

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



Oregon Zoo veterinary technician Margot Monti (left) and veterinarian Mitch Finnegan use a portable ultrasound machine to examine Asian elephant Rose-Tu.

Baby Elephant Watch

Birth of Rose-Tu's second calf due

Rose-Tu is about to go into labor. On Monday, the Oregon Zoo said there were indications the Asian elephant was preparing to give birth and they expect the baby to arrive in around three days or so.

Being the doc on call when an elephant goes into labor is not a job for the faint-hearted. Mitch Finnegan, the zoo's senior veterinarian, knows: He was present 18 years ago at the birth of Rose-Tu, and four years ago at the birth of Samudra, her first calf.

"That last birth easily took a year off my life," Dr. Finnegan said. "I hope this one goes easier."

Samudra, born Aug. 23, 2008, had

a rough start to life. Topping 280 pounds at birth, he was a large baby, which contributed to a long and difficult labor for Rose-Tu. Rose-Tu, who had never experienced a birth before, became confused and agitated after delivering her baby, which can happen with first-time mothers.

Keepers quickly intervened to prevent any harm to the baby. They then worked around the clock during the calf's first week of life to help ensure the critical mother-calf bond became a strong one.

"This time, we think things will go much better," Finnegan said.

For months, the zoo's elephant-

care staff has been working with Rose-Tu to ensure she is calm, comfortable and confident on the big day. All that training and preparation — along with Rose-Tu's own experience as a mother, the presence of other elephants and the staff who has cared for her for years — give Rose-Tu the best possible chances for the outcome everyone is hoping for: a healthy, strong calf.

The Oregon Zoo is recognized worldwide for its successful breeding program for Asian elephants, which has now spanned 50 years. Rose-Tu's mother, Me-Tu, was the second elephant born at the zoo (just months after Packy in 1962), and her grandmother, Rosy, was the first elephant ever to live in Oregon.

Boss Hogg Christmas Tree Lot



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Cheers for Holiday Ales

While eggnog and hot toddies are commonly associated with the holidays, it's no surprise that in the beer Mecca of the Pacific Northwest, craft ales are the drink of choice: specifically, big, bold ales designed to fend off the cold chill of a long winter night.

The 17th annual Holiday Ale Festival gathers together more than four dozen of these winter warmers for a joyous five-day celebration, Wednesday, Nov. 28 through Sunday, Dec. 2 at Pioneer Courthouse Square, downtown.

heaters create a cozy ambiance beneath the boughs of the region's largest decorated Christmas tree. In addition to beer tasting, the festival also features on-site food, event merchandise, a coat check for charity, and seasonal background music.

To enter and consume beer, the purchase of an entry package is required. The general admission package at the door costs \$30 and includes the 2012 tasting mug and 10 taster tickets



The Holiday Ale Festival takes place at Pioneer Courthouse Square.