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WIN AGAINST MITCHELL • 7

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## ACLU Says Workers Can't Refuse Marriage Licenses

BY KEVIN BURBACH  
Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS — County officials have a duty to impartially administer the law and cannot choose to opt out of issuing licenses to same-sex couples if they have religious objections, the American Civil Liberties Union said Wednesday in a letter to the state attorney general.

In the letter sent to Attorney General Marty Jackley, the ACLU of South Dakota takes issue with comments he made in a July 2 interview with The Associated Press. The attorney general said it would be a "common-sense solution" for a county employee with religious objections to have someone else issue a license.

"We recognize that religious liberty is a fundamental American value protected by the First Amendment," the ACLU wrote, "but that liberty has never meant that government officials can rely on their personal religious beliefs to discriminate against citizens seeking vital government services."

Jackley made the comments last week while discussing the impacts the ruling from the U.S. Supreme Court could have on religious liberties. Along with 14 other attorneys general, Jackley sent a letter to congressional leaders urging them to protect religious freedoms in light of the ruling.

Jackley said one county employee had asked him hypothetically what would happen if a public employee was morally opposed to issuing a marriage license to a same-sex couple. He said Wednesday the issue has not yet come up in South Dakota and that his stance merely reflects "established law."

"It is disappointing that the ACLU has chosen to place certain constitutional rights ahead of other constitutional rights," Jackley said Wednesday. "As South Dakota's attorney general, I do not have the luxury of ignoring the law requiring constitutional rights to coexist or ignoring the federal law requirements to make reasonable accommodations to protect the constitutional rights of all involved."

MARRIAGE | PAGE 2

# 'See Something, Say Something'

This flyer is used as part of the "See Something, Say Something" anti-terrorism program that has been introduced nationally. South Dakota recently joined the program.

## SD Join Anti-Terrorism Program

BY ALYSSA SOBOTKA  
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South Dakota's Homeland Security Office has joined a national anti-terrorism effort that encourages South Dakotans to report suspicious behavior to state officials.

That campaign, "If You See Something, Say Something," evolved from its original initiative implemented by the New York City Metropolitan Transportation Authority. The United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

adopted the campaign in 2010 aiming to provide materials and training to local and state officials in order to recognize behaviors of terrorism-related crime.

"(The program) aims to get the public's help because, frankly, law enforcement can't do it alone," Steve Pluta, director of South Dakota Homeland Security, told the *Press & Dakotan* in a phone interview.

After reviewing and researching the national campaign, South Dakota's Homeland Security Office decided the initiative was needed in the state.

"After talking with the public, there was that attitude that 'it can't happen here,'"

Pluta said. "To get beyond the statement: 'This is South Dakota, nothing bad ever happens here,' we want to get people involved."

Pluta also described the need for a nationwide collaboration mindful of citizen safety due to the increasing global threats.

"If you take a look at what is going on in social media with the radicalization through ISIS recruiters and so forth, people don't have to do face-to-face meetings anymore to have bad ideas planted in their minds and go out and do nefarious things," he said.

Pluta said that individuals have differing

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### Coming Up

## Kayak Event Follows Different Trail

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
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This weekend, a group of explorers is hitting a different kind of trail.

Kayakers and canoeists will travel the Missouri National Recreation River — the newest national water trail — on Saturday for the second annual Fort to Field 50 Paddle Battle. The event takes its name from its route, starting at Fort Randall Dam near Pickstown and ending at the Springfield marina.

This year's competitive race has already drawn participants from across the nation, according to organizer Jarrett Bies with South Dakota's Best River Races LLC.

"We have about 80 signed up right now, coming from as far away as Maryland, Colorado and even Maine. We have a lot of South Dakota and Nebraska paddlers, too," he said.

"It's a good mix of new faces and returning folks, so we're glad about that. I'd love to have more, but summers are



Kayakers and canoeists paddle their way down the Missouri River during last year's inaugural "Fort to Field 50 Paddle Battle." The second annual event will again hit the river Saturday, starting at Fort Randall Dam near Pickstown and ending at the Springfield marina.

PHOTO: BRIAN WELLS

busy and we're really happy to race with those who are coming."

Saturday's event starts at 7 a.m. and allows racers 15 hours to complete the course and its three checkpoints. The race will start with a bang — or more

accurately, a boom.

"We have a friend of the event who owns a cannon that is close to period

KAYAKING | PAGE 11

## Tech Disruptions Plague United, NYSE, WSJ Wednesday

NEW YORK (AP) — It was a rough day for tech: The nation's biggest airline, its oldest stock exchange, and its most prominent business newspaper all suffered technology problems that upended service for parts of the day.

Government officials said that it did not appear that the incidents were related, or the result of sabotage, counter to an endless stream of jokes and conspiracy theories posted on Facebook and Twitter — and even the suspicions of FBI director James Comey.

"In my business, you don't love coincidences," Comey told Congress Wednesday. "But it does appear that there is not a cyber intrusion involved."

First a "router issue" at United Airlines suspended all of the company's flights for nearly two hours, leading to 800 flight delays and 60 cancellations. Then at 11:32 a "technical problem" at the New York Stock Exchange halted trading. In the midst of that, the *Wall Street Journal's* website, WSJ.com, had "technical difficulties" that sent readers to a temporary site while the paper worked to fix the problem.

"The problem is humans can't keep up with all the technology they have created," said Avivah Litan, an analyst at Gartner. "It's becoming unmanageable by the human brain. Our best hope may be that computers eventually will become smart enough to maintain themselves."

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