

METRO

The Portland Observer

Gift & Holiday Entertainment Guide

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SECTION B

Community Calendar

Winter Solstice Blood Drive

The 3rd annual Winter Solstice Blood Drive at the American Red Cross on North Vancouver, Dec. 19-23, features free gift-wrapping for participants. To make a blood donation call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE.

Work For Change

Community Advocates invites those interested in protecting children from abuse to become an event volunteer, event outreach, technology expert, graphic artists or office support team member. For more information, call 503-280-1388.

Red Cross Teaches Safety

The American Red Cross offers a range of safety classes for crisis situations, from learning how to baby sit to performing CPR. The courses are intended for children aged 8 through adult. For more information visit www.redcross-pdx.org.

Women in

Community Service

Volunteer mentors are being sought by Women in Community Service to work with incarcerated women at the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility. Mentors provide support and encouragement for women transitioning from prison back into the community. Volunteers must be females, age 24 and up. For more information, call 503-570-6614.

African Drumming, Dance

The North Star Ballroom, 635 N. Killingsworth Ct., hosts beginning drumming and Ghanaian rhythm classes on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. On Wednesdays, intermediate drumming is offered in addition to an African aerobics and dance. Chata Addy teaches all classes. For more information call 503-632-0411.

Al-Anon Meetings

Al-Anon meetings are held Monday evenings from 7:15 to 8:30 p.m. at Miracles Club on the corner of Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Mason Street. Al-Anon is for friends and loved ones of alcoholics and addicts.

Get Fit, Stay Healthy!

Sankofaa Health Institute offers a free diabetes support group from 6 to 7:30 p.m. every third Thursday at Alberta Simmons Plaza, 6707 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. For more information, call 503-285-2484.

Bradley-Angle House

The Bradley-Angle House needs volunteers to help its outreach against domestic violence. Women of color and bilingual women are encouraged to call. For more information, call 503-282-9940.

Creative Space For Dance

Aurora Dance Studio, 5433 N.E. 30th, offers an array of classes for children, teens and adults at all levels of ability. Call 503-249-0201 or visit online at www.hevanet.com/auroradance for additional information.

Birth Ready

Whether you need childbirth preparation classes, or just a refresher, Providence Health Systems has a workshop for you. Prepare for pain, take a weekend seminar or prepare big sisters and brothers-to-be throughout the summer by visiting www.providence.org/classes or call 503-574-6595.

35
years of
community service



Life sized hippos are part of the one million lights that sparkle during the Oregon ZooLights festival.

Oregon Zoo ALIVE WITH LIGHTS

Magic of illumination delight kids, adults

The Oregon Zoo has come alive with lights celebrating its 18th annual ZooLights festival this holiday season.

Nearly one million lights illuminate life-sized animal silhouettes, trees, buildings, walkways and the zoo train.

"Every year, the zoo presents a stunning display of light and color," said Tony Vecchio, zoo director. "I know many people in our community eagerly anticipate ZooLights and look forward to seeing

the many new touches that we add each year. It is so gratifying to know that the Oregon Zoo has become an important holiday tradition to so many families."

As visitors approach the zoo entrance, they will be greeted by a statue similar to the one in Bremen, Germany depicting the four farm animals in the Brothers Grimm fairy tale, "The Musicians of Bremen Town."

Other new displays include an army of 25 six-foot-long leaf-cutting ants marching along the zoo railroad tracks and birds such as pelican, puffin, roadrunner and a Steller jay. The deeper one ventures into the zoo, an array of more excitement awaits. Even, an African fish eagle swoops down

and scoops up a fish from a river.

The zoo's popular costumed characters and elves will be on hand to greet zoo visitors and pose for pictures. And as usual, visitors can also see some of the zoo's resident animals. All this excitement will be highlighted by animated music. Also, more than 100 schools, churches and professional groups will perform holiday musical selections.

ZooLights will run from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. until Dec. 31, closing for Christmas Eve and Christmas. Admission is \$9.50 per adult and \$6.50 for children and includes a train ride. The zoo is located five minutes from downtown Portland, just off Highway 26. For more information, call 503-226-1561 or visit www.oregonzoo.org.



Benson High School student Kelci Rae Alberti-Flowers is crowned new Miss Oregon Teen USA.

Benson Student Crowned Earns Miss Oregon Teen USA title

Kelci Rae Alberti-Flowers of Portland has been crowned the new Miss Oregon Teen USA, the first African-American to hold the title.

Alberti-Flowers competed Nov. 25-27 in Redmond at the Eagle Crest Resort with 45 other beautiful and brilliant young women.

She was well received by the audience, unanimously chosen by the judges and tearfully grateful for her coronation, a title that includes a college scholarship and other prizes.

Alberti-Flowers is the daughter of Dr. Billy Rae Flowers. She is a student at Benson High School. She plays basketball, runs track, models

for a local agency, sings and writes song lyrics.

"A wonderful opportunity has come my way," she said. "I am very excited about the opportunity to represent Oregon as our teen ambassador."

The national Miss Teen USA pageant will be held in August and televised on NBC.

A second pageant during the event saw Shariha McKenzie of Medford crowned Miss Oregon USA. She is the first woman of American-Indian heritage to win the title, officials said.

Allison Machado, another African-American contestant, was named Miss Oregon USA First Runner Up.

Theater Group Showcases Local Kids

Special stage performance Friday

Higher Stages, a program of Tears of Joy Theatre presents a showcase of student talent on Friday, Dec. 9 at 7:30 p.m. at Winningstad Theater at the Portland Center for the Performing Arts, 111 S.W. Broadway.

The performances by Beach, King and Vernon Elementary School students as well as Ockley Green and Tubman Middle School students is the culmination of fall after-school arts classes.

The drama will be accompanied by drumming, dance on stage and visual arts in the theater lobby. Tickets are \$3 each and can be picked up and paid for at the door or ordered in advance



by calling 503-248-0557.

Higher Stages, a program of Tears of Joy Theatre, is an arts-based program with a mission to address the social, emotional and educational development of students. The students are involved in challenging experiences with professional artists in the crafting and performance of art.

The intention is to promote high self-esteem and academic success through the development of both craft and life skills.

◀ Beach Elementary students in north Portland stand up to Baba Yaga, the grand old woman of Russian folklore.