, women push a toddler in a stroller as they tour the Qianmen shopping street with lantern decorations in Beijing, China, on January 12, 2026.*

In 2016, the government began allowing two children per couple and raised the limit to three children in 2021. But it has proven more difficult to reverse the mentality of people than the policy.

"Little emperors"

China is far from the only country facing the challenges of an aging population. Around the world, as people get wealthier, they tend to want fewer, or no, children.

But the one-child policy, leading to a preference for sons, has also created a gender imbalance in the one-child generation.

Now, some from that generation, once dubbed "little emperors" because they were so fussed over, face the pressure of meeting the expectations, including financial, of being the only child.

As they reach their 30s and 40s, there is only one child to support two parents, and in some cases, up to four grandparents. For some, this can lead to anxiety and depression, Fong said.

"The little emperor at some point becomes the slave," she said.

Putting a tax on condoms

China is an aging society that will likely face a major shortfall in the coming decades: not enough people of working age to support a growing population of retirees. That could burden government finances and pension systems.

The government has launched a slew of policies to try to boost the birth rate, from eliminating a tax exemption for condoms to giving cash subsidies to couples who have children. But the experience of other countries shows that it's difficult to turn around a declining birth rate.

Ex-FIFA president joins those calling for boycott of World Cup in United States

By The Associated Press

Former FIFA president Sepp Blatter last week backed a proposed fan boycott of World Cup matches in the United States because of the conduct of President Donald Trump and his administration at home and abroad.

Blatter was the latest international soccer figure to call into question the suitability of the United States as a host country. He called for the boycott in a post on X that supported Mark Pieth's comments in an interview last month with the Swiss newspaper *Der Bund*.

Pieth, a Swiss attorney specializing in white-collar crime and an anti-corruption expert, chaired the Independent Governance Committee's oversight of FIFA reform a decade ago. Blatter was president of the world's governing body for soccer from 1998 to 2015; he resigned amid an investigation into corruption.

In his interview with *Der Bund*, Pieth said, "If we consider everything we've discussed, there's only one piece of advice for fans: Stay away from the USA! You'll see it better on TV anyway. And upon arrival, fans should expect that if they don't please the officials, they'll be put straight on the next flight home. If they're lucky."

In his X post, Blatter quoted Pieth and added, "I think Mark Pieth is right to question this World Cup."

The United States is co-hosting the World Cup with Canada and Mexico from June 11 through July 19.

The international soccer community's concerns about the United States stem from Trump's expansionist posture on Greenland, and travel bans and aggressive tactics in dealing with migrants, and immigration enforcement protestors in American cities, particularly Minneapolis.

Oke Göttlich, one of the vice presidents of the German soccer federation, told the *Hamburger Morgenpost* newspaper in an interview that the time had come to seriously consider boycotting the World Cup.

Travel plans for fans from two of the top soccer countries in Africa were thrown into disarray in December, when the Trump administration announced an expanded ban that would effectively bar people from Senegal and Ivory Coast following their teams unless they already have visas. Trump cited "screening and vetting deficiencies" as the main reason for the suspensions.

Fans from Iran and Haiti, two other countries that have qualified for the World Cup, will be barred from entering the United States as well; they were included in the first iteration of the travel ban announced by the Trump administration.

su|do|ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

			2				8	
1								9
7		5	6		3		1	
2	5		1				6	
	6				8		4	5
	1		7		4	3		6
9								2
	4				2			

Difficulty level: Hard *#28197*

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that the digits 1 through 9 appear one time each in every row, column, and 3x3 box.

Solution to last issue's puzzle

Puzzle #65124 (Medium)

All solutions available at <www.sudoku.com>.

2	7	4	6	5	1	3	8	9
1	3	5	9	8	7	2	4	6
9	6	8	2	3	4	7	5	1
5	8	9	1	2	6	4	3	7
4	2	6	5	7	3	1	9	8
7	1	3	8	4	9	5	6	2
3	4	1	7	9	8	6	2	5
6	9	2	4	1	5	8	7	3
8	5	7	3	6	2	9	1	4

An annual ode to ice is carved in frozen northern China

HARBIN, China (AP) — Each January, an odd and beautiful thing happens in the frigid northeastern Chinese city of Harbin.

Some would argue that the place, the capital of Heilongjiang province, has enough ice already. But sculptors converge on the town not far from China's border with Russia to bring out more of it, and to compete for the best ice sculpture of the year.

The effect is dreamlike. The towering ice sculptures are lit from within, and a section of the city becomes a magical expanse that feels like a holiday TV special.

Families journey from distant locations to see the sculptures — and bundle up while doing so.

ICE AND SNOW FESTIVAL. *Visitors stand near a giant ice sculpture of a train, left photo, at the annual Ice and Snow Festival which is held in Harbin, in China's Heilongjiang province. The festival is on view through mid-February. In the right photo, the festival is seen with the ice sculptors lit up. (AP Photos/Ng Han Guan)*

The annual Ice and Snow Festival lasts until mid-February.

And yes: If they want to, visitors can go swimming amid the ice, too.

Rock climber reaches top of Taipei 101 skyscraper without ropes

By Katie Tam
The Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan — American rock climber Alex Honnold has ascended the Taipei 101 skyscraper without any ropes or protective equipment.

Cheers erupted from a street-level crowd as he reached the top of the spire of the 1,667-foot tower about 90 minutes after he started. Wearing a red short-sleeve shirt, Honnold waved his arms back and forth over his head.

"It was like what a view, it's incredible, what a beautiful day," he said afterward. "It was very windy, so I was like, don't fall off the spire. I was trying to balance nicely. But it was, what an incredible position, what a beautiful way to see Taipei."

Honnold, known for his ropeless ascent up Yosemite National Park's El Capitan, climbed up one corner of Taipei 101 using small L-shaped outcroppings as footholds. Periodically, he had to maneuver around and clamber up the sides of large ornamental structures that jut out from the tower, pulling himself up with his bare hands.

The building has 101 floors, with the hardest part being the 64 floors of the middle section — the "bamboo boxes" that give the building its signature look. Divided into eight, each segment has eight floors of steep, overhanging climbing followed by balconies, where he took short rests as he made his way upward.

Honnold's free solo climb of the iconic building in Taiwan's capital city was broadcast live on Netflix with a 10-second delay. The ascent, originally scheduled for Saturday, January 24, was delayed for 24 hours due to rain.

DRAMATIC DEED. *Rock climber Alex Honnold of the U.S. performs a free solo climb of the Taipei 101 skyscraper in Taipei, Taiwan, on Sunday, January 25, 2026. Honnold ascended the skyscraper without any ropes or protective equipment. In the right photo, Honnold raises his fist while standing atop the Taipei 101 skyscraper. (AP Photos/Chiang Ying-ying)*

Having a cheering crowd was unusual and a bit unnerving at first for Honnold, whose climbs are usually in remote areas.

"When I was leaving the ground, you're like oh it's kind of intense, there's so many people watching," he said. "But then honestly, they're all wishing me well. I mean basically it just makes the whole experience feel almost more festive, all these nice people are out supporting me and having a good time."

The climb drew both excitement and concern over the ethical implications of attempting such a high-risk endeavor on live broadcast.

Honnold isn't the first climber to ascend Taipei 101, but he is the first to do so without a rope. French rock climber Alain Robert scaled the building on Christmas Day in 2004 as part of the grand opening of what was then the world's tallest building.

Associated Press video journalist Taijing Wu and writer Ken Moritsugu in Beijing contributed.

India, EU reach free trade deal representing 1/3 of global trade

Continued from page 3

year.

India is expected to reduce or eliminate tariffs for 96.6% of EU exports, while Brussels will reciprocate with similar reductions in phases that eventually cover nearly 99% of India's shipments by trade value, according to statements from both sides.

India's sectors poised to gain from the deal include textiles, apparel, engineering goods, and leather, handicraft, footwear, and marine products, while the EU's gains will be in wine, automobiles, chemicals, and pharmaceuticals, among others.

A quota system for automobiles, wines, and whisky has been agreed upon, bringing down steep duties.

The European Commission said that tariffs charged by India on EU-made cars will gradually go down from 110% to as low as 10%, while they will be fully abolished for car parts after five to 10 years. Tariffs ranging up to 44% on machinery, 22% on chemicals, and 11% on pharmaceuticals will also be mostly eliminated.

On European wine, the tariffs in India would come down from 150% to 20% for premium wines.

New Delhi has excluded dairy products such as milk and cheese from the deal, along with cereals, citing "domestic sensitivities" about those products. For its part, the EU won't allow concessional tariffs on imports of Indian sugar, meat, poultry, and beef products, Indian Trade Ministry officials said.

Offsetting U.S. tariffs impact

India is looking to diversify its export destinations as part of a strategy to offset the impact of higher U.S. tariffs, including an extra 25% levy on Indian goods for its unabated purchases of discounted Russian oil, bringing the combined tariffs imposed by the United States on its Asian ally to 50%.

For the EU, the deal offers the bloc expanded access to one of the world's fastest-growing major economies, and helps European exporters and investors reduce their reliance on more volatile markets.

"This is the most comprehensive trade deal India has ever signed, which gives European companies a first mover advantage into this market and gives them a strategic upper hand that other players do not [have]," said Garima Mohan, a senior fellow at the German Marshall Fund.

Trade between India and EU stood at $136.5 billion in 2024 to 2025. The two sides hope to increase that to about $200 billion by 2030, Indian officials said.

"Ultimately, the agreement is about creating a stable commercial corridor between two major markets at a time the global trading system is fragmenting," Indian trade analyst Ajay Srivastava said.

The EU is still reeling from the aggressive approach of its once-stalwart ally across the Atlantic. There's a widespread sense of betrayal across the bloc from Trump's onslaught of higher tariffs, embrace of far-right parties, and belligerence over Greenland, a semiautonomous territory of EU member Denmark.

Brussels has accelerated its outreach to

Continued on page 20

The staff at The Asian Reporter wish you and your family a safe and happy Lunar New Year!

The Asian Reporter

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MY TURN

■ ***Dmae Lo Roberts***

We all make an impact

My hubby caught a cold on New Year's Eve. He'd been doing a lot of shopping without a mask and also was a bit run down from fasting prep for a colonoscopy. I caught the cold three days later. The last few weeks have been a homebound blur trying to get well. It wasn't the best way to start the new year.

I haven't been down with a cold for almost a decade. People are astonished by that, but whenever I feel slightly under the weather I stay home and rest until I'm better. Getting a cold for me is a big deal because of my asthma. For my husband, he had to recover from a low-grade fever and tiredness, but after a few days he started to rebound. For me, it was a constant deep-in-your-chest cough that was so bad my entire torso felt like I pulled every muscle. I never want to go through that again, so masking in winter whenever enclosed with groups of people is now the rule in our house forever.

Being sick can make you feel hopeless, like you don't matter. The world goes on and people post about all the wonderful or not-so-wonderful things going on around them. But when you're so ill you can't get out of bed without a coughing fit, your existence seems useless.

This changed when I received a DM from the husband of a former intern from 20 years ago. Jenny helped me with my AAPI history series that aired on public radio. I remember her as a lovely young grad student in Hawai'i full of joy and grace. She helped to arrange interviews in Honolulu and drove us to appointments. We kept in touch after the project and I consulted with her on some of her international reporting projects. She married a handsome Columbian man she met while overseas and they brought a beautiful little girl into the world.

In our efforts to stay in touch, I provided some professional journalism contacts and lent advice when she needed it. I never felt like I'd done that much to assist Jenny with her work. I always enjoyed talking with her because she was so positive and had such a beautiful spirit. She had, however, been battling health issues for several years.

When Jenny's husband wrote to me, he said she'd died. The news shook me to the core. She was in her 40s and that's much too young to go. And this part really devastated me — he wrote, "She appreciated, respected, and admired you over the years. She said you helped her a lot when she was first discovering her passion for journalism and you were a great mentor."

I broke down in tears and I am again while writing this. I've mentored hundreds of younger people in my work in public radio and theater. I always try to help, but wonder if it's enough. Radio mentees have sent cards thanking me and the notes are posted on a corkboard in my office. But the message from Jenny's husband touched me so deeply — that she would express this to him when she was so close to passing — this meant more than my words can describe.

I think of Jenny's legacy and the family she created and left behind. It's so unfair someone this young with so much to live for has left the earth. No mentor should ever outlive their mentee. But I feel thankful I experienced those times with her.

No one truly knows the impact they have on another human, for good or ill. There are things I've regretted saying and I try to be the first one to apologize. I hope the good moments where I helped people in my work and in daily life outweigh any negative encounters.

The world is crazy right now. I never thought I'd live to see the turmoil going on in the country and the persistent and daily attacks on people of color. For me, the path out of feeling powerless is to attempt to have an impact. If you're reading this and doubting your own impact on those around you, please believe that you have the power to make people feel better (or worse) about themselves.

We all have the ability to make the world just a little bit better. We matter. Everything we do and say matters. Every time we help someone, it matters. And one kind word in the darkest of times might pull a person out of the mire. I truly believe that. Even during Jenny's last days, she thought of me. And that kindness will last my lifetime.

Opinions expressed in this newspaper are those of the authors and not necessarily those of this publication.

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U.S. citizen says ICE removed him from his Minnesota home in his underwear after warrantless search

By Jack Brook
The Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Federal immigration agents forced open a door and detained a U.S. citizen in his Minnesota home at gunpoint without a warrant, then led him out onto the streets in his underwear in subfreezing conditions, according to his family and videos reviewed by The Associated Press.

ChongLy "Scott" Thao told The AP that his daughter-in-law woke him up from a nap Sunday afternoon and said that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents were banging at the door of his residence in St. Paul. He told her not to open it. Masked agents then forced their way in and pointed guns at the family, yelling at them, Thao recalled.

"I was shaking," he said. "They didn't show any warrant; they just broke down the door."

Amid a massive surge of federal agents into the Twin Cities, immigration authorities are facing backlash from residents and the local leaders for warrantless arrests, aggressive clashes with protestors, and the fatal shootings of mother of three Renee Good and V.A. ICU nurse Alex Pretti.

"ICE is not doing what they say they're doing," St. Paul mayor Kaohly Her, a Hmong American, said in a statement about Thao's arrest. "They're not going after hardened criminals. They're going after anyone and everyone in their path. It is unacceptable and un-American."

Encounter caught on video

Thao, who has been a U.S. citizen for decades, said that as he was being detained he asked his daughter-in-law to find his identification but the agents told him they didn't want to see it.

Instead, as his 4-year-old grandson watched and cried, Thao was led out in handcuffs wearing only sandals and underwear with just a blanket wrapped around his shoulders.

Videos captured the scene, which included people blowing whistles and horns and neighbors screaming at the more than a dozen gun-toting agents to leave Thao's family alone.

Thao said agents drove him "to the middle of nowhere" and made him get out of the car in the frigid weather so they could photograph him. He said he feared they would beat him. He was asked for his ID, which agents earlier prevented him from retrieving.

Agents eventually realized that he was a U.S. citizen with no criminal record, Thao said, and an hour or two later, they brought him back to his house. There they

Photo/GoFundMe

made him show his ID and then left without apologizing for detaining him or breaking his door, Thao said.

DHS defends operation

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security described the ICE operation at Thao's home as a "targeted operation" seeking two convicted sex offenders.

"The U.S. citizen lives with these two convicted sex offenders at the site of the operation," DHS said. "The individual refused to be fingerprinted or facially ID'd. He matched the description of the targets."

Thao's family said in a statement that it "categorically disputes" the DHS account and "strongly objects to DHS's attempt to publicly justify this conduct with false and misleading claims."

Thao told The AP that only he, his son, his daughter-in-law, and his grandson live at the rental home. Neither they nor the property's owner are listed in the Minnesota sex offender registry. The nearest sex offender listed as living in the zip code is more than two blocks away.

DHS did not respond to a request from The Associated Press seeking the identities of the "two convicted sex offenders" or why the agency believed they were present in Thao's home.

Thao's son, Chris Thao, said ICE agents stopped him while he was driving to work before they went to detain his father. He said he was driving a car he borrowed from his cousin's boyfriend. Court records show that the boyfriend shares the first name of another Asian man who has been convicted of a sex offense. Chris Thao said the two people are not the same.

AP Photo/Jack Brook

CARELESS & CRUEL. *Federal immigration agents forced open a door and detained U.S. citizen ChongLy "Scott" Thao in his Minnesota home at gunpoint without a warrant, then led him out onto the streets in his underwear in subfreezing conditions, according to his family and videos reviewed by The Associated Press. Pictured on the right is Thao sitting for a photo at his home on January 19, 2026, in St. Paul, Minnesota, the day after federal agents broke open his door and detained him in his underwear without a warrant.*

Family fled Laos after helping U.S.

The family said they are particularly upset by ChongLy Thao's treatment at the hands of the U.S. government because his mother had to flee to the U.S. from Laos when communists took over in the 1970s since she had supported American covert operations in the country and her life was in danger.

Thao's adopted mother, Choua Thao, was a nurse who treated CIA-backed Hmong soldiers in the U.S. government's "Secret War" from 1961 to 1975 against the communists, according to the Hmong Nurses Association website.

Choua Thao, who passed away in late December, "treated countless civilians and American soldiers, working closely with U.S. personnel," her daughter-in-law Louansee Moua wrote on a GoFundMe page for the family.

ChongLy Thao says he's planning to file a civil rights lawsuit against DHS and no longer feels secure to sleep in his home.

"I don't feel safe at all," Thao said. "What did I do wrong? I didn't do anything."

Associated Press writer Michael Biesecker in Washington contributed. Brook is a corps member for The Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative. Report for America is a nonprofit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on undercovered issues.

What to know about the deal to keep TikTok in U.S.

By Barbara Ortutay
The Associated Press

TikTok has at last finalized a deal to keep the popular video-sharing platform operating in the U.S. after years of uncertainty, but questions remain about whether users' experience will change and whether the changes actually address security concerns around the app.

Here's what to know about the deal, which created a new TikTok U.S. joint venture after the social video platform company signed agreements with major investors including Oracle, Silver Lake, and the Emirati investment firm MGX.

Why was the deal needed?

After wide bipartisan majorities in congress passed — and President Joe Biden signed — a law that would ban TikTok in the U.S. if it did not find a new owner in the place of China's ByteDance, the platform was set to go dark on the law's January 2025 deadline. For several hours, it did. But on his first day in office, President Donald Trump signed an executive order to keep it running while his administration sought an agreement for the sale of the company. A string of orders continued to extend the deadline until this deal was reached.

We don't know how the TikTok experience will change, but there's no new app

American TikTok users can continue using the same app, according to TikTok. But exactly what American users will see on their TikTok feeds once the changeover happens remains unclear.

The algorithm — the secret sauce that powers its addictive video feed — powering the U.S. backend will be licensed from ByteDance and then retrained on U.S. user data. The act of retraining the content recommendation formula is certain to at least have subtle changes to a user's personalized feeds.

Any noticeable changes made to a social media platform's service raises the risk of alienating its audience, said Jasmine Enberg, an analyst for the research firm eMarketer.

TikTok's press release claims U.S. creators will still be discoverable in other regions worldwide, and businesses will be able to maintain global reach. But how interoperability between the U.S. and ByteDance to maintain a global TikTok experience is currently unknown.

The retrained algorithm means that the trends — "and what dominates feeds — will feel distinctly American," said Forrester analyst Kelsey Chickering.

"Global content will still appear, but its ranking will change," she said. "This matters because the algorithm is the heartbeat of the app's addictive experience. The question becomes: Will a U.S.-centric feed supercharge engagement, or will it chip away at TikTok's cultural cachet?"

What is known, however, is that there is an updated Terms of Service.

One of the updates notes that while users retain ownership of their content, TikTok is able to use that content to operate or improve the platform, subject to settings.

Americans under the age of 13 will be limited to an "Under 13 Experience."

And users are also responsible for any posted AI-generated content and must label it as created by artificial intelligence.

TikTok's new owners have ties to Trump

Although he no longer runs Oracle as its CEO, company co-founder Larry Ellison remains a top executive while also overseeing an estimated personal fortune of $225 billion. Ellison, 81, now could be in line to become a behind-the-scenes power player in the media, having already helped finance Skydance's recently completed $8 billion merger with Paramount, a deal engineered by his son, David. Ellison's relationship with the Trump administration dates back to the president's first term, where he played a role in the administration's efforts to get ByteDance to sell TikTok.

These ties have raised concerns among some users around content moderation and what videos American users will see on their feeds.

"If moderation happens to tilt toward one political viewpoint or fails to curb misinformation, TikTok risks a user exodus to rival platforms," Chickering said. "We've seen this before when Twitter's transformation into X triggered fallout from users and advertisers."

Vice President JD Vance, who was tasked with helping lead the White House's efforts to find a U.S. buyer for TikTok, was involved in negotiating meetings along the way, as was Trump, according to a person familiar with the meetings who was not authorized to speak publicly.

In September, when U.S. officials including Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer, met in Madrid with Chinese officials, Vance and Trump joined some of the negotiating meetings by phone and pressured China to agree to a deal by the end of the trip, which they did, according to the official.

That led to Trump's September executive order that allowed TikTok to continue operating in the U.S.

The deal does not completely address security concerns in the law

Lawmakers previously expressed concern that the Chinese government could use TikTok's algorithm to push propaganda or gather data on individual users, a key reason congress passed legislation in 2024 requiring the company's divestment from Beijing-based owner ByteDance.

The law prohibits "any cooperation with respect to the operation of a content recommendation algorithm" between ByteDance and a new potential American ownership group, so it is unclear how ByteDance's continued involvement in this arrangement — especially since they will license the algorithm to the U.S. entity — will play out.

Continued on page 8

Buddhist monks and their dog captivate Americans while walking for peace

By Deepa Bharath
The Associated Press

A group of Buddhist monks and their rescue dog are striding single file down country roads and highways across the South, captivating Americans nationwide and inspiring droves of locals to greet them along their route.

In their flowing saffron and ocher robes, the men are walking for peace. It's a meditative tradition more common in South Asian countries, and it's resonating now in the U.S., seemingly as a welcome respite from the conflict, trauma, and politics dividing the nation.

Their journey began October 26, 2025 at a Vietnamese Buddhist temple in Texas, and is scheduled to end in mid-February in Washington, D.C., where they will ask congress to recognize Buddha's day of birth and enlightenment as a federal holiday. Beyond promoting peace, their highest priority is connecting with people along the way.

"My hope is, when this walk ends, the people we met will continue practicing mindfulness and find peace," said the Venerable Bhikkhu Pannakara, the group's soft-spoken leader who is making the trek barefoot. He teaches about mindfulness, forgiveness, and healing at every stop.

Preferring to sleep each night in tents pitched outdoors, the monks have been surprised to see their message transcend ideologies, drawing huge crowds into churchyards, city halls, and town squares across six states. Documenting their journey on social media, they — and their dog, Aloka — have racked up millions of followers online. In Columbia, South Carolina, thousands thronged to where the monks chanted on the steps of the State House and received a proclamation from the city's mayor, Daniel Rickenmann.

INSPIRATIONAL MARCH. *Buddhist monks who are participating in the "Walk For Peace" are seen with their dog, Aloka, in Saluda, South Carolina. A group of Buddhist monks and their rescue dog are striding single file down country roads and highways across the South, captivating Americans nationwide and inspiring droves of locals to greet them along their route. (AP Photo/Allison Joyce)*

The physical toll of the monks' long walk

At their stop in Saluda, South Carolina, Audrie Pearce joined the crowd lining Main Street. She had driven four hours from her village of Little River, and teared up as Pannakara handed her a flower.

"There's something traumatic and heart-wrenching happening in our country every day," said Pearce, who describes herself as spiritual, but not religious. "I looked into their eyes and I saw peace. They're putting their bodies through such physical torture and yet they radiate peace."

Hailing from Theravada Buddhist monasteries across the globe, the 19 monks began their 2,300-mile trek at the Huong Dao Vipassana Bhavana Center in Fort Worth.

Their journey has not been without peril. On November 19, as the monks were walking along U.S. Highway 90 near Dayton, Texas, their escort vehicle was hit by a distracted truck driver, injuring two monks. One of them lost his leg, reducing the group to 18.

This is Pannakara's first trek in the U.S., but he's walked across several South Asian countries, including a 112-day journey across India in 2022 where he first encountered Aloka, an Indian Pariah dog whose name means divine light in Sanskrit.

Then a stray, the dog followed him and other monks from Kolkata in eastern India all the way to the Nepal border. At one point, he fell critically ill and Pannakara scooped him up in his arms and cared for him until he recovered. Now, Aloka inspires him to keep going when he feels like giving up.

"I named him light because I want him to find the light of wisdom," Pannakara said.

The monk's feet are now heavily bandaged because he's stepped on rocks, nails, and glass along the way. His practice of mindfulness keeps him joyful despite the pain from these injuries, he said.

Still, traversing the southeast United States has presented unique challenges, and pounding pavement day after day has been brutal.

"In India, we can do shortcuts through paddy fields and farms, but we can't do that here because there are a lot of private properties," Pannakara said. "But what's made it beautiful is how people have welcomed and hosted us in spite of not knowing who we are and what we believe."

Churches, families and towns host the monks along their path

In Opelika, Alabama, the Rev. Patrick Hitchman-Craig hosted the monks on Christmas night at his United Methodist congregation.

He expected to see a small crowd, but about 1,000 people showed up, creating the feel of a block party. The monks seemed like the Magi, he said, appearing on Christ's birthday.

"Anyone who is working for peace in the world in a way that is public and sacrificial is standing close to the heart of Jesus, whether or not they share our tradition," said Hitchman-Craig. "I was blown away by the number of people and the diversity of who showed up."

After their night on the church lawn, the monks arrived the next afternoon at the Collins Farm in Cusseta, Alabama. Judy Collins Allen, whose father and brother run the farm, said about 200 people came to meet the monks — the biggest gathering she's ever witnessed there.

"There was a calm warmth and sense of community among people who had not met each other before and that was so special," she said.

Monks say peace walks are not a conversion tool

Long Si Dong, a spokesperson for the Fort Worth temple, said the monks, when they arrive in Washington, plan to seek recognition of Vesak, the day which marks the birth and enlightenment of the Buddha, as a national holiday.

"Doing so would acknowledge Vesak as a day of reflection, compassion, and unity for all people regardless of faith," he said.

But Pannakara emphasized that their main goal is to help people achieve peace in their lives. The trek is also a separate endeavor from a $200 million campaign to build towering monuments on the temple's 14-acre property to house the Buddha's teachings engraved in stone, according to Dong.

The monks practice and teach Vipassana meditation, an ancient Indian technique taught by the Buddha himself as core for attaining enlightenment. It focuses on the mind-body connection — observing breath and physical sensations to understand reality, impermanence, and suffering. Some of the monks, including Pannakara, walk barefoot to feel the ground directly and be present in the moment.

Pannakara has told the gathered crowds that they don't aim to convert people to Buddhism.

Brooke Schedneck, a professor of religion at Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee, said the tradition of a peace walk in Theravada Buddhism began in the 1990s when the Venerable Maha Ghosananda, a Cambodian monk, led marches across war-torn areas riddled with landmines to foster national healing after civil war and genocide in his country.

"These walks really inspire people and inspire faith," Schedneck said. "The core intention is to have others watch and be inspired, not so much through words, but through how they are willing to make this sacrifice by walking and being visible."

Becki Gable drove nearly 400 miles from Cullman, Alabama, to catch up with them in Saluda. Raised Methodist, Gable said she wanted some release from the pain of losing her daughter and parents.

"I just felt in my heart that this would help me have peace," she said. "Maybe I could move a little bit forward in my life."

Gable says she has already taken one of Pannakara's teachings to heart. She's promised herself that each morning, as soon as she awakes, she'd take a piece of paper and write five words on it, just as the monk prescribed.

"Today is my peaceful day."

Freelance photojournalist Allison Joyce contributed to this report. Associated Press religion coverage receives support through The AP's collaboration with The Conversation US, with funding from Lilly Endowment Inc. The AP is solely responsible for content.

Judge blocks Trump's elections order in lawsuit by vote-by-mail states Oregon and Washington

By Gene Johnson
The Associated Press

SEATTLE — A federal judge last month blocked President Donald Trump's administration from enforcing most of his executive order on elections against the vote-by-mail states of Washington and Oregon, in the latest blow to Trump's efforts to require documentary proof of citizenship to vote and to require that all ballots be received by Election Day.

U.S. District Judge John H. Chun in Seattle found that those requirements exceeded the president's authority, following similar rulings in a Massachusetts case brought by 19 states and in a Washington, D.C., case by Democratic and civil rights groups.

"Today's ruling is a huge victory for voters in Washington and Oregon, and for the rule of law," Washington Attorney General Nick Brown said. "The court enforced the long-standing constitutional rule that only states and congress can regulate elections, not the Election Denier-in-Chief."

The executive order, issued in March, included new requirements that people provide documentary proof of citizenship when registering to vote and a demand that all mail ballots be received by Election Day. It also put states' federal funding at risk if election officials didn't comply.

Officials in Oregon and Washington, which accept ballots as long as they are postmarked by Election Day, said that could disenfranchise thousands of voters. During the 2024 general election, officials in Washington counted nearly 120,000 ballots that were received after election day but postmarked by it. Oregon officials received nearly 14,000 such ballots.

The judge found that Trump's efforts violated the separation of powers. The

Continued on page 17

What to know about the deal to keep TikTok in U.S.

Continued from page 7

How are users and creators reacting?

Skip Chapman, co-owner of KAFX Body in Manasquan, New Jersey, which makes and sells natural deodorants, launched his business in April 2023 on TikTok when the TikTok shop was still in beta testing. He said he's mainly glad he can stop worrying about the potential of a TikTok ban, the threat of which has been looming over his business for over a year. He sells his products on his own website and Amazon, but 80% of sales still come from the TikTok shop and it is the primary way he reaches new customers.

He said he is cautiously optimistic the deal will be good for TikTok and his shop, but he is a little concerned that the new owners might de-prioritize the e-commerce aspect of TikTok.

"The past two years, TikTok has really leaned into this live social commerce and just the ability to sell on the platform and they've kind of prioritized it and I'm hoping that the new owners continue to prioritize it and even more so add more features, more benefits, more opportunities for my business," he said.

Vanessa Barreat owns La Vecindad Mexican restaurant in Las Vegas, and she has a TikTok page for the restaurant that has over 100,000 followers. Visibility on the site has helped her attract customers, particularly out-of-towners, and spend less on marketing.

She said she's in a "wait-and-see mindset" about the deal.

"Anytime there's a major shift or deal, there's uncertainty, but I'm not operating from fear," she said. "TikTok has empowered so many voices that historically didn't have access to platforms like this, and that impact doesn't disappear overnight."

AP Business Writer Mae Anderson in Nashville, Tennessee and Michelle Price in Washington contributed to this story.

Happy Lunar New Year!

UNBRIDLED YEAR. *The Lunar New Year, which begins February 17, 2026, marks the Year of the Horse. People born under the sign of the Horse are usually popular, energetic, and generous. They are generally considered to be persuasive, sociable, and loyal individuals who are charming and agreeable. They can also have a tendency to be hard-nosed and opportunistic, and can be insecure and self-serving. The Year of the Horse ends on February 5, 2027. Pictured is a drone swarm show in the form of a horse at the annual Ice and Snow Festival in Harbin, China. (AP Photo/Ng Han Guan)*

What sign are you?

Find the year you were born. Those born in January or February should consult page 13.

1900, 1912, 1924, 1936, 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996, 2008, 2020 — Rat
1901, 1913, 1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997, 2009, 2021 — Ox
1902, 1914, 1926, 1938, 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998, 2010, 2022 — Tiger
1903, 1915, 1927, 1939, 1951, 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999, 2011, 2023 — Rabbit
1904, 1916, 1928, 1940, 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000, 2012, 2024 — Dragon
1905, 1917, 1929, 1941, 1953, 1965, 1977, 1989, 2001, 2013, 2025 — Snake
1906, 1918, 1930, 1942, 1954, 1966, 1978, 1990, 2002, 2014, 2026 — Horse
1907, 1919, 1931, 1943, 1955, 1967, 1979, 1991, 2003, 2015, 2027 — Sheep
1908, 1920, 1932, 1944, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992, 2004, 2016, 2028 — Monkey
1909, 1921, 1933, 1945, 1957, 1969, 1981, 1993, 2005, 2017, 2029 — Rooster
1910, 1922, 1934, 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, 2006, 2018, 2030 — Dog
1911, 1923, 1935, 1947, 1959, 1971, 1983, 1995, 2007, 2019, 2031 — Pig

◆ ◆ ◆

The Gregorian and Chinese lunar calendars

Animal	*Gregorian*	*Chinese*
Horse	February 17, 2026	Year 4724
Sheep	February 6, 2027	Year 4725
Monkey	January 26, 2028	Year 4726
Rooster	February 13, 2029	Year 4727
Dog	February 3, 2030	Year 4728
Pig	January 23, 2031	Year 4729
Rat	February 11, 2032	Year 4730
Ox	January 31, 2033	Year 4731
Tiger	February 19, 2034	Year 4732
Rabbit	February 8, 2035	Year 4733
Dragon	January 28, 2036	Year 4734
Snake	February 15, 2037	Year 4735

A few animal characteristics

Rat: Honest, idealistic, practical, sentimental, argumentative, greedy
Ox: Careful, diligent, eloquent, patient, eccentric, stubborn
Tiger: Ambitious, dynamic, honorable, loyal, critical, impatient
Rabbit: Artistic, considerate, intelligent, peaceful, hesitant, judgemental
Dragon: Energetic, faithful, generous, sincere, defensive, opinionated
Snake: Charitable, elegant, organized, reflective, anxious, possessive
Horse: Calm, confident, independent, talented, contradictory, moody
Sheep: Adaptive, creative, empathetic, polite, impractical, pessimistic
Monkey: Charming, sensitive, vivacious, wise, cunning, selfish
Rooster: Adventurous, courageous, funny, hardworking, cynical, vain
Dog: Brave, devoted, knowledgeable, trustworthy, disagreeable, strict
Pig: Affectionate, cheerful, obliging, optimistic, naïve, snobbish

Read your forecast for the Year of the Horse!
Horoscopes by Madame Mingmei begin on page 14.

What is Lunar New Year and how is it celebrated?

By Deepa Bharath
The Associated Press

On February 17, Asian American communities around the U.S. will ring in the Year of the Horse with community carnivals, family gatherings, parades, traditional food, fireworks, and other festivities. In many Asian countries, it is a festival that is celebrated for several days. In diaspora communities, particularly in cultural enclaves, Lunar New Year is visibly and joyfully observed.

According to the Chinese zodiac, 2026 is the Year of the Fire Horse. Different countries across Asia celebrate the new year in many ways and may follow a different zodiac.

What is the Lunar New Year?

The Lunar New Year — known as the Spring Festival in China, Tet in Vietnam, and Seollal in Korea — is a major festival celebrated in several Asian countries. It is also widely celebrated by diaspora communities around the world.

It begins with the first new moon of the lunar calendar and ends 15 days later on the first full moon. Because the lunar calendar is based on the cycles of the moon, the dates of the holiday vary slightly each year, falling between late January and mid-February. (Please consult the Lunar Calendar on page 13 for specific dates.)

What are the animals of the zodiac?

Each year honors an animal based on the lunar zodiac. The circle of 12 animals — the Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Sheep, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, and Pig — measure the cycles of time. Legend has it that a god beckoned all animals to bid him farewell before his departure from earth and only 12 showed up. The lunar zodiac differs slightly in some nations. For example, the Vietnamese zodiac is different, honoring the Cat instead of the Rabbit, the Buffalo instead of the Ox, the Ram instead of the Sheep, and the Cock instead of the Rooster. In the Tibetan cycle, the Rat is referred to as the Mouse, the Rabbit is referred to as the Hare, and the Rooster as the Bird.

What are some beliefs and traditions around the Lunar New Year?

One well-known ancient legend speaks of Nian, a hideous monster that feasted on human flesh on New Year's Day. Because the beast feared the color red, loud noises, and fire, people put up red paper dragons on their doors, burned red lanterns all night, and set off firecrackers to frighten and chase away the monster.

To this day, the Lunar New Year celebration is centered around removing bad luck and welcoming all that is good and prosperous. Red is considered an auspicious color to ring in the new year. In many Asian cultures, the color symbolizes good fortune and joy. People dress up in red attire, decorate their homes with red paper lanterns, and use red envelopes to give loved ones and friends money for the new year, symbolizing good wishes for the year ahead. Gambling and playing traditional games is common during this time across cultures.

Ancestor worship is also common during this time. Many Korean families participate in a ritual called "charye," where female family members prepare food and male members serve it to ancestors. The final step of the ceremony, called "eumbok," involves the entire family partaking in the food and seeking blessings from their ancestors for the coming year. Vietnamese people cook traditional dishes and place them on a home altar as a mark of respect to their ancestors.

Some Indigenous people also celebrate Lunar New Year this time of year, including members of Mexico's Purepecha Indigenous group.

How do diaspora communities celebrate?

Members of Asian American communities around the U.S. also organize parades, carnivals, and festivities around the Lunar New Year featuring lion and dragon dances, fireworks, traditional food, and cultural performances. In addition to cleaning their homes, many buy new things for their home such as furniture and decorate using orchids and other brightly colored flowers.

Lunar New Year is also celebrated as a cultural event by some Asian American

Continued on page 11

The Year of the Horse

The Horse is the seventh animal of the lunar zodiac. Those born under the Horse sign are generally considered to be flexible, logical, and amusing individuals who are productive and curious. They are also known for their tendency to be disobedient and can be superficial and moody.

Fire Horses

Horses born between February 17, 2026 and February 5, 2027 are Fire Horses. The Fire element multiplies both the positive and negative qualities of the Horse. Many Fire Horses are intelligent, passionate, and adventurous people and often find good ideas. They prefer little authority in their life, can be hot-blooded, and are often drawn to adventures and thrills. Similar to many Horses, Fire Horses can be prone to distraction. The Fire Horse was last celebrated 60 years ago in 1966. It will reappear again in 60 years, in 2086.

Horse facts

Year of the Horse: February 17, 2026 to February 5, 2027

Chinese Calendar Year: 4724

Horse Years: 1918, 1930, 1942, 1954, 1966, 1978, 1990, 2002, 2014, 2026

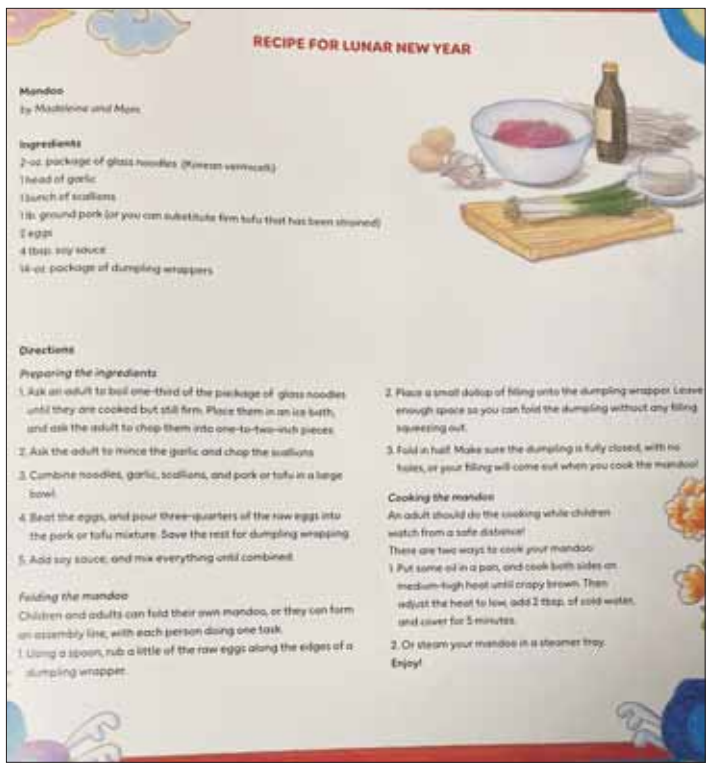
Characteristics: Horse people are usually popular, energetic, and generous. They are generally considered to be persuasive, sociable, and loyal individuals who are charming and agreeable. They can also have a tendency to be hard-nosed and opportunistic, and can be insecure and self-serving.

Born in the Year of the Horse: Jackie Chan, Ang Lee, Eric K. Shinseki, Theodore Roosevelt, Sandra Day O'Connor, Thomas Edison, Isaac Newton, Antonio Vivaldi, Jerry Seinfeld, Harrison Ford, Barbra Streisand, Janet Jackson, Paul McCartney, Calvin Klein.

Learning about the Lunar New Year is easy with *Let's Celebrate Korean New Year!*

Let's Celebrate Korean New Year!
By Michelle W. Park
Illustrations by Hyewon Yum
RH Children's Books, 2024
Hardcover, 32 pages, $14.99

By Jody Lim
The Asian Reporter



PREPARING FOR NEW YEAR. *Younger sister Eloise is clearly irritated with her older sister's frenetic pace in* Let's Celebrate Korean New Year!

Let's Celebrate Korean New Year!, a picture book by author Michelle W. Park and illustrator Hyewon Yum, is aimed at children from preschool through third grade. My nephew, now a second-grader who is improving on his reading skills, actually read to me several Lunar New Year books this year.

On the first page, we meet elder sister Madeleine, who is excitedly waking up her younger sister — "Wake up, Eloise! It's Seollal! We have to get ready for the Lunar New Year party!"

Madeleine is excited; Eloise is clearly not — "It's too early."

Madeleine takes Eloise and readers through the traditions of the day — "First, we need hanboks." Hanboks, which are worn during festive occasions, consist of a long, full skirt and a top with long sleeves. Eloise asks her sister to show her how to tie the fancy ribbons into a perfect bow. "'No time!' said Madeleine, racing off."

Downstairs, the girls' mother had put out a charae-sang, a ceremonial table covered with decorations and food — persimmons, oranges, apples, and more. Eloise reaches for an orange, but Madeleine says, "Not now. We have to make the mandoo."

"Watch me," says Madeleine, as she fills a "dumpling wrapper with a mixture of pork, glass noodles, garlic, scallions, and soy sauce" their mother had prepared the night before, then folds the mandoo ever so delicately.

Eloise's attempts to make mandoo frustrated her — she ripped the dumpling wrapper then added too much filling. Madeleine takes over — "Let me do it." "But I can learn," Eloise replies. "Maybe next time," her elder sister says.

By now (if not earlier!), readers see a trend and fully feel Eloise's irritation. My nephew was visibly annoyed.

The frustration continues when their mother offers them a freshly fried mandoo to eat. "We have to set up yutnari [a traditional board game] before everyone gets here," says the elder sister.

Family and friends soon arrive. "Annyeong haseyo" — a formal way to say hello — says their father. And also, later, "Sehaebok mani badeuseyo" — Happy Lunar New Year.

But Madeleine is unhappy. Eloise asks why. Says Madeleine, "I forgot the poem! I write one every year …"

The sisters put their heads together and readers get to witness some of the true reasons for Lunar New Year celebrations.

At the end of the book, there are also some small bonuses — a glossary, Lunar New Year activities, and a mandoo recipe (picture above!). Michelle W. Park has created a great introductory book about the Korean New Year, which is accompanied by Hyewon Yum's delightful colored pencil illustrations.

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Learn more: OPGR.org

Jia just wants to help prepare for the big celebration

The Chinese New Year Helper
By Ying Chang Compestine
Illustrations by Ginnie Hsu
Rocky Pond Books, 2024
Hardcover, 40 pages, $18.99

By Jody Lim
The Asian Reporter

HAPPY TO HELP. *Author Ying Chang Compestine and illustrator Ginnie Hsu's* The Chinese New Year Helper *introduces readers to the many components of a Lunar Year celebration as well as Jia, who is trying to help but is instead met with you are too young.*

Another picture book my nephew and I read this year was *The Chinese New Year Helper*, written by Ying Chang Compestine with illustrations by Ginnie Hsu. This one also elicited some emotions from my nephew, a fellow young person. The book is aimed at children between three and seven years old.

On the first page, we arrive at Jia's (pronounced "Jah" and means "home" in Chinese) family's business, the "biggest restaurant in Chinatown," and everyone is busy preparing for the Lunar New Year.

Well, except for Jia.

Jia is willing to help and asks family members how she can assist them.

"No, Jia! You are too young to be in the kitchen," says her father.

"But I can help!" says Jia. Her father instead gives her a steamed bun to eat.

Jia then offers to assist her mother. "No, Jia! You are too young to carry the plates," she's told.

"But I can help. I am careful!" says Jia. Her mother encourages her to go over to her aunty.

"No, Jia! You are too young to climb up high!" says her aunty, who is hanging red banners and lanterns.

Then her grandma adds, "No, Jia! You are too young to light the lanterns.!"

Jia offers to help her brother, Hu, but he says, "No, Jia! You're too young to move big chairs."

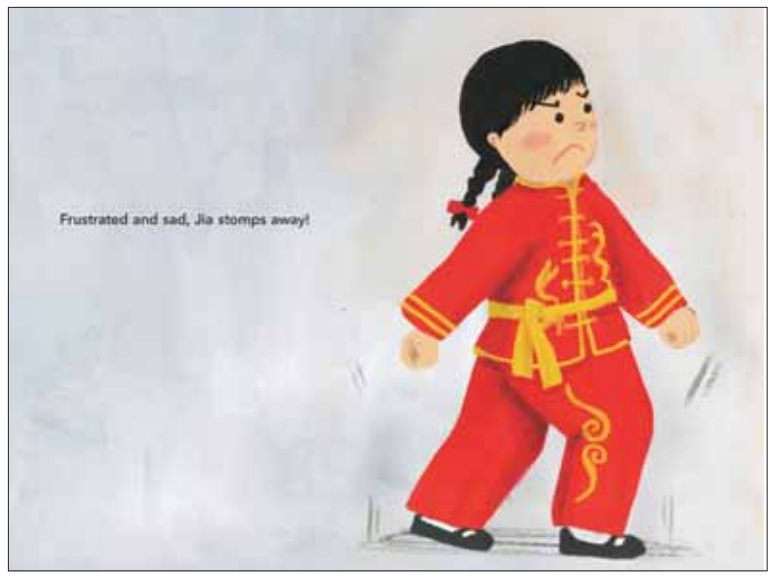
"But I can help. I am strong!" says Jia.

There's a theme brewing here. And Jia and my nephew are both feeling discouraged.

"Frustrated and sad, Jia stomps away." Ginnie Hsu's illustration clearly shows how Jia feels.

Soon, friends and family arrive with oranges and plum blossoms. Jai is given lucky money, but

Continued on page 15



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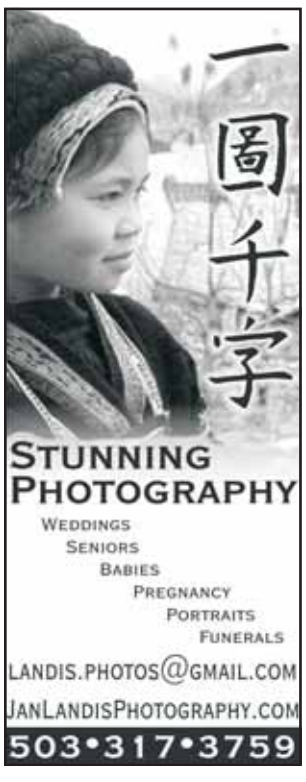

What is Lunar New Year and how is it celebrated?

Continued from page 9

Christians and is observed by several Catholic dioceses across the U.S. as well as other churches.

What are some special foods for the new year?

Each culture has its own list of special foods during the new year, including dumplings, rice cakes, spring rolls, tangerines, fish, and meats. In the Chinese culture, for example, "changshou mian" or "long-life noodles" are consumed with a wish for a long, healthy, and happy life. In Vietnamese culture, banh chung and banh tet — traditional dishes made from glutinous rice — are a must for the celebrations. To make a banh tet, banana leaves are lined with rice, soft mung beans, and pork belly and rolled into a tight log, which is then wrapped in the leaves and tied up with strings. Koreans celebrate with tteokguk, a brothy soup that contains thinly sliced rice cakes.

Celebrate the Fire Horse!
February 17, 2026 to February 5, 2027

Lunar New Year events

"New Years All Year Round"

Currently on display, 10am-5pm (Wed-Sun), Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience (719 S King St, Seattle). View "New Years All Year Round," a fun, family-friendly exhibit that looks at the origins of New Year traditions, colors, cuisine, and more, including lion dances, drums, and firecrackers. The display features new works from artist Nina Vichayapai, new community-submitted stories, and a refresh honoring the Year of the Fire Horse. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (206) 623-5124 or visit <www.wingluke.org>.

Lunar New Year celebration at Milwaukie Community Center

Feb 7, 1-3:30pm, Milwaukie Community Center (5440 SE Kellogg Creek Dr, Milwaukie, Ore.). Usher out the old year and welcome prosperity into the new year in Milwaukie, Oregon. The 2026 Lunar New Year celebration features a live lion dance performance, interactive activities, crafts, music, and more. Participants are able to drop in anytime. For info, call (503) 653-8100 or visit <www.ncprd.com>. To purchase tickets online in advance (suggested), visit <https://secure.rec1.com/OR/NCPRD/catalog?filter=c2VhcmNoPTQwMjk0NDk=>.

Vietnamese Lunar New Year Story Hour

Feb 7, 2-3pm, Cascade Park Community Library (600 NE 136th Ave, Vancouver, Wash.) Attend a Vietnamese Lunar New Year Story Hour with craft activities and stories. For info, call (360) 906-5000 or visit <www.fvrlibraries.org>.

Lunar New Year erhu performances

Feb 12 & 15; Feb 12, 5-6m, Three Creeks Community Library (800-C NE Tenney Rd, Vancouver, Wash.); Feb 15, 3-4pm, Vancouver Community Library (901 C St, Vancouver, Wash.). Join a Lunar New Year performance featuring Dr. Jerry Lin playing the erhu, an enchanting Chinese two-stringed bowed instrument. A question-and-answer session about the erhu and traditional Chinese music with Dr. Lin follows the performance. For info, call (360) 906-4790 (Three Creeks) or (360) 906-5000 (C Street), or visit <www.fvrlibraries.org>.

Tet in Seattle

Feb 14-15, 11am-6pm, Seattle Center (305 Harrison St, Seattle). Attend *Tet Nguyen Dan* — the Vietnamese New Year — presented by Seattle Center Festál in partnership with Tet in Seattle. Tet in Seattle 2026 ushers in the Lunar New Year with a lion dance, firecrackers, a cultural village, a Tet Zone for kids, performances, a fashion show, a health fair, vendors, and more, in celebration of the Year of the Horse. For info, call (206) 684-7200, or visit <www.tetinseattle.org> or <www.seattlecenter.com>.

Lion dances at Uwajimaya

Feb 14, 15 & 21; Feb 14, 1pm, Renton Uwajimaya (501 South Grady Way, Renton, Wash.); Feb 15, noon, Bellevue Uwajimaya (699 120th Ave NE, Bellevue, Wash.); Feb 15, 1pm, Seattle Uwajimaya (600 Fifth Ave S, Seattle); Feb 21, 1pm, Uwajimaya Plaza (10500 SW Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy, Beaverton, Ore.). Visit your area Uwajimaya to experience a lion dance performance, a celebration aimed at bringing good luck, happiness, and prosperity in the year ahead. For info, call (425) 277-1635 (Renton), (425) 747-9012 (Bellevue), (206) 624-6248 (Seattle), or (503) 643-4512 (Beaverton), or visit <www.uwajimaya.com>.

VCA Lunar New Year Gala

Feb 15, 5-7pm (light meal & activities), 7-9pm (performances), Skyview High School (1300 NW 139th St, Vancouver, Wash.). Enjoy dragon and lion dances, food, performances, interactive games, a surprise lucky draw, and more at the Vancouver Chinese Association's (VCA) Lunar New Year Gala. For info, e-mail <vca_usa@yahoo.com>, or visit <www.vca-wa.org> or <www.facebook.com/vcausa>. To purchase tickets (required), visit <www.vca-wa.org/ticket-sale>.

Lunar New Year Craft

Feb 17, 11am-12:30pm, Cedar Mill Library (1080 NW Saltzman Rd, Portland). Head to the children's area at Cedar Mill Library to make a Lunar New Year craft. The drop-in event is for youth age two and older accompanying by an adult. For info, call (503) 644-0043 or visit <www.cedarmill.org>.

Lunar New Year at Lan Su

Feb 17-Mar 8 (daily), 10am-4pm, Lan Su Chinese Garden (239 NW Everett St, Portland). Ring in the Lunar New Year — the Year of the Horse — with lion dances, cultural performances, festival decorations, family craft activities, storytime (Feb. 21 & 28), Chinese calligraphy demonstrations, family craft activities, and more at Lan Su Chinese Garden. On opening day and weekends, there are cultural performances at noon & 2:00pm; family crafts from 11:00am to 3:00pm; Dr. Yang demonstrating Chinese

DRAGON DANCE PARADE. *The Lunar New Year Dragon Dance Parade & Celebration begins at 10:00am on Saturday, March 7 in Portland's Chinatown with lion dancers, drummers, performances, and a 150-foot dragon, followed by a parade from 11:00am to 12:30pm that marches under the China Gate and into downtown Portland. The day of festivities concludes at 1:00pm near the Oregon Historical Society Museum. (Photo/Jeff Lee Photography)*

Calligraphy between 11:00am and 4:00pm; mini horse meet & greets from 11:00am to 1:00pm; and much more. Another highlight of the celebration is Lunar New Year Lantern Viewing — illuminated hanging red lanterns and large lantern sculptures — which is held during the evening from February 18 through March 1 (separate admission tickets are required). For info, to obtain a complete schedule of activities, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 228-8131 or visit <www.lansugarden.org>.

Lunar New Year Creative Crafts

Feb 18, 5-7pm, Holgate Library, (7905 SE Holgate Blvd, Portland). Celebrate the Lunar New Year by making a sticker, t-shirt, or bag design using a Silhouette Cameo vinyl cutting machine, a heat press, 3D pens, and other creative materials. The Lunar New Year Creative Crafts event is made possible by The Library Foundation. For info, call (503) 988-5123 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

Lunar New Year: Positive Kids Yoga Time

Feb 18 & 21; Feb 18, 12:30-1:30pm, Holgate Library, (7905 SE Holgate Blvd, Portland); Feb 21, 4-4:45pm, Woodstock Library (6008 SE 49th Ave, Portland). Children between 2 and 10 years old and their grownups are invited to attend Positive Kids Yoga Time with Ms. Lai. The upcoming sessions feature stories, rhymes, and songs about the cultural significance and traditions of the Lunar New Year. Attendees also explore simple yoga poses and mindful breathing exercises. For info, call (503) 988-5123 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

TET in Oregon 2026

Feb 21, 11am-4pm, Clackamas High School (14486 SE 122nd Ave, Clackamas, Ore.). Attend TET in Oregon, the Vietnamese Lunar New Year Festival. The celebration, presented by the Vietnamese Community of Oregon, features a lion dance, live music, traditional ao dai performances, vendors, and more. The evening event takes place from 6:00pm to 9:30pm and features songs, music, and dance. For info, call (503) 349-9232, e-mail <thaotvnco@gmail.com>, or visit <www.facebook.com/vncousa>.

Lunar New Year at Bellevue Square

Feb 21, 11am-6pm, Bellevue Square, Center Court (NE 8th & Bellevue Way, Bellevue, Wash.). Visit Bellevue Square for its annual Lunar New Year celebration. On Saturday from 11:00am to 6:00pm, visitors may watch live entertainment, including music, dance, martial arts, and visual arts. Activities such as giveaways, arts & crafts, and more are also available throughout the building on February 21. From February 17 through March 1, Lunar New Year décor can be seen throughout the square, displays of traditional garments can be viewed on the first level, and a horse craft to make at home

Continued on page 15

Now Receiving Lottery Applications for Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd Grade for Fall 2026

Le Monde French Immersion School is a **FREE** Kindergarten through 8th grade public charter school serving approximately 385 students in the Portland Public School (PPS) district. As an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School, our mission is to educate children in a full French immersion environment that honors the best international traditions and develops students who are inquisitive, reflective, communicative and caring.

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Questions? Visit our website or contact us at enrollment@lemondeimmersion.org / (503) 467-7529.

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LUNAR CALENDAR

When were you born?

Look up your date of birth to find out what sign and element apply to you!

Jan. 31, 1900 to Feb. 18, 1901 — Metal Rat
Feb. 19, 1901 to Feb. 07, 1902 — Metal Ox
Feb. 08, 1902 to Jan. 28, 1903 — Water Tiger
Jan. 29, 1903 to Feb. 15, 1904 — Water Rabbit
Feb. 16, 1904 to Feb. 03, 1905 — Wood Dragon
Feb. 04, 1905 to Jan. 24, 1906 — Wood Snake
Jan. 25, 1906 to Feb. 12, 1907 — Fire Horse
Feb. 13, 1907 to Feb. 01, 1908 — Fire Sheep
Feb. 02, 1908 to Jan. 21, 1909 — Earth Monkey
Jan. 22, 1909 to Feb. 09, 1910 — Earth Rooster

Feb. 10, 1910 to Jan. 29, 1911 — Metal Dog
Jan. 30, 1911 to Feb. 17, 1912 — Metal Pig
Feb. 18, 1912 to Feb. 05, 1913 — Water Rat
Feb. 06, 1913 to Jan. 25, 1914 — Water Ox
Jan. 26, 1914 to Feb. 13, 1915 — Wood Tiger
Feb. 14, 1915 to Feb. 02, 1916 — Wood Rabbit
Feb. 03, 1916 to Jan. 22, 1917 — Fire Dragon
Jan. 23, 1917 to Feb. 10, 1918 — Fire Snake
Feb. 11, 1918 to Jan. 31, 1919 — Earth Horse
Feb. 01, 1919 to Feb. 19, 1920 — Earth Sheep

Feb. 20, 1920 to Feb. 07, 1921 — Metal Monkey
Feb. 08, 1921 to Jan. 27, 1922 — Metal Rooster
Jan. 28, 1922 to Feb. 15, 1923 — Water Dog
Feb. 16, 1923 to Feb. 04, 1924 — Water Pig
Feb. 05, 1924 to Jan. 24, 1925 — Wood Rat
Jan. 25, 1925 to Feb. 12, 1926 — Wood Ox
Feb. 13, 1926 to Feb. 01, 1927 — Fire Tiger
Feb. 02, 1927 to Jan. 22, 1928 — Fire Rabbit
Jan. 23, 1928 to Feb. 09, 1929 — Earth Dragon
Feb. 10, 1929 to Jan. 29, 1930 — Earth Snake

Jan. 30, 1930 to Feb. 16, 1931 — Metal Horse
Feb. 17, 1931 to Feb. 05, 1932 — Metal Sheep
Feb. 06, 1932 to Jan. 25, 1933 — Water Monkey
Jan. 26, 1933 to Feb. 13, 1934 — Water Rooster
Feb. 14, 1934 to Feb. 03, 1935 — Wood Dog
Feb. 04, 1935 to Jan. 23, 1936 — Wood Pig
Jan. 24, 1936 to Feb. 10, 1937 — Fire Rat
Feb. 11, 1937 to Jan. 30, 1938 — Fire Ox
Jan. 31, 1938 to Feb. 18, 1939 — Earth Tiger
Feb. 19, 1939 to Feb. 07, 1940 — Earth Rabbit

Feb. 08, 1940 to Jan. 26, 1941 — Metal Dragon
Jan. 27, 1941 to Feb. 14, 1942 — Metal Snake
Feb. 15, 1942 to Feb. 04, 1943 — Water Horse
Feb. 05, 1943 to Jan. 24, 1944 — Water Sheep
Jan. 25, 1944 to Feb. 12, 1945 — Wood Monkey
Feb. 13, 1945 to Feb. 01, 1946 — Wood Rooster
Feb. 02, 1946 to Jan. 21, 1947 — Fire Dog
Jan. 22, 1947 to Feb. 09, 1948 — Fire Pig
Feb. 10, 1948 to Jan. 28, 1949 — Earth Rat
Jan. 29, 1949 to Feb. 16, 1950 — Earth Ox

Feb. 17, 1950 to Feb. 05, 1951 — Metal Tiger
Feb. 06, 1951 to Jan. 26, 1952 — Metal Rabbit
Jan. 27, 1952 to Feb. 13, 1953 — Water Dragon
Feb. 14, 1953 to Feb. 02, 1954 — Water Snake
Feb. 03, 1954 to Jan. 23, 1955 — Wood Horse
Jan. 24, 1955 to Feb. 11, 1956 — Wood Sheep
Feb. 12, 1956 to Jan. 30, 1957 — Fire Monkey
Jan. 31, 1957 to Feb. 17, 1958 — Fire Rooster
Feb. 18, 1958 to Feb. 07, 1959 — Earth Dog
Feb. 08, 1959 to Jan. 27, 1960 — Earth Pig

Jan. 28, 1960 to Feb. 14, 1961 — Metal Rat
Feb. 15, 1961 to Feb. 04, 1962 — Metal Ox
Feb. 05, 1962 to Jan. 24, 1963 — Water Tiger
Jan. 25, 1963 to Feb. 12, 1964 — Water Rabbit
Feb. 13, 1964 to Feb. 01, 1965 — Wood Dragon
Feb. 02, 1965 to Jan. 20, 1966 — Wood Snake
Jan. 21, 1966 to Feb. 08, 1967 — Fire Horse
Feb. 09, 1967 to Jan. 29, 1968 — Fire Sheep
Jan. 30, 1968 to Feb. 16, 1969 — Earth Monkey
Feb. 17, 1969 to Feb. 05, 1970 — Earth Rooster

Feb. 06, 1970 to Jan. 26, 1971 — Metal Dog
Jan. 27, 1971 to Jan. 14, 1972 — Metal Pig
Jan. 15, 1972 to Feb. 02, 1973 — Water Rat
Feb. 03, 1973 to Jan. 22, 1974 — Water Ox
Jan. 23, 1974 to Feb. 10, 1975 — Wood Tiger
Feb. 11, 1975 to Jan. 30, 1976 — Wood Rabbit
Jan. 31, 1976 to Feb. 17, 1977 — Fire Dragon
Feb. 18, 1977 to Feb. 06, 1978 — Fire Snake
Feb. 07, 1978 to Jan. 27, 1979 — Earth Horse
Jan. 28, 1979 to Feb. 15, 1980 — Earth Sheep

Feb. 16, 1980 to Feb. 04, 1981 — Metal Monkey
Feb. 05, 1981 to Jan. 24, 1982 — Metal Rooster
Jan. 25, 1982 to Feb. 12, 1983 — Water Dog
Feb. 13, 1983 to Feb. 01, 1984 — Water Pig
Feb. 02, 1984 to Feb. 19, 1985 — Wood Rat
Feb. 20, 1985 to Feb. 08, 1986 — Wood Ox
Feb. 09, 1986 to Jan. 28, 1987 — Fire Tiger
Jan. 29, 1987 to Feb. 16, 1988 — Fire Rabbit
Feb. 17, 1988 to Feb. 05, 1989 — Earth Dragon
Feb. 06, 1989 to Jan. 26, 1990 — Earth Snake

Jan. 27, 1990 to Feb. 14, 1991 — Metal Horse
Feb. 15, 1991 to Feb. 03, 1992 — Metal Sheep
Feb. 04, 1992 to Jan. 22, 1993 — Water Monkey
Jan. 23, 1993 to Feb. 09, 1994 — Water Rooster
Feb. 10, 1994 to Jan. 30, 1995 — Wood Dog
Jan. 31, 1995 to Feb. 18, 1996 — Wood Pig
Feb. 19, 1996 to Feb. 07, 1997 — Fire Rat
Feb. 08, 1997 to Jan. 27, 1998 — Fire Ox
Jan. 28, 1998 to Feb. 05, 1999 — Earth Tiger
Feb. 06, 1999 to Feb. 04, 2000 — Earth Rabbit

Feb. 05, 2000 to Jan. 23, 2001 — Metal Dragon
Jan. 24, 2001 to Feb. 11, 2002 — Metal Snake
Feb. 12, 2002 to Jan. 31, 2003 — Water Horse
Feb. 01, 2003 to Jan. 21, 2004 — Water Sheep
Jan. 22, 2004 to Feb. 08, 2005 — Wood Monkey
Feb. 09, 2005 to Jan. 28, 2006 — Wood Rooster
Jan. 29, 2006 to Feb. 17, 2007 — Fire Dog
Feb. 18, 2007 to Feb. 06, 2008 — Fire Pig
Feb. 07, 2008 to Jan. 25, 2009 — Earth Rat
Jan. 26, 2009 to Feb. 13, 2010 — Earth Ox

Feb. 14, 2010 to Feb. 02, 2011 — Metal Tiger
Feb. 03, 2011 to Jan. 22, 2012 — Metal Rabbit
Jan. 23, 2012 to Feb. 09, 2013 — Water Dragon
Feb. 10, 2013 to Jan. 30, 2014 — Water Snake
Jan. 31, 2014 to Feb. 18, 2015 — Wood Horse
Feb. 19, 2015 to Feb. 07, 2016 — Wood Sheep
Feb. 08, 2016 to Jan. 27, 2017 — Fire Monkey
Jan. 28, 2017 to Feb. 15, 2018 — Fire Rooster
Feb. 16, 2018 to Feb. 04, 2019 — Earth Dog
Feb. 05, 2019 to Jan. 24, 2020 — Earth Pig

Jan. 25, 2020 to Feb. 11, 2021 — Metal Rat
Feb. 12, 2021 to Jan. 31, 2022 — Metal Ox
Feb. 01, 2022 to Jan. 21, 2023 — Water Tiger
Jan. 22, 2023 to Feb. 09, 2024 — Water Rabbit
Feb. 10, 2024 to Jan. 28, 2025 — Wood Dragon
Jan. 29, 2025 to Feb. 16, 2026 — Wood Snake
Feb. 17, 2026 to Feb. 05, 2027 — Fire Horse
Feb. 06, 2027 to Jan. 25, 2028 — Fire Sheep

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The staff at The Asian Reporter wish you and your family a safe and happy Lunar New Year!

Year of the Horse forecasts

We hope you enjoy Madame Mingmei's Year of the Horse forecasts.

The first prediction applies to each animal sign (Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Sheep, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, Pig) for the new lunar year.

Each prediction is followed by an additional forecast specific to one's element (metal, water, wood, fire, earth).

To find out what sign and element apply to you, turn to page 13 and look up your date of birth.

By Madame Mingmei
Special to The Asian Reporter

The Rat

Following a Snake Year with good fortune and some challenges, the practical, calm, and open-minded Rat should experience difficulties but also success in 2026. Imaginative, honest, and idealistic Rats should scurry quickly to the many good chances they'll dig into, but secretive, selfish, and gossipy Rats will miss out. The year will bring with it some bumps, but leaning into your dynamism, patience, and quick-witted-ness will allow you to deal easily with any problems.

Element specific:

■ **Metal Rat**: Metal Rats should scamper to the good opportunities presented in 2026.

■ **Water Rat**: The sensitive Water Rat should utilize diplomatic communication often during the Horse Year.

■ **Wood Rat**: Focus on realistic goals during the Year of the Horse.

■ **Fire Rat**: Avoiding trivial situations could help Fire Rats achieve their goals.

■ **Earth Rat**: The disciplined Earth Rat should expand on the successes from last year and welcome new chances in 2026.

The Ox

Following a good 2025, the Year of the Horse will go by fast for diligent Oxen who exhibit eloquence, practicality, and confidence. As the clear-thinking Ox plows through the year, they should stay organized and patient. Avoid being complacent, stubborn, or hot-tempered in order to stay on track. Balance is the key to success for the steady Ox, as is not overextending yourself.

Element specific:

■ **Metal Ox**: Being stubborn is an important characteristic to avoid during this Horse Year.

■ **Water Ox**: The practical Water Ox should focus on important tasks during the Year of the Horse.

■ **Wood Ox**: The creative Wood Ox should stand firm on their beliefs while also staying flexible.

■ **Fire Ox**: Pulling steadily forward is necessary for Fire Oxen to obtain success during 2026.

■ **Earth Ox**: Earth Oxen may be presented with a chance to travel in the future, so start saving funds now.

The Tiger

After a positive Year of the Snake, the confident and determined Tiger should experience both intensity and obstacles in 2026. Utilizing optimism and open-mindedness, unexpected twists can be overcome. In fact, wise Tigers will have several meaningful breakthroughs. Good health is possible for Tigers who are determined and engaged, but in jeopardy for Tigers who are impatient and hot-headed.

Have a safe and prosperous Year of the Horse!

Element specific:

■ **Metal Tiger**: Learning a new skill may bring happiness and success to the active Metal Tiger.

■ **Water Tiger**: Water Tigers should draw on their calmer nature during the Horse Year.

■ **Wood Tiger**: The charming Wood Tiger should remain mindful and adaptable.

■ **Fire Tiger**: The ready-for-action Fire Tiger should pounce on opportunities while also avoiding thoughtless behavior.

■ **Earth Tiger**: Earth Tigers with long attention spans will accomplish many goals this year.

The Rabbit

After a Snake Year with both ups and downs, the honorable, virtuous, and expressive Rabbit will experience setbacks as well as joyful occasions. During the coming Year of the Horse, avoid being gossipy and indecisive and also remember to pay attention to everyone and everything around you. If strategies and goals are put in place, Rabbits will quickly gnaw at the task at hand and hop into success.

Element specific:

■ **Metal Rabbit**: Courageous Metal Rabbits should bound to new encounters that may lead to new friendships.

■ **Water Rabbit**: The year may present some conflicts, but sensitive Water Rabbits can take it all in stride.

■ **Wood Rabbit**: The adventuristic Wood Rabbit should nibble on small tasks this year, leading them closer to their dreams.

■ **Fire Rabbit**: Fire Rabbits should draw on their leadership skills which may lead to success.

■ **Earth Rabbit**: The decisive Earth Rabbit should burrow into all obstacles in 2026. Avoidance will only extend their troubles.

The Dragon

During the upcoming Year of the Horse, the majestic and powerful Dragon will experience bumps along the road as well as many hidden rewards. Energetic, self-sufficient, and enthusiastic Dragons who plan should be able to turn obstacles into learning moments and growth. Hard work will be rewarded in 2026 as long as you are tolerant, sincere, and principled.

Element specific:

■ **Metal Dragon**: Bright and expressive Metal Dragons will gain much knowledge this year.

■ **Water Dragon**: Water Dragons who tend to burn bridges should keep their fire to themselves.

■ **Wood Dragon**: The Horse Year holds plenty of chances for growth for the Wood Dragon.

■ **Fire Dragon**: Competitive Fire Dragons will easily take on unexpected challenges and prevail.

■ **Earth Dragon**: Have patience, Earth Dragon, and you'll yield productive results.

The Snake

After celebrating your year with new opportunities and experiences, clever, perceptive, and organized Snakes should reach many of their goals this year. Snakes who have been working on past issues may also receive long-awaited recognition. When considering new friendships and relationships, avoid being indifferent, self-righteous, or jealous. Reflective and determined Snakes should slither to a new hobby.

Element specific:

■ **Metal Snake**: The Metal Snake likes to plan alone, but this Horse Year, it would be wise to accept help from family or friends.

■ **Water Snake**: Insightful Water Snakes should volunteer for a good cause.

■ **Wood Snake**: The easy-going Wood Snake should get out of their burrow and try something new.

■ **Fire Snake**: The dynamic Fire Snake who correctly uses their hunger for power and fame should see success in 2026.

■ **Earth Snake**: The loyal Earth Snake should reach out to those around them to help them achieve their goals.

The Horse

It's your year and it's time to trot to new possibilities and encounters. Balance and independence are important this year, as are enthusiasm and flexibility. You've waited 12 long years for 2026, so don't be careless or irresponsible with your time. It's important to stay calm and harness your fiery nature to learn and accomplish as much as possible. Plenty of attention may also come your way, so canter your way through with your head held high.

Element specific:

■ **Metal Horse**: Motivated Metal Horses should take advantage of a fun and potentially productive year.

■ **Water Horse**: A creative Water Horse should enjoy a busy and active social life.

■ **Wood Horse**: If a good opportunity falls onto the trail, first evaluate it, then seize on it.

■ **Fire Horse**: Your Fire Horse Year should present wonderful opportunities to gallop and explore.

■ **Earth Horse**: The cautious Earth Horse should take off their blinkers in order to avoid missing opportunities.

The Sheep

After a Snake Year with success and a sense of accomplishment, the Year of the Horse will be full of doors of opportunity for Sheep who are creative, easygoing, and imaginative. Those who are careless, disorganized, and impractical will shear off good chances because of their laziness or impulsivity. The year will also present a few surprises that the sincere and candid Sheep should enjoy, regardless if it's an individual or team effort.

Element specific:

■ **Metal Sheep**: Success may be around the corner for the determined Metal Sheep.

■ **Water Sheep**: The opportunistic Water Sheep should try a new hobby.

■ **Wood Sheep**: Innovative Wood Sheep may turn obstacles into steppingstones.

■ **Fire Sheep**: The Fire Sheep who is able to use their strength appropriately may take advantage of all opportunities.

■ **Earth Sheep**: Utilize caution in all tasks this year.

The Monkey

Active, altruistic, and enthusiastic Monkeys should have an energetic Horse Year full of opportunities. Draw on your independence throughout the year to overcome any restlessness. The Horse Year will bring some challenges, but most will be resolved easily by candid and cooperative Monkeys. Remember to frolic freely and often to remain your gregarious self.

Element specific:

■ **Metal Monkey**: While partaking in so many opportunities this year, the wise Metal Monkey should also set funds aside for a rainy day.

■ **Water Monkey**: Accepting the assistance of a mentor or supportive colleague could help lift you out of sticky situations.

■ **Wood Monkey**: The creative Wood Monkey should draw on their excellent problem-solving skills to swing over obstacles this Horse Year.

■ **Fire Monkey**: Utilize your determination and a bit of aggressiveness to achieve several goals in 2026.

■ **Earth Monkey**: The honest and patient Earth Monkey will reap the rewards of their smart decisions and

Continued on page 15

Lunar New Year events

Continued from page 12

may be picked up at guest services (while supplies last). For info, call (425) 454-8096 or visit <www.bellevuecollection.com/lunarnewyear>.

Lunar New Year 2026

Feb 21, noon-2pm, Brookwood Library (2850 NE Brookwood Pkwy, Hillsboro, Ore.). Celebrate Lunar New Year 2026 — the Year of the Horse — at the Hillsboro Brookwood Library. Lunar New Year, also known as Spring Festival or Chinese New Year, is the biggest and most important celebration in many countries throughout Asia and across the globe. The event begins at noon with a lion dance by White Lotus, then features family-friendly crafts, such as a Horse New Year card, paper collage lantern, and buttons of a zodiac animal as well as a calligraphy demonstration with Dr. Jiyu Yang, a classically-trained scholar. For info, call (503) 615-6500 or visit <www.hillsboro-oregon.gov/our-city/departments/library>.

Tet Bính Ngo 2026

Feb 21, 2-4pm, Midland Library (805 SE 122nd Ave, Portland). Attend Tet Bính Ngo 2026, the Vietnamese Lunar New Year. The event, the Multnomah County Library's main celebration, features a lion dance by the White Lotus team, the art of wushu from Summit Wushu Academy, crafts, and more. The festivities are made possible by the National Endowment for the Humanities Fund of The Library Foundation. In case of inclement weather, Tet Bính Ngo will be held instead on February 27 from 3:00pm to 5:00pm. For info, call (503) 988-5123 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

Lunar New Year Guzheng Music

Feb 22, 2-3pm, Woodstock Library (6008 SE 49th Ave, Portland). Attend a Lunar New Year performance featuring the unique and relaxing sounds of the guzheng, also known as the Chinese zither, with expert musician Mr. Bi Hai. For info, call (503) 988-5123 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

Chinese New Year Cultural Fair

Feb 28, 11am-5pm, Oregon Convention Center (777 NE Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Portland). Celebrate the Year of the Horse at the Chinese New Year Cultural Fair. The daylong event includes traditional and modern Chinese cultural activities; Chinese folk dance and music; booths offering food, beverages, products, and services; calligraphy; martial arts demonstrations; children's games; and more. For info, or to obtain the full schedule of events, call (971) 357-4525 or (503) 771-9560, or visit <www.oregonccba.org> or <www.portlandchinesetimes.com>.

Asia Pacific New Year Celebration in Tacoma

Feb 28, 11am-6pm, Tacoma Dome (2727 East D St, Tacoma, Wash.). Join the Asia Pacific Cultural Center's (APCC) annual Asia Pacific New Year Celebration, a community-based event featuring more than 20 performances, cultural demonstrations, and martial arts, culture and arts displays, authentic cuisine, and vendors and resource booths. The focus country for this year's celebration is Cambodia. Activities for children include cultural hands-on activities to create things, dress in cultural attire, and play games. For info, call (253) 272-3663 or visit <www.tacomadome.org>.

Lunar New Year Dragon Dance Parade & Celebration

Mar 7, 10am-1pm, Portland Chinatown (NW Davis St & NW Third Ave, Portland). Kick off the Lunar New Year with a mile-long parade in Portland coordinated by the Oregon Historical Society and numerous community partners. The Lunar New Year Dragon Dance Parade & Celebration starts at 10:00am in Chinatown with lion dancers, drummers, performances, and a 150-foot dragon, followed by a parade (11:00am to 12:30pm) that marches under the China Gate and through downtown Portland along SW Third Avenue to SW Jefferson & Park St, then ends at the Oregon Historical Society Museum (1200 SW Park Ave, Portland). Plucking of the greens occurs at select locations along the parade route. Members of the community who are interested in volunteering for the event should e-mail <info@portlandchinatown.org>. For info, call (503) 222-1741 or (503) 224-0008, or visit <www.ohs.org> or <www.portlandchinatownmuseum.org>.

Have a prosperous Year of the Horse!

Jia just wants to help prepare for the big celebration

Continued from page 11

even that cannot mask her exasperation about not being able to help with the celebration.

Jia remains unhappy, even as the waitstaff brings out "dumplings, fish, meatballs, rice cakes, and eight treasures rice puddings." She doesn't even touch her chopsticks.

Jia's focus now? The lion dance. Maybe that will turn her frown upside down.

"The cymbals crash and the drums boom … Jia jumps out of her chair and moves closer," only to be told by her grandma, "Step back, Jia! You're too little — you'll get hurt."

Is Jia ultimately able to help with the celebration? You'll have to read *The Chinese New Year Helper* to find out. Ying Chang Compestine's text is easy to read, even for a second-grader. And Hsu's bright and colorful illustrations throughout the book and on the flap bring the festive Lunar New Year event to life.

We hope you enjoy Madame Mingmei's Year of the Horse forecasts.

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Year of the Horse forecasts

Continued from page 14

hard work.

◆

The Rooster

Following a good Year of the Snake, Roosters will need to adapt and innovate as they spend parts of the year outside their comfort zone. Adventurous and brave Roosters should peck at opportunities that drop down in front of them. In addition, communicative and prompt Roosters may experience plenty of fun in 2026, but argumentative and cranky ones will not.

Element specific:

■ **Metal Rooster**: The determined Metal Rooster should adjust easily to any odd happenings in their path.

■ **Water Rooster**: To find success, the high intensity Water Rooster should slow down occasionally and clean their feathers.

■ **Wood Rooster**: 2026 should bring many rewards to the considerate and open-minded Wood Rooster.

■ **Fire Rooster**: The persuasive Fire Rooster should utilize their skills to benefit family and friends.

■ **Earth Rooster**: Efficient Earth Roosters should confront and solve quickly any issues that cross their path.

◆

The Dog

Following a busy Snake Year, brave and enthusiastic Dogs will dig their way through a year full of action. Intelligent and knowledgeable Dogs will experience visible progress where they apply steady efforts while bad-tempered and anxious Dogs will deal with many challenges and receive little praise. Faithful Dogs will assist friends and family when asked.

Element specific:

■ **Metal Dog**: Luck appears in store for Metal Dogs who stick to their very high standards.

■ **Water Dog**: Maintaining a healthy lifestyle may help keep your mind on track this busy Year of the Horse.

■ **Wood Dog**: Wood Dogs should harness their energetic spirit to make progress on their goals.

■ **Fire Dog**: The Horse Year will be a good one for adventure-seeking Fire Dogs.

■ **Earth Dog**: The idealistic Earth Dog should be sure to relax and spend time on hobbies.

◆

The Pig

After an uneven Year of the Snake, the courteous, determined, and generous Pig should have a Year of the Horse with both rewards and challenges. The sensible, smart, and talented Pig should sail through the year smoothly, but impatient and pessimistic Pigs will not. Honest communication and much laughter are very important in 2026, as are being charitable and forgiving.

Element specific:

■ **Metal Pig**: The ambitious Metal Pig should stick with well-thought-out strategies to realize their goals.

■ **Water Pig**: The diplomatic Water Pig should stay grounded in good sense and remember that communication is the key.

■ **Wood Pig**: Use your social skills and kindness to maintain good relationships with family and friends.

■ **Fire Pig**: Stay alert and stop wallowing in your sorrows to avoid unnecessary conflicts in 2026.

■ **Earth Pig**: Earth Pigs should use any setbacks experienced this year as valuable lessons for long-term growth.

Illustrations by Jonathan Hill

Welcome the Year of the Horse!

In the Oscar-nominated *Arco*, an apocalypse kids can get behind

By Jake Coyle
AP Film Writer

FUTURISTIC FANTASY. *The top image, released by Neon, shows 10-year-old Arco (voiced by Juliano Krue Valdi in the English dub) in a scene from* Arco. *In the bottom image are Arco, bottom, and Iris (voiced by Romy Fay). (Neon via AP)*

In all the dystopian visions of the future that the movies have trotted out over the last few decades, the one that sticks the most, surprisingly, is *WALL-E*. That's not just because of the chastening sight of an over-polluted Earth or those sedentary humans glued to their screens. It's because those quite plausible possibilities mean something different in a kids movie. It's their future, after all.

Some of the same can be said about Ugo Bienvenu's *Arco*, a charming and dreamy sci-fi animated movie where environmental catastrophe and cartoony fun collide. Like *WALL-E*, there are heroic robots in *Arco*, an Oscar nominee for best animated feature. But it's the film's plucky young protagonists that give Bienvenu's future-set film its heart.

The film opens in a distant future where a family lives on "Jetsons"-like platforms in the clouds. They wear drab onesies (fashion sense has seemingly been lost along with the Earth's surface) but sport rainbow cloaks that enable them to fly through time, leaving a rainbow streak behind.

Though 10-year-old Arco (voiced by Juliano Krue Valdi in the English dub) has been told he can't fly until he's older, he sneaks off with his sister's cape and, hoping for a glimpse of the dinosaurs, accidentally crash lands in 2075.

Arco is the unusual movie to exist in two future times, never our present. And it can take a moment to acclimate to both its jumbled timeline and the sheer amount of rainbows. But Bienvenu, a French comic-book artist making his directorial debut, richly imagines a 2075 future of recognizable extremes.

Storms have become so violent that homes now have protective bubbles around them. Adults work such long hours in a distant city that they are usually mere holograms to their kids — an image that will send shudders down the spine of any parent who Zooms from a work trip. For Iris (voiced by Romy Fay) and her baby brother, the family robot does most of the parenting. In fact, robots do most things: teaching, construction, medical aid.

Iris, a sharp young girl, sees Arco's rainbow fly into the woods and runs to find him. At the same time, three bumbling, oddly dressed fellows, dressed in primary colors and wearing rainbow glasses, come looking for him. This trio — voiced in the English dub by Will Ferrell, Andy Samberg, and Flea — are a goofy and very French addition to the movie. Ferrell and company are a marked improvement from the original.

But there's no harm in giving *Arco* some Saturday-morning-cartoon slapstick to go with the apocalyptic doom. Those three, believing they're hot on a time-travel trail, stay in pursuit while Arco and Iris develop a friendship and learn about each's eras.

Parents remain largely absent. In *Arco*, kids are left to fend for themselves in a world of technology and ecological disaster. (In one of the movie's most damning moments, the kids find refuge in a library because no one goes in there anymore.) But while there's no shortage of films that comment on our overly digital lives, technology is far from a villain in *Arco*. It is closer to the savior.

So while Bienvenu's film bears similarities to movies before it — Arco is far from the first future boy to fall from the sky — it's the first that I recall that so directly confronts ecological apocalypse and yet still finds a thrillingly optimistic note to end on. Thrilling because it puts the future in the hands of the young. *Arco* dares to imagine a fate for them, somewhere over the rainbow.

Arco, a Neon release, is rated PG by the Motion Picture Association for action/peril, mild thematic elements, and a brief injury image. Running time: 89 minutes.

Chloe Kim rediscovers love for Olympics. Will an injury derail quest for a 3rd straight gold medal?

By Eddie Pells
AP National Writer

WINTER OLYMPICS. *Chloe Kim of the United States runs the course during women's halfpipe qualifying at Phoenix Snow Park at the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea, in this February 12, 2018 file photo. (AP Photo/Kin Cheung, File)*

COPPER MOUNTAIN, Colo. — Chloe Kim's third run to the Olympics started with the usual questions: How will she handle the pressure? Can she enjoy the journey? How does being famous elevate or diminish the experience? And, of course, will she win her third straight gold medal?

Now, comes one that nobody saw coming: Will America's best snowboarder, one of the major attractions of next month's Milan Cortina Games, even make it to the halfpipe? If she does, will she be anywhere near 100%?

A shoulder injury during training has turned the buildup to the Olympics into a scramble for the 25-year-old Kim, whose catalog of tricks outclasses everything else in this high-risk, high-reward sport.

"Obviously, I'm really disappointed that I can't snowboard until right before the Olympics, which is going to be hard," Kim said in a recent update on January 13 (four weeks before the start of the women's halfpipe contest). "I haven't gotten nearly the amount of reps that I would have liked, but that's OK."

The question of Kim's health will hover over one of the marquee contests of the Olympics and over the result itself.

If she wins, it will mark another stunning accomplishment for the California kid who took over the halfpipe 10 years ago — a smiling 15-year old who loved the mall, her dog Reese, and the first day of any month because that's when her mom paid out her allowance.

If she doesn't — and someone like Gaon Choi of Korea or Sena Tomita of Japan wins — well, that might be chalked up to the best snowboarder not being at full strength.

"To some level, I think (the shoulder) is something that will be in her mind if she does decide to compete," said Shaun White, the three-time gold medallist who dealt with big injuries in the lead-up to his last two games. "But, also, she's in a league of her own trick-wise."

Kim knows the Olympics are the gold standard of her sport

For everything she has accomplished — the record eight Winter X Games golds, the three world championship titles and the tricks she does that nobody else even attempts — the Olympic gold medal is the benchmark in this sport. For Kim, gearing up to take her game up another notch every four years makes the mental gymnastics almost as difficult as the physical ones.

It's a reality that a few years ago forced her to restart her search for joy in a sport that, over time, has turned into something different than fun and games.

"When you have the level of fame that she has reached, it gets to be a lot more like a job," said her longtime coach, Rick Bower. "Some of that love you had when you were younger gets lost a little bit. One of the biggest things she's worked on over the last few years is just finding that spark of why she actually does this."

Scattered among her dozens of social-media posts that show her peddling products, heading to the gym, talking about her driving acumen, and making matcha was a revealing take on why she keeps going out there.

"I feel like I love the adrenaline and the pressure I feel when I am snowboarding," she said. "I find it very rewarding, too. There's nothing that can compete with the feeling of accomplishing something you once thought was impossible, and pushing yourself and being able to see the result of all your hard work."

Her career is full of those moments.

Last January, Kim became the first woman to land a double-cork 1080 in a competition (that's two head-over-heels flips while spinning 360 degrees).

She is approaching the 10th anniversary of the date when she became the first woman to do back-to-back 1080s, three spins in one jump above the pipe.

In 2024, during a victory lap at the Winter X Games, she added a half spin to her 1080 and became the first woman to pull off a 1260.

She had tried, and failed, to pull off a 1260 at the 2022 Olympics in China. In a world that only Kim and a few others can understand, that had no impact on her winning the gold medal — she did that easily with her second-best run — but made all the difference in how she viewed the day.

"It's unfair to be expected to be perfect," she said that day, "and I'm not perfect in every way."

More than the gold medal, Kim said, she found her joy in the quest for progression, the favorite word of any great snowboarder. Nobody has progressed women's snowboarding more than she has over the past decade.

"You're going to see someone designing a whole new run that's never been done before," said Kelly Clark, the 2002 Olympic gold medallist who befriended Kim when she was starting out. "There's a creativity and individual expression that makes it so cool."

Risks on the halfpipe are mental as much as physical

Creativity and progression come with risks. The best, after all, are supposed to win. By not playing it safe, Kim puts that in jeopardy. Clark, who has Olympic gold and two bronze, is among the rare few who can relate to what the current Olympic champion is feeling.

Continued on page 19

Events calendar

"Frank S. Matsura: Portraits from the Borderland"

Through Feb 8, 10am-4pm (Wed-Sat), 11am-4pm (Sun), Japanese American Museum of Oregon (JAMO) at the Naito Center (411 NW Flanders St, Portland). View "Frank S. Matsura: Portraits from the Borderland," an exhibit of detailed portraits of Indigenous people in Washington state created by Frank Sakae Matsura (1873-1913). Matsura immigrated from Japan in 1903 to a newly incorporated Okanogan County along the U.S.-Canadian border. He had been formally trained in photography and established a studio in the small town of Okanogan, a cultural and geographic "borderland" where he, as an outsider, witnessed a time of change in the region. The display, which is organized by the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture and curated by Michael Holloman and Anne-Claire Mitchell, features more than 20 portraits enlarged to 33" by 46". For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 224-1458 or visit <www.jamo.org>.

"Thanatopsis: Meditations on Grief, Death, and Transformation"

Through Feb 14, noon-5pm (Wed & Sat), noon-7pm (Thu-Fri); Feb 14, 5-8pm (closing reception); Portland Community College, Cascade Campus, Paragon Arts Gallery (815 N Killingsworth St, Portland). View "Thanatopsis: Meditations on Grief, Death, and Transformation," an art exhibit that explores the end of life and the grief that accompanies death. For info, call (971) 722-6111 or visit <www.pcc.edu/galleries/cascade>.

"Designing Nature: Elements of Harmony"

Through Feb 23, 10am-3:30pm (Wed-Mon), Portland Japanese Garden (611 SW Kingston Ave, Portland). View "Designing Nature: Elements of Harmony," an exhibit highlighting a collaboration between two of the garden's two curators — Aki Nakanishi and Hugo Torii. Visitors will step back in time through a visual journey of the six distinct styles of Japanese gardens developed over 1,500 years; learn about the three basic garden elements of water, plant, and stone, and how they have inspired a tapestry of creativity across the ages; view scale miniatures by architectural model maker Aimee Eng, which shed light on the Portland Japanese Garden's design; and more. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 223-1321 or visit <www.japanesegarden.com>.

Studio Ghibli Film Festival

Through Mar 2, Oregon Museum of Science & Industry (1945 SE Water Ave, Portland). Attend the Studio Ghibli Film Festival, the Oregon Museum of Science & Industry's annual celebration featuring films created by the legendary Japanese animation company. The event includes screenings of *Ponyo*, *The Secret World of Arrietty*, *The Wind Rises*, *Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind*, *My Neighbor Totoro*, *Pom Poko*, *Howl's Moving Castle*, *Kiki's Delivery Service*, *Castle in the Sky*, *The Boy and the Heron*, *Porco Rosso*, *The Cat Returns*, *Tales from Earthsea*, *When Marnie Was There*, *Whisper of the Heart*, *From Up On Poppy Hill*, *Grave of the Fireflies*, *Only Yesterday*, *The Tale of the Princess Kaguya*, and others. For info, times, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 797-4000 or visit <www.omsi.edu/exhibits/studio-ghibli-film-festival>.

"Roots and Resilience — Chinese American Heritage in Oregon"

Through March 2026, 10am-5pm (Wed-Sun), Museum of Natural and Cultural History (1680 E 15th Ave, Eugene, Ore.). View "Roots and Resilience — Chinese American Heritage in Oregon," an exhibit that explores how Chinese immigrants helped shape Oregon history. The display traces Chinese American communities across the state, showcasing artifacts recovered from archaeological digs at sites such as the Ah Heng mining site in the Malheur National Forest and a historic shop and restaurant in Eugene. Objects on view highlight the craftsmanship and expertise of Chinese workers who played vital roles in Oregon's railroad, mining, and canning industries. For info, call (541) 346-3024 or visit <https://natural-history.uoregon.edu>.

"Ai Weiwei: Water Lilies"

Through Mar 15, 10am-5pm (Wed-Sun), Seattle Asian Art Museum (1400 E Prospect St, in Volunteer Park, Seattle). View "Ai Weiwei: Water Lilies," a nearly 50-foot-long piece created with 650,000 LEGO blocks, which is being shown for the first time in the U.S. "Water Lilies," the artist's largest and most ambitious LEGO work to date, is a reinterpretation of Claude Monet's iconic triptych from the Museum of Modern Art in New York. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (206) 654-3100 or visit <www.seattleartmuseum.org>.

"Lay Your Burden Down"

Through Apr 13, 10am-5pm (Wed-Sun), Seattle Asian Art Museum (SAAM) (1400 E Prospect St, in Volunteer Park, Seattle). View "Lay Your Burden Down," an installation created by artist Carina del Rosario, recipient of the 2025 Constance W. Rice Fellowship. The original piece, which was commissioned by the museum, is on view at SAAM through April 13, 2026. The installation is a communal act of care — a community-based project that invited people to share their burdens, convened sewing circles to tend and bolster those burdens, and then turned the embroidered pieces into pillows that are on display on a luxurious hammock. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (206) 654-3210 or visit <www.seattleartmuseum.org>.

"Anila Quayyum Agha: Geometry of Light"

Through Apr 19, 10am-5pm (Wed-Sun), Seattle Asian Art Museum (1400 E Prospect St, in Volunteer Park, Seattle). View "Anila Quayyum Agha: Geometry of Light," a display that invites viewers to become part of the art. Agha, a Pakistani American artist, animates spaces with her large-scale sculptural installations. Suspended from the ceiling, the steel cubes are laser-cut with intricate designs that project geometric shadows onto the visitor. She draws on both the light and dark of her own life, using South Asian art practices to convey the gender discrimination she faced growing up as a young girl in Pakistan. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (206) 654-3210 or visit <www.seattleartmuseum.org>.

"Scallion"

Through July 2026, 10am-7pm (Thu), 10am-5pm (Fri-Sun), Henry Art Gallery (15th Ave NE & NE 41st St, Seattle). View "Scallion," an inaugural mural presentation by Charlene Liu located in the Sculpture Court at the Henry Art Gallery. The work builds on her ongoing engagement with food as a means to locate culture and heritage amidst diaspora. Rendered in a fluid, multi-layered, visual language, the landscape offers a portal to reflect on how culinary traditions build belonging in place and playfully celebrates the importance of shared food experiences. For info, call (206) 543-2280 or visit <www.henryart.org>.

The Wiz

Feb 3-8, Keller Auditorium (222 SW Clay St, Portland). Watch *The Wiz*, a musical offering a groundbreaking twist on *The Wizard of Oz* as Dorothy journeys to find her place in a contemporary world. The show infuses ballet, jazz, and modern pop, and features a score packed with soul, gospel, rock, and '70s funk. The production, which is presented by Broadway in Portland and is recommended for attendees age 5 and above, runs 2 hours, 20 minutes with one intermission. Following its run in Portland, the show heads to The Paramount Theatre (911 Pine St, Seattle) from February 10 to 15. For info, showtimes, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 248-4335, or visit <www.portland5.com> or <www.broadwayinportland.com>. To learn more, visit <www.wizmusical.com>.

HOKYONG CHOI. *"Piano Music Through the Ages," a recital by Hokyong Choi, takes place on February 10 at 7:00pm at the Patricia Reser Center for the Arts in Beaverton. The program traces the evolution of piano music across eras. (Photo courtesy of the Patricia Reser Center for the Arts)*

Portland Winter Light Festival

Feb 6-14, throughout Portland. Attend the Portland Winter Light Festival, a free outdoor winter activity featuring interactive light-based art, immersive sculptures, and participatory events. The event aims to transform, illuminate, and animate Portland's nighttime urban landscape. The festival's website includes a guide to all venues featuring lights. To learn more, visit <www.pdxwlf.com>.

Modern kintsugi workshop

Feb 7, 9:30am-12:30pm or 1:30pm-4:30pm, Portland Japanese Garden (611 SW Kingston Ave, Portland). Attend a modern kintsugi workshop with Portland-based kintsugi restorer and instructor Emi Joyce. Kintsugi is the Japanese craft of repairing ceramics. In the centuries-old practice, fractures transform from hidden weak points into beautiful golden elements worth celebrating. The philosophy of kintsugi teaches us to embrace imperfections in our life and appreciate the beauty of human flaws. Two workshops are offered, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon, and beginners are welcome. The cost of supplies is included in the registration fee (includes a broken ceramic vessel). For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 223-1321 or visit <www.japanesegarden.com>.

Hokyong Choi

Feb 10, 7pm, Patricia Reser Center for the Arts (12625 SW Crescent St, Beaverton, Ore.). Attend "Piano Music Through the Ages," a recital by Hokyong Choi that reveals her refined artistry, uniting historical insight with expressive depth across contrasting piano styles. The program traces the evolution of piano music across eras, from Mozart's classical clarity to Schubert's depth, Liszt's romantic virtuosity, and Ravel's refined modern colors, revealing how expression, form, and sound transformed over time. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (971) 501-7722 or visit <www.thereser.org>.

"Oregon Connections: Immigration and Deportation"

Feb 12, noon-1pm, Virtual. Attend "Oregon Connections: Immigration and Deportation," a free virtual conversation with Chelsea Rose and Jerry Garcia. For info, or to register (required), call (503) 222-1741 or visit <https://orhs.ejoinme.org/OregonConnections>.

Black Tea

Feb 20, 7pm, Hollywood Theatre (4122 NE Sandy Blvd, Portland). Watch *Black Tea*, a Chinese-African romance that follows Aya, who leaves her wedding in the Ivory Coast for China, only to fall in love with Cai, a mature tea shop owner. Their cross-cultural relationship takes place in a dark brew of cultural bias, buried histories, and societal judgement. The film is screening as part of the Cascade Festival of African Films. For info, or to purchase tickets, visit <www.africanfilmfestival.org>.

Hina Matsuri

Mar 1, 10am-1pm, Portland Japanese Garden (611 SW Kingston Ave, Portland). Celebrate Hina Matsuri, the Japanese Festival of Dolls, at the Portland Japanese Garden. The event features a traditional display of *hina* dolls, family-friendly performances by the Kotori Kai Shamisen School and Takohachi (10:45am to 11:15am and 11:45am to 12:15pm), and more. For info, call (503) 223-1321 or visit <www.japanesegarden.com>.

The Notebook

Mar 10-15, Keller Auditorium (222 SW Clay St, Portland). Watch *The Notebook*, a musical based on the best-selling novel that inspired the iconic film, *The Notebook*. The show, which uses flashing lights, periods of darkness, and theatrical haze, tells the story of Allie and Noah, both from different worlds, who share a lifetime of love despite the forces that threaten to pull them apart. The production, which is presented by Broadway in Portland and is recommended for attendees age 10 and above, runs 2 hours, 20 minutes with one intermission. For info, showtimes, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 248-4335, or visit <www.portland5.com> or <www.broadwayinportland.com>. To learn more, visit <www.notebookmusical.com>.

❑

Judge blocks Trump's elections order on OR, WA vote-by-mail

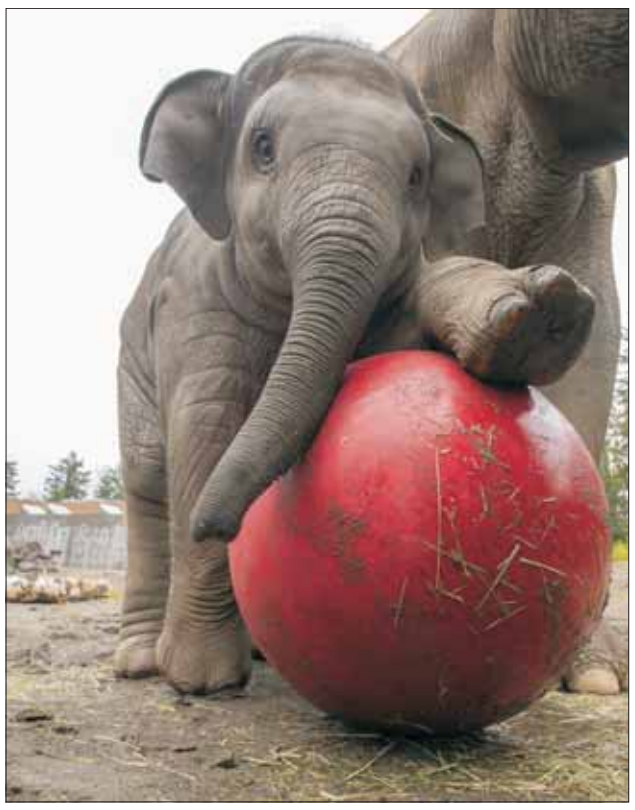
Continued from page 8

constitution grants congress and the states the authority to regulate federal elections, he noted.

Oregon and Washington said they sued separately from other states because, as exclusively vote-by-mail states, they faced particular harms from the executive order.

Trump and other Republicans have promoted the idea that large numbers of people who were not U.S. citizens might be voting. However, voting by noncitizens is rare and, when they are caught, they can face felony charges and deportation.

For timely information about upcoming events, visit <www.facebook.com/TheAsianReporter>.



PACHYDERM PARTY. *Tula-Tu's playful pachyderm party included elephant-sized toys and special cake. One of the birthday girl's new toys — a new ball — was from the Portland Fire, Portland's new WNBA team. (Photo/Michael Durham, courtesy of Oregon Zoo)*

Tula-Tu celebrates her first birthday

Tula-Tu celebrated her first birthday over the weekend. The one-year-old Asian elephant calf celebrated with a playful pachyderm party on Sunday, February 1.

The nearly half-ton toddler's birthday party featured a brand-new ball from the Portland Fire, a keeper talk, a special layer cake, and a rousing rendition of "Happy Birthday" by zoo guests and staff.

The special layer cake made by the elephant care staff was made with some of Tula's favorite foods. "It was full of crunchy lettuce, apples, and sweet potatoes, and they used coconut milk to frost the outside," said Steve Lefave, who oversees the zoo's elephant care program. "In the end, it weighed over 25 pounds!"

Although Tula-Tu now weighs in at just under 1,000 pounds, her cake was made for sharing, so the entire elephant family — including her mom Rose-Tu and her dad Samson — enjoyed some of the birthday treat.

During Tula first year of life, she has delighted fans around the world — and sparking some hope for her endangered species.

Born February 1, 2025, Rose-Tu's baby became an overnight sensation, logging two appearances on NBC's "Today" show in her first two weeks. In June, the playful pachyderm served as honorary grand marshal of the Portland Rose Festival Grand Floral Parade and inspired the award-winning Alaska Airlines float.

All that attention spells good news for Tula-Tu's wild counterparts, experts say.

"The more exposure people have," University of Michigan professor Stephanie Preston said in a *Forbes* article about the young elephant, "the more likely they are to consider it important to conserve the spaces where the species live."

Highly endangered in their range countries, Asian elephants are threatened by habitat loss, conflict with humans, and disease. It's estimated that just 40,000 to 50,000 of them remain in fragmented populations from India to Borneo, and their home range overlaps with some of the most populous human areas on the planet — 20% of people worldwide live in or next to Asian elephant habitat.

"Tula isn't the only baby elephant we're caring for," Lefave noted. "In Borneo, which is home to the world's smallest and rarest elephants, our partnership with the Wildlife Rescue Unit means more wildlife rangers are working to protect rescued calves and reunite them with their families."

The Oregon Zoo is recognized worldwide for its elephant care program, which has spanned more than 60 years. It has established a $1 million endowment fund supporting Asian elephants, including the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' SAFE program to advance conservation across all 13 of the species' range countries. Beyond direct elephant care, the zoo collaborates with local partners in Borneo to create lasting conservation solutions.

To learn more about Tula-Tu and her family who resides at the Oregon Zoo, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 226-1561 or visit <www.oregonzoo.org>.

Need to place a classified advertisement?
Send your ad request via e-mail or fax:
<ads@asianreporter.com> ◆ (503) 283-4445

BIDS, SUB-BIDS & PUBLIC NOTICES

INVITATION TO BID

CITY OF Vancouver WASHINGTON

ITB #26-11: W FOURTH PL BLVD - MILL PL TO MAIN ST NHS RESURFACING

Notice is hereby given that the City of Vancouver, Washington, will receive sealed bids up to the hour of 11:00am, Pacific Local Time, Tuesday, February 10, 2026 and will publicly open and read aloud at that time on the same day in the Vancouver City Hall, 415 W 6th St, Vancouver, Washington, for the following:

This Contract provides for the improvements of W 4th Plain Blvd from Mill Plain Boulevard to Main Street within the City of Vancouver including pavement repair, milling of roadways, paving of existing roads, minor utility adjustments, striping and other work, all in accordance with the attached Contract Plans, these Contract Provisions, and the Standard Specifications.

The Contract Work shall be Physically Complete within 30 Working Days from the Notice to Proceed.

The City of Vancouver in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252,42 U.S.C. 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The City of Vancouver is committed to providing equal opportunities to State of Washington certified Minority, Disadvantaged and Women's Business Enterprises in contracting activities. (Section 4 of Chapter 56, Laws of 1975, 1st Ex. Sess., State of Washington).

Bidding documents may be obtained from the City of Vancouver Procurement Services website at: <cityofvancouver.bonfirehub.com>. These are available for viewing, downloading and printing on your own equipment, free of charge.

NORTHWEST JOB MARKET

FINANCE MANAGER

32/hours week, full benefits including 10% retirement contribution after 1 year. Seeking 5-8 years' experience, and experience with accounting, payroll, analysis, and benefits administration.

Full description and how to apply at:
<https://www.millerfound.org/news/now-hiring-finance-manager>

Hillsboro OREGON

Join our Team – We're Hiring

<www.hillsboro-oregon.gov/jobs>

CITY OF Tigard

You Belong with Team Tigard
Join our Team – We're Hiring
<https://www.tigard-or.gov>

The Asian Reporter is published on the first Monday each month.

The classified advertising deadlines for our next three print editions are:

March 2 issue: Friday, Feb. 27, 1:00pm

April 6 issue: Friday, Apr. 3, 1:00pm

May 4 issue: Friday, May 1, 1:00pm

BIDS, SUB-BIDS & PUBLIC NOTICES

CALL FOR BIDS

CITY OF CAMAS PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
CITY PROJECT NO. FAC23007

CAMAS LIBRARY INTERIOR BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS

Sealed bids will be received by City of Camas Administrative Services, located at 616 NE 4th Avenue, Camas, Washington, until 10:00am on Thursday, February 19, 2026. Bids will then be opened and publicly read in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Statement of Work:

The scope of services includes interior renovation of the library per these contract documents and technical specifications. Work shall include but is not limited to non-structural partitions, floor, wall, and ceiling finishes, casework, built-up flooring, redistribution of HVAC in Children's Library, interior lighting, interior power distribution, associated demolition and any related components shown within the plans and technical specifications to provide a complete and functional installation.

Pre-Bid Meeting:

A pre-bid meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 5, 2026, at 10:00am. The meeting will be held at the Camas Library located at 625 NE 4th Avenue, Camas, Washington. Attendees will meet on the south building steps on NE 4th Avenue. Attendance at the pre-bid meeting is recommended for bid submittals to be considered. This is an opportunity to review existing conditions and ask questions regarding scope of work and bid submittals.

Additional questions will only be accepted until Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at Noon Pacific Standard Time.

For questions, please contact:
Connie Urquhart, City of Camas Project Manager, at (360) 817-7201 or <curquhart@cityofcamas.us>.

The Contractor is obligated to pay the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries Prevailing Wages, Rates for Clark County, effective February 19, 2026.

Bid Documents:

Free-of-charge access to project bid documents (plans, specifications, addenda, and Bidders List) is provided to Prime Bidders, Subcontractors, and Vendors by going to Builders Exchange of Washington (BXWA) at <www.bxwa.com> and clicking on "Posted Projects", "Public Works", and "City of Camas". Contact Builders Exchange of Washington at (425) 258-1303 should you require assistance with access or registration.

The improvement for which bids will be received follows: Sealed bids in envelopes marked with the bidder's name, project title, and project number will be received at the time and address noted above. Visit <https://www.cityofcamas.us/rfps> or contact Alena Morgan, City of Camas, at (564) 241-4622 or <procurement@cityofcamas.us> with questions related to obtaining bid documents.

Civil Rights Act:

The City of Camas is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer. This Information is available in an alternate form by request by contacting (360) 834-6864.

Spanish:
La información está disponible en un idioma alternativo a pedido,
Chinese Simplified:
kě gēn jù yāo qiú tí gòng tì dài yǔ yán de xìn xī,
Japanese:
Rikuesuto ni ōjite,-betsu no gengo de jōhō o nyūshu dekimasu,
Korean:
jeongboneun yocheong si daeche eon-eolo jegongdoebnida,
Vietnamese:
Thông tin có sẵn bằng ngôn ngữ thay thế theo yêu cầu,
Romanian:
Informațiile sunt disponibile într-o limbă alternativă la cerere,
Russian:
Informatsiya dostupna na drugom yazyke po zaprosu, and
Ukranian:
Informatsiya dostupna inshoyu movoyu za zapytom.

The City of Camas expressly reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive minor irregularities or informalities and to Award the Project to the lowest responsible bidder as it best serves the interests of the City. The City of Camas also reserves the right to delete any or all portions of individual bid items.

The Asian Reporter's advertising sections may be viewed online at:
<www.asianreporter.com/nwjobmarket.htm> ◆ <www.asianreporter.com/notices.htm>

COMMUNITY CLASSIFIEDS

THE ASIAN REPORTER CAN BE PICKED UP ON THE FIRST MONDAY EACH MONTH AT MANY LOCATIONS, INCLUDING:

Uwajimaya 10500 SW Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy., Beaverton	**Nam Phuong** 6834 NE Sandy Blvd. Portland	**H Mart** 13600 SW Pacific Hwy., Tigard	**Lily Market** 11001 NE Halsey St. Portland	**Lao Vieng Market** 1032 N Killingsworth St., Portland	**Hong Phat Supermarket** 11655 SW Pacific Hwy., Tigard

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

SURFING THE WEB?

Check out our last two issues, jobs, news, lists of community groups, past stories, and more on our site: <www.asianreporter.com>

FOR SALE

Farm-raised livestock

PORK FOR SALE

Pigs raised on our family farm in Newberg, Oregon, are for sale. Meat is available in half or whole pig and processed by our butcher in Portland, Oregon. For pricing & details, please call (503) 980-5900.

GRASS-FED BEEF FOR SALE

Cattle raised in Yamhill County at our family farm in Newberg, Oregon. Beef is available in ¼, ½, or whole cow & processed by our butcher in Portland. For pricing & details, please call (503) 980-5900.

FOR SALE

Home Entertainment

HOME ENTERTAINMENT INSTALLATION

Need stereo & HDTV set-up for the perfect home theater surround sound? We can do it! Great prices, expert service! Please contact Digital Connections at (971) 853-2576.

FREE

Packing material

PACKING MATERIAL

FREE used-once packing material. 6" plastic bubble pockets available. Please leave a voice message at (503) 283-4440, ext. #, or e-mail <news@asianreporter.com>.

REAL ESTATE

For Sale/For Lease

BETHANY MEADOWS,

an affordable apartment community in Washington County, is currently accepting applications for the waitlist. This beautiful community is located off Highway 26 near Bethany & Cornell and offers spacious 1 & 2 bedroom units affordable to individuals and families earning 60% of the Area Median Income (AMI).

Amenities include washer/dryer in units, pool/spa, fitness center, onsite management, ample parking, and optional garage spaces.

Water/sewer/garbage included. Property is located near shopping, restaurants, and parks. Section 8 vouchers are welcome.

Income restrictions apply. Equal Housing Opportunity.

For more information, please call (503) 533-1000, e-mail <bethanymeadows@bridgehousing.com> or you can visit our website at <www.bethanymeadowsapartments.com>.

REAL ESTATE

For Sale/For Lease

SUBSCRIPTION COUPON

Have *The Asian Reporter* delivered directly to your home or office and receive a $4.00 discount. See page six for subscription options and an order form. Expiration date: February 28, 2026. *Discount applies to new subscribers only.*

2026 ADVERTISING RATES & ORDER FORM:

Phone: (503) 283-4440 * Fax: (503) 283-4445 * E-mail: ads@asianreporter.com

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$25.00 per column inch; Reservation deadline: Wednesday prior to the next issue by 1:00pm

❑ Special "Business Card" Display Ad:

☐ $70 per issue (1 month) ☐ $190 for 3 consecutive issues (3 months) ☐ $330 for 6 consecutive issues (6 months)

❑ Northwest Job Market/Bids & Public Notices section

$25.00 per column inch; Text/Fax deadline: Friday prior to the next issue by 2:00pm

❑ Community Classified Page

❑ Boxed Ad

❑ $25.00 per column inch; Text/Fax deadline: Friday prior to the next issue by 2:00pm

❑ Line Ad (up to 35 words):

☐ $24 per issue ☐ $51 for 3 consecutive issues ☐ $90 for 6 consecutive issues

❑ Name Listing (4 lines maximum ~ about 10 words):

☐ $14 per issue ☐ $30 for 3 consecutive issues ☐ $51 for 6 consecutive issues

❑ Prepayment required with Line Ad, Name Listing & Business Card.
❑ Add $1.00 per issue per line for bold headings (Line Ad & Name Listing).
❑ Add 25¢ per word per issue after 35 words (Line Ad).
❑ All advertisements must be submitted in writing; no phone ads accepted.

The Asian Reporter

Main classification: Run date(s): Total ad cost:

Ad type (circle one): Display ad Business Card Box ad Line ad Name listing ad

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Address: City/State/ZIP:

Phone: Fax: E-mail:

Ad copy (attach a separate sheet if necessary):

Mail, Fax, or Deliver with payment to:

Asian Reporter Classifieds, 922 N Killingsworth Street, Suite 2D, Portland, OR 97217-2220
Fax: (503) 283-4445 * E-mail: <ads@asianreporter.com>

For Visa or Mastercard payment only:

Name (as it appears on the card):

Type of card (circle): VISA Mastercard Exp. Date:

Zip Code & Address of Cardholder:

Card Number: Security Code:

Chloe Kim rediscovers love for Olympics. Will an injury derail quest for a 3rd straight gold medal?

Continued from page 16

"I didn't find it very sustainable when you did things for external purposes," she said. "If you did things just because it was an Olympic year, I usually found that involved a lot more pressure."

If these musings sound familiar — about Kim struggling with fame, struggling to rekindle her love of snowboarding, struggling with it all — they are. In 2018, about a month after winning her first gold, she conceded fame was different from what she imagined.

It included everything from paparazzi following her, to fans watching her eat in restaurants to an ugly spate of anti-Asian trolling that has been a steady, disturbing through-line over the career of a California native whose parents are Korean.

Heading into 2022, Kim opened up about her own mental-health challenges, especially in the furor of the pandemic. The disease originated in China, which led to a backlash against people of Asian heritage.

"I experience hate on a daily basis," Kim wrote in a 2021 essay published on ESPN.

Her feelings heading into these Olympics might have been summed up best in one of her rare interviews: "I just want to go back to loving it again," she told *Harper's Bazaar* last summer.

Next up, Kim goes for history and three straight gold medals

Now, the question is: Does she have to win to love it? Also, what will it take to win, especially with the calculus changed because of the injury?

Bower believes Choi and Tomita have tricks that will prompt Kim to bring more than her "B" game to win.

As Italy approaches, that's what pressure feels like for an adrenaline junkie who likes to create art on the mountain.

"She goes to an event, she's expected to win," Bower said. "That's a very overwhelming proposition for anybody. But she's done a very good job of focusing on what makes her excited to strap on a snowboard."

#STOP ASIAN HATE

Ladder stunts and other activities held at Tokyo fire brigade review

By Eugene Hoshiko
The Associated Press

TOKYO — Members of a traditional firefighting preservation group performed ladder stunts and other activities during an annual fire brigade review in January in Tokyo.

Members of the group spun a matoi, a traditional flag once used by Edo-period fire brigades during the annual New Year's Fire Brigade Review.

They appeared in full-body hazardous materials protective suits and performed several ladder stunts. Members of the rescue team also repelled down the side of a building.

SENSATIONAL STUNTS. *Members of a traditional firefighting preservation group perform ladder stunts, left photo, during the annual New Year's Fire Brigade Review held last month in Tokyo. In the right photo, members spin a matoi, a traditional flag once used by Edo-period fire brigades, during the annual brigade review in Tokyo. (AP Photos/Eugene Hoshiko)*

Sacred deer seen wandering through Japan's ancient capital during Japan-South Korea summit

By Eugene Hoshiko
The Associated Press

NARA, Japan — In Japan's ancient capital, Nara, deer moved through grass fields and shaded paths, lowering their heads toward visitors holding special crackers made just for them.

Nara last month hosted a Japan-South Korea summit, with Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, who is from the city, welcoming South Korean President Lee Jae Myung.

But despite the high-level diplomacy, the deer were still stars of the show.

Tourists around the park stopped to watch or feed the animals with crackers, sold by vendors, that are made from flour and rice husks.

When the deer fix their gazes on visitors, many responded by pulling out crackers and stepping closer.

Not all encounters were gentle. Some deer nudged visitors from behind, sniffing backpacks and shopping bags. Others tried to nibble at coat pockets or chew at clothing when they suspected food was hidden there.

Some visitors hesitated, appearing nervous, but fed the deer anyway. As the animals stepped closer, many tourists recoiled, taking a step back or letting out brief screams. Others lifted their phones to take pictures.

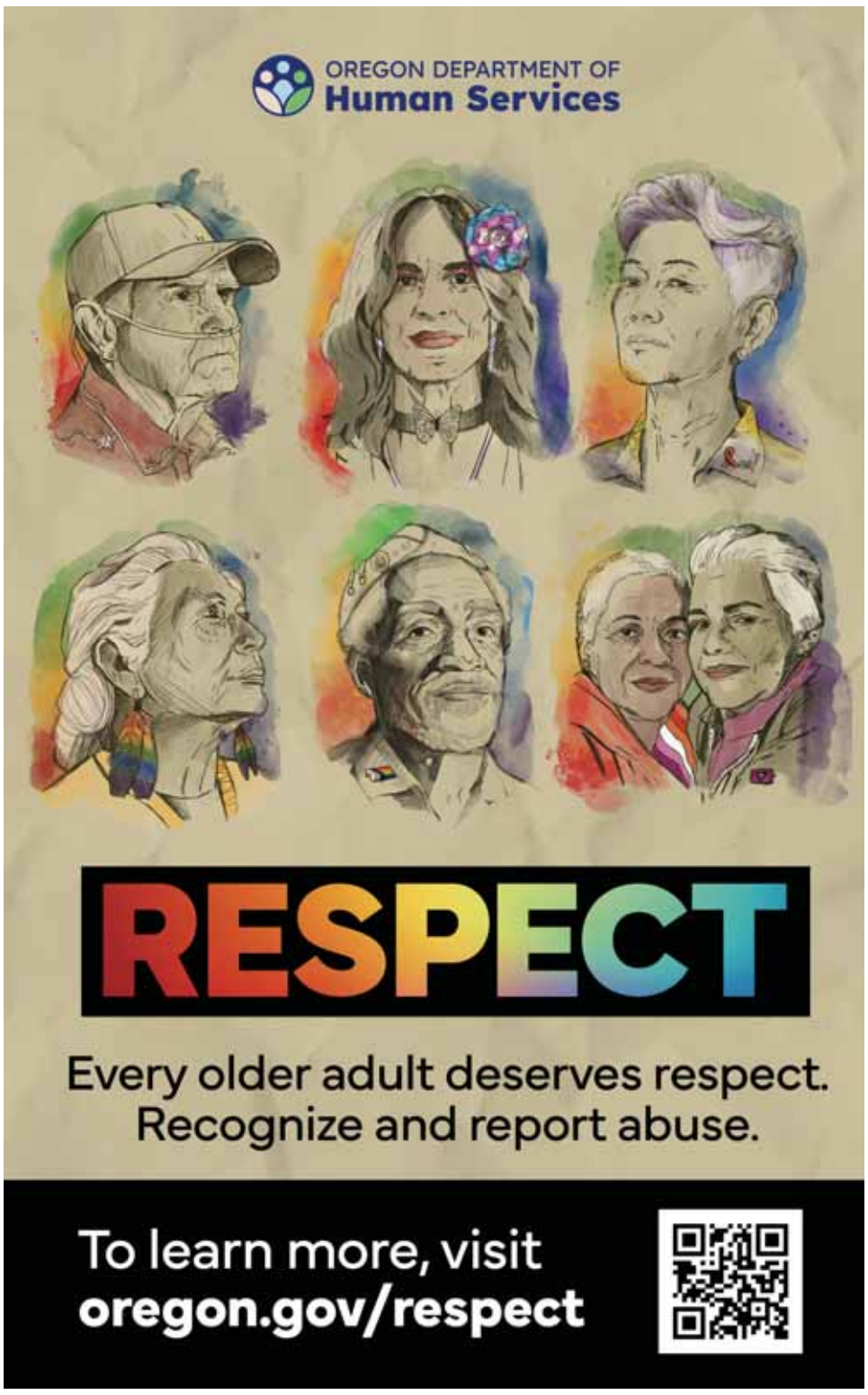
DEER ENCOUNTERS. *A deer peeks from behind a sign, left photo, at a park in Nara, western Japan, where more than 1,000 free-roaming deer considered sacred in Shinto belief have become one of the city's most popular tourist attractions. In the right photo, deer are seen near a Torii shrine gate at Kasuga Taisha shrine in Nara, western Japan. (AP Photos/Eugene Hoshiko)*

More than 1,000 deer live in the park and surrounding areas. They roam freely across lawns, sidewalks, and temple grounds, resting under trees or gathering near food stalls.

A few deer were seen wandering into nearby shops.

The deer are protected and are considered sacred according to local Shinto beliefs. Legend has it that a deity arrived in Nara riding a white deer more than a thousand years ago.

Nara was Japan's first permanent capital in the eighth century and is home to several UNESCO World Heritage sites, including Todaiji temple and Kasuga shrine.



Vietnam, EU upgrade ties as U.S. tariffs reshape global trade

By Aniruddha Ghosal
The Associated Press

HANOI, Vietnam — Vietnam and the European Union (EU) upgraded ties to a comprehensive strategic partnership, Vietnam's highest diplomatic level, as both recalibrate trade during disruptions to global finance driven by U.S. tariff pressure.

The upgrade places the EU on the same diplomatic footing as the United States, China, and Russia and was announced during a visit to Hanoi by European Council President António Costa.

"At a moment when the international rules-based order is under threat from multiple sides, we need to stand side by side as reliable and predictable partners," Costa said, adding that the partnership is about "developing spheres of shared prosperity."

Costa arrived in the Vietnamese capital of Hanoi after India and the European Union reached a free trade agreement after nearly two decades of negotiation.

Vietnam's President Luong Cuong called the move a "historic milestone."

The announcement came less than a week after Vietnam reelected Communist Party General Secretary To Lam as the country's top leader, endorsing his vision of economic growth driven by aggressive reforms.

Vietnam has been a major beneficiary of globalization, emerging as a key export hub for electronics, garments, and consumer goods as multinational firms shifted production away from China.

That export-led growth has helped lift incomes and transform the economy, but Vietnam's large and persistent trade surplus has drawn criticism, particularly from the U.S. and increasingly from Europe, where officials have raised concerns about market access.

For the EU, the deal strengthens access to one of Asia's fastest-growing manufacturing hubs and supports efforts to diversify supply chains as trade tensions increase.

Bilateral trade in the first 11 months of 2025 reached more than $66.8 billion, up 6.6% from a year earlier. The EU is Vietnam's fourth-largest trading partner, third-largest export market, and fifth-largest import source. Vietnam is the EU's biggest trading partner in Southeast Asia.

Vietnam hopes to continue growth to become a rich nation by 2045 and is aggressively seeking new markets to reduce reliance on the U.S., which is its largest export destination that absorbs about 30% of the goods Vietnam sends abroad. The two sides signed a free trade agreement in 2020.

India, EU reach free trade deal representing 1/3 of global trade

Continued from page 5

markets around the world. Over the past year, von der Leyen has signed deals with Japan, Indonesia, Mexico, and South America under the catchphrase "strategic autonomy," which in practice is akin to decoupling from a U.S. seen by most European leaders as erratic.

Sam McNeil reported from Brussels.