

Your #1 choice**24/7/365****503.227.1212****COMMUNICATE**

business cards • newsletters • brochures • rack cards

impress
full-service printingTel 503.281.8688 • Fax 503.249.1440 • www.impress-usa.com


don't let your doctor take YOU out of the picture



DON VALERIO, MD
INTERNAL MEDICINE / PRIMARY CARE
FANNO CREEK CLINIC
2400 SW VERMONT 503-452-0915



OPEN HOUSE
SAT & SUN 12-5!

Come see the newly renovated Roosevelt Commons today!

These spacious 2 bedroom condos are new from top to bottom. Starting in the \$370,000s. Only 6 units available.

Hosted by Heidi Erickson.
503-704-7568

PDX 
AUTOMOTIVE



Mechanics that fix everything.
Including your conscience.

Domestic & Import
5934 NE Halsey • Portland, OR 97213
503.282.3315 • www.pdxauto.com

 PDX Automotive is a proud member of the Ecological Business Association since 1998. 

world**EUROPE****Gays Sue Moscow Mayor**

Organizers of last year's banned Gay Pride parade sued Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov for libel Feb. 26.

Nikolai Baev and Nikolai Alekseev seek a retraction of Luzhkov's statement that Gay Pride parades are "satanic" and \$76 in damages.

"The Moscow mayor insulted me, as one of the organizers of the illegally banned Gay Pride march, not only as a citizen of this country but also as a believer," said Alekseev. "[He] has no right to insult people using such words."

Baev called Luzhkov's remarks "part of the system of widespread defamation of homosexuals which is used by Russian politicians, public figures and journalists. I am convinced that our court claim will become very important precedent in the fight against insults directed at homosexual people in Russia."

On Jan. 29, Luzhkov stated: "Last year, Moscow came under unprecedented pressure to sanction the gay parade, which can be described in no other way than as satanic. We did not let the parade take place then, and we are not going to allow it in the future. Some European nations bless single-sex marriages and introduce sexual guides in schools. Such things are a deadly moral poison for children."

Last year's Pride ban, supported by the courts, led organizers to replace the planned parade with attempts to lay flowers at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and hold a rally across from City Hall. Participants in both small events were violently attacked by neofascists, skinheads, Christians and riot police. Organizers say they will try to march again this year, on May 27.

They have filed suit in the European Court of Human Rights concerning last year's ban, seeking a determination of their right to march and \$26,000 in damages. "Not a single European legal expert we have spoken with doubts in the success of our application to the court," Alekseev said.

Italian Civil Union Bill Shelved

A high-profile political rejiggering that barely kept Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi in power likely doomed the ruling party's civil union bill in late February.

The legislation reportedly was removed from the government's key agenda items as one of several concessions that allowed Prodi to cobble

together a new parliamentary coalition large enough to save his job and prevent an election.

The bill had achieved final-draft form only Feb. 8. The proposed law applied to both gay and straight couples and granted rights in areas such as health care, social benefits, pensions, inheritance, rental contracts and hospital/prison visitation.

A spokesman said Prodi still hopes to enact a civil union law down the road.

Twelve of the European Union's 27 member nations offer same-sex couples access to either full marriage or marriage-like civil unions.

European Rights Agency Launches

The new European Fundamental Rights Agency began work March 1. It is charged with ensuring that laws in the European Union properly apply requirements of the European Convention on Human Rights and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

But the European Region of the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA-Europe) has expressed "disappointment at...the lack of the agency's independence."

"In order to ensure credibility of this agency, it is important that the persons who will be appointed by the states on the management board of the agency are truly independent and have a strong record and expertise on human rights," the group said.

ILGA-Europe head Patricia Prendiville commented: "We hope that the agency...will employ an integrated approach when dealing with cases of fundamental rights, equality and anti-discrimination. In many instances human rights violations have also discriminatory elements. This is in particular the case in the banning of...LGBT Pride marches which occurred in the EU member states in the recent years."

Malta OKs Transsexual Marriage

Malta's Civil Court ordered the Public Registry to issue marriage banns (an announcement of a proposed marriage) for a post-operative transsexual woman, *The Times of Malta* reported Feb. 16.

Justice Gino Camilleri said a union between the woman and her male partner would not violate the nation's Marriage Act. He also told the registry to change the woman's gender designation in other official documents.



Despite the shelving of civil union legislation in Italy, Prime Minister Romano Prodi said he hopes for it to be enacted in the future.