

"No union is more profound than marriage, for it embodies the highest ideals of love, fidelity, devotion, sacrifice, and family. In forming a marital union, two people become something greater than once they were. As some of the petitioners in these cases demonstrate, marriage embodies a love that may endure even past death. It would misunderstand these men and women to say they disrespect the idea of marriage. Their plea is that they do respect it, respect it so deeply that they seek to find its fulfillment for themselves. Their hope is not to be condemned to live in loneliness, excluded from one of civilization's oldest institutions. They ask for equal dignity in the eyes of the law. The Constitution grants them that right.

The judgment of the Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit is reversed.

It is so ordered."

Supreme Court declares same-sex marriage a right

MARK SHERMAN / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Same-sex couples won the right to marry nationwide Friday as a divided Supreme Court handed a crowning victory to the gay rights movement, setting off a jubilant cascade of long-delayed weddings in states where they had been forbidden.

"No longer may this liberty be denied," said Justice Anthony Kennedy.

The vote was narrow — 5-4 — but Kennedy's majority opinion was clear and firm: "The court now holds that same-sex couples may exercise the fundamental right to marry."

The ruling will put an end to same-sex marriage bans in the 14 states that still maintain them, and provide an exclamation point for breathtaking changes in the nation's social norms in recent years. As recently as last October, just over one-third of the states permitted gay marriages.

Kennedy's reading of the ruling elicited tears in the courtroom, euphoria outside and the immediate issuance of marriage licenses to same-sex couples in at least eight states. In Dallas, Kenneth Denson said he and Gabriel Mendez had been legally married in 2013 in California but "we're Texans; we want to get married in Texas."

In praise of the decision, President Barack Obama called it "justice that arrives like a thunderbolt."

Four of the court's justices weren't cheering. The dissenters accused their colleagues of usurping power that belongs to the states and to voters, and short-circuiting a national debate about same-sex marriage.

"This court is not a legislature. Whether same-sex marriage is a good idea should be of no concern to us," Chief Justice John Roberts wrote in dissent. Roberts read a summary of his dissent from the bench, the first time he has done so in nearly 10 years as chief justice.

Please see **MARRIAGE**, Page A3

INSIDE

SOUNDING OFF: Central Illinois residents react. **Page A11**

MARRIAGES BEGIN: Same-sex couples exchange vows on historic day. **Page A11**

pjstar.com

More on the ruling, including reaction from social media.

ABOVE: Carlos McKnight waves a flag in support of gay marriage outside the Supreme Court on Friday. (AP)

New members to shift dynamic of District 150 board

Adler, Jackson offer their views of future for district

BY PAM ADAMS
OF THE JOURNAL STAR

PEORIA — Two members left Peoria School District 150 Board of Education last week. When the new fiscal year begins next week on July 1, two new board members take their place.

The change signals a shift in the dynamics of a fairly cohesive board that weathered the backlash of its support for Superintendent Grenita Lathan and the controversial testing investigation of Charter Oak Primary School.

Edited excerpts of interviews show sharp contrasts between the old and new board members of the Third District, an area roughly north of Forrest Hill



DAN ADLER



ERNESTINE JACKSON

SAYING GOODBYE: Two outgoing District 150 board members offer reflection, advice. **Page A8**

Avenue. But all four say they want the best for District 150.



Dan Adler and Ernestine Jackson are about to go from change-minded outsiders to insiders on Peoria School District 150 Board of Education.

Please see **D150**, Page A8

OBAMA REMEMBERS SOUTH CAROLINA VICTIMS WITH EULOGY, SONG

President ends remarks by leading crowd in 'Amazing Grace'

BY JULIE PACE
OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLESTON, S.C. — After a string of triumphs, President Barack Obama's eulogy for those killed in a South Carolina church massacre was supposed to bring an extraordinary week to a somber close.

But something changed. Between legislative and legal victories, Obama had spent hours privately grappling with the tragedy in this southern city, where nine people attending Bible study were killed in a racially motivated attack. Their deaths sparked vexing questions about racial divisions, gun violence and the way America grapples with its own difficult history.

At first, the president had

planned to largely focus his remarks on remembering Rev. Clementa Pinckney, the slain pastor of Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, and the eight other victims.

But that's not what happened. Maybe Obama was buoyed by a week that brought about the validation of his sweeping health care law, a win on trade and the Supreme Court's affirmation of gay marriage across the country. Maybe he was driven by the fearlessness he says he now feels as he heads down the final stretch of his presidency.

As Obama took the stage to address the crowd of more than 5,500 packed into a basketball arena, he did speak movingly about Pinckney, a state lawmaker and popular pastor. Then the president issued a

Please see **OBAMA**, Page A8

Flooding forces changes to Red, White and Boom

Ongoing flooding on the Illinois River has led to a slight change in the annual Red, White and Boom fireworks show next weekend. **B1**

TODAY SUN MON

77°/59° 78°/65° 81°/65°

SEE FORECAST, PAGE B8

Advice	D4	Lottery	A2
Business	B7	Obituaries	B4-6
Classified	E1	Opinion	A4
Crosswords	D4, E2	Sports	C1
Comics	D3	Today	B8



6 54873 22222 1

TO SUBSCRIBE CALL
686-3161

Vol. 159, No. 215, 72 Pages
Copyright 2015
The Peoria Journal Star Inc.,
Peoria, Illinois

BMW of Peoria



The Ultimate Driving Machine®

bmwofpeoria.com

BMW of Peoria

1720 W. Pioneer Pkwy | 309.692.4840

BMWofPeoria.com

Special Lease and Finance offer available by BMW of Peoria through BMW Financial Services. See BMW of Peoria for details.. Company service vehicles. See sales for details.

BMW of Peoria Summer Sales Event

2015 BMW X1 xDrive28i

Now \$29,995
Original MSRP \$37,370



#VY26945
Sunroof, heated seats.

2015 BMW X3 xDrive28i

Now \$37,895
Original MSRP \$45,500



#OD51146
Premium Pkg, Cold Weather Pkg, Power Liftgate, Leather, Moonroof.

2015 BMW 528i xDrive

Now \$49,997
Original MSRP \$56,550



#D620674
Alpine White, Navigation, Leather, Moonroof, Premium Pkg, Cold Weather Pkg, Drivers Assistance Pkg.