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"Access to confidential family planning and mental health services is a critical component of addressing the needs of today's youth."

The measures were put forth by the Oregon Constitution Party, which recently nominated Oregon Citizens Alliance chairman Lon Mabon to run for U.S. Senate this fall. The initiatives would prevent all access for minors to treatment, counseling and education for prenatal care, sexually transmitted diseases, drug, alcohol and suicide prevention services.

"If passed, laws such as these will have serious negative health effects on our adolescents," Fitchett said. "When teens are facing serious situations they almost always involve their parents. Teens who seek confidential counseling or treatment do so for good reason. These teens are often living in a home with physical or emotional abuse."

The measures are so broadly written they require parental consent for any non-emergency service the county provides to minors. Such services may include obtaining a library card or receiving confidential counseling from a school nurse.

ADVISORY GROUP MEETS

The Burnside Triangle Advisory Group, a council of community members, activists and business owners appointed by City Commissioner Dan Saltzman and now overseen by City Commissioner Jim Francesconi, met June 27 to discuss current projects and future plans. It is charged with making recommendations about matters of interest to the sexual minorities community surrounding the development and future of Portland's gay district.

The group finalized a walking tour route, a historic ambling complete with information about buildings and institutions still standing and long gone. It plans to make the tour available to the public in the fall.

In addition to working on a timeline of proposed projects including tree planting, responsible economic growth in the area and the possibility of turning the neighborhood into a pedestrian-only zone on weekends, group members expressed interest in adding their voices to the ongoing conversation about developing a Portland queer community center. Positions are still open on the council; women and people of color especially are sought to influence the development of the Burnside Triangle.

For more information contact the Metropolitan Human Rights Commission at 503-823-5136 or mhrc@ci.portland.or.us.

PFLAG PIONEER AILING

An Shepherd will undergo mitral valve replacement surgery as well as a single or double bypass later this month at Providence Portland Medical Center. She will be at the hospital for about two weeks starting July 15.

"The determining factor for her was quality of life: Without the surgery, things will only get worse, and nastily so," Shepherd's daughter Jean wrote in an e-mail to friends and family June 27. "The surgery at least affords the possibility of a far more comfortable life."

Shepherd, who suffered a stroke in November 2000, has a 10 percent to 20 percent chance of dying on the table or in the first 30 days after surgery. But she "still likes those odds better than slowly dwindling the



PHOTO BY MARY DAVIS

Michael Krzeszak (left) and Donald Finch celebrate the Jamison Square opening June 29

way she has been," according to her daughter Susie.

In the 1970s Shepherd and her husband, Bill, co-founded the Portland chapter of Friends of Gays, which eventually affiliated with the national Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. He died of leukemia in 1995.

"This will not be an easy time for Mom or, frankly, for any of us," Jean said. "Please keep Mom, her medical team and us in your prayers."

Well-wishers can write to Providence Portland Medical Center, 4805 N.E. Glisan St., Portland, OR 97213-2933.

JAMISON SQUARE OPENS

Dozens of Portlanders celebrated the opening of the River District's first new park June 29.

Jamison Square is named in honor of William Jamison, whose presence was pivotal in the development of the First Thursday gallery walk. He died of AIDS in 1995.

"He was an exceptional person in his ability to influence and connect with a wide variety of people," a Portland Parks & Recreation statement said. "His personal magnetism, in addition

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July 6 - "Hydrangeas on Parade" Scott Christy, plantsman
July 7 - "Freshly Cut and Cut-and-Dried" Linda Beutler, florist & Ramona Wulzen, staff
(Tour our large collection of hydrangeas. Also, in honor of this event, the private garden of Scott Christy will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. this weekend. Come to the nursery to get a map.)
July 14 - "South Comes North: Southern Hemisphere Plants for Northwest Gardens"
Paul Bonine, co-owner Viva Plants

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