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February 28, 2008

e-Pw brings you a glimpse of events near and far, from around your neighborhood to around our world.

Help Stop the Anti-LGBT Ballot Measure!

Dear Californians-

[Marriage Equality USA](#) is working in partnership with the [Equality for All](#) campaign and we need your help. Well funded anti-LGBT organizations are paying people to gather signatures to put a constitutional amendment on the November 2008 ballot that would prohibit marriage for gay and lesbian couples.



In response to this very serious threat, the Equality for All campaign is launching a statewide effort to encourage Californians not to sign this discriminatory petition.

We need everyone who cares about marriage and LGBT equality to help. Here's how:

Join Our Rapid Response Team.

We're looking for dedicated individuals to join our "Rapid Response" team and help us talk to Californians in your area. Working with other Rapid Responders near you, our professional team leaders will call you and train you on how you can help. [Join our Rapid Response team](#) today.

Help Us Track the Petitions.

In order to track their activities and assess the size/funding of the proponents of this discriminatory amendment, we need you to be on the for All tips line. Look out for people gathering signatures and report back to the Equality. Here is what you can do:

April 5 - [Spring Fling Dance, Modesto, CA](#)

September 27 - [Stanislaus PRIDE Day 2008](#)



1. Please ask what petitions people have when you see them. In many instances, the signature gatherers will have more than one. It is ok to ask them, "What petitions do you have?"
2. Please ask them if they are paid or volunteer- that's also ok to ask.
3. Take samples of any literature they are offering.
4. Do not engage in debate! If the conversation feels tense, move on. If the petitioner is being aggressive towards you, move on. This information is helpful, but it's not worth your safety.
5. Please report back. When you encounter signature gatherers, please email the date, time, location and paid/volunteer information to tips@equalityforall.com.

Since 2003, the Equality for All campaign committee has been leading a large and diverse coalition of groups in California, including communities of color, choice, faith and labor organizations to prepare for an anti-LGBT ballot measure. We are prepared to mount a vigorous, united campaign to defeat this effort but we need your help. Please visit www.equalityforall.com for more information and volunteer today.

CA Supreme Court Marriage Case - Live WebCast March 4!

It's Time to Make History. Be There!

After four long years, the legal battle for marriage equality has reached the California Supreme Court.

The California Supreme Court will hear oral arguments on March 4 in the marriage cases challenging the exclusion of same-sex couples from marriage.



Fifteen same-sex couples, Equality California, and **Our Family Coalition** will be represented at oral arguments by **Shannon Price Minter**, legal director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights. **NCLR** serves as co-counsel for the plaintiffs, along with **Lambda Legal**, the **American Civil Liberties Union**, **Heller Ehrman LLP** and the Law Office of **David C. Codell**.

Join EQCA, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, ACLU and Lambda Legal for the Supreme Court oral arguments.

Tuesday, March 4
9 a.m. to 12 noon
California Supreme Court, San Francisco
www.calchannel.com

Watch History in the Making.

- [Oral arguments live viewing information](#)
- [Learn more about the California Marriage Case](#)

Oral Arguments Live Viewing Information

Wherever you are, make sure you tune in at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, March 4, as California makes history.

Seating at the courthouse is restricted, but you can watch this historic event on TV, via the Internet or at one of many viewing events being planned across the state.

Watch oral arguments live on the **California Channel** cable network (televised statewide). For a list of local stations, visit www.calchannel.com.

View the live webcast at www.calchannel.com.

California Marriage Case

Shortly after marriage certificates in San Francisco were invalidated, the marriage cases were filed in March, 2004. San Francisco Superior Court Judge Richard A. Kramer ruled that the exclusion of same-sex couples from marriage violates the California Constitution. Then, in a 2-1 vote, the California Court of Appeal reversed Judge Kramer's ruling. Now, the California Supreme Court is poised to hear the case.

The California Supreme Court will issue its decision within 90 days following oral arguments.

Women Athletes - Get Off the Sidelines!

Are you a woman athlete, tired of sitting on the sidelines or in the stands watching other people play full contact, tackle football?

You aren't into powder puff. You want the real deal. And, if you are like 99% of the players in our league, you



really want to go out there and "hit someone". And, do it legally without breaking any rules. You've dreamed of the day you could put on all of the pads and play the game.

So, get off the sidelines and into the GAME!

Even if you think you could never play football, if the desire is there, come and try out! We will teach you how to play!

Tryouts for the Modesto Magic Women's Football Team will be held at:

Saturday, March 1
10:00am - 2pm
Modesto Christian High School
5755 Sisk Rd, Modesto, CA

Important NWFA Tryout information

You must be at least 18 years old. There is a one time tryout fee of \$35.00. You must also provide proof of insurance. Cleats are required footwear. Comfortable, loose fitting athletic clothes are recommended.

Volunteers Needed

The Modesto Magic is looking for volunteers that can dedicate their time to help insure that we have a successful first season. We need many different volunteers, including, but not limited to;

- _ Marketing and Public Relations
- _ Media and Advertising
- _ Coaches
- _ Assistant Coaches
- _ Webmaster
- _ Game Day Staff
- _ Videographer & Photographer

All home games will be played at Waterford High School.

For additional information contact:

Stormy@modestomagic.net or call (209) 526-0604

The Modesto Magic Women's Football Team

P.O. Box 504,
Modesto, CA 95353
209-526-0604

www.modestomagic.net

[New "Diversity Support Group" Meets Weekly - Next Meeting Feb. 28](#)

El Concilio, Latino Behavioral Health



and Recovery Services, is starting a weekly GLBT peer support group for adults. **The "DIVERSITY Support Group" meets every Thursday evening from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm at the Stanislaus PRIDE Center.** This group will be led by Wilton J. Wielenga, LCSW from El Concilio.

This will be a safe place to share common experiences with other GLBT individuals confidentially. If you identify with the GLBT community, please join us!

- **When:** every Thursday; next meeting February 28, 2008.
- **Time:** 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM
- **Where:** Stanislaus PRIDE Center, 823 15th St., Modesto, CA 95354

There is no cost to attend. For more information contact Ana Perez, MSW or Marcos Gallardo, MSW @ (209) 338-5715.

This program is funded by Stanislaus County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, and is a collaboration between El CONCILIO and the Stanislaus PRIDE Center.

Modesto Bee Highlights \$65M for gay rights, HIV/AIDS groups

By ELIZABETH M. GILLESPIE ,
Associated Press Writer
February 24, 2008



The estate of Ric Weiland, a high school classmate of Microsoft Corp. founders Bill Gates and Paul Allen and one of the first five people to work at the software giant, has left \$65 million to gay rights and HIV/AIDS organizations.

The bequests were announced Sunday by the Pride Foundation of Seattle, where Weiland was a board member for several years. The foundation called it the **largest single bequest ever given to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender causes.**

[Read the full article](#)

The SPC facility is open Wednesday through Saturday from 3:00 PM until 7:00 PM.

The mission of the Stanislaus PRIDE Center is to provide resources to strengthen and support gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons in Stanislaus and surrounding counties."

The SPC has three areas of focus: Culture and Community; Education and Information; Health and Wellness. PRIDE stands for "People Respecting Individuality, Diversity and Education".

SPC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. All contributions are tax deductible. Federal tax ID 20-2676088.

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