

LAW & JUSTICE

Court Expands Gun Rights

(AP) -- The Supreme Court held Monday that Americans have the right to own a gun for self-defense anywhere they live, expanding the conservative court's embrace of gun rights since John Roberts became Chief Justice.

By a 5-4 vote, the justices cast doubt on handgun bans in the Chicago area, but signaled that some limitations on the Constitution's "right to keep and bear arms" could survive legal challenges.

On its busy final day before a three-month recess, the court also ruled that a public law school can legally deny recognition to a Chris-

tian student group that won't let gays join, jumped into the nation's charged immigration debate by agreeing to review an employer sanctions law from Arizona.

In the guns case, Justice Samuel Alito said for the court that the Second Amendment right "applies equally to the federal government and the states."

Two years ago, the court declared that the Second Amendment protects an individual's right to possess guns, at least for purposes of self-defense in the home. That ruling applied only to federal laws.

Girlfriend Murdered

Police arrested a 35-year-old man accused of fatally stabbing his girlfriend at a home in the 600 block of North Alberta Street.

The Portland Police Bureau said

late Saturday that Miguel Camellon Montalvo was charged with murder and booked into the Multnomah County Jail. Friends of the 28-year-old Babb described her as a funny and friendly woman who loved to play rugby.

Road to Equality Exhibit



Abigail Scott Duniway votes in Portland for a 1914 election. Duniway worked for decades to help secure the vote for women in Oregon as well as in neighboring Washington and Idaho.

Clark County Historical Museum has opened its newest exhibit, Road to Equality: The Struggle for Women's Rights in the Northwest. In the works since the museum held focus groups with local women in April 2009, this new exhibit continues the recognition of the centennial of Washington State women gaining the right to vote in 1910.

From the victory of the 19th Amendment to the struggle to pass the Equal Rights Amendment, many women – and men as well – have worked their entire lives to secure women's rights.

Today, in the Northwest and across the United States, women have made inroads into formerly male-dominated fields, but it has been a long road and large disparities still remain. This exhibit, which runs through Dec. 31, challenges as well as entertains as you learn more about some of the Northwest's heroines and heroes from pioneer times until today.

The Clark County Historical Museum is located at 1511 Main St. in Vancouver. For more information, call 360-993-5679 or visit cchmuseum.org.

No Secrecy on Petitions

(AP) -- People who sign petitions calling for public votes on controversial subjects don't have an automatic right to hide their names, the Supreme Court ruled Thursday as it sided against Washington state voters worried about harassment because of their desire to repeal that state's gay rights law.

The high court ruled against Protect Marriage Washington, which organized a petition drive for a public vote to repeal the state's "everything-but-marriage" gay rights law.

Petition signers wanted to hide their names because of worries of intimidation. But the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco refused to keep their names secret. The Supreme Court stepped in and temporarily blocked release of the names until the high court could make a decision.

The court now says disclosing names on a petition for a public referendum does not chill the signer's freedom of speech enough to warrant overturning the state's disclosure law.

Chief Justice John Roberts, writing the 8-1 judgment for the court, said it is vitally important that states

Justice Clarence Thomas dissented from the court's opinion.

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