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Court To Rule On Marriage Bans

Gay Marriage: High Court Sets Stage For Historic Ruling

BY MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Setting the stage for a potentially historic ruling, the Supreme Court announced Friday it will decide whether same-sex couples have a right to marry everywhere in America under the Constitution.

The justices will take up gay-rights cases that ask them to overturn bans in four states and declare for the entire nation that people can marry the partners of their choice, regardless of gender. The cases will be argued in April, and a decision is expected by late June.

Proponents of same-sex marriage said they expect the court to settle the matter once and for all with a decision that invalidates state provisions that define marriage as

between a man and a woman.

"We are now that much closer to being fully recognized as a family, and we are thrilled," said April DeBoer, a hospital nurse from Hazel Park, Michigan, after the justices said they would hear an appeal from DeBoer and partner Jayne Rowse. "This opportunity for our case to be heard by the Supreme Court gives us and families like ours so much reason to be hopeful."

Attorney General Eric Holder said the Obama administration would urge the court "to make marriage equality a reality for all Americans."

On the other side, advocates for traditional marriage want the court to let the political process play out, rather than have judges order states

BANS | PAGE 14

Sacred Heart Security



Sacred Heart Middle School eighth grader Maddie Hochstein demonstrates the keypad entry device that is now part of the security systems recently installed at both the Sacred Heart middle and elementary schools.

KELLY HERTZ/P&D

SHS Keys In On Safety

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
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Thanks to a grant of more than \$8,000, Sacred Heart Schools in Yankton have been able to update what were already secure facilities into very, very secure facilities, according to SHS Middle School principal Dr. Tim Mulhair. "The new security features at our schools allow us to lock the one door that had remained unlocked throughout the school day in the past," Mulhair said. "With the grant, we were able to install a buzzer system, which requires people to buzz to be allowed in. In the office, we have an extra phone and a (video) screen that allows either myself

or the office administrator to see who is trying to enter the school."

The update was made possible because of a grant through Homeland Security, administered by the state of South Dakota with the assistance of local emergency management.

Mulhair noted it is a grant the school was not eligible for prior to having a principal at both locations.

"The process was pretty quick," Mulhair said. "We wrote the grant 3-4 weeks before we were notified that we would receive the funds. We were able to install the sys-

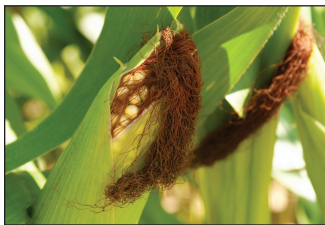
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Sports



Yankton Bucks Beat Pierre On Last-Second Shot
PAGE 7

Neighbors



The List Of Uses Of Corn Is Long And Important
PAGE 4

Less Snow Means Less Snow Removal



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CITY OF YANKTON
Due to fewer large snowfall events, the city of Yankton has incurred far less costs on its snow removal budget.

BY ROB NIELSEN
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Yankton unofficially saw around 30 inches of snowfall during the winter of 2013-2014. However, as a result of the snow piling up in minimal amounts at a time, the city managed to save a large portion of its regular snow removal budget.

Yankton Public Services director Kevin Kuhl said it's been quite some time since the

city's plow services have had to mobilize for a major snow event.

"We had a number of events that required us to go out and plow, but really it's been two years since we've had a snow emergency that involved a depth that really takes a toll on the equipment and hurts the streets as well," Kuhl said. "We've been really fortunate to have an open winter the last two (seasons) and so far this year."

According to the city budget office, the budget for snow removal in the 2014 fiscal year was \$146,860, of which, \$78,945 was used on snow removal, for a savings of \$67,915.

Even more was saved in 2013 — Yankton City Finance Officer Al Viereck told the *Press & Dakotan* in February — when the city spent \$87,079,

SNOW | PAGE 13

Austin Honored As VFW Elementary Teacher Of The Year

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the last of three stories profiling area educators who recently won "Teacher of the Year" honors from the South Dakota VFW.

BY JORDYNNE HART
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BERESFORD — According to Beresford kindergarten teacher LeAnne Austin, teaching youth about patriotism at a young age is important.

"It is important for kids to learn about America and the patriotic songs when they

are young," Austin said. "In my class, we say the South Dakota flag pledge and the Pledge of Allegiance every day."

In recognition of her patriotism and achievements in the classroom, the South Dakota VFW has named Austin its elementary teacher of the year.

The VFW annually recognizes educators at the high school, middle school and elementary levels who teach citizenship, education topics and promote America's history and traditions effectively.

AWARD | PAGE 15



JORDYNNE HART/P&D

Beresford kindergarten teacher LeAnne Austin was recognized for her achievements and patriotism by the South Dakota VFW by being named elementary teacher of the year. Pictured is Austin with her kindergarten class.

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