



AMAZING FEATS of balance, strength and flexibility were presented to Lorna Byrne Middle School students Thursday morning, April 19 by a troupe of Chinese acrobats. One performer showed his exceptional skill by throwing heavy ceramic vases high into the air and catching them on his head, or balanced atop one of his feet. With twists and turns, a contortionist (above) writhed and maneuvered while balancing multiple candelabrum, and a vase of flowers. The Chinese visitors also performed later that day for students of Evergreen Elementary. (Photos by Michelle Binker/Illinois Valley News')

Madrone students honor Earth Day

On Friday, April 20, students from Madrone Adventist Elementary School went to Jubilee Park and the track behind Lorna Byrne Middle School to pick up trash in honor of Earth Day.

Asked why they wanted to pick up trash, seventh-grader Libby McIntyre said, "So that it's not dirty when people from out-of-town come to visit, maybe they'll want to move here." Fourth-

grader Matthew Foster said, "Because it's fun!"

What does community service meant to them? Said second-grade student Cody Whitchurch, "It's having fun cleaning up the community." Third-grader Savannah Baez said, "It's helping our community and having fun!" Added second-grader Connor Wolfe, "It feels good to help clean up the community."



And future student RyAnn Bowlby stated, "It's more healthy to live in a clean community." Teachers Amy Whitchurch and Kim Bowlby said that they are trying to instill stewardship in their students. Noted Bowlby, "At



school our students are practicing stewardship over their bodies: drinking more water, eating fewer desserts, and bettering their time on the mile run. We want our students to have pride in their community, knowing that they helped contribute to what is going on here in Cave Junction."

Same-sex bill may gain state sanction

Bipartisan approval to two bills that would extend greater equality to homosexual and lesbian Oregonians came with an historic vote by the Oregon House of Representatives last week.

"Freedom from discrimination enables people to learn, work, contribute, and achieve," said State Rep. David Edwards (D-Hillsboro) during the floor debate. To be deprived of it is a kind of excommunication from society and its rewards, he said.

"When it comes to basic rights," Edward said, "everyone should count with the same weight. For me this principle embodied in this legislation is derived equally from the code of heaven and from our country's founding documents.

"And for our fellow Oregonians, it means a fair chance to make the most of their lives.

Senate Bill 2 would prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation in housing, employment, public accommodation, education and public services. The bill contains a broad religious exemption that prevents churches and other religious institutions or organizations from complying with the law if doing so would compromise the tenets of their faith.

"Today, some will present this vote as a choice between people of faith and people of differing sexual orientations," said House Majority Leader Dave Hunt (D-Clackamas County). "I believe that is a false choice.

"The truth is, today we cast a vote for fairness based on sexual orientation and

freedom of religion. These are not mutually exclusive concepts. The expansion of freedom and fairness does not threaten those principles, but strengthens their value and meaning in our culture."

House Bill 2007 would establish domestic partnerships that provide same-sex couples with protections and benefits similar to those available through a marriage contract.

Said Hunt, "More than 500 such protections are available under Oregon law. The domestic partnership law is different from marriage: it is an entirely separate body of law; does not require a solemnization ceremony as marriage does; will not extend outside the borders of Oregon; and will not extend to same-sex couples the more than 1,200 benefits provided to married

couples through federal law."

"In the most fundamental human ways, the legal recognition of our relationship really matters," said Rep. Tina Kotek (D-N./N.E. Portland), as she made the case for the bill with her partner, Aimee, by her side.

"We're no different than other couples in many ways," said Kotek. "We love each other in good times, and we support each other in hard times. By passing House Bill 2007 and instituting comprehensive, legally recognized domestic partnerships for same-sex couples, you will provide security, comfort and peace of mind to my family, as well as to families just like mine in every community in Oregon."

HB 2007 now moves to the Senate for consideration.



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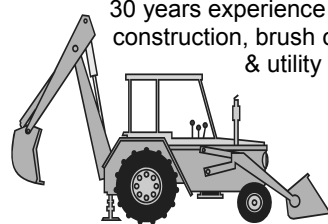
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Tuesday	May 8	3 – 4:30 PM	5:00 –
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Thursday	May 10	3 – 4:30 PM	5:00 –
6:30 PM			
Tuesday	May 15	3 – 4:30 PM	5:00 –
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Thursday	May 17	3 – 4:30 PM	5:00 –
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