



Martinez v. State of Oregon, which challenges Measure 36, is pending before the Oregon Court of Appeals. Lead plaintiff Juan Martinez and his partner, Byron Beck, say Measure 36, the state's same-sex marriage ban, is unconstitutional because it revises rather than amends the state constitution, which would have required a separate procedure. A Marion County Circuit Court judge ruled in 2005 for the state. Oral arguments for the appeal were heard Oct. 19. A decision could come at any time.

The case of Adams v. Eddie is based on Portland City Commissioner Sam Adams' and former partner Greg Eddie's inability to divide funds in Adams' Public Employees Retirement Systems (PERS) account because the couple cannot legally divorce.

Their suit asks the Multnomah County Circuit Court to find that the PERS statutes are unconstitutional and to grant Adams and Eddie the same protections that the law grants couples who are allowed to marry. The case is pending before the court.

Portlander Brooke Winter was released from jail on \$10 million bail in August after she was arrested on domestic violence charges. She is accused of tying her estranged partner, Tawnie Potter, to a chair, putting a gun to her head and threatening a murder-suicide.

In an affidavit, Deputy District Attorney Brian Davidson said Winter and Potter, niece of Portland

Mayor Tom Potter, were longtime partners who lived together in Southeast Portland. The dispute that led to Winter's arrest stemmed from an accusation that Potter was seeing someone else. Winter pulled a loaded revolver on Potter and tied her to a chair June 4.

Winter suggested that Potter breathe helium from a tank she produced, allowing her to "die painlessly."

Potter persuaded Winter to call a mutual friend, Carolyn Lambert, who convinced Winter to untie Potter and unload the gun.

Potter called police the following morning. Winter pleaded not guilty June 14. She faces seven felony counts and is scheduled for trial in February.

A lawsuit alleging wrongful termination was filed against Tracy Blakeslee's Oregon Entertainment Corp., which includes Fantasy for Adults Only and Fantasy Adult Video.

Blakeslee's former employee, Denny O'Neil Jr., claims that when he managed a store, he was subjected to a barrage of sexual discussion, had to turn a blind eye to sex between employees and customers and was even told to fire an employee because of his AIDS status to save money on health insurance.

He filed a lawsuit Oct. 9 in Multnomah County,

accusing the company of discrimination, a hostile work environment, retaliation and breach of contract in violation of state and federal laws.

O'Neil was fired in February.

The lawsuit is now in federal court, and a hearing is scheduled for Jan. 16.

Portland's beloved Rose Empress VI Mame died of a massive stroke June 4 while watching the Starlight Parade. Born David James Hamilton on Jan. 2, 1935, in Oregon City, Mame became one of Portland's most legendary gay icons.

The Pride of the Rose and Audria M. Edwards Scholarship Funds, Esther's Pantry, Friends of People with AIDS Foundation, Brinker Fund, Oregon Bears and Camp Starlight are just a few of the organizations that benefited from Hamilton's work. ☺



Darcelle XV (left) and the community said goodbye to Rose Empress VI Mame when David Hamilton died of a stroke June 4.



K.D. Parman (left), Jeana Frazzini and their sons won a judgment for same-sex parents.

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