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Holiday: Ideas to make your spirit bright

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ANIMAL PARTY

Clatsop Animal Assistance has its annual holiday party this weekend to raise money for shelter dogs and cats.

Bring your pets for pictures with Santa, purchase something sweet at the bake sale, find the perfect Christmas gift or take a chance and buy raffle tickets or bid on silent auction items.

"This year we'll be changing the setup a bit so our attendees have more room to wander around checking out the silent auction items or lingering at the bake sale tables," organizers wrote in a press release.

Clatsop Animal Assistance is a nonprofit all-volunteer group dedicated to finding homes for animals that end up at the county shelter. The group provides funds for veterinary care, spaying/neutering, medicines, cat litter and specialty diet foods and other supplies not covered by the shelter's budget.

The party is from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8, in the Lovell Showroom at Fort George Brewery, 1483 Duane St., Astoria.

Bidding for raffle and auction items ends at 3 p.m., but Santa will be posing for photos until 4 p.m. and the gift and bake sales will be open until the final minute.

GETTING IN THE MOOD

John Doan's concert, "Christmas Unplugged - Reclaiming the Holiday Spirit" was nominated for an Emmy" at some point during



John Doan

the harp-guitarist's 32 years of performing it.

Doan is based in Salem, but plans to move to the Southwest and has called this year's performance his Northwest farewell tour.

"Christmas Unplugged" begins at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7, at Lewis & Clark Bible Church, 35082 Seppa Road, Astoria.

Experience Christmas past as if it were today, promoters say. There will be group sing-alongs, whistle-alongs, archival photographs, and the sound of century-old instruments, including the harp guitar, classical banjo and various zithers.

Doan is a sharp-witted storyteller as well, making this a great choice for the entire family.

Admission is \$12 to \$15 or adults, and \$10 for seniors and children.

GIFTS THAT GIVE

Consider the United Way's event if giving to others is what makes Christmas meaningful for you.

Thirty nonprofit groups will gather from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8, in the McTavish Room at the Liberty Theatre, 1203 Commercial St., Astoria.

Gifts That Make a Difference is "filled with passionate, skilled, driven and giving individuals," according to the United Way.

Along with opportunities to donate or volunteer, many

organizations will have items for sale that will help support their mission.

It promises to be a festive event with holiday music and refreshments.

A TUBA CHRISTMAS

A free annual concert featuring the Astoria Tuba Quartet will greet those who venture out to Ilwaco on Saturday, Dec. 8.

The group will perform a variety of seasonal, jazz and polka tunes at this family-friendly event. Tuba Christmas is sponsored by the Ilwaco Merchants Association and is from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum, 115 S.E. Lake St.

CLASSICALLY FESTIVE

Liberty Theatre and the North Coast Symphonic Band present the "Festive Winter Holiday" concert at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16, at the theater, 1203 Commercial St., Astoria.

Admission is \$15, with those 18 and younger free.

The concert features the symphonic band, its trom-

bone ensemble, the North Coast Chorale and Astoria's own opera star, Deac Guidi.

"It is a privilege to sing with the North Coast Symphonic Band," Guidi said. "They are one of the most thriving arts organizations in Clatsop County and always go the extra mile with fantastic musicianship and thrilling performances."

Harpist Cheri Walker of Seaview will join the band on several selections as well as playing a solo performance.

Advance tickets are recommended and available at libertyastoria.showare.com.



Guidi

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