

NORTHWEST newsbriefs

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski announced Aug. 4 that he has appointed Oregon Court of Appeals judge Rives Kistler to serve as a justice on the Oregon Supreme Court, effective immediately. This is likely the first time in U.S. history that an openly gay person has been appointed to a state's highest court.



Rives Kistler

"It's obviously something that matters, but ultimately I think what really is important is how you can contribute to the work of the court," Kistler told 365Gay.com. "Having that diversity on the court helps people see things they might miss otherwise. And there's a value in that. But there's all sorts of diversity people bring to the court. And I assume the governor took those things into consideration."

Kistler has served as a judge on the Oregon Court of Appeals since Feb. 1, 1999. He previously served for almost 12 years as an assistant attorney general in the Appellate Division of the Oregon Department of Justice, arguing civil and criminal appeals on behalf of the state before the Oregon Court of Appeals, the Oregon Supreme Court and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Before that he was a litigation associate for Stoel Rives LLP. He also has taught state constitutional law as an adjunct professor at Lewis & Clark Law School.

Kistler graduated from Williams College in 1971 with highest honors in English and

received a master's degree in English from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1978. In 1981 he graduated *summa cum laude* from Georgetown University Law Center. Kistler has served as a member and vice chairman of the Oregon Board of Bar Examiners and a member of the National Association of Attorneys General Working Groups on criminal law, federalism and free speech.

"This is a red-letter day for Oregon, Judge Kistler and the gay community," said George Eighmey of the Oregon Gay and Lesbian Law Association, which recommended Kistler for this appointment. "We are pleased the governor recognized Judge Kistler's superior intellect. This proves once again that one's sexual orientation does not prevent one from being an outstanding jurist."

COMMISSIONERS TO ADDRESS CLACKAMAS COUNTY AT ANTI-GAY CHURCH

The Clackamas County Commission will deliver its State of the County address during North Clackamas Chamber of Commerce's monthly luncheon Aug. 20 at New Hope Community Church, which played host to the "ex-gay" Love Won Out conference in June.

In response to complaints received by her office, Basic Rights Oregon executive director Roey Thorpe contacted county officials, who assured her that the event's venue doesn't mean they endorse the anti-gay stand taken by the church.

"For GLBT people in the county, though, their decision is a painful one," she said. "Sure, on the one hand, it's just a venue. On the other hand, it's an organization that hosted 1,000 peo-

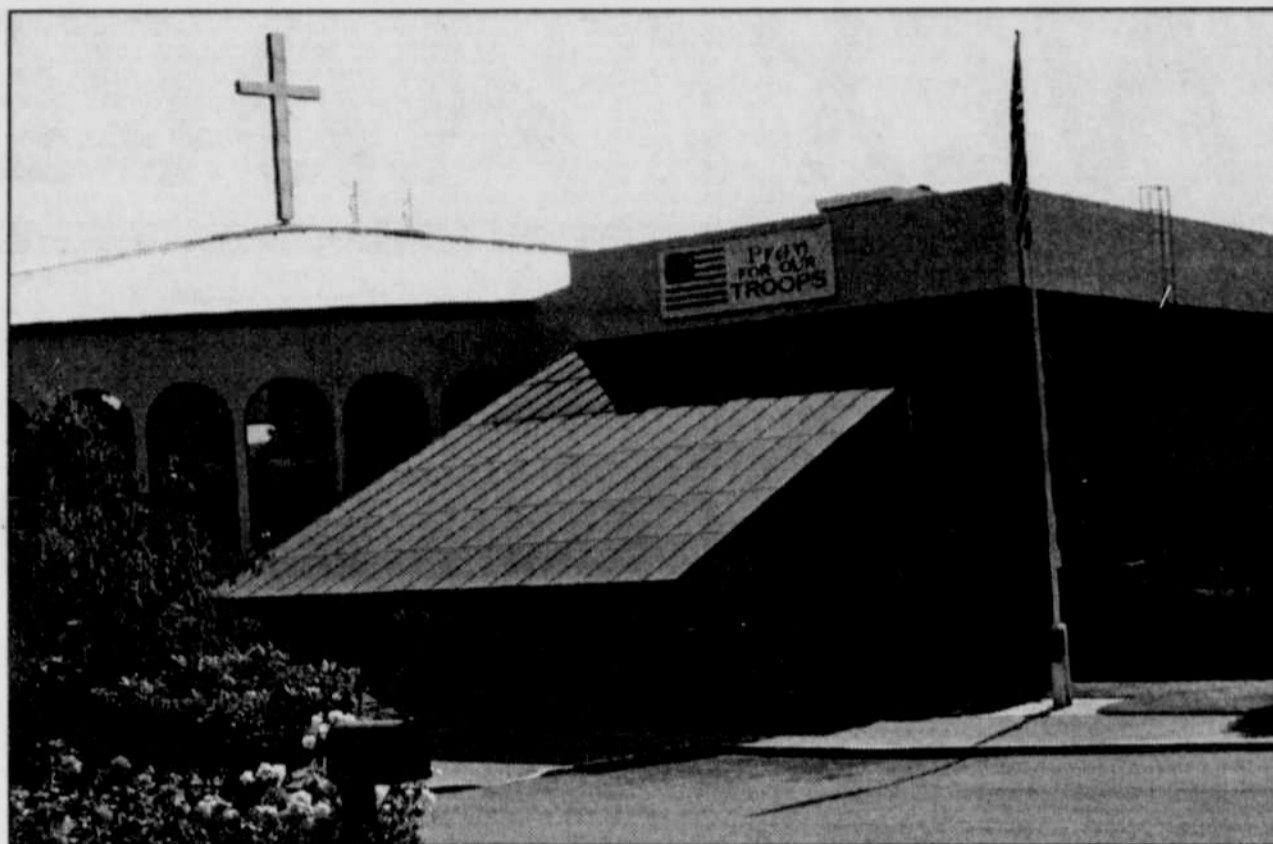


PHOTO BY MURRY DAVIS

The anti-gay New Hope Community Church will be the site of the State of the County address Aug. 20 in Clackamas

ple so that they could hear the message that GLBT people must deny their true selves in order to be real Christians. Entire families were told that they have a moral responsibility to refuse to accept their gay sons and daughters. How bad would it have to get for the Clackamas County Commission to refuse to speak there? Isn't breaking apart families and throwing people out of churches enough?"

County spokesman Greg Parker said Commissioners Bill Kennemer, Martha Schrader and Larry Sowa are participating at the invitation of the chamber, which solely determined the

event's location. In addition, he noted that the county also makes the information available to citizens in a published format.

"There are lots of reasons to criticize Clackamas County, but this isn't one of them," Parker remarked. He said the county government is sensitive to issues of diversity and sexual minorities and, "if there's an issue with this venue, we'll be talking about it with the chamber."


Wilda Parks, chamber president and CEO, said the luncheon and similar large-scale

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