

WHAT'S HAPPENING

THURSDAY DECEMBER 8

SUNRISE 7:35 AM; SUNSET 4:34 PM
AVG. HIGH 46; AVG. LOW 34

BENEFIT Community Ecstatic Dance, A Benefit for Standing Rock protest, 7:15-9pm, WOW Hall, 222-06362. \$5-\$20 sug. don.

DANCE Eugene Youth Ballet performs The Nutcracker ballet, 4 & 5pm, Springfield library, 225 5th St., Spfd., 726-2243. FREE.

FARMERS MARKETS FOOD for Lane County Youth Farm Stand, 2-6pm today & Thursday, Dec. 15, 3333 Riverbend Dr., 343-2822. FREE.

FILM Spingfilm Made in Oregon, *Animal House*, 6:30pm, Wildish Theater, 630 Main St., Spfd. FREE.

GATHERINGS Downtown Public Speakers Toastmasters Club, drop-ins welcome noon-1:05pm today & Thursday, Dec. 15, Les Lyle Conference Rm, fourth floor Wells Fargo Bldg., 99 E. Broadway Ave., 485-1182. FREE.

NAMI Connection Support Group for people with mental health issues, 1-2:30pm today & Thursday, Dec. 15, 2411 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. FREE.

Finance & Audit Committee, 1:30-3:30pm, Public Service Building, 125 E. 8th Ave., Board of Commissioners' Conference Rm., 682-4203. FREE.

Talks at the Museum, 2pm today, tomorrow, Saturday, Sunday & Tuesday through Thursday, Dec. 15, Museum of Natural and Cultural History, 1680 E. 15th Ave., natural-history.uoregon.edu. FREE with price of museum admission.

Eugene Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee, 5:30pm, Atrium Building, 99 W. 10th Ave., Sloat Room, 682-5471. FREE.

Police Commission, 5:30pm, 300 Country Club Road, Kilcullen Community Rm., 682-5852. FREE.

Candlelight Tours of Shelton McMurphey Johnson House, 6pm, 303 Willamette St. \$3-\$6.

Churchill Area Neighbor General Meeting, 7pm, McCornack Elementary Scholl, 1986 Brittany St., Library, wilsonwayne06@gmail.com. FREE.

Home Grown Community Radio Forming KEPW-FM, 7pm, today & Thursday, Dec. 15, Growers Market, 454 Willamette St., 343-8548. FREE.

HEALTH Ear Points Group Acupuncture, 10-11:30am, Trauma Healing Project, 2222 Coburg Rd., Ste. 300. \$10.

Group Acupuncture Clinic, 10-11:30am, Trauma Healing Project, 2222 Coburg Rd., 682-9447. Don.

Chinese Acupuncture Healing Circle w/Ting, 2-4pm, Trauma Healing Project, 2222 Coburg Rd., Ste. 300, 682-9447. \$15.

Mindfulness Group, 4-5pm, NAMI Resource Center, 2411 Martin Luther King Blvd., 520-3096. FREE.

Reiki session, practitioners welcome, 5:30-7pm today & Thursday, Dec. 15, Heartwise, 1840 Willamette St. FREE.

HOLIDAY Happy's Christmas Trees, 10am-10pm today through Thursday, Dec. 15, 2533 Crescent Ave., 910-547-4161, happychristmastrees.com.

Santa Photos at Valley River, 11am-8pm today, tomorrow, Monday & Wednesday; 10am-9pm Saturday; 11am-7pm Sunday, Valley River Center.

KIDS/FAMILIES Preschool Fun w/Art & Science, 10:30am-11:15am, Springfield library, 225 5th St., Spfd., 726-2287. FREE.

Lego Club for tots, kids & tweens, 2-4pm, Springfield library, 225 5th St., Spfd. FREE.

Daisy Chain Mothering Open House, family friendly, 5:30-7:30pm, Daisy's Place, 1244 Lawrence St. FREE

Wonderful Ones Storytime, 1-year-olds w/caregivers, 10:15am & 11am today & Thursday, Dec. 15, downtown library, 682-8316. FREE.

LECTURES/CLASSES Live Action PacMan, 4pm, downtown library, 682-5450. FREE.

Open Labs: 3D Printing & Fabrication, 1:30-7:30pm today;

11:30am-5:30pm Saturday, downtown library. FREE.

ON THE AIR "The Point," current local issues, arts, stories, 9-9:30am, today, tomorrow & Monday through Thursday, Dec. 15, KPOV 88.9FM

"Arts Journal," current local arts, 9-10pm today & Thursday, Dec. 15, Comcast channel 29.

Thursday Night Jazz w/David Gizara, 10pm today & Thursday, Dec. 15, KLCC 89.7FM.

OUTDOORS/RECREATION Pool Hall for seniors, 8:30am-4:30pm today, tomorrow & Monday through Thursday, Dec. 15, Campbell Community Center, 155 High St. \$0.25.

Lunchtime Running Group, 3-4 miles, 12:15-12:45pm today & Thursday, Dec. 15, Tap & Growler, 207 E. 5th Ave. FREE.

Duplicate Bridge, 1pm today, Sunday, Tuesday & Thursday, Dec. 15; 9:30am Monday; 6:30pm Wednesday, Emerald Bridge Club, 1782 Centennial Blvd., Spfd. \$8.

Cribbage Tournament, 5:30-7:30pm today & Thursday, Dec. 15, Max's Tavern, 550 E. 13th Ave. \$2.

Board Game Night, 6-11pm today, Tuesday & Thursday, Dec. 15, Funagain Games, 1280 Willamette St. FREE.

WDYK Trivia w/Brady, 7-9pm today & Thursday, Dec. 15, Brew & Cue, 2222 Hwy 99. FREE.

David Sedaris' *The Santaland Diaries*, 7:30pm today, tomorrow & Saturday; 2pm Sunday, Oregon Contemporary Theatre, 194 W. Broadway. \$20-\$24.

A Christmas Story, 8pm today, tomorrow & Thursday, Dec. 15; 2:30pm Sunday, Cottage Theatre, 700 Village Dr., Cottage Grove. 942-8001. \$20-\$25.

VOLUNTEER Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah Native Plant Volunteer Work Party, 9am-noon today, Tuesday & Thursday, Dec. 15s, Native Plant Nursery, Buford Park, volunteer@bufordpark.com, 344-8350. FREE.

Care for Owen Rose Garden, bring gloves & small hand-weeding tools, instruction provided, noon-3pm, end of N. Jefferson St., 682-5025.

FRIDAY DECEMBER 9

SUNRISE 7:36AM; SUNSET 4:34PM
AVG. HIGH 46; AVG. LOW 34

BENEFITS A Benefit in Support of the Standing Rock Tribe and the NO DAPL Protesters, 6pm, Hi-Fi Music Hall. \$15.

Winter Watershed Soirée, 6-10pm, Village Green Resort, 725 Row River Rd., Cottage Grove. \$15-\$20.

A Benefit in Support of the Standing Rock Tribe and the NO DAPL Protesters, 6pm, Hi-Fi Music Hall. \$15.

Songwriters' Concert Benefit for Egan Warming Center, 7:30-10pm, Tsunami Books, 2585 Willamette. \$5-\$20 sug. don.

Holiday ReJewel jewelry show, proceeds benefit AIDS orphans in Makindu, Kenya, 4-8pm, Broadway Commerce Building, 44 W. Broadway.



Since its rather unspectacular release in 1983 (critic Vincent Canby panned the film), ***A Christmas Story*** has become a holiday classic, perpetually replayed on television throughout December and fondly quoted by fans ("You'll shoot your eye out, kid!"). Soaked in sepia-tinted nostalgia but wry and sometimes curmudgeonly in spirit, the film follows the piquant reminiscences of adult-narrator Ralph as he recalls the year he, as 9-year-old "Ralphie," obsessively lobbied for the Christmas gift of a Red Ryder air rifle. Cottage Theatre's stage adaptation, based on the writings of Jean Shepherd that inspired the film, is a warm-hearted journey through a kind of doubled sentimentality — the sentimentality of the story itself, and our sentimentality for the film, which creates a kind of keening anticipation for familiar scenes such as Ralphie's (K.D. Carver) disastrous encounter with a department-store Santa. The sets are perfectly construed, evoking the timberline suburbia of pre-World War II America, and the small, capable cast nicely replicates the close-knit dynamics of middle-class community that are rapidly disappearing in this country. Directed by Eliza Roaring Springs, this play makes no bones about being an escapist comedy in the best holiday tradition, and the results are rambunctious and full of heart. This is a smart, generous show for the whole family.

A Christmas Story plays through Dec. 18 at Cottage Theatre in Cottage Grove; \$20-\$25, tickets at cottagetheatre.org or 541-942-8001. — Rick Levin