

Cornelius first target for OCA



CORNELIUS (AP) - This rural town west of Portland will be the site of the first skirmish in the Oregon Citizens Alliance's latest anti-gay rights

Ballots were mailed Thursday for Measure 34-5, one of eight OCA measures on the ballot in Oregon communities so far this year. The Cornelius ballots will be counted May 18.

'The OCA is going after the state a piece at a time," said Liz Kaufman, executive director of Save Our Communities, a new statewide political action

committee formed to oppose the local measures.

Kaufman's group has been aiding opponents of the Cornelius measure, who canvassed most households with a simple message: This is bad for our community, and it will cost us money we don't have

But the OCA counts Cornelius Mayor Neal Knight among its supporters. He and other local backers have been doing their own door-to-door organiz-ing, handing out leaflets and conducting rallies.

"It's obvious there's a homosexual agenda out there," Knight said. "We need to stop it before it gets out of control."

When the OCA announced last January that it would try to put measures on the ballot in 32 Oregon communities, Knight and Brenda Saunders, a Cornelius homemaker, wondered why their town wasn't on the list.

Saunders, who became the chief petitioner for

the Cornelius measure, contacted the OCA and

began circulating petitions. On the other side of the issue is Sister Barbara

Raymond, a Catholic nun who helped organize Cornelius Citizens for Human Dignity. Raymond's group is hitting hard on Cornelius' role as standard-bearer. If the measure passes, the

group says. Cornelius would be the first to be sued and would have to take the lead in defending the

The OCA says its initiative will pass constitutional muster. It is a toned-down version of Measure 9, the statewide initiative that failed last fall. Measure 9 would have defined homosexuality as abnormal and perverse and required state and local governments to discourage it.

The OCA now is focusing on language that would bar specific anti-discrimination protections for gays

The new measure also prohibits cities and counties from spending money to "promote homosexuality or express approval of homosexual behavior."

The OCA's strategy has met with mixed success. The measure will be on the June 29 ballot in five counties and at least one city. Another county and one city will vote Sept. 21, and the OCA is trying for September or later elections in the remaining communities

However, the OCA failed to muster enough signatures to make the ballot in half of the first eight cities it aimed for: Hermiston, Pendleton, Prineville and Medford.

Washington changes salmon season

GRANTS PASS (AP) - The Clinton administration juggled Pacific Ocean salmon seasons Thursday, giving more fish to the Yurok Indians on California's Klamath River and taking some away from commercial and recreational fishermen.

Commerce Secretary Ron

Brown and Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt agreed to change key pieces of the seasons that were worked out by the Pacific Fishery Management Council.

These management measures reflect the extremely high priority that Secretary Babbitt and I place on conserving the Klamath River chinook salmon," Brown said from Washington. "Because these stocks of salmon are severely depressed, we must carefully manage them to ensure that there are sufficient population numbers for the future.

Pacific Ocean salmon seasons are set to begin Saturday.

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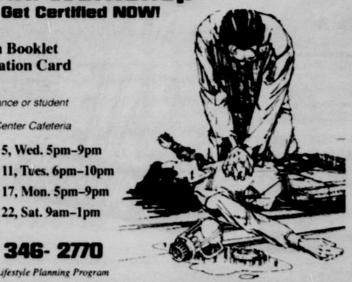
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