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The State's Response

Jackley: 'Common Sense' Approach Working
In Dealing With SameiSex marriage Conflicts

BY ALYSSA SOBOTKA
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Three weeks since the Supreme Court ruling mandating licensing and recognition of same-sex marriages, South Dakota has been complying with the new law, but not without questions from officials and misunderstandings from the general public.

"Based upon the Supreme Court's decision, the state is both issuing and recognizing same-sex marriages," South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley told the Press & Dakotan in a phone interview. "We have received several inquiries from elected and local county officials and other



Jackley

state agencies regarding the Supreme Court's decision."

Initially, the inquiry that the Attorney General's office received came about immediately following the news had been released of the Supreme Court's decision on June 26. South Dakota officials questioned how quickly they should begin administering same-sex licenses, and Jackley responded by sending his order via a press release, indicating action should be taken effective immediately.



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Former Vietnam War POW Returns To SE Asia
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TransCanada Gets Some Records Ousted From Pipeline Permit Case

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — State regulators ruled out some of the documents, photographs and video Friday that opponents wanted to use in the hearing later this month on TransCanada's plan to build its Keystone XL oil pipeline through South Dakota.

Bill Taylor, a Sioux Falls lawyer representing TransCanada, wanted the state Public Utilities Commission to reject more than 1,000 sets of documents that Dakota Rural Action submitted last week as possible evidence.

The commission voted 3-0 Friday to reject dozens of the documents but allowed most of Dakota Rural Action's possible evidence to remain available.

Most of the documents originated from TransCanada through Dakota Rural Action's requests to the company in the discovery process.

Taylor argued that July 9 was the first time Dakota Rural Action revealed the documents its lawyers might use. The hearing opens July 27.

"It's palpably unfair," Taylor said. Dakota Rural Action lawyer Robin Martinez of Kansas City, Missouri said the commission had compressed the timetable for discovery in the case into approximately six months.

He said a case of this size normally would have one to two years to complete the discovery process. He also noted Dakota Rural Action had to file with the commission a request to compel TransCanada to produce information.

"I see no way on Earth (that) TransCanada is prejudiced in any way by our document production," Martinez said.

Martinez argued that TransCanada is trying to keep documents from becoming part of the public record. The commission agreed with TransCanada to limit some of Dakota Rural Action's evidence.

Commissioner Gary Hanson said he wanted to avoid "a trial by avalanche."

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Farm Family Of The Year



COURTESY PHOTO

Jeff and Jolene Steffen and their children Jenna and Cole have been named the Farm Family of the Year by the Yankton Chamber of Commerce's Agri-Business Committee. The Steffens, who have farmed southeast of Crofton since 1984, were honored with the Farm Family of the Year award at the Chamber's annual Ag Gala.

Steffens Honored At Recent Ag Gala

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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For Jeff and Jolene Steffen, their farm is more than a way to make a living – it's about preserving a way of life.

For them, farming calls for wise conservation measures. They believe in farming sustainably for future generations, including for their children Jenna and Cole.

That sense of stewardship stands out as a strong characteristic for the Steffens, named the Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce's "Farm Family of the Year." They were honored at the recent 10th annual Ag Gala sponsored by the Chamber's Agri-Business Committee.

The Steffens noted the large number of deserving farm families for the award and admitted they were stunned when they learned of their selection.

"It was a huge shock, for one thing," Jolene said. "Jeff's first reac-

tion was, 'Why us?'"

In that regard, the Steffens bring many attributes to the table, said Agri-Business Committee member Justin Wagner of First National Bank in Yankton.

"Our ideal candidate has a well-established farming operation with a proven track record of community service, family involvement and dedication to the advancement/promotion of agriculture not only here in Yankton but the surrounding area as well," he said.

"The Steffen family met all of these requirements ... and in our minds were well deserving of this award."

The Farm Family of the Year award wasn't the Steffen family's only honor at the Ag Gala. Cole received a PAY (Promoting Agricultural Youth) scholarship. The Agri-Business Committee awarded eight scholarships, each for \$3,000.

Cole Steffen won his PAY scholarship because of his pursuit of drone technology in the field of agriculture, Wagner said. Cole

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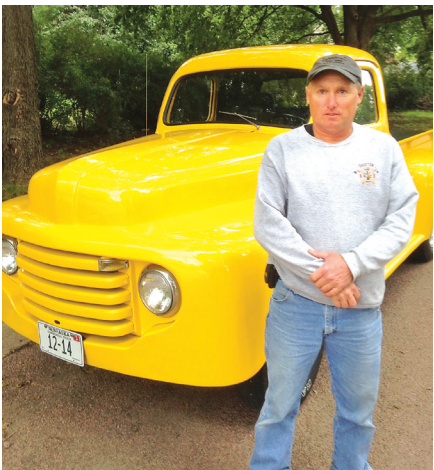


PHOTO: RANDY TRAMP

Dale Tramp of Crofton is shown with his 1949 Ford pickup truck. Tramp has a love of rebuilding old vehicles

A Love Of Old Cars Leads To An Entertaining Journey

BY RANDY TRAMP
P&D Correspondent

CROFTON, Neb. — For a Crofton man, nothing gets old about an old car.

Dale Tramp enjoys old vehicles and housed in his garage is a 1938 Chevy sedan and a 1949 Ford pickup. Once a week during the summer months, he will even drive his 1949 pickup to work.

Tramp recalls how he obtained the pickup. He was in Pukwana taking down a windmill. From his view high above the ground, he could see the top of a vehicle in a grove of trees. After finishing his job, he talked to

the farmer about selling the truck, but they couldn't agree on a price.

Tramp waited a year and called the farmer back. This time, the owner was willing to sell. But getting it out was going to be a challenge.

"A 15-foot tree was growing in the back of the pickup," Tramp said.

The tree had to be cut down before the vehicle could be removed. The truck was then loaded on a trailer and his prize was taken home.

The Ford pickup was considered a "basket

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