

Brighten up a life

Tree of Light ceremony in Ilwaco honors family, friends, loved ones and caregivers

By **PATTY HARDIN**
FOR COAST WEEKEND

Everyone is busy this time of year, and it's easy to overlook the special people who give so much of their time caring for others.

The Tree of Light Ceremony at Ocean Beach Hospital in Ilwaco, Wash., is a way to honor them.

Once again the Ocean Beach Hospital Foundation invites the public to the lighting of the Giving Tree

at 9:15 a.m. Friday, Dec. 7, in the lobby of Ocean Beach Hospital in Ilwaco, Wash. The program will start with a welcome by Kacia Lessnau, the foundation president.

At 9:30 a.m. the Ilwaco High School choir, directed by Rachel Lake, will add their voices to the tree-lighting ceremony.

For a donation, people receive an ornament to hang on the tree. Attached to each ornament is a tag on which people can write something

as a tribute to someone special who is, or has been, a light in their lives. While you're at the ceremony, feel free to enjoy the ornaments and read the messages others have written.

Several items will be available for silent auction as well.

Lifesaver

This year's tree lighting raises funds for Project: Lifesaver for the purchase of an updated CT scanner. These scanners are consid-

ered antiquated by the time they're 5 years old; the hospital's current scanner is 12. All donations for the project are being matched 1:1 by the hospital.

The CT scanner "gives more significance to the fundraiser," said Joan Porter, the foundation vice-president.

Consider the story of a local woman, Peninsula resident Lynn Dickerson, who credits a CT scan, done in June of this year, for saving her life.

The scan detected early signs of lung cancer. On July 30, Dickerson had surgery to remove the lower lobe of her left lung. She is now going through chemo and radiation treatments. Dickerson showed no symptoms of cancer at the time of her scan; it was a preventive test she elected to have done because of her history of smoking. Thanks to early detection by the CT scan, she is on track to recovery.

"There should be a push for people to get scanned," Dickerson said. "Clinics need to push scans."



COURTESY OCEAN BEACH HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

An ornament available for a donation at the Tree of Light ceremony.

What holiday is complete without food and beverages? The hospital kitchen will have coffee, tea, cocoa and small breakfast pastry items — mini-cinnamon rolls or donuts. **ew**

A free comedy show with one of Portland's funniest

CANNON BEACH — Tolovana Arts Colony presents an evening of stand-up comedy in Cannon Beach headlined by Mohanad Elshieky at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7. The show is free.

This year Elshieky was named runner-up in the Portland's Funniest Person contest and recognized as one of the city's Best New Comedians in a Willamette Week poll. But Elshieky has been noticed outside of Oregon, too — recently he was dubbed one of Team Coco's Comics to Watch at the New York Comedy Festival.

Elshieky came to Portland in 2014 as an exchange student from Benghazi, Libya. There he worked as a radio host — until the station was burned

down. Hoping to escape the unrest stemming from the Libyan revolution, Elshieky applied for political asylum.

Much of Elshieky's comedy explores the immigrant experience — the cultural misunderstandings, blind spots, commonalities, fears and prejudices.

The show includes an opening act TBA and takes place at Tolovana Hall in Cannon Beach, 3779 S. Hemlock St. The event is made possible by a grant from the Clatsop County Cultural Coalition.

For more information, visit tolovanaartscolony.org or call 541-215-4445.

COURTESY TOLOVANA ARTS COLONY
Comedian Mohanad Elshieky.



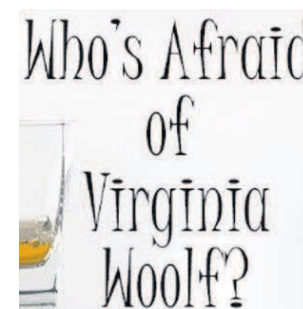
Audition for 'Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?'

TILLAMOOK — The Tillamook Association for the Performing Arts is holding auditions for "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" 11 a.m. Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 8 and 9.

Edward Albee's "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" is the story of a couple who has spent their entire marriage masking their pain and sorrow behind seething anger and mind games in a constant power struggle.

TAPA is looking for two men and two women to fill the roles.

Martha is in her 50s, boisterous, loud and harsh. George, Martha's husband, is in his 40s, calculating, observant and manipulative. Honey, in her 20s, is naïve, trusting and newlywed to Nick, also 20-something, who is honest and well



COURTESY TILLAMOOK ASSOCIATION FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
'Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?' poster.

put-together

This production runs April 12 through 28 (no show on Easter).

Auditions will be held at TAPA's Barn Community Playhouse, 1204 Ivy Ave., in Tillamook. Come prepared with a monologue of your choice.

Contact the director at buckboy71@icloud.com with questions or for more information.