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Local United Way to fund Scouts for now

By **MIKE ARGENTO**
Daily Record/Sunday News

The United Way of York County has decided, at least for now, to continue funding the local council of the Boy Scouts of America, ruling that the Scouts' ban on gay members does not violate the agency's anti-discrimination policies.

That could change in the near future, though, as the United Way has notified the Scouts that it will be adopting new language expressly forbidding recipients of the agency's money from discriminating against gays, meaning the Scouts could lose their allocation in three years.

Robert Woods, executive director of the local United Way, said the agency's board, after "thoughtful and intense discussion," voted to continue supporting the New Birth of Freedom Council of the Boy Scouts, a decision that covers a nearly quarter-million-dollar annual contribution to Scouting.

"We made it clear to the council that our agreement with them will change and will include sexual orientation," Woods said. "Basically, they have three years to get it together."

Ronald Gardner, CEO of the

council, said, "It's pretty clear what we're looking at in the future."

The United Way's anti-discrimination policy promotes diversity, equality and tolerance and forbids funding recipients from violating state, federal and local laws barring discrimination. Federal and state laws do not outlaw discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

The United Way contributes \$160,000 per year to the Scouts from its community fund and another \$85,000 from contributions earmarked by donors for the Scouts. The Scouting council, which oper-

ates Scouting programs in six south-central Pennsylvania counties, will lose a \$90,000 annual donation from Harrisburg's Capital Regional United Way in April.

Gardner said the council will plan as if the national Scouting organization will not change its policy banning gays, looking to replace funding lost because of the ban.

He called the potential loss of funding from the local United Way "significant." The Scouting council's annual budget is about \$3 million, and the combined potential loss from the York and Harrisburg

United Way organizations could lead to deep cuts in programs.

This summer, the national Scouting organization concluded a two-year study of the issue and reaffirmed its ban on gays, sparking a controversy that has threatened funding to Scouting councils across the country from organizations that disagree with the stance.

It has been particularly hard for the New Birth of Freedom council, Gardner said. Even within the Scouting ranks and among donors, he said, there are some who agree with the national policy and others who don't.

WHAT DO YOU CHERISH?



DAILY RECORD/SUNDAY NEWS — CHRIS DUNN

Meraris Pineda, 29, holds her son, Jacob Salazar, 7 months, as she stirs ground beef for soft tacos and as her mother, Alfonsina, prepares fresh salsa recently in Pineda's York home. Pineda cooks traditional Mexican food for her family throughout the week. She came with her family from Acapulco, and her husband is from Mexico City, so her children get to experience different styles of cooking. Pineda values cooking traditional Mexican food for her children's sake, as a reminder of their heritage.

Food & family

A family from Mexico embraces its heritage and shares American tradition.

By **KARA EBERLE**
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Thanksgiving at Meraris Pineda's home in York usually includes a turkey with all the trimmings.

But hers will probably taste a little different than most of the birds coming out of the oven today.

Pineda stuffs her turkey with a red-pepper sauce and cooks it on the stovetop.

The process gives the meat a different flavor.

"A better flavor," she said with a laugh.

Although Thanksgiving isn't officially celebrated in Mexico, where she was born, Pineda and her family have observed the annual American tradition since moving to the United States nearly two decades ago.

Did you know?

According to recent U.S. Census figures, York County's Hispanic population almost doubled in the past 10 years. And more than half of all Hispanics in the county live in the city, according to those numbers.

The growth helped the City of York reverse a downward population trend that commenced after 1950. The city reached a population of almost 60,000 in 1950 and came in just above 40,000 in 2000. Census numbers in 2011 showed that the city's population was 43,718, a 7 percent increase.

Their menu has a few other additions to it, too. And they're not all Mexican.

A sister-in-law is from Romania, and she plans to share something from her native land.

Pineda's sister, Elizabeth, will be bringing a Dominican dish.

And her mother, Alfonsina, will help her make chicken tamales, fried beans and a thick, hot-chocolate type drink.

That's in addition to turkey and all the trimmings.

Pineda couldn't count how many people will get together for the feast.

"My family is big," she said.

She cherishes the gathering and the familiar dishes that speak of their heritage. She has four brothers and a sister who live nearby, and they will bring their families. Her parents will be there, too.

Everyone will gather at her brother Victor's house in York because it's bigger than her apartment. They'll be thinking about family members who are still in Mexico, she said.

Although the food is the focal point of the day, it's not what matters most, she said.

"The most important thing is to have the family together."

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"The most important thing is to have the family together."

MERARIS PINEDA, whose Mexican family celebrates its heritage during Thanksgiving

South Eastern Board approves tax program

An unnamed Fortune 500 company now needs Hopewell Township's OK to stay in York County.

By **LORI BADDERS**
For the Daily Record/Sunday News

The South Eastern School Board approved a tax program Wednesday that is expected to keep a Fortune 500 company in York County.

Officials — including the attorney for the company — declined to reveal the name of it.

In an unanimous vote, the board adopted a resolution agreeing to participate in a Tax Increment Financing district to be created by Hopewell Township on a 64-acre tract in the Stonebridge business park off Route 851 and Interstate 83.

The Hopewell Township board of supervisors also are expected to also approve the tax program during their Dec. 6 meeting, board chairman David Wisnom said.

Although officials declined to reveal the name of the company, Gregory Burkhart, attorney representing the company, said it is an international Fortune 500 business.

Wisnom said the company already operates in York County but moving to Stonebridge may lead to its expansion.

"They told us they've got 400 to 500 employees and they want to double that in the future," he said.

A Tax Increment Financing district is a way to stimulate the economy and assist in the development, redevelopment and revitalization. By establishing a district, a taxing authority can issue bonds and use this borrowed money to finance development in the district.

Hopewell Township is the taxing authority in charge in this case because all the land involved lies within its borders. The Tax Increment Financing district applies exclusively to the company and the land the company intends to develop, Wisnom said.

The South Eastern School Board had to approve the tax program because school districts in Pennsylvania are funded by property taxes.

Board member Mary Hyson was the only school official who commented at the meeting. She is concerned that too much of the financial burden is falling on local school boards, governments and taxpayers, she said.

If the local school district and municipality are willing to give tax breaks to keep jobs here, then the state and federal governments need to step up and do the same, she said.

Northeastern Pancake breakfast Dec. 8

The Northeastern Student Senate is holding a pancake breakfast in the high school cafeteria Dec. 8.

Pancakes, sausage, eggs and drinks will be served from 9 to 11 a.m., according to a news release. Children can have their photo taken with Santa.

Cost is \$6 for those 13 and older or \$3 for those 6 to 12 years old. Those who donate a new children's book will receive \$1 off.

Proceeds benefit the student senate. The high school is at 300 High St. in Manchester.

Operation Safe Holiday DUI patrols planned

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation along with area police departments will be conducting "Operation Safe Holiday" — a campaign to stop DUI during the holiday, according to a news release.

Sobriety checkpoints and roving DUI patrols started Wednesday and will last through 6 p.m. Monday, PennDOT said.

There were more than 4,200 crashes and 49 fatalities in Pennsylvania last year during the period, which includes the weekends before and after the holiday, the release states. More than 520 of those crashes were alcohol-related, resulting in 23 deaths.

In conjunction with the DUI patrols, police also are conducting seat belt enforcement through Dec. 2.

Light Up Night Donation saves city event

A donation from Bob Kinsley of Kinsley Construction has covered costs for this year's Light Up Night in York, saving the event from cancellation, according to a news release.

The \$2,500 donation will cover the costs of placing a stage, sound system and lighting in Continental Square for the event and will help cover the city's labor costs, the city news release states.

The event, 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Dec. 7 in the square, includes children's activities provided by the Girl Scouts and performances by New Hope Academy Charter School students, the Greater York Center for Dance and the William Penn Pep Band, the release states.

There will be free horse-drawn carriage rides and free hot chocolate provided by the Salvation Army, and Toys for Tots will collect donations, among other activities.

School board hopefuls Panel discussion Dec. 6

A panel discussion, "What You Need to Know About Serving on a School Board," will be 7 p.m. Dec. 6 at York Suburban Middle School, 455 Sundale Drive in Springettsbury Township, according to a news release.

Anyone considering running for school board seats in the spring 2013 primary is invited to attend. The discussion is expected to include board members from several area school districts, as well as a representative of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association.

Topics will include how to file and circulate nominating petitions; timelines, the amount of time involved in serving on a school board; "good boardsmanship," board-superintendent relationships; and partnership with the Lincoln Intermediate Unit.