



Obama pushing House on immigration

JOSH LEDERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama has asked his Homeland Security chief to hold off on completing a review of U.S. deportation policies until the end of the summer, senior White House officials said Tuesday, in a move aimed at salvaging any hopes for Congress to act on immigration this year.

In March, Obama directed the government to examine whether deportation practices can be made more humane, seeking to pacify frustrated immigration advocates. That step emboldened House republicans to argue they cannot trust Obama to enforce the law, and that bypassing lawmakers through executive action would deliver a death knell to the broader immigration overhaul that Obama and democrats seek.

Reform window closing as August recess nears

Caught in the middle, Obama is seeking to preserve what the White House sees as a narrow window in June and July in which Congress could conceivably act before Washington's focus becomes consumed by the November midterm elections.

"The president really wants to maximize the opportunity to get a permanent solution enacted, which requires Congress," said Cecilia Munoz, the director of the White House's Domestic Policy Council.

The delay defuses an emerging split

among traditional Obama allies that emerged after the president commissioned the deportation review.

Some immigration advocates and democrats urged Obama to take immediate executive action in the face of congressional procrastination. But others insisted the focus should remain on pressuring House republicans to act while there is still a chance, however slim, to pass a bill that could provide a path to citizenship for the 11.5 million immigrants in the U.S. illegally.

"We've got maybe a window of two, three months to get the ball rolling in the House of Representatives."

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

"We've got maybe a window of two, three months to get the ball rolling in the House of Representatives," Obama said earlier this month.

That window, White House officials said, has opened now that primary elections have wrapped up in many states where Republican incumbents are being challenged by tea party candidates who oppose an immigration overhaul. But a make-or-break deadline comes when lawmakers leave Washington for a monthlong August recess to focus on campaigning.

On Tuesday, Vice President Joe Biden made similar remarks about Republican opposition to immigration reform and reluctance to deal with legislation during campaigns.

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SIGH OF RELIEF



SUSAN WALSH / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Members of the 2014 graduating class of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in West Point, New York, toss their hats during their graduation ceremony on Wednesday. President Barack Obama delivered the commencement address and talked about his

Afghanistan plan and told the graduates that they are the first class since 9/11 that might not be sent into combat in Afghanistan or Iraq.

For the full story, please see Page 4.

Houston passes anti-bias measure

The ordinance gives LGBT residents more protections

JUAN A. LOZANO
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Houston leaders on Wednesday approved expanded anti-bias protections for gay and transgender residents in a measure critics argued would impede their religious liberties.

The ordinance consolidates city bans on discrimination based on sex, race, age, religion and other categories and increases protections for gay and transgender residents. It takes effect in 30 days.

The Houston City Council voted 11-6 in favor of the ordinance to loud cheers inside its chambers. Fewer than 30 people spoke against the measure during a public hearing that lasted more than seven hours. The council chambers and an overflow room were packed for Wednesday's hearing, and more than 200 people spoke.

Supporters, including Mayor Annise Parker, said the measure is

Please see Houston, Page 2



ANDRE PENNER / ASSOCIATED PRESS

People fish at the Jaguari dam on May 14. The dam is part of the Cantareira System, responsible for providing water to the Sao Paulo metropolitan area, in Braganca Paulista, Brazil.

Paulistanos say water rations made to avoid cuts for rich

ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON
Associated Press

SAO PAULO — As if Brazil did not have enough to deal with as the World Cup approaches, the worst drought in more than 80 years is hitting the country's largest city just as it prepares for the tens of thousands of foreigners expected at the tournament opener.

The hotel industry says tourist areas at Sao Paulo's lower elevations should not be affected by the water shortage. Many places where Cup visitors will stay have contracts with private companies to supply water if cuts occur, said Bruno Hideo Omori, president of

the Brazilian Hotel Industry Association in Sao Paulo state.

"They have contingency plans and are very prepared to deal with emergencies," he said.

But residents of Sao Paulo's poorer neighborhoods are convinced that the government is rationing their water to ensure that cuts are not made in the wealthier areas expecting a flood of visitors for the June 12 open of international soccer's premier tournament.

The poorer areas, many on the city outskirts or at higher eleva-

Please see Brazil, Page 2

BP must pay claims in settlement dispute

Oil giant appealing rule that businesses don't need to prove damage from spill

JANET McCONNAUGHEY
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — BP must resume paying claims while it asks the U.S. Supreme Court to review its settlement with businesses over the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill, a federal appeals court panel said Wednesday.

The 2-1 judgment said the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals will not stop payments while BP appeals the court's earlier ruling that businesses do not have to prove they were directly harmed by the spill to collect money.

The oil company will ask the Supreme Court to review Wednesday's ruling, company spokesman Geoff Morrell wrote in an email.

The four-sentence judgment does not include detailed reasons for an order handed down a day earlier or for the dissent by Judge Edith Brown Clement, who also disagreed in the court's March 3 ruling. She wrote then that whatever BP agreed to in its settlement, courts should make sure that payments go only to people who can

prove the spill caused their losses.

The claims fund was set up after a BP well off the Louisiana coast blew out in April 2010 and spewed oil for nearly three months.

BP initially estimated about \$7.8 billion would cover all claims. It later said the administrator was misinterpreting the settlement in ways that could add billions of dollars in bogus or inflated claims.

There has been no dispute that some Gulf Coast businesses, including tourism and fisheries lost money because of oil on beaches or the closure of fishing waters.

However, BP argues that the claims administrator wrongly interpreted the settlement to mean that businesses must only show losses during and after the spill without providing a direct link. Examples cited by the oil giant and in Clement's strongly worded dissent include a wireless telephone company that burned to the ground and an RV park that closed before the spill.

The company said it has paid out more than \$12 billion in claims to people, businesses and government entities. A trial scheduled for January in New Orleans is part of the litigation that will determine how much BP owes in federal Clean Water Act penalties.

BP claims payments
\$11.1 billion: individuals, businesses
\$1.5 billion: government
\$331.1 million: other
TOTAL: \$13 million

SOURCE: BP OIL



FELIPE DANA / ASSOCIATED PRESS

A group of drug users gather to eat food donated by members of the God's Love rehabilitation center in Rio de Janeiro. As visitors head to the World Cup, they will likely not see the hundreds of crack cocaine addicts that lie on the sidewalks of the Jacarezinho slum, also known as the 'cracklands,' late at night.

A minister for addicts

ASSOCIATED PRESS

RIO DE JANEIRO — The evangelical preachers head out to work when night falls. They journey through the gloom into the “cracklands” where addicts consume crack cocaine in open-air dens, areas hidden from the eyes of tourists heading to Rio de Janeiro for the World Cup.

After midnight, hundreds of addicts lie on the sidewalks of the Jacarezinho slum.

Rifle-toting police watch as the preachers calmly mingle amid the the users.

Not long ago, many of the preachers were crack addicts themselves. Now they are here to preach the Gospel. They hope to rescue souls from the crack epidemic that has swept Brazil in recent years.

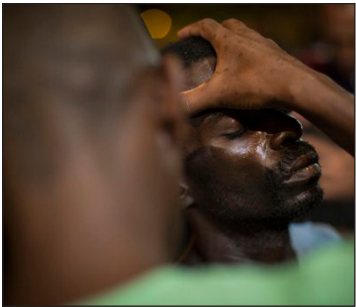
Brazil consumes 18 percent of the world's yearly supply of cocaine, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

Pastor Celio Ricardo, who leads the team of street preachers, has had hit-and-miss success in persuading users to at least try quitting.

He offers them a roof in a makeshift shelter in a nearby neighborhood and relies on donations and handouts from local supermarkets to feed those he is trying to heal.

Ricardo says the first challenge is taking care of their physical needs and then can they go on to tackle spiritual issues.

“At first they need to rest because this drug leaves them hallucinated,” he said. “They lose hunger, they lose the will to live. They want to drug themselves to death, and here we try to reverse that situation.”



A member of the God's Love rehabilitation center in Rio de Janeiro caresses the head of a drug addict as he prays for him. Brazil consumes 18 percent of the world's yearly supply of cocaine, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Street preachers in the Jacarezinho neighborhood are hoping to reduce the drug epidemic.



A former drug user reads the Bible at the rehabilitation center. Pastor Celio Ricardo offers users a roof in a makeshift shelter in a nearby neighborhood, a simple structure next to his Love of God evangelical church. Ricardo said the first challenge is taking care of the addicts' physical needs and then tackling their spiritual issues.

BRAZIL: Low rainfall causes drought, water rationing

—Continued from Page 1

tions, are unquestionably the most affected when Sao Paulo state's local water company reduces water pressure as a conservation method throughout the system during off-peak hours, between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m.

“Water stops running when night falls. There's a lack of water, and the government won't admit it,” said Luis Henrique Oseliero, who manages and lives in an apartment building in a working-class neighborhood in west Sao Paulo. “They are doing it in these areas because they know it's not where tourists will stay.”

The state government's water utility denies the suspicions of people living in poorer neighborhoods that their water is being rationed.

“There is no rationing or restriction of water consumption in any of the 365 municipalities

served by our company,” the Basic Sanitation Company of the State of Sao Paulo said in an emailed statement. “(The Basic Sanitation Company) invested heavily in measures to increase the security of water supply in the metropolitan region of Sao Paulo, and these investments are more than enough to meet the extra demand during the World Cup.”

Sao Paulo's water shortage is the result of insufficient rain this year, with nine inches falling during the December to February wet season — only a third of the usual.

The sanitation company recently started pumping water from underneath the gates of the reservoir's dams, which they say should provide a four-month supply. The state is also diverting water from other basins around Sao Paulo.

Experts say what Sao Paulo really needs is rain, and without it rationing will be necessary.

IMMIGRATION: GOP leadership seems unwilling to enact reform

—Continued from Page 1

“They've got their chance now,” Biden said. “Most of the primaries are over.”

Obama informed Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson of his decision to delay the review during a White House meeting last week in which Johnson updated the president on the review's progress, a senior White House official said. Homeland Security will continue working on the review but will not release the results until the window for congressional action has closed, said the official, who was not authorized to comment by name.

Obama's announcement comes the same day a coalition of groups backing an immigration overhaul asked Obama to hold off in order to “give the House leadership all of the space they may need.” Among the groups urging Obama to delay

were the National Immigration Forum, the Service Employees International Union and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

On the congressional front, the Senate last year passed a comprehensive bill with bipartisan support that Obama said meets his criteria for what an immigration fix must include. Republicans have refused to take up that bill, saying they preferred their own piecemeal approach. But House GOP leadership has made no move to bring legislation to a vote. Last week, GOP leaders blocked any votes on immigration legislation — including one offered as an amendment by a

republican — in yet another ominous sign for immigration's prospects.

Johnson has offered few details about what potential policy changes he's considering or what the timeline for acting might be. But Obama has previously taken modest executive steps to ease deportation. Two years ago, he offered protection from deportation and extended work permits to some immigrants brought to the U.S. illegally as children. Johnson has said he's reviewing a possible expansion of that program, but he and Obama have both cautioned that the government is constrained in what it can do without Congress.

“The president really wants to maximize the opportunity to get a permanent solution enacted, which requires Congress.”

CECILIA MUNOZ



ANDRE PENNER / ASSOCIATED PRESS

A lone plant has sprouted through a piece of parched, cracked earth in the Jaguari dam, which is part of the Cantareira System, in this May 14 photo. The dam is responsible for providing water to Sao Paulo.

HOUSTON: Objectors say measure affects their rights

—Continued from Page 1

about offering protections at the local level against all forms of discrimination in housing, employment and services provided by private businesses, such as hotels and restaurants. Debate about the measure focused on provisions regarding rights for LGBT citizens.

Parker, who is gay, said passing the measure was the “most personally meaningful thing I will do as mayor.”

Those who protested the ordinance said it is unconstitutional and would infringe on their right

“If Houston wants to be considered a community that values all of its citizens, this ordinance should be passed today.”

ROBERT BREWER

to speak against homosexuality.

“I believe this ordinance is really about stepping on some people's freedoms,” resident Stephanie McHugh told the council.

She said businesses and church-

es would be forced to recognize ideas against their beliefs, though officials said religious institutions would be exempt from the law.

Most who spoke in favor of the ordinance highlighted protections it would offer to the LGBT community, telling stories of discrimination they have suffered.

“If Houston wants to be considered a community that values all of its citizens, this ordinance should be passed today,” said Robert Brewer, a Houston attorney who identified himself as gay.

Houston is the last major city in Texas to adopt such an ordinance.



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2014 DOW JONES NEWS FUND INTERNS

<p>ALICIA BALOG Kent State University The Oregonian, Portland</p> <p>KATIE BAST University of Wisconsin Eau Claire The Sacramento Bee</p> <p>TARA BRYANT University of Kansas Bay Area News Group-East</p> <p>CHLOE M. GONZALES University of Texas-Arlington Austin American-Statesman</p> <p>BILL HALL Cal State University-Chico San Francisco Chronicle</p>	<p>CASEY HUTCHINS University of Kansas Scripps Production Center Corpus Christi</p> <p>ETHAN METCALF Midwestern State University Scripps Production Center Corpus Christi</p> <p>LYNDSEY RUBLE NUCKOLS Harding University Orange County Register</p> <p>ELIZABETH ROBINSON University of Texas-Austin The Beaumont Enterprise</p>	<p>JORDAN SHAPIRO University of Missouri The Los Angeles Times</p> <p>ZANE S. SPARLING Willamette University Houston Chronicle</p> <p>FRANNIE SPROULS University of Nebraska The Denver Post</p> <p>REBEKAH WALBERG California Baptist University Alabama Media Group, Birmingham</p>
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INTERNATIONAL

Chinese court sentences 55 in front of crowd

BEIJING — In a stadium filled with 7,000 people, a Chinese court announced guilty verdicts for 55 people on charges of terrorism, separatism and murder as the government tries to display its determination to combat unrest in the troubled region.

The public event was a show of force in Xinjiang after 43 people were killed last week in an attack at a vegetable market in the capital, Urumqi.

Last week, a special one-year security crackdown focusing on suspected terrorists, religious extremist groups, illegal weapons makers and terrorist training camps was announced.

At least one convict received a death sentence at the event Tuesday, according to the official Xinhua News Agency.

The report gave few details about the cases, but defendants whose names were reported all appeared to be Uighurs, members of the region's biggest Muslim ethnic minority group.

Among the cases, three defendants were convicted of using unspecified "extremely cruel methods" to kill four people, including a 3-year-old girl, according to Xinhua.

Egypt's early voting results show military chief in front

CAIRO — Partial results of Egypt's presidential election show the nation's military chief comfortably ahead of his rival after votes from 2,000 polling stations were counted.

The results announced late Wednesday by the campaign of retired field marshal Abdel Fattah el-Sissi show him winning 4.2 million votes, with opponent Hamdeen Sabahi taking 133,548.

El-Sissi's win was never in doubt, but the 59-year-old career infantry officer also wished for a strong turnout to bestow legitimacy on his ouster last July of Egypt's first freely elected president Mohammed Morsi.

Combatants make border primary Ukrainian battle front

DONETSK, Ukraine — As separatists conceded that militants from Russia's province of Chechnya had joined the rebellion, a Ukrainian government official cautioned Wednesday that its borders had become a front line in the crisis.

Reports circulate almost daily of truckloads of gunmen crossing from Russia, and authorities believe they are a vital reinforcement to the armed rebel force that has repeatedly thwarted government security operations. Ukrainian border service head Mykola Lytvyn said he has deployed all reserves to the eastern and southern frontiers.

"Our border, especially in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, has become a front line that various terrorists are trying to break through," Lytvyn said at a news conference in Kiev. "Daily fighting with terrorists and groups of criminals near the Ukrainian and Russian border have become our routine reality."

Russia denies mass border crossings are taking place, although separatist leaders of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic now admit their ragtag army has many foreigners, including some from the Russian province of Chechnya.

The Chechen group has caused the most alarm in Ukraine.

Convalescent home resident a suspect in deadly fire

SEOUL, South Korea — A fire believed to be set by an 81-year-old dementia patient blazed through a hospital ward for the elderly Wednesday and killed 21 people in southern South Korea, mostly from smoke inhalation, police and fire officials said.

"These are the incidents that wretchedly show the dangerous foundation on which our country is established," the Seoul-based Hankyoreh newspaper said in an editorial.

Security video showed the suspect entering the room where the blaze began.

The remains of a lighter were also found in that room, police station chief Noh Kyu-ho said in a televised briefing. Noh said the man, who was identified only by his surname, Kim, denied responsibility.

Kim Jeong-bae, one of the firefighters who entered the building, said none of the bodies that he and his colleagues retrieved were burned and that they apparently were already dead when firefighters entered the hospital while it was engulfed in black smoke.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trading voices for freedom



APICHART WEERAWONG / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Protesters hold signs during an anti-coup demonstration outside a shopping complex in Bangkok on Saturday. Thailand's army seized control of the country last week, overthrowing a popularly elected administration that had won a landslide vote three years earlier.

Nearly 130 detainees freed under censorship agreement

TODD PITMAN

Associated Press

BANGKOK — Thailand's ruling junta has found a new way of controlling its opponents and forcing them into silence: releasing them from custody only if they sign a form promising not to do anything provocative.

Those who go back on the agreement face two years in jail.

The army, which is still holding top officials in the ousted government, summoned 253 people, mostly politicians, scholars, journalists and activists seen as critical of the regime. Roughly 70 are still in custody, 53 have failed to show up, and about 130 have been released, said Col. Weerachon Sukhondhapatipak, a spokesman for the junta.

Weerachon confirmed the conditions of release Wednesday, saying anyone who supports political activities or violates the other conditions can be prosecuted.

The most prominent of those released Wednesday was Jatuporn Prompan, who was seized last Thursday when the coup unfolded.

Jatuporn was featured in an army-ordered broadcast on all stations. The junta said the video, in which five detainees can be seen talking to army officers, was meant to prove that detainees are being treated well.

Pro-democracy demonstrators have taken to Bangkok's streets daily in mostly leaderless protests. Hundreds gathered Wednesday at the city's Victory Monument, where scuffles broke out between protesters and soldiers.



WASON WANICHAKORN / ASSOCIATED PRESS

A protester displays how his rights were violated during an anti-coup demonstration in Bangkok on Wednesday.

Others freed Wednesday included five leaders of the Red Shirt movement, which supported the government ousted in the coup and threatened to act if the military seized power.

The signed forms may explain why those who have been released have made no public statements since.

Syrian refugees cast ballots abroad

Displaced residents flood embassies to vote in election

BASSEM MROUE

Associated Press

YARZE, Lebanon — Tens of thousands of supporters of Syrian President Bashar Assad voted Wednesday at embassies abroad, clogging city streets for hours and clashing with soldiers overwhelmed by their sheer numbers a week before national election.

But reflecting the schism within Syrian society, many of the estimated 2.5 million refugees scattered across neighboring countries were either excluded or abstained from the balloting.

In Sweden, which has received some 30,000 Syrian asylum seekers since 2011, Syrians from opposing sides of the conflict gathered outside the embassy in Stockholm to express their views and cast their ballots.

Police stood between the two groups as emotions ran high, with pro-Assad Syrians outnumbering



HANI MOHAMMED / ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Syrian woman casts her ballot at the embassy in Yemen on Wednesday. Both supporters and opponents of Bashar Assad came out in great numbers, causing chaos in some countries.

those opposing him.

Tens of thousands of Assad supporters flocked to cast their ballots at the embassy in Yarze, a town southeast of the Lebanese capital, Beirut. The ensuing chaos snarled traffic, trapping schoolchildren in buses for hours and forcing some schools to cancel scheduled exams.

Syrian authorities have said that only those who entered Lebanon legally could vote, effectively ruling out tens of thousands of refugees who crossed through unofficial border posts for fear of authorities.

Clashes outside the embassy compound in Yarze broke out when Syrian voters started push-

ing against the Lebanese soldiers in their desperation to get into the building. Soldiers beat the voters back with batons and sticks.

Pandemonium ensued inside the embassies as well. In Amman, Jordan, where the government supports the rebels, Syrians lined up outside their embassy to vote. But dozens gathered outside to protest, some carrying placards that read, "Anyone who votes has no morals."

At Jordan's sprawling Zaatari camp, refugees bitterly scoffed at the election.

"We will never accept such elections because they are fake elections, and we call upon all the Arab countries to expel Syrian ambassadors," said Ali al-Faouri, who fled the southern Syrian city of Daraa.

Long lines formed at embassies in Iraq and Iran and in some European capitals. But a few countries, including France and Germany, barred voting, citing an international convention that gives the host government the authority to decide whether to allow an embassy to conduct elections.

Female soldiers force culture shift

Despite opposition, women serve in Somali military

ABDIGOULED

Associated Press

MOGADISHU, Somalia — With an AK-47 automatic rifle slung over her shoulder, Naeemo Abdi frisked people coming into a Mogadishu police station.

When she held back a man who tried to enter unchecked, he scowled at her and barked, "Woman and soldier?"

She did not respond but directed the man to the security checkpoint.

It is unusual to see a female in the military in traditionally conservative Somali society, where women's duties are generally at home and limited to family chores. But Abdi and other determined women are breaking down those barriers. About 1,500 females are now in the military of 20,000, according to estimates.

Two years ago, Abdi, 25, moved from a conventional domestic role as a wife and mother to work in the army, despite massive opposition from her spouse and family.

"It was difficult, but I must do this to serve my country unreservedly," she said.

Somali army officials report that female army recruits have increased since the 2011 ouster of the Islamic extremist rebels of al-Shabab from Mogadishu, the capital.

After more than 20 years of civil unrest, Somali forces pushed al-Shabab extremists out of the capital with the help of the United Nations and the African Union, and now control Mogadishu, most other cities and large parts of the countryside.

However, the militants are still a danger, killing government employees, including soldiers. For protection, the women in the Somali army hide their identities out of the workplace by covering their faces



FARAH ABDI WARSAMEH / ASSOCIATED PRESS

A female Somali soldier searches a civilian woman before she enters a police station in Mogadishu, Somalia, on March 30. Women in Somalia are usually relegated to more traditional roles.

and bodies with hijabs.

Sadiya Nur, another female soldier, takes a circuitous route home to avoid being followed by possible extremists. Inside the bus, she chooses a back seat to avoid getting ambushed by assassins.

"My senses tell me to be suspicious because they don't want to see me helping my country," said Nur, a soft-spoken but resolute 28 year old. "My husband, family and everyone wanted me to stay at home. It didn't work for me."

Other female soldiers say their dedication to the army cost them their marriage and some family relations.

In spite of their progress, women complain of discrimination and inequality in the army, saying they are restricted to menial jobs.

"The only problem is women get relegated and don't get promoted to higher roles," said female soldier Shukri Hassan.

Officials said some female trainees want to serve as combat soldiers battling al-Qaida-linked militants in Somalia, but most of them are deployed to police stations to help provide security.

New Zealand's clean image fading away

NICK PERRY

Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — If any country has a squeaky-clean image, it is New Zealand. It is a place where police officers won't even accept freebies from burger joints. It has been ranked the world's least corrupt nation for eight years straight by the watchdog group Transparency International.

But recent scandals in business, politics and sports may put that reputation under threat.

Perhaps the biggest blow to the national psyche comes from bribery allegations against several top cricket players.

Former New Zealand team player Lou Vincent was charged last week with 14 offenses under the England Cricket Board's anti-corruption code for allegedly fixing two matches.

In politics, lawmaker John Banks is on trial for allegedly failing to properly report donations.

Bill Hodge, associate professor of law at the University of Auckland, said part of the problem may be that New Zealand has opened up trade and sporting ties to other countries, exposing people to corrupt practices from abroad.

"It may be a sign of New Zealand's naivete and a wake-up call," he said.

West Point grads’ roles changing

Obama tells new officers they are first since 9/11 not facing combat deployment

MICHAEL HILL
Associated Press

WEST POINT, N.Y. — With combat in Afghanistan winding down, members of the U.S. Military Academy’s Class of 2014 insist they’re equally prepared for the alliance-building future outlined by President Barack Obama at their graduation ceremony Wednesday.

And some of their mothers are breathing easier.

“We are relieved, but because they serve in the military I think there’s always a cloud of ‘What if?’ and ‘What’s next?’” said Lynn Sheree Lesmeister of Anoka, Minnesota. She was flanked by two of her sons, Michael and Jeffrey, minutes after they graduated from West Point. “But at this point it’s nice to think that some things are not an option.”

Obama told the 1,064 graduating cadets that they were the first West Point class since the 9/11 attacks that might not be sent into combat in Iraq or Afghanistan.

While stressing that the world was still a dangerous place, the president used the speech to call for a higher “threshold for military action.”

He called for partnering with countries where terrorist net-

works seek a foothold.

For the new second lieutenants, that could mean working with diplomats instead of firing artillery. But the graduates — drilled for four years on duty, honor and country — said they were ready for whatever is ahead.

“We always know that something will happen somewhere,” Michael Lesmeister said. His older brother, Jeffrey Lesmeister, said he was simply looking forward to leading soldiers and will follow the commander-in-chief’s foreign policy.

The new officers have graduated as the Army is downsizing from 570,000 during the peak war years to 450,000 by 2017.

Graduate Jessica Wagner of Plymouth, Massachusetts, said she believes her class could go to the Pacific or Africa on more humanitarian-oriented missions. She said some points in Obama’s speech about the evolving mission have been known here.

She said she had been preparing whether or not war loomed.

Her mother, in the stands during Obama’s speech, called out, “Woo hoo!” when the president mentioned Afghanistan being a less likely assignment.



Mike Groll / Associated Press

Graduating U.S. Military Academy cadets celebrate at the end of their commissioning ceremony Wednesday in West Point, N.Y.

NATIONAL

‘Man up,’ Kerry tells Snowden

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State John Kerry on Wednesday called National Security Agency leaker Edward Snowden a fugitive and challenged him to “man up and come back to the United States.”

Kerry was asked about Snowden in a nationally broadcast interview in the wake of an interview in which Snowden said he never intended to be holed up in Russia but was forced to go there because his passport was revoked.

Snowden, a former NSA contract systems analyst, leaked a massive volume of NSA documents to the media.

“If Mr. Snowden wants to come back to the United States,” Kerry said, “we’ll have him on a flight today.” Kerry said Snowden should “stand up in the United States and make his case to the American people.”

In his interview with NBC anchor Brian Williams, a portion of which was broadcast Tuesday, Snowden said he was “trained as a spy” and argued that he had a much larger role in U.S. intelligence than the government has acknowledged.

“I was trained as a spy in sort of the traditional sense of the word, in that I lived and worked undercover overseas,” he said.

National Security Adviser Susan Rice said in a CNN interview that Snowden never worked undercover.

JOHNSTOWN FLOOD ANNIVERSARY



UNCREDTED / ASSOCIATED PRESS

People stand atop houses among ruins after disastrous flooding in Johnstown, Pennsylvania in this 1889 photograph. The flood killed 2,209 and led to the growth of the Red Cross.



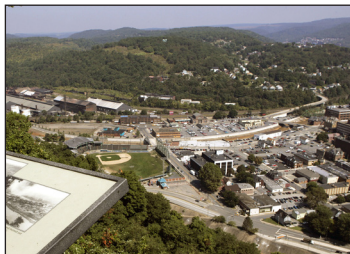
ANONYMOUS / ASSOCIATED PRESS

This photo from May 31, 1889, released by the Johnstown Flood Museum shows the destruction along Main Street following the collapse of the South Fork Dam.



ANONYMOUS / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Survivors of the Johnstown Flood stand by homes devastated by flooding after the South Fork Dam collapsed in Johnstown, Pennsylvania in this 1889 photo.



KEITH SRAKOCIC / ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this Sept. 12, 2005, file photo, the city of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, is seen below a placard describing the flood of 1889 at an observation deck on a mountain above the town.

Johnstown disaster: 125 years later

Catastrophe, triggered by a wall of water 60 feet high, still ranks as third worst in U.S.

KEVIN BEGOS
Associated Press

A dam collapsed in western Pennsylvania 125 years ago on May 31, unleashing a flood that killed 2,209 people. The terrible stories from the Johnstown Flood of 1889 are still part of lore because of the gruesome nature of many of the deaths and the role it played in the rise of the American Red Cross. Here is some of what is known about the flood, the third worst natural disaster in U.S. history, according to LiveScience.

Whose Dam Was It?

The dam and the large lake behind it were the private property of an exclusive vacation retreat for 19th-century industrial barons, including Andrew Carnegie, Henry Clay Frick and Andrew Mellon. Warnings about the safety of the dam had been ignored.

What Happened?

The dam collapsed around 3 p.m. after heavy rains and runoff from hillsides that had been cut

clear of timber raised the water level of the lake. The dam was about 15 miles upstream from Johnstown, Pennsylvania, a steel mill town of more than 30,000 people. The collapse sent a surge of water more than 60 feet high down the Little Conemaugh River Valley, sweeping away smaller communities, 1,600 homes, people and locomotives. About four square miles of downtown Johnstown were destroyed.

Tales Of Survival

Some people survived by clinging to the tops of barns and homes. Then 6-year-old Gertrude Quinn Slattery floated through the wreckage on a roof, and when it came close to the shore, a man tossed her through the air to others on land, who caught her.

Where The Bodies Ended Up

The body of one victim was found more than 100 miles away in Steubenville, Ohio. Bodies filled morgues in Johnstown and river towns downstream until relatives came to identify them.

Horror Stories

Anna Fenn Maxwell’s husband was washed away by the flood; she was trapped in the family home with her seven children as the water rose. Maxwell survived, but all of her children drowned. “What I suffered, with the bodies of my seven children floating around me in the gloom, can never be told,” she later said.

Flaming Debris Pile

The floating houses and barns caused a tide of debris to back up at a downtown stone bridge, creating a 30-acre pile. Then the debris caught fire, burning some of the flood survivors there to death.

Red Cross Rising

The flood was the first major natural disaster in which the American Red Cross played a major role. Clara Barton, nurse and founder of the American Red Cross, arrived in Johnstown along with five workers on June 5, 1889, less than a week after the devastating flood.

What New Research Shows

University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown researchers have used ground-penetrating radar and computers to analyze the dam site and the volume and speed of floodwaters that hit Johnstown at 4:07 p.m., an hour after the break. Richard Burkert, president of the Johnstown Area Heritage Association, said the research suggests the dam was more damaged than previously known. It suggests the dam was designed with two spillways to handle periods of heavy rain, but only one was in use.

Not Johnstown’s Last Disaster

Despite extensive flood control measures, about 24 people died in a March 1936 flood, and 85 died in a July 1977 flood that caused more than \$300 million in property damage. The fear of big floods still remains in the town. University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown professor Paul Douglas Newman describes the city as a giant drain that sits at the bottom of several watersheds, all prone to flooding.

Illness from tainted chicken spreads in California

WASHINGTON — An outbreak of antibiotic-resistant salmonella linked to a California chicken producer continues to sicken people more than a year after it started.

Despite the illnesses, producer Foster Farms has not initiated a recall, and the government has no apparent plans to shut it down.

The federal Centers for Disease Control said there were 50 new illnesses in the last two months, bringing the total number of cases in the outbreak to 574. Most of the illnesses are in California.

The Department of Agriculture said it is closely monitoring Foster Farms facilities and that measured rates of salmonella in the company’s products have been going down.

The department threatened to shut down Foster Farms’ facilities last year but let them stay open after the company said it made immediate changes to reduce salmonella rates.

Health officials urge caution as tick season begins

OKLAHOMA CITY — State health officials and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Wednesday urged Oklahoma residents to be vigilant about checking for ticks after the death of a man who acquired the Heartland virus.

Oklahoma’s health department has released few details about the death, noting only that the patient was a man over 65 from Delaware County in rural Oklahoma. The man died from complications of the virus, which is found in the lone star tick and spread through tick bites.

The man is among 10 people known to have acquired the little-known virus. Reported symptoms include fever, fatigue, headaches, muscle aches, appetite loss, nausea, bruising easily and diarrhea. There is no vaccine or drug to prevent or treat the illness.

In guidance for health care workers, the CDC said that, as of March, all human Heartland cases involved men age 50 or over.

It said the men failed to respond to an antibiotic targeting ehrlichiosis, another tick-borne disease, but that with “supportive care” most fully recovered.

Other cases of Heartland virus have been diagnosed in Missouri and Tennessee.

Man gets life for tossing daughter into creek

FREEHOLD, N.J. — A man who tossed his 2-year-old daughter into a creek while she was strapped into her car seat apologized Wednesday — but not for murdering the child.

Instead, just before he was sentenced to life in prison, Arthur Morgan III apologized to the child’s mother, Imani Benton, for how their relationship ended.

Morgan was found guilty last month of murdering Tierra Morgan-Glover in November 2011.

“I don’t understand why she was taken from me,” Benton said. “It does give me peace to know that she is in heaven with God, and (Morgan) will pay for what he did to her, to me and to everyone else. No good will come to him.”

—ASSOCIATED PRESS

Astronaut twins tapped for pioneer NASA study

MARCIA DUNN
Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — When astronaut Scott Kelly embarks on a one-year space station stint next spring, his twin brother will be offering more than his usual moral support.

Retired astronaut Mark Kelly will be joining from Earth, undergoing medical testing before, during and after his brother’s American-record-setting flight.

It is part of an unprecedented study of identical twins, courtesy of the Kellys and NASA. Researchers said they hope to better understand the effects of prolonged weightlessness by comparing the space twin with the ground twin.

The Earthbound Kelly draws the line, though, at mimicking his brother’s extreme exercise in orbit or eating “crappy space station food.”

“It’s not bad when you’re in space,” Mark said. But he will not be carrying around “a can of Rus-

sian lamb and potatoes when I’m out to eat with my friends.”

This is the genetic double of the 50-year-old astronaut who has volunteered to spend an entire year aboard the International Space Station beginning next March, with Russian cosmonaut Mikhail Kornienko, a former paratrooper.

Scott knows what he is getting into: He spent five months on the orbiting lab in 2010-2011.

Eager to explore new medical territory, Scott offered to have a pressure sensor drilled into his skull to study the impaired vision experienced by some long-term space fliers.

He has also volunteered for spinal taps in orbit.

“As a test pilot, I like to push the envelope on things and, in this case, I feel like I’m maybe trying to push the envelope on data collection as well,” said Scott, a retired Navy captain.

NASA scientists insist there is no



UNCREDTED / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mark Kelly, right, will stay on Earth as his brother Scott Kelly spends a year on the International Space Station as part of a NASA study.

compelling need for implants and spinal taps. They said they admire his gung-ho attitude, though.

NASA has selected 10 proposals for the twin study, involving the immune system among other things. The researchers will receive \$1.5 million from NASA over three years.

“No one really knows what happens to the immune system in space for a long period of time

and, sooner or later, people are going to need to confront this issue,” Emmanuel Mignot, Stanford University sleep specialist and immunologist, said.

That is the whole point of Kelly and Kornienko’s one-year mission: to identify physical challenges that need to be overcome before astronauts venture to Mars and beyond.

TEXAS/SOUTHWEST

Man gets 8 years in Texas cartel shooting

EDINBURG — A 20-year-old man was sentenced to eight years in prison in the South Texas slaying of a man who hired him to move drugs for the Gulf Cartel.

The Monitor in McAllen reports Juan Carlos Morin was sentenced Tuesday in Hidalgo County Auxiliary Court in the 2012 murder of Marco Antonio Reyes Moreno. Morin pleaded guilty to the murder in April.

Vicente Espinoza, who also pleaded guilty to murder in February in the slaying, was sentenced to 25 years.

Officials said the two were hired by Reyes Moreno to move methamphetamine from the Rio Grande Valley to Corpus Christi for the Gulf Cartel. But they kept the drugs instead.

Reyes Moreno was killed after telling them to return the drugs, pay for them or prove they were seized.

New rail hub opens along New Mexico border

SANTA TERESA, N.M. — A sprawling, \$400 million railroad hub opened Wednesday in southern New Mexico with the promise of transforming the border area into an international industrial trade zone.

The hub is one of the largest of its kind in the U.S. and is expected to spur development on both sides of the border with Mexico. Because the area has been designated a foreign trade zone, freight from overseas can be loaded directly onto trains from West Coast ports for processing and shipment to Mexican factories and for distribution by rail across the U.S.

The hub spans 2,200 acres and includes fueling facilities and crew-change buildings. It's located minutes away from the Santa Teresa Port of Entry, which was recently upgraded to handle commercial traffic from industrial parks in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico.

By the time the hub reaches capacity in 2025, it will provide hundreds of permanent jobs — a much-needed boost as federal statistics show New Mexico continues to trail the rest of the U.S. in job growth, despite an oil and gas boom in southeastern New Mexico.

"This brings more jobs, 600 permanent Union Pacific jobs," said Susana Martinez, governor of New Mexico.

UT-Brownsville president to direct UT Americas Institute

McALLEN — Juliet Garcia, president of the University of Texas at Brownsville, has been selected to lead the newly formed University of Texas Institute for the Americas. Both the formation of the institute and Garcia's appointment were announced by University of Texas System Chancellor Francisco Cigarroa.

"Because of the incredible role that Texas is playing as a national leader in bicultural and binational studies, we need a person with exceptional leadership skills and a record of advanced achievements in higher education to help us create a presence centered in this region of our state," Cigarroa said.

Texas death row inmate loses Supreme Court race appeal

HOUSTON — The U.S. Supreme Court has rejected an appeal from Texas inmate Duane Buck, whose supporters contend his death sentence decided by a Houston jury 17 years ago was unfairly based on race.

The ruling was an appeal of a similar rejection in November from the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. Buck, 50, was convicted of capital murder and sent to death row for the slaying of his ex-girlfriend and a man at her Houston apartment in July 1995. During the punishment phase of Buck's 1997 trial, psychologist Walter Quijano testified under cross-examination by a Harris County prosecutor that black people were more likely to commit violence.

Advocates for Buck, who is black, say that unfairly influenced jurors. Quijano, called as a defense witness, had testified earlier that Buck's personality and the nature of his crime, committed during rage, indicated he would be less of a future danger. Buck was convicted of gunning down Debra Gardner, 32, and Kenneth Butler, 33, a week after Buck and Gardner broke up.

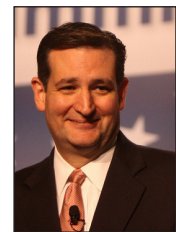
— ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tea party thrives in Texas Movement struggles nationally

WILL WEISSERT
Associated Press

SALADO — Scoffing at climate change was easy, but tea party favorite Dan Patrick also did not miss the chance to savage the White House's purported efforts to slow it — working the conservative crowd into a frenzy.

"I understand why Obama thinks he can change the weather," the millionaire radio talk show host bellowed over rising applause, "because he thinks he's God."



Cruz

From Texas, which made firebrand Ted Cruz a political celebrity and remains America's franchise state for the tea party movement, comes another rising grassroots star. Patrick's victory Tuesday in the Republican primary for lieutenant governor, a position that holds a unique amount of power in Texas, over 11-year incumbent David Dewhurst has the potential to push a deeply red state even further to the right at a time when tea party contenders are struggling elsewhere.

Patrick, like Cruz, has "a spirit for real reform but also a fighter mentality," said JoAnn Fleming, executive director of Grassroots America We the People, a conservative activist group based in East Texas. "Dan Patrick, he's going to make people in both parties very unhappy, just like we've seen with Senator Cruz."

The movement's strength in Texas is further magnified in primary and runoff elections, where turnout is low and the most motivated voters have the greatest sway.

Twenty years Cruz's senior, Patrick has the same fast-on-his-feet oratorical prowess as Cruz,



BRADLEY WILSON/SOUTHWEST JOURNALIST

Gubernatorial candidate Greg Abbott spoke at the 8th Street Coffee House in Wichita Falls. Democrats, such as gubernatorial candidate Wendy Davis, want to associate Abbott and other Republicans with the tea party to contrast the differences between the candidates of both parties.

Texas Democrats embrace, fear tea party candidates

AMAN BATHEJA
The Texas Tribune

As the results of Republican primary runoffs rolled in Tuesday night, Texas Democrats realized they were getting exactly what they wanted — and exactly what they feared.

Dan Patrick's and Ken Paxton's victories were the highest-profile examples of Republican races in which the more conservative candidate won.

"You really can't have a competitive election that voters pay attention to unless you have a clear contrast between the nominees," Texas Democratic consultant Harold Cook said.

In the race for governor, Democrat Wendy Davis was quick to link Greg Abbott, the Republican candidate, with Patrick as a unified campaign.

"It looks like we'll be seeing a lot of @GregAbbott_TX & @DanPatrick together in the coming months," Davis tweeted Tuesday night. Her campaign suggested Abbott was hesitant to appear in public with Patrick, fearing that an affiliation with Patrick will alienate voters, particularly Hispanics.

A statement released by Abbott's campaign Tuesday evening pushed back against this notion.

"Texas voters have continued to demonstrate their steadfast commitment to the conservative values and initiatives that have and will continue to keep our state on the pathway toward greater opportunity," Abbott said. "I look forward to working with all Republican nominees as we seek to take Texas to greater heights, and declare victory in November."

who was an Ivy League debating champion. Patrick has a more abrasive style that critics call bullying — but also has been known to weep in public over issues close to his heart.

Patrick brags that he was the first grassroots sensation elected in Texas when he won a Houston-based state Senate seat in 2006. He founded the legislature's tea party caucus, and his lieutenant governor bid won strong support from state grassroots groups, as

well as national figures like former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee. Both Patrick and Cruz toppled Dewhurst, the Texas mainstream GOP-backed opponent, who ran for the U.S. Senate in 2012.

"Tea party folks love America, they love the Constitution, they love (free) markets, they love the Second Amendment and they love Texas," Patrick said during his victory party Tuesday. "If you love America, welcome to the grassroots of the Republican Party."

"What we're trying to do is take back America," said Irene Dykemn, a 78-year-old retired artist, who saw Patrick at a recent tea party debate in Salado, north of Austin.

Despite their political affinity, Patrick and Cruz have feuded publicly. When Patrick backed Dewhurst's 2012 Senate bid, Cruz accused him of lying during a heated radio appearance.

Patrick still must beat a Democratic challenger in November.

Waste lingers despite healthy eats

Study: diet rules do not change food waste amounts

LISA GRAY
Houston Chronicle

The big plastic trash can at Briscoe Elementary got a workout during lunch on a recent school day as kindergartners plopped more than a third of their lunches into the bin.

"Plate waste," that uneaten food is called, and on that day, Briscoe students actually discarded far less than most schools.

According to a recent study by the Harvard School of Public Health, 65 to 75 percent of vegetables served with school lunches are thrown out, along with 40 percent of the fruit.

Figures like those lie at the heart of the war heating up between first lady Michelle Obama and congressional Republicans over whether schools should be allowed to opt out of nutritional requirements imposed by federal law.

Supporters say it is reasonable to require that schools in the federally subsidized program serve every student at least one fruit or vegetable, and that meals be heavy on whole grains and light on sodium. They note that the Harvard study shows children are consuming more fruits and vegetables since the requirements were enacted in 2012, and that the waste is no higher than before.

"Food Services recognizes that it's not enough to put healthy food on the tray," Jennifer Lengyel, a nutrition educator and dietitian for Houston schools, said as vol-

- **Nearly 38 percent of grain products purchased in the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand were wasted in 2011.**
- **Almost half of the seafood and 52 percent of fruits and vegetables bought in those four countries went to waste during the same year.**
- **Source: Natural Resources Defense Council, August 2012 study.**

unteers set up "Veggie Fest" in the cafeteria. "Kids have to know what these foods are, and why they're good for them, so that they can enjoy them."

At Veggie Fest, volunteers set up stations with labels such as "Edamame from Japan" and "Jicama from Mexico."

Once the children poured in,

the cafeteria thrummed with activity. At the papaya table, children tossed toy vegetables onto a tic-tac-toe game; at the cauliflower station, they played veggie bingo. Most tables offered taste tests of foods like Asian pears, or shredded Brussels sprouts tossed in olive oil and salt. And the kids happily ate them all.

"It takes 10 to 20 tastings for a child to decide that they like a food," Lengyel said.

That trying-out period and the need for food education pose a problem for schools, noted Houston-based blogger Bettina Siegel, a nationally known figure in the world of school lunch reform.

When introducing kids to healthy foods, she said, "There'll be an inevitable period of waste and loss." But the nutritional requirements did not come with a financial cushion to help schools.

Celebrate splitting up Divorce parties mark new beginnings, offer closure

LEANNE ITALIE
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Divorce, it seems, has turned into a party — special cakes and all.

Event planners, bakers, lawyers and academics note the rise of "divorce parties" over the last several years, many with cakes featuring weapon-wielding brides or gloomy black frosting on inverted tiers.

"I've taken to naming them freedom fests, as you aren't celebrating the end of the marriage but the freedom you have chosen in your life," said Richard O'Malley, a New York-area event planner who organized one divorce blowout that cost a woman about \$25,000.

Michal Ann Strahilevitz, a marketing professor at Golden Gate University in San Francisco, has been to a few such parties and said she sees them as part of a larger trend in celebrations.

"People are also celebrating 'coming out' to their parents or co-workers, and the birthdays of their pets. Cancer survivors are celebrating relevant milestones of being

cancer-free," she said.

So why not a divorce, asked Steve Wolf, who lives outside Austin. He marked his amicable split with a party co-hosted by his ex that included a gluten-free cake she baked herself in lemon, a favorite flavor for both of them.



CHARM CITY CAKES/ASSOCIATED PRESS

A divorce cake example

stunt business serving the film industry.

"We cut the cake together like we did the wedding cake 10 years before. When life gives you lemons, make lemon cake," he joked, noting the sentiment she wrote in the icing.

Fort Worth sued for third mistaken home demolition

EMILY SCHMALL
Associated Press

FORT WORTH — Jorge Rodriguez was hoping for an early retirement to Aguascalientes in his native Mexico.

Instead, the 56-year-old concrete pourer is seeking \$50,000 from the city of Fort Worth for allegedly wrongfully tearing down a house he planned to fix up and sell.

The suit marks the third time in a year city contractor Garrett Demolition is accused of mistakenly tearing down a home.

"The city contracted us to demolish that property, just like they hired us to demolish the other two, whether they were the right ones or not. As a contractor that does work for the city, obviously, we do the work they tell us to do," said April Collmar, the demolition company's operations manager.

Rodriguez purchased the property for \$17,000 in October 2012. Rodriguez had fixed the house's foundation, but was otherwise just using it to store tools and equipment when it was razed, according to his son, Isaac Rodriguez.

City spokesman Bill Begley said he could not comment on the case while litigation is pending.

“I’m a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That’s me.”

Maya Angelou

1928 – 2014



REED SAXON / ASSOCIATED PRESS

On

HILLEL ITALIE
Associated Press

Maya Angelou’s story awed millions. A childhood victim of rape, she broke through silence and shame to tell her tale in one of the most widely read memoirs of the 20th century. A black woman born into poverty and segregation, she recited the most popular presidential inaugural poem in history.

“I’m not modest,” she told the Associated Press in 2013. “I have no modesty. Modesty is a learned behavior. But I do pray for humility because humility comes from the inside out.”

Angelou, a renaissance woman and cultural pioneer, died Wednesday at her home in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. She was 86.

“She lived a life as a teacher, activist, artist and human being. She was a warrior for equality, tolerance and peace,” said her son, Guy B. Johnson.

Tall and regal with a deep, majestic voice, she was unforgettable whether encountered in person, through sound or the printed word. She made a brave and sensational debut as an author in 1969 with “I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings,” which became standard (and occasionally censored) reading and made Angelou one of the first black women to enjoy mainstream literary success.

She called herself a poet, in love with the “sound of language,” as she explained to the AP in 2013. But she lived so many lives. She was a wonder to Toni Morrison, who marveled at Angelou’s freedom from inhibition, her willingness to celebrate her own achievements. She was a mentor to Oprah Winfrey, whom she befriended when Winfrey was still a local television reporter, and often appeared on her friend’s talk show. She mastered several languages and published not just poetry but advice books, cookbooks and children’s stories. She wrote music, plays and screenplays, received an Emmy nomination

for her acting in “Roots,” and never lost her passion for dance, the art she considered closest to poetry.

Her very name was a reinvention. Angelou was born Marguerite Johnson in St. Louis and raised in Stamps, Arkansas, and San Francisco, moving back and forth between her parents and her grandmother. She was smart and fresh to the point of danger, packed off by her family to California after sassing a white store clerk in Arkansas. Other times, she didn’t speak at all. At age 7, she was raped by her mother’s boyfriend and didn’t talk for years. She learned by reading and listening.

At age 9, she was writing poetry. By 17, she was a single mother. In her early 20s, she danced at a strip joint, ran a brothel, got married and then divorced. But by her mid-20s, she was performing at the Purple Onion in San Francisco, where she shared billing with another future star, Phyllis Diller. She also spent a few days with Billie Holiday, who was kind enough to sing a lullaby to Angelou’s son, surly enough to heckle her off the stage and astute enough to tell her: “You’re going to be famous. But it won’t be for singing.”

Angelou was little known outside the theatrical community until “I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings,” which might not have happened if writer James Baldwin hadn’t persuaded Angelou to attend a party at the home of Jules Feiffer, a cartoonist and writer. Feiffer was so taken by Angelou that he mentioned her to Random House editor Bob Loomis, who persuaded her to write a book by daring her into it, saying that it was “nearly impossible to write autobiography as literature.”

“Well, maybe I will try it,” Angelou responded. “I don’t know how it will turn out. But I can try.”

FOR MORE ON MAYA:
Visit www.swjournalist.com to view photos and learn more about Angelou’s life

“Listen to yourself and in that quietude
you might hear the voice of God.”

📱 ANGELOU’S FINAL TWEET, MAY 23

