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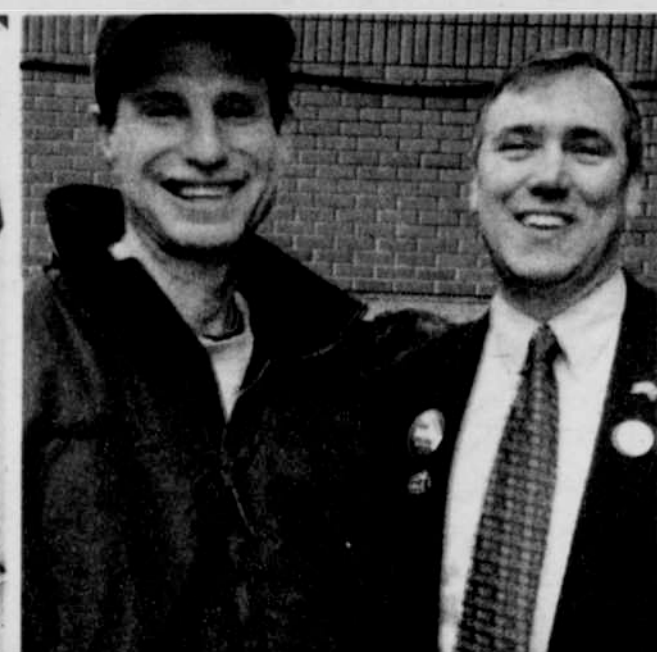
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NW NEWS IN BRIEF by Ryan J. Prado



It's time for Portland's AIDS Walk.

right: Both Senator Ron Wyden (left) and Senator Jeff Merkley participated in 2008's AIDS Walk Portland.

CAP's September Events: Team-Building Kick-Off Reception: What's New in HIV?

AIDS Walk Portland is only a little over a month away—October 11, to be exact—and Cascade AIDS Project is holding a Team Building Kick-Off Reception at Living Room Theaters (341 SW 10th Ave.) 5:30-7 p.m. Wednesday, September 9 to fine tune the best ways for participants to raise money.

Attendees can meet other Walk team captains and put their best foot forward to benefit CAP, while sipping complimentary drinks and chowing on appetizers.

CAP is also gearing up for the fifth annual one-day conference "What's New in HIV?" on September 12 at the Ambridge Conference Center (1333 NE MLK Blvd.). The event is a forum for critical education and networking opportunities for both individuals living with HIV as well as service providers.

The conference will also offer participants Continuing Education Units, or CEUs.

"While it's our fifth year of offering the conference, it is our first year of being able to offer CEUs," said CAP Executive Director Michael Kaplan. "This is a huge value for folks in nursing, social work and other professions who require on-going education to maintain their certifications."

Presentations will include both consumer voices and service providers from some of Oregon's top medical and care facilities, including experts from the Multnomah County Health Department and the Oregon Health and Sciences University.

"This year we moved the meeting out from being fully organized by CAP to engaging a broad range of partners in the organizing, such as other AIDS service organizations, government, academics and pharmaceutical companies," said Kaplan. "That broad coalition has made a real difference in both outreach and in the quality of programming."

For more information on the 2009 What's New in HIV? Conference, or to register, visit www.hivaidsproviders.org/whatsnew. For information on the Team-Building Kick-off Reception, visit www.cascadeaids.org.

Two New Additions to the Portland Lesbian Choir

The Portland Lesbian Choir has welcomed two new women to the musical fold for its 2009-10 season.

The PLC's new director, Kirsten Hart, comes to PLC as an opera singer with a background in music, and has most recently been conducting a women's choir at Portland State University.

Additionally, the choir announced Anna Lysak as its new assistant director. Lysak is a transplant from Los Angeles, where she sang with the Southern California Women's Chorus VOX Femina. Lysak also has a background in music, opera singing and choral conducting from her native Russia.

"We are thrilled to have such talented and energetic women at our help this season and we encourage new and returning singers to turn out and join the party," said a PLC press release. "We expect this to be a really wonderful season and an excellent chance for women to improve their vocal abilities through the gifts and lessons we will receive."

Women interested in joining the Portland Lesbian Choir this season are encouraged to do so as soon as possible. Rehearsals begin Wednesday, September 16 at 6:45 p.m. at Ainsworth, UCC (2941 NE Ainsworth St.), and will continue every Wednesday throughout the season.

For more information, contact the PLC directly at portlandlesbianchoir@hotmail.com or by calling 503-727-3306.

Iris Pride on the Horizon

Lincoln City's second annual Iris Pride Festival is slithering ever closer with a jungle theme on the Oregon Coast this September 18-20.

This year's organizers have ensured a diverse lineup of entertainment at various locations throughout Lincoln City, including drag shows; a "Family Feud" event to benefit Coastal Aids Network; a clambake; a mermaid contest; the Jungle Love A-Fair, featuring special performances by Miss Gay Oregon XXXVIII, Glamazonia, Marcy Kraft, Burlesquire, Rose City Swing and more; and Flamingo Bingo.