

NORTHWEST newsbriefs

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Horse Barn, which is located at 1362 N.W. Naito Parkway along the Willamette River.

Organizers promise a fun night out with many restaurants supplying delectable treats; refreshments of beer, wine, greyhounds, rum punch and soft drinks; and a live band performing tail-waggin' dance music. Tickets cost \$50.

For more information call 503-285-7722, ext. 327.

CONFERENCE SUPPORTS ABOLITION OF PRISONS

This month University of Oregon will play host to a free conference dedicated to fighting repression, supporting prisoners and eliminating prisons altogether.

Break the Chains will be held from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Aug. 9 and 10 at the Education Building, 1571 Alder St. in Eugene. By providing education, building on existing efforts, learning from veterans and initiating new campaigns against the prison industrial complex, organizers want to use this conference to initiate a new era of heightened prisoner support and anti-prison activism.

Queer speakers will include Rita "Bo" Brown, founder of the Out of Control Lesbian Committee to Support Women in Prison, and Chrystos, a lesbian writer, artist and Native American land and treaty rights activist. In addition, straight presenter Ed Mead was the organizer of Men Against Sexism, a group that fought against homophobia, racism and rape behind prison walls at Washington State Penitentiary in Walla Walla.

For more information visit www.breakthechains.net.

ASHLAND CENTER HOLDS BARBECUE

The Abdill-Ellis Community Center will hold a summer potluck barbecue from 3 p.m. to dusk Aug. 2 at Lithia Park's Cotton Memorial picnic area in Ashland.

Attendees are asked to bring a dish to share as well as grilling food for themselves and their guests. The Lambda Community Center Association will supply the barbecue briquettes and condiments.

Organizers will be selling \$5 raffle tickets for a k.d. lang concert Aug. 28 at the Britt Festival in Jacksonville. Two winners will receive two tickets each to the performance and will have the opportunity to briefly meet the singer.

The drawing will be held about 10 p.m. Aug. 21 at Ashland's only gay bar, Abajo, 66 N. Pioneer St. Winners need not be present.

All proceeds benefit the center, which provides a place for southern Oregon and northern California queers to gather and participate in programs, meetings and activities. The nonprofit agency also serves as a resource for obtaining information, referrals, peer support, leadership and advocacy for the sexual minorities community.

For more information call 541-488-6990.

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

CampOUT—a family program for gay men, lesbians and their children—will be held from Aug. 14 to 17 at YWCA Camp Westwind, a remote 500-acre site located six miles north of Lincoln City on the Oregon coast. The cost is \$210 for adults, \$145 for youth 7 to 12 years old and \$105 for children 3 to 6 years old.

The annual event brings together a unique, supportive community and provides an enjoyable family experience. Westwind programs encourage personal growth, appreciation of nature and celebration of diversity.

Campers can participate in hiking, canoeing, kayaking, horseback riding, crafts and campfires. An outgoing, friendly staff provides healthy meals served family style.

For more information about registration and



CampOUT will be held this month at an oceanside retreat near Lincoln City

financial assistance, call 503-294-7476 or visit www.campwestwind.org.

PORTLAND PLAYS HOST TO ANOTHER ANTI-GAY CONFAB

Just weeks after the "ex-gay" Love Won Out conference came to town, the Promise Keepers will spread their anti-gay message to thousands of men Aug. 1 and 2 at the Rose Garden. "The Challenge: A Call to Action" will feature music, comedy and a lineup of speakers including Focus on the Family radio host Joe White.

"Promise Keepers shares the same historic stance taken by Evangelicals and Catholics: that sex is a good gift from God to be enjoyed in the context of marriage between one man and one woman," vice president Paul Edwards said in 1997. "We believe that the Bible clearly teaches that the practice of homosexuality violates God's creative design for a husband and a wife and that it is a sin.... Moreover, the Bible states that any form of immoral behavior, sodomy, fornication or adultery is an abomination to God. Therefore, Promise Keepers does not compromise its message to accommodate prevailing cultural norms."

The movement was co-founded in 1990 by then University of Colorado football coach Bill McCartney, who campaigned for 1992's anti-gay Proposition 2. He said queers are "a group of people who don't reproduce, yet want to be compared to people who do reproduce, and that lifestyle doesn't entitle anyone to special rights." □

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