

Santa, trick dogs to appear

Sandy residents will have the opportunity to meet "Rambo" on Saturday. This Rambo, however, does not instill fear. Mostly the 3-month-old terrier mix makes people to laugh.

Rambo is one of two trick dogs that will perform from 11:30 a.m. to noon at the Heritage Square parking lot. Santa Claus will also be making an appearance, and business owners will be giving out coupons offering Christmas specials, according to Phyllis Rader, event organizer.

Rambo and Lucky, a 2-year-old Sheltie, will perform under the direction of Frances Patch of Sandy.

Patch said she has always liked dogs, but because of a problem she has with asthma never owned one. However, then Lucky came along and she didn't cause Patch's asthma to act up. She took the dog to an obedience school, and enjoyed training her. Later, she devised tricks to teach the dog.

Sometime later, Patch found Rambo homeless and wandering the streets of San Jacinto, Calif., where her mother lives.

"He's the smartest thing," Patch said of Rambo. Rambo received his name simply to make people smile. Patch said she chose the most unlikely name for the dog she could think of.

Lucky's name is more appropriate. When Lucky was 2-months-old, she suffered from a neurological disorder and Patch said the outlook at the time was bleak.

But the dog recovered under the care of Veterinarian George McGinnis of the Sandy Animal Clinic.

Lucky is the veteran performer.



Rambo makes a jump for trainer Frances Patch.

She was a top student at the dog obedience school at San Jacinto, and later received the blue ribbon in a talent show against a dozen other dogs.

"When they gave me that I practically didn't have any buttons left on my shirt," Patch joked.

Patch's husband, Al, has made a number of props that the dogs will use in the show. One is a jumping stand, and there is also a basketball hoop.

Rambo, who wears a Santa Claus suit, can sit, crawl and roll over, and, upon command, sits in a rocking chair or lays in a baby crib.

Lucky can answer the phone, and Patch carries on a conversation

with the well-groomed dog.

"Is this Safeway?"

Lucky barks.

"Have you got any bones?"

Lucky barks again.

"I'll be right over."

Patch, who has nine grandchildren, says she enjoys her hobby. A friend of a friend is trying to find the dogs work in the television or movie industry.

But for now she is glad for the chance to have the dogs perform before an audience. She is confident Lucky will do fine.

Rambo is unproven. "But he's such a ham, I don't think a crowd will upset him much."

Task force report on council agenda

The Sandy City Council will hear the citizens task force's recommendations on new city facilities and expansion needs at its Dec. 7 meeting.

City Manager Tom Reber said he expects the council to hear the report about 8:30 p.m. The regularly scheduled meeting starts at 7:30 and will be held at City Hall.

Reber had said in the fall, when the committee was appointed, that its study would have far-reaching consequences.

The committee studied the city's need for an expanded police office, library and administrative offices, as well as considering the needs of the Sandy Senior Center and the need for a new or expanded sewage treatment plant.

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Tri-Met secession plan to be aired on Monday

A proposal to withdraw major portions of Happy Valley, Boring and all of Damascus from the Tri-Met service district will be presented to the Damascus Merchants Association for final approval next week.

The meeting will begin at 8 p.m. Monday at the Deli Barn on Highway 212 in Damascus.

Some existing governmental boundaries, original surveyors' boundaries and streets were used to mark the outer limits of the proposed withdrawal area.

"We think it's (a) good proposal because we're the ones in charge of it," said Randy Bolin, a Damascus restaurant operator and a member of the committee that developed the plan. "Of course, anything we come up with we're going to like."

The proposed northern boundary is the Clackamas County line and the proposed eastern boundary follows the Boring and Damascus school district lines approximately one mile west of the city of Boring.

The proposed southern boundary follows the Metropolitan Service District boundary from Deep Creek to Carver, then travels north for a mile and west for another two miles to 122nd Avenue.

The proposed western boundary

follows 122nd Avenue north to Sunnyside Road, west to 177th, north to the Happy Valley city line, east to 122nd again and then north along a survey section line to Mount Scott Boulevard and the county line.

"This proposal represents the maximum amount the committee thought possible to include in the Damascus area's withdrawal petition," Rep. Dave McTeague said in a prepared statement. "We were careful to stay at least one driving mile away from established accessible Tri-Met bus service."

McTeague said that he had shown the proposed boundaries to Tri-Met officials and "they didn't raise any objections." The Tri-Met board must approve the proposal but in this case, "a good deal" of the area qualifies for automatic exclusion under a special provision in a law passed by the 1987 Legislature, he said.

The petition for withdrawal may be filed with Tri-Met starting Jan. 1, 1988, the date the new law, which permits the revision of Tri-Met service boundaries, takes effect. The sponsors of the petition must collect signatures from 15 percent of the registered voters in the affected area to be successful.



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