

PHOTO BY MARTY DAVIS

Irv Ewen of Portland will receive a Silver Award on Oct. 7

THE OREGONIAN SAYS NO ON 36

The Oregonian opposed Ballot Measure 36, which would amend the Oregon Constitution to ban same-sex marriage, in an editorial that ran Sept. 30.

"Many gays and lesbians in our state already feel excluded," the editorial stated. "The passage of Measure 36 would make that official. It would declare gays and lesbians and their families secondary, and their protections are inferior. That takes us in a wrong direction."

HIV BREAKFAST DATE CHANGES

The public is invited to learn more about Our House of Portland during an HIV Networking Breakfast from 8:30 to 10 a.m. Nov. 3 in Room B30 of the Public Services Building, 155 N. First Ave. in Hillsboro. The event was previously scheduled to take place Oct. 6.

The nonprofit organization provides Oregon and Southwest Washington's only network of integrated health care and housing services for people with AIDS. The quarterly breakfast meeting is sponsored by the Washington County HIV Prevention Program in an effort to engage colleagues to come together at the table and share information.

For more information call Jonathan Cueto at 503-846-3769.

IRV EWEN TO RECEIVE SILVER AWARD

Longtime community volunteer Irv Ewen of Portland will receive one of this year's Silver Awards, sponsored by Elders in Action, Oct. 7.

Multnomah County Commissioner Maria Rojo de Steffey nominated Ewen for the award.

"It's an honor," said Ewen, 71, who identifies as gay.

Ewen, a retired employee of the Multnomah County Planning Department, is the rehearsal manager for the Portland Gay Men's Chorus and has volunteered with the Portland Opera for

three decades. He also volunteers with the National Railway Historical Society.

Ewen and his partner, Marlo J. Dean, also work with Northwest Senior Theater, a group that takes shows to retirements homes and other venues.

Ewen said when he first started volunteering with PGMC more than a decade ago, "the chorus had a title that was very neutral."

"We finally said, 'To hell with that, we're going to be Portland Gay Men's Chorus!'" he recalled.

He said being openly gay has "certainly become easier than it was when I came out" in 1979.

Ewen, who grew up in Northeast Portland, came out just after his partner was hit and killed by a semi-truck downtown.

Prior to that, he said he thought his co-workers were aware of his sexual orientation, "but you didn't wave a flag or wear a button that said, 'I'm gay,'" he said.

The awards ceremony will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. Oct. 7 on the fourth floor at Northwest Natural, 220 N.W. Second Ave. The Silver Hall of Fame is an annual event to recognize the contributions of outstanding elders to the health and vitality of life in metropolitan Portland.

WYDEN CO-SPONSORS PERMANENT PARTNERS ACT

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., has joined 11 other senators in sponsoring the Permanent Partners Immigration Act in the U.S. Senate.

The act, supported by Immigration Equality, the Human Rights Campaign and other groups, is a bill pending in both houses of Congress. It seeks to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act by adding the words "permanent partner" wherever the word "spouse" appears.

If passed, it would allow a U.S. citizen or permanent resident in a committed same-sex relationship the ability to sponsor his

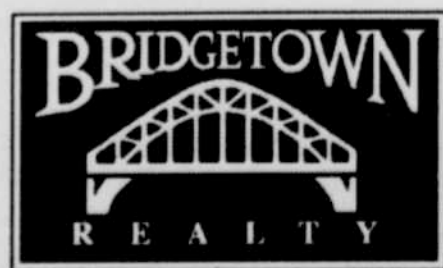
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