

Law Could Provide Biggest Abortion Test

WASHINGTON (AP) — Abortion is back before the Supreme Court, and the justices could signal by the end of June whether they are likely to take up the biggest case on the hot-button subject in nearly a quarter-century.

If the court steps in, the hearing and the eventual ruling would come amid the 2016 presidential campaign.

The court is considering an emergency appeal from abortion providers in Texas, who want the justices to block two provisions of a state law that already has forced the closure of roughly half the licensed abortion clinics in the state. Ten of the remaining 19 clinics will have to shut their doors by July 1, without an order from the Supreme Court.

The Texas law is among a wave of state measures in recent years that have placed restrictions on when in a pregnancy abortions may be performed, imposed limits on abortions using drugs instead of surgery and increased standards for clinics and the doctors who work in them.

The Texas case involves the last of these categories. The provisions at issue require clinics to meet hospital-like surgical standards and also call on doctors who work in the clinics to have admitting privileges at a nearby hospital. Republican presidential candidate Rick Perry signed the law in 2013 when he was the state's governor.

Man Suspected In Death Boarded Bus

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — After an intense 24-hour manhunt, New Orleans police Sunday arrested a man believed to have shot and killed a police officer while wearing handcuffs as he was being transported to jail.

But questions remain about where the gun he used to kill Officer Daryle Holloway, 45, came from and how he hid from a law enforcement search that included canine, SWAT and helicopter teams.

Travis Boys, 33, was still wearing his broken handcuffs when a rookie officer and his trainer spotted him trying to board a city bus Sunday morning, said Police Superintendent Michael Harrison.

"To my understanding, he got on the bus after spotting the officers. And the officers saw that and then he got off the bus and then was apprehended," Harrison told reporters, while standing in front of a memorial to the city's fallen police officers.

Authorities took Boys to a hospital for treatment of apparent dehydration, Harrison said. Video by WVUE-TV showed Boys strapped onto a gurney and being put into an ambulance, his head slumped over.

Israel And Hamas Confront Joint Threat

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip (AP) — Nearly a year after a devastating war, Israel and Gaza's Hamas rulers appear to have formed an unspoken alliance in a common battle against the shared threat of jihadis aligned with the Islamic State group.

While Israel and Hamas remain arch-enemies, both have an interest in preserving an uneasy calm that has prevailed since the fighting ended in a cease-fire last August — a stalemate that is largely the result of a lack of options on either side.

More than 2,200 Palestinians were killed in last year's fighting, according to Palestinian officials, and Hamas suffered heavy losses. It is isolated internationally, Gaza's economy is in tatters and reconstruction efforts have moved slowly. A renewal of hostilities would be devastating for Gaza's 1.8 million people.

On the Israeli side, 73 people, including 67 soldiers, were killed in last year's fighting, and the summer-long war disrupted the lives of millions of people as they coped with repeated rocket attacks and air-raid sirens. But Hamas, which seized power in Gaza eight years ago, has survived three wars, and the cost of toppling the group would be extremely high, so Israel appears content to contain Hamas and keep things quiet.

Hamas officials say that efforts are underway, through Qatari mediators, to work out a long-term cease-fire. The deal would call for Israel to ease a stifling blockade on Gaza in exchange for Hamas pledges to disarm, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were discussing sensitive negotiations. It is unclear whether any progress has been made in the cease-fire efforts, which include Hamas demands to reopen sea and airports in Gaza. Israeli officials declined comment.

Manhunt For Killers Shifts After Sighting

FRIENDSHIP, N.Y. (AP) — Investigators tracking two murder convicts who escaped from a northern New York prison scoured a rural area near the Pennsylvania border Sunday, saying an unconfirmed but credible report of a sighting had shifted the search across the state.

About 300 law enforcement officers searched the neighboring towns of Amity and Friendship, where two men who resembled the convicts were spotted Saturday near a railroad line that runs along a county road.

While state police called the sighting unconfirmed, the intense hunt that had focused for two weeks around a prison near the Canadian border was quickly expanded to a rural, mountainous area 350 miles away, dotted with sheds, trailers, summer homes and other potential hideouts.

"We will search under every rock, behind every tree and structure until we are confident that that area is secure," State Police Maj. Michael J. Cerretto said at a news conference Sunday.

Concentrating in the area along County Route 20 and Interstate 86, officers walked railroad tracks, checked car trunks and deployed search dogs as a helicopter flew back and forth overhead. At one point, state police outfitted in camouflage could be seen heading into some woods.

Pope Latest Pilgrim To Turin Cathedral

TURIN, Italy (AP) — Pope Francis paused in silent prayer before the Shroud of Turin Sunday, becoming the latest of hundreds of thousands of people who have come this year to Turin's cathedral to view the burial linen some believe covered the body of Jesus after crucifixion.

Francis sat for several minutes before the shroud, contained in a protective glass case. He lowered his head at times in apparent reflection and occasionally gazed up at the 4.3-meter (14-foot) long cloth. Then he took a few steps, placed his hand on the case, and walked away without comment.

Later, after celebrating Mass of the faithful in a packed Turin square, Francis gave his impression of the cloth as he spoke of the love Jesus had for humanity when being crucified.

"Icon of this love is the Shroud, which, even this time, has attracted so many people here to Turin," Francis said. "The Shroud draws (people) to the tormented face and body of Jesus and, at the same time, directs (people) toward the face of every suffering and unjustly persecuted person."

The shroud's display began April 19 and runs through June 24.

Candidate Steers Clear Of Flag Issue

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican Mike Huckabee and other GOP presidential contenders are staying clear of the Confederate flag debate in South Carolina, saying it's an issue that should be decided by the state, not the federal government.

The flag is a symbol of racism to some, of Southern pride to others. The flag remains on the South Carolina Statehouse grounds, but some want it moved to another location behind the Capitol, or removed entirely. Mitt Romney, the Republican nominee for president in 2012, has called for the flag's immediate removal in the wake of Wednesday evening's fatal shootings of nine black people at a Charleston church.

"Everyone's being baited with this question as if somehow that has anything to do whatsoever with running for president," Huckabee said Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press." "My position is it most certainly does not."

Fellow Republican Rick Santorum gave a similar argument. "My opinion is that we should let the people of South Carolina go through the process of making this decision," Santorum said on ABC's "This Week."

Reopening Church Doors After Shooting 'Sends A Message'

BY PHILLIP LUCAS
Associated Press

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church opened its tall, wooden doors to the world Sunday, embracing strangers who walked in from the street or tuned in from home for the first worship service since a white gunman was accused of killing nine black church members.

It was that same hospitality that allowed the suspected gunman to be welcomed into a Bible study for about an hour before he allegedly stood up, made racially offensive remarks and opened fire in the church known as "Mother Emanuel" because it is one of the oldest black congregations in the South.

"I was so pleased when authorities told us you can go back into 'Mother Emanuel' to worship," said the Rev. Norvel Goff, a presiding elder of the 7th District AME Church in South Carolina, before adding a note of defiance to a service sprinkled with themes of love, recovery and healing.

"Some folks might need some more time in order to walk in. But for those of us who are here this morning ... because the doors of Mother Emanuel are open on this Sunday, it sends a message to every demon in hell and on earth."

The church's air conditioning did little to fight the heat of extra bodies in the sanctuary. There was fervent singing and shouting, so much so that many congregants waved small fans in front of their faces.

Despite the heaviness in the air, many stood — some holding small children — to shout their praises or raise their hands toward the church's vaulted ceiling. For added security, police officers stood watch over worshippers.

Some congregation members stood to applaud when Goff thanked law enforcement for their response to the shooting.

Goff was appointed to lead the historic Charleston church after Emanuel's senior pastor, the Rev. Clementa Pinckney, was fatally shot during the massacre. A black sheet was draped over Pinckney's usual chair, which sat empty. At least one parishioner knelt down in front of it and prayed.

Pinckney was also a state senator and married father of two children. Goff acknowledged Father's Day and said: "The only way evil can triumph is for good folks to sit down and do nothing."

As Emanuel's congregation belted out a gospel hymn, church bells rang



CURTIS COMPTON/ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION/TNS
Linda Dayson holds a sign as members of the public and church members enter the Emanuel A.M.E. Church for Sunday service four days after the mass shooting that claimed the lives of its pastor and eight others on Sunday in Charleston, S.C.

throughout the "Holy City" — nicknamed because of the numerous churches here. Later Sunday, people were expected to gather on the Arthur Ravenel Bridge to join hands in solidarity.

The bridge is named after a former state lawmaker and vocal Confederate flag supporter. The slayings have renewed calls for the flag to be removed from the South Carolina Statehouse grounds, in part because photographs of Roof in a purported manifesto showed him holding Confederate flags. The 2,500-word manifesto also contained hate-filled writings.

Less than 2 miles from the church, someone vandalized a Confederate monument, spray-painting "Black Lives Matter" on the statue. City workers used a tarp to cover up the graffiti, police said.

Photos on local news websites from before the tarp was put up showed the graffiti in bright red paint, along with the message

"This is the problem. (hash) RACIST."

Around the country, pastors asked people to pray for Charleston. In Atlanta's 1st Iconic Baptist Church, a predominantly black church with a tradition of speaking out for social justice, the Rev. Timothy McDonald told his congregation Sunday that he had met Pinckney last April during a visit to Columbia, South Carolina, with a group of ministers.

"You talk about a promising young man," he said, expressing shock at the manner of Pinckney's death.

"How do you sit in a Bible Study next to a pastor for almost an hour and then you just stand up and shoot to kill? That kind of hate, that kind of evil — we need God y'all. We need Jesus," McDonald said.

The tragedy resonated far beyond urban areas. Congregants at a small church in rural north-central Pennsylvania signed a condolence card to send to Emanuel. The Rev. Nancy Light Hardy of

St. James United Church of Christ said she debated mailing the card, which seemed "pitiful and lame" when set against the "inconceivable" killings.

"But at least it lets the Charleston church know that Christians across the country are thinking about them," she said.

The welcoming spirit Roof exploited before the shooting was still alive.

Gail Lincoln said she typically attends another AME church nearby, but felt compelled to visit Emanuel this week.

"Through all of this, God is still our refuge," Lincoln said. "I'm still heartbroken, but it's going to get better. I know it's going to take time, day by day."

As a further sign of resilience, the church's Wednesday night Bible study is expected to continue as normal next week, said Emanuel member Harold Washington, 75.

"We didn't change a thing," he said.

Accord Between Greece, Creditors Possible Ahead Of Summit

BRUSSELS (AP) — Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras headed to Brussels late Sunday for a crucial emergency eurozone summit aimed at reaching a deal between Athens and its international creditors that would allow the debt-ravaged country to avoid a default and a potentially disastrous exit from the euro.

Tsipras' departure for Monday's summit of the 19 eurozone leaders capped a day of intense contacts between many of the major players, including German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Francois Hollande and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, all bent on keeping Greece within the currency club and avoiding financial chaos.

Greece is facing a June 30 deadline to make a 1.6 billion euro (\$1.8 billion) loan repayment to the International Monetary Fund, which, at present, it would be unable to make.

Eggs

From Page 1

west commercial turkey and chicken farms this spring. To date, 48 million turkeys and chickens have died or were euthanized to prevent the virus from spreading further. The frequency of new cases has slowed dramatically in most states, though agriculture officials said last week that an Iowa chicken farm with 1 million egg-layers tested positive for the virus.

Because of the egg crisis, the U.S. Department of Agriculture lowered its forecast for table egg production this year to 6.9 billion dozen, a 5.3 percent drop from 2014. By late May, the price for a dozen Midwest large eggs had soared 120 percent from their mid-April, pre-bird flu prices to \$2.62, industry analyst group Urner Barry said.

Prices began falling last week, but officials say it could take up to two years to return to normal production.

"The best-case scenario, we're talking about a year

before the availability is more robust," said John Howeth, the American Egg Board's senior vice president in charge of food service and egg product marketing.

At Hi-Way Diner in Lincoln, Nebraska, owner Scott Walker said the surge in costs may force him to pass it along to his customers. The restaurant includes two eggs with every breakfast order, and offers an optional third egg for free. That comes out to more than 5,000 eggs a week, and the price per case has more than doubled to \$37 since mid-April.

"I'm absorbing it right now, but I am due for a price increase," Walker said.

A popular breakfast spot for more than 20 years in Des Moines, Iowa, is contemplating a surcharge of 50 cents to \$1 to each of their egg-heavy dishes because cases have rocketed from \$18 to \$40 in just a few weeks.

"It's costing us between \$400 and \$500 a week," Waveland Cafe owner David "Stoney" Stone said.

It's not just independent restaurants being affected,

either. Restaurant chains, which typically have set-price contracts for food supplies, have seen those deals rescinded.

"Our contracts have been nullified until this is cleared up and the supply gets back on track," said Amy Rhoads, vice president of licensing and human relations for the parent company of Littleton, Colorado-based Le Peep restaurants, which has 54 restaurants in 12 states.

Nearly every Le Peep menu item includes eggs. There are no plans to change that, Rhoads said, because eggs are "so much a part of who and what we are." But the shortage is raising the chain's costs significantly, and as a result, their prices are going up.

The uncertainty of how long the shortage will last is what's most disconcerting for restaurant owners, Rhoads said: "It's one of those things that, when you don't know how bad it's going to get or when the end is in sight."

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