

Obama

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everyone can grow in," said Wilbur Cole, 52, a postman from suburban Memphis, Tenn., who spent part of the day visiting the civil rights museum there at the site where the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in 1968.

The inauguration this year shared the day with King's birthday holiday, and the president used a Bible that had belonged to the civil rights leader for the swearing-in, along with a second one that been Abraham Lincoln's. The president also paused inside the Capitol Rotunda to gaze at a dark bronze statue of King.

Others watching at a distance were less upbeat than Cole. Frank Pinto, 62, and an unemployed construction contractor, took in the inaugural events on television at a bar in Hartford, Conn. He said because of the president's policies, "My grandkids will be in debt and their kids will be in debt."

The tone was less overtly political in the nation's capital, where bipartisanism was on the menu in the speechmaking and at the congressional lunch.

"Congratulations and God-speed," House Speaker John Boehner, a Republican, said to Obama and Vice President Joe Biden as he presented them with flags that had flown atop the Capitol.

Outside, the Inaugural Parade took shape, a reflection of American musicality and diversity that featured military units, bands, floats, the Chinese American Community Center Folk Dance Troupe from Hockessin, Del., and the Isiserettes Drill & Drum Corps from Des Moines, Iowa.

The crowds were several rows deep along parts of the route, and security was intense. More than a dozen vehicles flanked the president's limousine as it rolled down Pennsylvania Avenue, and several agents walked alongside on foot.

As recent predecessors have, the president emerged from his car and

walked several blocks on foot. His wife, Michelle, was with him, and the two held hands while acknowledging the cheers from well-wishers during two separate strolls along the route.

Obama addressed cheering crowds at the Commander in Chief Ball, speaking by video to thank a group of troops in southern Afghanistan. Then he introduced his "date," Michelle Obama, who danced with her husband in a ruby chiffon and velvet gown while Jennifer Hudson sang "Let's Stay Together."

In his brief, 18-minute speech, Obama did not dwell on the most pressing challenges of the past four years. He barely mentioned the struggle to reduce the federal deficit, a fight that has occupied much of his and Congress' time and promises the same in months to come.

He spoke up for the poor — "Our country cannot succeed when a shrinking few do very well and a growing many barely make it" — and for those on the next-higher

rung — "We believe that America's prosperity must rest upon the broad shoulders of a rising middle class." The second reference echoed his calls from the presidential campaign that catapulted him to re-election

"A decade of war is now ending. An economic recovery has begun," said the president who presided over the end to the U.S. combat role in Iraq, set a timetable for doing the same in Afghanistan and took office when the worst recession in decades was still deepening.

"We will support democracy from Asia to Africa, from the Americas to the Middle East, because our interests and our conscience compel us to act on behalf of those who long for freedom," he said in a relatively brief reference to foreign policy.

The former community organizer made it clear he views government as an engine of progress. While that was far from surprising for a Democrat, his emphasis on the need to combat global climate change was unexpected, as was his firm new declaration of support for full gay rights. In a job at climate-change

doubters, he said, "Some may still deny the overwhelming judgment of science, but none can avoid the devastating impact of raging fires and crippling drought and more powerful storms." He said America must lead in the transition to sustainable energy resources.

He likened the struggle for gay rights to earlier crusades for women's suffrage and racial equality. "Our journey is not complete until our gay brothers and sisters are treated like anyone else under the

law — for if we are truly created equal, then surely the love we commit to one another must be equal as well," said the president, who waited until his campaign for re-election last year to announce his support for gay marriage.

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Saturday, January 26
Bourbon Brothers
Saturday, February 2
Happy Endings

System

From Page 1

will be used to communicate both emergency and outreach messages, Bietz said. The notifications will be sent out on either a district-wide or school-specific basis, and subscribers can select which messages they want to receive, he said.

Emergency messages will notify subscribers of urgent matters, such as announcements related to weather or school safety.

"While this was already in the works before it happened, (last month's) school shooting in Connecticut has really brought to light the need for effective and efficient communications," Bietz said. "We've been studying and making sure that we're prepared. I hope we never have such a situation here in Yankton, but if we do, we're in a better position to be able to respond and react to it."

Outreach messages will be used for event reminders, newsletters, notifications of upcoming deadlines and similar information. The system is also capable of notifying parents when their children are absent from school.

"We want to do a better job of communicating news that's going on inside our schools, making sure that everybody that needs to know gets that information," Bietz said.

Connect 5 will replace the school district's current messaging system, which YSD began using in 2009 when it overhauled its website. That system has been able to send out many of the same types of messages, Bietz said, but there have been limitations based on what cell phone providers subscribers have used.

YSD Superintendent Joe Gertsema said that in some cases, notifications have been delayed by as much as an hour.

"Our office was getting criticism saying, 'I didn't get this message until an hour later. Why wasn't the system working?' Well, the system was working," he said. "The carriers, for whatever reason, didn't get it out quickly."

Knowing it needed to find a solution, YSD looked into several other communication systems, Bietz said.

"That's when we came across Connect 5, which was already in place in Sioux Falls," he said. "That was one of the big selling points for us. If it can work in that large of an environment with that many schools, surely we can make it work in Yankton."

Bietz added that the new system should also help YSD save money, as the school district will be able to send out many documents electronically that previously had to be printed and mailed.

"It's a good fit for us," he said. To sign up to receive YSD notifications through Connect 5, visit the YSD website at www.ytd.sd.us and click on either the email, text messaging or phone icon under "Communications." The next page will provide a link to the Connect 5 portal/sign-up page.

While parents are automatically enrolled in the service and will receive notifications from the district and their child's school, they also can sign up manually to request additional messages.

Connect 5 is a free service. Standard text messaging rates may apply.

You can follow Derek Bartos on [Twitter.com/d_bartos](https://twitter.com/d_bartos)

1st Annual

Tabor Firemen's BINGO NIGHT

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Social Hour 5:30 • Dinner Theatre 6:30

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