**Gay-marriage ban tossed**

A federal judge rules that California's voter-passed law is unconstitutional, spawning both cheers and tears.

**By Lia Leff**

SAN FRANCISCO — A federal judge overturned California’s gay-marriage ban Wednesday in a landmark case that eventually could force the U.S. Supreme Court to confront the question of whether same-sex couples have a constitutional right to wed.

U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker touched off a celebration outside the courthouse. Gay couples waved rainbow flags and U.S. flags and cheered with cheers in the city that has long been a haven for gay rights.

Shelly Bailes held a sign reading “Look Save Different When You’re Married” as she embraced her wife, Ellen Pottick. People in the Castro neighborhood tasted champagne as word of the ruling was announced.

In New York City, about 100 people gathered outside a Lower Manhattan courthouse. They chanted signs saying “Our Lives Win” as organizers read portions of the ruling.

The ruling will have little immediate effect in Oregon, although proponents of gay marriage hailed it and opponents condemned it as an example of judicial activism.

Oregon has approved a state constitutional ban on gay marriage in 2004 in an effort to counteract a campaign by both sides. Tim Tiller directed the campaign.

**State to dispense $88 million in foreclosure prevention aid**

By Ilene Attrill and Susan Vranic McDonald

Oregon is receiving $88 million in federal money to help prevent foreclosures and expects to have four programs up and running by the end of the year. The programs will help homeowners who are struggling or who have already lost their homes.

Lara Jones, a spokeswoman for Oregon Housing and Community Service, Wednesday: “The bulk of the money will go to the 20 counties that have been most dramatically by the recession, state officials said. Those include Lane, Lane, Douglas and Coos counties.

Oregon was one of five states to receive money from the Fund for the Hardhit Homeowners Market in the latest round of funding, which was announced Wednesday. The four programs that have been designed for Oregon are designed to help people who are not currently in default, those who are, who are under or who have lost a significant amount of the recession, state officials said.

Those include Lane, Lane, Douglas and Coos counties.

**EUGENE ROAD WORK YIELDS INDIAN ARTIFACT**

A construction worker at a Eugene road excavation site on East 16th Avenue has found a flat, round stone amid the soil roadbed gravel that appears to be a Native American vegetable or food grinding stone.

The stone, 6 inches in diameter and probably 1,000 to 2,000 years old, is on display at the site.

The city’s construction standards require contractors to keep a lookout for possible artifacts, said hotel.

**IN THE NEWS**

**NATION**

The “stalemate” of the Gulf oil well is not working, leading to optimism that the spill is permanently stopped.

Searchers comb the area near a beachside state park north of Venice for missing mud oil field from Dehne.

**BUSINESS**

The University of Oregon’s economic index has declined for two straight months, adding to concerns about the region’s recovery.

A survey it was reported that 60% of the 60-year-old schoolteachers plan to play this season if he’s healthy.

**QUOTABLE**

“That’s the reaction we live to get from people. You’re seeing vehicles with this hand card out and they’re filling pictures of you.” — Mercer Marks, touring with her husband, Bill, in a 2014 Buick.

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