



OUT IN THE MOTHER LODER

A PROGRAM OF SIERRA HEALTH RESOURCES, INC.
P.O. BOX 159 ANGELS CAMP, CA 95222 TELEPHONE (209) 736-6792

News and Views

Of the GLBIT Community

Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual, Intersex and Transgender

April 2009

Local News

Federal Policy on Needle Exchange Reversed

Out in the Mother Lode Pride Picnic

Mark your calendars! We are making plans for our next OML Pride Picnic, scheduled for Saturday, June 27, 2009 at Green Stone Ranch in Angels Camp. Announcements will be going out as soon as we have all the details.

Green Stone Ranch is conveniently located just blocks from downtown Angels Camp, yet offers a completely private setting. We're in the process of lining up entertainment, food, etc. Stay tuned. You won't want to miss this.

Volunteers are needed to help in a variety of ways. Contact Jerry at Sierra HOPE (209) 736-6792 or email jerry@sierrahope.org.

PFLAG Sonora / Mother Lode Chapter signs off

After struggling for many months with declining participation, the Sonora chapter of PFLAG, Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, has decided to call it quits.

The local chapter was founded in 1997 and was a visible presence in the community, participating for several years in the Mother Lode Round Up parade, SRT's Community Feud friendly competition, and hosting numerous guest speakers and panels at their meetings. They also responded to parents and members of the GLBT community who were seeking information and support.

Unfortunately, with senior members wanting to step down from leadership roles and no one stepping up to take the reins, the decision to shut down was inevitable.

Sierra Stampede Gay Rodeo

Sacramento's Capital Crossroads Gay Rodeo Association will present the 2009 Sierra Stampede Rodeo and Festival June 5-7. The rodeo takes place at the Rio Linda-Elverta Parks and Recreation, Central

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The Obama administration has reversed a decades-old policy and approved federal funding for needle-exchange programs, and some advocates and others who work with injection drug users worldwide are welcoming the shift in U.S. policy, the *Christian Science Monitor* reports. Gerry Stimson, executive director of the [International Harm Reduction Association](#), said that the U.S. "has been a big block on harm reduction at the international political level," but that is "beginning to change, and it's changed quite suddenly." According to the *Monitor*, some advocates are calling on the U.S. to make further changes by supporting programs aimed at IDUs in developing countries.

According to Michel Kazatchkine, executive director of the [Global Fund To Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria](#), HIV/AIDS experts say that needle-exchange programs, peer-led education and substitute therapies -- like methadone treatments -- have proven to be effective in preventing new cases of the disease among IDUs. However, only a small portion of the \$14 billion spent globally in 2008 for fighting HIV/AIDS was spent on such programs, he said. In addition, some U.S. diplomats continue to object to including harm reduction strategies in United Nations counternarcotics declarations. The *Monitor* reports that the Obama administration has not changed rules implemented under former President George W. Bush that ban the use of U.S. foreign aid money to finance needle-exchange programs.

According to the *Monitor*, several Asian countries have begun to reach out to IDUs in light of the health risks associated with drug use. For example, the Chinese government is starting methadone clinics and outreach services, while Indonesia is inviting advocates to visit its prisons. Gray Sattler, a regional

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Local (continued)

Horse Arena, 848 Elkhorn Boulevard in Rio Linda. Proceeds from the rodeo will be donated to Saddle Pals, a therapeutic horsemanship program that provides services to individuals with physical or developmental disabilities.

Other activities include a Pool Party at the Host Hotel - Red Lion Hotel on Friday and a Country Round-up with dancing under the stars at 21st & K Street downtown Sacramento on Saturday.

For more information visit their web site at:

www.capitalcrossroads.org
or contact the Rodeo Director, Sammy Van Galder at 916-737-7610, or email to: SVanGalder@comcast.net.

To volunteer, send email to: volunteer@capitalcrossroads.org.

Got News?

Submissions welcome. Email to info@outinthemotherlode.org or call Jerry at Sierra HOPE, 736-6792.

Policy (continued)

adviser on HIV/AIDS at the U.N. [Office on Drugs and Crime](#) in Bangkok, Thailand, said that reducing the spread of HIV is "one of the very powerful arguments that we use with governments and that they need to think about." He added, "Many of the epidemics of HIV in this region have been, and continue to be, driven by the spread of HIV among drug users because they don't have access to a comprehensive package (of services)" (Montlake, *Christian Science Monitor*, 4/21).

OTHER RESOURCES

Amador County GLBTQQ Support Group - Amador County Behavioral Health - call Mary Pulskamp at 223-6412 for info.

Foothill Lesbians and Gays (F.L.A.G) Amador County:

Email flagamador@comcast.net for information.

Stanislaus Pride Center, Telephone 209-567-3121, email info@stanpride.org or visit online at www.stanpride.org

Men

Sierra Gay Men's Network, great newsletter, western Sierras, www.sgmnet.org.

Western Slope Men's Social Group (El Dorado County) email wsmmsg@ccservices.cc

Women

Leaping Lesbians: Monthly pot-luck socials, mostly in Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties. Contact Email: LLPotluck@yahoo.com for information.

Camping Women (lesbian friendly): meets 6:30 pm fourth Tuesdays at Pine Tree Restaurant in Sonora, or call Cheryl at (209) 928-1945.

Central Valley Chapter Bay Area Community of Women (BACW)

P.O. Box 578241 Modesto, CA 95357 cvcbacw@hotmail.com

Youth

Lambda Youth Groups—For Youth, By Youth Wednesday & Friday evenings at Lambda Community Center, 1927 L St., Sacramento. 916-442-0185 www.lambdasac.org

LYRIC: Lavender Youth Recreation & Information Center, Youth Talk Line 800-246-PRIDE www.lyric.org

See also, **Stanislaus Pride Center**, above

Bisexual

Bay Area Bisexual Network—events, resources, support groups. (415) 865-5627, www.babn.org.

Transgender

Sacramento Gender Association—support group, newsletter. (916) 482-7742, www.geocities.com/westhollywood/village/4409, sacgender@hotmail.com

Transgender San Francisco, large support group. (415)564-3264, www.tgsf.org, moodydeb@yahoo.com

See also, **Stanislaus Pride Center**, above

Sierra HOPE
Health Opportunities, Programs and Education

- Education and support for HIV/AIDS.
- AIDS Drug Assistance Program
- Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA)
- Hepatitis Education and Support Group
- HIV Support Group
- Community Food Pantry for anyone in need

Call 209-736-6792 for information

Free Confidential Screening for Hepatitis C

Available at

Sierra HOPE

Call (209) 736-6792 for information.

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