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Parents, Families and
Friends of Lesbians and
Gays promotes the
health and well- being
of gay, lesbian, bisexual,
and trans-gendered
persons, their families,
and their friends
through

SUPPORT to cope with
an adverse society

EDUCATION to en-
lighten an ill-informed
public

ADVOCACY to end dis-
crimination and secure
equal civil rights.

Oregon Central Coast Chapter

June 2013

Take Action!

One week after Brazil's National Council of Justice (CNJ) ruled that same-sex couples cannot be denied marriage licenses by public notaries, the conservative Social Christian Party (PSC) took legal action to overrule the decision and immediately suspend its enforcement. All Out's petition, in Portuguese, asking Brazil's National Congress to again approve marriage equality bill, is here: www.allout.org/pt/Casamento

Kaitlyn Hunt, 18, is refusing to take a plea agreement that would put her on the state's sex offender registry. A high school senior, the Sebastian (FL) girl started a consensual relationship with a 14-year-old girl. When the basketball coach found out the two girls were dating, Hunt was kicked off the basketball team, and the coach notified the other girl's parents.

Hunt was able to briefly remain at Sebastian despite repeated efforts by her partner's parents to have her expelled. After they petitioned the school board, Hunt was expelled from school despite two judges and the school's administration denying their previous requests.

When the 18-year-old goes to trial, she may avoid the sex offender registry through a "Romeo and Juliet" decision, an exception to statutory rape laws if the situation concerns consensual sex between minors or an adult 18 years and a minor 14-16 years of age.

A petition on Change.org has reached over 270,000 signatures. <http://www.change.org/petitions/assistant-state-attorney-brian-workman-stop-the-prosecution-of-an-18-year-old-girl-in-a-same-sex-relationship>

The new Credo petition has over 15,000 signatures: [http://org.credoaction.com/petitions/end-the-anti-gay-prosecution-of-kaitlyn-hunt?
akid=7990.1033482.6DupVE&rd=1&t=2](http://org.credoaction.com/petitions/end-the-anti-gay-prosecution-of-kaitlyn-hunt?akid=7990.1033482.6DupVE&rd=1&t=2)

PFLAG OCC Celebrates Fifth Anniversary

Summer of 2008 saw the launch of PFLAG OCC— watch for the celebration of what we have accomplished in only five years!!

News from OCC PFLAG

Jordan Ostrum Receives First PFLAG OCC Scholarship

The PFLAG OCC Board voted enthusiastically to award an academic scholarship of \$250 to LGBT activist and Newport High graduate, Jordan Ostrum. He has served as president of the school's GSA (Gay/Straight Alliance) for three years; been an active youth representative to PFLAG; and co-presented many Gay 101 workshops for school staff and students. As a consultant for PFLAG, he prepared the first LGBT Curriculum Integration Plan in Oregon which will be shared statewide through the Oregon PFLAG Council.

Ostrum, an IBS Honors Graduate who received acceptance letters from several prestigious schools, has selected Ursinus, a small liberal-arts college in Pennsylvania. He plans to become a secondary teacher of Spanish and will continue in his college and adult life to be an LGBT activist.



Put Corvallis Pride on Your Calendar

5th
Annual celebration
fabulous
(Mardi-Gras Style)
... BIGGER!
... BETTER!

PRIDE
CORVALLIS
Committee
is seeking

- sponsors
- volunteers
- local vendors
- and performers

for this event for all ages.

Saturday
June 29, 2013
11 am - 5 pm
Corvallis
Central
Park

If you would like to participate please e-mail the organizing committee by June 1, 2013 at pridecorvallis@gmail.com

Youth Leadership Academy Completes First Year

Over 50 students have participated in an innovative approach to engaging high school students in creative problem solving at their schools. A series of three Youth Leadership Conference Days gave students from all Lincoln County high schools and Angell Job Corps the opportunity to collaborate. They received hands-on instruction and experiences in conflict resolution, team leadership skills, drug and alcohol abuse prevention, bully prevention, and an introduction to LGBT issues (Gay 101).

At their final conference day in April, teams from each school developed an action plan for their schools based on survey data regarding health, school safety, and sexual activity at their schools. PFLAG, PAADA (Partnership Against Alcohol & Drug Abuse) and Lincoln Conflict Resolution Center were partners in this team effort to increase student engagement and effectiveness in creating positive change in their schools.

Plans are for the Youth Leadership Academy to continue during the 2013-14 school year.

Politics on Our Side

Iowa: The Supreme Court has ordered the state health department to provide an accurate two-parent birth certificate to all children born to lesbian married parents. Heather and Melissa Gartner were originally refused this right because Melissa was not the child's biological parent.

Nevada: The state has approved a bill that adds gender identity and expression to the state's hate crimes law.

United States: The U.S. House Sergeant at Arms has approved a spousal ID for the husband of Rep. Mark Pocan (D-WI), the first time the privilege has been granted to a same-sex partner of a member of Congress.

Hong Kong: The city's top court has ruled that a transgender woman may marry her boyfriend. The decision aligns Hong Kong with other places in the region, including China, which permit trans individuals to marry those of the opposite sex.

Israel: Openly gay journalist Nitzan Horowitz, 48, is running for the mayor of Tel Aviv in October.

New Zealand: Family First NZ, an anti-marriage equality group, will be deregistered as a charity for tax purposes. The Charities Commission, which is run by the Department of Internal Affairs to monitor the nearly 25,000 charities in New Zealand, demands that organizations that register with them must have "public benefit."

Pakistan: Almost 20 transgender candidates ran for office in the May national and provincial elections.

Puerto Rico: The Senate approved a bill that would ban anti-LGBT discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations and government services in the U.S. territory.

Politics against LGBT People

Senate Judiciary Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-VT) withdrew a controversial amendment to the immigration bill that would allow American citizens in same-sex marriages to sponsor green cards for their foreign partners. Democrats said that the provision would scuttle the entire bill.

And a Mixed Bag of News from Texas:

The Texas AG issued an opinion last month that the state constitution prohibits the state's cities from offering public benefits such as health insurance for domestic partners. Several Texas cities—Austin, El Paso, San Antonio, and Fort Worth—offer insurance benefits to same-sex couples. State Senator Dan Patrick didn't approve and asked AG Greg Abbott for a ruling.

"Does Art. 1, §32 of the Texas Constitution that defines marriage as one man and one woman and prohibits government recognition of any legal status identical or similar to marriage preclude political subdivisions of Texas from providing so-called domestic partnership benefits to their employees?"

That's when Abbott issued his "no benefits" ruling. But the City Manager of Austin has issued a memorandum stating that the city will not change its domestic partner eligibility for its benefits programs.

Equality Texas stated that AG opinions "do not carry the weight of law" but are merely advice. In a letter to "supporters," Equality Texas also pointed out that they can easily offer benefits if they don't use the term "domestic partnership."

Adoption Bill Proposed

A bill to supersede state bans on same-sex couples adopting children has been introduced in Congress by Reps. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) and John Lewis (D-GA) and Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY).

"This is truly discrimination at its worst: hurtful to the people who are being denied the opportunity to become parents, and harmful to thousands of vulnerable children being denied the opportunity for stable, loving, permanent homes," said Jody Huckaby, executive director of PFLAG, referring to the state bans.

Westboro Baptist Church Loses to California School

When the the group, Westboro Baptist Church, went to picket Santa Monica (CA) High School because LGBT students were welcome, they got a surprise.

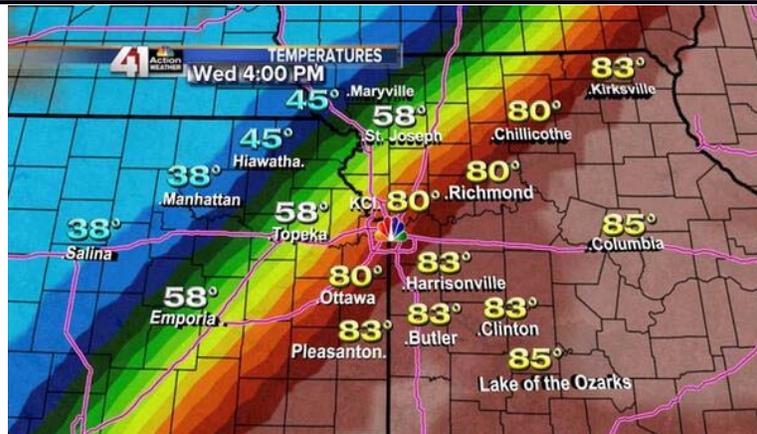
Students and community were aware of WBC's plans and came with their own signs to counter WBC's "God Hates ..."

Some of these were "God Cares for All Creatures," "Ain't Nobody Got Time for Hate," and "God Hates People Who Say They Know Who God Hates."

The crowd held hands, waved flags, and cheered.

WBC is banned in the United Kingdom. After they threatened to picket the funerals of the children who were killed at the Sandy Hook Elementary School, they gained the animosity of the Teamsters Union and the hackers group, Anonymous.

The Best Picture This Month!



Even the weather map wanted to get in on the LGBT influx of marriage equality. As 41 Action News depicted a cold front sweeping down onto Kansas City and cooling warmer temperatures, the slender colored bands showed the differing temperatures—from 38 to 85 degrees Fahrenheit—in rainbow colors!

The television station photo was posted on their Facebook page on April 30 for this "once in a lifetime May snowstorm" that was caused by a strong cold front pushing bands of snow and rain ahead of it while moving East. In the Texas Panhandle, falling snow abruptly cooled scorching 97 degree heat.

A few weeks before the storm, Aaron Jackson, a founder of Planting Peace concentrating on rainforest conservation and opening orphanages, bought the house across from the anti-LGBT Westboro Baptist Church compound (Topeka) and painted it as seen below.



People Who Make a Difference



Last year Dr. **Saul Levin** became the first openly gay head of the D.C. Department of Health. This year he has been named the new chief executive officer and medical director of the American Psychiatric Association, the first out LGBT person to do so. This year marks the 40th anniversary of when the organization declared homosexuality normal and removed it from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.

After an eight-month wait, the Senate confirmed gay Multnomah County Circuit Judge **Michael McShane** to replace U.S. District court Judge Michael Hogan. He is the sixth openly gay person to serve on a federal bench and the fifth openly gay person to be confirmed by the Senate during the Obama administration. Four other lesbian and gay nominees are waiting for confirmation. Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) recommended the nomination and praised the Senate for their action.



Delaware state Sen. **Karen Peterson** announced that she is a lesbian just before the vote on marriage equality. Although she wrestled of whether to do it, she explained her reason: “The tipping point was actually listening to some of the misguided comments that were made.” During her comments, she said, “We don’t need to be fixed. We aren’t broken. If my happiness somehow demeans or diminishes your marriage, you need to work on your marriage.”

marker from male to female, meaning that the Department of Defense formally recognizes transgender veterans. It’s an important step toward open transgender service in the military. Lesbians and gays may openly serve in the military, but transgender people are ex-

Thanks to the efforts of **Autumn Sandeen** (right), a veteran and transgender activist, the Pentagon changed her gender



Boy Scouts To Permit Openly Gay Members

Openly gay youths will be allowed to join the Boy Scouts of America, according to over 60 percent of the group's 1,400-member national council. The change takes effect on January 1, 2014. The old policy said that gays could join the BSA as long as they didn't tell anyone about their sexual identity.

The ban against gay adult leaders remains, according to the BSA. As some people have pointed out, this ban perpetuates the view of gays and lesbians as predators, encouraging such hate crimes as the recent killing of 32-year-old Marc Carson in Greenwich Village and the beating of two men near New York's Madison Square Garden.

Whither Marriage Equality?

While LGBT people await the decision from the U.S. Supreme Court regarding two marriage equality court cases, one determining federal taxes in New York and the other the constitutionality of California's Prop 8 banning same-sex marriage, laws permitting marriage equality are proliferating across the world. Since the Netherlands became the first nation to legalize same-sex marriage in 2001, 14 other countries have followed suit. Three of these—France, Brazil, and New Zealand--were within the past month.

Brazil's National Council of Justice determined with a vote of 14-1 that notary publics cannot refuse to marry same-sex couples and must register same-sex civil unions as marriages if the couple requests it. The Social Christian party has appealed the Council's ruling because the nation's Congress has not approved it. (See p. 1)

Other countries such as England and Wales, Faroe Islands, Luxembourg, Nepal, and Scotland are close to making the same decision. Mexico and the United States also allow same-sex marriages in part of the nation, again with three states in the past month making a total 12 in the U.S. These states—Delaware, Minnesota, and Rhode Island—may be joined by Illinois in the fall.

Nevada legislature has passed a resolution to repeal the state's constitutional ban on marriage equality. In order for the resolution to go to voters in 2016, the legislature must adopt it in the 2015 session. Assemblyman James Healey, D-Las Vegas, talked about his partner, Eddie, who died three years ago in a motorcycle accident. "I stood up at Eddie's funeral, and I promised his mother and his family that I wouldn't stop fighting until we had this," Healey said. "I placed an HRC (Human Rights Campaign) flag in his hand in his casket and told him that we will make this happen, and I will do it with your strength."

In the U.S., 53 percent of the people support marriage equality, an identical percentage to two other recent Gallup polls. A recent study shows that laws banning or approving same-sex marriage affect the mental health of gay, lesbian, and bisexual Americans. After several states passed laws to prohibit same-sex marriage, the mental health of LGBT residents suffered, whereas stress-related disorders dropped in at least one state after marriage equality was legalized.

Views toward moral issues have shifted significantly in the U.S. since 2001. The acceptance of gay and lesbian relations has increased the most, up 19 percentage points in the past 12 years.

Second-guessing is useless, but many of us still do it. Former Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens, 93, cheered me up when he predicted that the court will dismiss the California challenge for lacking jurisdiction and strike down the Defense of Marriage Act as unfair tax policy. (In the same speech, he also agreed with former Justice Sandra Day O'Connor that the Bush v. Gore case determining the 2000 presidential election before the votes were counted in Florida "should have been rethought.")

June 12 PFLAG Meeting

Gay Grays: Issues of Aging for LGBT

Issues of aging for the LGBT community will be explored with a film and discussion at the June 12 PFLAG meeting. Too often LGBT elders do not have family or community support in their later years and are forced back into closeted living by families or health care systems that don't understand. We'll discuss conditions for "Gay Grays" in Lincoln County and share resources.

Save the Date!!

August 7—PFLAG Comes To Lincoln City

Plans are underway to expand PFLAG meetings and events to the north end of Lincoln County.

Church leaders at St. James Episcopal Church contacted PFLAG about hosting PFLAG meetings and events. An initial meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 7 from 6:00-7:30 pm at St. James. LGBT leaders in north Lincoln County will be invited to help establish this new group and to provide input about possible meeting topics, events, and activities.

We will meet monthly thereafter on the first Wednesday of each month. Please send an email—and be there on August 7—if you are interested in helping bring PFLAG to Lincoln City!

What's in a Name?!

This coming fall San Diego State University will have the Queer Student Union instead of a name that incorporates LGBT.

Students said that "queer" is the easiest way to encompass all of the gender and sexual identities on campus without getting too wordy.

OCC PFLAG Calendar

June: Gay Pride Month

Supreme Court to Decide on Marriage Equality

June 1, Noon-10:00 pm: OUT/LOUD, the Pacific Northwest's Largest Queer Women's Music Festival—Eugene, Kesey Square (Broadway and Willamette) <http://outloudmusicfestival.wordpress.com/>

June 12, 7:00 pm: PFLAG Meeting—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport (Gay Grays: Issues of Aging for LGBT)

June 23, 11:00 am-Noonish: Just the Girls Coffee Hour—Café Mundo, NW 3rd and Coast Streets, Newport

June 29: Corvallis Pride

July 10, 7:00 pm: PFLAG Meeting—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

July 13: Table at Newport Saturday Market

July 28, 11:00 am-Noonish: Just the Girls Coffee Hour—Café Mundo, NW 3rd and Coast Streets, Newport

August 7, 6:00-7:30 pm: PFLAG in Lincoln City, St. James Episcopal Church, 2490 NE Highway 101, Lincoln City

The Coastal AIDS Network* monthly activities:

Second Tuesday, 7:00 pm: "Activity Night" (call for information (541)994-5597)

Third Tuesday, 7:00 pm: "Pizza Night" (Newport Abbey's Pizza)

Fourth Tuesday, 7:00 pm: "Men's Pot Luck" (Locations vary! Call (541)994-5597 or email coastalaidsnetwork@gmail.com for information)

We also try to have pizza in Tillamook or Pacific City. Email Dan, coastalaidsnetwork@gmail.com or leave a message for him at (541)994-5597.

*CAN activities are open to everyone, regardless of HIV status or sexual orientation except for "Men's Pot Luck." Occasionally we bend that rule for special events.

Social LGBT Oregon Coast Group:

www.outoregoncoast.com

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Out-Oregon-Coast/194768480642314>

On July 13, the Farmers' Market table sponsored by PFLAG and the welcoming congregations of Lincoln County can use volunteers. Interested parties should call Debbie Spicer at (541)265-2922.

Join PFLAG!

YES! I support the mission of PFLAG. Enclosed is my annual membership fee.*

_____ Individual or Household (\$30)
_____ Student/Limited Income (\$20)
_____ Contribution \$ _____

*Includes membership in National PFLAG with affiliates in over 365 worldwide communities.

Make check payable and mail to:

Oregon Central Coast PFLAG
PO Box 2172
Newport, OR 97365

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

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