

TIMES-CALL

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Longmont ready to mark Year of the Snake

Chinese New Year celebration returns to Silver Creek High

BY TREVOR CARDIFF
LONGMONT TIMES-CALL

For the third consecutive year, Longmont will feature a celebration of the Chinese New Year. This new year will be ushered in Gangnam Style.

Local hip-hop group Worm Tank Crew will perform at the celebration with a Gangnam-related emphasis. The event will take place from 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday at Silver Creek High School.

The Asian-Pacific Association of Longmont (A-PAL) is organizing the event.

"This event is bringing all cultures together in the community," said A-PAL's founder, Rita Liu. "People will work side by side and have fun together."

Liu founded A-PAL hoping to facilitate Asian participation in Longmont, but she hopes to bring all cultures together and promote understanding within the community.

"It is important for people to understand all cultures and the differences between them," Liu said.

She said that this year she hopes the event will include even more cultures, not just those of Asian heritage. She hopes that people of all backgrounds and nationalities will feel welcome and have fun taking part in the celebration.

Chinese New Year

What: Asian-Pacific Association of Longmont hosts Chinese New Year celebration

When: 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday

Where: Silver Creek High School, 4901 Nelson Road, Longmont

Bobby King will serve as master of ceremonies of the celebration, which will include a lion dance, kung fu demonstrations and traditional Chinese dances. Various arts and crafts activities and demonstrations will also be held, including origami, brush painting and Chinese calligraphy. There will also be food tasting and chopstick lessons.

The event is catching on in its third year, and organizers are expecting a turnout of 800 people this

year, up from the 600 who attended last year's celebration. Additional sponsors have been added, which should increase the size of the event.

Because of the expected turnout, there will be increased involvement from Silver Creek High School. The school will provide faculty and students to volunteer in setting up and running the event. Assistant principal Insoon Olson said that there will be 50 to 60 student volunteers provided. There will also be a SCHS drumline performing.

The Chinese New Year began Feb. 10. The year ends Jan. 30, 2014. This year is the year of the snake, which is the sixth of 12 animals in the Chinese Zodiac. The snake is meant to emphasize focus and discipline.