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Herald Times Reporter

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ACLU says gay marriage ban has no 'legitimate purpose'

By Todd Richmond
Associated Press

MADISON — Wisconsin's gay marriage ban denies same-sex couples legal protections and serves no legitimate government purpose, the American Civil Liberties Union argued Monday in a brief asking a federal appeals court to preserve a ruling that struck down the prohibition.

The ACLU brought a lawsuit earlier this year on behalf of eight gay couples alleging the ban is unconstitutional. U.S. District Judge Barbara Crabb sided with the ACLU earlier this summer and ended the prohibition.



J.B. Van Hollen

State attorneys under the direction of Republican Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen have asked the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals to reverse Crabb's ruling. The court has consolidated the case with a similar appeal from Indiana state attorneys; oral arguments are set for Aug. 26 in Chicago.

"By withholding from them the respect, recognition, and support that only marriage confers, Wisconsin stigmatizes these couples and their families as unworthy of the opportunity to express and legally embody their commitment in the most profound way that society provides," ACLU attorneys wrote in their brief.

Wisconsin voters amended the state constitution in 2006 to ban gay marriage or anything substantially similar. Wisconsin offers a domestic registry — which the state Supreme Court upheld as valid last week — that affords same-sex couples who join it a host of legal protections but gay couples contend the rights are limited.

The ACLU filed its lawsuit challenging the ban in February. Crabb ruled in June that the ban deprives gay couples of their due process and equal protection rights. More than 500 same-sex couples married in Wisconsin in

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NEW FRIENDS FLOURISHING ACROSS STATE



Gina Strzyzewski, a student at Manitowoc Lutheran High School, left, paints Annie Vander Linden's face at one of the monthly New Friends meetings.

SUBMITTED

Fond du Lac, Kettle Moraine chapters invited to August fundraiser

By Kelly Meyerhofer
HTR Media

MANITOWOC — Two hours — the amount of time it takes to mow a lawn, bake a cake or change a life. The latter is what happens at New Friends, an organization that for two hours every month brings together individuals with intellectual and development disabilities (IDD) and high school students. Created almost four years ago, New Friends' purpose is as simple as its name: to make new friends.

"Parents will come up to me and say how much hanging out with their child for two hours changes their kid's life," said Caitlin Doro, a senior at Manitowoc Lutheran High School who began volunteering for the program as a freshman.

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Manitowoc Lutheran High School volunteer Amanda Diel pushes Taryn Benthein around the bases at a Miracle League game. The two joined the baseball league after establishing their friendship at New Friends. SUBMITTED

Grothman proud of conservative views

Candidate seeks 6th Congressional District seat

By Colleen Kottke
Gannett Wisconsin Media

He's been accused of being too outspoken and labeled as "way too conservative," claims that Sen. Glenn Grothman considers compliments.

"I've got common sense and if people that lack common sense want to say I'm way too conservative they can say that," the veteran state senator said. "If they say my views about welfare reform or government spending are too conservative, then I think they're out of touch with reality."

Grothman, 59, of Campbell sport, faces four Republican candidates — Tom Denow, state Sen. Joe Leibham and state Rep. Duey Stroebel — in the 6th Congressional District primary election on Aug. 12. The winner will face Democrat Mark Harris, the Winnebago County executive in the fall general election to replace Republican Tom Petri, who is retiring after 35 years in Congress.

Grothman moved from the 5th Congressional District represented by fellow Republican Jim Sensenbrenner to the 6th district in 2014



Glenn Grothman

Welfare reform

If elected, Grothman has vowed to make reforming government welfare programs a top priority, including limiting federal dollars for food stamps and eliminating tax credits for building low-income housing. While he's aware that his platform may be construed as an "attack on the poor," he says the reforms are critical.

"Tax credits for low-income housing benefit those that build those buildings. I think it's important for people to realize just how generous those tax credits are," Grothman said. "Tax credits for low-income housing right

now equals 90 percent. That's excessive."

Grothman says generous federal benefits such as tax credits for low-income housing, welfare programs and marriage penalties help to subsidize a certain kind of lifestyle.

"They're an inducement to raise children out of wedlock. There are many wonderful single parents out there, but it's more difficult to raise a child in a single-parent family and a lot of times children pay the price for that — lower educational attainment, more likely to have a criminal record and suffer from depression," Grothman said. "I'm hearing more and more stories from young people opting against marriage because

See GROTHMAN, Page A2

» Glenn Grothman
Biography
» Age: 59
Hometown: Campbell sport.
Education: Bachelor's degree in accounting (University of Wisconsin-Madison). ... Law degree (UW Law School).
Political experience: Elected to 58th Wisconsin Assembly seat in December 1993 special election; re-elected 1994-2002. ... Elected to Wisconsin Senate 2004 representing the 20th District; re-elected since 2008. ... Senate assistant majority leader 2013 and 2011, assistant minority leader 2009.



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WEATHER

Today's forecast



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LOW 55

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