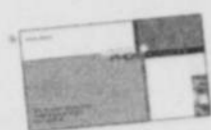


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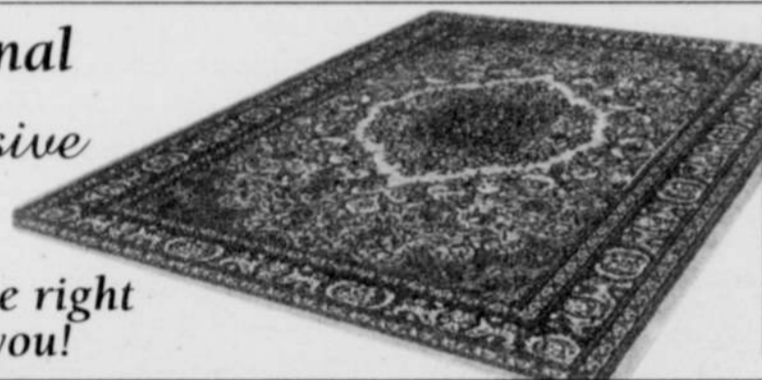


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BRO Backs Parenting Lawsuit

With the filing of an anti-discrimination lawsuit April 5, Basic Rights Oregon begins a series of fights with the state. The agency is demanding that Oregon's institutions comply with the 1998 Tanner vs. Oregon Health Sciences University decision, ruling the state cannot withhold benefits from people who cannot legally marry.

BRO's development director, Jeana Frazzini; her partner, K.D. Parman; and their son, Emmett, filed a lawsuit against the state, Gov. Ted Kulongoski, the director of the department of human services and the state registrar for Frazzini's right have a legal connection to her son.

Parman gave birth to Emmett on March 7, 2004, and the couple's second child is due in July. Parman and Frazzini were married on their way to the hospital and had previously signed what they believed to be necessary paperwork—wills, contracts and powers of attorney—to legally secure their family.

It wasn't until they received Emmett's birth certificate that the couple learned Frazzini's name had been crossed off by a hospital administrator because both parents are women. "My partner and I took great care in creating this child together and conceiving this child together, and there should be no question as to who his parents are," said Frazzini.

BRO's legal team is researching the case and representing the plaintiffs. They expect a briefing to be scheduled in approximately 90 days.

The policy change resulted from a federal rule that intends to make national HIV reporting uniform. If Oregon resists the policy change, it stands to lose 30 percent to 40 percent of its annual \$10 million in federal funds for AIDS treatment, resulting in a loss of federal medical support for between 300 and 400 people.

Sean Schafer, medical epidemiologist for the HIV/STD and tuberculosis programs at the Oregon Public Health department, attended the meetings. His office is the lead department in proposing the rule revisions and working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to transition from a coded system.

According to Schafer, the state collects the names of people with reportable diseases and has been retaining names of people with AIDS since 1984. This change only affects people who are HIV-positive but do not have AIDS.

Schafer's office will present a final version of the rule to Secretary of State Bill Bradbury later this month.

Women Learn Trades at Career Fair

A new generation of tradeswomen will be born at the 14th annual Women in Trades Career Fair organized by Oregon Tradeswomen.

"Now is the perfect time for women to enter the trades," says Oregon Tradeswomen executive director Connie Ashbrook. The former elevator constructor adds, "The industry is predicting a huge



Jeana Frazzini (left), K.D. Parman and their son, Emmett, pose for this family portrait.

HIV Policy Change Draws Few Objections

Hearings concerning a policy change in reporting names of people who are HIV-positive caused little stir last month.

Meetings in Bend, Eugene and Portland yielded three testimonies and low attendance. A written testimony from a Portland resident was also received. This is in stark contrast with the previous reporting changes, which drew local protests in 2001.

The change will permit Oregon health officials to keep on permanent file the names of people who test positive for HIV. Under current policy, those names are purged and replaced with a code after 90 days.

retirement in the next five to 10 years."

The three-day fair will offer something for everyone. Middle and high schoolers will have the opportunity to talk with tradeswomen and get hands-on experience with the tools of the trades from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 27 and April 28. The organization is anticipating 1,200 youth to attend this year's fair.

The fair will be open to the public and focus on adult job seekers from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 29. More than 70 employers will be on hand, offering exciting workshops and demonstrations including welding, Portland General Electric line pole climbing, building a house frame, light switch wiring, light rail and bus mechanics with TriMet. Oregon Tradeswomen expects 450 women to attend.