

WORLD IN BRIEF

Associated Press

Russian, Syrian planes halt Aleppo airstrikes ahead of truce

MOSCOW — Russian and Syrian warplanes today halted their airstrikes on Syria's besieged city of Aleppo in preparation for a temporary truce that Moscow has announced for later in the week, the Russian defense minister said.

According to Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu, the halt in the strikes should help pave way for militants to leave the eastern rebel-held parts of the contested city.

Both Russian and Syrian air raids on Aleppo were suspended at 10 a.m. today, Shoigu said. He described the suspension as a precursor for the opening of humanitarian corridors.

Moscow on Monday announced a "humanitarian pause" between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Thursday to allow civilians and militants safe passage out of the city.

At that time, Russian and Syrian militaries will desist from any offensive actions. Syrian rebels, including al-Qaida militants, as well as the wounded and the sick will be allowed to leave to the neighboring rebel-held province of Idlib.



AP Photo/Reed Saxon

The sequin-covered ruby slippers worn by Judy Garland in "The Wizard of Oz" at the offices of Profiles in History in Calabasas, Calif. Smithsonian Museum officials started a Kickstarter fundraising drive Monday to repair the iconic slippers from 1939's "The Wizard of Oz" and create a new state-of-the-art display case for them at the National Museum of American History.

No-brainer: \$300K campaign to rescue Dorothy's ruby slippers

WASHINGTON — The ruby slippers that whisked Dorothy back to Kansas in three clicks are looking a little down at the heels, prompting the Smithsonian to launch a \$300,000 online campaign to conserve them.

Museum officials started a Kickstarter fundraising drive Monday to repair the iconic slippers from 1939's "The Wizard of Oz" and create a new state-of-the-art display case for them at the National Museum of American History.

The sequined shoes were crafted almost 80 years ago by the MGM Studios prop department and have grown fragile over time. The fundraising page says the color has faded and some threads affixing sequins have snapped.

The campaign, dubbed "#KeepThemRuby," offers donor rewards ranging from T-shirts and tote bags to replica slippers and behind-the-scenes tours.

This isn't the Smithsonian's first Kickstarter drive. In 2015, it raised \$700,000 to conserve Neil Armstrong's spacesuit.

US ignored rising-sea alerts at \$1 billion radar site on atoll

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — The U.S. Air Force is spending nearly \$1 billion to build a radar installation that will help keep astronauts and satellites safe by tracking pieces of space junk as small as a baseball. That is, if global warming doesn't get in the way.

The Space Fence is being constructed on a tiny atoll in the Marshall Islands that scientists say could be regularly swamped by rising seas within a couple of decades as a result of climate change. The salt water could play havoc with the equipment, the scientists say.

And The Associated Press found that neither the military nor its contractor, Lockheed Martin, gave serious consideration to that threat when designing the installation and choosing a site, despite warnings from the island nation's environmental agency.

The future "does not look good for a lot of these islands," said Curt Storlazzi, an oceanographer with the U.S. Geological Survey who is leading a study at Kwajalein Atoll, where the Space Fence complex is being built.

Dana Whalley, a civilian who is managing the Space Fence program, said that the radar installation has a projected lifespan of 25 years and that he doesn't expect sea levels to rise enough over that period to cause a problem. But if necessary, he said, the base could take steps to improve its seawalls.

First Lady Michelle Obama emerges as surrogate MVP

DES MOINES, Iowa — Hillary Clinton was always expected to get a late-campaign enthusiasm boost from the White House. The surprise is that it's not coming from the president.

On a star-studded team of campaign surrogates — including President Barack Obama — the most valuable player of 2016 is undoubtedly first lady Michelle Obama.

During a divisive political year, the hugely popular first lady has wowed voters with her powerful rhetoric. And she can be the emotional center to a campaign whose candidate is not known for projecting warmth.

Last week, in a searing indictment of Republican nominee Donald Trump that was broadcast live by cable news networks, Michelle Obama said his recorded boasts about making unwanted sexual advances toward women had "shaken me to my core in a way that I couldn't have predicted."

With that, the first lady spoke in terms that Hillary Clinton rarely does, given accusations against her own husband that he's long denied — but Trump has raised.

Reactions are mixed to police leader's apology

SAN DIEGO — For some, the apology went too far. For others, it didn't go far enough. For many, it was just right.

The president of one of the largest police organizations in the United States on Monday apologized for historical mistreatment of minorities, calling it a "dark side of our shared history" that must be acknowledged and overcome.

Terrence Cunningham, president of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, said at the group's annual conference that police have historically been a face of oppression, enforcing laws that ensured legalized discrimination and denial of basic rights. He was not more specific.

Ban: Oregon's death row has 34 prisoners

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sea change both by legislation and, more profoundly, through court decisions. The past few years have already seen a major shift in the landscape on capital punishment law, and Gov. Brown expects more changes are on the horizon."

Oregon voters approved the death penalty in 1984, and the state and U.S. Supreme

Courts have upheld its legality repeatedly.

Oregon's death row has 34 prisoners.

Josh Marquis, the Clatsop County district attorney and an outspoken supporter of the death penalty, said after hearing the news that if Brown really believes the death penalty is so wrong, then "she should have the guts to commute all those sentences."

Clatsop County is going through its first death penalty trial in 15 years with Randy Roden accused of killing his girlfriend's 2-year-old daughter.

Last year Haugen received an execution date for late January 2017. His attorney, Jeff Ellis, says Haugen has chosen to appeal the date, claiming the state took too long to issue the date after the expiration of a previous death war-

rant. He was convicted of aggravated murder in a 2004 prison death.

Haugen told The Oregonian in late September he was frustrated.

"They want to have the death penalty, but they don't want to kill anybody," he said.

Governors in several states, including Washington, Colorado and Pennsylvania, have also instituted moratoriums.



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Doug Dougherty points out moisture leaking from the walls near the gym at Broadway Middle School on Thursday.

Seaside: Schools are about equal in disrepair

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At the high school, head custodian Lonnie Lear maintains a Rube Goldberg-styled boiler system built decades ago. "Some of it I can fix, some of it is beyond me," Lear said.

"A lot of our leaks go through the walls," Seaside School District Superintendent-emeritus Doug Dougherty said as he led a tour through the building, constructed in 1958.

Few technicians are trained on the outdated heating components, Lear said.

Nearby water pipes run through a concrete tunnel barely big enough for workers to slide in on scooter boards. Most of the tunnel is navigable, although maintenance of sprinkler pipe installed in 1993 requires getting off the board and sliding under a rail.

"In Broadway, you go under sand, and bang your knee under a rock," Lear, who has been with the district 27 years, said. "That's a lot of fun."

Strategy shift

Voters rejected a \$128.7 million bond proposal to move schools out of the tsunami zone in 2013. The focus of that vote was emergency preparedness.

This time around, Dougherty hopes to draw attention to the condition of the three crumbling schools in addition to tsunami safety for passage of a pared-down \$99.7 million proposal. Dougherty told the Seaside City Council this month that awareness of the risks from a seismic event are well-known now in the community. With that awareness, he has shifted his focus to the condition of the schools.

The bond's success at the polls would lead to relocation of the Seaside School District's three tsunami at-risk buildings to a new campus on 80 donated acres east of the highway near Seaside Heights Elementary School.

State of disrepair

At Broadway Middle School, floors in the hallway are uneven after four different additions to the school. Dry rot surrounds the south windows. Asbestos is stuffed inside walls, tunnels and encapsulated around pipes. Walls are unreinforced masonry of cinderblock.

"Everywhere you look you'll see where the building is basically cracking or leaking," Dougherty said. "We keep patching them up, but they keep reappearing."

He pointed to walls moist with water as a result of horizontal shearing and described

spalling on the roof leading to corrosion and seepage.

Building inspectors monitor the schools for safety, he said, and could condemn the buildings if they become too dangerous.

For eighth-grade progression five years ago, Dougherty said, the audience heard a "large boom" when the floor dropped down underneath choir members standing on risers. "About two songs in, they were not

standing on risers anymore," he said. "The risers stayed where they are, but the floor dropped down when beams collapsed underneath them."

Gearhart Elementary School faces leaking, cracking and spalling similar to the other schools.

"You have to crawl through the tunnel to find a leak," Dougherty said. "You never know where the leaks are until you are on top of them."

Without tunnel lighting, maintenance workers crawl up to 250 feet in one direction holding flashlights to locate leaks and then hammer through concrete to reach encased pipes.

Sections have not been replaced since the elementary school was built in 1949.

The three schools are each about equal in disrepair, Dougherty said, but Gearhart students have no way to evacuate to high ground.

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