

### Lunar Eclipse Offers Rare Sky Event

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Stargazers are about to get a double celestial treat when a total lunar eclipse combines with a so-called supermoon.  
Those in the United States, Europe, Africa and western Asia can view the rare coupling, weather permitting, Sunday night or early Monday.  
It's the first time the events have made a twin appearance since 1982, and they won't again until 2033.  
When a full moon makes its closest approach to Earth, it appears bigger and brighter than usual and is known as a supermoon.  
That will coincide with a full lunar eclipse where the moon, Earth and sun will be lined up, with Earth's shadow totally obscuring the moon.

### VW Scandal Fuels Debate On Diesel

PARIS (AP) — Guidebooks rarely mention it, but Paris is one of the most polluted cities in the rich world. The Eiffel Tower is periodically shrouded in smog, and there's one key culprit: France's disproportionately heavy reliance on diesel fuel.  
Critics are increasingly questioning the need for diesel vehicles, especially after last week's discovery that Volkswagen tricked drivers worldwide into thinking their diesel engines were much cleaner than they really are.  
Paris' diesel-driven pollution problem is especially embarrassing for a city that's trying to be environmentally exemplary as it prepares to host crucial U.N. talks in two months on reducing emissions. City authorities banned all traffic from central Paris on Sunday and are trying to gradually forbid diesel altogether, as they try to clean up the capital's image.  
But a nationwide crackdown on diesel remains taboo. And elsewhere in Europe — where the majority of new cars run on diesel engines versus just one-seventh worldwide — few are raising the alarm.  
“We must stop lying to the French by inciting them to buy so-called environmentally friendly cars,” Emmanuelle Cosse, head of France's green party Europe Ecologie-Les Verts, said last week. “Clean diesel doesn't exist.”

### Iraq To Share Intelligence On Islam

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq's military said Sunday it will begin sharing “security and intelligence” information with Syria, Russia and Iran to help combat the Islamic State group, a move that could further complicate U.S. efforts to battle the extremists without working with Damascus and its allies.  
A statement issued by the Joint Operations Command said the countries will “help and cooperate in collecting information about the terrorist Daesh group,” using the Arabic acronym for the IS group.  
Iraq has long had close ties with neighboring Iran and has coordinated with Tehran in fighting IS — which controls about a third of Iraq and Syria in a self-declared caliphate. Iran has sent military advisers to Iraq and worked closely with Shiite militias battling the IS group.  
A U.S.-led coalition has meanwhile been conducting airstrikes against IS in Iraq and Syria as well as training and advising Iraqi forces, but U.S. officials insist they are not coordinating their efforts with Iran.  
The U.S. also refuses to cooperate with Syrian President Bashar Assad, who Washington has insisted should step down. Russia and Iran have provided crucial support to Assad since Syria's uprising began in 2011.

### Prime Minister Gets Warm Reception

MENLO PARK, Calif. (AP) — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi touted the power of social media and his own goals for developing India's tech economy on Sunday, speaking to a global audience from a “town hall” meeting at the headquarters of the world's largest social network.  
Modi also vowed to improve education for girls and “bring more women into decision-making” in his country, while responding to a handful of questions during a carefully orchestrated session led by Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg.  
“The strength of social media today is that it can tell governments where they are wrong and can stop them from moving in the wrong direction,” Modi said, in remarks translated from Hindi by an interpreter.  
“We used to have elections every five years and now we can have them every five minutes,” added Modi, who is known for using both Facebook and Twitter to communicate with millions of followers.  
Sunday's hour-long session came during a whirlwind tour of Silicon Valley that included two days of meetings with the CEOs of Apple, Google and other leading tech companies, along with local political leaders and an estimated 18,000 people who were expected to attend an “Indian community reception” at a San Jose sports arena.

### Boehner Slams GOP Hard Liners

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Speaker John Boehner warned Sunday against “false prophets” in his own party making unrealistic promises, saying his resignation had averted a government shutdown this week but not the GOP's broader battle over how to wield power.  
Speaking on CBS's “Face the Nation,” Boehner unloaded against conservatives long outraged that even with control of both houses of Congress, Republicans have not succeeded on key agenda items, such as repealing President Barack Obama's health care law and striking taxpayer funding from Planned Parenthood. He refused to back down from calling one of the tea party-styled leaders and presidential candidate, Sen. Ted Cruz, a “jackass.”  
“Absolutely they're unrealistic,” Boehner said. “The Bible says, ‘Beware of false prophets.’ And there are people out there spreading noise about how much can get done.”  
Boehner's resignation announcement Friday stunned Washington but was long in the making after years of turmoil with the same House conservatives who propelled the GOP into the House majority on a tea party-style, cut-it-or-shut-it platform. Without Boehner, the job of leading divided congressional Republicans falls more heavily on Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell — who declared nearly a year ago that the GOP's prospects of reclaiming the White House depends substantially on showing the party can govern.  
The development rippled through the slate of 2016 presidential candidates competing for support among the GOP's core Republicans. As Boehner announced his resignation to House Republicans Friday morning, Republican presidential hopeful Sen. Marco Rubio related the news to a conference of conservatives — who erupted in triumphant hoots. Rubio, retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson and former Hewlett Packard CEO Carly Fiorina were among the GOP candidates who said Boehner's departure showed it was time for the party to move on.

# Pope Francis Wraps Up Joyful US Visit With Big Open-Air Mass

BY NICOLE WINFIELD  
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Pope Francis urged hundreds of thousands of the faithful gathered Sunday for the biggest event of his U.S. visit to be open to “miracles of love,” closing out his joyful six-day trip with a message of hope for families, consolation for victims of child sexual abuse and a warning to America's bishops.  
The wide Benjamin Franklin Parkway overflowed with the jubilant, who stood in line for hours and endured airport-style security checks to see history's first pope from the Americas celebrate an open-air Mass in the birthplace of the United States.

The Mass — the last major event on Francis' itinerary before the 78-year-old pontiff took off on the flight home to Rome — was a brilliant tableau of gold, green, white and purple in the evening sunlight of a mild early-autumn day.  
Riding through the streets in his open-sided popemobile, the pontiff waved to cheering, screaming, singing, flag-waving crowds and kissed babies as he made his way to the altar at the steps of the columned Philadelphia Museum of Art.

With a towering golden crucifix behind him, Francis told his listeners that his presence itself was “a kind of miracle in today's world,” an affirmation of the family and the power of love.  
“Would that all of us could be open to miracles of love for the sake of all the families of the world,” he said to the hushed crowd spread out along the tree-lined boulevard.

Crowds a mile away fell silent during the Communion part of the Mass. Some people knelt on the paving stones at City Hall, a few blocks from the altar.  
June Bounds, 56, of Rochester, New York, watched with fellow parishioners on a large screen at City Hall, closing her eyes and blinking back tears.  
“It's very overwhelming,” she said. “You feel like you're one body with everyone here, whether you're here, whether you're back home, whether you're anywhere in the world.”  
Of the pope, she said: “He's brought so much joy and Holy Spirit into the United States. It doesn't matter if you're a Catholic; he's just trying to unite everybody for a better world.”

Organizers had predicted 1 million people would attend the Mass. There was no immediate estimate of the crowd.  
But some people got tired of waiting in line and gave up, while others may have been scared away altogether by the heavy security and weeks of dire warnings from the city about the potential disruptions.  
Train ridership was lower than expected, downtown hotel rooms went unfilled over the weekend, normally bustling city streets were deserted, some businesses closed early, and many Philadelphians complained that the precautions were oppressive.  
Earlier in the day, Francis had a more solemn message for families scarred by the sins of the church itself.  
The Pope met with five victims of child sexual abuse and told them he was “deeply sorry” for the times they came forward to tell their stories and weren't believed. He assured them that he believes them and that bishops who covered up for abusers will be made to answer for what they did.  
“I pledge to you that we will follow the path of truth wherever it may lead,” Francis said in Spanish. “Clergy and bishops will be held accountable when they abuse or fail to protect children.”  
Minutes later, he went into a meeting of bishops from the



CHARLES FOX/PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER/TNS  
Pope Francis blesses Carlos Lepy during his visit to Curran-Fromhold Correctional Facility on Sunday, Sept. 27.

U.S. and around the world who were in town for a Catholic festival on the family and told them the same thing.  
“God weeps” over what was done to the youngsters, he lamented.  
The pope has agreed to create a new Vatican tribunal to prosecute bishops who failed to protect their flock, and he has accepted the resignations of three U.S. bishops accused of mishandling abuse cases.  
During his first meeting with victims, held at the Vatican in July 2014, Francis similarly vowed to hold bishops accountable, but Sunday marked the first time that he warned the bishops themselves, face-to-face, and in public.  
In an apparent effort to reshape the discussion, though, the Vatican said not all the victims at the meeting had been abused by clergy; some were violated by relatives or educators. That underscored the Vatican's argument that child molestation is not unique to the church.  
Victim support groups were unimpressed by the meeting, which took place at a seminary on the edge of Philadelphia and lasted more than a half-hour.  
The main victims' support

group, SNAP, dismissed it as an exercise in public relations.  
“Is a child anywhere on Earth safer now that a pope, for maybe the seventh or eighth or ninth time, has briefly chatted with abuse victims? No,” said SNAP's David Clohessy.  
The Rev. Tom Doyle, a former church lawyer who is now an advocate for victims, said that including those who were violated by non-clergy “seriously minimizes” the problem in the church.  
As the Mass drew to a close, church officials said the next World Meeting of Families — the Vatican-sponsored festival that brought the pope to Philadelphia — will be held in Dublin in 2018. Ireland is ground zero for the church's sexual abuse crisis outside of the U.S. The overwhelmingly Catholic country also recently legalized gay marriage.  
Francis' journey took him first to Cuba, then to Washington and New York. Along the way, he drew large and adoring crowds, met with President Barack Obama, visited ground zero and a school in East Harlem, and addressed Congress and the United Nations, calling for urgent action on climate change and poverty.

# Obama Makes Forceful Defense Of New Development Goals

BY CARA ANNA  
Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — President Barack Obama on Sunday committed the U.S. to a new blueprint to eliminate poverty and hunger around the world, telling a global summit that a sweeping new development agenda is “not charity but instead is one of the smartest investments we can make in our own future.”  
It was the first of two addresses Obama is making at the United Nations. His second on Monday morning, to the annual U.N. General Assembly of world leaders, will be a broader examination of world issues, especially the ever-more complicated conflict in Syria and the related refugee crisis.

As Secretary of State John Kerry put it after a meeting on the sidelines Sunday, “It would be a complete understatement to say that we meet at a challenging time.”  
Obama offered a powerful defense of a 15-year development agenda and will require trillions of dollars of effort from countries, companies and civil society.  
He told delegates that 800 million men, women and children scrape by on less than \$1.25 a day and that billions of people are at risk of dying from preventable diseases. He called it a “moral outrage” that many children are just one mosquito bite away from death.  
And, with a possible nod toward his address on Monday, he noted that “military interventions might have been avoided over the years” if countries had spent more time, money and effort on car-

ing for their own people.  
“Development is threatened by war,” Obama said, and war often arises from bad governance. Addressing the world's greatest refugee crisis since World War II as millions flee conflict in Syria and elsewhere, he said countries “that can, must do more to accommodate refugees,” but added those efforts must be matched by diplomacy.  
The leaders of Britain, France, Japan and Turkey also were addressing the final day of the development summit.  
On Monday, the annual General Assembly high-level debate gives countries a chance to lay out their broader vision before the world.  
World leaders have already begun a whirlwind series of closed-door meetings on Syria on the U.N. sidelines. Obama meets Monday with Russian President Vladimir Putin, who hasn't shown up to the U.N. meeting for a decade.  
Earlier Sunday, French President Francois Hollande announced his country's first airstrikes in Syria, raising the stakes in a region where a U.S.-led coalition nervously watches a new Russian military buildup near Syria's Mediterranean coast.  
Putin is expected to make a strong defense of those moves and urge countries to join a Russian-led effort against extremist groups like the Islamic State group.  
On Sunday, Iraq's military said it will begin sharing “security and intelligence” information with Russia, Syria and Iran to help combat IS.  
“We coordinate the efforts against ISIL,” Russian Foreign Minister Sergey

Lavrov told reporters just before meeting Kerry on Sunday.  
Kerry disagreed, telling reporters: “This is not yet coordinated. I think we have concerns about how we're going to go forward, but that's precisely what we're meeting on to talk about now.”  
Iran is also a major question, with the United States and the United Nations both reaching out in the diplomatic glow of the new nuclear deal for the Islamic Republic's help in finding political solutions in Syria and the newer conflict in Yemen as well.  
Iranian President Hassan Rouhani is already at the U.N. summit and is set to address the U.N. gathering Monday morning along with Obama, Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping — who is making his first appearance here.  
Amid the bustle of the back-to-back summit speeches Sunday, Brazil's president announced her country's climate commitment ahead of a global summit in December in Paris aimed at a climate treaty. President Dilma Rousseff said Brazil will reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 37 percent by 2025 from 2005 levels as part of its contribution to a pact to fight global warming.  
And the current refugee and migrant crisis is another top issue under feverish discussion. Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro spun the crisis into a chance to make a thinly veiled critique of the United States, blaming the problem on “unjust wars, imperialist wars, the attempt to control the world, one hegemon trying to impose its view on the world.”

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