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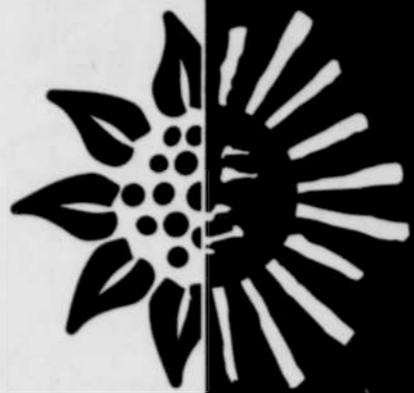
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NORTHWEST news



PHOTOS BY MARY DAVIS

Celebrity scratcher Darcelle (right) earned \$360 for the Greyhound Pets of America Northwest chapter during the Oregon Lottery's annual Scratch-It for Charity event Dec. 6 at Lloyd Center. The organization finds loving homes for retired racing dogs. "We are truly thankful for what she did," volunteer Kevin Friends said. "She didn't know anything about greyhounds before that day, and she was quite impressed," added Pat Toman, board of directors member and national president. Call 800-366-1472 for more information.



Continued from Page 5

In the Salem proposal, "gender identity" is defined as a person's identity, expression or physical characteristics, whether or not traditionally associated with one's biological sex or one's sex at birth, including transsexual, transvestite and transgendered, and including a person's attitudes, preferences, beliefs and practices pertaining thereto.

LARGE COMPANIES SAY NO TO SCOUTS

Wells Fargo Bank and Portland General Electric both have decided to restrict the money they donate to the local United Way, the *Oregonian* reports. Both corporations, which annually donate hundreds of thousands of dollars to the nonprofit, say they don't want their employees' contributions to go to the Boy Scouts of America because it discriminates against gays.

Later, Wells Fargo clarified that it continues to support some Scout programs. The bank reported that it received many calls from customers threatening to close their accounts in protest of the decision to restrict its donations.

The United Way of the Columbia-Willamette came under fire in October when its board of directors made policy decisions that ultimately allowed continued funding of the Boy Scouts of America Cascade Pacific Council. Although the nonprofit says it opposes discrimination and urges its partner agencies to adhere to nondiscrimination policies, it doesn't require agencies receiving financial support to have such policies.

The decision by Wells Fargo and PGE didn't faze local Scouts.

"Our values aren't for sale," executive director Larry Otto told the *Oregonian*. "We aren't going to be trumped by anyone's dollars."

SPECIAL FRIEND ON THE MEND

Local well-wishers evidently are making a difference in Ann Shepherd's life.

The longtime activist for the rights of sexual minorities and founder of the Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays Portland chapter suffered a stroke Thanksgiving morning. It left her speech, vision and ability to stand severely affected.

But her daughter, Susie, said her mother is "cheered up to no end" when she hears about the e-mails and messages of support. She is feeling better and even ventured out into public recently. When Shepherd attended church Dec. 10, the congregation greeted her with an enthusiastic ovation that rocked the sanctuary, Susie said.

After *Just Out* reported about Shepherd's health problems, Susie said the community's response was tremendous. Even strangers are coming up to offer their support.

After a two-week stint at Providence Hospital, Shepherd is at home, where she receives physical, occupational and speech therapy five days a week. Her family reports that her dog is extremely happy to have her home.

To contact the Sheperds, send e-mail to traskgirl@aol.com.

IT'S ALMOST OVER FOR DR. LAURA

According to the KGW-TV officials, Dr. Laura will cease production after this season.

Paramount has decided it will not stop mid-season, however, because many stations across the country have nothing to replace the controversial talk show. Television stations across the country have encouraged the studio to cease production because they can't sell enough



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