

# NORTHWEST news

mograms from the Oregon and southwest Washington affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation as a result of a high-profile public outreach effort. "This...is a direct result of our frustration that so many Northwest women need critical breast health services and don't know that the local Komen Foundation provides these services year-round to women in need," executive director Sue Fratt said.

The campaign includes a series of television announcements airing in the Portland/Vancouver market and throughout the state of Oregon as well as a 24-hour hot line. It seeks to increase the number of women helped by local Komen programs by spotlighting the health services available in the community, many of which are offered free or at reduced cost.

Since the campaign hit the airwaves in mid-April, the affiliate has seen the number of calls to the hot line triple. "In the first six months of the year, the local Komen affiliate has provided more than 1,300 breast exams free of charge to local women," Fratt added.

For more information call 877-604-CURE.

## LESBIAN DOCTOR PROMOTED

Melinda Muller, a Portland physician who serves as treasurer of the San Francisco-based Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, has been named associate medical director of Legacy Clinics.

In this new role, she will work closely with medical director Dave Wakeling to ensure the facilities provide the highest quality of care, to improve systems at all sites and to develop innovative strategies to help patients affected by chronic diseases. Legacy has four clinics in Portland and one in St. Helens that provide internal medicine, pediatrics and midwifery services.

A Medford native, Muller received her medical degree



Melinda Muller

from Oregon Health Sciences University and completed a fellowship in internal medicine there. She completed her internship and residency at Legacy Good Samaritan and Legacy Emanuel hospitals.

At Legacy Clinic Good Samaritan, Muller sees adults and teen-agers. She has a special interest in gay and lesbian health issues, palliative care and chronic disease management.

For appointments call 503-413-7074.

## MURDERER SENTENCED

The man who murdered former Portlander Eric Franklin Plunkett will spend the rest of his life in jail, PlanetOut.com reported July 10.

The gay 19-year-old was killed Sept. 28, 2000, in his dormitory room at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. Joseph Mesa, 22, murdered another student, 19-year-old Benjamin Varner, in February 2001 before police arrested him later that month.

A judge handed down six life sentences without a chance for parole. Mesa also received a 50-year sentence for burglary and robbery in Plunkett's case and 60 more years for burglary and robbery involving Varner.

Attorneys reportedly tried using the "gay panic" defense, blaming the murders on "rage resulting from an unwanted advance." Police testified the actual motive was not hate but robbery.

Plunkett grew up in Portland and attended Oregon School for the Deaf in Salem. He graduated from Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf in 1999.

Gallaudet is the only liberal arts university for deaf students in the world. Plunkett was elected secretary of the Lambda Society, a gay and lesbian campus group, a few days before his death. □

Compiled by JIM RADOSTA

**The Questions:** IRA? Roth 401k? Risk?  
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