

nwnews

friends and family.

"If everyone reading this article commits to talking to five people about why marriage matters, it could make a difference in whether we're able to go to the ballot," Frazzini said.

BRO has also launched Spanish-language radio ads in an effort to reach the approximately 100,000-person middle ground the organization is hoping to win over.

"We hope these radio ads spark conversations within Hispanic communities and households about why marriage matters, and that our deepening partnership with Basic Rights Oregon will advance human rights for all Oregonians," said Francisco Lopez, executive director of CAUSA.

The ads, which emphasize the importance of family support of gay children, will run for four weeks. BRO also plans to relaunch a series of television ads. All this airtime comes at a cost, of course, but donors will have two festive opportunities to show their support in the coming months.

First up, on September 17, is the inaugural UNITED: A Gaylabration, a party at Q Center celebrating same-sex relationships while raising money for BRO's education fund. The event will include cabaret-style performances on the themes of love and loss, a special champagne toast and a dance party with DJ Grind.

On October 7, BRO hosts its annual main event, themed "IGNITE"—now at the Portland Art Museum's Kridel Grand Ballroom—featuring food, dancing and entertainment from Bolivia Carmichaels, DJ LunchLady and more.

For more details on upcoming BRO events, visit basicrights.org.

—ERIN ROOK

Kennewick School Board Restricts Access for GSAs in the District

The Kennewick School District in Washington state unanimously approved a new policy creating limits for all non-curricular school clubs. The decision, announced August 17, limits Gay-Straight Alliances and all other non-curricular student clubs from access to school bulletin boards, recognition in the yearbook or in student newspapers, and use of public-address systems to announce club meetings or events.

The board previously voted in April to allow GSAs the same access to school resources as it gives other clubs in response to violations of the Federal Equal Access law, which requires federally funded schools to provide equal access to all extracurricular clubs by granting different access levels to non-curricular student clubs. Per information generated from a Change.org petition posted August 23, in the school board's decision to disallow access to GSAs in the district, board members decided to restrict access to all non-curricular clubs to avoid being in violation of the Equal Access law. This restricted access includes Christian student organizations and the Key Club,

among others, and could mean the eradication of similar student clubs.

Just Out contacted the Kennewick School Board for comment on the decision, but the board had not returned calls or emails as of press time.

Kennewick School District communications director Lorraine Cooper emphasized that it is outside the district's protocol to comment on the board's decision. Cooper instead deferred to the district's policy and practice around student safety, and an update to bullying and harassment policies to include language regarding sexual orientation and gender expression.

"Our first priority is truly to the safety of all students," said Cooper.

Those who wish to voice their concerns over the Kennewick School Board's decision can attend regular board meetings, which are generally scheduled for the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. They begin at 5:30 p.m. in the district's Administration Building (1000 W. Fourth Ave., Kennewick, Wash.).

—RYAN J. PRADO



MARTY DAVIS

Portland Loses Bid to Host 2013 Gay Softball World Series

The Rose City Softball Association lost its bid to host the 2013 North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance World Series (NAGAAA). Instead, the 2013 NAGAAA World Series will be held in Washington, D.C.

RCSA commissioner Jake Packer reported to *Just Out* that while he wasn't at liberty to discuss most of the details of the proceedings, "In an unprecedented move, NAGAAA removed Portland's bid from consideration moments before official voting was to take place." Packer said that more information would be available on this move following the conclusion of the current NAGAAA World Series, which runs through September 3 in Chicago.

NAGAAA has had its share of controversy in the past three years, most notably with the impending federal trial over the disqualification of a San Francisco softball team during the 2008 Gay Softball World Series for including more than the limit of "non-gay" players on their roster. That trial is scheduled for November.

RCSA has also put in a bid to host the women's division of the Amateur Sports Alliance of North America's 2013 tournament. That bid is between Portland and Austin, Texas. Results won't be known until early

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