

**News Release**  
Nov. 5, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Carolyn Cox, Public Relations Coordinator, 253-404-3636

### **See the 'new Zoo' in glittering lights**

TACOMA, Wash. – Visitors can see Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium in a whole new light at Zoolights 2004.

**Information:**  
Carolyn Cox  
Public Relations  
Coordinator  
253-404-3636

Zoolights 2004 opens on Friday, Nov. 26, and runs through Sunday, Jan. 2, 2004. The 17<sup>th</sup> annual light display depicts animals and local landmarks, including Mount Rainer and the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, as well as nursery rhyme characters and other designs. Zoolights will be closed Nov. 29, Nov. 30, Dec. 1, Dec. 24 and Dec. 25.

Jean Jackman  
Public Relations and  
Marketing Manager  
253-404-3637

This year, the lush new Asian Forest Sanctuary will be added to the Zoolights trails. This year's Zoolights icon is a tiger constellation in honor of Jaya and Suriya, the Sumatran tigers who inhabit the sanctuary.

The new Asia exhibits, which opened July 1, also inspired several new hand-crafted animal figurines – leaping tigers, tapirs and hopping frogs.

Visitors also can enjoy the new Plaza Café and gift shop and be among the first to pass through the Zoo's new front entry into the World Plaza. The new facilities are part of the Zoo improvements being financed by a \$35 million bond issue approved by Tacoma voters in 1999. The last of the projects, a new children's zoo called Kids' Zone, is scheduled to open early next summer.

**PHOTOS  
AVAILABLE**  
Digital photos  
available in 300 dpi  
jpg format.

The beautiful new Wild Wonders Outdoor Theater, which introduced pioneering new animal programming last summer, will once again be home to live entertainment most evenings. The theater has covered seating for more than 300 people.

In addition, visitors can have their picture taken with a Zoo animal. The photo sessions are a fund-raising project of the Point Defiance Chapter of the American Association of Zoo Keepers. Watch for photo schedules on the Zoo's web site: [pdza.org](http://pdza.org).

- more -

**News Release**  
Nov. 5, 2004

When it's time to warm up, guests can sip hot cocoa or enjoy a meal in the Plaza Café, browse for holiday gifts in the new gift shop or head for the balmy South Pacific Aquarium, home to sharks and other tropical sea life.

This year, the new Education Center will be available to rent for private parties. The center has three inter-connecting rooms that can be opened into one great room. For information about rentals, call 253-404-3805.

Advance ticket, priced at \$4, go on sale Nov. 8 at Bartell drugstores in Pierce and South King counties. A list of participating store locations is available at [pdza.org](http://pdza.org). Advance tickets also can be purchased during Zoo operating hours at the front gate. Tickets purchased night of show are \$4.50.

This year's Zoolights sponsors are The News Tribune, Bartell Drugs, Viacom and Clear Channel.

**-more-**

**Information:**  
Carolyn Cox  
Public Relations  
Coordinator  
253-404-3636

Jean Jackman  
Public Relations and  
Marketing Manager  
253-404-3637

**PHOTOS  
AVAILABLE**  
Digital photos  
available in 300 dpi  
jpg format.

*Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium promotes responsible stewardship of the world's resources through education, conservation, research and recreational opportunities. The Zoo is accredited by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA), a leader in global wildlife conservation.*

*News Release*  
Nov. 5, 2004

### **Zoolights entertainment**

Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium will offer live entertainment most evenings during the Zoolights run in the beautiful new Wild Wonders Outdoor Theater.

There are still a few openings for community groups wishing to perform. To be considered for the Zoolights entertainment lineup, call 253-404-3636.

Here's the performance schedule to date:

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>PERFORMING GROUP</b>
Nov. 26	4 p.m.	Brass Quintet (Plaza Cafe)
Dec. 2	7 p.m.	Brownsville Elementary Choir
Dec. 3	7 p.m.	Spanaway Elementary PACERS PE demo team
Dec. 4	5-9 p.m.	Antioch Carolers
Dec. 5	6:30, 7:30	Stadium High School Jazz Band
Dec. 6	6-8 p.m.	Lakewood Community Jazz Band and Concert Band
Dec. 7	7 p.m.	Capital Playhouse Kids in Koncert
Dec. 8	6:30 p.m.	Life Christian School & Academy Chamber Choir
Dec. 10	5:30 p.m.	Girl Scouts Pacific Peaks Council, Service Unit 48
Dec. 10	6:30 p.m.	Silver Ridge Elementary School Choir
Dec. 11	6:00, 7:00	Show Biz Kids, Everyday People
Dec. 12	6:30 p.m.	Heel-Clickin' Cloggers
Dec. 13	7 p.m.	Sherwood Forest Elementary School Honor Choir
Dec. 14	6:00, 7:30	Spectapulars
Dec. 16	6:30, 7:30	Stadium High School Jazz Band
Dec. 17	5:30	12th Street Singers, St. Charles Borromeo Parish and School
Dec. 17	6:30	Just for Kicks dance troupe
Dec. 18	6:45, 8:00	Tuba Christmas
Dec. 19	6:30	Lincoln Avenue Bible Church Choir
Dec. 20	6:00	Life Christian School & Academy Middle School Band and Choir
Dec. 21	7 p.m.	Stan Yantis and the Windjammers
Dec. 22	7:00, 8:00	Tacoma All-City Jazz Band
Dec. 26	6:30 p.m.	Dance Gallery

**-more-**

**Information:**

Carolyn Cox  
Public Relations  
Coordinator  
253-404-3636

Jean Jackman  
Public Relations and  
Marketing Manager  
253-404-3637

**PHOTOS  
AVAILABLE**

Digital photos  
available in 300 dpi  
jpg format.

*News Release*  
Nov. 5, 2004

**Information:**  
Carolyn Cox  
Public Relations  
Coordinator  
253-404-3636

Jean Jackman  
Public Relations and  
Marketing Manager  
253-404-3637

## **Zoolights at a glance**

- **When:** 5-9 p.m. Nov. 26 through Jan. 2 (closed Nov 29-Dec. 1 and Dec. 24-25).
- **Where:** Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, 5400 N. Pearl St., Tacoma.
- **Cost:** \$4.50 at the gate; \$4.00 if purchased in advance. Advance tickets available in person at Bartell's Drug Stores in Pierce and South King counties and before 4 p.m. each day at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium.
- **Parking:** Free in Zoo parking lots (please note lower lot is reserved for disabled parking and bus drop-offs). If lots are full, free shuttle buses will run between the Zoo and satellite parking areas in Point Defiance Park.
- **Details:** Call (253) 591-5337 or go online to [www.pdza.org](http://www.pdza.org)

## **Zoolights curiosities**

- The Zoo powers Zoolights with a special "green power" purchase through Tacoma Power. Green power is electricity generated by non-polluting resources, such as wind.
- The Zoo is steadily replacing traditional holiday lights with low-energy LED lights. About half of this year's display will utilize the LED lights, resulting in a 45 percent drop in energy consumption.
- Virtually all Zoolights displays were hand-crafted by the Zoo staff.
- Flame Tree: 18,000 purple lights, 10,000 green lights, 4,000 amber lights.
- Miles of lights: 50 (250,000 feet).
- Sets of lights: 10,000.
- Miles of extension cords: 7
- How many hours to put it up: 8,000 staff hours.
- First display: 1988.

**PHOTOS  
AVAILABLE**  
Digital photos  
available in 300 dpi  
jpg format.

-end-