Kim Davis helps Ariz.’s war on gays

For too long, the Southwestern state has been run by an assortment of conservative lawmakers and judges who have worked to suppress gays and lesbians. Now theDll is being led by Kim Davis, a former Democratic county clerk who was elected as a Republican to serve in a role that is supposed to be non-partisan.

Davis is maintaining the position that she would not issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. This is a clearly a violation of the Supreme Court’s decision in Obergefell v. Hodges, which legalized same-sex marriage nationwide.

Davis’ actions have sparked a national controversy, with many calling for her resignation and others applauding her defiance. The Supreme Court has yet to decide whether her actions violate federal law.

In the meantime, Davis has been supported by many in the right-wing movement, who see her as a champion of traditional values. But others, including some in the legal community, see her actions as a violation of the law.

The situation in Arizona is a sad reminder of the ongoing struggle for equality and acceptance. It is a tragedy that a state as progressive as Arizona can still be held back by such actions.

It is clear that Davis’ actions are not just a local issue, but a national one. The next few weeks will be crucial in determining the future of same-sex marriage in the United States.
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The Sept. 11 anniversary reminds us that this country has not yet recovered from the attack that forever changed our world. The events of that day shocked and roused us to take a long, sobering look at who we are, and what we must do as a nation to secure our future. It is a reminder of our vulnerability and the need to be ever vigilant. It is a reminder of the sacrifice and courage of those who lost their lives on that day.

The University of Arizona's Old Main was recognized at the oldest LEED certified building in Arizona and a model for sustainable historic preservation. Opened in 1915, Old Main was built with wood, stone and brick, and is a key architectural landmark of the University of Arizona campus. Restoration brought the exterior and appearance of the building back to its original grandeur in a project that places the functionality of a 21st century university into a 19th century shell, like a ship in a bottle.

Innovators at Northern Arizona University, a year after installing the first rooftop solar array in the state, are blazing trails on several fronts, including solar energy, water management, forest health and green building.

The Arizona Trail is a striking collaborative approach to focusing long-term environmental sustainability throughout the state. This breathtaking project spotlights Arizona's amazing biodiversity and healthy ecosystems, encouraging everyone to enjoy the romance of nature. The work of a few people inspired by the concept and educated by necessity to establish an 800-mile sustainable pathway from Mexico to Utah. Today, the Arizona Trail links deserts, mountains, canyons, forests, communities and people in a collaborative effort in perpetuity by an Act of Congress.

Success is the antidote to our Malone's malaise

That balances economic prosperity and sustainability in individual communities across our state, look to programs recognized in Arizona. The Arizona 35th annual Environmental Excellence Awards, held in Phoenix yesterday. Opened to Arizona residents for the first time ever, more than 420 nominations were received representing 35 municipalities, 86 which were outside of Maricopa County where the program has historically concentrated.

The honors received went to the City of the Phoenix-based company that connects more than 60,000 households with efficiencies, clean and comfortable tradit. Continued from Page 5F

Our state is facing a growing crisis in water management. Despite our efforts to manage the largest forest health project ever undertaken in the U.S., the Arizona Forest Restoration Initiative must serve restored forest ecosystems on preserves of Four National Forests along the Mogollon Rim, supporting native species and regulation, functioning populations of native plants and animals, and helping to fight against destructive wildfires. While not without challenges, the initiative presents a host of opportunities to create a new generation of environmental significance.

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