

# Soon-to-open historic site tells story of civil rights struggle

TOPEKA (AP) — Film of jeering crowds and menacing dogs will surround visitors at an exhibit designed to reproduce the experience of black youngsters who integrated American schools.

The exhibit is one of the most emotional at the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site, located at the former school of the

daughter of the lead plaintiff in the landmark case.

The approximately \$11.3 million site opens Monday — the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that overturned segregated education and sparked a firestorm of conflict across the South. Dignitaries from across the country are expected to attend.

“We already acknowledge that a lot of people who visit here, when they leave, some people won’t be happy,” said LaTonya Miller, a spokeswoman and education director for the site.

“But they will on the other hand be glad that the story is being told, she said.”

On Saturday, about two dozen

members of white supremacist and white power groups rallied near the site. The demonstration was cut short when about 100 counter-protesters moved in.

The story began in 1951 when several black families in Topeka tried to enroll their children in white schools near their homes and their requests were denied. Thirteen

black families became plaintiffs in a case filed in federal district court in Topeka.

The Rev. Oliver Brown, the father of 9-year-old Linda Brown, was the lead plaintiff.

The site at the former Monroe School also will tell the stories of school desegregation cases from Virginia, South Carolina and Dela-

ware that were also appealed to the Supreme Court and decided collectively as Brown. A similar segregation case in Washington, D.C., was decided at the same time in a separate ruling.

Additional space at the center has been devoted to teaching visitors about the civil rights movement before and after the ruling.

# Massachusetts grants same-sex marriage; mayor greets couple

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) — Gay couples began exchanging vows here Monday, marking the first time a state has granted gays and lesbians the right to marry and making the United States one of four countries where homosexuals can legally wed.

Tanya McCloskey, 52 and Marcia Kadish, 56, of Malden, went at a breakneck pace to fill out paperwork, get a waiver from the usual three-day waiting period, then return to city hall.

At 9:15 a.m., Cambridge City Clerk Margaret Drury told the couple: “I now pronounce you married under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.”

It was among the first same-sex weddings anticipated to take place throughout the state on Monday, the day that under a court order same-sex couples could wed.

“It was really important to us to just be married. We want to be married as soon as we possibly can. Part of it is, we don’t know what the Legislature is going to do,” McCloskey said.

In neighboring Boston, the lead plaintiffs in the lawsuit that led to the landmark ruling — Hillary and Julie Goodridge — began the process of getting a marriage license so they could be married later in the day.

It was three years ago that they were turned away from Boston City Hall when they sought a marriage license. This time, Mayor Thomas Menino greeted them personally.

“Once again, we’ve broken down a barrier in the city of Boston and the state of Massachusetts,” Menino said. “That’s what it’s all about.”

The moves came against the backdrop of scattered protests but

a largely festive party atmosphere.

“I’m proud of this state,” said John Meuneir, 43, of Boston, who arrived at City Hall in Boston with his partner, Jim Flanagan, 42, more than two hours before the scheduled 8 a.m. opening.

In Cambridge, more than 260 couples filled out application forms for marriage licenses in the wee hours. A throng that police estimated was more than 5,000 people converged on city hall, including some heterosexuals there to witness history in the making.

Massachusetts was thrust into the center of a nationwide debate on gay marriage when the state’s Supreme Judicial Court issued its narrow 4-3 ruling in November that gays and lesbians had a right under the state constitution to wed.

In the days leading up to Monday’s deadline for same-sex weddings to begin, opponents looked to the federal courts for help in overturning the Supreme Judicial Court’s ruling. On Friday, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to intervene.

The SJC’s ruling touched off a frenzy of gay-marriages across the country earlier this year, emboldening officials in San Francisco, upstate New York, and Portland, Ore., to issue marriage licenses as acts of civil disobedience. Even though courts ordered a halt to the wedding march, opponents pushed for a federal constitutional ban on gay marriage, which President Bush has endorsed.

The SJC’s ruling also galvanized opponents of gay marriage in Massachusetts, prompting lawmakers in this heavily Democratic, Roman Catholic state to adopt a state constitutional amendment that would

ban same-sex marriage but legalize Vermont-style civil unions. The earliest it could wind up on the ballot is 2006. Massachusetts joins the Netherlands, Belgium and Canada’s three most populous provinces as the only places in the world where gays can marry. The rest of Canada is expected to follow soon.

The city of Cambridge, a liberal bastion that is home to Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, opened its doors to couples at midnight, and remained open until about 4:30 a.m. to accommodate the people who flocked there to make history.

The first couple to receive marriage paperwork was Marcia Hams, 56, and her partner, Susan Shepherd, 52, of Cambridge. After 27 years together, they sat at a table across from a city official shortly after midnight, filling out forms as their adult son looked on.

“I feel really overwhelmed,” Hams said as they left the clerk’s office and walked through a throng of reporters. “I could collapse at this point.”

About 15 protesters, most from Topeka, Kan.-based Westboro Baptist Church, stood near City Hall carrying signs with anti-gay slogans. The group, led by the Rev. Fred Phelps Sr., travels around the country protesting homosexuality.

Ray McNulty, a spokesman for the Massachusetts Family Institute, one of the leading organizers of opposition to same-sex marriage, criticized some of the protesters, saying there was no need for hateful speech.

“What’s going on down there is legal, and as far as I’m concerned, give those people their happiness for the day,” McNulty said.

## Business News

### Banker moves from St. Francis to Colby branch

Shannon Wells, recently transferred to the First National Bank in Colby from its St. Francis office, said Gennifer G. House, marketing director in Goodland.

Wells is a 1996 graduate of Atwood High School and a graduate of Colby Community College with an associate of arts degree in 1998.

## Court limits power of bounty hunters

LAWRENCE (AP) — A Kansas Supreme Court ruling in a case involving a Lawrence bail bondsman will help clear up a cloudy area of state law, prosecutors say, although one bondsman said it only reinforces what responsible people in the industry already know.

“This is a major step toward putting some logical restrictions on the power of these bounty hunters,” said Douglas County District Attorney Christine Kenney.

The court ruled Friday that bail bondsmen can’t enter private homes without being absolutely certain the person they’re looking for is inside.

“That’s the understanding we all have in the industry,” said Sam Fields, owner of AJ’s and Applejacks bonding companies in Lawrence.

“I don’t think we need to the Supreme Court to know that.”

The court upheld misdemeanor trespass and assault convictions of bail bondsman Charles Burhans. He was charged in Douglas County for an April 24, 2002, confrontation in which he tried to enter the Lawrence home of Jerome and Margaret Williams in search of Margaret Williams’ brother.

public in the Kansas House of Representatives at the Kansas Optometric Association Convention in Topeka.

Drs. Mark Wahlmeier and Mason Wolf of Colby also attended. Optometrists were able to attend 13 hours of continuing education on the latest developments in eyecare for re-licensure.

There will be a public meeting at the Citizens Medical Center Cafeteria on Thursday, May 20th at 5:30 P.M. This meeting is to discuss the addition to Family Center for Health Care and the tax credit process. Anyone interested in participating is encouraged to call Tama Unger at (785) 460-1214.

### Colby Optometrist honored

Dr. James F. Morrison, Colby, was honored with the Legislative Service Award for his service to the

public in the Kansas House of Representatives at the Kansas Optometric Association Convention in Topeka.

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## Check each issue of the Free Press for additional TV Listings

## TV LISTINGS sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

### WEEKDAYS

### MAY 18 - MAY 24

	6 AM	6:30	7 AM	7:30	8 AM	8:30	9 AM	9:30	10 AM	10:30	11 AM	11:30
KLBV/ABC (4) (6)	News		Good Morning America				Mak-e-over	Mak-e-over	The View	Holly-wood	News	
KSNK/NBC (8) (9)	News Cont'd		Today						Live With Regis and Kelly	Martha Stewart Living		
KBSL/CBS (12) (11)	News			The Early Show			The 700 Club		The Price Is Right	The Young and the Restless		
K15CG (3)	World News	Priscilla-Yoga	Body Electric	Caillou	Boohbah	Barney-Friends	Dragon Tales	Lions	Sesame Street	Clifford-Red	Teletub-bies	
WGN (13)	Chang-ing	Believer Voice	Hillbil-lies	Hillbil-lies	Happy Days	Matlock			In the Heat of the Night	Rockford Files		
NICK (29)	Oddpar-ents	Rocket Power	Rugrats	Spon-geBob	Max & Ruby	Rubba-dubbers	Dora the Explorer	Blue's Clues	Dora the Explorer	Blue's Clues	Little Bill	Maggie-Beast
FAM (30)	Digimon-Digital	Bey-blade	Power Rangers	Digimon-Digital	Growing Pains	700 Club Special	Varied Programs		7th Heaven	Varied	Full House	
USA (31)	JAG		Nash Bridges	Movie			Varied Programs		Movie		Varied	
TBS (37)	Saved by Bell	Saved by Bell	Movie				Dawson's Creek		Dawson's Creek	Saved by Bell	Saved by Bell	
TNT (38)	The Lost World		The Pretender		Charmed		ER		ER		Judging Amy	
DSC (42)	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Assignment Discovery		Double Agents		Designer Guys	Designer Guys	Rally Round the House	
A&E (47)	Movie		Movie				Murder, She Wrote		Murder, She Wrote		City Confidential	
ESPN (49)	Sports-Center	Varied	Sports-Center	Varied	Sports-Center	Varied	Sports-Center	Varied	Sports-Center	Varied Programs		
HBO (7)	Movie		Varied Programs									
DISN (17)	JoJo's Circus	Stanley	The Wiggles	JoJo's Circus	The Wiggles	Stanley	Rolie Polie	Rolie Polie	Out of the Box	PB&J Otter	Koala Brothers	The Wiggles
MAX (21)	Movie Cont'd		Varied Programs		Movie		Varied Programs		Movie		Varied Programs	

### WEEKDAYS

### MAY 18 - MAY 24

	12 PM	12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30
KLBV/ABC (4) (6)	All My Children		One Life to Live		General Hospital		Dr. Phil		Judge Judy	Judge Judy	News	ABC Wid News
KSNK/NBC (8) (9)	News	Family Feud	Days of Our Lives		Passions		Inside Edition	Family Feud	Million-aire	Jeop-ardy!	News	NBC News
KBSL/CBS (12) (11)	News	Bold, Beautiful	As the World Turns		Guiding Light		The People's Court		Oprah Winfrey		News	CBS News
K15CG (3)	Reading Rainbow	Mister Rogers	Varied Programs		George Shrinks		Bears. Berns.	Liberty's Kids	Cyber-chase	Arthur	Zoom	Busi-ness
WGN (13)	News		In the Heat of the Night		Street Smarts	Street Smarts	Cosby Show	Cosby Show	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	Home Improve.	Will & Grace
NICK (29)	Max & Ruby	Dora the Explorer	Rugrats	Rugrats	Varied Programs		Spon-geBob	Amanda	U-Pick	Hey Arnold!		
FAM (30)	Family Matters	Family Matters	Step by Step	Step by Step	So Little Time	Full House	7th Heaven		Switched!	Knock First	Full House	Full House
USA (31)	JAG	Varied	Walker, Texas Ranger		Movie		Varied Programs		Walker, Texas Ranger		Walker, Texas Ranger	
TBS (37)	Cosby	Cosby Show	Cosby Show	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	Steve Harvey	Steve Harvey	Drew Carey	Drew Carey	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Seinfeld
TNT (38)	Law & Order		NYPD Blue		NYPD Blue		Judging Amy		Angel		Charmed	
DSC (42)	Surprise by Design	Surprise by Design			Rally Round the House		Double Agents		Varied Programs			
A&E (47)	American Justice		Movie				Murder, She Wrote		Murder, She Wrote		City Confidential	
ESPN (49)	Varied Programs								Around the Horn	Interrup-tion	SportsCenter	
HBO (7)	Movie Cont'd		Varied Programs								Movie	
DISN (17)	JoJo's Circus	Stanley	Winnie-Pooh	House of Mouse	House of Mouse	Recess	Lilo & Stitch	Recess	Kim Possible	Proud Family	Even Stevens	Sister, Sister
MAX (21)	Movie		Movie		Varied Programs		Movie				Movie	Varied

### TUESDAY

### MAY 18