The Asian Reporter

Pacific Northwest News ❑ Volume 36 Number 2 ❑ February 2, 2026 ❑ www.asianreporter.com

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!

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

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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

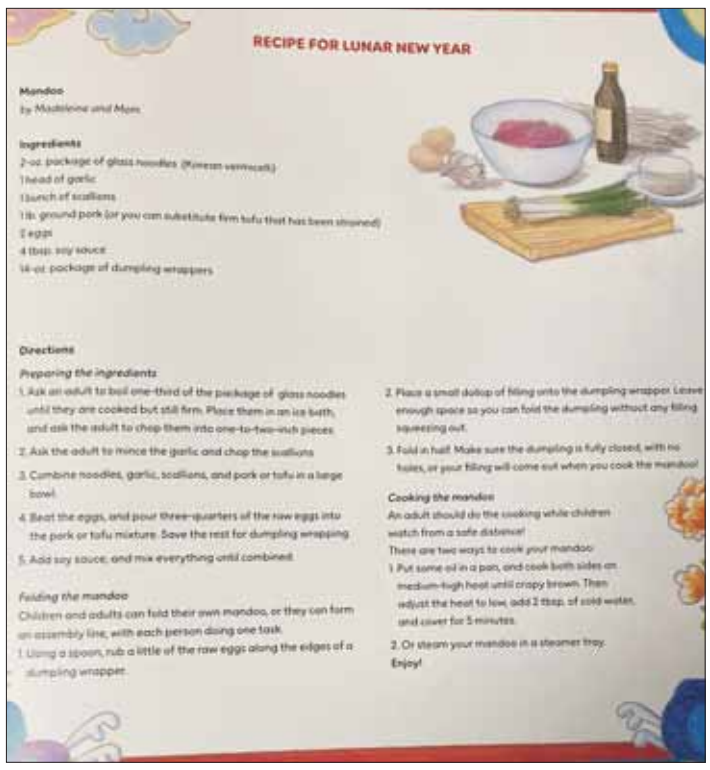
Characteristics: Horse people are usually popular, energetic, and generous. They are generally considered to be persuasive, sociable, and loyal individuals who are charming and agreeable. They can also have a tendency to be hard-nosed and opportunistic, and can be insecure and self-serving.

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.

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."

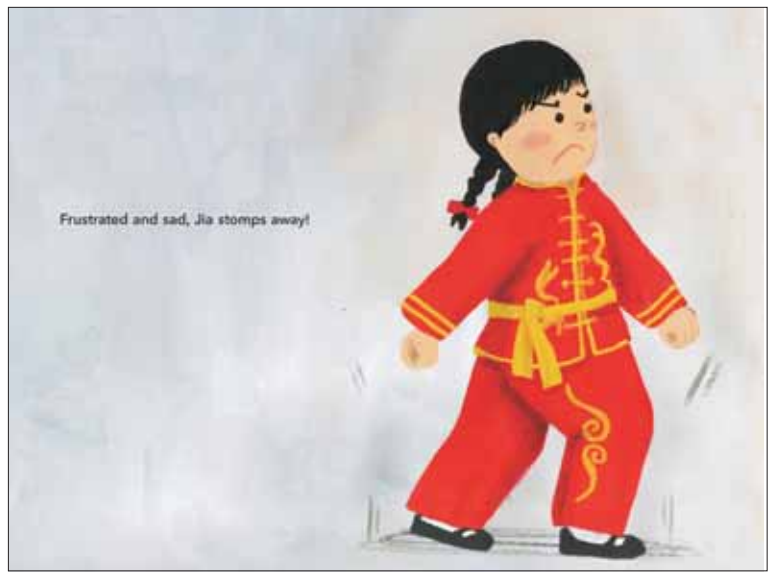
"But I can help. I am strong!" says Jia.

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



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.

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

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

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!