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The Charlotte Observer

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Obama Points to Pro-Russia Separatists in Downing of Malaysia Airlines Plane

(EDS: SUBS throughout to incorporate OBAMA-UKRAINE and to add reporting; ADDS Shear to byline; DELETES Schmitt from byline; NEW con-

tributor note.); (With: MALAY-SIA-JET-REACT; MALAYSIA-JET-RUSSIA, and MALAYSIA-JET-RESEARCHERS); Michael D. Shear reported from Washington, Somini Sengupta from the United Nations and Sabrina Tavernise from Grabovo, Ukraine. Reporting was contributed by Eric Schmitt from Washington; Keith Bradsher and Christopher Buckley from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; David M. Herszenhorn from Kiev

By MICHAEL D. SHEAR, SOMINI SENGUPTA, and SABRINA TAVERNISE

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WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama said Friday that the United States believed the Malaysia Airlines jetliner felled over eastern Ukraine was shot down by a surface-to-air missile from an area inside Ukraine controlled by Russian-backed separatists.

SEE JUMP_TO, ??A



MIKHAIL KLIMENTYEV - AFP/Getty Images

Russian President Vladimir Putin (C) attends a celebration of the 700th anniversary of St. Sergius of Radonezh in the Trinity St. Sergius monastery

SIoux CITY CRASH: 25 YEARS LATER



T. ORTEGA GAINES - ogaines@charlotteobserver.com

Bob Ryan was a survivor from the tragic crash of United Airlines Flight 232 from Denver to Chicago in 1989 that killed 111. A Charlotte bank executive now, he tells his story for the first time publicly - what he

A time to remember

Charlotte man recalls surviving plane tragedy through keepsakes

BY CURRY SHOFF
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In the attic of his south Charlotte home, Bob Ryan keeps his crash box. It's a dusty blue 18-gallon plastic container filled with keepsakes from the 1989 airliner crash that nearly took his life.

Ryan, a Charlotte bank executive, has only looked through it two or three times in the 25 years since the accident.

He doesn't talk much about what happened that day unless someone asks. "He's never the first one to bring it up," said his oldest daughter Maddie, 21.

Saturday is the 25th anniversary of the crash of United Airlines Flight 232. Ryan was a 28-year-old passenger returning home to Chicago from Denver when the plane crashed in Sioux City, Iowa, killing 111 of the 296 people aboard.

The plane split into five parts upon SEE JUMP_TO, 6A



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB RYAN

Bob Ryan keeps a "crash box" - a dusty blue 18-gallon plastic container filled with keepsakes from the 1989 airliner crash that nearly took his life.

XXONLINE

See mares eat oats and does eat oats and little lambs eat ivy at charlotte-observer.com/ivy

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BY BRUCE HENDERSON
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Most of the Duke Energy coal ash that spilled into the Dan River in February will stay there, creating a rift between regulators and river advocates over the cleanup.

Duke said this week that contractors have finished dredging the largest of the deposits, 2,500 tons of ash and sediment behind a dam in Danville, Va. About 500 tons have been removed from four smaller deposits.

That leaves up to 36,000 tons of ash spread along 70 miles of river bottom from the spill site in Eden to Kerr Lake on the North Carolina-Virginia line. Ash contains metals that can be toxic.

"This stuff is not just go-

ing to go to the bottom and stay there and not harm the environment," said Brian Williams of the Dan River Basin Association, which promotes the region's natural assets. "It will be an issue for many, many years to come."

Federal and state agencies say the cleanup might not be finished. Duke and regulators, aided by computer models, will continue to patrol the river to find and test deposits of sediment and ash.

Nearly six months after the Feb. 2 spill, most of the ash is now covered by sediment. The upper layer of sediment is also where fish lay eggs and aquatic insects grow.

"Ecologically, you could do more damage trying to remove all the ash than

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BY MICHAEL GORDON
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Given a second trial in Charlotte, former Beazer executive Michael Rand heard the same verdict: Guilty.

A federal jury on Friday convicted Rand of securities fraud and other charges stemming from what prosecutors describe as a seven-year accounting conspiracy at Beazer.

Rand was also accused of

attempting to block a grand jury investigation into his company's questionable home-mortgage practices that led to hundreds of foreclosures around Charlotte.

Rand, 52, and the former chief accounting officer of the Atlanta-based construction giant, faces a maximum penalty of 85 years in prison and a \$1.25 million fine. Sentencing will occur at a later date.

He was convicted of many of the same charges in 2011. But U.S. District Judge Robert Conrad ordered a

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