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Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.



- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 1- Johnson Agency Ad
- 1- Dairy Queen Ad
- 1- Recycling Trailer
- 2- What's happening in state government this week
- 4. Rev. Snyder's Column
- 5- Groton Property Manager Wanted
- 5- Agtegra Ad
- 6- Sen. Rounds' Weekly Column
- 7-10 powerful ways to use social security online
- 8- Fireworks Safety
- 9- Today in Weather History
- 10- Today's Forecast
- 11- Yesterday's Weather
- 11- National Weather map
- 11- Today's Weather Almanac
- 12- Daily Devotional
- 13-2018 Groton Community Events
- 14- News from the Associated Press



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What's happening in state government this week Public Meetings:

Monday, July 2, 8:30 a.m. CDT, Pierre- The South Dakota Soybean Research & Promotion Council Board will be holding a meeting via conference call. A full agenda can be found at https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=175. For more information, please contact South Dakota Soybean at 605-330-0278.

Monday, July 2, 1 p.m. CDT – The REDI (Revolving Economic Development and Initiative) Credit Committee meeting will be on Monday, July 2, at 1 p.m. CDT at 711 E Wells Ave. Please contact Cassie Stoeser, GOED Finance Director, at 605-773-GOED (4633) for more information. https://boardsandcommissions. sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=31

You Might Also Be Interested To Know:

Monday, July 2 – The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation will host Job Search Assistance Programs (JSAP). JSAP is a workshop for people recovering from job loss or enhancing their job search skills. Trained instructors speak on modern-day techniques used to successfully find employment. Topics covered include resume and cover letter writing, interviewing etiquette, networking effectively, using social media and much more. JSAP will be offered at the following locations:

Monday, July 2, 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. CDT, Sioux Falls – at 811 E. 10th St. Registration required. For more information or to register, call 605-367-5300.

Monday, July 2, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. MDT, Philip – Benefits specialists from the Department of Social Services' Division of Economic Assistance will be available in Philip. For more information, contact Tia Kafka, 605-773-3165.

Monday, July 2, to Thursday, July 5: The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs Field Service Officers will be at the following County and Tribal Veterans Service Offices to assist with veteran related claims, issues, and questions.

Monday, July 2:

- ¹ 10 a.m. 3 p.m. CDT, Burke 221 E. 8th St. 605-280-4306
- 10 a.m. 2 p.m. MDT, Dupree 501 S. Main St. 605-280-4308

8 a.m. – 5 p.m. MDT, Rapid City – 725 N. LaCrosse St. #200 605-280-4307 Tuesday, July 3:

- · 12:30 p.m. 3 p.m. MDT, Custer 420 Mt. Rushmore Rd. 605-280-4307
- 9 a.m. 11 a.m. MDT, Deadwood 80 Sherman St. 605-280-4307
- 10 a.m. 2 p.m. MDT, Eagle Butte Tribal Office 605-280-4308

10 a.m. – 3 p.m. CDT, Redfield – 210 E. 7th Ave. 605-280-4306

Wednesday, July 4:

Independence Day – State offices closed

Thursday, July 5:

- 10 a.m. 3 p.m. CDT, Huron 450 3rd St. SW 605-280-4306
- * 8 a.m. 2:30 p.m. CDT, Madison 200 E. Center St. 605-360-7819
- 8 a.m. 5 p.m. MDT, Rapid City 725 N. LaCrosse St. #200 605-280-4307

Tuesday, July 3, to Thursday, July 5 – The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation will hold itinerant office hours. Both job seekers and employers interested in receiving employment and career services at no cost may visit or call during these office hours. More information on programs and services is available at www.sdjobs.org. Itinerant office hours will be held at the following locations:

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Tuesday, July 3, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. CDT, De Smet – at the Kingsbury County Courthouse, 101 2nd St. SE. For more information during these hours, call 605-854-3309 or 605-688-4350 at any other time. Additional information at www.sdjobs.org.

Tuesday, July 3, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. CDT, Wagner – at the Bureau of Indian Affairs, 29775 Main Ave. For more information, call 605-487-7607, ext. 207 or 212, or visit www.sdjobs.org.

Thursday, July 5, 1 - 3 p.m. CDT, Britton – at Marshall County Community Hall. For more information during these hours, call 605-380-8930 and 605-626-2340 at any other time. Additional information at www.sdjobs.org.

Tuesday, July 3 – Benefits specialists from the Department of Social Services' Division of Economic Assistance will be available at the following itinerant office locations. For more information, contact Tia Kafka, 605-773-3165.

- Kyle, 9 a.m. 3 p.m. MDT
- Canton, 8 a.m. 4:30 p.m. CDT
- Flandreau, 8:30 a.m. 4 p.m. CDT
- Webster, 9 a.m. 3:30 p.m. CDT
- Timber Lake, 8 a.m. 5 p.m. MDT
- De Smet, 9 a.m. 3:30 p.m. CDT
- Fort Thompson, 9:30 a.m. 3:30 p.m. CDT
- Howard, 9:30 a.m. 3:30 p.m. CDT
- Miller, 9:30 a.m. 4:30 p.m. CDT
- Wagner, 8 a.m. 4:30 p.m. CDT

Thursday, July 5, 12:30 – 2 p.m. CDT, Brookings – Aramark will conduct walk-in interviews every Thursday through August 30 at the Brookings Job Service office, 1310 Main Ave. S. For more information call 605-688-4350.

Thursday, July 5 – Benefits specialists from the Department of Social Services' Division of Economic Assistance will be available at the following itinerant office locations. For more information, contact Tia Kafka, 605-773-3165.

- Canton, 8 a.m. 5 p.m. CDT
- · Kyle, 9 a.m. 3 p.m. MDT
- Flandreau, 8:30 a.m. 4 p.m. CDT
- · Lemmon, 9 a.m. 4 p.m. MDT
- · Armour, 8 a.m. 4:30 p.m. CDT
- · Plankinton, 9:30 a.m. 3:30 p.m. CDT
- · Lower Brule, 9:30 a.m. 3:30 p.m. CDT

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries



"What Do You Mean It's Time to Go Home?"

We had just started our vacation, or so I thought, when the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage said, "Hurry up; it's time to go home."

I have been married to my wife for almost 46 years and during that time, she has always teased me and tried to get my goat. My goat has long been gotten. So, I thought she was trying to tease me about our vacation time.

As she said that, I noticed she was packing her suitcase. That was just strange. She is really going all out to fool me into thinking it is time to go home. I, however, know better and cannot be fooled even by her. I laughed most heartily and said, "That's a good one, but you can't fool me. We're on vacation."

When she was planning the vacation, it took her quite a while to convince me we were going on vacation. I get so caught up in "life," that I often do not realize I need to take a break every once in a while. However, when I take a break, I Take a Break.

Looking at me rather strangely, she said, "Our vacation is over and we need to go home."

"But, I thought we were supposed to be on vacation for a week. Why do you want to go home early?" "Oh, silly boy, we have been here for a week and our time is up and we must go home."

All I could do was just stare at her. I honestly thought we were only halfway through our vacation. Where does time go when you are trying to relax?

I started the vacation with only one plan and that was to do nothing. I was just beginning to enjoy this "Nothing Plan" and needed a few more days to perfect it.

I guess I do have some of an obsessive aspect to my nature. When I start something, I don't want to stop until I have finished it. That's just a philosophy that I have had since I was a young boy. Why start something if you are not going to finish it? And, why start something new until you have finished what you had been doing?

That is why planning a vacation is so difficult. Whatever I am doing at the time I am obsessive about finishing it before going on to the next project. If I am working on a book, I cannot stop until it is finished and sent to the publisher. That is just my nature.

"Well," my wife said in a more joyful mood, "we did have a wonderful time here on our vacation. Don't you agree?"

I had to stop and process that thought. Certainly, I agreed with her on that level. Where I disagreed was that it was over. "Yes, we sure did have a good time, but I have a hard time believing it's over already." She just laughed at me and finished packing her suitcase.

When on vacation, I usually do not take my watch. I do not want to know what time it is. Lunchtime is when I'm hungry and close to some restaurant. Nap time, is when I'm tired. No schedule. Just enjoying the moment I'm in at the time.

For my wife, vacation time gets her best planning schedule. Most of that schedule has to do with thrift stores. Every day in our vacation, she visited several thrift stores and brought back what she thought were "goodies."

I have learned long ago that when she is excited about one of her "goodies," I join in her excitement. Most of the time I have no idea what it is, but what does that have to do with anything?

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"Look what I got," she says as she burst into the hotel room, "and I only paid \$3 for it. Wasn't that a bargain?"

I once made a mistake along this line. She came back with one of her purchases and I quickly pulled out my wallet that had \$26 in it and said, "Look what I saved today, \$26." Trust me, I never did that again. She responded by saying, "Great, you can buy supper tonight."

Vacation time means different things to different people. Years ago when I discovered what it meant to her, it made my vacation time all that much better.

I was begrudging the fact that our vacation time was over and slowly started packing my suitcase. I hope I got enough rest during this vacation. I am not sure you can get enough rest on any vacation, but at least I tried.

Driving home from our vacation, I could not help but think of that wonderful verse in the Old Testament. "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:<u>3).</u>

Walking together doesn't mean you are dressed alike or you have the same likes and dislikes. Walking together means, you're going in the same direction.

Her likes happened to be thrift stores. She knows everything there is to be known about a thrift store. She knows every thrift store within a 100-mile radius.

Me, I know relatively little about a thrift store. If they have a shelf with some books on it, I will take some interest.

Driving home, she gave a detailed description of all the

wonderful purchases she made at those thrift stores. It made her happy and therefore I was happy. That is what it means to "walk together."

Groton Property Manager Wanted

Real Estate Rental property manager wanted. Must live in or near Groton. Potential income of up to \$5,000 a month. Experience a plus. For details, call Lee at 605-824-4888.

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY, FROM YOUR FRIENDS

AT AGTEGRA!



AGTEGRA.COM

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Celebrating our Independence

Every year on the 4th of July, Americans join together to celebrate our independence. At that time in 1776, delegates from the 13 colonies signed the Declaration of Independence, breaking free from British rule and forming a new republic.



In South Dakota, every town has their own celebration to mark this historic day. In Fort Pierre, where Jean and I live, there is a parade in the morning and a rodeo at night, followed by a spectacular fireworks show over the Missouri River. Across the state, South Dakotans will be enjoying the day with family and friends. Our family's tradition is to camp and boat at Okobojo Point on Lake Oahe over the 4th of July holiday. This year, we get to introduce our fun tradition to our two new grandsons, Maverick and Cohen!

While the 4th of July is a time of joy and celebration, it also provides a good opportunity to honor the countless men and women who have sacrificed so much to protect our independence over the past 242 years. Many have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our liberties. We are forever grateful to those who wear the uniform of the United States of America, as well as to their families.

The security of our nation is necessary to protect the rights and freedoms we enjoy as Americans. A strong national defense is one of the most fundamental roles of government. As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, one of my top priorities is to make sure our military has the best, most up-to-date equipment available so they can successfully defend against attacks from our enemies. And as a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I am working to improve the quality of life for all who have served. I have been working to ease the transition for veterans as they leave active-duty service. This includes making changes at the VA to prioritize mental health care for veterans battling PTSD, as well as making sure they know all the benefits available to them in terms of education and career opportunities. Our veterans are some of the brightest, most talented individuals and our workforce will benefit greatly from the skills and knowledge they bring to the workplace.

As we light off fireworks, spend time with family and friends and enjoy all that our great country has to offer, I encourage South Dakotans to thank the veterans and military members in their lives. We would not be able to celebrate our independence if not for the sacrifices they have made. Jean and I, along with our entire family, wish all South Dakotans a safe, happy Independence Day!

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10 POWERFUL WAYS TO USE SOCIAL SECURITY ONLINE

By: Patty Hoffman

Social Security Public Affairs Specialist

Chances are good that you use the internet or a cell phone app every day. Social Security has you covered. We've created online tools to make the lives of millions of people easier. We've put together a top ten list of easy-to-use resources for you.

Want access to our latest news, retirement planning tips, and helpful information? Social Security Matters is our blog at blog.socialsecurity.gov. There, you can also connect with us on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube, where you can watch our popular videos.

Our online calculators, such as the Retirement Estimator, the Life Expectancy Calculator, and the Early or Late Retirement Calculator, can be found at www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/calculators.

Apply for Social Security benefits online. This is the fastest, most convenient way to apply for retirement, spouses, disability, or Medicare benefits without visiting a local office or calling to speak to a representative; we can be found online at www.socialsecurity.gov/benefits.

Lost or missing your Social Security card? Find out how to get a new, replacement, or corrected card at www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber. In fact, you may be able to quickly request a replacement card online with a my Social Security account, if you meet certain qualifications, at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

Verify your annual earnings and review estimates of your future Social Security benefits when you access your Social Security Statement, one of the many services available with a my Social Security account at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

Do you have to pay taxes on Social Security benefits? How do you apply for Social Security retirement benefits? What is your full retirement age? Discover the answers to your Social Security related questions at our Frequently Asked Questions page at www.socialsecurity.gov/faq.

Do you own a business? The Business Services Online Suite of Services allows organizations, businesses, individuals, employers, attorneys, non-attorneys representing Social Security claimants, and third-parties to exchange information with Social Security securely over the internet. Find it at www.socialsecurity.gov/ bso/services.htm.

Have you dreamed of moving abroad? Learn how Social Security makes international payments and how you can do business with us from around the world at www.socialsecurity.gov/foreign.

Are you a veteran? Are you at mid-career? Maybe you're new to the workforce. Find out how we fulfill your needs through life's journey on our People Like Me page at www.socialsecurity.gov/people.

If you like to read and prefer to know all the details, our publications webpage is a library of helpful information. Access it at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs.

We make things simple, easy to use, and beneficial. And we're always here to help you secure today and tomorrow, www.socialsecurity.gov.

Patty Hoffman is the Public Affairs Specialist for ND, SD and Western MN. You can write her c/o Social Security Administration, 4207 Boulder Ridge Road, Ste. 100, Bismarck ND 58503 or via email at patty. hoffman@ssa.gov.

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Remember firework safety this 4th of July, especially with very dry conditions across portions of central and northeastern South Dakota! Obey all local laws, stay away from dry grass, and have water ready to wet down any used fireworks or fire starts.

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Today in Weather History

July 1, 1928: A powerful, estimated F4 tornado moved southeast from 6 miles west of Miller, Hand Country, destroying farms near the start of the path. All buildings were leveled to the ground, including two homes. A checkbook from one residence was found 10 miles away. Estimated property damaged was set at \$50,000.

July 1, 1955: An estimated F2 tornado moved northeast near Bowdle. Two barns were destroyed. A small girl and a pony were reportedly carried a quarter mile without injury. A tornado was also spotted in Emmons County in North Dakota, causing \$10,000 worth of damage.

July 1, 2005: Torrential rains of three to seven inches fell across far eastern Brown, western and northern Day, and most of Marshall Counties in late June causing widespread flooding. The flood waters slowly receded through July 10th. Many township roads and highways were flooded along with thousands of acres of cropland. Water surrounded several homes resulting in people being rescued. Some of the houses were flooded. Many bridges were damaged, and roads and culverts were washed out. In Day County, 30 roads were washed out, and 15 bridges needed repairs.

July 1, 2006: With continued little or no rainfall along with much above average temperatures, a drought expanded and intensified through July across central and north central South Dakota. Severe (D2) to an extreme (D3) drought early in July worsened to an extreme (D3) to exceptional (D4) across all of the areas by the middle of July and remained there until the end of the month. Rainfall was 1.50 inches to 2.25 inches below average for the month and from 7 to 8 inches below average for the year. Soil moisture was 4 to 5 inches below average, and lakes and river flows were well below normal. Crops and pastures were devastated due to the extreme dryness and burn bans were in effect across all of the areas. Many ranchers had to sell off much of their cattle. Throughout July, periodic high winds, low relative humidity values, along with many lightning storms resulted in several fires across central and north central South Dakota. The fires burned tens of thousands of acres of pastureland and cropland. Hundreds of firefighters worked throughout the month to contain the flames. The governor of South Dakota declared a statewide emergency and the United States Department of Agriculture declared all of the counties drought disasters. Swan Lake, in north-central South Dakota between Lowry and Hoven, had completely dried up from the long period of dryness. The last time this happened to the lake was 30 years prior in 1976. Also, Lake Oahe at Pierre was four feet above its all-time low.

1861: Cherrapunji, Meghalaya, India measured 366 inches of rain during the month of July 1861. From August 1, 1860, to July 31, 1861, Cherrapunji received a record-breaking 1,041.75 inches of precipitation.

2002: San Antonio, Texas recorded 9.52 inches of rain on this day to set a new record for its greatest rainfall for the entire month of July.

1792 - A tremendous storm (a tornado or hurricane) hit Philadelphia and New York City. Many young people were drowned while out boating on that Sunday. (David Ludlum)

1911 - The high of just 79 degrees at Phoenix AZ was their coolest daily maximum of record for the month of July. The normal daily high for July 1st is 105 degrees. (The Weather Channel)

1979 - It snowed almost half a foot (5.8 inches) at Stampede Pass WA, a July record. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Lake Charles LA was drenched with a month's worth of rain during the early morning. More than five inches of rain soaked the city, including 2.68 inches in one hour. A thunderstorm in the southern Yakima Valley of Washington State produced high winds which downed trees up to six feet in diameter. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Twenty-six cities in the north central and northeastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date. Lows of 48 degrees at Providence RI, 48 degrees at Roanoke VA, 49 degrees at Stratford CT, and 48 degrees at Wilmington, DE, were records for the month of July. Boston MA equalled their record for July with a low of 50 degrees. Five inches of snow whitened Mount Washington NH. (The National Weather Summary)



Aberdeen, SD

Published on: 07/01/2018 at 6:14AM

Dry today, then mainly afternoon and evening showers and storms returning for Monday through the 4th of July. Check out your specific forecast at www.weather.gov/abr

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Yesterday's Weather High Outside Temp: 80.7 F at 5:26 PM

High Outside Temp: 80.7 F at 5:26 PM Low Outside Temp: 66.2 F at 5:32 AM High Gust: 17.0 Mph at 6:06 PM Precip: 0.00

Today's Info Record High: 101° in 1911

Record High: 101° in 1911 Record Low: 41° in 1995 Average High: 82°F Average Low: 58°F Average Precip in July: 0.11 Precip to date in July: 0.00 Average Precip to date: 10.96 Precip Year to Date: 5.82 Sunset Tonight: 9:26 p.m. Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:50 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart Valid Sun, Jul 01, 2018, issued 4:41 AM EDT DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center Prepared by Hammond with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain Rain and T'Storms Rain and Snow Snow Flash Flooding Possible (hatched) Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched) Freezing Rain Possible (hatched) Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

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BETTER THAN SILVER AND GOLD

A pastor who served people in a ghetto was visiting a family that was going through a difficult time of making ends meet. As he got up to leave, he noticed an old well-worn Bible on a shelf. As he neared the door, he said, "I saw something in this room that has more value than any amount of money. I wonder if you will ever find it."

A few days later while dusting the shelves, one of the children discovered the Bible. Taking it to her Dad she asked, "Could this have been what the preacher-man was talking about? Wonder if this is what he meant."

Holding it very carefully he placed it on the table and took great care to open it. Then he looked down and noticed a verse that was underlined with a red pencil: "The law from Your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold."

He began to weep quietly as his wife and children sat silently around him. Finally, he was able to speak and said, "This is my mother's Bible. Before she died, she gave it to me and asked me to read it every day and I promised her that I would. But, I let her down and I've let you - my family - down. Maybe God led us to this difficult place just so we would find this verse she underlined to help us."

God works in many strange and subtle ways. He even brings times of difficulty and desperation into our lives to get our attention. He has never promised that our days would always be filled with sunshine and blue skies. But, He has promised that when we look to Him and His Word we will find salvation, hope and encouragement.

Prayer: Help us, Heavenly Father, to realize the wealth we will find in Your Word when we have nothing else left. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 119:72 The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold.

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2018 Groton SD Community Events

• Groton Lion's Club Bingo- Wednesday Nights 6:30pm at the Groton Legion (Year Round)

• 11/18/2017-3/31/2018 Groton Lion's Club Wheel of Meat- Saturday Nights 7pm at the Groton Legion (Fall/Winter Months)

- 1/27/2019 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm
- 4/13/2019 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 5/4/2019 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 5/27/2019 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program at the Cemetery, Lunch to follow at the American Legion (Memorial Day)
 - 6/14/2018 Transit Fundraiser (Middle Thursday in June)
 - 6/15/2018 SDSU Golf at Olive Grove
 - 6/16/2018 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
 - 7/4/2018 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
 - 7/22/2018 Summer Fest (4th Sunday in July)
 - 9/8/2018 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
 - 10/6/2018 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
 - 10/12/2018 Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
 - 10/31/2018 Trunk or Treat (Halloween)
 - 11/10/2018 Groton American Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
 - 12/01/2018 Olive Grove Golf Course 2018 Holiday Party
 - Best Ball Golf Tourney
 - SDSU Golf Tourney
 - Sunflower Golf Tourney
 - Santa Claus Day
 - Fireman's Stag
 - Tour of Homes
 - Crazy Dayz/Open Houses
 - School Events

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News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery By The Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) _ These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Saturday:

Dakota Cash 07-11-14-28-33 (seven, eleven, fourteen, twenty-eight, thirty-three) Estimated jackpot: \$92,000

Lotto America 20-24-27-35-42, Star Ball: 9, ASB: 5 (twenty, twenty-four, twenty-seven, thirty-five, forty-two; Star Ball: nine; ASB: five) Estimated jackpot: \$4.33 million

Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$256 million

Powerball 03-09-20-42-61, Powerball: 24, Power Play: 2 (three, nine, twenty, forty-two, sixty-one; Powerball: twenty-four; Power Play: two) Estimated jackpot: \$60 million

South Dakota farming family awarded BY RANDY DOCKENDORF, Yankton Press and Dakotan

VIBORG, S.D. (AP) — Ordell and Shirley Oswald and their son, Jason, have education backgrounds. Even though they're not currently in the classroom, they teach and learn from each other on the farm.

The process of handing down information and experience to each succeeding generation has occurred since the Oswald farm was homesteaded in 1875 — while the land was still Dakota Territory. And the learning experience has already continued for another generation.

Jason and Sherri Oswald's son, Cody, is entering eighth grade at Yankton Middle School. The younger Oswald said he has gained so much already while watching other family members.

"I like the farm, and I try to help out as much as I can," Cody said. "It's great to be around animals and learn things about farming from my dad and grandpa. They're really experienced farmers."

The Oswalds' passion and success has earned them another reward. The Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce has selected the Ordell/Shirley and Jason/Sherri Oswald families as the "Farm Family of the Year." "This was unexpected, but it's really an honor," Ordell told the Yankton Press and Dakotan.

The family received recognition during the annual Ag Gala. The Chamber's Agri-Business Committee receives the nominations and selects the winning family.

Ordell, Shirley, Jason and Sherri farm together in northern Yankton and southern Turner County. Ordell and Jason both grew up on the family farm.

The Oswald family operation will mark 143 years next month. The farm started with Ludwig Oswald, who homesteaded in Jamesville Township on July 12, 1875. He was followed in the farming operation by his son, Ludwig Oswald Jr. The next generation was Elwin Oswald, who was Ordell's father. Ordell farmed with Elwin into the early 2000s.

Ordell spoke of his family's deep roots in the Dakota soil.

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"Our ancestors came from Germany by way of Russia. Then, they came to the United States and settled in Dakota Territory," he said. "They picked a spot and started a family, and our family has never (moved) away."

The family farms the Oswald homestead, but they actually live on Shirley's home place settled by the Brakvatne family from Norway.

Ordell has farmed his entire life. He graduated from Southern State College (later the University of South Dakota-Springfield) in 1967 with a degree in business education. He married Shirley in 1968, and they have three sons.

The Oswalds' sons and daughters-in-law are Jason and Sherri, Yankton; Jared and Amy, Spearfish; and Justin and Chasity, Rapid City. Ordell and Shirley have eight grandchildren.

Besides farming, education has remained a major part of the Oswalds' lives.

Shirley taught first, third and fifth grades for 20 years in the Sioux Falls, Parker and Viborg schools. She also taught piano lessons for 22 years, keeping her in contact with children on a regular basis.

Jason graduated from the University of Sioux Falls in 1994 with a math education degree. He married Sherri in 1995, and they have three children — Emily, Kelsey and Cody.

Following college graduation, Jason taught math in the Yankton School District. In addition, he coached football and basketball. In addition, he served as a radio announcer for the Yankton High School football games. Sherri has worked in Yankton for many years and presently serves as a social worker for Avera Health.

During his education career, Jason continued working part-time on the farm. He left teaching and coaching in order to enter full-time farming in 2011.

"I grew up working on the farm, and I continued doing it (as an adult)," he said. "I went to college and got into teaching, but I always did what I could to help out on the farm."

Agriculture can mean long hours of work throughout the year. However, life on the farm provides a great deal of freedom and flexibility, Jason said.

"There are times you don't choose your hours," he said. "But then there are times, like when it rained this week (and I couldn't farm), I was able to see my son play baseball. I couldn't have just left my job and done that if I was working 9 to 5. That part (of farm life) is absolutely great."

He enjoys farming, but Jason said he looks back with great memories about teaching and coaching in the Yankton School District. He enjoyed passing along knowledge and building relationships with his students. "The best part was being around the kids," he said.

The Oswald farming operation consists of raising corn, soybeans and cattle. Both Ordell and Jason said it's been an exceptionally challenging spring for the cattle and crop business.

Low prices have been compounded by the spring weather, Ordell noted. The April snowstorms pushed back planting and hampered other farm work.

"This past April was very different," Ordell said. "They say (the heavy late snow) was a 20-year event. It made things really challenging."

The Oswalds remain active not only on the farm. They believe in giving back to their church and community.

Ordell has served on the South Dakota Extension Board, the Broom Tree board of directors, the county soil conservation board of directors and the Viborg Co-op Elevator Board. In addition, he has held many church-related positions.

Jason currently works with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA).

What has been the secret to the Oswalds' success? Ordell pointed to the strong work ethic passed down to each generation.

"We have three boys, and they all know how to get things done," he said.

The Oswalds emphasize they live in the moment, enjoying life as it comes.

"As far as the future, we just take one day at a time," Ordell said. "You never know what the future holds. Jason takes a more structured approach. "My dad accuses me of planning too much ahead," he said with a laugh.

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Shirley sees life as constantly offering opportunities. "Every day is a new day," she said. "You never know what's going to happen."

Information from: Yankton Press and Dakotan, http://www.yankton.net/

Water releases into Missouri River to ramp up in coming days

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers says it will more than double the amount of water released into the Missouri River from the river's lower-most dam over the coming weeks.

Releases from Gavins Point Dam, between Nebraska and South Dakota, were reduced to 24,000 cubic feet per second in mid-June due to high flows downstream of the Missouri River reservoir system.

The Corps said in a news release Friday that Gavins Point releases will be stepped up over the next several days, reaching approximately 50,000 cubic feet per second by early to mid-July, as downstream flows drop off. The Corps says releases from all Missouri River reservoir system dams will be maintained at higher-than-average rates over the next several months.

The announcement came as the river at Omaha crested at nearly 29 feet due to recent heavy rains, causing minor flooding of low-lying areas, mostly on the Iowa side.

Levels downriver, including in Kansas and Missouri, will also be affected.

Tornadoes cause damage in Montana, South Dakota

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — A storm that produced as many as five tornadoes destroyed a home and caused other damage in Montana and South Dakota.

The National Weather Service estimates one tornado Thursday night had winds over 130 mph, based on the damage. The tornado completely destroyed a shed, toppled a trailer, moved heavy hay bales and stripped the bark off trees.

The twister originated in southeastern Montana and crossed into western South Dakota.

The Billings Gazette reports the tornadoes stayed mostly over rural areas.

Information from: The Billings Gazette, http://www.billingsgazette.com

Custer State Park burro bitten by rattlesnake

CUSTER, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's Custer State Park says one of its burros is being treated after getting bitten by a rattlesnake.

The park wrote on its Facebook page that park staff discovered Friday morning it had been bitten. The burro is receiving anti-venom and will be monitored by a veterinarian and park staff.

The park warned visitors to be cautious and aware of their surroundings, saying rattlesnakes are found throughout Custer State Park.

Former hospital CEO sentenced for failing to disclose gift PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A former Pine Ridge Indian Health Service administrator has been sentenced for

failing to disclose a \$5,000 gift from a pediatrician.

The South Dakota U.S. attorney's office says 60-year-old Wehnona Stabler, of Nebraska, has been sentenced to 12 months of unsupervised probation. She was charged in June 2017.

Authorities say Stabler, while a Pine Ridge IHS employee, made a false statement in 2014 on a financial disclosure report about the payment from Dr. Stanley Patrick Weber.

Weber has been indicted for sex abuse of minors while he was a pediatrician at the Pine Ridge hospital.

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South Dakota officials to study catfish in the James River MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's Game, Fish and Parks Department is studying catfish in the James

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's Game, Fish and Parks Department is studying catfish in the James River for the first time in about two decades to see if trophy catfish are being overharvested.

Officials will spend about 1,200 hours researching the fish over the next two years, The Daily Republic reported . The study began last month and is being conducted on roughly 40 miles (64 kilometers) of the James River.

Researchers will catch fish, document certain information, tag the animals and then release them back into the river. Researchers aim to catch and tag 300 flathead and 700 channel catfish annually.

So far, researchers are on target with the 150 flatheads they've caught, but have tagged fewer than 100 channels, said Dave Lucchesi, a fisheries biologist with the department and one of the study's lead investigators.

"We've really struggled on channels," he said. "We should have close to 300 by now based on the study design."

Catfish anglers are concerned about overharvesting and are pushing for more restrictive regulations, Lucchesi said.

Researchers will use trotlines, hoop nets and electrofishing to catch the fish.

"Hopefully next year we can recapture some of these fish that we put tags into," said B.J. Schall, one of the study's lead investigators. "Knowing the abundance of the population will help in how different regulations and harvest levels will impact that."

South Dakota anglers are limited to catching 10 catfish a day. The state doesn't have a size restriction for catfish that can be caught.

Information from: The Daily Republic, http://www.mitchellrepublic.com

Census Bureau: North Dakota's median age has decreased

MINOT, N.D. (AP) — U.S. Census Bureau estimates show that North Dakota's median age has dropped in recent years, bucking a national trend.

The estimates indicate that North Dakota's median age dropped from 37 in 2010 to about 35 in 2017, the Minot Daily News reported .

The number of people younger than 18 grew by about 17 percent during that time period, while the number of residents aged 65 and older increased by 16 percent, the estimates found. The number of residents aged 15 to 44 years increased by almost 16 percent.

Williams County had the largest decrease in median age in the country, dropping 7 years between 2010 and 2017, according to Molly Cromwell, a demographer at the U.S. Census Bureau. The county's median age was about 32 years in 2017.

"Nationally, almost 17 percent of counties saw a decrease in median age from April 2010 to July 2017," Cromwell said. "The majority of the counties getting younger were in the Midwest, and of these counties with 10,000 people or more in July 2017, some of the largest decreases were in North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska."

The Bureau said the U.S. overall saw its median age increase from about 37 years in 2010 to 38 years in 2017.

"Baby boomers, and millennials alike, are responsible for this trend in increased aging," Cromwell said. "Boomers continue to age and are slowly outnumbering children as the birth rate has declined steadily over the last decade."

Information from: Minot Daily News, http://www.minotdailynews.com

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Data breach, ballot question and beer laws to take effect By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota lawmakers passed a raft of new laws in the 2018 legislative session, and many go into effect Sunday, including measures on data breaches, ballot questions and craft beers.

Here's a look at some of them:

BREACHES

If your Social Security number is stolen from a company, you've likely got a better chance of being warned. A new law requires state residents be notified within 60 days of a data breach's discovery, with some exceptions. The law also requires companies to inform the attorney general if a breach affects over 250 residents.

BALLOT QUESTIONS

New rules for the people who come to your door with a petition to sign could make it harder to put initiatives before voters. One new law requires petitioners to give more information to the secretary of state, including their driver's license numbers and the length of time at their current and past two addresses. Would-be activists should also be ready to hand over other proof of residency like library cards or utility bills.

Supporters say it will make it easier for courts to determine whether circulators are South Dakota residents, a requirement in state law. Another new change will require circulators to provide petition signers their name, email and phone number.

BEERS

It's time for another beer: South Dakota craft breweries will be able to produce more suds each year without losing privileges such as being able to sell growlers. The new law created a microbrewery license allowing the businesses to produce 30,000 barrels of beer annually, up from 5,000 barrels.

It also permits craft brewers to bypass distributors to sell up to 1,500 barrels of their beer each year directly to bars. Gov. Dennis Daugaard has said the measure will help the state's homegrown microbreweries expand and thrive.

SERVICE ANIMALS

Lying about needing a service animal may now get renters kicked out. Landlords will be able to require supporting documentation for many tenants' need for service animals, and penalties for falsely claiming a disability to have one include eviction and a damage fee up to \$1,000.

DRUG PENALTIES

Drug dealers beware: tougher penalties for meth distribution and manufacturing are coming into place. Another set of new rules imposes stronger punishments for drug dealers whose product kills someone else.

COMPASSIONATE PAROLE

South Dakota's new "compassionate parole" system for seriously ill and elderly inmates is taking effect. The new law makes high-cost, terminally ill inmates age 65 and over who have been imprisoned for at least a decade for a Class 3 felony or below eligible for compassionate parole consideration. Inmates 70 and above who have served at least 30 years of a non-death sentence are also eligible.

The Board of Pardons and Paroles will decide whether to grant or deny compassionate parole. About 65 inmates met the eligibility criteria in March.

MARSY'S LAW

Changes voters approved in June to the "Marsy's Law" victims' bill of rights are coming to police stations

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and prosecutor's offices. The new constitutional provisions require victims to opt in to many of their rights and specifically allow authorities to share information with the public to help solve crimes.

Officials proposed the changes because they say Marsy's Law has caused unintended consequences since it first passed in 2016, including causing problems for authorities and increasing costs for counties.

EAGLE FEATHERS

Students who want to wear eagle feathers or plumes at school graduations will have protections in state law. The tribal regalia measure requires state and local officials to let people wear eagle feathers and plumes at school honoring or graduation ceremonies.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service operates the National Eagle Repository to provide Native Americans with eagle carcasses, parts and feathers.

Rescuers clear hurdle in cave search for missing Thai boys By TASSANEE VEJPONGSA, Associated Press

MAE SAI, Thailand (AP) — Rescue divers cleared a key hurdle Sunday in the increasingly desperate search for 12 boys and their soccer coach who went missing in a cave in northern Thailand more than a week ago, officials said.

A team led by Thai navy SEAL divers pushed through the murk of a kilometer- (half-mile-) long chamber to a passageway that could lead to where the missing may have taken shelter, said the SEALs' commander, Rear Adm. Arpakorn Yookongkaew.

But Arpakorn said even though the divers made some progress in their effort to find the missing, they're not yet where they want to be.

"It's still tough as the water stream is quite strong," he said.

The missing boys, aged 11 to 16, and their 25-year-old coach entered the sprawling Tham Luang Nang Non cave in Chiang Rai province after soccer practice on June 23. They were apparently trapped inside by flooding caused by heavy rain and have not been heard from since.

The divers have been stymied again and again by muddy water rising to the ceiling of the chamber, forcing them to withdraw for safety reasons. When water levels dropped, the divers went forward with a more methodical approach, deploying a rope line and extra oxygen supplies along the way. The teams that swam Sunday included the SEALs, Australian divers and rescuers from the Thai city of Ayutthaya.

The effort had rebounded from earlier Sunday, when it appeared divers were making little progress.

"Today we made good progress, and it was a positive improvement, very positive," Chiang Rai Gov. Narongsak Osatanakorn told reporters.

The divers' goal is to get to an area of the cave known as Pattaya Beach. That section of the cave has a higher elevation, and authorities hope it remained dry and the 13 missing took shelter there.

The search has been going slowly, largely because flooding has blocked rescuers from going through chambers to get deeper into the cave. Pumping water out of the cave hasn't solved the problem, so other teams have been looking to divert groundwater.

Other efforts have focused on finding shafts on the mountainside that might serve as a back door to the blocked-off areas where the missing may be sheltering.

Teams have been combing the mountainside looking for fissure that might lead to such shafts. Several have been found and explorers have been able to descend into some, but so far it is not clear whether they lead to anywhere useful.

"We surveyed all areas and there were reported to be about 20, and out of that there are about 10 with the possibility of having shafts," Gov. Narongsak said. "But at the moment, we have narrowed it down to two. Today we are working inside those two shafts."

Experts in cave rescues from around the world continued to gather at the site. An official Australian group has now followed a U.S. military team, British cave experts, Chinese lifesaving responders and several other volunteer groups from various countries.

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Mexico elections center on disgust with corruption, violence By CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN, Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexicans vote Sunday in a potentially transformative election that could put in power a firebrand vowing to end politics and business as usual in a country weary of spiraling violence, unchecked corruption and scandal-plagued politicians.

But his rivals warn that a victory by leftist Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador could set the country back decades with an interventionist economic policy and are also promising to fight corruption and bring change to Mexico. All the candidates are lambasting President Donald Trump's policies against migrants and Mexico.

Sunday's elections for posts at every level of government are Mexico's largest ever and have become a referendum on corruption, graft and other tricks used to divert taxpayer money to officials' pockets and empty those of the country's poor.

This is Lopez Obrador's third bid for the presidency and some see it as his best shot after 12 years of near-permanent campaigning. His railing against the "mafia of power" that has long ruled Mexico and in favor of the poor appears to be falling on receptive ears with polls showing him with a wide lead over three rivals who have failed to ignite voters' interest.

"The corrupt regime is coming to its end," Lopez Obrador, a 64-year-old commonly known as AMLO, said at his final campaign event Wednesday. "We represent modernity forged from below."

Much of the popular ire has been aimed at unpopular President Enrique Pena Nieto's Institutional Revolutionary Party. Its candidate, Jose Antonio Meade, failed to gain traction with voters who would not give him the benefit of the doubt in spite of his ample resume in government and being an outsider to the ruling party.

Ricardo Ánaya is the candidate of a right-left coalition. He has tried to harness the youth vote with an emphasis on technology and new ideas, but he divided his own conservative party to take its candidacy and it's unclear if his new allies in the leftist Democratic Revolution Party will actually turn out for someone from the other end of the ideological spectrum.

Sunday is the first time that an independent candidate appears on the ballot.

Jaime "El Bronco" Rodriguez fought for attention with a horse-mounted "everyman" campaign and by tossing out policy bombs like his proposal to cut off the hands of public officials caught stealing. Without the big party machinery it was an uphill battle.

But "independent candidacies are here to stay in Mexico," Janine Otalora Malassis, president of the electoral court, said on Friday.

It is also the first time Mexicans living abroad can vote for down ballot races like senators. More than 181,000 received ballots and the 97,000 that the National Electoral Institute had gotten back by Friday morning were already double what they got in 2012.

Juan Carlos Enriquez, 30, said he supports Lopez Obrador but warned him that he better not steal.

"Of course, I want him to win. But it has to be made clear that he has to deliver what he promises and not become like the rest," he said.

Hovering over the election is the specter of vote fraud, though electoral officials deny it is a possibility with the modern balloting technology and institutions now in place.

In both of Lopez Obrador's previous two presidential losses he alleged fraud. In his first loss — by a mere 0.56 percent to conservative Felipe Calderon in 2006 — his supporters held months-long protests in Mexico City and he referred to himself as "the legitimate president."

His allies are warning even before Sunday's presidential vote that there better not be any funny business. "They shouldn't dare commit a fraud, because if they do they will meet the devil," said Yeidckol Polevnsky, president of Lopez Obrador's Morena party. "We will not accept it."

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Protesters flood US cities to fight Trump immigration policy By ELLEN KNICKMEYER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — They wore white. They shook their fists in the air. They carried signs reading: "No more children in cages," and "What's next? Concentration Camps?"

In major cities and tiny towns, hundreds of thousands of marchers gathered Saturday across America, moved by accounts of children separated from their parents at the U.S.-Mexico border, in the latest act of mass resistance against President Donald Trump's immigration policies.

Protesters flooded more than 700 marches, from immigrant-friendly cities like New York and Los Angeles to conservative Appalachia and Wyoming. They gathered on the front lawn of a Border Patrol station in McAllen, Texas, near a detention center where migrant children were being held in cages, and on a street corner near Trump's golf resort at Bedminster, New Jersey, where the president is spending the weekend.

Trump has backed away from family separations amid bipartisan and international uproar. His "zero tolerance policy" led officials to take more than 2,000 children from their parents as they tried to enter the country illegally, most of them fleeing violence, persecution or economic collapse in their home countries.

Those marching Saturday demanded the government quickly reunite the families that were already divided. A Brazilian mother separated from her 10-year-old son more than a month ago approached the microphone at the Boston rally.

"We came to the United States seeking help, and we never imagined that this could happen. So I beg everyone, please release these children, give my son back to me," she said through an interpreter, weeping.

"Please fight and continue fighting, because we will win," she said.

The crowd erupted.

In Washington, D.C., an estimated 30,000 marchers gathered in Lafayette Park across from the White House in what was expected to be the largest protest of the day, stretching for hours under a searing sun. Firefighters at one point misted the crowd to help people cool off.

Lin-Manuel Miranda, creator of the musical "Hamilton," sang a lullaby dedicated to parents unable to sing to their children. Singer-songwriter Alicia Keys read a letter written by a woman whose child had been taken away from her at the border.

"It's upsetting. Families being separated, children in cages," said Emilia Ramos, a cleaner in the district, fighting tears at the rally. "Seeing everyone together for this cause, it's emotional."

Around her, thousands waved signs: "I care," some read, referencing a jacket that first lady Melania Trump wore when traveling to visit child migrants. The back of her jacket said, "I really don't care, do U?" and it became a rallying cry for protesters Saturday.

"I care!! Do you?" read Joan Culwell's T-shirt as she joined a rally in Denver.

"We care!" marchers shouted outside Dallas City Hall. Organizer Michelle Wentz says opposition to the Trump administration's "barbaric and inhumane" policy has seemed to transcend political lines.

"This is the issue crossing the line for a lot of people," said Robin Jackson, 51, of Los Angeles, who protested with thousands carrying flags, signs and babies.

Singer John Legend serenaded the crowd and Democratic politicians who have clashed with Trump had strong words for the president, including U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters who called for his impeachment.

The president took to Twitter amid the protests, first to show his support for Immigration and Customs Enforcement as some Democrats called for major changes to the agency. Tweeting Saturday from New Jersey, Trump urged ICE agents to "not worry or lose your spirit" and wrote that "the radical left Dems want you out. Next it will be all police."

He later tweeted that he never pushed House Republicans to vote for immigration overhaul measures that failed last week, contradicting a post three days ago in which he urged GOP congressional members to pass them.

In Trump's hometown of New York City, another massive crowd poured across the Brooklyn Bridge in sweltering 90-degree heat, some carrying their children on their shoulders, chanting, "Shame!" Drivers honked their horns in support.

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"It's important for this administration to know that these policies that rip apart families — that treat people as less than human, like they're vermin — are not the way of God, they are not the law of love," said the Rev. Julie Hoplamazian, an Episcopal priest marching in Brooklyn.

Though seasoned anti-Trump demonstrators packed the rallies, others were new to activism, including parents who said they felt compelled to act after heart-wrenching accounts of families who were torn apart. Marchers took to city parks and downtown squares from Maine to Florida to Oregon; in Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico; on the international bridge between El Paso, Texas, and Juarez, Mexico; even in Antler,

North Dakota, population 27. People braved the heat in Chicago and Atlanta to march.

Some of the demonstrations were boisterous, others were quiet.

Five people were arrested outside an ICE office in Dallas for blocking a road. At least one arrest was made in Columbus, Ohio, when protesters obstructed a downtown street. Light-rail service was temporarily shut down in Minneapolis as thousands of demonstrators got in the way of the tracks. A rally in Portland, Maine, grew so large that police had to shut down part of a major street.

But in Dodge City, Kansas, a 100-person rally led by a Catholic church felt more like a mass than a protest. In rural Marshalltown, Iowa, about 125 people gathered for a march organized by Steve Adelmund, a father of two who was inspired after turning on the news on Father's Day and seeing children being separated from their families and held in cages.

"It hit me in the heart. I cried," he said.

"If we can't come together under the idea of 'Kids shouldn't be taken from their parents,' where are we?" he asked. "We have to speak out now while we can, before we can't."

Drum beats and horns sounded as thousands of protesters hit the streets of San Francisco.

"We came here to let the president know that this is not acceptable," said San Francisco resident Barry Hooper, who attended with his wife and two daughters.

His 7-year-old daughter Liliana clutched a sign she made, saying, "Stop the separation."

Three thousand miles away in Washington, protesters ended their march at the white-columned Justice Department. They stacked their protest signs, written in English and Spanish, against its grand wooden doors.

"Fight for families," one sign demanded.

In Portland, Oregon, police ordered participants in a march by Patriot Prayer to disperse after officers saw assaults and projectiles being thrown. Some arrests were made.

The problems occurred as two opposing protest groups — Patriot Prayer and antifa — took to the streets. People in the crowd were lighting firecrackers and smoke bombs and police used flash bangs to disperse the clashing protesters.

Associated Press reporters Susan Montoya Bryan in Albuquerque, New Mexico; Emily Schmall in McAllen, Texas; David Warren and Ryan Tarinelli in Dallas; Paul Elias in San Francisco; David Sharp in Portland, Maine; Martha Irvine in Chicago; Sarah Betancourt in Boston; Damian Dovarganes in Los Angeles; Rick Callahan in Indianapolis; Bob Lentz and Ron Todt in Philadelphia, Claire Galofaro in Louisville, Kentucky, and Julie Walker and Michael Sisak in New York City contributed to this report.

Trump asserts he didn't push House GOP on immigration By KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

BERKELEY HEIGHTS, N.J. (AP) — President Donald Trump claimed Saturday that he never pushed House Republicans to vote for immigration bills that failed last week, offering his latest display of whiplash on the legislation.

Trump tweeted from his New Jersey golf club that he didn't press GOP lawmakers to support the plans because it wouldn't have cleared the Senate. He wrote that he released many House Republicans "prior to the vote knowing we need more Republicans to win in Nov."

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But the president's statement contradicted his commentary three days ago in which he tweeted that House Republicans should approve the "STRONG BUT FAIR" bill even though Democrats wouldn't allow it to pass the Senate. A week earlier, he urged Republicans to stop wasting their time on the bill until after the elections.

Trump's tweets were another twist in Republicans' efforts to adopt changes to the nation's immigration laws in the aftermath of highly publicized images and cries from young immigrant children being separated from their parents at the southern border. Trump's statements coincided with people across the country marching Saturday in opposition to his immigration policies.

The GOP-led House soundly rejected a wide-ranging immigration bill last week despite Trump's endorsement, a vote that followed the defeat on a harder-right package that garnered more conservative support.

GOP leaders are considering an alternative that would focus narrowly on preventing the government from separating children from migrant families caught entering the country without authorization. But any changes are not expected to happen before the July 4th holiday as lawmakers attempt to agree on bill language.

The issue has also been complicated by a federal judge who ordered that divided families be reunited with 30 days. Republicans have been working on legislation that would keep migrant families together by lifting a court-ordered, 20-day limit on how long families can be detained.

Trump issued an executive order reversing his own family separation policy, but around 2,000 children have been removed from their relatives, prompting an outcry for action.

The president tweeted Saturday that when people enter the nation illegally, "we must IMMEDIATELY escort them back out without going through years of legal maneuvering. Our laws are the dumbest anywhere in the world."

Trump claims Saudi Arabia will boost oil production By KEN THOMAS and JON GAMBRELL, Associated Press

BERKELEY HEIGHTS, N.J. (AP) — President Donald Trump said Saturday that he had received assurances from King Salman of Saudi Arabia that the kingdom will increase oil production, "maybe up to 2,000,000 barrels" in response to turmoil in Iran and Venezuela. Saudi Arabia acknowledged the call took place, but mentioned no production targets.

Trump wrote on Twitter that he had asked the king in a phone call to boost oil production "to make up the difference...Prices to (sic) high! He has agreed!"

A little over an hour later, the state-run Saudi Press Agency reported on the call, but offered few details. "During the call, the two leaders stressed the need to make efforts to maintain the stability of oil markets and the growth of the global economy," the statement said.

It added that there also was an understanding that oil-producing countries would need "to compensate for any potential shortage of supplies." It did not elaborate.

In a statement issued Saturday night, the White House did not specify that Saudi Arabia would increase production but that "King Salman affirmed that the Kingdom maintains a two million barrel per day spare capacity, which it will prudently use if and when necessary to ensure market balance and stability, and in coordination with its producer partners, to respond to any eventuality."

Oil prices have edged higher as the Trump administration has pushed allies to end all purchases of oil from Iran following the U.S. pulling out of the nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers. Prices also have risen with ongoing unrest in Venezuela and fighting in Libya over control of that country's oil infrastructure.

Last week, members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries cartel led by Saudi Arabia and non-cartel members agreed to pump 1 million barrels more crude oil per day, a move that should help contain the recent rise in global energy prices. However, summer months in the U.S. usually lead to increased demand for oil, pushing up the price of gasoline in a midterm election year. A gallon of regular gasoline sold on average in the U.S. for \$2.85, up from \$2.23 a gallon last year, according to AAA.

If Trump's comments are accurate, oil analyst Phil Flynn said it could immediately knock \$2 or \$3 off a

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barrel of oil. But he said it's unlikely that decrease could sustain itself as demand spikes, leading prices to rise by wintertime.

"We'll need more oil down the road and there'll be nowhere to get it," said Flynn, of the Price Futures Group. "This leaves the world in kind of a vulnerable state."

Other analysts were more doubtful about immediate effects.

Trump appears to be trying to "talk the market down," said Lawrence Goldstein, who directs the Energy Policy Research Foundation. He questioned whether Trump's words would do anything to reverse the effects on the market of declining Iranian oil production. He also noted it always takes at least two months before a change in shipping commitments affects the market.

Trump's aim may be to exert maximum pressure on Iran while at the same time not upsetting potential U.S. midterm voters with higher gas prices, said Antoine Halff, a Columbia University researcher and former chief oil analyst for the International Energy Agency.

"The Trump support base is probably the part of the U.S. electorate that will be the most sensitive to an increase in U.S. gasoline prices," Halff said.

Trump's comments came Saturday as global financial markets were closed. Brent crude stood at \$79.42 a barrel, while U.S. benchmark crude was at \$74.15.

Saudi Arabia currently produces some 10 million barrels of crude oil a day. Its record is 10.72 million barrels a day. Trump's tweet offered no timeframe for the additional 2 million barrels — whether that meant per day or per month.

However, Saudi Aramco CEO Amin Nasser told journalists in India on Monday that the state oil company has spare capacity of 2 million barrels of oil a day. That was after Saudi Energy Minister Khalid al-Falih said the kingdom would honor the OPEC decision to stick to a 1-million-barrel increase.

"Saudi Arabia obviously can deliver as much as the market would need, but we're going to be respectful of the 1-million-barrel cap — and at the same time be respectful of allocating some of that to countries that deliver it," al-Falih said then.

The Trump administration has been counting on Saudi Arabia and other OPEC members to supply enough oil to offset the lost Iranian exports and prevent oil prices from rising sharply. But broadcasting its requests on Twitter with a number that stretches credibility opens a new chapter in U.S.-Saudi relations, Halff said.

"Saudis are used to U.S. requests for oil," Halff said. "They're not used to this kind of public messaging. I think the difficulty for them is to distinguish what is a real ask from what is public posturing."

The administration has threatened close allies such as South Korea with sanctions if they don't cut off Iranian imports by early November. South Korea accounted for 14 percent of Iran's oil exports last year, according to the U.S. Energy Department.

China is the largest importer of Iranian oil with 24 percent, followed by India with 18 percent. Turkey stood at 9 percent and Italy at 7 percent.

The State Department has said it expects the "vast majority" of countries will comply with the U.S. request.

Gambrell reported from Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Associated Press writer Matt O'Brien in Providence, Rhode Island, contributed to this report.

Small capital city draped in grief by newspaper shooting By BRIAN WITTE, Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) — The historic state capital of Annapolis is draped in grief from a shooting attack on the local newspaper, which killed journalists who chronicled soccer games, art exhibits and the fabric of small-city life.

A sign outside The Annapolis Bookstore, a block from the Maryland State House, starkly expresses the depth of sorrow many are feeling in this quaint waterside capital of about 40,000 near the Chesapeake Bay. "There are no words," it says.

With its weekly sailboat races and picturesque downtown, residents were settling into summer's languid

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rhythms when the shooting shattered the usual tranquility. In a quiet town where the incoming class of the U.S. Naval Academy just arrived this week and residents take pride in a rich colonial legacy, the shooting at The Capital that claimed five lives opens a new chapter in its long history.

"It feels so personal," said Mary Adams, who owns The Annapolis Bookstore and knew two of the victims. "It has shifted our community, and maybe it's made us more attuned to the fact that we are all in this together."

The Rev. M. Dion Thompson, who worked as a journalist at The Baltimore Sun for 15 years, made the sadness a focus of his sermon at St. Anne's Episcopal Church in Annapolis on Saturday evening. He also highlighted journalism as a force to comfort the afflicted, as he sought to comfort people saddened by the killings.

"Not that it's awakened the community, but I think our community now joins so many others in feeling this intense harm that has been done to us," Thompson said after the service. "The Capital is not a giant newspaper. Annapolis is not a giant town, so people know who we are talking about."

Adams knew Wendi Winters, the paper's special projects editor. They met years ago at a Harry Potter night at another bookstore in town. She also knew assistant managing editor Rob Hiaasen, also among the dead. The others killed in Thursday's rampage were editorial page editor Gerald Fischman, reporter John McNamara and sales assistant Rebecca Smith.

"I'm just so sad that this happened to ... the people and their families," Adams said. "They're all good people just trying to support a local newspaper, and now everyone is wondering how could this have happened."

Jarrod W. Ramos has been charged with five counts of first-degree murder. Authorities say he had a longtime grudge against the paper, suing it in 2012 for an article it ran about him pleading guilty to harassing a woman. A judge later threw it out as groundless. In past years, Ramos repeatedly targeted staffers with angry, profanity-laced tweets.

Designed more for an age of horses and buggies than SUVs, Annapolis has a baroque street plan of downtown traffic circles and diagonal streets that can make it feel distant from modern times. For some, that sense of withdrawal made Thursday's tragedy all the more shocking.

Lisa Quina, owner of an interior design studio called Barefoot Dwelling, recently moved from Baltimore — a city struggling for years to lower a high homicide rate — in search of a smaller, safer community. One of the considerations for choosing Annapolis was its close-knit nature.

"I guess it's a wakeup call in any community," Quina said. "Despite how quaint or how historic, how

uncomplicated some of our day-to-day challenges are, we are vulnerable to the worst possible scenario."

Caitlin Walls, who works as an assistant interior designer at the shop, said Annapolis has always felt to her like a safe place to be. "It's sad it's such a growing reality in places that you thought were the safer places," Walls said of the shooting.

And for some raised in Annapolis, like New England Patriots coach Bill Belichick, the tragedy hits hard even after they've gone elsewhere. Born in Tennessee, Belichick graduated from Annapolis High in 1970 and has strong ties from when his father was an assistant coach at Navy.

"For my entire life, The Capital has been my hometown newspaper. My family and I have enjoyed special relationships with many great people who have worked for the newspaper," Belichick said. "My heart goes out to the victims, their families and the entire Annapolis community."

Steve Samaras, who owns Zachary's Jewelers on Main Street near the City Dock, said he attended a vigil Friday night with his 12-year-old niece. He said she already was grappling with consequences of gun violence, because a friend of hers who had moved to Florida had attended Marjory Stone Douglas High School in Parkland, where 17 people died in a shooting in February.

"She said 'Uncle Steven, I'm scared.' What do you tell a 12-year-old kid? What do you tell any child," he said.

More than 1,000 people streamed through Annapolis on Friday evening to remember the victims.

Samaras has experienced the resilient side of Annapolis first hand. In 2005, the building that housed his business was destroyed by a fire, and he had to relocate. Seven days later, he said, the community

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made sure he was open at his present location.

"So, the resilience, the determination that they showed me, that's what we're going to see happen here," he said.

Melania Trump seeing lots, saying little at migrant centers By LAURIE KELLMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Melania Trump lit up when a 3-year-old boy darted out of "Family Unit 8" at a migrant center in Tucson, Arizona.

"Hello!" said the first lady, brightening amid the semicircle of eight cells in a short-term holding center for migrants. "How are you?"

Mrs. Trump, an immigrant and a mother herself, wanted to find out more about how her husband's strict immigration policy was playing out on the ground, especially among families that have been separated at the border. Two tours of migrant detention centers in a week gave her a sometimes grim view.

Now the question is what she does with that knowledge — and how she meshes it with her dislike for dividing up families and a concurrent belief in strong borders.

Spokeswoman Stephanie Grisham says more border visits or talks with lawmakers are possible, but it's not clear what lessons the first lady took from her visits and what she'll communicate to her husband.

"She cares about children deeply," Grisham said. "She also believes in strong border laws and treating everybody equally."

The first lady has given her husband her views on controversial political issues throughout his presidency, but never in such a public way as with the issue of immigrant children.

Before her husband reversed himself and put a halt to separations at the border, Mrs. Trump's office put out a statement saying the first lady "hates" to see families separated and expressing hope that "both sides of the aisle" can reform the nation's immigration laws. She did not say whether she supports the president's "zero tolerance" policy for criminally prosecuting those who cross the border illegally.

"This is a complex issue," Grisham said. "She recognizes that."

The sights and sounds of Mrs. Trump's visits to border facilities in Texas and Arizona amounted to a hard-to-forget information file about the 2,000 children separated from their families nationally.

Thursday's visits to a migrant center and a school provided Mrs. Trump with indelible images and facts on the perils for families crossing the desert, the challenges for law enforcement and what happens to illegal border crossers and their children when they are caught.

Despite the camera-ready nature of the events, some of the images were bleak: a cell block, doors open at the time, where minors are sorted into "Families," 'Males" and "Processed" and "Unprocessed." Six expressionless teenage boys seated on a bench outside their cell. A daycare for children under 2 and a few mothers — also minors.

At a Tucson roundtable with law enforcement officials responsible for hundreds of miles of border, the first lady asked how many children cross the desert alone. One official told her a 16-year-old was raped on her journey into the U.S. and gave birth in federal custody.

Another official showed Mrs. Trump a picture that seemed to take her aback. It appeared to be a photo described as showing a 6-year-old boy who was found crossing the desert alone with a soda bottle and a note saying he was looking for his mother. Reporters later learned that the boy is alive.

The first lady at times deliberately leaves her message unclear.

On her first trip to the border, her choice of clothing left everyone scratching their heads, with the inscription on the back of her jacket that read, "I really don't care, do u?"

On her second visit, her wardrobe was understated. But Mrs. Trump didn't expound on her view of her husband's immigration policy.

That didn't stop critics of the Trump administration from lumping her in with her husband.

In Phoenix, as the first lady's motorcade approached a sprawling Southwest Key migrant facility, protesters lined the sidewalk amid a big inflatable likeness of her husband, dressed in a white robe and holding

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a hood reminiscent of the Ku Klux Klan.

"Melania Trump is guilty, guilty, guilty!" the protesters chanted of the first lady, who is from Slovenia and came to the United States on a special visa during her modeling career.

Inside, she stopped at an air-conditioned trailer marked No. 4 that held 10 boys and girls around 5 years old.

"Do you like it here with some friends?" Mrs. Trump asked.

"Si," said one girl.

A few protesters screamed from a nearby balcony that overlooked the compound's playground as Mrs. Trump's retinue shifted buildings.

Then came perhaps the most sobering stop, to another cooled room containing nine babies and toddlers, and four of their moms.

Mrs. Trump stepped onto the carpet in her sneakered feet and squatted down to get closer to the children, still sleepy from recent naps. She glanced up toward the women standing nearby and asked, "Who are the moms?" One woman from Honduras raised a hand. "Where is your baby?" the first lady asked. A translator helped the young woman point out a boy, 14 months old. An official traveling with Mrs. Trump said there were 121 children there and their average stay was 48 days.

The balcony was empty by the time Mrs. Trump departed.

At the gates of the compound, some protesters tried briefly to jog alongside the first lady's motorcade as it sped, lights flashing, toward the airport and the four-hour flight back to Washington.

Kellman reported from Arizona and Washington. Associated Press Writer Astrid Galvan contributed from Phoenix.

Follow Kellman on Twitter at http://www.twitter.com/APLaurieKellman

Evangelical leaders downplay potential Roe v. Wade reversal By STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — For evangelical Christian leaders like Jerry Falwell Jr., this is their political holy grail. Like many religious conservatives in a position to know, the Liberty University president with close ties to the White House suspects that the Supreme Court vacancy President Donald Trump fills in the coming months will ultimately lead to the reversal of the landmark abortion case Roe v. Wade. But instead of celebrating publicly, some evangelical leaders are downplaying their fortune on an issue that has defined their movement for decades.

"What people don't understand is that if you overturn Roe v. Wade, all that does is give the states the right to decide whether abortion is legal or illegal," Falwell told The Associated Press in an interview. "My guess is that there'd probably be less than 20 states that would make abortion illegal if given that right." Falwell added: "In the '70s, I don't know how many states had abortion illegal before Roe v. Wade, but

it won't be near as many this time."

The sentiment, echoed by evangelical leaders across the country this past week, underscores the delicate politics that surround a moment many religious conservatives have longed for. With the retirement of swing vote Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy, Trump and his Republican allies in the Senate plan to install a conservative justice who could re-define the law of the land on some of the nation's most explosive policy debates — none bigger than abortion.

And while these are the very best of times for the religious right, social conservatives risk a powerful backlash from their opponents if they cheer too loudly. Women's groups have already raised the alarm for their constituents, particularly suburban women, who are poised to play an outsized role in the fight for the House majority this November.

Two-thirds of Americans do not want to see Roe v. Wade overturned, according to a poll released Friday by the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation. Among women of reproductive age, three out of four want

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the high court ruling left alone. The poll was conducted before Kennedy's retirement was announced.

"The left is going to try very hard to say this is all about overturning Roe," said Johnnie Moore, a Southern Baptist minister who was a co-chairman of the Trump campaign's evangelical advisory board. The more significant shift on the high court, he said, would likely be the help given to conservatives in their fight for what they call religious freedom.

Tony Perkins, who leads the socially conservative Family Research Council, said abortion was simply "a factor" in evangelicals' excitement over a more conservative Supreme Court. He suggested that public opinion was already shifting against abortion rights, although that's not true of the Roe v. Wade ruling, which has become slightly more popular over time.

Perkins agreed with Moore that the broader push for religious freedom was a bigger conservative focus. Many evangelicals, for example, have lashed out against Obama-era laws that required churches and other religious institutions to provide their employees with women's reproductive services, including access to abortion and birth control. Others have rallied behind private business owners who faced legal repercussions after denying services to gay people.

Yet sweeping restrictions to abortion rights are certainly on the table, Moore noted.

"There is a high level of confidence within the community that overturning Roe is actually, finally possible," Moore said. He added: "Evangelicals have never been more confident in the future of America than they are now. It's just a fact."

In Alabama, Tom Parker, a Republican associate justice on the state Supreme Court who is campaigning to become the state's chief justice, explicitly raised the potential of sending cases to Washington that would lead to the overturning of key rulings, including Roe v. Wade.

"President Trump is just one appointment away from giving us a conservative majority on the U.S. Supreme Court," Parker said in an interview on the radio program Wallbuilders Live. "And they are going to need cases that they can use to reverse those horrible decisions of the liberal majority in the past that have undermined the Constitution and really just abused our own personal rights."

Despite Trump's struggles with Christian values in his personal life at times, skeptical evangelical Christians lined up behind him in the 2016 election, and they remain one of his most loyal constituencies.

The president's standing with white evangelical Christians hit an all-time high in April when 75 percent of evangelicals held a favorable view of Trump, according to a poll conducted by the Public Religion Research Institute.

The unlikely marriage between the thrice-married president and Christian conservatives has always been focused on Trump's ability to re-shape the nation's judicial branch.

On the day she endorsed candidate Trump in March 2016, the late iconic anti-abortion activist Phyllis Schlafly first asked him privately whether he would appoint more judges like the conservative Antonin Scalia, recalled Schlafly's successor Ed Martin, who was in the room at the time. Trump promised he would.

The president followed through with the appointment of Neil Gorsuch less than a month after his inauguration, delighting religious conservatives nationwide. And the Trump White House, while disorganized in other areas, made its relationship with the religious right a priority.

The first private White House meeting between evangelical leaders and senior Trump officials came in the days after the Gorsuch nomination, said Moore, who was in attendance. He said the White House has hosted roughly two dozen similar meetings since then in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building adjacent to the White House.

A senior administration official such as Jared Kushner, Ivanka Trump or Kellyanne Conway — if not Trump himself — has always been present, Moore added. Each meeting featured a detailed briefing on the administration's push to fill judicial openings.

"The courts have been at the very center of the relationship," Moore said.

And now, as the focus shifts toward the president's next Supreme Court nomination, evangelical leaders who once held their noses and voted for Trump have little doubt he will pick someone who shares their conservative views on abortion, same-sex marriage and other social issues.

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Falwell insisted only that Trump make his next selection from the list of prospective nominees he released before his election. All are believed to oppose the Roe v. Wade ruling.

Any deviation from the list, Falwell said, would be "a betrayal." He noted, however, that he's in weekly contact with the White House and has supreme confidence that the president will deliver.

"This is a vindication for the 80 percent of evangelicals who supported Trump. Many of them voted on this issue alone," Falwell said. "Today's a day that we as evangelicals, and really all average Americans, can say we told you so."

Associated Press writer Jay Reeves in Birmingham, Alabama, contributed to this report.

Roberts may hold key vote as Supreme Court moves right By MARK SHERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Chief Justice John Roberts is the Supreme Court's new man in the middle. It's just that the middle may have moved well to the right.

The retirement of Justice Anthony Kennedy means Roberts probably will be the conservative justice closest to the court's four liberals, allowing him to control where the panel comes down in some of its most contentious cases.

Roberts will be the justice who determines "how far they go and how fast they go," said Washington lawyer John Elwood.

Kennedy played a similar role for many years — his votes on gay rights, abortion, the death penalty, the environment, voting rights and affirmative action basically determined the outcome of cases on which the court was divided between liberals and conservatives.

Roberts has typically been to Kennedy's right. He did not endorse a constitutional right to marry for same-sex couples. He dissented when the court struck down Texas abortion clinic restrictions in 2016. The chief justice also was in dissent from the court's first major climate change decision in 2007, when it held that the Environmental Protection Agency could regulate emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases as air pollutants.

New cases on any of those issues could be before the court soon and, even if Roberts is not prepared to overrule major Supreme Court precedents, he could be in position to cut back on environmental protections as well as gay rights and abortion rights.

Smaller steps might be in keeping with Roberts' preference for avoiding major divides where possible, and attracting votes from both conservatives and liberals. The 63-year-old chief justice may be in no hurry to move quickly, as he could be on the bench another 15 to 20 years.

"Chief Justice Roberts, more than any other justice on the court, believes in narrow rulings that attract broad majorities, answering no more than necessary to resolve a given case," Jonathan Adler, a professor at the Case Western Reserve University School of Law, wrote on the Volokh Conspiracy legal blog.

In one sense, the Supreme Court's immediate future could look a lot like the term that just ended. Roberts seemed firmly in control of a court that overwhelmingly went conservative in divided cases, including upholding President Donald Trump's travel ban, striking a blow at public-sector labor unions, limiting workers' rights to band together to complain about pay and affirming Ohio's aggressive efforts to purge its voting rolls.

Only on one occasion did Roberts join with the liberal justices in a 5-4 decision, a ruling that said police generally must have warrants to get telecommunications companies' records showing where people have used their cellphones.

Twice, though, Roberts was among a larger grouping of justices in cases that skirted the big issue at stake, but that could return to the court. In one case, the justices rejected a lower-court ruling that set limits on redistricting for partisan gain, but without deciding whether limits ever could be imposed. In another, the court ruled in favor of a baker who would not create a wedding cake for a same-sex couple, yet left on the table the question of whether religious objections could be used to avoid complying with

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anti-discrimination laws that protect LGBT people.

For all his votes on the conservative side of issues, Roberts has had his critics on the right. They include Trump, who once labeled Roberts "an absolute disaster" for the chief justice's critical vote to uphold the Affordable Care Act in 2012. Trump has not publicly criticized Roberts since he's been president.

The case arose in the middle of the 2012 presidential campaign, in which Barack Obama was seeking re-election and the health care law also known as "Obamacare" was a major issue. Then, as now, the five conservatives were nominees of Republican presidents, while the four liberals were chosen by Democrats.

In the end, Roberts sided with the liberals, a decision some court observers have attributed in part to concern about public perceptions of the court and the chief justice's desire to be seen as above the political fray.

"He's conservative, but he is an institutionalist. He believes deeply in the Supreme Court," said George Washington University law professor Jonathan Turley.

A test of Roberts' ability to set the court's agenda could come on the topic of guns, said UCLA law professor Adam Winkler.

Roberts voted in favor of gun rights in two cases that held that Americans have the right to have guns, at least for self-defense in their homes. But the court has since rejected repeated attempts to expand on the right of gun ownership, in part because Roberts and Kennedy would not join the other conservative justices to take on a new case.

It takes the votes of four justices for the court to agree to review a case. If Kennedy's replacement is a fourth vote for a new case about guns, then Roberts might soon have to weigh in on issues like the right carry a concealed firearm in public or bans on assault weapons, Winkler said.

Associated Press writers Jessica Gresko and Noreen Nasir contributed to this report.

Fear turns into joy: Rescue boat saves 60 in Mediterranean By RENATA BRITO and FRANCES D'EMILIO, Associated Press

ABOARD THE OPEN ARMS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA (AP) — The full moon was the only light as a terrified 9-year-old boy from Central African Republic climbed into a rubber dinghy held together with duct tape, risking death in the dark waters off Libya along with his parents and 57 other trafficked migrants.

After a long night on the Mediterranean Sea, a Spanish rescue boat spotted them on the horizon after dawn.

"People were screaming, I was afraid," said the boy, Krisley Dokouada. "But after seeing the rescue boat, I knew there was no more danger."

Their savior Saturday was the Open Arms, which became the third rescue ship run by humanitarian aid groups to draw the ire of Italy's anti-migrant interior minister, Matteo Salvini. He has vowed that Italy's new populist government will no longer allow such rescue boats to dock in Italy, which has taken in hundreds of thousands of migrants rescued at sea in the last few years.

Malta then angrily rebuffed Salvini's claim that the tiny Mediterranean nation was closest to the rescue ship and should give it safe harbor.

By nightfall Saturday, Spain agreed to let the Open Arms dock in Barcelona, where the humanitarian aid group which operates the vessel, Proactiva Open Arms, is based, the Spanish government said.

The Open Arms and its companion ship, the Astral, will likely need four days to reach Barcelona, said the Astral's captain, Riccardo Gatti.

Also on Saturday, in an unrelated rescue much further west of the central Mediterranean where the Open Arms rescue took place, Spanish authorities reported saving 63 migrants trying to reach the country's southern coast from North Africa.

While European politicians bickered about where the migrants should go, those rescued by the Open Arms were jubilant — jumping, chanting and hugging their rescuers.

Krisley's tensions melted when he was allowed to sit for a few minutes in the captain's seat. With spar-

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kling eyes, the only child among the migrants smiled shyly after the rescue crew called him "captain."

For months, his family had lived in Libya, while they awaited their chance to make the Mediterranean crossing. His mother, Judith Dokouada, said she never left the shelter for fear of being kidnapped or sold as a slave, a fate many African migrants have spoken of to human rights advocates.

"There is war at home. They kill people, they beat people, they rape women, they kill boys," said Dokouada, 32. "We don't have peace."

She and her husband want to raise Krisley in a safer place. She expressed hope the family could apply for refugee status and settle in Spain.

Another of those rescued, Bitcha Honoree, said he knew the risk he was taking when he boarded the dinghy in the middle of the night.

The 39-year-old man from Cameroon said that he was sold twice as a slave, kidnapped and tortured in Libya while awaiting his chance to get aboard a smuggler's boat. His brother sold his home in order to pay the ransom demanded by his captors in largely lawless Libya.

"It's better to die than to continue being treated this bad," he said.

Many have died on the dangerous crossing. The U.N. refugee agency says 1,137 migrants are estimated to have died on Mediterranean so far this year. And that does not include the 100 migrants reported missing and feared dead at sea Friday off the coast of Libya.

A few hours after the Open Arms rescue Saturday, Salvini declared that the Spanish rescue boat "can forget about arriving in an Italian port" and claimed it should go to Malta.

"Quit spreading incorrect news, dragging Malta into it for no reason," Maltese Interior Minister Michael Farrugia tweeted, claiming the tiny Italian island of Lampedusa, south of Sicily, was closer.

Even though the number of migrants arriving in Europe is sharply down this year from 2017, migration issues have deepened political divisions in the European Union, fueled in part by the demands of antimigrant nationalist parties.

But cracks showed Saturday between the two coalition parties in Italy's new populist government over Salvini's hard-line approach. Roberto Fico, a leading figure in the 5-Star Movement, the senior partner in Italy's ruling coalition, told reporters after inspecting a migrant reception center in Sicily that "I wouldn't close the ports."

Fico described Libya as unsafe and praised the humanitarian aid ships for doing "extraordinary work" in the Mediterranean.

Salvini contended Saturday on Twitter that the Open Arms had taken on the migrants before a Libyan boat in Libya's search-and-rescue zone could intervene.

But the Open Arms' captain said he told the Rome-based Maritime Rescue Coordination Center about the migrants and was instructed to call Libyan maritime authorities, who didn't answer. The captain said officials in Rome then told him it was up to him to decide whether to carry out the rescue.

"I took the decision to save these human beings," the captain, Marco Martinez, told an Associated Press journalist who viewed the rescue from a dinghy belonging to the Astral.

The AP journalist saw a Libyan coast guard vessel approached the Open Arms and the Astral as the rescue was being concluded, but it made a U-turn and left, ordering both boats to return to Spain. Also witnessing the rescue were four European Parliament lawmakers.

D'Emilio reported from Rome. Stephen Calleja in Malta and Aritz Parra in Madrid contributed.

LeBron returns to LA to plot next move as free agency nears By TOM WITHERS, AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND (AP) — LeBron James flew back to Los Angeles from a family vacation in the Caribbean. He could be there longer than usual.

Hours before NBA free agency opened with the three-time champion as its most coveted prize, James returned Saturday to Southern California, where he has two homes and a film production company. The

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Lakers are hoping they can persuade him to sign with them and return them to glory.

Los Angeles is among the teams in the mix to land James after his agent told the Cleveland Cavaliers on Friday that he will not exercise his \$35.6 million contract option for next season. At 12:01 a.m. Sunday, James will be an unrestricted free agent, and agent Rich Paul is expected to contact several teams with the Lakers and Cavs atop his list.

By declining his option, James positioned himself to be able to choose where he'll play next, and Cleveland, just up the road from his home near Akron, remains a strong possibility. But there are at least three other teams — and maybe an outsider or two — with legitimate shots at landing James, who made it clear following this year's NBA Finals that he's still driven to win championships.

While every team dreams of being ruled by King James, only a few have a legit chance of signing him. Here are the cases — for and against — the leading contenders:

CLEVELAND

WHY: Home; money.

James came back four years ago to a hero's welcome, something that seemed unimaginable when he left in disgrace four years earlier for Miami. But he vowed to do everything he could to deliver a title to championship-starved Cleveland. He delivered in 2016, erasing past sins and raising James to a worshipped level few athletes in any sport have experienced. His family is comfortable here and it's where he has complete control.

The Cavs can also offer him the most lucrative package, a five-year, \$209 million contract.

WHY NOT: Flawed roster; blemished relationship with owner Dan Gilbert.

Last summer's stunning trade of guard Kyrie Irving left the Cavs without a quality running mate for James, who was forced to carry a heavier offensive load throughout the regular season and playoffs. Cleveland has deep salary-cap issues — partially caused by James' failure to commit long-term — and the Cavs currently lack enough talent to unseat the champion Golden State Warriors.

Gilbert and James mended some fences for his return in 2014, but they remain distant other than a shared commitment to winning. Gilbert has gone above and beyond financial barriers to appease James, but the well could be running dry.

LOS ANGELES LAKERS

WHY: Salary-cap space; business interests; iconic franchise.

With some savvy moves, the Lakers are poised to potentially add two superstars — James and Paul George and maybe Kawhi Leonard — to a team featuring up-and-coming talents like Kyle Kuzma, Brandon Ingram and Lonzo Ball, who is reportedly dealing with a knee injury. James loves the Hollywood lights, and with two homes in the Los Angeles area as well as a film production company, he has already established some roots in the land of movie stars and slow-moving traffic. The appeal of playing for one of the league's most storied teams is another allure.

WHY NOT: Youth; the Western Conference.

There's little doubt James has some quality years ahead of him. But does he have enough time to let a group of unproven players with no postseason experience develop into a title contender? And if he jumps conferences for the first time in his career, the path to the Finals is far more treacherous.

PHILADELPHIA

WHY: Rising team; staying in the East.

In Sixers guard Ben Simmons, James sees a younger version of himself and he'd relish the chance to play alongside the 21-year-old while mentoring him. The Sixers also have center Joel Embiid, 24, projected to become the game's next dominant big men. Philadelphia would instantly vault from conference contender to favorite with James, who could make a strong run at his ninth straight Finals in Year One.

WHY NOT: Too young; front-office dysfunction.

Much like the Lakers, the Sixers lack postseason experience and James would be surrounded by players who have barely tasted the postseason. General manager Bryan Colangelo's resignation following an investigation into whether he created Twitter accounts to criticize his own players, has given the impression that the team isn't operating in concert and then would turn off James quickly.

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OTHER CONTENDERS

Houston: While the Rockets once seemed a good fit, James declining his option all but eliminated the chances of him joining up with close friend Chris Paul and MVP James Harden. If James had opted in with the Cavs, they could have worked out a sign-and-trade with Houston.

San Antonio: James reveres Spurs coach Gregg Popovich, but living in Texas doesn't seem appealing to the star's family and the Spurs are still trying to figure out what to do with Leonard, who can become a free agent after next season.

More AP NBA: www.apnews.com/tags/NBAbasketball

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, July 1, the 182nd day of 2018. There are 183 days left in the year. This is Canada Day. Today's Highlight in History:

On July 1, 1867, Canada became a self-governing dominion of Great Britain as the British North America Act took effect.

On this date:

In 1535, Sir Thomas More went on trial in England, charged with high treason for rejecting the Oath of Supremacy. (More was convicted, and executed.)

In 1916, during World War I, France and Britain launched the Somme Offensive against the German army; the 4 1/2-month battle resulted in heavy casualties and produced no clear winner. Dwight D. Eisenhower married Mary ("Mamie") Geneva Doud in Denver.

In 1934, Hollywood began enforcing its Production Code subjecting motion pictures to censorship review.

In 1946, the United States exploded a 20-kiloton atomic bomb near Bikini Atoll in the Pacific.

In 1957, the International Geophysical Year, an 18-month global scientific study, began.

In 1961, Diana, the princess of Wales, was born in Sandringham, England. (She died in a 1997 car crash in Paris at age 36.)

In 1973, the Drug Enforcement Administration was established.

In 1980, "O Canada" was proclaimed the national anthem of Canada.

In 1987, President Ronald Reagan nominated federal appeals court judge Robert H. Bork to the Supreme Court, setting off a tempestuous confirmation process that ended with Bork's rejection by the Senate.

In 1991, President George H.W. Bush nominated federal appeals court judge Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court, beginning an ultimately successful confirmation process marked by allegations of sexual harassment. The Warsaw Pact formally disbanded.

In 1997, Hong Kong reverted to Chinese rule after 156 years as a British colony. Actor Robert Mitchum died in Santa Barbara, California, at age 79.

In 2002, the world's first permanent war crimes tribunal, the International Criminal Court, came into existence. A Russian passenger jet collided with a cargo plane over southern Germany, killing all 69 people, including 45 schoolchildren, on the Russian plane and the cargo jet pilots.

Ten years ago: Five years ago: Ex-convict Nicholas T. Sheley, suspected in eight grisly slayings in two states, was arrested outside a bar in Granite City, Ill. (Sheley has since been convicted of two murders.) The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Denver agreed to pay \$5.5 million to settle 18 more claims by people who said they'd been sexually abused by priests when they were children. Clay Felker, founding editor of New York magazine, died at age 82.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama, during a visit to Tanzania, brushed aside sharp European criticism, suggesting that all nations spy on each other as the French and Germans expressed outrage over allegations of U.S. eavesdropping on European Union diplomats. Obama joined his predecessor, former

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President George W. Bush, at a wreath-laying ceremony honoring victims of the 1998 embassy bombings in Tanzania and Kenya. Serena Williams joined a growing list of marquee names eliminated early at a wild and unpredictable Wimbledon, losing to Sabine Lisicki of Germany 6-2, 1-6, 6-4 in the fourth round. "Twister" game inventor Charles "Chuck" Foley, 82, died in St. Louis Park, Minnesota.

One year ago: Pope Francis declined to renew the mandate of German Cardinal Gerhard Mueller as prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the Vatican office that handles sex abuse cases. During Mueller's five-year term, the congregation amassed a 2,000-case backlog and came under blistering criticism from abuse survivors. President Donald Trump lashed out at Joe Scarborough and Mika Brzezinski, co-hosts of MSNBC's "Morning Joe," saying on Twitter: "Crazy Joe Scarborough and dumb as a rock Mika are not bad people, but their low rated show is dominated by their NBC bosses."

Today's Birthdays: Actress Olivia de Havilland is 102. Actress-dancer Leslie Caron is 87. Actress Jean Marsh is 84. Actor Jamie Farr is 84. Actor David Prowse is 83. Cookiemaker Wally Amos is 82. Dancerchoreographer Twyla Tharp is 77. Actress Genevieve Bujold is 76. Rock singer-actress Deborah Harry is 73. Movie-TV producer-director Michael Pressman is 68. Actor Daryl Anderson is 67. Actor Trevor Eve is 67. Actor Terrence Mann is 67. Rock singer Fred Schneider (B-52's) is 67. Pop singer Victor Willis (Village People) is 67. Actor-comedian Dan Aykroyd is 66. Actress Lorna Patterson is 62. Actor Alan Ruck is 62. Rhythm and blues singer Evelyn "Champagne" King is 58. Olympic gold medal track star Carl Lewis is 57. Country singer Michelle Wright is 57. Actor Andre Braugher is 56. Actor Dominic Keating is 56. Actress Pamela Anderson is 51. Rock musician Mark Pirro is 48. Rock musician Franny Griffiths (Space) is 48. Actor Henry Simmons is 48. Hip-hop artist Missy Elliott is 47. Actress Julianne Nicholson is 47. Actress Melissa Peterman is 47. Rock musician Bryan Devendorf (The National) is 43. Actor Thomas Sadoski is 42. Actress Liv Tyler is 41. Bluegrass musician Adam Haynes (Dailey & Vincent) is 39. Actress Hilarie Burton is 36. Actress Lynsey Bartilson is 35. Actress Lea Seydoux (LEE'-uh say-DOO') is 33. Actor Evan Ellingson is 30. Actors Andrew and Steven Cavarno are 26. Actress Storm Reid is 15.

Thought for Today: "Competition brings out the best in products and the worst in people." — David Sarnoff, American broadcasting pioneer (1891-1971).

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