

Today	Saturday	Sunday
		
High: 62 Low: 50 Precip: 60%	High: 60 Low: 41 Precip: 90%	High: 56 Low: 37 Precip: 60%

IN BRIEF

Court voids same-sex marriage licenses

PORTLAND — The Oregon Supreme Court on Thursday nullified nearly 3,000 marriage licenses issued to same-sex couples by Multnomah County a year ago, saying a single county couldn't take such action on its own.

The court said that while the county can question the constitutionality of laws governing marriage, they are a matter of statewide concern, so the county had no authority to issue licenses to gay couples.

The court left the door open for state legislators to craft an alternative to gay marriages, such as civil unions, even though it did not specifically mention civil unions.

"We conclude that Oregon law currently places the regulation of marriage exclusively within the province of the state's legislative power," the court said.

A day earlier, Gov. Ted Kulongoski said he will push for a law allowing gay couples in Oregon to form civil unions that would give them many of the rights available to married couples.

Legislative leaders were meeting behind closed doors Wednesday to discuss the ruling.

Multnomah County began issuing marriages to gay couples last March, arguing that not doing so violated the state Constitution. A judge halted the practice about six weeks later, but not before nearly 3,000 same-sex couples had wed.

— The Associated Press

Transplant: Anyone without infectious disease can donate

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ODP also wants to dispel any myths about doctors not saving donors because they want their organs and donor cadavers being used for medical research, Hunt said.

"I save lives," Hunt said. "I got hooked when I met one of the first individuals who received a heart transplant up at Oregon State University and met several others who were waiting. It brought home to me that it could happen to any of us."

Hunt told Brandy Stroeder's story. Stroeder, 19, needed a lung and liver transplant to save her life by reversing the effects of cystic fibrosis. After the Oregon Health Plan wouldn't cover the cost of the transplant, Stroeder received a lot of publicity, and her community in Portland raised enough money to pay for the operation. However, Stroeder died in 2002 while still waiting for the organs.

In Lane County, 14,980 of the 34,131 young adults aged 18-24 with Department of Motor Vehicles identification are registered

organ donors. All a person has to do when getting a new driver's license or I.D. is answer "yes" when asked to be an organ donor, Office Coordinator for Driver Programs Renee Davis said. Countywide, 149,000 total donors are registered through the DMV.

Hunt said the driver's license doesn't guarantee the donation of organs. This is why, Hunt said, it is extremely important that donors make sure their family members know their wishes.

Anyone can be an organ donor, as long as he or she doesn't have an infectious disease, Hunt said. Bone marrow, portions of the lung or liver and blood can all be donated by live donors.

Every other month the Lane Memorial Blood Bank sets up the Bloodmobile outside the EMU to collect blood donations with the help of the Student Alumni Relations Board, LMBB Community Affairs Coordinator Kristi Henderson said. The next blood drive will take place May 17 and 18.

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ICSP: Culture contrasts can cause mix-ups

Continued from page 1

what they see in the media, and that's not the whole picture," she said. "I feel like it's my duty to share my culture."

Halaney said that students have responded positively to the presentations and have become intrigued about the cultures.

"When we write people's names in Hindi, they're fascinated," she said. "They're really appreciative of our time. They're very embracing and accepting of other cultures."

In addition to educating the community, the students said they also learn from each other. On Thursday, as ICSP students gathered in the EMU to publicize the program, a casual conversation about flirting turned into an intercultural dialogue.

Sophomore Miloje Cekerevac of Serbia said that during a recent trip to Mexico, men on the street catcalled and whistled at his girlfriend.

"In the U.S., if you're walking around with your girlfriend, no one will flirt with her," he said. "It's like an offense."

But sophomore Ingrid Irina Ioan of Romania said that in some Latin countries, flirtation is far more informal.

"If you go in a (Latin American) country, ... it's a normal thing for guys to flirt. It's more like a game," she said. "Some cultures are more direct and expressive."

Sanchez said cultural exchange is one of the most appealing aspects of the program. The students have to take a class together in which they share their presentations.

"It's always nice to share our thoughts when we're from different countries," Sanchez said. "There's always different traditions that you don't know about."

Ioan added that unless cultural differences are discussed, certain behaviors can be misunderstood. For instance, her American boyfriend once got frustrated because she wouldn't eat dinner until he got home. He assumed it was because she didn't want to cook for herself.

"Here, people are very individualistic. In my country, you wait until everyone gets home before you eat," she said. "It could have been very easily misinterpreted."

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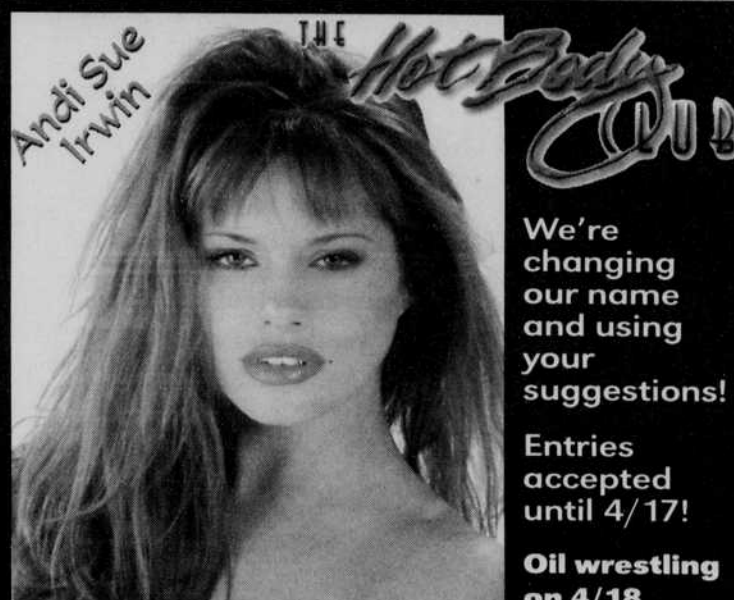
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Contact Jessica Melton
at jmelton@gladstone.uoregon.edu with questions

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