

Chinese New Year is on the way!

By David Perkins & Wenqiang "William" Zhang

Imagine tomorrow is the Chinese New Year, Spring Festival (Chūn jié 春节), 27th of this month! This year is the year of the Rooster (jī nián 鸡年). If you were born in the year 1945, 1957, 1969, 1981, 1993, 2005, 2017, then you are a Rooster. Very interesting.

Each year, the Chinese calendar assigns an animal from a rotating zodiac of 12 animals. The 12 animals cycle through rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, goat, monkey, rooster, dog and pig. 2016 was the Year of the Monkey.

Here are some of the world's most famous Roosters: Beyoncé, Bob Marley, Jennifer Aniston, Jennifer Lopez and Britney Spears.

Personality: People born in a year of the Rooster are very observant, hard-working, resourceful, courageous, and talented. Roosters are very confident in themselves. Roosters are always active, amusing, and popular within a crowd.

Roosters are talkative, outspoken, frank, open, honest, and loyal individuals. They like to be the center of



attention and always appear attractive and beautiful.

People born in a year of the Rooster are typically healthy people. They are active and enjoy sports and don't get sick very often because they tend to fight illness well. Roosters are a little sensitive, and they feel stressed and moody at times.

Who am I? I was born in 1968 and I'm a Monkey, the Monkey King? OK, this is Wenqiang "William" Zhang, a Mandarin teacher at Sisters High School, Sisters, U.S.

These days the students are very excited because they have the opportunity to learn Chinese New Year culture and traditions, calligraphy and how to cook dumplings. It's good for students to learn different languages and become open-minded

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PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

The mountains are receiving a generous blanketing of snow this winter.

WINTER: Predictions include above-average February precipitation

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has smacked Central Oregon pretty hard. In December the average temperature was 22 degrees Fahrenheit, nine degrees below normal here in Sisters. And the first 23 days of January 2017 even colder, 13 degrees below normal. The snow started flying early in December, and by January 12 many areas in and around Sisters were blanketed by nearly four feet of the white stuff.

Though still fresh in our memories, the previous harsh weather is history. What do forecasters think is in store for the remaining seven weeks of winter?

Forecasts at the time of this writing indicate that the weather for the last four or five days of January should be dominated by a ridge aloft, producing an inversion with cold temperatures and fog/stratus clouds near the surface, but sunny and warmer

conditions at higher elevations. Little or no precipitation is expected.

On January 19, meteorologist Pete Parsons of the Oregon Department of Forestry issued a three-month seasonal climate forecast for Oregon. It is largely based on the current and predicted strength of the ENSO signal and upper-air anomalies. According to the Oceanic Nino Index, a weak La Niña is currently in play that is expected to fade to neutral in February.

For February, expect temperatures in Central Oregon to remain much-below average, while precipitation

should measure above or well-above average with ample mountain snowfall. There's also a slightly elevated chance of another arctic air outbreak.

By March temperatures are anticipated to be average, accompanied by above average precipitation and mountain snowpacks. According to the Climate Prediction Center, in a forecast issued on January 19, there is an equal chance (namely a 33 percent chance) of getting above-normal, normal, or below-normal values, with regard to both temperature and precipitation in February.



PHOTO BY WENQIAN "WILLIAM" ZHANG

Sisters students have been learning about Chinese New Year traditions.

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