

A MESSAGE TO THE UNIVERSE
WILL YOU RECEIVE THIS MESSAGE ??

TO: THE UNIQUE AND ILLUSTRIOUS
VISITOR(S) TO THIS SITE

Now is the Necessary TIME - even more than
ever - to Remember, especially in this REPRESS-
IVE "THOUGHT POLICE" (PC) TIME(S) that through-
out the ANNALS OF HUMAN (WOMAN) HISTORY;
Profound "TRUTH"(S) has ALWAYS COME OUT OF
"THE PRISON" :

ST. PAUL
SIR THOMAS MORE (1478-1535)
GALILEO (1564-1642)
MARTIN LUTHER (1483-1546)
HENRY DAVID THOREAU [1817-1862]
GANDHI [1869-1948]
NELSON MANDELA (1918-2013)
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. (1929-1968)

[LETTERS FROM BIRMINGHAM JAIL]

GEORGE JACKSON

[SOLEDAD BROTHER LETTERS]

WELCOME TO THIS TRUTH FORUM

#THETRUTHTELLER

BY: LEON IRBY DATED: OCTOBER 28, 2015

2 of 2

UNCHAINED MIND

"MAN IS GOD'S MARVELOUS CREATION CROWNED WITH GLORY AND HONOR, AND BECAUSE OF THIS YOU CAN'T QUITE ~~HEM~~ HIM IN. YOU CAN PUT HIM IN... PRISON, BUT SOMEHOW HIS MIND [IMAGINATION] WILL BREAK OUT THROUGH THE BARS TO SCRATCH ACROSS THE PAGES OF HISTORY."

— MLK, JR.

BY: LEON IRBY DATED: OCTOBER 28, 2015

IGNORANCE

NOTHING IN THE WORLD IS MORE DANGEROUS
THAN SINCERE IGNORANCE AND CONSCIENTIOUS
STUPIDITY.

SOURCE: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. (1929-1968)
UNIVERSAL PREACHER, AND HUMAN RIGHTS LEADER,
STRENGTH TO LOVE, pt. 4 Ch. 3 (1963)

BY: LEON IRBY DATED: October 28, 2015



A Prayer for Families

Loving and merciful God, we pray for the many needs of families: for abundant love, for forgiveness and reconciliation, for a living faith to face the challenges of each day. Jesus, you were born

into a human family and became our brother. You know well what families need to nourish

both children and parents in long-lasting bonds of love and respect. Help families of all shapes and sizes run to you as their source of life. May your Spirit encourage husbands and wives, mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters. Give us all the eyes to appreciate one another and to be grateful for the gift of families. Amen.

A TIME FOR PRAYER

by Norman Vincent Peale

Our Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for the newness with which Christianity is filled, sparkling like the dew on the grass in the morning with freshness, light and power. Grant, O Lord, that we whose lives have become old, tired, weary, dusty, may "walk in newness of life" and come out of darkness into your marvelous light. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



BY: LEON IRBY

DATE: OCTOBER 28, 2015

Serenity Prayer

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time;

Enjoying one moment at a time;

Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;

Taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it;

Trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His Will;

That I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with Him

Forever in the next.

Amen.



Have Faith in God

In this dark, uncertain day
Marked by change and sad decay,
We must in our heart's deep core —
Trust men less, and trust God more.

When the path is wrapt in gloom,
And all hope has lost its bloom;
Though the adversary roar —
Trust men less, and trust God more.

In the hour of pain and grief,
When the heart pants for relief,
When afflictions smite thee sore —
Trust men less, and trust God more.

When you bow beneath the care
He allots thy heart to bear;
When you face a scanty store —
Trust men less, and trust God more.

Atheists are growing bold,
Christian love is waxing cold;
While declension you deplore —
Trust men less, and trust God more.

Should you tread death's valley dark,
Nor of light preserve one spark;
Light will break from heaven's shore —
Trust men less, and trust God more.

Reinhold Niebuhr

A TIME FOR PRAYER

by Norman Vincent Peale

Our Heavenly Father, we thank you that when we turn to you in worship we are eternally young. We thank you for reminding us that we are your children, with something great in us equal to the stars, a wonder and a power that can be released as we learn to love you and Jesus Christ. We thank you for the wondrous excitement of living. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**I've been
beaten,
kicked, lied to,
cussed at,
swindled,
taken
advantage of and
laughed at, But**



**The only reason
I hang around this
place is to see what
happens next!**

— UNKNOWN

BY: LEON ZRBY DATED: OCTOBER 28, 2015

LET MY BIG RED ROOSTER LOUDLY "CROW" !!

IRS BLANK SCANDAL

UPDATE:

From DAY ONE this blogger wrote correctly so, NOW PROVEN - that this whole mess was a "Tea Party" dog whistler ONLY MEANT to get votes.

Though Ms. Lois Lerner, UNFAIRLY Lost her IRA job and suffered "Tea Party" Republicans nefarious endless ATTACKS and financial hardships and sleepless nights (No doubt), I pray she - at long last - FEEL WHOLLY EXONERATED; by the U.S. JUSTICE DEPARTMENT FINDING OF NO WRONGDOING.

HECK, we told them that!

SOURCE: (a) FSN FOX SUNDAY NEWS.COM
SUNDAY OCTOBER 25, 2015

AND: THOM HARTMAN, PROGRESSIVE

RADIO. FM 92.1. COM. FREE SPEECH TV. COM
OCTOBER 27, 2015, TUESDAY SECOND
HOUR. TOO THOM HARTMAN. COM

#IMAGINE: JUSTICE FOR ALL!

BY: LEON ZRBY DATED: OCTOBER 27, 2015

ASSAULT AT SPRINGVALEY HIGH

JUSTICE FOR ALL!

BY: LEON IRBY DATED: OCTOBER 27, 2015

"WHAT'S WRONG WITH WANTING TO
BE BLACK" ? —

UPDATE: SOUL SISTA RACHAEL DOLEZAL

QUEEN OF QUEENS RHANNA

IN A VANITY FAIR Interview, Now ON the
NEWS stand, exclaimed her admiration and
HUMAN TO HUMAN SUPPORT for OUR Precious
SOUL Sister Rachel Dolezal's Sweet
HUMANITY!

Rihanna, having been born outside of
this USA CURSE OF White SUPREMACY
and Black INFERIORITY Complexes Equation,
got right down to the begging question: WHAT'S
WRONG WITH WANTING TO BE BLACK" ??

SEE ALSO ET.COM TUESDAY OCTOBER 6, 2015

WHO THE HELL YOU'RE CALLING
A SOCIALIST!!

UPDATE:

DALAI LAMA

"Zam A SOCIALIST... MARIST"

SOURCE: PRS.ORG/NEWS HOUR TUESDAY 6:00 PM
CDT OCTOBER 6, 2015

BY: LEON IRBY DATED: OCTOBER 6, 2015

RePN: VXYK

POSTED CIRCA NOVEMBER 15, 2013

THINK B4 U ACT

Thank You for Your HEARD PRAYERS!!

UPDATE: I AM MALALA

OUR BRAVE AND WONDER GIRL(S) ON THE UPWARD MOVE:

"A NEW LOOK AT A MODERN HERO

Need inspiration this month? SEE HE NAMED ME MALALA. YOU WON'T BE SORRY.

TWO YEARS AGO I WATCHED, TRANSFIXED, AS MALALA YOUSAFZAI, JUST 16, AT THE TIME, STOOD ON CARNEGIE HALL'S STAGE TO ACCEPT GLAMOUR WOMEN OF THE YEAR AWARD. "A GUN CAN ONLY KILL." SAID THIS EXTRAORDINARY YOUNG WOMAN, ONCE TARGETED BY THE TALIBAN, "BUT A PEN CAN GIVE LIFE MALALA WENT ON TO WIN THE NOBLE PEACE PRIZE FOR HER WORK ON GIRLS EDUCATION; NOW OSCAR WINNING DIRECTOR DAVIS GUGGENIS LETTING EVERYBODY INTO HER WORLD WITH THE NEW DOCUMENTARY HE NAMED ME MALALA. GLAMOUR'S EMILY MAHANEY SAT DOWN WITH THE DIRECTOR TO HEAR MORE. END QUOTE

FORTH THE REST OF THE STORY...

SEE GLAMOUR OCTOBER 2015, P. 42
GLAMOUR.COM

Malala Yousofzai
2013 Woman of the Year

"Women and girls have
come a long way,
but more than 60
million girls do not go
to school at all. My
hope is that we will
all stand up for those
girls. A quality
education enable girls
to full fill their potential, find their
voices and achieve true equality"
— END QUOTE

ENJOY! Please continue to pray for me!
I Pray for you!

BY: LEON IRBY

2 OF 2 DATED: OCTOBER 6, 2015

AT COLUMBIA, DIVESTMENT IS THE NEW BLACK

On June 22, after 16 months of student pressure, the Columbia University board of trustees announced it would sell its holdings in private prison corporations. A handful of churches and companies have divested from private prisons in recent years; Columbia is the first university.

In December 2013, Asha Rosa, an activist in the prison abolitionist group Students Against Mass Incarceration (and former *In These Times* intern), asked an administrator for a list of Columbia's investments, claiming it was for a thesis paper. She discovered that Columbia had \$10 million invested in two of the largest private prison contractors in the world: the Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) and G4S. CCA operates for-profit prisons throughout the United States, and G4S supplies technology, security person-

nel and other services to governments around the world, including the U.S. and Israel. Both corporations have faced numerous accusations of prisoner maltreatment. The ACLU reported in June 2014 that a CCA-operated immigrant detention center in Texas was overcrowded, with contaminated water and inadequate healthcare. In October 2013, allegations surfaced that G4S guards had electrically shocked South African prisoners and forcibly injected them with anti-psychotic drugs.

Under the banner of opposing private prisons—which “very few people are for,” notes Rosa—she and her fellow students saw an opportunity to raise awareness around a number of different issues: racism in the criminal justice system, immigrant rights and the occupation of Palestine. In February 2014, the students delivered a let-

ter to University President Lee Bollinger demanding divestment. More than a year of rallies, protests and sit-ins followed, and proved too much to ignore.

Prison divestment campaigns are gaining ground. Student governments at five University of California campuses have passed divestment resolutions, and Wesleyan University President Michael Roth endorsed divestment in April after 40 student activists staged a sit-in.

At Columbia, student organizers say the university remains complicit in the prison-industrial complex through its campus expansion, which brings more police to West Harlem and contributes to gentrification. They wrote in a press release: “We refuse to buy into false narratives that justify our privilege at the expense of others.”

—DAYTON MARTINDALE

PRISON NEWS

BY: LEON IRBY DATED: OCTOBER 8, 2015

ROOTING FOR THE TIGER "WINNING"!

TIGER WOOD AND LINDSEY YONN
AND UPPING HIS GAME !!

UPDATE:

Tiger Wood back surgery forced him
to take off the rest of this year from PLAYING
GOLF... #GMA NEWS TICKER goodmorningamerica
SATURDAY 7:AM CDT SEPTEMBER 19, 2015 ABC NEWS.COM

"DOCTOR! DOCTOR! GIVE ME THE NEWS"!!!
RX!

PRAYING FOR TIGER

You need to first "WIN" Lindsey back
into your LIFE! ASAP!!

Lovely Lindsey is the best of the BEST
TO TAME THAT TIGER IN YOUR TANK!!!

How LONG!

#LOVEISALLYOU NEED!

XOXO

TIGER WOOD

8-27-2015

Oil remained under pressure Friday as U.S. crude fell as low as \$39.86 a barrel -- a level last seen in February 2009 in the depths of the financial crisis. Brent crude, the international benchmark, tumbled 60 cents to \$46.02 in London after losing 54 cents the previous day to close at \$46.62.

Overseas, Asian markets tumbled after Wall Street's sharp drop Thursday.

Tokyo's Nikkei 225 index plunged nearly 3% and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index fell 1.9%.

The Shanghai composite index on mainland China dropped over 4%. MarketWatch reported that China's benchmark index is down 32% since June 12.

The preliminary version of China's Caixin purchasing managers' index fell to an unexpectedly low 47.1 points from July's 47.8 points on a 100-point scale. Numbers below 50 show a contraction.

China's cooling economy has caused the Shanghai index to tumble this week despite a massive government intervention. And last week's surprise devaluation of China's yuan by Beijing sent shockwaves through other emerging countries that might face tougher competition from lower-priced Chinese exports.

Japan's Nikkei newspaper quoted Friday Taro Aso, the nation's finance minister, as saying that China was a big reason why shares prices fell sharply in Tokyo.

In Europe, shares fell sharply. Germany's DAX index lost 2.9% and Britain's FTSE 100 index dropped 2.8%.

Wall Street's heavy losses Thursday came as investors grappled with fresh questions about the timing of the Federal Reserve's first interest rate hike, slowing global growth and continuing volatility in oil prices that puts U.S. crude in danger of falling below the key \$40 a barrel mark.

Love wins the Wyndham, while Tiger struggles in final round

GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP) — During their practice round together before the Wyndham Championship, Tiger Woods pumped local favorite Davis Love III for tips on how to play the course.

Looks like Love saved a few secrets for himself.

Love became the third-oldest winner in PGA Tour history with his victory Sunday, while Woods' season came to an abrupt end.

The 51-year-old Love closed with a 6-under 64 for a one-stroke victory over Jason Gore.

"Tiger and I were talking on the putting green — one of us needed to get going and win this thing," Love said.

He did.

Woods had trouble getting his final round started.

The dominant storyline all week at Sedgefield Country Club was the mere presence of Woods, who needed a victory to earn a spot in the FedEx Cup playoffs opener next week.

He was poised to challenge Sunday, starting just two strokes off the lead. But he only had one birdie during his first 10 holes, dropping way off the pace with a triple bogey on the par-4 11th. Woods shot a 70, finished four strokes back and ended at No. 178 in the standings, well outside the top 125.

"I gave myself a chance, and I had all the opportunity in the world today to do it," Woods said. "I didn't get it done."

Now comes a break before his next tournament, the Frys.com Open in October in northern California. It's the first event of the tour's 2015-16 season.

"This is my offseason right now," he said.

Love — who started at No. 186 — played himself into The Barclays by earning 500 FedEx Cup points and \$972,000 in prize money.

At 51 years, 4 months, 10 days, Love trails only Sam Snead and Art Wall on the tour's age list. Snead won the last of his eight Greensboro titles in 1965 at Sedgefield at 52 years, 10 months, 8 days, and Wall took the 1975 Greater Milwaukee Open at 51 years, 7 months, 10 days.

"Any victory now is going to be really sweet when you're over 50," Love said.

Love has 21 career victories, three in Greensboro. His previous two wins came across town at Forest Oaks Country Club in 1992 and 2006, and he had just one win since then — at the 2008 Children's Miracle Network Classic in Florida.

"To have your name thrown out there with Sam Snead at any point is incredible," Love said. "For some reason, this tournament has been good to guys in my age group."

Love finished at 17-under 263. Gore, the third-round leader, shot a 69. Scott Brown (68), Charl Schwartzel (66) and Paul Casey (67) were two strokes behind Love.

Love, four strokes back after three rounds, started strong with four birdies and an eagle on Nos. 2-6. He moved to 17 under with an eagle on the par-5 15th — the first of his career during a competitive round on that hole.

There was quite a crowd near the top of the leaderboard for a while. Midway through the afternoon, five players shared the lead at 15 under.

None of them was Woods.

Chasing his first victory since 2013, he opened with six straight pars, including one on the easiest hole on the course — the par-5 fifth, which he birdied in each of the first three rounds.

His chip-and-run ran all the way off the green. He couldn't keep his ensuing chip on, and wound up three-putting for triple bogey. Not even three straight birdies on Nos. 13-15 could help him recover.

"I just wasn't able to get any kind of roll early," Woods said. "I had my chances to get it going. I just never did."

Joey Logano wins Bristol night race

BRISTOL, Tenn. — A look at all the results and action from Saturday night's Irwin Tools Night Race at Bristol Motor Speedway:

WINNER: Joey Logano picked up his second win in three weeks and went to victory lane in the Irwin Tools Night Race for the second straight year. Logano, the Daytona 500 winner, won on the Watkins Glen road course earlier this month. He is now tied with Matt Kenseth for the second-most wins on the circuit (three) with two races until the Chase for the Sprint Cup begins.

"It was the team, I'll tell you that much," said Joey Logano as he celebrated in victory lane. "The team was so good. We focused on what we needed in practice and got the reward in the race. We just stayed cool and focused the past couple of months when we weren't winning. ... It's just really cool to get another one here."

Crew chief Todd Gordon agreed: "We knew we didn't have the fastest car during practice, but we knew what our balance needed to be to be able to win here. This is just one of those races -- to be able to get back-to-back wins at Bristol is pretty amazing."

GOOD NIGHT GONE BAD: While running second with just over 100 laps to go, Jeff Gordon suddenly had to pit for a loose wheel, thus ruining his shot at a Chase-clinching win. Gordon was lapped while his crew changed tires.

POOR TIME FOR A PENALTY: Several top-running drivers were penalized throughout the night, but none might have been more costly than Kyle Busch, who was caught speeding during a caution with 65 laps to go. Busch would have restarted in third place if he hadn't been penalized.

MW-OH NO: With 130 laps to go, the Michael Waltrip Racing cars of David Ragan and Clint Bowyer ran into each other while running in the top five. Jimmie Johnson had come down the track a bit on David Ragan, who got out of shape and was tagged by Bowyer. Ragan spun and hit the inside wall; he needed extensive repairs. Bowyer also spun out in the next corner but was able to continue.

BY: LEON Z RBY 2 of 2 DATED: OCTOBER 8, 2015

Today, the number of options has become so dizzying that most have been combined into pricey trim levels — technology, convenience, appearance or other. While packages make it easier for buyers to choose their favorites, they end up with a mix of features they really want — or really don't.

The new Honda Pilot, for instance, comes with air-conditioned seats — but only if you buy the level that comes with all-wheel drive, sunroof, LED headlights and other features. "You just have to pick the features that are most value to you," says Brian Moody, executive editor for Autotrader.

When you get a choice of options, here are some things to consider to avoid having them become a waste:

•Heated and cooled everything.

Automakers are adding heat to steering wheels, mirrors and seats and cooling to seats and cup holders. Are they worth it? Depends on whether you live in Michigan, Maine or Miami. In a Ford Fusion SE, heated seats are part of the \$495 "cold weather package" that also includes remote start and all-weather floor mats. To make it worth the dough, you have to care as much about your bottom as you do your bottom line.

•Fancy wheels and low-profile tires. Big wheels generally enhance the looks of a car, but they can worsen the ride and are more expensive to replace. Low-profile tires look racy, but are more prone to rim damage or flats. And they generally come at higher trim levels: the new Mazda CX-3 small crossover comes with 16-inch steel wheels at its base level with a starting price of \$20,480, including delivery fees. The Grand Touring level, however, has 18-inch alloy wheels standard, with a price of \$25,870.

•Navigation. Fancy navigation and infotainment systems are modern wonders, but they can become outdated. Opting instead for models with the new Apple CarPlay or Android Auto — Hyundai and Chevrolet are among the first mainstream models getting them — channels the same information from your smartphone.

Apple dumps \$158B, enters bear market

Apple (AAPL) rode this bull market up - becoming the U.S.' most valuable company in the process. But now, the market's momentum is taking away a good chunk of what it gave.

Shares of Apple are got crushed again Friday, falling \$6.72, or 6%, to \$106.02. The stock is now down a bruising 8.5% just this week - making it an even worse performer in an ugly stock market.

The fate of Apple is more than a story of single stock. Apple is the the stock that captures if not personifies this bull market. It's a top holding by individual investors - many of whom are new in the market. Its shares have benefited from the mobile data

boom, which fueled much of the bull market. And Apple's enormous profit margins and surging record cash pile are a testimony of the company's ability to command premium pricing for its products - and consumers' willingness to pay up.

But the same factors that made Apple so important during the bull - makes it the key stock to watch as the market unravels. The Apple stock crash is reaching proportions that are downright ugly - breaching three important levels that quantify just how this isn't your typical decline. Apple's fall has now:

*** Wiped out of 2015 gains.** Apple has swung into the red for the year, taking away the one security blanket investors have had while the rest of the market suffered. Shares of Apple are now down 3.2% on the year - a rude awakening since the stock had been up as much as 22% through its high this year. Apple is better off than the market, which is now down 3.8% on the year, but the downturn is fast and furious.

*** Put the stock in a bear market.** Showing just how rapid the decline has been, shares of Apple are now down a brutal 20.6% from their all time high hit earlier this year of \$134.50 a share. This is an important level since a 20% decline puts Apple in what's considered to be the unofficial definition of a bear market. The broader market is down just 6% from its high - showing how much harder Apple has been hit. Seeing a key stock like Apple join the ranks of stocks in bear markets is a eye-opener for individual investors. Apple is a top holding by individual investors, says Sigfig.com.

*** Shredded \$158 billion in shareholder wealth.** During the bull, investors were counting just how many billions they could make from Apple. Bulls were calling for Apple to be the first company worth \$1 trillion. But how things have turned south. Investors have seen more than \$150 billion in paper wealth vanish from the top. That's an enormous destruction in wealth, equivalent to wiping out massive companies like Pepsico (PEP) or Intel (INTC).

Investors are now facing the most serious risks to the iPhone juggernaut since Apple turned into the hero of this bull market. There are mounting signs smartphone growth is stalling as most people have one if not two or three smartphones already. Several wireless carriers such as Verizon and Sprint have recently announced changes to plans that remove smartphone subsidies. Pricing transparency will show consumers just how much iPhones really cost them - roughly \$600 - not the subsidized prices of \$150 or even less. Some consumers might wonder if they need a premium priced device when there are lower priced alternatives - or if they can keep their phones longer than two years. Meanwhile, Apple's last big growth market - China - is seriously slowing.

Analysts remain steadfastly bullish on the stock and the company, which is still the nation's most valuable at \$618 billion. Analysts on average rate the stock "outperform" and have an average 18-month price target of \$147.98.

But investors can't help but think of how ugly Apple selloffs have gotten in the past. Most recently, Apple lost 43% of its value between its euphoric previous high in September 2012 through July 2013.

Investors can only hope history doesn't repeat itself again.

Sell-off turns nasty: Dow plunges 531 points

The market sell-off took on an especially nasty tone Friday as stocks dropped for a fourth straight day with the Dow plunging more than 500 points and dropping into correction territory and oil setting a new 6 1/2-year low as it dipped below \$40 a barrel.

Global markets have come under pressure this week on growing concerns about a slowing Chinese economy and slumping oil prices. Fresh data from China Friday showing weaker manufacturing added to the worries.

The Dow Jones industrial average tumbled 531 points, or 3.1% , to 16,460, a day after the blue-chip index tumbled 358 points in its biggest point plunge since Nov. 9, 2011. Friday's losses sent the blue-chip index down 10.1% from its May 19 record closing high of 18,312.39 -- meaning the blue-chip gauge is officially in correction territory.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 3.2% to 1971 as it sunk below 2000 and further into the red for the year. The Nasdaq composite index tumbled 3.5% to 4706.

The losses were broad-based as all 10 sectors of the S&P 500 fell with the technology and energy sectors leading the markets lower.

Concerns about global economic growth -- especially in the world's No. 2 economy, China, after it unexpectedly devalued its currency -- have been an increasing weight on the stock market. Throw in uncertainty about when the Federal Reserve is going to raise interest rates for the first time in more than a decade, and investors are losing their confidence in holding onto stocks.

The current slide really started on Tuesday and turned into a near freefall on Thursday when the Dow plunged 358 points.

Corrections have become a rare occurrence on Wall Street. The last time the benchmark S&P 500 suffered a 10% correction was in August of 2011. And that slide got even uglier, with the S&P wracking up a 19.4% loss before the selling pressure eased. Currently, the S&P is about 6.3% off its high. The small-stock Russell 2000 entered correction territory Friday as its loss hit 11%.

MY BEAUTIFUL BRIEF LIFE.

Life so short!

What a miracle I have been in His Creation.

A mere mortal human being.

The dedication spende to create this mortal flesh that one day.

Every second is precious as I breathe the air that essential oxygen of life.

In this earth i live my life everyday!

Now alone and far away, I spend my days wondering of yeaterday.

My mother she loved me so, and told me many story of whom we were! Now all is left

with me is her memories, the one I share with you.

I try tolive my life the best i can, in sorrow and in a lots of pain. The doctor told me the sadest of news

I must be frank and honest with you weh have found that you have ALS. Amyotrohic leteral Sclorosis.

I couldn't believe what he was telling me,

I am still young and full of energy.

I know that our time will come one day but how can I tell my children and my family.

I sensed something to be wrong with my body

but never saw it coming. Now I must prepare for this lengthy ride and be wheel chair bound when that time comes.

I guess this is another way to end this beautiful life. I have many questions and yet, no answers I have revei received.

Here is that life given to me and now will go on into the spiritual world like the wind.

I tell you this now and I must do so thre must be a givenanswer the one I do not know. but when I am gone and far far away from here remember that life is so precious and very brieftly live.

MY SHORT LIFE.

One moment in time eloquent and so brief my life is done.

I mesmorized everything and all that was in my world.

Death came and visited me without a warning, and taking my breath away.

Terminal cancer was what I had all along and I did not know what or when would i be going.

Now more than ever life have a new meaning, a new significance.

The doctor told me that that tumor is a progressive one and that there is not much that can be done.

I am faced with another tormenting task andto me I will not give up but this is to much. Life will end and no one may remember me tomorrow, and here i sit full of grief pain and sorrow.

By lenin cespedestorres.

BY: LEON I RBY

P.S. Life is one and we must live it the best way we can? DATED: OCTOBER 11, 2015

WHAT NOW !!

PRESIDENT BARACK H OBAMA
AND HANK WILLIAMS, JR. AND
FAMILY TRADITIONS ...

Friends,

Did you ALL hear How good ole boy
Hank Williams, Jr. went on a Rowdy on UP -
Raging over a Black President Barack H.
OBAMA in the WHITE HOUSE ...

I won't quote herein How he even LIKED
the President to en se EVIL Hitler, ad Nauseam!
ABC/THE VIEW.COM

FAN

I was a Long Time FAN! What outlaw
doesn't love "FAMILY TRADITION" !!!!!

REMEMBER BACK WHEN! THEN!

I seen Kid Rock, "Lenord SKINNER"
(sic) and Hank, Jr. ON ABC.COM/JIMMY KIMMEL

1 of 2

- C. 2004 When he Proudly Boasted to Jimmy
how it was a Black Man [WHOSE FINGERS PICKED
de COTTON !!!]... Taught my daddy's fingers
how to Pick a Guitar!!!! The SEED of his
Family Fame and Fortune.

CHECK-OUT RollingStone.com / David Fricke
[FACEBOOK.COM/RollingStone](https://www.facebook.com/RollingStone)

WHAT HURT MY FEELINGS?

HANK'S HOODEY, DONE SHUT DOWN MY deJUKE
BOX TO SOME OF MY FAVORITE MUSIC: "COUNTRY
BOY KNOWS HOW TO SURVIVE"; "ALL MY ROWDY FRIENDS,
DONE ROWDIED ON DOWN"; etc.

Just cause he won't include the Whole
FAMILY OF WOMAN [MAN]KIND INTO his darn,"
FAMILY TRADITION"!

DAMN JIM BEAM!

Darn! Hank, like your wise said... SON
said, Why...! Couldn't you keep your Damn Mouth
shut [AND let the GUITAR MUSIC PLAY!]!!!

#I M A G I N E A F A M I L Y O F W O M A N M A N K I N D
- YOKO x JOAN

CORRECT SPELLING

PRESIDENT BARACK H. OBAMA
AND HANK WILLIAMS, JR. AND
FAMILY TRADITIONS...

UPDATE: OCTOBER 11, 2015

"LYNYRD SKYNYRD" Id, p. 1092

SWEET HOME ALABAMA

BY: LEON IRBY DATED: OCTOBER 23, 2014

JAIL HOUSE ROCKIN IN THE CLASSROOM!

SHOUT-OUT

TO: THE U.S. PRESIDENT

HON. BARACK H. OBAMA

UPDATE:

I commend you - Sir! and rush to
Thank you, and your Education Secretary ANNE
DUNCAN, for using your Authority to return
PELL GRANTS back into our PRISONS!

KEEP HOPE ALIVE!

FOR THE REST OF THE STORY

GOTO BELOW, pages 2-3

GOOD NEWS TO ALL WHO TRULY BELIEVE:
"A MIND IS A TERRIBLE THING TO WASTE"

1 OF 3

be patient.\

PELL GRANTS FOR SOME PRISONERS
Voices Beyond Bars; 2300 South Park Street; Madison, WI 53713 ; attention: Jerome Dillard or Talib Akbar / group of ex-prisoners giving speaking tours and now ready to reach inside the prisons.

GENERAL RESOURCES:

1) **Wisconsin Books to Prisoners** c/o Rainbow Bookstore 426 W. Gilman Street, Madison, WI 53703 free books to prisoners, give list of interests, takes awhile but they are diligent and dedicated.

2) **Cuban Embassy** United States in Washington, United States : 2630 16 St. , N.W.D.C. 20009

Phone +1-202-797-8518; 1-202-797-8519; fax +1-202-797-8521 Email secretaria@sicuw.org

traduccion@sicuw.org; Website URLrepcion@sicuw.org; <http://www.cubadiplomatica.cu/sicw>

3) **For those not getting treatment: One solution-** have family or you write YOUR legislator- using address where you were before prison- they will help and also you will make them more aware. My advisor here was Aide to Senator Harris Dodd. She said the fact that they did not shorten sentences for TIS prisoners (they were supposed redo the codes) when they switched from Old law to TIS and those two together have made this mess. We are aware and concerned about the overcrowding and all the rest- it is a long struggle.\

Question: why is FFUP getting so many letters from TIS inmates soon to be released begging for treatment and to be sent out still drug addicted? Although TIS inmates are not required to take the treatment prescribed by the court, even IF THEY WANT THE TREATMENT there is always at least 150 on the waiting list so they many are released without any treatment. This is also why OL have to wait infinitely as the prison tries get TIS in first.

4) **good to know: USDOJ:** Send here: USDOJ c/o Kyle Smiddie; 601 D ST NW, 5th fl; Washington DC 20004. This is the Wisconsin section. I recently got an email from them that they cannot tell me whether they are doing an investigation but he assured me they are still collecting and reading documents. I am way behind in supplying them so please send reports.

5) **WI segs:** -been a long time and they thank you for your patience. A comprehensive suit will be filed soon and I will reveal the details I have as soon as I can.

6) **Disability Rights;** 131 Wilson St, Suite 700; Madison, WI 53404; 608-2677-0214. Very small group of lawyers working very few hours but they are good. For those with disabilities

PELL GRANTS

From article on Pell Grants- interview with Education Secretary Arne Duncan august 6, 2015 (lengthly article REALLY cut)

Atlantic, august 6, 2015 (<http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/08/arne-duncan-pell-grants-prisoners/400565/>)

If there's an argument against giving Pell grants to prisoners that particularly galls Education Secretary Arne Duncan, it's the suggestion by some Republicans that the Obama administration is taking money intended for hard-working students and giving it to criminals.

"Having an inmate receive Pell grants doesn't take a nickel from anybody else. This never pits one group over another, and it's not robbing Peter to pay Paul. It's just trying to have a few more people have access to what could be a life-chance-forming opportunity."

Last week, alongside Attorney General Loretta Lynch, Duncan announced the launch of a pilot program that would make a limited number of inmates eligible for federal college aid while they're still in jail. Congress banned Pell grants for prisoners in 1994, but the administration is relying on a provision of the Higher Education Act to resume the practice on a trial basis. The idea—backed by a 2013 Rand Corporation study that found prisoner education is a cost-effective way to reduce recidivism—is one that has bipartisan support.

The Tricky Politics of Educating Prisoners

Yet the Obama administration is clearly taking a risk by launching the pilot program now, without waiting for full congressional approval that could come through the passage of criminal-justice reform, which has gained momentum on Capitol Hill in recent months. Already, some Republicans are accusing the administration of going around the law—an argument that Duncan similarly dismissed. "I think waiting on Congress is almost never a good bet "Quite candidly, Congress often doesn't do much until we do something, and then they react to that," Duncan said. "So it kind of spurs them to take action. But anyone who says this stops them from doing something or stifles debate—it's just patently false."

The administration is now waiting for proposals from universities who want to participate in the Pell grant initiative. Duncan said that while there are no plans to restrict eligibility based on the type of crime an inmate committed, it would be focused on prisoners scheduled for release "in the next couple of years." About 700,000 inmates are released from prison in the U.S. each year, which Duncan likened to a "tidal wave. They're either going to be released and go back to the streets and go back to a life of crime ... or they're going to be released with some real skills and possibly even a college degree. And as a parent, as a taxpayer, I know which one I would prefer."

In the interview, Duncan also addressed a more fundamental goal of education: keeping kids out of prison in the first place. The administration last year stepped up its efforts to close what is often described as the "school-to-prison pipeline," and Duncan said the government had spent about \$5 billion on grants to turn around failing schools. He tied that effort to the push in many states and districts to reduce out-of-school suspensions and expulsions, which disproportionately affect people of color. "We've seen many states and districts start to change their policies, moving away from zero-tolerance, moving toward restorative justice and peer juries, and working with kids rather than putting them out into the street," he said. "That's a big, big step in the right direction."

Here's a transcript of my interview with Duncan, edited for clarity and length. (really cut-goes on for pages)

Russell Berman: Just getting Congress to reauthorize Pell grants for non-criminals has been a struggle under Republican control. What do you say to families of students who have worked hard, still are saddled with student-loan debt and may wonder why inmates should get government assistance for education?

Arne Duncan: To be clear, this is never haves-versus-have-nots or whatever. Having an inmate receive Pell grants doesn't take a nickel from anybody else, and this is really about trying to help individuals get back on their feet. And ultimately why Republicans should— (pg 8)

and some will—love this is it's a huge way to reduce recidivism and save money over time. This never pits one group over another, and it's not robbing Peter to pay Paul. It's just trying to have a few more people have access to what could be a life-chance-forming opportunity. Look, when this program was in place 20 years ago, it was something like 0.1 percent of all Pell money, so the budget conversation here is not a real debate or a real issue.

Berman: So it's not coming from some pool of money that is limited? **Duncan:** Exactly. The opposite of that.

Berman: How many prisoners are likely to receive Pell grants as part of this program?

Duncan: We really don't have any idea yet. To be clear, what we're going to be doing is putting out a [request for proposal] for universities who want to partner with prisons. We don't know how many are going to step up. We're only going to pick ones where we think there's a good chance of success, where there's a high quality. We do hope that many universities across the nation will step up and apply. And we think, again, this has a chance to have a very significant impact. And [for] Congress, which we hope chooses at some point to take this to scale, hopefully that evidence base that we build will help to inform that conversation. So we're hopeful, and we'll have a strong evaluative piece to this, and we'll sort of learn over time what works and what doesn't.

Berman: Would violent offenders be eligible? **Duncan:** The short answer is that we're first going to look to work with folks who are going to be released back into society relatively soon, in the next couple of years. So I think we distinguish less on the type of crime and more on the, 'Are you coming back into society?' And I kept quoting, you know it's sort of a stunning fact: We have 5 percent of the world's population but 25 percent of the world's prison population. It's staggering, and because we have this mass incarceration system which is not working on any level—I think everyone acknowledges that—we release 700,000 prisoners from jail back into our society every year, like a tidal wave of inmates being released. And they're either going to be released and go back to the streets and go back to a life of crime, and go back to being a menace to society, or they're going to be released with some real skills and possibly even a college degree, or credit towards a college diploma. And as a parent, as a taxpayer, I know which one I would prefer. People don't want to admit it but it's happening every single year, and so it's really up to us as a society. Do we really want to arm them with skills and a chance to be productive citizens who are going to be taxpayers, or do we just want to perpetuate a system where the costs are mind-

blowing and the costs to society beyond the financial are—just the fear factor on this thing is just very real. **Berman:** So what happens if a prisoner gets his or her release before getting a degree or certificate? Will they be able to continue their education with the Pell grant after they get out? **Duncan:** Absolutely. They can either stay with the same university, or transfer those credits or whatever, just like any other student. They may be pursuing an associate's degree. They may be pursuing a bachelor's degree. We want to see two-year options, we want to see four-year options. We want to see liberal arts programs. We want to see more skill- and technical-based programs. And we'll get a sense of what happens.

"LIFE IS SERVED, WREN HUMANITY IS RESTORED." By: Juan Quentin C. Ward

We grieve and suffer as a community because another violent death has taken place in our inner-city, and the media is filled with sensationalized Story's of pain and sorrow, we grieve in protest as a community, our minds are filled with countless questions and the first question we have is why? "Why, God?"

Why has another Unarmed Black died by those whom are sworn to protect? Why did that mango on the military base assassinate innocent lives because he claim not to be feeling fine? Why did 'a young boy walk into a House of Worship and murder nine Black lives while wearing patches and symbolism of hate in the land of the great? Another question we ask when we grieve the loss of life of another is what do we do with this pain? Our stress, our strain, As things within our community, our society remain the same? Why has young Americans been persuaded to side with fanatics -claiming a religious Jihad when the very people they are killing for has no heart.

Have We' allowed Our frustration and rage to get the best of us as we lash out like the mentally insane, seeking retaliation and trying to inflict more and more pain, even though it changes nothing 'and the routine remain the same. Another fallen victim' as the muzzle flash as the trigger is pressed stamping away' we think of what could have been- maybe one of our finest doctors, lawyers, teachers or maybe even an engineer. If only someone stopped and truly investigated in that brain and removed the stain of hatred, hopelessness, violence and the lack of self-esteem. Showing that girl, boy, woman, man that there really is a chance.

There are those who say that the politicians ought to do something. There has been politician's and police who have said the parents ought to do something, there have been citizens that live in fear cry that it begins at home, But I ask, have you ever heard the story about the Body family? There were three people in the body family, and their names are somebody, everybody, and nobody. They were a good a family, but whenever the time came for something to be done, they always fought. And this Body family was always fighting because whenever an important need came to surface. Everybody was sure that somebody would do it, but in the and Nobody did it, and things remain the same the same. No longer can they say, Somebody will do it! If anything is going to be done to save humanity either Everybody or Nobody **will do** what's necessary and our **kids will** continue to die in the streets, or find themselves dying a slow death inside a prison cell.

There is too much negativity in our community. There is too much violence in our community. There is too much hatred, and harm in our world, too many rich men creating hopelessness in our lives as the politicians latch on like leeches siphoning off our life blood through lies and false indoctrinations and propaganda meant to sow division as we claim Red and Blue States aligning ourselves with forces of evil. But if we really want to See positive change take place in our (pg9)

BY: LEON IRBY

3 & 3 DATED: OCTOBER 12, 2015

AMEWRICAN SHOOTINGS

By: Ernesto R. Rodriguez / 10/09/15

"You can't handle the truth!" American shootings are generally blamed on "Mental Illness." When are we going to face the truth? Ferguson riots--the largest hand writing on the wall is still being ignored. We have known the truth since Slavery came to America that when we abuse others that we suffer collateral consequences.

Here are some facts that we need to consider: Donald Trump's, and other white's, public insults to American "minorities", men women and children; Abusive police power; Programs funded by federal monies not answering their phones; political figures overpaid and stealing budget monies; People sodomizing our children; Mass incarceration by our judicial system; The D.H.S.S denying food stamps to needy families and individuals; Banks foreclosing on homes; High auto insurances; High energy bills that causes homelessness; slave labor wages under minimum wage.; Bullies running rampant; ex-offenders ostracized from society; Law designed to imprison our children for profit; People still flying the Confederate flag; Hate groups allowed to march our streets; etc..and after paying taxes, we are taxed again when we purchase anything and the cost of living is always on the rise while wages keep falling and our jobs are being shipped out of the country. The abusive behavior goes on and on because we permit it to grow. We can no longer hide the truth and blame "mental illness for our abusive behavior towards one another. Here is an example.

When the two policemen shot a little boy playing with a toy gun--it was considered "justified." When a policeman was shot and killed, it was not attributed to frustration--no, it was contributed to mental illness. "We can't handle the truth!"

We seem to be hiring too many under-educated and abusive folks into our job market who contribute to the causes of American shootings. I'm including state workers, politicians, prison guards, judges, policemen, waiters and waitress, and receptionists.

Recently I had a conversation with a Social worker for the Lansing D.H.S.S. who admitted that the system was not working properly. When I asked her why she continued to work for the Dept. of H.S.S. she replied , "I love my job..." I then asked her: "Do you really like taking peoples' food stamps away from them and putting your foot on their necks?" She did not response but I could see that she was giving some thought to my question.

These American shootings can be stopped. If each and everyone of us can bring ourselves to be kind and respectful to each others' needs and do our jobs with the same respect. Stop taking issues personally, and deal with them through the proper protocol. Most of us will respect and protect your loving and kindness with limitless respect. You don't have to be a Pope to act like one. Please use your kindness to help stop these American shootings. All lives do matter.

Signed:

Ernesto R.

Cell:

TO THOSE OF YOU WHO DARE TO PUNLISH THE TRUTH

You have my permission to publish this article. I can be contacted at cell# [REDACTED] or at my address [REDACTED]

Signed:

[REDACTED]
Ernesto R. [REDACTED]
10/09/15

BY: LEON IRBY DATED: OCTOBER 13, 2015

COMMUNE I WANT TO SHARE A COMMENDED
BOOK LIST WITH YOU ALL!

A. WHAT WORKS FOR WOMEN AT WORK
FOUR PATTERNS WORKING WOMEN
NEED TO KNOW

JOAN C. WILLIAMS AND RACHEL DEMPSEY
FOREWORD BY ANNE-MARIE SLAUGHTER

"This book can help women claim their
seat at the table and lean in their careers."

— SHERYL SANDBERG, AUTHOR OF LEAN IN

\$24.95 CLOTH

B. THE PRICE OF PARADISE

THE COSTS OF INEQUALITY AND A VISION
FOR A MORE EQUALITABLE AMERICA

DAVID DANTE TROUT

"It's a clear call for a better and more
unified America."

— MYRON ORFIELD,

AUTHOR OF AMERICAN METROPOLITICS

\$30.00 CLOTH

C. THE PUNISHMENT IMPERATIVE

THE RISE AND FAILURE OF AND ---
MASS INCARCERATION IN AMERICA

TODD R. CLEAR AND NATASHA A. FROST

"EYE-OPENING AND TRULY AUTHORITATIVE."

— CHRISTOPHER LIGEN

CO-AUTHOR OF LOCKED OUT

CLOTH \$30.00

D. REPRODUCING RACISM
HOW EVERYDAY CHOICES LOCK
IN WHITE ADVANTAGE

— DARIA ROITHMAYR

"A CLEAR-EYED, AND OFTEN BRUTAL LOOK AT
WHETHER AMERICA IS INDEED 'POST-RACIAL' AND
WHAT WE MUST DEMAND OF OURSELVES TO GET THERE."

— DAHLIA LITHWICK, SENIOR EDITOR OF SLATE

\$25.00 CLOTH

WWW.NYUPRESS.ORG

ENJOY AND ENLIGHTEN YOURSELF!

BY: LEON IRBY

2 of 2 DATED: OCTOBER 14, 2015

WALRUS!

JOHN WINSTON LENNON

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YA !!!

PARTY! PARTY!

ROCK ON!

LOVE! LOVE! LOVE!!!

XOXO!

#ZMAGINE: ALL ROCKING TO SGT. PEPPER BANDZ IN HEAVEN

CHECKOUT BELOW, P. 2 OF 2

1 of 2

JOHN LENNON'S BIRTHDAY

have only announced the details for three of the in-total 25 dates. They will headline Los Angeles Hollywood Bowl May 22, Chicago's UIC Pavilion June 10, and New York's iconic Madison Square Garden June 18. They will be joined by The Twilight Sad as their opening act.

Tickets for the three above dates go on sale Oct. 9. Los Angeles pre-sale begins Oct. 7, pre-sale for the other two begin Oct. 8. The news post on their website promises that the rest of the tour will be revealed in January 2016.

Robert Smith covered The Twilight's Sad's "There's a Girl in the Corner", check it out above.

Yoko Ono Tries for Record Human Peace Sign for John Lennon's Birthday

More than 2,000 students, politicians and activists joined Yoko Ono at New York's Central Park Tuesday in an attempt to set a new world record for the biggest human peace sign in celebration of what would have been John Lennon's 75th birthday.

CBS reports a representative from Guinness World Records present at the gathering said that though thousands took part, it wasn't enough to beat the current human peace sign record, 5,814, set in Ithaca, NY, in 2009.

Even if no records were broken, the gathering was a fitting tribute to the slain Beatle, with participants ranging from old hippies to kids not yet born when the legendary songwriter and musician died, CBS reports. John Lennon was fatally shot outside his New York City apartment on December 8, 1980.

The X-Files Is Back—Here's Why the Original Was So '90s

Mulder and Scully are back, but the world has changed. When the first episode of the upcoming revival of *The X-Files* premieres on Tuesday at an entertainment-industry conference in France (it will air on TV in January), the FBI agents who helped kick start the 1990s paranormal craze will solve crimes in a newly wired world (the trailer does show smartphones, after all).

But no matter how the show is updated for 2016, it will bring a little bit of the 1990s with it. After all, *The X-Files* helped define the decade. When the show premiered in 1993, it helped precipitate a programming trend that would last for years.

INMATES HELP OTHER PRISONERS FACE DEATH IN HOSPICE PROGRAM

As late-morning sun streams through narrow prison windows, convicted killer Scott Abram stands beside a fellow inmate, speaks quietly to him and starts singing "Amazing Grace." The prisoner appears to smile, but it's difficult to gauge his response. He is dying.

Abram is a counselor trained in a national ministry program who sees his volunteer work as part of his own growth. Behind bars since the early 1990s for murder, he has gotten used to spending time with male prison friends as they die in rooms 205 or 206 on the second floor of the state's prison for chronically ill inmates.

"We're all human, and we make mistakes," said Abram, sentenced to 15 years to life. "There are some that make bigger mistakes, like me. I make a lot of mistakes each day."

Abram, 48, is a Stephen Minister, a type of lay counselor common in churches around the country but rarer inside prison walls. He is one of 15 male and female inmates trained in the program at Franklin Medical Center, a small prison just south of downtown Columbus that houses some of the state's sickest inmates, many of whom die there.

Abram's hospice work is just part of his Stephen Minister counseling. He and others also work with troubled inmates, perhaps helping them write a letter or make a call.

In Ohio and nationally, the inmate population is graying. Ohio had 8,558 inmates over 50 this year, nearly double the number in 2001. Other states, including Louisiana, Iowa and California, have similar prison programs.

Prisoner Sheila Belknap says her participation also makes her think about her own mistakes. Belknap, 42, plans to continue hospice work after she is released next year from a four-year term for theft charges. She calls her work with the dying a privilege.

"It's just the satisfaction I get just from being there at the time of need," she said. "No one wants to pass alone."

Nos. 205 and 206 - there is also a room in another unit for female patients - resemble ordinary hospital rooms. Hanging wall quilts made by volunteers soften the institutional feel. Abram and Belknap are often joined by members of a Columbus choir that sings to hospice patients around central Ohio.

The Department of Rehabilitation and Correction hopes to expand the number of Stephen Ministers at other prisons, though hospice care would remain in the Columbus facility.

On average, an Ohio inmate dies of natural causes every three and a half days, not unexpected with a statewide prisoner population of 50,000, the size of a small city.

The national Stephen Ministry office in St. Louis is unaware of other state prisons with inmates trained in their counseling program.

Louisiana began an inmate hospice program in 1997 at the state penitentiary in Angola and developed a 40-hour training program for offenders, who volunteer for four-hour shifts with dying prisoners. California says it

Robert Tomatoes.com had receiving an A- from audiences at CinemaScore

Distributor 20th Century Fox also received a major marketing bonus with ground-breaking science news last week that NASA had discovered evidence of recent flowing water on Mars.

"That's a studio executive's dream to have that kind of positive news associated with your movie, the perfect coincidence," says Paul Dergarabedian, senior box-office analyst for Reentrak. "The math and science crowd has it going on right now at the movies — science is positively cool. *The Martian* is not a sequel, but it still had this massive opening."

Monster-filled *Hotel Transylvania 2* continued to soar on the family entertainment front with a second-place finish of \$33 million, one week after taking the box-office crown. The Sony film, starring Adam Sandler's animated Dracula, has an impressive total of \$90.5 million in less than two weeks of release.

Sicario, Denis Villeneuve's look at the brutal of world of drug trafficking with Emily Blunt, Benicio Del Toro and Josh Brolin, continued to expand to theaters across the nation, taking third with \$12.1 million (\$15.1 million total).

"Lionsgate has a solid hit on its hands with *Sicario*, and this will continue to hold up well over the next couple of weeks," says Phil Contrino, lead analyst for BoxOffice.com. "And *Sicario* will definitely be in the awards conversation this fall."

Nancy Meyers' *The Intern*, the May-December buddy film starring Anne Hathaway and Robert De Niro, took fourth in its second weekend, earning \$11.6 million (\$36.5 million total). Young-adult adaptation *Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials* rounded out the top five with \$7.7 million, with a total of \$63.2 million after 17 days in theaters.

The beginning of awards season was filled with quality offerings, with three new nationwide releases heralded as must-sees by critics on Rotten Tomatoes for the first time in 2015: *The Martian* (94% critical approval), *Sicario* (93%) and *The Walk* (86%).

The Walk, with Joseph Gordon-Levitt depicting Philippe Petit's 1974 high-wire walk between the World Trade Center towers, made its IMAX debut in 448 locations, taking in a solid \$1.6 million in limited release.

The Robert Zemeckis-directed movie lost some business to *The Martian*, Contrino says.

"At the end of the day, it's two spectacle movies going head-to-head," says Contrino. "One has got to win and it's pretty clear which one is: *The Martian*."

The Cure Announces 2016 North American Tour

English rockers The Cure have announced a 2016 North American tour, their first run here

BY: LEON IRBY

2 of 2

DATED: OCTOBER 21, 2015

Nissan has also demonstrated car-detection technology on Yokohama roads, but using a different beaming technology. Toyota's new transmission system uses a different standard that will be open for use by all automakers in Japan. In Japan, accidents at intersections account for about 40 percent of all traffic accidents.

FOX PROBING CLAIMS 'MAZE RUNNER' CAST TOOK ARTIFACTS

Representatives from 20th Century Fox are trying to determine if actors took American Indian artifacts while filming "Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials" at a private New Mexico ranch.

Diamond Tail Ranch manager Roch Hart told The Associated Press that following comments by the film's star, Dylan O'Brien, the studio is investigating claims the cast took artifacts and will seek to return any stolen items.

"They want to make it right," Hart said. "Right now, we don't know if anything was removed, but we are taking the claims very seriously."

Chris Petrikin, a spokesman for 20th Century Fox, confirmed Tuesday that the studio was looking the matter.

Twentieth Century Fox and The Scorch Trials production team take these issues very seriously and we are conducting a thorough investigation into the matter," Petrikin said in a statement. "If any artifacts were mishandled or removed from the location, we will do everything to ensure they are restored."

During an appearance on "Live with Kelly and Michael" last month, O'Brien said cast members took artifacts from the private ranch north of Albuquerque, despite warnings not to do so.

"They gave us this big speech when we got here to shoot, and they said, 'Don't take anything. Respect the grounds,'" O'Brien said. "They were very strict about littering and don't take any artifacts like rocks, skulls ... anything like that. And everyone just takes stuff, you know, obviously."

O'Brien, 24, didn't say what was taken, but he said later illnesses were blamed on the artifacts that were removed from the ranch. O'Brien said he also got sick, but it was unclear if he so admitted stealing any items.

A representative for O'Brien did not immediately return an email from the AP.

New Mexico Film Office director Nick Maniatis said his agency would work with 20th Century Fox on the investigation.

"If artifacts were taken, we believe they should be returned immediately. Twentieth Century Fox has been extremely cooperative and shares the Film Office's concern and sensitivity toward the matter," Maniatis said.

Diamond Tail Ranch, which sits between the Sandia and San Felipe pueblos, is near the historic Hispanic village of Placitas and an

abandoned mining community. Jeep tours of the area bring tourists to the mountainous region where artifacts and petroglyphs can be spotted up close.

Hart said the ranch had been open for filming but had imposed strict rules.

"We charge \$10 per cigarette butt," Hart said. "And if cast members were caught stealing anything, they were kicked off the property. We didn't care if you were in the film or not."

Hart said 20th Century Fox officials told the ranch they want to find out if items were actually stolen or if O'Brien was embellishing a tale during his "Live with Kelly and Michael" appearance.

Maxine McBrinn, curator of Archaeology for the Museum of Indian Arts & Culture in Santa Fe, said it's illegal to take American Indian artifacts from public land, but not private land.

"Regardless, it's disrespectful," McBrinn said. "When you remove an item, you destroy the archaeological information in the contexts it provides. You have done damage to the information."

'JAY LENO'S GARAGE' ROLLS INTO PRIME-TIME ON CNBC

Jay Leno says it's been easy to lure Francis Ford Coppola, Laurence Fishburne and other famous folks to his new car-centric TV show.

All he has to do is assure them that "Jay Leno's Garage," debuting at 10 p.m. EDT Wednesday on CNBC, won't veer off the road.

"We say, 'We're not gonna talk about show business or your career, we're just going to talk about cars,'" according to Leno. The usual response, he said: "Great!"

The Detroit-born Coppola, for example, is a car enthusiast, with his 1988 movie about an independent automaker. "Tucker: The Man and His Dream," just one indication of that.

And there's this fun fact: Coppola's musician-father, Carmine, worked on "The Ford Sunday Evening Hour," a radio series sponsored by automaker Ford. In an "old Italian custom of the day, you named your son after your employer," Leno said, hence the filmmaker's middle name.

Another guest, Keanu Reeves, is a known gearhead with a start-up motorcycle company, giving Leno a chance to test the bike and hear about the actor's business plans.

Despite the celebrities sprinkled into each episode, Leno said, the show isn't designed as a star vehicle.

"It's mostly about interesting people and their relationship with automobiles, be it a love story or one about the first female drag racer," he said.

The series also will look at the past and future of automobiles and showcase Leno's famed and extensive car collection. Car buffs, prepare to drool: On the electric side alone, he owns a

1969 Baker that can travel 80 miles on a charge and a Tesla with a 300-mile range.

A more tech-centric version of "Jay Leno's Garage" began on YouTube about a decade ago, becoming so popular that Leno decided it was ready for prime time. The rocky moments of his tenure as "Tonight Show" host (he had the job, then he didn't, then he did again) had no effect on his returning to the NBC corporate fold.

CNBC simply is a good fit for "Jay's Leno Garage," he said, with the right demographic. Or as he more colorfully put it, "it's not housewives yelling at each other."

Despite professing his loyalty to NBC, he couldn't resist taking a dig at the company when he talking to a TV critics' meeting in August. Discussing an episode in which he goes for a 100 mph-plus ride in a self-driving car, Leno quipped, "NBC has been trying to kill me for years."

It's obvious that Leno, unlike his guests, has no qualms about going off topic. He's clearly glad to give a shout-out to his wife, Mavis, a longtime supporter of women's rights in Afghanistan. Her focus now is bringing women and girls to the United States to get the education no longer available to them at home, he said.

He's willing to assess the current state of late-night, lauding his "Tonight" successor, Jimmy Fallon, as well as Stephen Colbert and Trevor Noah, who he boasts about spotting early on and bringing to "Tonight" in 2012. But he's critical of what he considers a "mean streak" in Jimmy Kimmel's comedy, including videos of kids reacting tearfully to the parental theft of Halloween candy.

As for his own career post late-night, "Jay Leno's Garage" is just a piece of a busy schedule. Leno is on an unending tour that takes him from comedy clubs to performing arts centers to shows for U.S. troops in the Middle East.

"If people want you, that's where you go," he said.

Box office: 'Martian' blasts to top with \$55M

Matt Damon and *The Martian* shot into a whole different galaxy at the box office, rocketing to a \$55 million opening weekend, according to studio estimates.

The Ridley Scott-directed film about an astronaut stranded on Mars came close to matching the record opening for October: *Gravity*, which starred Sandra Bullock as an astronaut in peril, debuted with \$55.8 million in 2013.

The brainy, science-filled *Martian* script, which Scott says was too close to reality to call science fiction, was a hit with critics and moviegoers alike — scoring a 94% critical approval rating on aggregate site

JOE BIDEN AND HIS ANNOUNCEMENT
TO NOT RUN FOR PRESIDENT 2017

THE END OF AN AMERICAN DREAM!!!

Washington, D.C., USA, Wednesday Morning,
October 21, 2015

I NEVER PROMISED YOU A ROSE GARDEN
This warm universal morning with President
Barack H. Obama (D.) and loyal and wonderful
wife Jill, on either side, Vice President Joe
Biden, at long last - faced the Realpolitik - that
this, his last season, just is not his time to run
for President.

He used the monumental moment to proclaim
what his presidency would have been like. A
sweet America vision!!!

I had since 2013 previously, in many posts,
called on V.P. Biden to "RUN JOE RUN"!!!

However, after his public declarations praising
former V.P. Dick Cheney (R.) as decent and
good [man], he really liked him... etc...

CHANGED MIND

Then I Realized, like his "No Drama"
current-Boss, Biden would "NOT BE READY TO SERVE"
IN the present Neo Age New Yorker, New
York, IF YOU CAN MAKE IT HERE, YOU CAN MAKE
IT ANY WHERE END QUOTE MR. DONALD TRUMP.

GOOD-BYE JOE

Therefore, I am so Happy to see this
great old HAPPYWARROIR: "JUST FADE AWAY"!!

God Bless You Joe! God bless Madam Jill
and Your FAMILY!! AND God Bless US ALL!!!

#I M AGINE: ONE LOVE

ONO, JOHN & BOB

BY: LEON IRBY

2 OF 2 DATED: OCTOBER 21, 2015

IMPOSSIBLE DREAM!

v COMEDIAN WINS PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION
IN GUATEMALA" #GMA NEWSTICKER
GOODMORNINGAMERICA. COM MONDAY 7:AM,
CDT OCTOBER 26, 2015

BERNIE SANDERS

(D) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE 2016

UPDATE:

YES WE CAN! BERN! BABY
BERN!!!

FEE LING THE BERN!

YES WE CAN!!!

#IMAGINE: ALL IS ONE UNIVERSE!

BY: LEON IRBY OCTOBER 27, 2015

YEA! YEA!! SAME OLE! SAME BS!!

SHOUT-OUT

TO: REP. JOHN LEWIS
[D. GA.]

HEY JOHN! JOHN LEWIS, REP. (D. GA.) BROUGHT
BACK 2008'S "BLACKS FOR HILLARY" 2016 !!

Yea! Yea! JOHN, WHEN YOU "TALENTED TENTH"
RICH "BLACK" FOLKS, ARE GOING TO GIVE US
("UNIVERSE"):

"HILLARY FOR BLACKS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"

SOUL FOLKS!

PLEASE DO NOT BLINDLY FOLLOW FALSE IDOLS
!!!

XOXO

#IMAGINE WHY VOTE

BY: LEON IRBY DATED: OCTOBER 27, 2015

TAYLOR SWIFT'S GIRL GANG!

UPDATE:

SELENA GOMEZ, 23, wishes to share with our UNIVERSAL COMMUNE how much FUN! it was having GIRL TO GIRL "LOVEMAKING" with SUPERMODEL AND SUPERSTAR ACTOR CARA DELEVINGNE.

XOXO

#ACTORS PLAYMULTI-ROLES...

SOURCE: OK!TV.COM OCTOBER 16, 2015 FRIDAY

BY: LEON IRBY DATED: OCTOBER 27, 2015

HOLLYWOOD CHILDREN

UPDATE:

TWO MORE CHILD STARS

OR MAKE THAT THREE 'DECLARED' GAY''

TATUM ONIEL, OSCAR WINNER, EVIDENTLY
MARRIED ROSIE O'DONNELL;

DANNY PINTAURO, ABC "GROWING PAINS",
3 1/2 YEARS MARRIED; HIV POSITIVE ACTIVIST;
SEE ABC.COM/THEVIEW FRIDAY 10:AM,
OCTOBER 2, 2015...

SELENA GOMEZ; ACTOR, SINGER...

A LOVERS QUESTION; ARE THERE ANY STATISTICAL INDICATION OF HOW MANY CHILDREN HOLLYWOOD HAS TURNED OUT!

ACTORS PLAY MULTI-ROLES

ZIMAGINE ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE
YOKO/JOHN

BY: LEON IRBY DATED: OCTOBER 27, 2015

CAN A BROKEN
HEART KILL YOU?

P. 286

1 - copy of p. 286

THANK YOU!

LIZ

found it!
no page attached
1/20

REPLY: 992+

POSTED: CIRCA JUNE 2014.

UPDATE:

Hi TAVI,

Did You see or Hear about ABC.com

"BLACKISH," Wednesday 8:30 P.M CDT HYPED
So-call controversial "N.-word" Who can and
Who can not utter it ... episode aired Circa
October 7, 2015.

MY TAKE AWAY: What Crazy "N. word"
can actually conceive and believe they poss-
ess the POWER TO COMMAND OR RESTRAIN what
people can say!

WHITE POWER!

White people has NUCLEAR WEAPONS!
GUNS! OWN TV EMPIRES! PUBLISHING! SCHOOL
Books! DICTIONARIES PRINTING! GOVERNMENT! LAND,
FORT KNEX AND CAPITAL - - -

1 of 2

WILLIE LYNCH

"TRICKED AGAIN!"

"NO MORE BRAINWASHING" !!

IF I CAN GET YOU TO MISLABEL YOUR-
SELF "N. WORD" — IS MY SWEETEST OF
"DESSERT"

O' how Sweetest ! I can have my
cake and eat yours Too!

" IF THE MIND IS ENSLAVED,
THE BODY CAN NEVER BE FREE" !!

— MLK, JR.

CHECK-OUT!

BLACK PEOPLE

" DO YOU HAVE POST-TRAUMATIC SLAVE SYNDROME?
RECENT EVENTS HAVE BLACK^A REELING, AND THE WAY WE
RESPOND MAY GO BACK TO THE HARROWING TREATMENT OF
OUR ANCESTORS. LEARN HOW TO BREAK THE CHAINS
FOR SURVIVAL AND FOR THE BETTERMENT OF FUTURE GENERATIONS "

— BY CINDY GEORGE EBONY SEPTEMBER 2015
P 67 EBONY.COM

BY: LEON IRBY DATED: OCTOBER 27, 2015
2 of 2

AFRICAN AMERICAN BABIES ADOPTED AND
NURTURED BY POWERFUL WHITE PARENT(S)

UPDATED:

Friends:

I want to share with you MS. Sandra Bullock, magnificent Human Being, and Loving Mother, of beloved Son Louis manifested in her GLAMOUR NOVEMBER 2015 P. 174, P. 178 GLAMOUR.COM COVER STORY... INTERVIEW BY COSTAR ZOE KAZAN:

SB: Well, I didn't have it - let me show you pictures of when I was 13, and I looked like Roseanne Roseannadanna, and people kept saying: "This young man". But that gave me humor and a... [the ability to not put stock in [appearance]]. And I don't want my son to put stock in it. I want him to look at women and love them for who they are as people, just like I want people to love him for the content of his character. END QUOTE

ZK: I've Watched You With Louis. You're so Present With him. It feels like you're letting him be the person he is. What are you doing right?

SB: What am I doing wrong? A neighbor gave me great advice. She said, "I had my children, I panicked, I listened to everyone's advice. And she stopped and said, "I was given instincts for a reason." A woman's intuition is powerful. [And] I have great male influences in his life [too], where I watch and I go, "That's not my instinct, but I see that's [Louis'] instinct and your instinct as a man, boylike. The hand goes down the pants and stays there at a year and a half. I went, "I see, it's genetic." I don't feel the need to cup my breast while I am watching TV, but he's gonna be a man. No matter how I raise him, he's gonna be a beautiful African American man. Will he be a beautiful human being? I see it. Am I gonna pass on my stupidity? I'm sure. I just want him to be happy.

ZK: Completely. Your son is African American, and there's been so much in the news about the

Peril that African American Men Face in this Country.

SB: MEN AND WOMEN.

ZK: ZS that something that you think about?

SB: EVERY DAY. TEARING UP AGAIN. YOU SEE HOW FAR WE'VE COME IN CIVIL RIGHTS — AND WHERE WE'VE GOTTEN BACK TO NOW. I WANT MY SON TO BE SAFE. I WANT MY SON TO BE JUDGED FOR THE MAN HE IS. WE ARE AT A POINT NOW WHERE IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING, WE WILL HAVE DESTROYED WHAT SO MANY AMAZING PEOPLE HAVE DONE. YOU LOOK AT WOMEN'S RIGHTS; IT'S TURNING INTO A MAD, MAD WORLD OUT THERE. BUT SOMETIMES IT NEEDS TO GET REALLY LOUD FOR PEOPLE TO SAY, "Z CAN'T UNSEE THIS." IF I COULD HIDE IN A BUBBLE WITH HIM FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE, I WOULD. BUT I CAN'T."
END QUOTE

I Love Sandra Loving and Natural Parenting!
And heartfelt Thank her for Teaching and Manifest-
ing "NEW" TRUE UNIVERSAL ONE LOVE!

Keep on Letting your Brilliant "LOVE LIGHT"
ILLUMINATING "THE BLIND SIDE". KUDOS!

XOXO

By: LEON ZRBY

3 of 3 DATED: OCTOBER 27, 2015

"WAR! WHAT IS IT GOOD FOR!!"

O' ISRAEL

HOW LONG!!

UPDATE:

"Netanyahu sparks Holocaust Controversy ahead of Kerry meeting"

- check-out he p.p. 4

My Friends, I share with you a new reality to my mind. until Mr. Salim Muwakkil's article "Palestinian Lives Matter, Too" IN THESE TIMES NOVEMBER 2015, p. 17 inthesetimes.com... I had no hint of the Black community Broad and Deep Advocacy and support for the Palestinian people, 2nd p. 10 Friends - did you ALL know that!

"He who fights with monsters should be careful lest he thereby become a monster. And if thou gaze long into an abyss, the abyss will also gaze into thee."

- FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE 3rd, p. 111

10f 2 ||

IN his groundbreaking, New Ways To HEAL-
ING "SOUL WOUNDS" Holocaust Victor Dr. Viktor
Frankl, in his credible book "MAN'S SEARCH FOR
MEANING", as a Jew and Psychiatrist had a
Trained and UNIQUE observing (observation)
of his fellow Jews' experiences in the Nazi
'CONCENTRATION CAMP'. Many of whom, like
their Nazi guards, became "MONSTERS" and
ense EVILLY brutalized their Fellow Jews.

Similarly, Jewish scholar Abraham Joshua
Heschel sounded the ALARM BELL at the SPAIN
Jewish expulsion. 4^v p11

DURING his re-election campaign earlier
this year, The New York Times (NYT.COM) labeled
Mr. Netanyahu's campaign as "RACIST" against
the occupied Palestinian people.

We see in PLAIN SIGHT Mr. Netanyahu
not disdain towards our FIRST BLACK President
Barack H. Obama! How LONG!!

GO DOWN PROPHET NATHAN

2 of 11

Tell O'Israel, They, like the Nazi, have the helpless and Hopeless Palestinian People in concentration camp and executing genocide against these peoples!

While the U.S. Government besides you to shield you from Europe and U.N. Restraint (Restraint), NEVER AGAIN!

Therefore, ONLY God and O'Israel itself can save O'Israel Soul!

How Long.

CHECK-OUT BELOW: "ISRAEL PRESIDENT FLOODED WITH DEATH THREATS FOR CONDEMNING" JEWISH TERROR, p.p. 5-6
"ISRAELI TROOPS DEPLOYED TO ASSIST POLICE ..", p. 7
"HAMAS WINS EU COURT BID AGAINST INCLUSION ON TERROR LIST," p.p. 8-9
APPENDIX, p.p. 10-11

#IMAGINE GIVE PEACE A CHANCE
— YOKO & JOHN

30f @ 11

ISRAEL

Jordi pointed out that many facilities and many owners would have euthanized a dog like Little Man, but CCAC makes decisions based on hope for recovery whenever possible.

Jordi is also the owner of Scooter, a dog that uses a wheelchair, and is an active part of a countywide literacy program to encouraging reading via frequent visit to the county's libraries.

'Candy shop' of dinosaur fossils in Utah desert

Scientists have found an unprecedented cache of fossils of weird animals that thrived at a desert oasis some 200 million years ago, providing a snapshot of a place and time that have long been a mystery.

The fossils include the bones of a fanged flying predator and creatures that looked, one scientist says, like tiny crocodiles with a Chihuahua's legs. Small reptiles whose "hands" resemble a mole's lived alongside dinosaurs that scampered on their hind legs. Researchers suspect that many of the fossils represent entirely new species.

"Probably almost everything we're finding (at the site) is previously unknown to science," says Dan Chure of Dinosaur National Monument, one of the site's co-discoverers. "It's just an amazing paleontological candy shop."

The fossils are "a spectacular find," agrees University of Utah paleontologist Randall Irmis, who isn't involved in the project. "We so rarely get sites that preserve such a variety of different animals from the beginning of the age of dinosaurs."

The animals at the site should help illuminate the period just before the mass extinction that allowed the dinosaurs to take over the Earth, Irmis says. The fossils also illuminate exactly what was living in the vast sand box that filled what is now the western United States, where fossils from the Late Triassic fossils are scarce.

When a pair of scientists set out to search for fossils in the ancient desert known as "The Sandpit," their expectations were low.

"We were hopeful we could find one locality with, maybe, one specimen in it," says George Engelmann of the University of Nebraska, Omaha, who along with Chure discovered the site.

Instead, after two years of searching, in 2008 the researchers stepped onto a piece of land in northern Utah that was thickly littered with old bones, and "everything since then has been one amazing discovery after another," Chure says.

The site holds more than 11,000 fossils in an area as big as a good-sized living room, says Brigham Young University's Brooks Britt, who is analyzing fossils from the site. Eons ago, the site was a shallow lake that was probably fringed with plants such as ferns until a cataclysmic drought finished off the lake and its denizens alike.

The result was a Late Triassic time capsule that preserves not only the usual big guys but

also the small fry that seldom survive in the fossil record.

There are drepanosaurs, an extremely rare reptile with "hands" like a mole's — animals never suspected of living in deserts. There are creatures like long-legged crocodiles that must've been swift runners. There are two kinds of lizard-like sphenodonts. There are the bones of a small dinosaur and the teeth of a big one.

Soaring above them all was a pterosaur, which is not a dinosaur but a flying reptile usually found in ancient seas. This one had fangs at the front of its jaw and a mouthful of tiny teeth. Its combination of big head and short wings mean it was probably not soaring but zigzagging among trees hunting insects and small critters.

The pterosaur's skull was preserved almost intact, providing an unparalleled view of the animal's scaffolding. For example, CT scans revealed air sacs in the reptile's lower jaw and braincase, presumably to reduce the weight it had to lug into the air, says Britt, who presented his findings Wednesday at the yearly meeting of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology.

The researchers have named the site, technically known as a quarry though nothing ever than fossils was mined there, the "Saint and Sinners Quarry." Britt belongs to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, while "George (Engelmann) and I are not. So we're not saints," explains Chure.

Nor was that pterosaur. "If you see him flying at you, and you're some little animal ... you're going to think he's a sinner because he's going to kill you," Britt says. Then he pauses to reflect. "On the other hand, he has the wings of an angel."

Netanyahu sparks Holocaust controversy ahead of Kerry meeting

Controversy swirled Wednesday over Benjamin Netanyahu's contentious remarks about the Holocaust as the Israeli prime minister prepared to meet with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry in Germany.

The German government dismissed comments by Netanyahu blaming a Muslim elder for the Holocaust. "All Germans know the history of the murderous race mania of the Nazis that led to the break with civilization that was the Holocaust," Chancellor Angela Merkel's spokesman Steffen Seibert said. "We know that responsibility for this crime against humanity is German and very much our own."

Netanyahu, at the World Zionist Congress in Israel on Tuesday, said Hitler "didn't want to exterminate the Jews at the time, he wanted to expel the Jews." Netanyahu said Haj Amin al-Husseini, a Muslim Palestinian leader at the time, "went to Hitler and said, 'If you expel them, they'll all come here.'"

Hitler and al-Husseini met in November 1941, after Germany had begun killing Jews. Netanyahu attempted to clarify his comments Wednesday before heading to Berlin. He said Hitler was responsible for the

Holocaust, but al-Husseini encouraged him and also wanted to see the Jews dead. Saeb Erekat, former chief negotiator in Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, blasted Netanyahu in a statement on the Palestinian Liberation Organization's Twitter page. "Netanyahu hates Palestinians so much that he is willing to absolve Hitler for the murder of 6 million Jews," Erekat said.

Kerry is to meet with Netanyahu in Berlin on Thursday and with Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas in Jordan this weekend. The goal is to find common ground aimed at restarting peace talks and ending a surge in violence in Israel and the Palestinian territories. Ten Israelis have died in a month-long wave of stabbings and other assaults that have resulted in more than 45 Palestinian deaths, including more than 25 labeled by Israelis as attackers.

The attacks continued Wednesday, when a Palestinian rammed his car into Israeli soldiers in the West Bank, injuring four of them, *The Jerusalem Post* reported. The condition of the soldiers was not immediately released; the *Post* said the driver was shot and seriously wounded.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon tried to broker calm, meeting Netanyahu on Tuesday and Abbas on Wednesday. Ban called on Palestinians to halt the attacks on Israelis while imploring Israel to ease security responses. Abbas appeared to give little ground on restarting peace talks, saying he wants Israel to first withdraw from the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Netanyahu has pressed for the talks to reconvene without conditions.

Russia, US agree on Syria; Iraqis won't seek Russian strikes

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. and Russia on Tuesday put into practice new rules designed to minimize the risk of air collisions between military aircraft over Syria, while Iraqi leaders pledged they would not invite Russian airpower over their nation. Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the Iraqis promised they will not request any Russian airstrikes or support for the fight against Islamic State militants.

Shortly after leaving Baghdad, Dunford told reporters traveling with him that he laid out a choice when he met with Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi and Defense Minister Khaled al-Obeidi earlier Tuesday. "I said it would make it very difficult for us to be able to provide the kind of support you need if the Russians were here conducting operations as well," Dunford said. "We can't conduct operations if the Russians were operating in Iraq right now."

He said there was "angst" in the U.S. when reports surfaced that al-Abadi had said he would welcome Russian airstrikes in Iraq. The U.S., Dunford said, "can't have a relationship right now with Russia in the context of Iraq."

Meanwhile, Washington and Moscow reached agreement on the rules for aircraft

4/09/11

over Syria. A Russian defense official in Moscow said the "memorandum of understanding" suggests a potential for U.S.-Russian counterterrorism cooperation, but U.S. officials said it was a narrow arrangement that does not lessen Washington's concern about the Russian military campaign.

There is no plan to establish zones of cooperation in the parallel air campaigns or to share intelligence or target information in Syria, Pentagon spokesman Peter Cook said. The Pentagon has cited several instances when Russian aircraft came too close to U.S. warplanes over Syria in recent weeks. More broadly, Washington has complained that instead of hitting Islamic State fighters, Russian airstrikes are mostly targeting rebel forces fighting the Syrian government. Russia also deployed ground troops and land-based weaponry, including multiple-launch rocket systems, in support of the Syrian government. The arrangement announced Tuesday "does nothing to assuage our concerns about Russian military activities in Syria," State Department spokesman John Kirby said. Cook said Gen. Lloyd Austin, commander of U.S. Central Command, signed for the U.S. side Tuesday. At a Pentagon news conference, Cook gave a broad description of the document but said the U.S. had accepted a Russian request that the text be kept secret. After several rounds of talks that began more than a week ago, the two sides agreed to a number of air safety protocols including "maintaining professional airmanship" and the use of specific aircraft communications frequencies, Cook said. They agreed to keep a "safe distance" between aircraft, Cook said, but he would not say whether specific distances were written into the memo. The two sides also agreed to establish a "communication line on the ground" as a backup of military-to-military communication, Cook said, although he would not say whether this would be a telephone line or where it would be located. A U.S.-Russia working group will be formed to deal with any implementation issues that arise, he added.

The discussions that led to the protocols "do not constitute U.S. cooperation or support for Russia's policy and actions in Syria," Cook said. "In fact, far from it, we continue to believe that Russia's strategy in Syria is counterproductive, and their support for the Assad regime will only make Syria's civil war worse." He was referring to Syrian President Bashar Assad, whom the U.S. says is an illegitimate leader and must leave office.

The U.S. has been bombing Islamic State targets in Syria since September 2014; the Russian air campaign began less than one month ago.

In Moscow, Russian Deputy Defense Minister Anatoly Antonov said in a statement carried by Russian news agencies that signing the memorandum was a positive step that has "important practical meaning."

"The memorandum contains a complex of rules and restrictions aimed at preventing incidents between Russian and U.S. aircraft," Antonov said, adding that Russian and U.S. military officials will set up round-the-clock communications channels and "determine the mechanism of interaction, including mutual assistance in crisis situations."

"The Americans have promised to get the agreed rules to all participants of the anti-IS coalition they lead, so that their pilots proceed from those agreements," he said, referring to the U.S. coalition that includes Australia, Bahrain, Canada, France, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates.

Antonov added that the memorandum "shows a big potential for cooperation between Russia and the U.S., including in the fight against terrorism, which we are ready to expand and deepen."

In Iraq, Dunford visited with Kurdish leaders and commanders in the northern city of Irbil and then flew to Baghdad to meet with the ministers and U.S. military leadership. Dunford said the Iraqis' response was encouraging, adding that he told the ministers he would be reporting that answer to U.S. leaders when he gets home.

"A key part of our report going back is that both the prime minister and the defense minister said that they recognize that the partnership and the relationship" with the U.S.-led coalition was the critical relationship they needed in order to deal with a common threat.

Dunford also said Iraqi leaders told him that the planned intelligence coordination center operated by the Russians and Iranians in Baghdad hadn't done anything yet. But they also noted that the Iraqi military uses a lot of Russian-made equipment, and Dunford said it is reasonable for them to get parts and support for that gear.

Putin says 20 terrorist plots foiled in Russia this year

MOSCOW (AP) — Intelligence agents have foiled 20 terrorist plots in Russia this year, President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday, and asked officials to increase their efforts to prevent terrorist attacks.

Russia began carrying out air strikes on Islamic State militants in Syria last month to support government forces there. The Kremlin has cited curbing terrorism internationally and making sure Russian nationals in the IS ranks don't come back home as the main reasons behind the Russian air strikes.

Speaking Tuesday at a ceremony at the Kremlin, Putin said in televised comments that the FSB intelligence agency this year had foiled 20 terrorist plots, arrested 560 militants and killed 112 others.

Putin asked the FSB to increase its efforts in preventing terrorist attacks as well as their uncovering the terrorists' links to international groups.

Islamic insurgency has been brewing in Russia's North Caucasus following two wars

in Chechnya in the 1990s. In neighboring Dagestan, the insurgents — who want to carve out a state governed by their strict interpretation of Islamic law — clash with law enforcement officers almost daily. Moscow says some of these militants have links to Islamic State.

The FSB, the main successor to the KGB, says that it has foiled two major terrorist plots in two weeks in Moscow and in southern Russia which were allegedly prepared by men with links to IS.

Assad's trip to Moscow bolsters sense he may survive war

Russia's military intervention in Syria has deepened the sense that President Bashar Assad may survive the country's disastrous civil war, and his surprise visit to Moscow — a first foray out in nearly five years — underscores how emboldened the Syrian leader has become.

The show of force by the two allies is a challenge to a U.S. administration whose response on Syria is widely seen in the region as inconsistent and chaotic.

Whether it is also part of a quiet Russian push to engineer a political transition in Syria on President Vladimir Putin's terms is yet to be seen. Such a scenario would do wonders for the Russian leader's evident ambition to seize center stage in world affairs.

Hours after Assad's visit was announced Wednesday, Russia confirmed Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry had agreed to meet in Vienna on Friday with their Turkish and Saudi counterparts to discuss the Syrian conflict.

Either way, the visit shows remarkable resilience that Assad was able to leave Syria without fear of a coup or arrest after presiding over a rare descent into hell: Half the country's population has been displaced, at least a quarter million people have been killed and Islamic State militants are in control of large swaths of territory.

Even as vast parts of his country fell from his control or turned into killing fields, Assad has kept his regime core in place and continues to hang on to strategic territory that remains firmly under his rule.

Here's a look at how Assad has come this far: **DETERMINED PERSONA**

In five years of civil war, Assad has never once wavered from his calm, confident public persona as a man fighting to protect Syria from al-Qaida-type Islamic extremists bent on destroying the country. Using a mixture of brute force and a consistent portrayal of the conflict as a war on terror, the 50-year-old former eye doctor has defied every prediction that his end is near.

His forces' use of military might against mostly peaceful protesters early in the conflict quickly earned him near-pariah status. Yet Assad was unflinching in sticking to his narrative, and often appeared fueled by an unshakeable belief that Syria would collapse without him.

8-6-2015

aircraft and drones from a U.S.-led coalition to use the Incirlik Air Base in southern Turkey to launch airstrikes against the militants. The government said in a statement that the Turkish Air Force would join the coalition's campaign for the first time. During a televised news conference here, Erdogan said that "terrorist groups" must lay down weapons or "face the consequences" and that Friday's airstrikes are the "first steps" in combating the Islamic State. Earlier Friday, Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said Turkey is taking "all necessary steps" to protect its security, and that the airstrikes represent "a comprehensive process against terrorism, not limited to a day or a region."

The agreement on using Incirlik, long sought by the United States, apparently was reached Wednesday in a telephone call between Erdogan and President Obama. The White House said in a statement that the two leaders had agreed to "deepen our cooperation" against the militants, but did not go into the details of an agreement to use the air base.

Access to the base would put U.S. warplanes, drones and surveillance aircraft much closer to militant targets.

The Turkish airstrikes come amid heightening tensions between Turkey and Islamic State militants, who have a sizable presence in Syria and have posed an increasing threat to Turkey. On Thursday, militants fired across the border, killing a Turkish soldier.

The United States has been urging Turkey to play a more active role in combating the Islamic State, which has lured numerous fighters from the West who transit to the battlefields through Turkey's 500-mile long border with Syria. Turkey's location makes it an important ally in the anti-Islamic State coalition organized by the United States. Turkey has recently taken steps to make it harder to cross into Syria.

A government official told the Associated Press that three F-16 jets took off from Diyarbakir Air Base in southeast Turkey early Friday and used smart bombs to hit three militant targets across the Turkish border province of Kilis. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of government rules requiring authorization for comment, said the targets were two command centers and a gathering point of Islamic State supporters.

The Dogan news agency in Turkey said as many as 35 militants were killed in the airstrike that targeted the gathering point. The agency did not cite a source for the report and there was no official confirmation.

A government statement said the decision for the operation was taken at a security meeting on Thursday, held after five militants fired from Syrian territory at the outpost and prompting Turkish retaliation that killed at least one militant.

Also on Friday, the government said Turkish police launched raids in Istanbul and 12

provinces, detaining more than 250 people suspected of terror activities. The state-run Anadolu Agency said as many as 5,000 police officers were involved in the operation, which also targeted a Kurdish rebel group and outlawed leftist group. Turkey's moves against the Islamic State appeared prompted in part by a suicide bombing blamed on the militant group earlier in the week that killed 32 people in a Turkish town near Kobani, a Syrian city just across the border that was liberated from Islamic State control by Kurdish fighters after a long siege. The bombing was Turkey's worst in years.

The bombing may have been in retaliation for Turkey's recent crackdown on suspected Islamic State operations in the country. In the last six months, Turkey has detained more than 500 people suspected of working with the militants.

"This is a major policy shift," said Michael Stephens, director of the Royal United Services Institute in Qatar. "For Turkey to start taking these sorts of steps means they are going to be inviting a response from ISIS, which means they better be prepared to see it through the whole way," he said, using an acronym for the militant group.

"It reflects the fact that the Americans are putting increasing importance on the Syrian angle of the anti-ISIS coalition strategy, where you can see much more productive gains from the military operation against ISIS than you can in Iraq," he said. "It also signifies that Turkey is finally acknowledging its own role in having a stake in the fight against the Islamic State."

Greek stocks suffer 2nd day of losses as banks plunge again

Greek stock markets suffered a second straight day of losses Tuesday as Greek banking stocks once again fell by around 30%, the daily limit.

The Athens Stock Exchange in Greece dropped 1.2% to 659.94 after being down as much as 4.9% earlier. That comes on top of the 16% drop on Monday.

Global stocks were uneven as other European stock markets were mixed. Germany's DAX rose 0.1%, France's CAC 40 dropped 0.2% and Britain's FTSE 100 was flat.

Asian stocks were slightly lower as weak Chinese manufacturing weighed on sentiment and investors looked to a U.S. jobs report later this week that could cement expectations for a Fed interest rate hike. Japan's Nikkei 225 index lost 0.1% while Hong Kong's Hang Seng index lost 0.02%. China's Shanghai Composite initially fell before recovering and closed up 3.7%.

U.S. stocks ended lower Monday and the price of oil tumbled below \$46 a barrel.

Floods kill dozens in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (AP) — The death toll from flash floods triggered by seasonal monsoon rains in various parts of Pakistan has risen to 118 and floodwater has inundated vast areas, leaving tens of thousands homeless, authorities said Monday.

ISRAEL

The National Disaster Management Authority said the flooding has affected more than 800,000 people in 2,275 villages. About 2,900 houses have collapsed or are partially damaged.

The northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province is the worst affected, with 59 deaths reported there, according to NDMA's statement. The Pakistani part of Kashmir and southern part of eastern Punjab province each reported 22 deaths.

In mid-July, monsoon rains followed by flash floods badly hit the northwestern city of Chitral, where flooding destroyed several bridges, homes, mosques, hotels and a power station. Pakistan army's engineers repaired damaged bridges in Chitral, while boats and helicopters evacuated those affected.

Heavy monsoon rains and flooding also affected the scenic Gilgit Baltistan region where five deaths were reported in affected 175 villages and over 600 houses completely or partly damaged. A total of 136,000 people were affected there.

The southern part of largest Punjab province is another region badly hit by the flooding. The NDMA and Pakistani military moved tens of thousands of people from there to safety and provided relief goods. The operation was continuing in southern Punjab. An army statement said army chief Gen. Raheel Sharif visited Layyah district, where rescue and flood relief operations are ongoing. It said he expressed deepest regret over the devastation, loss of life and property. The rain continued Monday but weather conditions are expected to improve in coming days.

Every year, floods triggered by monsoon rains kill scores of people in Pakistan.

Israeli president flooded with death threats for condemning 'Jewish terror'

JERUSALEM — Israeli police launched an investigation Monday into incitement charges after a wave of social media users threatened President Reuven Rivlin, calling him a "traitor" and "Arab terrorist" after he condemned two attacks by Jewish Israelis that roiled the country.

"Flames have engulfed our country. Flames of violence, flames of hatred, flames of false, distorted and twisted beliefs," Rivlin wrote on Facebook in both Hebrew and Arabic. His statement over the weekend came after two brutal incidents. Jewish ultranationalists are suspected of setting fire Friday to two houses in the West Bank village of Duma, burning to death an 18-month-old toddler, Ali Saad Dawabshah. The baby's parents and 4-year-old brother remain in critical condition in burn units of Israeli hospitals and are reported to be fighting for their lives.

On Thursday, an ultra-Orthodox Jew stabbed six Israelis at the Jerusalem gay pride parade, and one of the wounded, Shira Banki, 16, died Sunday night.

Rivlin's Facebook post received more than 3,000 responses, some expressing gratitude but many others denying that Jews could be

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Wing flap found on island traced to missing Malaysian jet

Malaysia's prime minister confirms a wing flap that washed ashore on Reunion Island in the Indian Ocean is confirmed to have come from missing Malaysia Airlines Flight 370. Experts confirmed a wing flap found on an island in the Indian Ocean belongs to missing Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak said Wednesday. Paris Deputy Prosecutor Serge Mackowiak expressed slightly less certainty, citing a "strong supposition" that the flaperon — confirmed this week to be from a Boeing 777 — was part of the missing jetliner. Analysis aimed at confirming the information would begin Thursday, he said in a separate announcement.

"Today, 515 days since the plane disappeared, it is with a heavy heart that I must tell you that an international team of experts have conclusively confirmed that the debris found on Reunion Island is indeed from Flight 370," Razak said. "We now have physical evidence ... that Flight 370 tragically ended in the southern Indian Ocean."

Malaysia Airlines released a statement calling the confirmation a "major breakthrough" into why the jet disappeared. "Family members of passengers and crew have already been informed, and we extend our deepest sympathies to those affected," the statement said.

Flight 370 vanished March 8, 2014, after taking off from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, bound for Beijing with 239 people aboard. Most of the victims were Chinese.

Earlier Wednesday, investigators in France began examining the flaperon, which was found on a beach in the town of Saint Andre a week ago. The part was taken to the DGA TA aeronautical testing site near Toulouse in southern France.

In addition to determining that the flaperon came from MH370, investigators from Malaysia, France and the USA will examine the metal on the wing piece with microscopes to try to find out what caused the jet to go down.

The French island of Reunion is about 3,500 miles southwest of Malaysia and more than 2,000 miles from the area of the Indian Ocean where Flight 370 is suspected to have crashed. Authorities are searching the beaches of Reunion and other islands in the region in the hopes of finding more debris. Razak thanked the dozens of nations that have aided in the search for the jet and expressed sympathy for the families. Moments before he spoke, a text message alert explaining the findings was sent out to family members of the victims.

The burden and uncertainty faced by the families during this time has been inspeakable," he said. "It is my hope that this confirmation, however tragic and painful, will at least bring certainty to the families and loved ones of the 239 people onboard MH370. They have our deepest sympathy and prayers."

Confirmation the jet crashed in the ocean could help many family members with the grieving process, said Nancy Smyth, a dean of the University at Buffalo School of Social Work who studies psychological trauma.

"This does provide the families with the needed closure," Smyth said. "Knowing the plane did indeed crash, for most families that will ... help them come to terms that they have loved ones who are really are gone." Still, many Chinese relatives have clung to hope that the jetliner would be found with all onboard safe, and they have protested what they see as a lack of information from authorities investigating the jet's disappearance.

"There are some people still wondering if their loved ones are still sitting on the island," Smyth said. "There are still tons of questions, which also affect grieving, such as why the plane crashed. That is a big piece for them." Jiang Hui, also 41, whose mother was on board, said that there was still a lack of evidence to prove that the plane crashed as was announced by Malaysian officials last year. At the time, they cited thorough analysis of the relatively limited satellite data available for the flight. Major questions still remain, including why the plane went off course, crossed back over Malaysia and went south into the Indian Ocean.

"The finding of debris does not mean the finding of our next of kin," Jiang said.

In Kuala Lumpur, Melanie Antonio — whose husband was a flight attendant on Flight 370 — said she wasn't sure how to feel.

"I'm numb, I'm not sad," she said. "It's just a flaperon, it doesn't prove anything. We still need the wreckage to prove. I just want anything that can tell me my hubby is gone." Jacquita Gomes, also the wife of a flight attendant, echoed that sentiment. "If it's not too much to ask, I still want the remains of my husband."

NASA to keep paying Russia to send astronauts to space station

WASHINGTON — NASA is extending its contract with Russia's space agency to transport U.S. astronauts to the International Space Station for the foreseeable future now that it appears very unlikely Congress will provide the funding it's requesting to develop a domestic replacement for the mothballed space shuttle, NASA Administrator Charles F. Bolden Jr. said Wednesday.

In a letter to members of Congress who oversee NASA funding, Bolden said the \$490 million contract "modification" is due mainly to Congress not providing the agency adequate resources for its Commercial Crew program. It costs U.S. taxpayers about \$75 million for every ride on a Soyuz rocket to the space station. Under the new contract, that will rise to nearly \$82 million in 2018, according to NASA.

Over the past five years, Congress has cut approximately \$1 billion from President Barack Obama's request for Commercial Crew. Over that time, NASA's target for an initial launch has moved from 2015 to 2017.

"Congress, while incrementally increasing annual funding, has not adequately funded the Commercial Crew Program to return human spaceflight launches to American soil this year, as planned," Bolden wrote in a letter to lawmakers. "This has resulted in continued sole reliance on the Russian Soyuz spacecraft as our crew transport vehicle for American and international partner crews to the ISS."

Now, Bolden said 2017 appears to be at best a long shot given that lawmakers are expected to provide no more than \$1 billion for the program in the 2016 fiscal year that begins Oct. 1 — about \$250 million less than Obama is seeking.

The Commercial Crew program is funding ventures by two private companies — Boeing and SpaceX — to develop a fleet of domestic rockets to resume ferrying astronauts to the space station. The last space shuttle flight to the orbiting lab was in July 2011.

Some key lawmakers have raised concerns about the program, which uses a different contracting program than NASA used for the shuttle.

Under Commercial Crew, NASA pays companies to achieve certain milestones but leaves details largely to the contractor. It costs less, but the firms get to keep the intellectual property rights of their products, and there's a risk a problem could go undetected until later in the development process.

Advocates of the arrangement say it means companies can more nimbly — and cheaply — meet contract targets. But skeptics say there's little oversight and the government has little control over costs.

Bolden wrote in the letter he hopes a funding agreement can be reached that ends reliance on Russian rockets.

"I am asking that we put past disagreements behind us and focus our collective efforts on support for American industry — the Boeing Corporation and SpaceX — to complete construction and certification of their crew vehicles so that we can begin launching our crews from the Space Coast of Florida in 2017," he wrote.

Under the contract modification, NASA is buying six Soyuz seats and associated services for calendar year 2018, with rescue and return services extending through late spring 2019, according to an agency spokeswoman. Should the U.S. commercial providers be ready by 2018, the Soyuz launch dates could be adjusted such that landing could occur later, she said.

Turkish jets strike ISIL targets in Syria

ISTANBUL — Turkish fighter planes bombed Islamic State positions in neighboring Syria for the first time in a pre-dawn attack Friday, a significant expansion of the battle against the extremist group, the Turkish government announced.

In another sign of Turkey's new aggressive stance against the Islamic State, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan confirmed Friday that his country has agreed to allow manned

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terrorists and accusing Rivlin of being a "hypocrite" and "traitor" who deserves to die.

"Dirty traitor. Your end will be worse than (Ariel) Sharon's," said one response, referring to the former Israeli prime minister who died last year after spending eight years in a coma as a result of a stroke.

While Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called Friday's arson attack a "horrific, heinous act of terror," thousands of demonstrators throughout the country took to the streets Sunday to protest what they consider the government's lenient policies that support and perpetuate such attacks.

Netanyahu pledged to step up West Bank police efforts to bring the suspects to justice, though many Palestinians and Israelis said such condemnations weren't enough.

The Israeli human rights group, Yesh Din, said the government has brought indictments in only 7% of cases of vandalism by suspected extremists

"Netanyahu offers his condolences, but we ask the defense minister and the IDF (Israel Defense Forces) to restore security in the village of Duma and in all Palestinian villages," said Nasser Dawabshah, the uncle of the slain toddler. "We want this to be the end of the suffering of our people."

Protesters carried signs that said, "Enforce the law against hate crimes" and "Homophobia and Racism are the same kind of Violence," referring to the stabbings at the gay pride parade.

A statement by Banki's family said that "negligence" was responsible for their teenage daughter's death, and that "the family expresses hope for less hatred and more tolerance."

The alleged attacker, Yishai Shlissel, had been arrested for a previous stabbing rampage during the Jerusalem Pride Parade of 2005. He was released last month after serving a 10-year sentence.

Shmi Tal, a politician from the ruling Likud party, told Israel's Channel 2 news that Rivlin's comments of sympathy for the victims of the attacks proved that he was in need of "urgent hospitalization."

"We are still dealing with the same problems that we faced 20 years ago," Yohanan Plesner, president of the Israeli Democracy Institute and a former Knesset member, said Monday, referring to the assassination of Prime Minister Itzhak Rabin by an ultranationalist Jewish settler who opposed the Israeli-Palestinian peace initiative.

Rivlin, whose role as president is mostly ceremonial, has been one of the few Israeli officials to publicly denounce previous ultranationalist attacks that targeted Palestinian churches, mosques and private property.

Many fear he represents a diminishing liberalism in Israel, where 52% of teenagers identify as right wing, and among those, 48% condone or say they understand the rationale behind such attacks, according to a poll last month by the Rafi Smith Institute.

"The problem isn't with the official politicians themselves, but the fact that we know most politicians from the right, and certainly the prime minister, ignore and turn a blind eye to the broader context in which actions like the killing of the toddler Ali take place," said Sarit Michaeli, a spokeswoman for the human rights group, B'tselem, the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories.

"As long as the mainstream, moreover, doesn't see phenomena like West Bank settlements and occupation as high priorities, the right wing can continue violate the law in order to achieve its political goals," Michaeli said Monday.

Archaeologists find the gate to Goliath's hometown

An archaeological dig now in its 20th year has uncovered the entrance gate to Gath, the ancient Biblical city of the Philistines and onetime home of the giant Goliath. Before the king of Damascus destroyed it in 830 BCE, Gath was the largest city in the land for hundreds of years, reports the Jerusalem Post. The Bible refers to the massive city gate itself, in the story of David's escape from King Saul to the king of Gath. In addition to the city gate, scientists have also unearthed an "impressive fortification wall," several buildings that include a temple and iron production facility, and what the Post calls the earliest "decipherable" Philistine inscription ever found—which contains two names similar to "Goliath."

"After finding a huge fortification, it's clearly the most important city of the 10th and ninth centuries," says the archaeologist in charge of the dig, per i24. The long-term dig is part of the Ackerman Family Bar-Ilan University Expedition to Gath, a look at the archaeology and history of one of the largest "tells" (aka ancient ruin mounds) in Israel. The area in central Israel, in the Tel Zafit National Park in the Judean Foothills, has been inhabited almost continuously since the 5th millennium BCE, the researchers note in a press release.

It's insanely expensive to bribe Russian officials these days

KIEV, Ukraine — It's bad enough that just getting things done in Russia, from beating a speeding ticket to running a business, often means paying a kickback.

But now it's worse: You've got to pay twice as much.

Russia's Interior Ministry told reporters this week the average bribe may have doubled from around 109,000 rubles last year to 208,000 today. In dollars, that increase is nowhere nearly as high: a little over \$3,050 in 2014 vs. \$3,400 now. But in rubles, it isn't pretty.

Excessive greed is always a key factor in corruption, but experts are suggesting another explanation in this case. It's the economy. Hammered by low oil prices and Western economic sanctions over the Ukraine crisis, Russia's economy is in tatters, and its currency has lost almost half its value over the past year.

The plunging ruble affects ordinary Russians in a variety of ways as it's sent inflation soaring — and the cost of bribes has been no exception.

"This is due to the fact that bureaucrats have gotten used to taking bribes in dollars or tying their ruble equivalent to the Central Bank rate," Dmitry Chugunov, a member of a pro-government advisory body, told a leading Russian newspaper.

Given the shady nature of the practice, not all experts agree it's possible to accurately measure just how much Russians pay on average, or how often.

But there's one thing most observers can agree on: Corruption is a major problem in Russia, and it's not getting any better.

The country scored an unenviable 136th place — out of 175 — on Transparency International's Corruption Perception index last year. That's better than Uganda, the African island nation of Comoros and Ukraine, but tied with Nigeria, Lebanon and a few others.

Apple stock implosion shreds \$113.4B

Apple (AAPL) shares fell significantly for the second day Tuesday — bringing investors' paper losses to staggering levels and putting the stock further into correction territory.

Shares of Apple finished down \$3.80, or 3.2%, to \$114.64 in regular trading Tuesday, meaning they've fallen more than 14% since hitting their high of \$134.54 on April 28. Given the massive size of Apple's market value, this sell off is enormous in that it has wiped out \$113 billion in paper wealth. The sell off essentially erases more than the entire market value of corporate giants including Nike (NKE) at \$98 billion or McDonald's (MCD) at \$95 billion, separately.

It's the stock's third five-day losing streak in the past month, knocking the stock down 7% in just that time, says Bespoke Investment Group. The stock is down further from its average price the past 50 days than it has been in 12 years, Bespoke says.

Investors are fretting over evidence that competition is heating up for smartphones in China, which is seen as the last big market of growth for the company. Meanwhile, here in the U.S. smartphones are already saturated and are priced as a replacement market, much like personal computers.

Apple continues to try to keep average selling prices high — north of \$600 per phone — as competition is only intensifying and more computing is done by the cloud, which is agnostic to the device. Investors worry the company could have difficulty putting up the massive revenue gains of the past year if smartphones prices fall or demand in China softens.

There have also been reports of new malware that target Macs, eating away at the company's long-standing claims it's largely immune from such security threats.

Apple continues to be the most valuable company in the Standard & Poor's 500 with a market capitalization of \$657.6 billion, but its

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leadership in the stock market is fading away. Shares of the gadget maker are up just 3.9% this year. Shares of Google (GOOG) and Facebook (FB) are up 26% and 21% this year respectively.

Analysts remain ever bullish on the stock. The average rating on the stock is an "outperform" and the average 18-month price target is \$148.98.

And while the stock has collapsed below its average price the past 200 days, that's not necessarily a bad thing, Bespoke says. Apple shares have cratered below the 200-day moving average 17 times before. Over history, the stock has typically shaken off the stupor in about a month, Bespoke says. But even Bespoke is cautious. "By itself, that (stock's history of bouncing back after falling below the 200-day moving average) is probably not the best reason to go out and buy the stock," according to a Bespoke report.

Lexus shows off hoverboard in video

Marty McFly, eat your heart out.

Lexus, the global luxury brand of Japanese automaker Toyota, on Tuesday showed off a functioning hoverboard prototype modeled after the levitating skateboard first depicted in 1989 movie "Back to the Future 2."

In a 2-minute 12-second video, a pro skateboarder is shown trying his hand at the hoverboard, which appears to function much like a skateboard — except for the part where it's not touching the ground.

There's a catch, though. The device only works in a controlled environment with magnets running underneath the surface of the skatepark. The device combines the effects of liquid nitrogen-cooled superconductors and permanent magnets to float above the ground.

It's not for sale.

In the video, pro skateboarder Ross McGouran is shown zipping around a test track in Dresden, Germany, turning tricks, taking spills and riding across water. At one point he zooms high above a Lexus vehicle in a jump.

Toyota said the project began 18 months ago as a partnership between scientists at IFW Dresden and evico GmbH. McGouran tested the device extensively in Dresden.

"I've spent 20 years skateboarding, but without friction it feels like I've had to learn a whole new skill, particularly in the stance and balance in order to ride the hoverboard. It's a whole new experience," McGouran said in a statement.

Engineers installed some 200 meters of magnetic track underneath the surface of what they dubbed the "hoverpark."

The company said the device uses two "cryostats," which it described as "reservoirs in which superconducting material is kept at -197 degrees through immersion in liquid nitrogen."

"The magnetic field from the track is effectively 'frozen' into the superconductors in the board, maintaining the distance between the board and the track—essentially

keeping the board hovering," evico CEO Oliver de Hass said. "This force is strong enough to allow the rider to stand and even jump on the board."

The promotion is part of Lexus' new ad campaign called "Amazing in Motion." When the luxury brand first revealed a teaser video showing the hoverboard in June, it generated a feverish buzz online.

As it happens, "Back to the Future 2" depicts the hoverboard in the year 2015 — our current year if you're not keeping track.

It's not the first time a major corporate brand has tried to capitalize on the interest in the futuristic 2015 portrayed in the movie.

Nike plans to introduce shoes with power laces later this year, a nod to the kicks that tighten automatically when Michael J. Fox's character, Marty McFly, puts them on in the film. So, power laces are possible in real life. But a hoverboard is not. At least for now.

Disney's Q3 earnings rise 11% on film unit's performance

Walt Disney Co.'s fiscal third quarter income rose 11% from a year ago to \$2.5 billion as its major business lines, particularly movie production and cable networks, generated higher revenues.

Diluted earnings per share increased 13% to \$1.45 vs. \$1.39 estimated by analysts.

"The strong results across our many diverse lines of business demonstrate the power of our unparalleled brands, franchises and creative content," said Disney CEO Robert Iger in a statement.

Revenue rose 5% to \$13.1 billion. But it fell short of \$13.2 billion estimated by analysts. Shares of Disney fell 2.3% to \$118.94 in after-hours trading.

Media Networks, the Burbank, Calif.-based company's largest division that runs ABC, ESPN and Disney cable networks, reported a 5% increase in revenue to \$5.8 billion.

Higher on-demand distribution and affiliate revenues at Disney Channels and ABC Family drove cable networks' operating income 7% higher to \$2.1 billion.

Ad sales at ESPN fell but the network's operating results were offset by higher affiliate revenue, which is paid by pay-TV providers to air the network. "The increase in affiliate revenues was due to contractual rate increases and an increase in subscribers," Disney said.

During a conference call with analysts Tuesday, Disney also said it now expects its cable networks' profit growth to be in the mid-single digits for fiscal 2103 to 2106, down from the forecast of high single digits announced earlier.

The Parks and Resorts unit's revenues rose 4% to \$4.1 billion. With domestic visitors spending more per person, the unit's operating income rose 9%. "Guest spending growth was due to higher food, beverage, and merchandise spending, increases in average ticket prices at our cruise line and Disneyland Resort and higher average hotel room rates," it said.

But revenue at its international operations fell as attendance at Hong Kong Disneyland Resort dropped.

Studio Entertainment revenues increased 13% to \$2 billion. The unit released several hits that were in theaters during the quarter, including Marvel's *Avengers: Age of Ultron* and *Cinderella*.

Consumer Products revenues jumped 6% to \$954 million. Disney continues to benefit from robust sales of merchandise based on the animated mega-hit *Frozen*, as well as *The Avengers* and *Star Wars*.

Interactive revenues fell by \$58 million to \$208 million. Sales of console game catalog titles were sluggish, but the unit's performance was "partially offset by the continued success" of *Tsum Tsum*, a game based on Disney characters.

Pow! Comic book investing can be smart money

Tired of Flash Crashes? Why not invest in The Flash, instead?

Comic books are turning into a viable option for people looking to invest in something more tangible. Investing in comics is snaring attention due to book prices that go Pow! Just last August, a copy of Action Comics #1, which introduced Superman to the world, sold for \$3.2 million on eBay. It's a reminder comic book investing is serious business for serious collectors.

"There are many people investing in comic books and they are seeing them appreciate much better than in stock market, precious metals and real estate," says Vincent Zurzolo, co-founder of Metropolis Collectibles and operator of an online forum for comic book trading called ComicConnect.

Whopping price tags is just one of the developments attracting investors.

Hollywood is pumping out superhero blockbusters, and that's stoking interest in comics, which only fuels demand. The *Iron Man* movie of 2008 is widely credited as reigniting a broad interest in comic book investing and helping to drive up prices. The recent passing of Tom Moore, creator of the famous Archie comic, renews the idea that comics are a medium that resonates even today.

Investing in comics might seem outlandish, but the stock market looks just as scary to some. Only 17% of Americans think the stock market is the best place to put money not needed in a decade, says Bankrate.com. There are pointers, though, to approaching this unique market, including:

- **Focus on old books.** Don't think you can stroll into the local comic book shop, pick up a book and sell it for a fortune in five years. So many people are buying current comic books — all hoping for the same thing — there's a glut of most new books, says Barry Sandoval, who manages comic book auctions for Heritage Auctions, which brokered \$31.2 million in comic book sales last year. Investors should focus on comics that are at least 20 to 30 years old, Zurzolo says. "These

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Elsewhere, a suicide bomber targeted a convoy of foreign troops attached to the Resolute Support mission in Kabul on Sunday, according to The Associated Press. There were no reports of casualties, but three Afghans were wounded in the attack, according to Kabul city police chief Gen. Abdul Rahman Rahimi.

Sunday's violence follows an Oct. 1 crash of a C-130 transport plane near Jalalabad. Six U.S. servicemembers and five civilian contractors were killed, as well as several Afghan civilians on the ground. At the time, President Obama said the deaths served as a reminder "... of the sacrifice brave Americans and our Afghan partners make each and every day in the name of freedom and security."

Another crash in a remote region in southern Afghanistan in August killed 17 Afghan soldiers. That helicopter crash was initially blamed on technical problems and was among the deadliest events for the Afghan military since U.S. and NATO forces concluded their combat missions last year, shifting to a support and training role.

Israeli troops deployed to assist police after

Israel's military deployed hundreds of soldiers to cities Wednesday to assist police in an attempt to quell shooting and stabbing attacks on Israelis by Palestinians over the past several weeks.

The measures announced Wednesday include allowing police to seal off points of friction or incitement. Israel's security Cabinet approved the action after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Tuesday that the government was working on "aggressive steps" in response to the violence.

Troops from six units will reinforce the police in cities and on roads, the government said Wednesday in a statement.

Other measures include hiring an extra 300 security guards for public transportation in Jerusalem and barring construction on sites where an attacker's home has been demolished. The government said the property of those who perpetrate attacks will be confiscated and their permanent residency revoked.

The Cabinet met again Wednesday "to deal with additional issues, including incitement," the statement said.

Wednesday, Israeli police said an Arab attacker stabbed a 70-year-old woman, moderately wounding her, as she attempted to board a bus near Jerusalem's crowded central bus station, the Associated Press reported. The attacker was shot and killed by forces in the area. Earlier, police shot and killed an Arab man after he pulled out a knife and attempted to stab them.

The added security measures come after bloody attacks Tuesday that killed three Israeli Jews and left a number of others wounded by Palestinian attackers in Jerusalem and the city of Ra'anana in central Israel. In Jerusalem, two assailants opened

fire and stabbed people on a bus, killing two men. In a separate incident in the city, a driver rammed his car into people waiting at a bus stop and began stabbing people, killing a man.

Mustafa Barghouti, president of the Palestinian National Initiative, a political party, told Al Jazeera that the new measures will not work.

"Insanity is nothing but repeating the same thing but expecting different results," he said. "When they decide to separate East and West Jerusalem, it only proves that they have failed. The whole idea of walls and checkpoints is only deepening the military occupation."

Also Wednesday, Gilad Erdan, Israel's internal security minister, said the bodies of dead Palestinian attackers should not be returned to their families for burial because the funeral processions often turn into "an exhibition of support for terror and incitement to murder," the AP reported. Erdan suggested they be buried in faraway cemeteries where previous Palestinian attackers have been buried. Since the Jewish New Year last month, eight Israelis have been killed and dozens wounded in various attacks and at least 31 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire, including 14 identified by Israel as attackers. The rest died in clashes between stone-throwers and Israeli troops. Hundreds of Palestinians have been wounded.

In a brief speech Wednesday, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas called for a peaceful "national struggle." He threatened to submit a case to the International Criminal Court against what he called Israel's "extrajudicial killings" of Palestinians, the AP reported.

Fate of top Islamic State leader Baghdadi unknown after bombing

Iraqi military sources said Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi was hit in an airstrike, yet previous reports like these have been false. Video provided by Newsy Newslook

The fate of Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi remained unclear Monday, one day after the Iraqi military said it had bombed his convoy in western Anbar province.

"The fate of murderer al-Baghdadi is unknown and he was carried away by a vehicle," the military said in a statement Sunday. "His health condition is still unclear."

On Monday, Reuters news service quoted a senior Iraqi security official as saying that "after assessing all information we received from our sources, it's more likely that the convoy we struck was not carrying" Baghdadi. The official added that the military was still trying to "clarify the situation."

However, the Russian-based Sputnik news service and other outlets, citing the Baghdad Information Center, said Baghdadi was injured and hospitalized in the Al-Qa'im, an Iraqi town near the border with Syria.

The military's statement Sunday said al-Baghdadi, 44, had been heading to Karabla, near the Syrian border, to attend a meeting with Islamic State commanders when the air force bombed the convoy. "The location of the meeting was also bombed and many of the group's leaders were killed and wounded," the statement said.

Reuters reported Monday that eight Islamic State leaders were killed in the bombing that hit two homes. But the news service quoted a U.S. military official in Baghdad, speaking on condition of anonymity, saying the U.S. has seen no indications Baghdadi was killed or injured.

The U.S. designated Baghdadi a terrorist four years ago, authorizing a \$10 million reward for information leading to his death or capture. There have been reports in the past that al-Baghdadi had been attacked or even killed, including last November, but he reportedly retains his iron grip on the Islamic State. The Islamic State's No. 2 leader, Ahmad al-Hayali, reportedly was killed by a U.S. airstrike in August, U.S. officials have said.

The Islamic State has taken control of a large swath of Iraq and Syria in brutal fighting. Dominated by Sunni Arabs from Syria and Iraq, the group claims religious, political and military authority over Muslims worldwide as it attempts to build a state ruled by strict Sharia law.

Report confirms MH17 shot down — but why?

Investigators confirmed Tuesday that a Russian Buk missile shot down Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 over Ukraine, but what the investigation failed to uncover is who shot the missile and why.

The missile attack on the civilian Boeing 777-200, shot down in broad daylight on July 17, 2014, killed 298 passengers and crew on a flight from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur. The Dutch Safety Board led the investigation because 193 of the 298 people killed were from the Netherlands.

The Dutch-led Joint Investigation Team, which is building a criminal case, said the work to determine who shot the missile and why will stretch into 2016. The team said in a statement that they had found it difficult to locate and get statements from witnesses. Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte said the country's top priority is "tracking down and prosecuting those responsible."

"It is important to continue to do everything we can to ensure that the guilty parties do not escape justice," he said.

Najib Razak, Malaysia's prime minister, said the world must ensure that "those responsible are held accountable for this murderous act." The investigation, made public Tuesday, found the missile exploded like a shotgun shell just outside the cockpit, killing three crewmembers immediately before breaking off the forward section of the plane. But the report didn't specify who launched the missile or from where it had come.

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But with the shuttle program's retirement in 2011, his focus shifted — shrank, you might say — to the tiniest possible payloads:

CubeSats small enough and light enough to hold in your hand.

"I went from 30,000-pound station elements to 3-pound CubeSats in the blink of an eye," he said.

CubeSats measure four inches on a side, or multiples of that box. They were developed by universities, taking advantage of shrinking modern electronics to enable students to design, build and fly spacecraft for thousands of dollars instead of millions.

One example is Merritt Island High School's "StangSat," which could catch a ride next year on SpaceX's heavy-lift Falcon rocket.

"I went from 30,000-pound station elements to 3-pound CubeSats in the blink of an eye." Scott Higginbotham, Kennedy Space Center Florida Institute of Technology and University of Central Florida students also are involved in CubeSat projects.

Two of the spacecraft launched last week were built by colleges in Alaska and Montana.

"We are helping to breed the next generation, and that's kind of cool," said Higginbotham. But CubeSats' benefits aren't limited to students. Commercial companies are using them to capture Earth imagery, and they provide NASA, the NRO and others a low-cost way to test new technologies that might end up on big-budget missions.

For example, another member of last week's batch of CubeSats, called the Optical Communications and Sensor Demonstration, or OCSD, will demonstrate high-speed laser communications from space in a smaller package.

"Technology demonstration missions like OCSD are driving exploration," said Steve Jurczyk, associate administrator for NASA's Space Technology Mission Directorate. While CubeSats themselves may be relatively inexpensive, launches are not.

KSC's Launch Services Program works with U.S. launch companies to take advantage of any extra capacity their rockets may have, if the primary mission doesn't need it all, to essentially offer a free ride for selected missions.

But not all customers are willing to take on the risk of adding small satellites to their launch, and the rocket must be heading in the right direction and to the right altitude to fit certain missions.

And demand is growing. Around the world, more than 130 CubeSats were launched to orbit last year, almost as many as had launched in the previous decade. KSC is trying to secure rides for more than 50 NASA-sponsored missions over the next several years.

That's why NASA recently awarded money to three companies — Firefly Space Systems, Rocket Lab USA and Virgin Galactic — that could launch small NASA spacecraft on new rockets by 2018.

KSC has even built a \$1 million concrete slab, dubbed launch pad 39C, that could serve as their launching point.

"We're kind of blazing a new trail here," said Higginbotham. "It appears several entities are on the verge of actually having vehicles that should be able to go fly. If they can get the price point down to where it's reasonable, then we, the Department of Defense, commercial entities will all be buyers of these products."

Waterspout blasts mail truck in Florida

A waterspout whirled into a U.S. mail truck near St. Petersburg, Florida, on Sunday morning, tearing the vehicle apart and scattering mail but fortunately causing no injuries.

A video by Lee Dove captured the dramatic destruction. "I figured it would just stay in the water and dissipate, but then it hit land," Dove told Fox 13 News in Tampa. He said, "it looked like an explosion. Papers were everywhere."

Once onshore, the spout was classified as an EF-0 tornado (the weakest level) with 65-75 mph winds, according to the National Weather Service. In addition to shredding the mail truck, it also damaged construction equipment, overturned a boat and knocked signs to the ground.

After causing the destruction on land, it then spun back out to sea as a waterspout before dissipating, the weather service said.

After the Florida Keys, the next most active U.S. waterspout area is the southeast Florida coast from around Stuart south to Homestead. Tampa Bay has the greatest number of damaging waterspouts, probably because the shores of the Bay are so built up.

Ohio church congregation tips Dominos driver more than \$1,000 for \$5.99 pizza Holy pepperoni!

A Dominos driver was left in tears when an Ohio church congregation tipped her more than \$1,000 after she delivered a \$5.99 pizza, according to local media.

The sobbing started after the driver, who identified herself as Natasha in a video of the October 4 surprise, brought the pie to the Sycamore Creek Church in Pickerington, a suburb southeast of Columbus, and was asked by the Rev. Steve Markle to go to the front of the sanctuary, reported the local Columbus Dispatch newspaper.

Markle asked her the biggest tip she'd ever received and said it had been about \$10. He gave her \$15, but then told her: "We've been teaching our church this last month about being generous, and so we did something special for you today. We took up a special offering for a tip for you."

It turned out that church members had collected \$1,046 to present to the driver. According to the paper, the congregation was wrapping up a sermon series on "I was Broke. Now I'm Not" and has a monthly missions emphasis on "Random Acts of Kindness."

As Markle pulled out the thick stack of bills, the driver gasped, covered her mouth and

broke into tears, the video shows. She embraced him and said "Thank you so much."

"I hope that this can help you," Markle said. "I don't know what's going on in your life." "It can help a lot," she replied. "Thank you so much. Thank you everybody."

Report: Iran test fires long-range missile
TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's semi-official Fars news agency is reporting the country has successfully test fired a new guided long-range ballistic surface-to-surface missile. The Sunday report did not elaborate on the range of the missile or the specifics of the test firing. It said the new missile is precision guided and can be controlled until the moment of impact.

Since 1992, Iran has emphasized a self-sufficient and indigenous military production industry, producing missiles, tanks and light submarines. The government frequently announces military advances which cannot independently verified.

The Islamic Republic already claims to have surface-to-surface missiles with a range of 2,000 kilometers (1,250 miles) that can hit Israel and U.S. military bases in the region.

Coalition helicopter crashes in Afghanistan, 5 dead

A coalition helicopter crashed in the Afghan capital of Kabul Sunday, killing five and injuring five in the latest mass casualty event in the country in recent weeks. Two American troops were among the dead. Two British servicemembers and a French civilian contractor also died in what the NATO-led military mission described as a "non-hostile incident." The crash involving a British Puma Mk 2 helicopter happened at 4:15 p.m. local time at Camp Resolute Support in Kabul and an investigation is underway. .

"We're deeply saddened by the loss of our teammates," said U.S. Brig. Gen. Wilson Shoffner, military communications chief in Afghanistan. "Our heartfelt condolences go out to the families and friends of those affected in this tragic incident and we pray for the full recovery of the injured."

An Afghan security guard who witnessed Sunday's crash told the Associated Press the helicopter appeared to strike a monitoring balloon as it was landing. "It seemed like the cable was turned around the helicopter rotor," the security guard, Najibullah, said. Like many in Afghanistan, he goes by one name. He said the helicopter went down and then black smoke rose from the area.

A second helicopter circled the area three or four times and then landed at a nearby airport, he said.

U.S. Army Col. Brian Tribus, a spokesman in Afghanistan for U.S. and NATO forces, confirmed the accident involved a NATO aircraft and an observation balloon, according to the Military Times. The monitoring balloon was severed from its mooring in the incident, he said, without providing further details.

Dean to see if the doctors' bills will be reduced and whether she and Johnsen need to get second jobs, cash out retirement accounts, take a loan from the hospital or file for bankruptcy.

"My hardest issue is I had no control and I still have no control over what is my future," she said. "I don't want this to happen to anyone else. I don't know if this can be fixed for me at this point, but I think it's unfortunate that it can happen to anyone." The Affordable Care Act specifically addressed emergency room visits for out-of-network patients by requiring insurers to pay the greater amount between the in-network rate and what Medicare would cover. However, balance billing is expressly permitted and Gaines said its results, like what's happened to Rothbauer, are far too common.

"It's devastating for people who plan, who get insurance, get coverage, do everything they can and then, at 29, have a heart attack and get taken to the wrong hospital, and can't get married, can't do anything because they have to declare bankruptcy because they can't afford to have gone to the hospital," she said. "I mean, it's not enough to worry about having a heart attack at 29, you end up with a secondary one or a stroke because of your medical bills. I mean, it's just ridiculous. The level of frustration is astronomical."

141, mostly children, killed in Pakistan attack

In the deadliest slaughter of innocents in Pakistan in years, Taliban gunmen attacked a military-run school Tuesday and killed 141 people — almost all of them students — before government troops ended the siege. The massacre of innocent children horrified a country already weary of unending terrorist attacks. Pakistan's teenage Nobel Peace laureate Malala Yousafzai — herself a survivor of a Taliban shooting — said she was "heartbroken" by the bloodshed. Even Taliban militants in neighboring Afghanistan decried the killing spree, calling it "un-Islamic."

If the Pakistani Taliban extremists had hoped the attack would cause the government to ease off its military offensive that began in June in the country's tribal region, it appeared to have the opposite effect. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif pledged to step up the campaign that — along with U.S. drone strikes — has targeted the militants.

"The fight will continue. No one should have any doubt about it," Sharif said. "We will take account of each and every drop of our children's blood."

Taliban fighters have struggled to maintain their potency in the face of the military operation. They vowed a wave of violence in response to the operation, but until Tuesday, there has only been one major attack by a splinter group near the Pakistan-India border in November. Analysts said the school siege showed that even diminished, the militant group still could inflict horrific carnage.

The rampage at the Army Public School and College began in the morning when seven militants scaled a back wall using a ladder, said Maj. Gen. Asim Bajwa, a military spokesman. When they reached an auditorium where students had gathered for an event, they opened fire.

A 14-year-old, Mehran Khan, said about 400 students were in the hall when the gunmen broke through the doors and started shooting. They shot one of the teachers in the head and then set her on fire and shouted "God is great!" as she screamed, added Khan, who survived by playing dead.

From there, they went to classrooms and other parts of the school.

"Their sole purpose, it seems, was to kill those innocent kids. That's what they did," Bajwa said. Of the 141 people slain before government troops ended the assault eight hours later, 132 were children and nine were staff members. Another 121 students and three staff members were wounded.

The seven attackers, wearing vests of explosives, all died in the eight-hour assault. It was not immediately clear if they were all killed by the soldiers or whether they blew themselves up, he said.

The wounded — some still wearing their green school blazers — flooded into hospitals as terrified parents searched for their children. By evening, funeral services were already being held for many of the victims as clerics announced the deaths over mosque loudspeakers.

The government declared three days of mourning for what appeared to be Pakistan's deadliest since a 2007 suicide bombing in the port city of Karachi killed 150 people.

"My son was in uniform in the morning. He is in a casket now," wailed one parent, Tahir Ali, as he came to the hospital to collect the body of his 14-year-old son, Abdullah. "My son was my dream. My dream has been killed."

One of the wounded students, Abdullah Jamal, said he was with a group of eighth, ninth and 10th graders who were getting first-aid instructions and training with a team of army medics when the violence became real. Panic broke out when the shooting began.

"I saw children falling down who were crying and screaming. I also fell down. I learned later that I have got a bullet," he said, speaking from his hospital bed.

Another student, Amir Mateen, said they locked the door from the inside when they heard the shooting, but gunmen blasted through anyway and opened fire.

Responding to the attack, armored personnel carriers were deployed around the school, and a military helicopter circled overhead. A little more than 1,000 students and staff were registered at the school, which is part of a network run by the military, although the surrounding area is not heavily fortified. The student body is made up of both children of military personnel as well as civilians.

Most of the students appeared to be civilians rather than children of army staff, said Javed Khan, a government official. Analysts said

HAMAS
the militants likely targeted the school because of its military connections. "It's a kind of a message that 'we can also kill your children,'" said Pakistani analyst Zahid Hussain.

In a statement to reporters, Taliban spokesman Mohammed Khurasani claimed responsibility for the attack, saying it was retribution for the military's operation in nearby North Waziristan, the northwestern tribal region where the group's fighters largely have been based.

"We targeted their kids so that they could know how it feels when they hit our kids," Khurasani said. He said the attackers were advised not to target "underage" children but did not elaborate on what that meant.

In its offensive, the military said it would go after all militant groups operating in the region. Security officials and civilians feared retribution by militants, but Pakistan has been relatively calm.

The attack raised the issue of whether this was the last gasp of a militant group crippled by a government offensive or whether the militants could regroup.

Hussain, the Pakistani analyst, called the attack an "act of desperation."

The violence will throw public support behind the campaign in North Waziristan, he said. It also shows that the Pakistani Taliban still maintains a strong intelligence network and remains a threat.

The attack drew swift condemnation from around the world. U.S. President Barack Obama said the "terrorists have once again showed their depravity."

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry added: "The images are absolutely gut-wrenching: young children carried away in ambulances, a teacher burned alive in front of the students, a house of learning turned into a house of unspeakable horror."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India, Pakistan's longtime regional rival, called it "a senseless act of unspeakable brutality." "My heart goes out to everyone who lost their loved ones today. We share their pain & offer our deepest condolences," Modi said in a series of tweeted statements.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said it was a "an act of horror and rank cowardice to attack defenseless children while they learn."

The violence recalled the attack on Malala Yousafzai, who was shot in the head by a Taliban gunman outside her school in the Swat Valley for daring to speak up about girls' rights. She survived to become a global advocate for girls' education and received her Nobel Peace Prize last week, but has not returned to Pakistan in the two years since the shooting out of security concerns.

"Innocent children in their school have no place in horror such as this," the 17-year-old said. "I condemn these atrocious and cowardly acts."

Hamas Wins EU Court Bid Against Inclusion on Terror List

The Palestinian militant group Hamas, which fought Israeli forces for nearly two months this year, won a court ruling that could lead

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to it being removed from a European Union list of terrorist organizations.

The EU General Court in Luxembourg said the European Commission's decision to place Hamas, which controls the Gaza Strip, on the list of terrorist groups wasn't sufficiently thorough and was based on "on factual imputations derived from the press and Internet."

Hamas, which is also deemed a terrorist group by the U.S., is a militant Islamic movement that arose out of the Gaza Strip during the 1980s. Israel has conducted three major military operations against Hamas since it seized full power in Gaza in 2007 in an effort to halt rocket attacks on its communities in the south. Israel also maintains a partial blockade on Gaza that the United Nations says is harming its Palestinian civilian population.

"Removing Hamas from the terrorism blacklist is a victory for the Palestinian people," Musa Abu Marzouk, a Hamas spokesman in Gaza, said in an e-mail.

"Hamas calls on all those who put us on this list to correct their stance, because doing so has always been unfair."

The ruling was met with anger in Israel, where Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu suggested that the court shouldn't be able to take Hamas from the terrorist list because of a technicality.

"We are not satisfied by the explanation offered by the Europeans that the removal of Hamas from the list of terrorist organizations is due to a procedural issue," Netanyahu said in an e-mailed statement. "The burden of proof is on the European Union and we expect them to immediately return Hamas to the list that everyone knows it belongs on," Netanyahu said.

Funds Frozen

The court, however, didn't unfreeze Hamas funds in the region, delaying the ruling for three months to give the EU a chance to appeal.

The court "stresses that those annulments, on fundamental procedural grounds, do not imply any substantive assessment of the question of the classification of Hamas as a terrorist group," the court said.

Hamas was added to the EU list in 2001 and has remained on there ever since. The organization's challenge today succeeded because the EU had failed to "concretely examine" the factual elements to justify the freezing of the funds, the court said.

"It's important to note that this decision doesn't represent a change in EU policy on Hamas and was only based on a procedural issue, which we hope will be corrected and the ruling overturned during the next three months," Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Paul Hirschson said by phone.

Ruble swings against dollar, putting pressure on Russia's Putin

MOSCOW — Russian authorities appeared to be taking drastic action to stabilize the country's currency on Wednesday, a day after the worst swings since their 1998 financial wipeout.

The currency turbulence has upended President Vladimir Putin's carefully constructed economic system, which for his 15 years in power has offered relative prosperity and stability to voters in exchange for a passive political scene.

On Wednesday, the ruble was swinging widely in value, a sign of intervention from the Russian Central Bank or other state officials, analysts said. That came after the ruble lost 17 percent against the U.S. dollar on Monday and Tuesday.

The currency turbulence led car makers and others to suspend sales until they could decide what price to charge. As of Wednesday, Apple's online store in Russia was still out of service. A day earlier, lucky customers at their physical stores in Moscow could buy iPhones and computers at steep discounts.

Russian newspapers warned in editorials that the country was steps away from a full-blown bank run. "The central bank has buried the ruble" was the headline on the front of Moscow's Nezavisimaya Gazeta.

Russia's Finance Ministry also announced that it would join the Central Bank in selling off reserves of foreign currency to help prop up the ruble. The ministry said in a statement that it believed the ruble was now deeply undervalued.

Some Russian lawmakers urged citizens to tough it out.

"One should suppress emotions and not create panic," said the head of Russia's upper house of Parliament, Valentina Matvienko. The currency's swings were like "bad weather that will pass," she said.

Although the ruble's value was more stable Wednesday than in previous days, the situation remained fragile, and many investors still seemed to have lost trust in the country's basic institutions. Shortly after midnight Tuesday, the Russian central bank imposed a steep interest rate hike in attempts to stem the currency losses — to little initial effect.

At one point Tuesday, a dollar could buy 79 rubles, an extraordinary level for a currency that stood at 33 rubles to the dollar in January and held mostly steady for much of the year. By midday Wednesday, the currency stood at 69 rubles to the dollar, though it was swinging wildly between gains and losses.

The crisis consumed the attention of Russia's elite. Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev convened an emergency meeting and the state-run news station devoting almost wall-to-wall coverage to the fast-breaking developments. Some analysts wondered whether the Central Bank president or other senior leaders might soon be replaced.

The sharp interest rate hike — from 10.5 percent to 17 percent — promised to throw Russia's economy into a deep recession next year, and it was a sign that Russian policymakers feel they have few options left to fight the crisis.

Putin has not publicly addressed the crisis in recent days, but his spokesman said that

much of an annual news conference set for Thursday will be devoted to the economy.

The central bank tactics have revived memories of Russia's 1998 financial meltdown, when the nation defaulted on debts and hyperinflation wiped out a generation's savings. Buoyed by rising oil prices, Putin devoted much of his early years to building institutions that would preserve economic stability.

As a result, Russia still has far more crisis-fighting resources today than it did then, including the world's fourth-largest currency reserves. They stood at \$416 billion at the beginning of the month, down \$80 billion this year.

So far, Putin's popularity remains near record highs. But pollsters warn that economic distress may challenge the high numbers. "If the economic troubles last a long time, this will be a new situation that Putin's regime has never been in," said Denis Volkoy at Moscow's independent Levada polling agency.

Retailers said some Russians were rushing to purchase large-ticket items such as cars and appliances before they are marked up to new exchange rates. That sparked unpleasant memories from 1998, when consumers tried to convert their savings into purchases that would hold their value. But grocery stores appeared to be fully stocked.

Russia's economy was already in trouble before the March annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula and subsequent support for pro-Russian rebels in eastern Ukraine. Those decisions sparked Western sanctions and the worst tensions between Russia and the West since the Cold War. The unpredictable environment has spooked investors, which the Central Bank predicts will pull \$128 billion from Russia this year.

The rapidly souring economic conditions may spur Russia to be more conciliatory on Ukraine. On Tuesday, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov reversed a call for Kiev to cede more power to Ukraine's regions, a basic Russian demand since pro-Moscow Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich was toppled in February.

Secretary of State John F. Kerry praised the Russian moves on Tuesday, raising the prospect of an easing of sanctions. "There are signs of constructive choices," Kerry told reporters in London, referring to the cease-fire.

Russia's 1998 default helped spark a broader global crisis, hitting emerging economies. So far, fears that this crisis could spread appear muted, although neighbors such as Kazakhstan and Belarus also have experienced pressure.

Global stocks pointed lower Wednesday as oil prices continued to fall.

"We have lost trust between business and the state. It's systemic," said Evgeny Gontmakher, a former economic adviser to Medvedev who works at the Institute of Contemporary Development, a liberal policy organization. "It could be a big turning point, not only for the economy but for Russia."

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In recent months, the ruble has shed value hand in hand with oil prices. But the ruble sell-off that started Monday — a day in which oil prices were flat — was sparked by worries about a complicated, opaque transaction late last week in which the central bank appeared to have printed currency to indirectly finance oil giant Rosneft, analysts said.

Rosneft, majority-owned by the Russian state, has been stung by the sanctions and the falling energy prices. Rosneft head Igor Sechin, a Putin confidant, denied Tuesday that anything untoward had occurred.

"In the last couple of days, oil has stayed completely stable and yet Russia had a total panic," said Sergei Guriev, an economist at the Sorbonne in Paris. "This panic is triggered by the realization that the Russian government has no idea what to do."

TOURIST DIES IN HOT AIR BALLOON ACCIDENT IN TURKEY

ISTANBUL (AP) — A hot air balloon fell in the popular tourist region of Cappadocia on Wednesday, killing a Chinese tourist and injuring six other passengers from China and Malaysia, the region's governor said.

Gov. Mehmet Ceylan said a sudden change of wind direction appeared to have caused the balloon — which took off from Goreme — to make a rough landing. The exact cause of the accident was under investigation, he added. The injured tourists were hospitalized but were not in life-threatening condition, he said.

Dozens of hot air balloons carry tourists aloft most mornings in Goreme to watch the sunrise over the world-renowned landscape of geological formations in the area. Three Brazilian tourists were killed last year when two balloons collided in flight over the Cappadocia region.

Apple Halts Online Sales In Russia As The Ruble Collapses

It sounds crazy to shut an online store of popular gadgets right before Christmas, but a plummeting currency has forced Apple to do just that in Russia. The company, which has no physical stores in the country and relies primarily on its site, carriers or third-party sellers, has stopped users from buying products on the Russian version of its website.

Anyone who tries to buy a product like the iPad 2 on the site is met with a white page saying "We'll be back. We're busy updating the Apple Store for you and will be back soon."

Russia's currency has dropped by more than 20% this week, even after the country's central bank raised interest rates to 17% in a bid to stem the decline. Wednesday alone the ruble is down 5%, to 71 rubles against the dollar. The currency is falling because of the falling price of oil and Western sanctions over Russia's military actions in Crimea. Recent concerns that the U.S. was considering a new wave of sanctions over Russia's support for Ukrainian separatists are thought to have sparked the ruble's slide this week.

Currency fluctuations can have a major impact on an international company's profits. For the last few weeks, Apple's earnings in Russian rubles have been a risk of falling significantly when turned back into dollars.

Apple had held back from raising its prices in Russia to offset the drop, up until November 26, when it raised the price of the iPhone 6 and iPhone 6 Plus by 25%. Yet even after raising the price of the iPhone 6 to 39,990 rubles, the value of the sale to Apple in dollar terms had dropped from \$847 to \$585.

The falling ruble is a major headache for Russian consumers, who are dealing with prices going up as much as 20% for everything from food to cars to McDonalds take-out. Samsung also raised recommended retail prices of its devices in Russia to try and recoup lost earnings.

For Apple, the financial panic hurting Russia won't have a major impact on its overall earnings but it certainly hurts prospects in a fast-growing market. Apple sold 1.57 million iPhones in Russia in 2013, double what it sold there in 2012, according to market research company IDC, as more local telcos jumped on board to sell the phone.

Coke Ends 'American Idol' Sponsorship

After 13 years, Coca-Cola is ending its groundbreaking, 13-year sponsorship of the Fox network's "American Idol."

Coca-Cola and Fox issued a joint statement that emphasized that they will be "working together on new collaborations in the future." Coca-Cola said that it felt the time was right to pursue other opportunities to "connect with teens and leverage music as a passion point." Coca-Cola and other advertisers have reduced spending on "American Idol" as the show's audience, while still large, has declined in recent years. Last year, the show also lost longtime sponsor AT&T, although Ford has reported that it will return in 2015. Kantar data show Coca-Cola having spent about \$16.3 million on the show in 2014, compared to about \$49.1 million in 2012, and total advertising on the show having declined to \$394.7 million in 2014, versus \$781.9 million in 2012, reported *Variety*.

The show's 2014 finale drew 10.1 million viewers and its 2013 finale drew 14.3 million, compared to 38 million for the 2003 season finale.

Coke's "Idol" sponsorship set major precedents that led to the now-widespread practice of product integrations in reality shows and other television programming.

In addition to the high visibility of its red cups in front of the judges — and the show's renaming the traditional "green room" the "red room" in tribute to Coke — the brand has run numerous, ambitious contests, sweepstakes and other initiatives as part of its "Idol" sponsorship over the years.

"American Idol" will still be airing two nights per week when it begins its 14th season on Jan. 7, but will be reduced to one episode per week during the season's run.

Tesla Tops Added Value's List Of Brands With 'Vibe'

Visionary, inspiring, bold and exciting. How many brands have that "vibe" in the argot of WPP global marketing consultancy Added Value?

Amend that. How many global brands? Suddenly the list gets real short. If you count Tesla and Etsy as global brands, competing with companies like Coca-Cola, the list expands by two.

In Added Value's new report, "The Cultural Traction 2014," Tesla is, in fact, on the list; in fact it is on top of the list, above second-place Google. The only other automaker in the top is Ford, in ninth place after Nike.

Ford, the firm says, surpasses other mainstream auto brands because of its sophistication around social media and telematics/infotainment, and its perspective on the car as a rolling media center.

The biggest gainer on the list, auto brand or otherwise, is Jaguar, partly because of the British Villains "Good to be Bad" marketing campaign and its revitalized vehicle lineup. The agency says Target's data breach and the ousting of its CEO made it the brand that dropped the most in its list.

Overall, the top 10 are Tesla, Google, Amazon, Apple, Samsung, Microsoft, Etsy, Nike, Ford and Coca-Cola. The bottom 10 are Kia, United, Twitter, Budweiser, Red Bull, Heineken, Corona Extra, T-Mobile, Sprint and American Airlines.

The firm says the brands that are on top of the vibrancy list deliver "purposeful and compelling visions for positive change, establish "truer, deeper, more lasting connections with people; and enrich brand experiences to be more open-ended and on-going."

With Coca-Cola, the key is stylishness, with its Ekocycle collaboration with Will.i.am. Nike's FuelBand, the firm says, opened up a market for wearable technology designed to boost self esteem and encourages and measures activity.

On the bottom, United and American have lagged in innovative customer service. Sprint and T-Mobile have raced to the bottom because of aggressive marketing around plan packages and deals, but without, emotional resonance, per the firm. Despite efforts to reach families and Millennials, "their cultural expressions don't feel genuinely attuned to consumers who might actually wish for an alternative provider."

Budweiser, Heineken and Corona are flat because, per the firm, they haven't tapped emergent values around sensory experiences, conscientious choices and new ways to foster connections.

Twitter seems to lag in areas that don't have to do with breaking news, the firm says. "By design, most content is fleeting, and therefore forgettable, making it tough to build value." In the study -- involving 7,500 U.S. respondents and 70 brands in 14 sectors, and executed by Lightspeed Research -- Amazon's ranking rose 10% because, said the firm, it has expanded into cell phones,

✓
↑ SALIM MUWAKKIL IS ON IN THESE TIMES SENIOR editor and the host of "THE SALIM MUWAKKIL SHOW" ON WVON, CHICAGO'S HISTORIC BLACK radio station.
— END QUOTE, ZD p. 4 & ZD p. 1

✓
↓ ON NOV 1, 1970, BLACK ACTIVIST PUBLISHED AN ad in the New York Times titled, "AN APPEAL BY BLACK AMERICANS AGAINST UNITED STATES SUPPORT OF THE ZIONIST GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL" SIGNED BY 50 WRITERS, EDUCATORS, STUDENTS, AND UNION LEADERS, THE STATEMENT OPENED, "WE, THE BLACK AMERICAN SIGNATORIES OF THIS ADVERTIZEMENT, ARE IN COMPLETE SOLIDARITY WITH OUR PALESTINIAN BROTHERS AND SISTERS, WHO LIKE US ARE STRUGGLING FOR SELF DETERMINATION AND AN END TO RACIST OPPRESSION,
END QUOTE, ZD p. 17

CHECK-OUT: ACTIVIST KHURY PETERSEN-SMITH AND DETRIOT BASE ACTIVIST KRISTIAN DAVIS BAILEY PIECE ON EBONY MAGAZINE WEBSITE "WHY WE MUST... (SIC) "WHY BLACK PEOPLE MUST STAND WITH PALESTINE." — END QUOTE, ZD p. 17 & ZD p. 10 of 11

3^v BEYOND GOOD AND EVIL
BY FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE, p. 97
1989 ISBN 0-879758-X
Translated by HELEN ZIMMERMAN

4^v EXPELLED JEWS WERE LUCKY
LETTER BY DAVID QUINTERO
TO THE EDITOR editor(a)populist.com

THE PROGRESSIVE POPULIST, AUGUST 1, 2015, p. 4

Perhaps it was Jewish scholar Abraham Joshua Heschel's insightful observation that has lessened their bitterness: Heschel wrote that if the Jews who held powerful positions in that country hadn't been expelled during the Spanish Inquisition, they surely would have participated in Spain's later conquest of what is now Latin America.

Thus, they would have become accomplices to the crimes perpetrated against the natives as Spain expanded its empire.

— ENDQUOTE Id at p. 2

BY LEON IRBY

11 of 11 DATED OCTOBER 28, 2015

"I was in Cuba for almost two years, and I understand what this news means to the island," said Msgr. Angelo Becciu, once the Vatican's ambassador to Cuba. "It opens new scenarios and gives great hope to all Cuban people. The cease of the embargo will encourage and revitalize the island's perspectives, as well as its economy." After he became pope in 2013, Francis was expected to revitalize the church in the Southern Hemisphere. But his background has also helped the Vatican reposition itself as an independent actor in diplomacy, less tethered to European or American worldviews than in the past.

Francis's appointment of Cardinal Parolin as secretary of state was also significant. Long considered one of the Vatican's most talented diplomats, Cardinal Parolin served as apostolic nuncio in Venezuela, one of Cuba's closest allies. From that perch, Cardinal Parolin gained a sophisticated understanding of regional dynamics and the Cuban predicament, Professor La Bella said.

"The Vatican's knowledge of the Latin American situation is at a very high level, and very direct," he said.

Monsignor Becciu, currently a member of the State Secretariat in the Vatican, added that Wednesday's announcement, on Francis's birthday, was certainly a "beautiful present for the Holy Father."

Family lost in Australian outback after taking wrong turn

A boy of five and his seven-year-old brother are recovering in hospital after surviving with their father for 10 days in a remote Australian national park before being discovered by a farmer.

The family had little food, no mobile phone reception and endured temperatures of up to 38 degrees after Steven Van Lonkhuyzen took a wrong turn during a road trip and his vehicle became bogged down in mud.

They were rescued after farmer Tom Wagner searched for them on his four-wheel farm motorbike and found them after several hours in the Expedition National Park, north west of Brisbane.

"They were pretty hungry by the time I got to them and pretty happy to see me," Mr Wagner said.

Acting superintendent Mick Bianchi of Queensland Police said Mr Van Lonkhuyzen planned to drive from his home in Brisbane to Cairns using an inland route, but "quite simply, he took a wrong turn".

He said the boys were a little emaciated and dehydrated after their ordeal.

Mr Bianchi said the family had limited provisions but luckily it was stormy at times and they were able to collect rainwater in a plastic container.

Mr Van Lonkhuyzen tried to attract attention by laying out high-visibility items and lighting fires and Mr Bianchi said he made the right choice by staying with his vehicle.

"They were very trying conditions and it would have tested the family's relationship," he said.

He said Mr Van Lonkhuyzen attempted to establish routines with his children and keep them occupied.

The national park is not usually visited at this time of year because of the extreme weather conditions, Mr Bianchi said.

Japan faces specter of a butter-less Christmas

TOKYO — Yes, Virginia, there is a butter shortage.

Supermarkets in Japan have been rationing butter since spring because of a shortfall in raw milk production. Now, there's concern there won't be enough for the crucial holiday baking season.

Elaborate and artful "Christmas cakes" are a cherished — if somewhat unlikely — staple of Japan's year-end holidays. The fancy confections — usually a variation of sponge cake covered with vanilla icing, whipped cream and strawberries — are sold from neighborhood convenience stores to the swankiest department stores.

The cakes can sell for as much as 5,000 yen (about \$43) each and are often exchanged as gifts.

Only 2% of Japan's population is Christian according to the CIA World Factbook, but many celebrate Christmas in a secular way.

"Japan has embraced many Western holidays, but none with as much enthusiasm as Christmas," says Jeff Kingston, director of Asian Studies at Temple University's Tokyo campus. "It's no surprise that a butter shortage sends a shudder down the spines of homemakers, bakers and restaurants — they're worried they won't have enough for all those butter-heavy recipes."

Fully aware of the stakes, the government set up an inter-agency task force earlier this year and authorized two emergency shipments of imported butter, totaling 10,000 tons. Most of that butter is expected to be on supermarket shelves or available to commercial bakeries by this week — just in time for the holidays — according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries.

However, shelves at many locations remained empty last week, and even if stores do get stocked in time for the holidays, it remains to be seen whether heavy import fees are passed along to consumers.

At the same time, Japan's four major dairy suppliers said this month they would boost butter production by 30% after officials exhorted them to meet their "social responsibility."

The butter shortage stemmed from a fall in raw milk production of about 30% this year compared to 2013 after abnormally hot weather caused dairy cows to give less milk. In addition, the number of dairy farmers and cows is on the decline. With Japan's population aging, dairy farming households in Japan have dropped from 82,000 in 1985 to 19,000 this year, according to the ministry. The number of dairy cows dropped from 2.1 million to 1.4 million during the same period. Still, critics blame bureaucratic missteps for the shortages.

Butter and other dairy products are heavily regulated, as are most farm products in Japan. The government sets prices and production quotas. Dairy farmers can sell only to co-ops or approved agencies, and have little or no control over the finished product. Imports are kept at bay with tariffs of almost 30% and additional import fees of about \$3.80 a pound. Faced with a glut of raw milk in 2006, regulators began reducing dairy herds. A little too much, as it turns out. When production fell below targets in subsequent years, butter was the first thing to get squeezed. Periodic shortages of butter have occurred since 2008, but nothing to compare to this year, when many supermarkets went days without butter, and customers were limited to one package each when available.

"For the Japanese, butter is not a basic foodstuff, it's a luxury product. They see it as something they can live without — except when it comes to Christmas cake," says Paul Hansen, an assistant professor of anthropology at Tsukuba University, near Tokyo.

Under current regulations, Japanese farmers have little incentive to expand, and shortages are likely to recur, says dairy farmer Yoshihara Yuasa.

"There are many reasons for the shortage of butter, but the main reason is simply the price that the government sets for our milk," Yuasa said. "We have no incentive to produce more and we have no right to choose where to sell it, even if we did."

Does that mean Japanese will have to give up on Christmas cakes?

Probably not, said Makiko Itoh, a food critic and blogger who splits her time between Japan and the south of France.

"Japanese people just love fancy cakes and pastries," she said. "And they are willing to pay a lot for them, too."

Spain: Princess Cristina going on trial for fraud

MADRID (AP) — A Spanish judge on Monday ordered the king's sister, Princess Cristina, to be tried along with her husband on charges of tax fraud — making her the first member of the country's royal family to face charges in court since the royalty was restored in 1975.

In issuing the indictment, Judge Jose Castro went against a prosecutor's Dec. 9 recommendation that Cristina should be fined and only her husband, Olympic handball medalist turned businessman Inaki Urdangarin, should be tried.

He set bail for her at 2.7 million euros (\$3.3 million) and 15 million euros for her husband. If convicted, the 49-year-old Cristina could face up to four years in prison.

Suspected abuse of company funds to cover the couple's expenses at their Barcelona home, salsa dancing classes and stays at luxury hotels is among evidence Castro has compiled about Aizoon, a real estate and consulting firm Cristina co-owned with her husband.

The legal troubles of King Felipe VI's sister during a four-year probe seriously damaged the Spanish monarchy's image and were seen as extreme examples of royal excess as the