

COMMUNITY

(PROTECTION) LGBTQ SENIORS

Oregon's Senator Jeff Merkley recently signed on as a co-sponsor of the LGBT Elder Americans Act of 2012, which would amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to provide equal treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender older individuals. OAA serves as the country's leading vehicle for delivering services to older people nationwide, providing more than \$2 billion annually in nutrition and social services. However, even though LGBT individuals experience increased vulnerability and unique barriers to healthy aging, they have not been included in the OAA to date.

If passed, the LGBT Elder Americans Act of 2012 would:

Include LGBT individuals in the categorization of vulnerable populations with the greatest economic and social need.

Permanently establish the National Resource Center on LGBT Aging, the country's first and only technical assistance resource center aimed at improving the quality of services and supports offered to LGBT adults.

Prioritize research and development grants for organizations working to improve services for LGBT older adults.

Require long-term data collection and analysis relating to the needs of LGBT older adults, program effectiveness and discrimination against LGBT older adults in long-term care settings.

(SHOOTING) CLACKAMAS "GAYNGEL"

Last month's shooting at the busy Clackamas Mall during the holiday shopping season was a tragedy, but sometimes terrible things can bring forth the good in people. One woman is calling Allan Fonseca, a young man working at the make-up counter in Macy's, her personal savior.

Fonseca says he wasn't really thinking when he pulled customer Jocelyn Lay behind the Macy's counter when they both heard shots at 3:30 p.m., but soon after he knew just what to do. Because he was familiar with the exits, he led her to safety before going back to the "shooting floor" and looking for other scared shoppers to lead to the nearest exit.

Commenters on the story have taken to calling the young hero the Clackamas "gayngel."



GAIL SHIBLEY

(CITY HALL) CHIEF OF STAFF

NEW MAYOR CHARLIE HALES ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF GAIL SHIBLEY AS HIS CHIEF OF STAFF, EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 17, 2012. SHIBLEY HAS SERVED AS PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY FOR THE LAST NINE YEARS, AND HAS BEEN A LEADER IN SETTING OREGON'S STRATEGIC DIRECTION TO PROTECT HEALTH FROM ENVIRONMENTAL RISK. SHE HAS SERVED THREE TERMS AS AN OREGON STATE REPRESENTATIVE WHERE SHE WAS A LEADER IN SUCCESSFULLY PROMOTING PROGRESSIVE URBAN, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AS WELL AS BEING THE FIRST OUT LESBIAN THERE, HOLDING OFFICE FROM 1991 TO 1996. THE NATIVE OREGONIAN GREW UP IN ALBANY AND RECEIVED HER BACHELOR OF ARTS FROM UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, AND HER JD FROM LEWIS & CLARK LAW SCHOOL.

(CHILDREN) CAMP STARLIGHT

After 15 years of bringing joy, support, and just plain fun to hundreds of HIV/AIDS-affected and infected children, Cascade AIDS Project (CAP) is pleased to announce that Camp Starlight is now an official program within the agency's Housing and Support Services department. This integration gives CAP full administrative, programming and financial oversight for Camp, including recruiting volunteers, raising the money needed to fund the effort, and collaborating with organizations to make sure HIV-impacted families throughout Oregon and SW Washington are aware of the opportunity to send their children to the free, week-long Camp on the Oregon Coast. Camp Advisory Committee will hold a retreat to review volunteer positions, Camp policies, and to map out next steps for the next Camp Starlight, which will be held in August 2013. cascadaids.org/support-services/camp-starlight