Washington man is 1st in U.S. to catch new virus from China

By CARLA K. JOHNSON and MIKE STOBBE

SEATTLE (AP) — The U.S. on Tuesday reported its first case of a new and potentially deadly virus circulating in China, saying a Washington state resident who returned last week from the outbreak’s epicenter was hospitalized near Seattle. The man, identified as a Snohomish County resident in his 30s, was in good condition and wasn’t considered a threat to medical staff or the public, health officials said.

U.S. officials stressed that they believe the virus’ overall risk to the American public remained low. “This is not a moment of high anxiety,” Gov. Jay Inslee said. The newly discovered virus has infected about 300 people, all of whom had been in China, and killed six.

Continued on Page 2
Continued from Front

The virus can cause coughing, fever, breathing difficulty and pneumonia. The U.S. joins a growing list of places outside mainland China reporting cases, following Thailand, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan. Airports around the world have stepped up monitoring, checking passengers from China for signs of illness in hopes of containing the virus during the busy Lunar New Year travel season.

Late last week, U.S. health officials began screening passengers from Wuhan in central China, where the outbreak began. The screening had been underway at three U.S. airports — New York City’s Kennedy airport and the Los Angeles and San Francisco airports. On Tuesday, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced it would add Chicago’s O’Hare airport and Atlanta’s airport to the mix later this week.

What’s more, officials also will begin forcing all passengers from Wuhan to go to one of those five airports if they wish to enter the U.S. The hospitalized U.S. resident had no symptoms when he arrived at the Seattle-Tacoma airport last Wednesday, but he started feeling ill on Thursday and went to a doctor on Sunday with a fever and a cough, officials said. Lab testing on Monday confirmed he had the virus.

“The gentleman right now is very healthy,” Dr. Nancy Messonnier of the CDC said Tuesday.

The hospital, Providence Regional Medical Center in Everett, said in a statement that it expected the man would remain in isolation and under monitoring there at least until Thursday. CDC officials said they sent a team to Washington to try to track down people who might have come in contact with the man. The hospital also said it was contacting “the small number of staff and patients” who may have been with the man at a clinic.

The man is originally from central China, lives alone in the U.S. and made the trip solo, officials said. There were relatively few people who came in contact with him since he got back, health officials said.

Last month, doctors in Wuhan began seeing the new virus in people who got sick after spending time at a wholesale seafood market. More than 275 cases of the newly identified virus have been confirmed in China, most of them in Wuhan, according to the World Health Organization.

The count includes six deaths — all in China, most of them age 60 or older, including at least some who had a previous medical condition. Officials have said the virus probably spread from animals to people, but this week Chinese officials said they’ve concluded it also can spread from person to person. Health authorities this month identified the germ behind the outbreak as a new type of coronavirus. Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses, some of which cause the common cold; others found in bats, camels and other animals have evolved into more severe illnesses.

SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome — as well as influenza, bird flu, adenovirus and other common lung-infecting germs. The new virus so far does not appear to be as deadly as SARS and MERS, but viruses can sometimes mutate to become more dangerous. University of Washington coronavirus researcher David Veesler said the public “should not be panicking right now.”

The response has been “very efficient,” Veesler said. “In a couple of weeks, China was able to identify the germ behind the outbreak as a new type of coronavirus. Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses, some of which cause the common cold; others found in bats, camels and other animals have evolved into more severe illnesses. SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome, belongs to the coronavirus family, but Chinese state media say the illness in Wuhan is different from coronaviruses that have been identified in the past. Earlier laboratory tests ruled out SARS and MERS — Middle East respiratory syndrome — as well as influenza, bird flu, adenovirus and other common lung-infecting germs.

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Reports: Flooding risks could devalue Florida real estate

Associated Press
MIAMI (AP) — Flooding due to climate change-related sea level rising, the erosion of natural barriers and long-periods of rain pose substantial economic risks to Florida, particularly to the value of South Florida real estate, according to two new reports released last week.

For years, Florida lawmakers mostly ignored climate change under then-Gov. Rick Scott, who is now a U.S. Senator. But GOP Gov. Ron DeSantis has taken a more aggressive stance at tackling the issue, although environmentalists want him to do more.

Based on past trends, losses from flooding in Florida could devalue vulnerable homes by $30 billion to $80 billion, or about 15% to 35%, by 2050, according to a report from McKinsey Global Institute.

Average annual losses for residential real estate due to storm surge from hurricanes amount to $2 billion today, but that projection could increase to about $3 billion to $4.5 billion by 2050, the McKinsey report said.

"Flooding in Florida could not only damage housing but also raise insurance costs, affect property values of exposed homes, and in turn reduce property tax revenues for communities," the McKinsey report said. Furthermore, the impact of a 100-year-storm event could be even more devastating over time, going from $35 billion today to between $50 billion and $75 billion by 2050, the McKinsey report said.

A separate report from the climate-risk analytics firm Jupiter Intelligence said the percentage of vulnerable oceanfront properties affected by extreme flooding will rise in Miami-Dade County from 5% in 2019 to 98% by 2050.

By 2050, annual flooding damage county-wide in Miami-Dade County is expected to roughly double, leading to shortages in affordable insurance coverage and real estate market instability, according to the Jupiter Intelligence report.

"Ignoring, or underestimating, the actual economic risk posed by moderate flooding is common to other geographies in the U.S. and around the world," said Rich Sorkin, CEO of Jupiter in a statement. "Almost none of this risk is reflected in prices. Most of this dynamic is not yet understood, nor is it implemented into the decision-making of financial institutions."

The short-term impacts of flooding will be felt within the next decade, according to the Jupiter report.
McConnell abruptly eases impeachment limits

By LISA MASCARO, ERIC TUCKER and ZEKE MILLER
Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell abruptly eased his restrictive proposed rules for President Donald Trump's impeachment trial, backing off the condensed two-day schedule to add a third for opening arguments after protests from senators, including Republicans.

The trial quickly burst into a partisan fight at the Capitol as the president's lawyers opened arguments Tuesday in support of McConnell's plan. Democrats objected loudly to McConnell's initially proposed rules, and some Republicans made their concerns known in private at a GOP lunch.

Without comment, the Republican leader quietly submitted an amended proposal after meeting behind closed doors with his senators as the trial opened. The handwritten changes would add the extra day and allow House evidence to be included in the record. There is still deep disagreement about calling additional witnesses.

"It's time to start with this trial," said White House Counsel Pat Cipollone, the president's lead lawyer in brief remarks as the proceedings opened in public.

"READ THE TRANSCRIPTS!" the president tweeted from miles away, as he returned to his hotel at a global leaders conference in Davos, Switzerland. That's the transcript of his phone call in which he asked new Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy for "a favor." The Democrats cite that transcript as solid evidence against Trump, though he repeatedly describes it as "perfect."

Democrats had warned that the rules package from Trump's ally, the Senate GOP leader, could force midnight sessions that would keep most Americans in the dark and create a sham proceeding.

"This is not a process for a fair trial, this is the process for a rigged trial," Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., the chairman of the House Intelligence Committee leading the prosecution, told reporters. He called it a "cover-up."

Schiff opened his arguments before the Senate sitting as jurors, calling for more witnesses to testify. Schiff noted the sudden change in proposed rules, made moments before he spoke.

"The facts will come out in the end," Schiff said. "The question is, will it come out in time?" McConnell said, "The president's lawyers will finally receive a level playing field," contrasting it with the House impeachment inquiry.

The rare impeachment trial, unfolding in an election year, is testing whether Trump's actions toward Ukraine warrant removal at the same time that voters are forming their own verdicts on his White House.

Just weeks before the first Democratic primary contests, four senators who are also presidential candidates were off the campaign trail, seated as jurors.

"My focus is going to be on impeachment," Sen. Bernie Sanders, the Vermont independent running for the Democratic nomination, told reporters. He said his supporters would keep working "to defeat the most dangerous president in American history."
Virginia Senate advances bill to scrap Lee-Jackson holiday

RICHBOND, Va. (AP) — The Virginia Senate on Tuesday advanced legislation to scrap the state’s Lee-Jackson holiday celebrating two Confederate generals.

The Democratic-led Senate voted largely along party lines to pass legislation that would make Election Day a state holiday instead of Lee-Jackson Day.

The legislation now goes to the House for consideration.

Lee-Jackson Day, established over 100 years ago, is observed annually on the Friday preceding the third Monday in January. It honors Confederate generals Robert E. Lee and Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson, both native Virginians. Critics of the Lee-Jackson holiday view it as a celebration of the state’s slave-holding history that’s offensive to African Americans. Many cities and counties have opted not to observe it.

Police: Mother says she killed 3 kids found in Phoenix home

By ANITA SNOW
The Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — A Phoenix woman has been arrested on suspicion of killing her three children, who were found dead inside the family’s home after firefighters got a call about a drowning, authorities said Tuesday.

The 22-year-old mother, Rachel Henry, “has admitted to harming her three children,” which led to their deaths, police Sgt. Mercedes Fortune told reporters outside the home on a block with several weathered wooden houses and an old mobile home in a once rural area of southern Phoenix.

A relative who lives at the house called police late Monday, and officers found a 7-month-old girl, 2-year-old girl and 3-year-old boy in a living room with no obvious trauma.

The Phoenix Fire Department also received a call from the home reporting a drowning involving three children, Capt. Rob McDade said.

Relatives initially believed illness may have been a factor, but Fortune said police “are comfortable in saying now that the mother is responsible for the death of the children.”

Officers administered CPR and fire officials provided first aid, but the children were pronounced dead. Police were interviewing the children’s 30-year-old father and a 49-year-old relative who lives in the home, authorities said.

The family had recently moved from Oklahoma.

Television footage showed two officers escorting Henry into a Phoenix jail, where she was booked on three counts of first-degree murder, police said. She was clad in a white gown with her hands cuffed behind her.

There was no information on whether she had an attorney who could speak on her behalf.

The Arizona Department of Child Safety didn’t have any earlier contacts or abuse reports involving the family, spokesman Darren DaRonco said.

A makeshift memorial of three white candles was seen near the house.

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NO DRINK MINIMUM • SEATING FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE • UNRATED FOR MATURE AUDIENCES • LINE UP SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
WASHINGTON (AP) — Alarmed by a deadly new twist in the nation’s drug addiction crisis, the government will allow states to use federal money earmarked for the opioid epidemic to help growing numbers of people struggling with meth and cocaine.

The little-noticed change is buried in a massive spending bill passed by Congress late last year. Pressed by constituents and state officials, lawmakers of both parties and the Trump administration agreed to broaden the scope of a $1.5 billion grant program previously restricted to the opioid crisis. Starting this year states can also use those federal dollars to counter addiction to “stimulants,” a term the government uses for methamphetamine and cocaine.

“Meth and cocaine are making a comeback and they are more potent than they were during the last wave,” said Mark Stringer, director of Missouri’s Department of Mental Health. He oversees the state’s efforts to prevent addiction, get drug-dependent people into treatment, and support them in recovery.

“Where meth is much more prevalent, the epidemic will be a game-changer.”

About 68,000 people died of drug overdoses in the U.S. in 2018, with opioids involved in about two-thirds of the cases. Opioids are a drug class that includes fentanyl, heroin, certain prescription painkillers, and various chemical combinations concocted for street sales. But the national numbers also hide dramatic differences in the deadliest drugs across the land.

In most states west of the Mississippi meth is the biggest killer, according to government data for 2017. Meanwhile, the highly lethal opioid fentanyl maintains its grip on the East and Midwest. Cocaine ranks third overall nationally in drug-involved deaths.

Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H., whose state has been on the frontlines of the crisis, said she was hearing from all quarters last year that the drug-addiction scourge is gradually changing.

“They were seeing much more impact from meth and from cocaine, substances they couldn’t address because of specific language in the law,” said Shaheen, referring to previous restrictions in the federal grant program aimed at opioids.

As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, which writes spending bills, Shaheen said she worked with Republican and Democratic leaders to add “stimulants” — not only opioids — to the language of the 2020 spending bill. White House drug czar James W. Carroll said the Trump administration was also hearing calls for more flexibility from state officials, and supported the change.

“I know the term ‘opioid crisis’ is used a lot, and it’s not my preferred way of describing what we’re up against,” said Carroll. “I say what we really have is an addiction crisis.”

Other senators pushing to broaden the grant program included Republicans Rob Portman of Ohio and Sheldon Moore Capito of West Virginia, also a member of the Appropriations Committee. Their states have been ravaged by opioids. Federal lawmakers don’t want to be caught flat-footed if another drug crisis breaks out in an election year. The nation has been starting to see progress on opioids, with deaths declining slightly.

Last week the House Energy and Commerce Committee sent letters to federal agencies requesting detailed information on evolving patterns of cocaine and meth use.

“We are concerned that while the nation, rightly so, is devoting so much of its attention and resources to the opioid epidemic, another epidemic — this one involving cocaine and methamphetamine — is on the rise,” wrote committee leaders Chairman Frank Pallone, D-N.J, and ranking Republican Greg Walden of Oregon.

Meth, which was once cooked in makeshift labs in the U.S., is now produced by Mexican cartels and smuggled across the border. The price of the drug has dropped even as its purity has risen.

The increased prevalence of cocaine is being driven by greater supply, as cultivation of the coca plant has become more widespread in Colombia. Cocaine can also be laced with fentanyl, contributing to overdose deaths. As with meth, government data showing a decrease in cocaine has dropped while its purity has risen.

Treating people addicted to meth or cocaine is different from treating opioid dependence.

Maryland GOP governor wants more visas for foreign workers

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) — Maryland’s Republican governor on Tuesday urged federal officials to allow more H-2B visas for foreign workers to help the state’s $355 million seafood industry and seasonal employers.

Gov. Larry Hogan made the request in a letter to Acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf and Labor Secretary Eugene Scalia. Hogan also called for a long-term solution.

“These workers are vital to rural Maryland and in particular our Eastern Shore,” Hogan wrote. “In addition to lifting the cap, I ask that you partner with Congress and Maryland’s congressional delegation to finally find a long-term solution to this issue.”

In a typical year, 500 H-2B seasonal workers are needed for Maryland’s 20 licensed crab picking houses, the governor said. The number of H-2B visas is now capped at 66,000 nationally. Last year, the federal government allowed an additional 30,000 visas through the program, after a 2018 decision to limit the number.

U.S. Sen. Chris Van Hollen, a Democrat, said Maryland’s federal delegation has repeatedly pushed President Donald Trump’s administration to release more H-2B visas. Van Hollen said he has visited crab houses on Maryland’s Eastern Shore and seen firsthand “the dire need for these employees.”

“This year, we are continuing to urge the Administration to release additional visas quickly and will do everything in our power to support our local businesses and industry,” Van Hollen said.

Hogan wrote that without an end to the “arbitrary lottery system,” local seafood processors will be unable to open for business or be forced to “significantly reduce their operations.”

“Another year of hardship could permanently damage Maryland’s sustainable seafood industry, causing these iconic family and small businesses to close or constrict, which would have a devastating impact on commerce and jobs, particularly in economically disadvantaged areas of the state,” Hogan wrote. Maryland’s blue crab harvest season starts on April 1. Hogan invited Scalia and Wolf to personally visit a Chesapeake Bay crab house or processor.
At 90, Alaska Native woman will be 1st counted in U.S. Census

By MARK THIESSEN
TOKSOOK BAY, Alaska (AP) — Lizzie Chimiugak has lived for 90 years in the windswept western wilds of Alaska, born to a nomadic family who lived in mud homes and followed where the good hunting and fishing led.

Her home now is an outpost on the Bering Sea, Toksook Bay, and she is about to become the first person counted in the U.S. Census, taken every 10 years to apportion representation in Congress and federal money.

"Elders that were before me, if they didn't die too early, I wouldn't have been the first person counted," Lizzie Chimiugak said, speaking Yup'ik language of Yugtun, with family members serving as interpreters. "Right now, they're considering me as an elder, and they're asking me questions I'm trying my best to give answers to, or to talk about what it means to be an elder."

The decennial U.S. census has started in rural Alaska, out of tradition and necessity, ever since the U.S. purchased the territory from Russia in 1867. The ground was still frozen, which allows easier access before the spring melt makes many areas inaccessible to travel and residents scatter to subsistence hunting and fishing grounds. The mail service is spotty in rural Alaska and the internet connectivity unreliable, which makes door-to-door surveying important.

The rest of the nation, including more urban areas of Alaska, begin the census in mid-March. On Tuesday, Steven Dillingham, director of the census bureau, will conduct the first interview. Because of federal privacy laws, the bureau won't even confirm Chimiugak will be the first person counted, even though it's the worst kept secret in her hometown.

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German court may reject appeal to remove anti-Semitic relic

By KIRSTEN GRIESEHABER
and KERSTIN SOPKE
NAUMBURG, Germany (AP) — A court in eastern Germany indicated Tuesday that it will likely reject a Jewish man's bid to force the removal of an ugly remnant of centuries of anti-Semitism from a church where Martin Luther once preached.

The Naumburg court's senate said, at a hearing, that "it will maybe reject the appeal," court spokesman Henning Haberland told reporters.

"The senate could not follow the plaintiff's opinion that the defamatory sculpture can be seen as an expression of disregard in its current presentation," Haberland said.

The verdict will be announced on February 4.

The so-called "Judensau," or "Jew pig," sculpture on the Town Church in Wittenberg dates back to around 1300. It is perhaps the best-known of more than 20 such anti-Semitic relics from the Middle Ages that still adorn churches across Germany and elsewhere in Europe.

Located 4 meters (13 feet) above the ground on a corner of the church, it depicts Jews suckling on the teats of a sow, while a rabbi lifts the animal's tail. In 1570, after the Protestant Reformation, an inscription referring to an anti-Jewish tract by Luther was added. Jews consider pigs impure and no one disputes that the sculpture is deliberately offensive. But there is strong disagreement about what to do with the relief.

Tuesday's hearing was the second round in the legal dispute, which comes at a time of mounting concern about anti-Semitism in Germany. In May, a court ruled against plaintiff Michael Duellmann, who wants the relief to be taken off the church and put in the nearby Luther House museum.

Judges in Dessau rejected arguments that he has a right to have the sculpture removed because it formally constitutes slander and the parish is legally responsible.

The relief "is a terrible falsification of Judaism ... a defamation of and insult to the Jewish people," Duellmann says, arguing that it has "a terrible effect up to this day."

When the church was renovated in the early 1980s, the parish decided to leave the sandstone sculpture in place, and it was also restored. In 1988, a memorial was built on the ground underneath it, referring to the persecution of Jews and the killing of 6 million in the Nazi Holocaust.

Pastor Johannes Block from the Town Church says the church also considers the sculpture unacceptably insulting. However, he argues it "no longer speaks for itself as a solitary piece, but is embedded in a culture of remembrance" thanks to the memorial.

"We don't want to hide or abolish history, but take the path of reconciliation with and through history," he says.

In Berlin, the federal commissioner for Jewish life in Germany told reporters he favored putting the relief down into a museum.

"This would be a good contribution by the church to overcome anti-Semitism," Felix Klein told reporters ahead of the court hearing.

In this Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2020 photo the so-called "Judensau," or "Jew pig," sculpture is displayed on the facade of the Stadtkirche (Town Church) in Wittenberg, Germany. Associated Press

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Email resumes to:

Kevin Foley, Chairman
ABC Board of Directors
< teamboston911@aol.com >
A woman photographs the Mediterranean sea as the waves hit the breakwater during a storm in Barcelona, Spain, Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2020.

Associated Press

Winter storm lashes Spanish coast, leaves 4 dead, power cuts

MADRID (AP) — A winter storm lashed much of Spain for a third day Tuesday, leaving 200,000 people without electricity, schools closed and roads blocked by snow as it killed four people.

Massive waves and gale-force winds smashed into seafront towns, damaging many shops and restaurants and flooding some streets.

One video showed a powerful wave crashing over a seafront wall and sending water cascading toward the street and nearby buildings in Cala Ratjada on the Mediterranean island of Mallorca.

Ports on the nearby island of Menorca have been closed for two days, the La Vanguardia newspaper said.

Another video showed the swollen Onyar River in the northeastern city of Gerona gushing past buildings and almost touching the bottom of some bridges. Authorities warned there was a risk it could break its banks.

Much of Gerona province was without electricity for several hours Tuesday because of a fault in the power connection with France, emergency services said on Twitter.

Many schools remained closed in the northeastern region of Catalonia as well as the Valencia region further south and the inland region of Aragon, Spanish media said.

By JOHN LEICESTER
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Opening another front in their battle against the French government, protesting workers cut power to thousands of Parisians on Tuesday, plunging homes into darkness and shutting down trains to one of the capital’s main airports.

The deliberate outage lasted around two hours. It hit users in the southern suburbs of Paris, which include the Orly international airport and the massive Rungis market that supplies food to the Paris region.

Franck Jouanno, a local leader of the leftist CGT union, said the outage was a way to show the government “it’s symbolic.” Jouanno said the power cut, speaking in a telephone interview, “It made a buzz and that’s what everyone wants.”

The CGT is pushing for a complete withdrawal of the French government’s plans to overhaul the country’s pension system. The planned reforms have triggered six weeks of protests and crippling transport strikes.

But with many striking transport workers now returning to work, and train services largely restored in Paris and nationwide, hardcore protesters are looking for other methods to keep up the pressure on President Emmanuel Macron and his centrist government.

Jouanno described the Paris households that lost power when families were starting their day as “collateral damage.”

French President Emmanuel Macron delivers a speech as he visits a plant of British-Swedish pharmaceutical group AstraZeneca in Dunkirk, northern France, Monday, Monday, Jan. 20, 2020.

Associated Press

Power was cut to the automated shuttle train that serves Orly airport. The shuttle’s operator, the RATP, said thousands of users were impacted and that it “firmly condemns this act of malice.” Buses were used to transport passengers instead.

Power supplier Enedis said the money affected 35,000 of its customers. At the Rungis food market, generators took over and maintained power during the outage.

Julien Denormandie, a deputy minister, condemned the union action as “scandalous, irresponsible.”

Macron, who is trying to blend scores of separate pension systems and rules into a universal French pension system, says his plan will be fairer to all French workers and will be sustainable as the country ages. But workers in sectors who can now sometimes retire earlier than the official age of 62 don’t want to lose their special privileges. Some power grid workers can retire as young as 57, Jouanno said.

Changing tack, French strikers turn off power to press govt

By JOHN LEICESTER
Associated Press
China sentences ex-boss of Interpol to 13 years for bribes

BEIJING (AP) — China has sentenced the former president of Interpol, Meng Hongwei, to 13 years and six months in prison on charges of accepting more than $2 million in bribes. Meng was elected president of the international police organization in 2016, but his four-year term was cut short when he vanished after traveling to China from France in late 2018.

Interpol was not informed and was forced to make a formal request to China for information about Meng’s whereabouts amid suspicion he had fallen out of political favor with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Meng’s wife, who remains in France with their two children, has accused Chinese authorities of lying and questioned whether her husband was still alive. Grace Meng is now suing Interpol, accusing it of failing to protect him from arrest in China and failing to look after his family. Meng’s lawyers last year filed a legal complaint in the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague, Netherlands.

In a statement sent to The Associated Press, she said Interpol “breached its obligations owed to my family” and “is complicit in the internationally wrongful acts of its member country, China.”

A statement Tuesday from the No. 1 Intermediary Court in the northern city of Tianjin said Meng accepted the verdict and would not appeal. In addition to his prison sentence, he was fined 2 million yuan ($290,000). It said Meng, 66, admitted he abused his position to accept 14.4 million yuan ($2.1 million) in bribes while serving in various offices, including as vice minister of public security and maritime police chief, often in exchange for favors and using his influence with other officials.

Meng has already been fired from his positions and expelled from the Communist Party. The relatively light sentence was likely a result of what the court called his cooperative attitude and willingness to admit to and show remorse for his crimes.

While serving at Interpol, Meng retained his title as China’s vice minister of public security. It wasn’t clear when or how he had crossed Xi, who has leveraged a wide-ranging campaign against corruption at all levels to eliminate or intimidate political rivals.

As a long-serving vice minister of public security, Meng was on Xi’s radar for a time under Zhou Yongkang, the former security chief who was sentenced to life in prison, becoming the most powerful figure to fall in Xi’s anti-graft campaign.

UN rights panel finds climate change can be cause for asylum

BERLIN (AP) — A U.N. human rights panel has ruled for the first time that people fleeing the effects of climate change may be entitled to claim asylum, even as it dismissed an individual plaintiff’s case against his deportation from New Zealand.

The U.N. Human Rights Committee published its ruling Tuesday in the case of a man from Kiribati who was sent back to the Pacific island nation after being denied asylum by New Zealand in 2015.

The Geneva-based panel, which monitors states’ compliance with the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, concluded that although the deportation was legal, similar cases might in future justify asylum claims.

The ruling has no immediate legal impact, but it is likely to be cited by people who say their rights are endangered by the impacts of climate change — such as violent storms and sea level rise.

The plaintiff in the case, Ioane Teitiota, had argued that he and his family were threatened by the lack of fresh water and violent land disputes as the ocean encroaches on Kiribati. The panel concluded that he had failed to provide sufficient evidence for his claim and that while Kiribati is likely to become uninhabitable, there is still a chance the island’s government might avert this.

Still, the committee’s 18 independent experts acknowledged that “environmental degradation, climate change and unsustainable development constitute some of the most pressing and serious threats to the ability of present and future generations to enjoy the right to life.”

“This ruling sets forth new standards that could facilitate the success of future climate change-related asylum claims,” committee member Yuval Shany said.
Israel army kills 3 Palestinians after attack at Gaza fence

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — The Israeli military said its soldiers killed three Palestinians who crossed the Gaza border fence and threw an explosive device at troops on Tuesday.

The army said its troops fired on three suspects who crossed the security fence and “hurled a grenade or an explosive device” at the soldiers. There was no immediate comment from the Gaza authorities.

The incident along the Gaza frontier threatened to undermine efforts to reach an informal cease-fire between Israel and the Islamic militant group Hamas that rules the Palestinian enclave.

Earlier in the day, a senior Hamas official said that rules the Palestinian enclave. Earlier in the day, a senior Hamas official said that Hamas organized weekly protests along the Israeli-Gaza frontier. The quiet is meant to bolster an informal truce between Israel and Hamas being negotiated by international mediators.

Speaking to journalists, Hamas official Khalil al-Hayya accused the Israelis of moving too slowly. He said the balloons had been launched by disgruntled individuals, not Hamas. But he said his group was “satisfied” with the launches and is ready to send more “if the occupation doesn’t pick up the message.”

Israel and Egypt imposed a blockade on Gaza after Hamas, a militant group that seeks Israel’s destruction, seized control of the territory in 2007. The blockade, combined with Hamas’s mismanagement, has devastated the local economy.

After three wars and dozens of smaller skirmishes, the bitter enemies have been working through Qatari, Egyptian and U.N. mediators to reach a series of “understandings” that would ease the blockade in exchange for guarantees of quiet.

Al-Hayya said Hamas expects Israel to allow in more medical supplies, unlimited trade between Gaza and the world, help create more jobs and extend Qatari payments for electricity and poor families.

The incendiary balloons have not caused any damage or injuries on the Israeli side. But last week, an Israeli military helicopter struck an alleged Hamas target in Gaza in response to the resumption of the launches.

The U.N.’s Mideast envoy, Nickolay Mladenov, called the renewed balloon launches “concerning and regrettable” in a briefing to the Security Council on Tuesday. “These actions are a risk to the civilian population,” he said.

For the past 20 months, Hamas organized weekly demonstrations along the fence, demanding an end to the blockade.

The protests often turned violent, including burning of tires, throwing of explosives and launching of hundreds of incendiary balloons that torched large swaths of Israeli farmland. Over 200 Palestinians, mostly unarmed, were killed by Israeli fire during the marches and hundreds of others were badly wounded. Israel, which drew international accusations of using excessive force, has said it is defending itself from attacks and attempts to breach the border.

Hovering around 50%, Gaza’s unemployment rate is one of the world’s highest and most of its 2 million people rely on humanitarian assistance.

Iran says it is preparing for satellite launch

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran said Sunday that two newly constructed satellites have passed pre-launch tests and will be transported to the nation’s space center for eventual launch, without elaborating.

Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Javad Azari Jahromi tweeted about the development, calling it an “important research step.”

Iran has not said when it will launch the satellites, but often coordinates its launches with national holidays. It will celebrate the 41st anniversary of the Islamic Revolution next month.

Iran’s largely state-run media say the 90-kilogram (200-pound) Zafar satellites each have four high-resolution color cameras and will monitor and transmit data on natural resources as well as agricultural and environmental developments.

Iran says its satellite program, like its nuclear activities, is aimed at scientific research and other civilian applications. The U.S. and other Western countries have long been suspicious of the program because the same technology can be used to develop long-range missiles.
Office of Venezuela’s Guaidó raided during his trip abroad

By SCOTT SMITH
CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Intelligence police raided the office of Juan Guaidó on Tuesday, while the U.S.-backed opposition leader was travelling in Europe seeking to bolster support for his campaign to oust Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro.

Masked officers from feared SEBIN intelligence police unit blocked the building’s entrances and lined the street with their vehicles, barring entry by lawmakers aligned with Guaidó.

The United States and about 60 other nations recognize Guaidó, who heads the opposition-dominated National Assembly, as Venezuela’s legitimate president. They condone Maduro’s 2018 re-election was invalid and marred by fraud. Guaidó, however, has no control over government institution or the military.

Legislator Manuela Bolívar confirmed the raid on his office, saying she was allowed to go to the door of the third-floor space, where officers were still inside working inside.

Lawmakers called it an illegal search.

“We don’t know what they’re stolen or what they’ve brought with them,” lawmaker Ángel Torres said. “They usually enter without a judge’s order and set up a show saying they found this or that or any artifact they might have planted.”

In November, unidentified armed men with their faces covered raided the headquarters of Guaidó’s political party, taking cellphones, computer and ID cards from staffers the night before a large street protest against Maduro.

Tuesday’s police action came just hours after opposition lawmakers called off an attempt to hold a National Assembly session in the congress building across town, saying they wanted to avoid clashes with security forces and armed government supporters blocking entry.

Juan Pablo Guanipa, first vice president of the National Assembly, said from the headquarters of a political party that streets leading to their legislative building had been “militarized” by armed groups, so they were not going to attempt an entry until next week. Instead, the lawmakers held a makeshift meeting on a public square in an opposition-friendly part of Caracas away from downtown.

They sat on chairs set up before a stage amid trees and backed by their flag-colored streamer and emblem.

It was the third consecutive week that groups of armed civilians known as “coleros” and security forces blocked access for members of the National Assembly, which is the last major national institution under opposition control and the center of the struggle over who governs the crisis-wracked nation.

Last week, a caravan of SUVs carrying lawmakers toward the building was struck with rocks and poles by civilians and gunfire was heard. On Jan. 5, Guaidó attempted to surge a fence to get in only to be rebuffed by riot police.

Guanipa called on supporters to march with lawmakers to retake the National Assembly chambers next week, setting up a potential clash with the backers of Maduro.

“We are going to show them that we are fighting for the freedom of Venezuela,” Guanipa said. “We will defend Venezuela and we will always have, that we’re absolutely ready to do whatever is required to achieve democracy in Venezuela.”

During their remote session, lawmakers condemned officials for the disappearance of Israel León, a deputy in the National Assembly who they said was swept up by security forces shortly after leaving the party headquarters head- ed to the legislative building.

Venezuela’s Opposition leader Juan Guaidó, right, shakes hands with British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab at Foreign Office in London, Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2020. Associated Press

Panama begins exhumation of victims from 1989 U.S. invasion

Panama City cemetery after a truth commission set up three years ago documented about 20 disappearances from the U.S. military action to topple strongman Manuel Noriega.

Prosecutor Maribel Caballero told reporters the remains will be compared to a database of DNA from relatives in 14 cases.

Work began with the placing of yellow tape where the forensic experts would begin digging, though no soil had yet been turned by afternoon.

On hand to witness the process were relatives of missing and dead Panamanians, including the wife of a lieutenant in Noriega’s military who along with her daughters is asking for the opening of a coffin that they contend was mistakenly identified as containing his remains.

“I am going to demand they open that coffin for me because they put my father’s name there,” said Brigitte Benthancourt, 60, daughter of Braulio Benthancourt. “It is a lack of respect to put the name knowing that three times I told prosecutors it was not my father.”

The cemetery contains more than 100 people killed during the invasion that were first exhumed months after the event because they had been buried in common graves.

DNA testing is expected to take months.

“For me this is a celebration of being able to know where my father will be,” said Benthancourt, who lives in California. “We are already past the mourning.”

About 514 Panamanians including soldiers and civilians were killed in the invasion, according to official estimates, while the U.S. military reported 23 troop casualties.

Human rights groups believe the number of Panamanian dead could be higher.

A woman places flowers on the grave of a person who died during the 1989 U.S. military invasion that ousted Panamanian strongman Manuel Noriega, on the 30th anniversary of the invasion in Panama City, Friday, Dec. 20, 2019. Associated Press

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WORLD NEWS

CARACAS, Venezuela

By SCOTT SMITH

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The Kitchen Table enters fifth year of gastronomic success on NEW location: 
A very fine culinary journey of Caribbean and Peruvian fusion cuisine

The interior of the restaurant is if you were in an elegant establishment in Lima, the capital city of Peru. You feel elevated in the top of the building where dinner takes place in an intimate setting. The typical, colorful Peruvian fabrics dress the ceiling while the large windows dignify the room. There are only 16 seats available creating an intimacy underlined by the owner's personal attention. “This is an amazing experience,” says Robert J. Giordanelia from New York. “The food is truly divine,” shares a local guest. An evening at The Kitchen Table will be noted as unforgettable in your book of vacation memories, as it stands out from the regular island dinners.

It is all about consistency
The Peruvian-born Roxanna Salinas and her husband Jan van Nes are the secret formula behind The Kitchen Table’s success. The couple takes a personal approach to what they do, this is not about running a business as usual. This is more about making you feel welcomed home, as well as being pampered. They bring top hospitality, experience and authenticity to the table. Within this gourmet dinner concept the two blended the Peruvian culinary art of Roxanna’s top kitchen team and Jan’s expertise from The Kitchen Table. The result is one big trip of delight, indulge and tickling of your taste buds. The Kitchen Table welcomes you with open arms every Tuesday to Saturday.

Peruvian touch
In the last ten years, Peru has been recognized as one of the world’s best culinary destinations, and for seven consecutive years, the South American country has won the award for the Best Culinary destination at the Worlds Travel Awards. Biodiversity combined multiculturalism are the reasons why Peru is so rich in gastronomy. You can travel through the last 500 years, touch a mix of cultures whenever you taste authentic Peruvian cuisine. The Kitchen Table brings this epicurean delicacies to Aruba paired perfectly with the best wines and they will make you understand why Peru is at the height of today’s gastronomy.

EAGLE BEACH — The Kitchen Table is an elegant, classy, intimate, high-quality restaurant with an exceptional dining set-up. Dining here is an experience, a kind of sitting at your- best- friend’s or family’s kitchen table where you feel and taste that the food contains love. Are you looking for something different, an ecstatic foody trip, than this is where you need to go.

The 7-8 course gastronomic journey will start with sparkling wine at the patio of The Kitchen Table’s new location at Paradise Beach Villas as of 6.45PM. Around 7.00PM guests will be guided for a memorable dinner on the second floor of the other popular restaurant Asi es mi Peru. The dining concept reflects extraordinary, elegant and exquisite dishes from the Caribbean, Peruvian fusion and international cuisine created by the owners, Chef David Lizano and his team. To pair the perfect wines three sommeliers were invited to make the section.

The Kitchen Table is open from Tuesday to Saturday. Have a peak on their website www.thekitchenetableinaruba.com or call them at +297-5932173.
American authors of children’s book support cats & dogs foundation

ORANJESTAD — The Lipoffs from Maryland are a remarkable American family that fell in love with Aruba a long time ago. The Red Anchor in San Nicolas is where the book ‘Super Coco: “Will You Be My Friend” was born. An idea that sprouted out of an encounter between a black rooster and a pigeon. “This is a book about making friendships, diversity, acceptance, animals and the habitat. All with a backdrop of our beloved Aruba,” says Jay M. Lipoff.

Jay and Julie are back in Aruba to promote their book and at the same time support the local community. They paid a visit to the Nine Lives Aruba Foundation, a group of animal lovers who joined forces volunteering themselves to help animals in their free time. The Lipoffs wrote on their Facebook: “Bringing some kitten food and cat and dog toys to support some of the Aruban nonprofits helping animals, as part of our giving back portion from the proceeds of the book. It is heartbreaking but incredibly comforting to know that Geraldine Toro Vera Kock, her husband John and all of the volunteers at Nine Lives Aruba Foundation are doing everything they can to help care for, protect and find homes for cats and dogs.” Seeing them so happy with their new toys was so rewarding, the authors say. “There are amazing animals, filled with love, everywhere. Open up your heart and let them in.”

The story behind the book
Jay: “I have been visiting Aruba since 1998. It’s a wonderful place, and now with my family, we head out every couple of years.” One time they were here they came across a black rooster and a pigeon hanging out together day after day near Seroe Colorado, on the way to Baby Beach. “We chuckled and started to make up a story. We named the rooster Coco because he was near a vendor’s ice chest with Super Coco written on the side of it.” The story went from there and eventually resulted in a colorful book with amazing illustrations showing Aruba’s animals in their natural habitat.

The book not only has a deeper message that is important to children, but it also shows the island’s typical flora and fauna. In a playful way children learn that it is okay to have a friend that looks very different from themselves.

For more information: Facebook Super Coco.
It’s Carnival!

ORANJESTAD — While the official opening of the carnival season took off with the Torch Parade on January 4, the island caught the carnival fever and since then entered a series of carnival events that go on until February 25th.

The island is known for its white-sanded beaches and perfect climate, but there is one time in the year that Aruba draws thousands of visitors: carnival. If you have never been here before, come in carnival season as your experience will be amazing. Sensational musical events, queen elections and different parades are all part of this spectacular phenomenon. Carnival is part of Aruba’s history and cultural heritage, actually it is the largest cultural festival on the island. For the islanders it is a way to express their creativity and break away from the daily buzz of life. Dancing to the rhythm of local music while enjoying the ambience of the public are some of the ingredients of this festival. Oranjestad and San Nicolas are the stages for this display of unique designed costumes, amazing ambience and upbeat, local music. The festival is for everybody accessible and safe to visit. Behind the screens there is an enormous organization that makes sure that this festival runs smoothly. The police, inspection department, Red Cross volunteers, garbage service and many others work day and night to make sure that carnival is a success. All the trailers are being carefully inspected before they are allowed to participate as well as the vehicles that pull them. After each parade the streets are being cleaned and road blocks are being taken away so next day normal traffic flow occurs. The several organizations and institutions work together with the official carnival organization SMAC.

History

In the 1920’s the first carnival events were organized by social clubs that started private costume and masquerade parties. This year we celebrate Aruba’s 64th carnival, which means that the first grand parade took place in 1955. Since than Aruba’s carnival has grown big and is now able to stand shoulder to shoulder with the most renowned Carnival celebrations around the world. Aruba Today has put the coming carnival events for you in a row:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 24</td>
<td>7:00 PM - 12:00 AM</td>
<td>Tumberito Festival</td>
<td>San Nicolas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 27</td>
<td>8:00 PM - 1:00 AM</td>
<td>Pre-Final Caiso &amp; Soca Monarch</td>
<td>San Nicolas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 28</td>
<td>8:00 PM - 1:00 AM</td>
<td>Pre-Final Caiso &amp; Soca Monarch</td>
<td>San Nicolas</td>
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<td>Jan 29</td>
<td>8:00 PM - 1:00 AM</td>
<td>Pre-Final Caiso &amp; Soca Monarch</td>
<td>San Nicolas</td>
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<td>Jan 31</td>
<td>8:00 PM - 3:00 AM</td>
<td>Finals Caiso Monarch</td>
<td>San Nicolas</td>
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For more information you can visit Facebook page SMAC, the official carnival organization.
Birds of Aruba

ORANJESTAD — On May 11th, 2010, the Aruba Birdlife Conservation was founded with the aim of protecting the biodiversity in general and birds in and around Aruba in particular.

Among other things, the foundation will focus on increasing the survival chances of species of wild birds by promoting their preservation and conservation. The foundation publishes the most beautiful pictures of local birds on their social media that show us the beauty of Aruba’s birds and nature in general. Aruba Today gives you a little peek with the following pictures and descriptions from the foundations Facebook page.

The Great Egret
Serenity in Aruba’s National Park: a Great Egret flying in peace. When it is peaceful and quite, beautiful things start happening in nature.

Canadian in the house
The breeding season is over and it’s getting pretty cold in North America. Shore birds have started moving southwards as early as July. This wetland beauty wants to keep its toes warm. Our Canadian friends know exactly where they can do so best. A Greater Yellowlegs rediscovering Aruba’s Bubali Wetlands.

Cabochon
In its living form of so much more value than any gemstone. Aruba’s smallest and most master of flight. A top pollinator. A hovering Blenchi inspecting the human who just entered his territory.

Druif
This is a fruit with a character (5-10 cm/2-4 inches). It does not ripe until it is picked or falls off the tree. Druif is hard with a sandpaper like texture when immature, soft and juicy when ripe. It’s technically a berry, but contains a skin similar to that of a kiwi. It’s grainy and sweet, with a light, musky flavor. The sap or gum from the tree is also a source of ‘chicle’ the original ingredient used to make chewing gum. Rich in tannins, antioxidants shown to contain anti-inflammatory compounds, and vitamin C, essential for healthy immune function. Season: year-round.

Kenepa
Ovoid green fruit that grows in bunches on trees up to 30m high. The fruit is related to the lychee and have tight, thin but rigid skins. Inside the skin is the tart, tangy, or sweet pulp of the fruit covering a large seed. The pulp is usually cream or orange colored. Kenepa strengthens the immune system, and prevents the reproduction of bacteria and viruses in the body. This fruit is highly recommended to treat lung infections and urinary tract infections. It also helps to cure insomnia and rejuvenates the nervous system. Season: the fruit typically ripen during the summer.

Shimaruku
There is no chance you did not bump into one of the sea grape trees while spending your vacation on Aruba. The sea grape plant is often used in ocean-side landscaping in sandy soil right on the beach and it produces clusters of fruit that resemble grapes. Are sea grapes edible? Yes, they are. Animals enjoy sea grapes and humans can eat them as well, and they are used to make jam. They contain very low calories and sugar, enabling good bacteria to digest food and excrete waste quickly which is effective in preventing constipation. Season: Sep-Oct.

Tamarind
A delicious, sweet fruit that has a wide variety of uses and applications, both for medicinal and culinary purposes. It is a medium-sized bushy tree with evergreen leaves and fruit that develops in pods characterized by long, brown shells. Inside is a sticky, fleshy, juicy pulp, which is the Tamarind fruit. Both sweet and sour in taste, the fruit contains a significant level of vitamin C, as well as vitamin E, B vitamins, calcium, iron, phosphorous, potassium, manganese, and dietary fiber. There are also a number of organic compounds that make tamarind a powerful antioxidant and anti-inflammatory agent. Season: March.
A weekly calendar with a selection of what’s going on in Aruba

**Wednesday 22**

**Salsa Night at Bugaloe**
- Join our weekly FREE Salsa workshop!
- Every Wednesday we will show you the ins and outs of Latin dancing. The whole night Salsa music will be played to set the mood. Whether you want to dance the night away or just relax and enjoy the tunes of salsa music, it’s a perfect night out.
  - From 8:30pm-9:30pm
  - Bugaloe
  - Facebook: Bugaloe

**Thursday 23**

**Barefoot Beach BBQ**
- Join us for the Barefoot Beach BBQ on the Renaissance Ocean Suites Beach! A delicious BBQ made to order will be prepared for you accompanied by a build your own salad station, your choice of marmalade, side dishes and a decadent dessert station. Have some Family Fun around the grill with live music and a Beach Bar ready to serve you. Reservation is not required. Just walk-in and lets have some fun!
  - 6pm-10pm
  - Renaissance Ocean Suites
  - Facebook: Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino

**Friday 24**

**Samurai Mosaic Workshop**
- The Japanese once said, “A picture speaks louder than a thousand words.” After the successful Geisha Mosaic workshop, we are preparing the Samurai session for you. Claudia and Cosecha have a whole line of Asian-inspired pieces prepared for you in 2020. The samurai, the elite warrior who emerged in the 10th century, is ready to be created in mosaic style.
  - 5pm-7:30pm
  - Cosecha San Nicolas
  - Facebook: Aruba Cosecha

**Saturday 25**

**Betico Day**
- What a better way to learn more on the life of Aruba’s Liberator Betico Croes than visiting a museum. The guide at the Historical Museum Fort Zoutman & Willem III Toren will be happy to show you everything and take you back in history. Local dishes and sweet tooth will be available for you to try out.
  - From 12-4pm
  - Historical Museum Fort Zoutman, Oranjestad
  - Facebook: Museo Historico Aruba: Fort Zoutman & Willem III Toren

**Sunday 26**

**Arikok Cunucu Trail**
- The Arikok Cunucu Trail is a 2 hours walk where you will see and learn about the plants and birds. You will also learn more about the Indians on the island. After the walk we will enjoy a vegetarian dinner.
  - 4pm-7pm
  - Arikok National Park, Main Entrance
  - Facebook: Aruba Ramblers

**Monday 27**

**Joy of Aruba**
- Joy of Aruba is performed at the Divi Divi Hotel by the Popcorn Dancers, one of Aruba’s best Youth Dance Group. The performers will be presenting the most popular folkloric & modern music and dance of the island of Aruba. The Popcorn Dancers are determined to bring pleasure for your eyes, ears, heart & soul.
  - 8:30pm-9:30pm
  - Divi Tamarind
  - Facebook: Dream, Dare, Do - Aruba and Popcorn Club & Dancers Aruba

**Tuesday 28**

**Pinchos Grill & Bar**
- Enjoy a unique experience during sunset or at night over the clear blue waters of Aruba at this chic grill and bar on a pier. Specialized on Grilled seafood, steaks and much more. All you need is a cocktail, a nice breeze, delicious food and great company!
  - 5pm-12am
  - Surfside Marina, Oranjestad
  - Facebook: Pinchos Grill & Bar
Lillard scores 61 as Trail Blazers beat Warriors 129-124

Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard shoots a 3-point basket against the Golden State Warriors during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Portland, Ore., Monday, Jan. 20, 2020.

Associated Press
Page 20
By BEN WALKER

AJ Hinch, Alex Cora and Carlos Beltrán lost their jobs in the wake of the Houston Astros’ sign-stealing scam, leaving three teams without managers three weeks before the start of spring training.

On and off the field, the fallout from one of the biggest scandals in Major League Baseball history is bound to carry over. A look at what’s on deck for the Astros and MLB:

THE FIERS FACTOR
Whistleblower or whiner?
Fact is, when A’s pitcher Mike Fiers went public, MLB was forced to act. If he speaks anonymously, most likely his comments get whisked into the whis-per bin. Fiers won’t have to bat against the Astros, and it’d be too obvious to bunt up the first base line and try to run him over. Will Houston hoot and holler at its ex-teammate? We won’t need to wait long to see if there’s any ill will — the Astros’ first road game of the season is at Oakland on March 30, the start of a three-game series. Count on those Athletics fans in the outfield bleachers at the Coliseum to bang their drums loudly to signal ridicule, not pitches.

GETTING EVEN
Cleveland ace Mike Clev-inger hinted at drilling Hous-ton hitters. Others will, too. There was plenty of tough talk when Michael Jordan tried baseball and more when juiced-up sluggers teed off in the Steroids Era. “Can you imagine if Nolan Ryan knew you were relay-ing his signs? You’d probably be missing a head,” Mike Piazza said last week. So will the beanballs fly? Not likely. That kind of re-taliation just isn’t a big part of the game anymore. Wouldn’t be a shock to see some guys hit in the ribs and backside, perhaps on those wayward curveballs that now serve as purpose pitches. But Alex Bregman & Co. are bound to hear taunts everywhere they play outside Minute Maid Park, especially when they swing way over a slider: “Didn’t know that was com-ing, did ya?”

THE ASTERISKS
For a century, it’s been the Black Sox — no one ever calls them the 1919 White Sox. Already, the label of Houston Asterisks is draw-ing attention. That could last a long, long time. MLB isn’t about to strip the Astros of their World Series crown and give it to the Dodgers, or take away Jose Altuve’s MVP trophy and hand it to Aaron Judge. But could this affect Altuve’s market-ability? And how about the first Hall of Fame test case in a few years — Beltrán’s resume includes nine All-Star selections, three Gold Gloves, 435 home runs, gilt-tery postseasons and now, also, prominent mention in Commissioner Rob Manfred’s report as a ringleader in the sign-swiping she-nanigans. Fans are usually willing to forgive someone who admits wrongdoing. Denying or stonewalling doesn’t often turn out so well. Witness Pete Rose’s path. Barry Bonds and Roger Clemens are shut out of Cooperstown; Mark McGwire eventually came clean and was welcomed back into the majors.

WHO’S NEXT?
A spy in the Wrigley Field scoreboard, cameras at Shea Stadium. We’re certain to hear tales about past cheating schemes. Jack McDowell says Tony La Russa rigged a system with the White Sox in the 1980s. MLB put everyone on notice with these penalties and that should have an effect — for a while, any- way. Yet in this high-tech world, it’d be foolish to think someone won’t try to game the system sometime. In the meantime, will MLB change the rules on the sport’s most obvious non-secret, the pine tar and other sticky substances that pitchers use to get a better grip on the ball? Maybe that’s OK. Shaky control in cold, damp weather doesn’t benefit anyone. Remember, though, Fiers himself came under scrut-iny for a shiny patch on his glove after pitching a no-hitter for the Astros against the Dodgers in 2015.

Jose Altuve signs autographs for young fans during the baseball team’s FanFest at Minute Maid Park on Saturday, Jan. 18, 2020, in Houston.
Kemba beats LeBron for 1st time, Celtics top LA 139-107

By The Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Kemba Walker scored 20 points to end a career-long personal losing streak against LeBron James, and Jayson Tatum scored 27 to help Boston send the top team in the Western Conference to its biggest loss of the season. Jaylen Brown scored 20 points and Enes Kanter had 18 points and 11 rebounds for Boston, which snapped a three-game losing streak. James had 15 points and 13 assists for the Lakers, who had won 10 of their previous 11 games. But the Celtics made 13 of their first 22 3-point attempts to open 103-75 lead in the third quarter — the biggest against Los Angeles all season until Boston made it a 34-point game in the fourth.

TRAIL BLAZERS 129, WARRIORS 124
PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Damian Lillard set a franchise record with 61 points, including a career-best 11 3-pointers, and the short-handed Portland Trail Blazers outlasted the equally depleted Golden State Warriors 129-124 in overtime Monday night. Lillard’s previous career high was 60 points earlier this season against Brooklyn. His 11 3-pointers were a team record.

It was Portland’s third straight regular-season game of Lillard’s career with more than 50 points. He also had 10 rebounds for his 10th double-double of the season. Hassan Whiteside added 17 points and 21 rebounds for the Blazers, who snapped a two-game skid.

Alec Burks scored a season-high 33 points for Golden State, and rookie Nico Mannion added a career-best 15.

BUCKS 111, BULLS 98
CHICAGO (AP) — Giannis Antetokounmpo had a triple-double and scored his 10,000th career point, and the Bucks beat the Bulls to sweep the four-game season series.

Antetokounmpo had 28 points, 14 rebounds and 10 assists for his fourth triple-double of the season. He reached 10,000 points on a jump hook with 4:30 remaining in the fourth. Kris Middleton added 24 points for Milwaukee, which has won 10 consecutive games over the Bulls dating to the 2017-18 season. The Bucks earned their seventh consecutive win, running their league-best record to 39-6. Zach LaVine had 24 points for Chicago, which shot just 37% from the field.

THUNDER 112, ROCKETS 107
HOUSTON (AP) — Chris Paul scored 28 points, Danilo Gallinari had 25 and Oklahoma City rallied for the road win. Paul scored 27 in the first half against his former team. Gallinari and Dennis Schroder, who scored 17 of his 23 points after halftime, carried the Thunder after the break.

Houston star Russell Westbrook had 32 points, 12 assists and 11 rebounds against his former team. James Harden scored 29 points but was astonishingly inefficient, missing 1 of 17 3-point attempts. The Rockets have dropped a season-high four in a row.

JAZZ 118, PACERS 88
SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Donovan Mitchell scored 25 points and Rudy Gobert had 20 points and 14 rebounds, leading Utah to the runaway victory.

Bojan Bogdanovic added 16 points for the Jazz. Utah never trailed on its way to snapping a three-game losing streak to the Pacers. The Jazz shot 54% from the field, scored 60 points in the paint and finished with a 53-30 advantage in rebounds.

Myles Turner and Aaron Holiday scored 12 points apiece for Indiana.

NUGGETS 107, TIMBERWOLVES 100
MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Michael Porter Jr. posted his second double-double in three games with 20 points and 14 rebounds, helping the short-handed Nuggets to the road win.

Jerami Grant scored 19 points for the Nuggets, who again had three of their top five scorers absent — Jamal Murray, Paul Millsap and Gary Harris jr. — and were playing on back-to-back nights. Nikola Jokic had 17 points and 13 rebounds.

Kevin Love, who has missed the last 23 games with a left elbow strain, went 12 for 18 from the field, including 7 of 10 from 3-point range. Brandon Ingram scored 25 points and Nicolo Melli added 15, including a trio of 3-pointers.

Dillon Brooks led Memphis, matching his season high with 31 points. Jaren Jackson Jr. scored 19 points and Ja Morant had 16 points and nine assists.

SPURS 120, SUNS 118
SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Derrick White scored a season-high 25 points, Bryn Forbes added 24 and the Spurs coughed up a 20-point lead in the second half before rallying for the win.

San Antonio led 78-58 midway through the third quarter and 96-83 going into the fourth, but Phoenix chipped away. Suns center Deandre Ayton made two free throws with 3:55 left that cut San Antonio’s lead to 16 points, but Rubio hit a layup while drawing a foul, adding the free throw to push the Spurs ahead for the first time at 113-111 with 2:55 left. Forbes hit his eighth 3-pointer with 2:33 remaining to put the Spurs back up 114-113.

Devin Booker led the Suns with 37 points. He had 22 during the third quarter in a nearly single-handed effort to keep Phoenix close.

WIZARDS 106, PISTONS 100
WASHINGTON (AP) — Bradley Beal scored 29 points and Iran Mahinmi added 21, helping Washington snap a three-game losing streak.

Beal passed Wes Unseld for fourth place on the team’s career scoring list. Derrick Rose led Detroit with 21 points, and Andre Drummond had 18 points and 16 rebounds.
By HOWARD FENDRICH  
AP Tennis Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Her Grand Slam losing streak up to four matches, Maria Sharapova was sure if her future would be coming.

She wasn't able to provide answers.

Might this have been her last trip. Johanna Konta Open, a tournament she in 2008 as part of a career Grand Slam?

"I don't know," Sharapova said, her head shaking and eyes looking down. "I don't know. ... It's tough for me to tell what's going to happen in 12 months' time."

Might she enter low-level tournaments to try to raise a WTA ranking that once was No. 1, all those years ago, already was only 145th entering at Melbourne Park and now will tumble outside of the top 350 folowing a 6-3, 6-4 loss to Donna Vekic on Tuesday?

"I just don't know," Sharapova said. "I haven't thought of my schedule moving forward from here yet."

After a rainy Day 1 filled up Tuesday's schedule so much that at least eight matches needed to be postponed until Wednesday, the sun was out and there was plenty of action around the grounds at the first Grand Slam tournament of the decade. Joining Sharapova on the way out were three-time major semifinalist Johanna Konta, 2019 French Open semi-finalist Amanda Anisimova and the 20th-seeded man, Felix Auger-Aliassime.

Seeded winners included two-time major champion Simona Halep and No. 1 Rafael Nadal, who began his bid to equal Roger Federer's record of 20 Grand Slam singles titles with a 6-2, 6-3, 6-0 victory over Hugo Dellien. The man Nadal beat in last year's U.S. Open final, No. 4 Daniil Medvedev, eliminated 2019 Australian Open quarterfinalist Frances Tiafoe of the U.S. in four sets. Also advancing: three-time major champion Stan Wawrinka, two-time French Open runner-up Dominic Thiem, No. 12 Fabio Fognini, No. 16 Karen Khachanov and No. 23 Nick Kyrgios, an Australian who spurred tennis players to contribute funds for wildfire relief efforts — and inspired TV analyst John McEnroe to pony up $1,000 per set Kyrgios wins the rest of the way in the tournament.

This is the only time in Sharapova's long career that the 32-year-old Russian has lost in the first round at three consecutive major tournaments. Indeed, there only was one other instance of Sharapova dropping opening matches at Slams twice in a row: All the way back in 2003, when she was a teen and made immediate exits at the very first two major appearances of her career. Hampered by right shoulder problems that have been an off-and-on issue for more than a decade, Sharapova is no longer the player she once was. One difficulty is simply that shoulder itself; another is the lack of match play because of her health. And since serving a 15-month ban after failing a drug test at the 2016 Australian Open, Sharapova has only reached one major quarterfinal.

She played a total of 15 matches last season, going 8-7. After a promising run to the fourth round in Melbourne a year ago, including a victory over reigning champion Caroline Wozniacki that was her most recent win against a top-20 opponent, Sharapova went 5-6 the rest of 2019.

"It's tough to say I'm on the right track right now, 45 minutes after the match," she said Tuesday. "But, I mean, there is no way to get out of it except to keep believing in yourself, because if you do all the right things and you don't believe in yourself, then that's probably a bad formula."

Against the 19th-seeded Vekic, who's never been past the second round at the Australian Open, Sharapova appeared to be righting herself at the outset of the second set, grabbing a 4-1 lead, before ceding the final five games.

"She's still hitting it as hard as I can remember," Vekic said. Perhaps. But Sharapova was not putting the ball where she wanted, especially on her forehand side, which produced 18 unforced errors alone — more than Vekic's total of 17.

"As far as the work that I did, yeah, I did all the right things. I put in all the right work. There is no guarantee that even when you do all of those things, that you're guaranteed victory in a first round or in the third round or in the final. That's the name of this game," she said. "That's why it's so special to be a champion, even for one time."
Derek Jeter, Larry Walker elected to baseball Hall of Fame

By RONALD BLUM
AP Baseball Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — Derek Jeter came within one vote of being a unanimous pick for the Hall of Fame while Larry Walker also earned baseball's highest honor on Tuesday.

The longtime New York Yankees' captain appeared on 396 of 397 ballots cast by the Baseball Writers' Association of America, falling just shy of the standard set when longtime Yankees teammate Mariano Rivera became the first unanimous selection last year.

Jeter's 99.7% moved above Ken Griffey Jr. (99.3%) for the second-highest total. It was not immediately known which voter didn't choose Jeter, who was listed on all 219 ballots made public before the announcement. The BBWAA will release additional ballots on Feb. 4 of writers who chose a public listing.

Walker appeared on 304 ballots, six above the 75% needed, in his 10th and final appearance on the BBWAA ballot, up from 54.6% last year.

Pitcher Curt Schilling was named a public listing. He will release additional ballots on Feb. 4 of writers who chose a public listing.

Jeter appeared on 304 ballots, 396 of 397 cast by the Baseball Writers’ Association of America, falling just shy of the standard set when longtime Yankees teammate Mariano Rivera became the first unanimous selection last year.

New manager Joe Torre. Jeter became a 14-time All-Star and five-time Gold Glove winner despite defensive metrics that were maligned. He was appointed captain by owner George Steinbrenner in June 2003, filling a position that had been open since Don Mattingly's retirement after the 1995 season. He received just 20.3% in his first ballot appearance in 2011 and dropped as low as 10.2% in 2014. He rose to 21.9% in 2017 before jumping to 34.1% in 2018.

Walker became the second Canadian-born player elected to the Hall after Ferguson Jenkins in 1991. Ballot holders could benefit next year, when the most prominent players eligible for the first time are Torii Hunter and Mark Buehrle. The 2022 ballot will include David Ortiz and Alex Rodriguez, who served a season-long suspension in 2014 for violations of the drug program and baseball’s collective bargaining agreement.

Pro Bowl to let scoring team keep possession, face 4th down

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — The Pro Bowl is adding a new twist that could reward teams for taking a risk. The NFL announced Tuesday that its upcoming all-star game in Orlando will feature a rule change that allows a team to keep the ball after it scores. The scoring team can retain possession at its own 25-yard line and face a fourth- and-15 play. Pick up a first down, and the offense gets a new set of downs. Fail to gain 15 yards, and it’s a turnover on downs and good field position for the other conference.

The scoring team could also elect to give the opponent the ball at the opponent’s 25-yard line, much like a kickoff that results in a touchback.

The 2020 Pro Bowl also tweaked rules regarding pre-snap penalties. It is no longer a false start if a flexed, eligible receiver in a two-point stance flinches or picks up one foot as long as his other foot remains partially on the ground. He also must reset for a second before the snap. A receiver who fits this exception is not considered to be in motion. It is a false start if all 11 offensive players are set for at a full second and any flexed, eligible receiver breaks his stance by picking up both feet.

In this July 9, 2011, file photo, New York Yankees' Derek Jeter hits a home run for his 3,000th career hit during the third inning of a baseball game against the Tampa Bay Rays at Yankee Stadium in New York.
Super-G world champion Paris out for season with knee injury

VIENNA (AP) — Super-G world champion Dominik Paris will miss the rest of the Alpine skiing season after damaging his right knee in a training accident in Austria on Tuesday.

The Italian ski federation, FISI, said Paris tore his anterior cruciate ligament and fractured his fibula in a crash during super-G practice in Kirchberg.

"My season ends here. Unfortunately, while I was sliding, the inside ski took too much snow," Paris said.

FISI said the speed specialist has returned to Italy, where he was set to consult the federation's medical staff in the next few days to decide on his treatment.

Paris was preparing for Friday's World Cup super-G race in nearby Kitzbuehel, the classic resort where he has earned four of his 18 career wins. Paris, who won the world title and the World Cup season rankings in super-G last season, won back-to-back downhill on home snow in Bormio last month, and finished runner-up to Switzerland's Beat Feuz in the classic downhill in Wengen last Sunday.

Paris is currently trailing leader Feuz by 16 points in the season-long downhill rankings and fourth in the overall World Cup standings.

Troubled boxing body AIBA looks to change its name

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) — Amateur boxing's troubled governing body AIBA is considering a name change after it was cut out of organizing the Olympic tournaments this year.

AIBA's interim president Mohamed Moustahsane said in a statement Tuesday that rebranding is part of a package of reforms he wants national federations to vote on in March.

"There is a wish to reform, and a change of the name is also a part of reform, it will be discussed at the next (executive commit-tee) meeting to be pre-sented at the Congress in March," Moustahsane said in the statement provided by AIBA to The Associated Press via text message.

The International Olympic Committee excluded AIBA from the upcoming Tokyo Games because of its severe debts, infighting and concerns over the integrity of referees and judges.

Being cut off from Olympic revenue has only worsened AIBA's precarious financial position.

Continued from Page 18

'I'd like to stay involved ... keep myself in front of the public, keep myself relevant so when I get to 80 years old, you still want to ask me a question," Nicklaus said last week in a conference call ahead of his 80th birthday.

"There's no reason to want to curl up in a corner some-place." The only time he considered some form of retirement was long ago.

Nicklaus told a story of always wanting to ski, but not while he was still competing. That seemed smart before Phil Mickelson broke his leg skiing and missed the 1994 Masters or David Duval injured his shoulder snowboarding.

Nicklaus thought he would wait until he was 35. "I figured I wasn't going to take up skiing until I was done playing golf," Nicklaus said. "We took up skiing at age 35. While we were out there skiing, I was talking about not playing much golf the next year. The kids all said, 'Dad! What are you doing? You can still beat everybody out there. You need to keep playing. You love it."' I said, 'I do, but I want to be part of your life.' They talked me into going out and keep playing."

Nicklaus was coming off victories in the 1975 Masters (an epic battle against Johnny Miller and Tom Weiskopf) and the 1975 PGA Championship at Fire-stone. So he kept playing, adding another claret jug at St. Andrews in 1978, another double major season in 1980 and his famous 1986 Masters when he was 46.

Imagine if he had quit playing. Nicklaus would have been at 14 majors, and Tiger Woods would have passed him with that memor-able Masters victory last April. Now, Woods still has three majors to go to catch Nicklaus.

That also keeps Nicklaus relevant without having played a major in 15 years. There was a time when it looked as though Woods was running out of time to catch him, especially with recurring leg injuries and then back problems that led to four surgeries. Now that Woods ended 11 years without a major with his Masters victory for major No. 15, the race is on.

History is not on Woods' side. He turned 44 three weeks ago. When he gets to the Masters, only six play-ers older than Woods will have won majors, no more than one each.

Still, the Nicklaus name is back in the conversa-tion. He will watch. He will answer questions about whether Woods can catch him, as Nicklaus has done for nearly two decades. Nicklaus always said he thought Woods could do it. One year at a charity lunch for his Memorial, Nicklaus got the same question, gave the same answer and then asked what kind of headlines it would make if he had given a different answer.

What makes him feel more relevant are the questions he fields from younger players.

Chari Schwartzel came to talk to him about the Masters in 2011, a short time before the South Afri-can birdied his last four holes to claim the green jacket. Patrick Cantlay met with him last year before winning the Memorial, and Cantlay was with him again on a Saturday last fall, watching football and talking majors. Nicklaus told him how he never wanted to feel his game was in per-fect shape on Thursday of a major, rather he wanted to play his way into his best golf as the week went on.

"I don't go out and seek this, but I'm available," Nicklaus always said with him how he never wanted to feel his game was in perfect shape on Thursday of a major, rather he wanted to play his way into his best golf as the week went on. Justin Thomas. Jordan Spieth. Dustin Johnson. Rickie Fowler. It's a long list. Most of them live in South Florida and are members at his Bear's Club.

"I don't go out and seek this, but I'm available," Nicklaus said. "I might have some knowledge — you might call it wisdom — something to impart to the kids that might help them. It's very flattering to me as an 80-year-old. You never listened to your dad, why listen to your grandfather? But it's very nice and I enjoy it."
Hypertension, high blood pressure is a risk factor associated with heart attacks and strokes. Blood pressure readings involve two number, one above the other. The top number, which is also the higher of the two numbers, measures the pressure in the arteries when the heart beats, that is, when the heart muscle contracts. The top number is called the Systolic number. The bottom number, the Diastolic, which is also the lower of the two numbers, measures the pressure in the arteries between heartbeats (when the heart muscle is resting between beats and refilling with blood).

I consider abnormal blood pressure to be more than 140/90. Like an overinflated tire or balloon, that can rupture, a burst blood vessel in the brain causes a stroke and in the heart blood vessels that are blocked or broken can cause a heart attack. When the largest artery in the body, the aorta, is torn or ruptured, traumatic aortic rupture is a life-threatening condition. Blood pressure problems should not be ignored and should instead, if possible, be treated with natural supplements.

Clinically, I have found that there are many reasons that produce high blood pressure, weak blood, or anemia, high cholesterol, pre-diabetes, stress, tight blood vessels or liver problems. Fortunately, we can treat many of the different reasons that develop hypertension with natural dietary supplements made from organic food.

Low blood count reduces your blood’s ability to carry oxygen through your body. To compensate, your heart starts beating faster and stronger. Blood pressure rises. The human body needs vitamin B12 to make red blood cells, nerves, DNA, and carry out other functions. The average adult should get 2.4 micrograms a day. Like most vitamins, B12 can’t be made by the body. Instead, it must be gotten from food or supplements. In older people, B12 deficiency has been linked to dementia. This deficiency has also been linked to other neurodegenerative disorders such as multiple sclerosis and Parkinson’s disease. Individuals who experience even slightly reduced levels of vitamin B12 also tend to have elevated homocysteine levels. Homocysteine is an amino acid used normally by the body in making energy and muscles. Elevated concentrations in the blood are thought to increase the risk for heart disease by damaging the lining of blood vessels and increasing the risk of blood clot formation. Always make sure you are taking a B complex with your B 12 or other B’s. They work best together.

When I studied and worked as a Traditional Chinese Medical doctor in Shang hai one of our principle natural medicines was rice that had a yeast or fungus growing on the grains. The yeast called Monascus purpureus, turns the rice a red color. Called Red yeast rice, it has a long history of use as both a food and a medicine in China. Red yeast rice contains natural monacolin K, which has properties very similar to cholesterol-lowering prescription medications known as statins. Besides helping the liver convert the cholesterol into a healthier bile, clinical tests have looked at the benefits of red yeast rice to treat other cardiovascular disorders, including hypertension, high blood pressure. With low, weak blood or low blood sugar, hypoglycemia, the body tightens or constricts the blood vessels to increase oxygen and glucose. Constriction of the blood vessels is the body’s way to raise the blood pressure. By narrowing the passage in the blood vessels, blood flows more slowly to the organs and limbs. I prescribe Biotin supplementation to reduces systolic blood pressure by helping arteries be smoother and able to relax more.

Mari Watanabe-Kamiyama reported in the British Journal of Nutrition that Biotin has beneficial effects on hypertension and the frequency of stroke. Biotin is one of the B complex vitamins that help the body convert food into energy. The word biotin comes from the ancient Greek word “bios,” which means “life” or “sustenance.” B vitamins, and specifically biotin, help keep your skin, hair, eyes, liver, and nervous system healthy. Biotin is also a crucial nutrient during pregnancy, as it’s important for embryonic growth.

When a new patient has blood pressure of 140 over 90 or more, I do a blood test to check for Insulin resistance (pre-diabetes). The National Diabetes Information Clearinghouse reports high blood sugar contributes to high blood pressure. One of the supposed uses of the herb milk thistle is to lower blood sugar levels, which may ultimately cause a decrease in blood pressure. Mayo Clinic states animal and laboratory research found milk thistle may help lower blood pressure by eliminating excessive cholesterol within the arteries. For centuries natural physicians have used milk thistle to help the liver detoxify.

Get the Point! Years ago, nutritionists would take your blood pressure, have you eat one food and check your blood pressure ten minutes later. If your blood pressure rose more than ten points, that food was considered to be intolerant, or not good for you. The food – blood pressure connection is well established. Thankfully, we can use natural food dietary supplements to help control our blood pressure naturally.

By: Dr. Carlos Viana

Treating Blood Pressure Problems [hypertension]

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Boeing doesn't expect Max jet to be cleared until summer

By DAVID KOENIG
AP Airlines Writer

Boeing said Tuesday that it doesn’t expect federal regulators to approve its changes to the grounded 737 Max until this summer, several months longer than the company was saying just a few weeks ago.

That timetable — the latest of several delays in the plane’s approval process — will create more headaches for airlines by pushing the Max’s return further into the peak summer travel season or possibly beyond it.

Boeing shares fell nearly 6% at one point, to a 52-week low, and closed down 3.4%.

The FAA said in a statement that it is conducting “a thorough, deliberate process” to make sure that Boeing’s changes to the Max meet certification standards. The agency said, as it has for months, that it has no timetable for completing its review.

The three U.S. airlines that own Maxes — Southwest, American and United — have scrubbed the plane from their schedules until early June. It is possible, however, that they won’t use the planes until much later, possibly after the busy summer travel season is over.

Even after the FAA certifies Boeing’s work, airlines will need several more weeks to prepare their grounded planes and train pilots. After long insisting that training could be done quickly on tablets, Boeing recently reversed course and recommended that pilots go through sessions on flight simulators before operating the plane, adding more time to airline preparations.

The FAA said it is conducting “a thorough, deliberate process” to make sure that Boeing’s changes to the Max meet certification standards. The agency said, as it has for months, that it has no timetable for completing its review.

The 346 people who died in the two Max crashes were among 346 people who died.

Boeing has made the software less powerful and tied it to two sensors instead of one. That work was done months ago, but the company is still working on changes to flight-control computers and pilot-training requirements. Another software issue was discovered last week, although one of the people familiar with the situation said it would not cause more delay in the plane’s return.

News of the latest delay in Boeing’s timing was first reported by CNBC.

Shares of Chicago-based Boeing Co. fell $10.87 to close at $313.28. Trading was briefly halted before the company issued its announcement about the Max.

In this Dec. 16, 2019, file photo a worker looks up underneath a Boeing 737 MAX jet in Renton, Wash.

Associated Press
COMICS

Wednesday 22 January 2020

Mutts

Aftinky's
Dear Diary

I HUGGED a Tree tODay-
the Weeping Willow
Looked Like IT really
needed one.

SOMETHING TELLS ME
THAT THE TREE
NEEDS TO HAVE
SEPARATE ROOMS.

Blondie

My Teacher
Wants Me to
Bring You in for
Show & Tell
Again, Mr. B.

I've Already
Talked About
Sandwich Making
and "NAPPING." What Else Is
Left?

So to Top Off Your Triple Brownie Overload,
Grasp Your Chair, Bending Your
Elbow Slightly,

AWESOME!

HE'S BEEN LIKE THAT
FOR 5 HOURS...
I Never
SHOULD'VE
Thrown Him A
"STRESS BALL"

6 Chix

Baby Blues

IF YOU WANT PERMISSION
to Go Over to Trent's House, You
H O U N T D A S M e a n i n g ?

YEAH!

Give Me
LIBERTY, or
Give Me Death!

Well?

She Gave Me An
Early Bedtime.

Mother Goose & Grimm

He's Been
Like That
For 5 Hours...
I Never
Should've
Thrown Him A
"Stress Ball"

Zits

WHERE'S
The
Drained?

I HIT IT

I'M TIRED OF You
Using It to Send US
Annoying Notes!

It Says You Also Have To Hide the
Controller.

Should I Leave If I'm
Going to Laugh?

Contact Information:

684-1000

Today's Puzzle Answer

Blondie

6 Chix

Baby Blues

Zits

Conceptis Sudoku

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on
a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The
object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the
empty squares so that each row, each column
and each 3x3 box contains the same number
only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis
Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

Blondie

6 Chix

Baby Blues

Zits

Conceptis Sudoku
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Price : $2.8 K each
Date : 03/22 to 03/29/2020
Date : 03/20 to 03/27/2020
Date : 02/21 to 02/27/2020
Date : 01/17 to 02/22/2021

Marriott Surf Club
2 BR Ocean Side Platinum
Date : 03/6 to 03/13/2020
$4 K

Divi Links Golf
Studio wk 7 $1.5 K
sleep 4 date /02/15 to 02/22/2020

For Sale
Marriott Ocean Club
1 BR Ocean View $9 K
1 BR Ocean Front $20 K
2 BR Ocean View $17 K
2 BR Ocean Front $26 K

Marriott Surf Club
2 BR Ocean View $16 K
2 BR Ocean Side $17 K
2 BR Ocean Front $26 K
3 BR Ocean View $26 K

Aruba Divi Phoenix
1 BR WK 2
building 8 Ground floor
32 weeks remain $17 K
1 BR WK 8 $8 K
building 6 on the 4th floor
27 weeks remain

Aruba Divi Phoenix
1 BR PH WK 8/9 $20 K both
14th floor 32/22 weeks remain
1 BR WK 11
building 7 on the 3th floor
33 weeks remain $15 K

Divi Links Golf
1 BR wk 1/2/3
Birdie 2 on the 3rd floor
25 weeks remain on each
All 3 weeks together 30 K each

Divi Links Golf
Studio WK 2 $7.5 K
eagle 3 with 32 weeks remain
1 BR WK 3 $8.5 K
eagle 3 with 23 weeks remain
Studio wk 5, 7 and 8 $8 K each
Each Birdie 4 with 28/27/29 weeks remain

Divi Links Golf
2 BR WK 3 $20 K
Eagle 8 with 25 weeks remain
2 BR wk 3 Lock out $20 K
Birdie 9 26 weeks remain

Divi Links Golf
$8 K
1 Br Wk 4 Birdie 1
19 weeks remain
1 BR WK 6 Birdie 1 $8 K

Divi Village
1 BR WK 52/01 $20 K both weeks
3rd floor and 2nd floor
C-Building 24 / 19 weeks remain
Studio WK 1 $17 K 5
Ground Floor 33 weeks remain

Divi Village
1 BR WK 1 $8.5 K
Studio wk 1 $7.5 K
db&F & 25 weeks remain each

Divi Links Golf
Studio wk 1 $7.5 K
building 4 with 28 weeks remain

Paradise Beach Villas
1 BR WK 1 & 2 $20 K both weeks
2nd floor pool/ocean view

Divi Links Golf
1 wk 8 & 9 $9.5 K each
eagel 9 with 27/19 weeks remain

Renaissance Suites
1 BR WK 9 $8 K
3rd floor pool/ocean view
1 BR WK 9 $9 K
3 th floor harbor view
1 BR WK 10 & 11 $8.5 K each
5th floor garden view

Eagle Resorts
1 BR WK 2 $8 K
1 BR WK 5,6,7,8
Ground floor $8 K each
1 BR WK 7/8/9 $8 K each

Caribbean Palm Village
1 BR WK 2 6 K
1 BR /2 wk 3 $7 K
1 BR WK 3/4/6 $6 K each
2 BR WK 5/6 $7 K each

House For Sale
Poncho $370 K
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2 Bath , 2 bath Pool

Tierra Del sol
3 BR 2 Bath $50 K

Le Vent Condo
3 BR , 2 Bath $650 K
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4208 sq feet $100 K
Property Land Commercial
Barcadera 145.300 sq ft $60 sq feet

Divi Village
Studio wk 6 $ 7.5 K
building with 21 weeks remain
2 nd floor 18 weeks remain

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**Experts say Med Sea altered by Suez Canal's invasive species**

By ARON HELLER and ISABEL DEBRE

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — As Egypt marks the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Suez Canal, marine biologists are bemoaning one of the famed waterway's lesser-known legacies — the invasion of hundreds of non-native species, including toxic jellyfish and aggressive lionfish.

The canal, which connects the Red Sea to the Mediterranean Sea, revolutionized maritime travel by creating a direct shipping route between the East and the West. But over the years, the invasive species have driven native marine life toward extinction and altered the delicate Mediterranean ecosystem with potentially devastating consequences, scientists say.

The influx has increased significantly since Egypt doubled its capacity in 2015 with the opening of the “The New Suez Canal,” raising alarm in Europe and sparking criticism from various countries along the Mediterranean basin. The sharpest criticism comes from neighboring Israel, which once battled Egypt in war alongside the 193-kilometer (120-mile)-long canal.

Bella Galil, an Israeli marine biologist who has studied the Mediterranean for over three decades, said much of the ecological damage is irreversible.

But with the invasive fish and crustaceans buoyed by warming water temperatures and rapidly spreading toward European shores, she argued that urgent action is needed to minimize its long-term impact. Galil, of Tel Aviv University's Steinhardt Museum of Natural History, said the continued widening and deepening of the canal had created a “moving aquarium” of species that, if unchecked, could make coastal waters inhospitable for humans.

Galil said the number of invasive species, currently about 400, has more than doubled over the past 30 years, a phenomenon she called a “historic example of the dangers of unintended consequences.”

Already, Israel is coping with an unprecedented wave of toxic jellyfish that has damaged coastal power plants and scared off beach-goers and tourists. Several other venomous species, including the aggressive lionfish, have established permanent colonies, creating a potential health hazard when they end up on plates of beachside restaurants. Most worrisome has been the arrival of the Lagocephalus Sceleratus, an extremely poisonous bony fish commonly known as the silver-cheeked toadfish.

Galil said half of all the invasive fish and crustaceans — are now of the invasive variety. With the “rolling invasion” now reaching as far as Spain, European countries are increasingly taking note. The issue is set to feature prominently at a United Nations ocean sustainability workshop this month in Venice.

“These non-indigenous organisms present serious threats to the local biodiversity, at the very least comparable to those expected by climate change, pollution and over-fishing,” Galil said.

She said the new species have caused “a dramatic restructuring” of the ecosystem, endangering various local species and wiping out native mussels, prawns and red mullet.

Israel's Environmental Protection Ministry said it was monitoring the process with concern since its coasts were the new species' "first stop" in the Mediterranean. It stressed that Israel could not stop the phenomenon alone but is promoting regulation to protect the most vulnerable marine habitats.

With Israel increasingly reliant on the Mediterranean Sea for drinking water, the ministry said protecting the country's marine environment was "now more important than ever."

Invasive species is a huge and nonspecific category," said Moustafa Fouda, an adviser to Egypt's environment minister. "They can even be productive, replacing species that are overfished, bringing economic benefits or simply adapting to the new environment."

He estimated that less than 5% of invaders could be regarded as "disruptive" and that most of the shrimp, mollusks, pufferfish and crabs caused no harm. He said even toxic invaders, such as lionfish, were edible if their venomous spines were removed.

Egyptian experts also denied the invasions resulted directly from the Suez expansion. They argue that rising water temperatures brought on by global warming and untreated ballast water discharged by cargo ships spurred the exotic arrivals.

"Invasions are a global trend due to pollution and climate change, the natural result of which is every species struggling to survive and searching for its optimal environment," said Tarek Temraz, a marine biology professor at Suez Canal University, and author of the environmental ministry's book on the impact of the canal expansion.

The Suez Canal Authority, the government agency that operates the canal, claimed environmental concerns over its enlargement have been overstated. It said water volume flowing into the Mediterranean increased by 4%, creating "little impact on water flow and plankton movement."

Egyptian officials say they are closely monitoring species migration, imposing regulations on ships that unwittingly ferry invasive creatures and curtailting water contamination in hopes of restoring salinity to the lakes.

The canal authority said a recent drive to divert agricultural wastewater away from the Bitter Lakes has successfully raised salinity there by 3% over the past year.
Film probes radical black-Latino-poor white 1960s alliance

By RUSSELL CONTRERAS
ALBUQUERQUE, N.M., (AP) — Civil rights activists were still mourning the 1968 assassinations of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert Kennedy, Richard Nixon was president, the Vietnam War hadn’t ended, and urban racial tensions remained.

In that climate, a 24-year-old Black Panther Party member from Houston named Bobby Lee went into a Chicago neighborhood of poor Southern white migrants with a stunning and straightforward plea: Join us.

A new PBS documentary is exploring a little-known movement that brought together white migrants from Appalachia and poor whites from Southern communities that later resulted in the upending of politics in the American Midwest.

“The First Rainbow Coalition,” scheduled to begin airing Jan. 27 as part of the American Midwest, is an interesting film but what does this have to do with today?” Santisteban said. “Then, the country changed. I started getting calls about four years ago about it.”

In 1969, Lee reached out to Southern white migrants in a northern Chicago neighborhood called “Hillbilly Harlem” to join him in fighting poverty and police misconduct.

“They were poor. It was a slum. You could smell it,” Lee told the crowd. They were poor whites from Appalachian communities. “And you could smell a slum.”

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By LYNN ELBER
PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — The period costumes of a Julian Fellowes drama can be exquisitely accurate, as an actress in his new series “Belgravia” discovered.


Asked if the elaborate outfits were difficult or easy to work in, Greig gave a quick reply.

“Do you think that they look easy?” she said. “I was under the care of an osteopath within a week of filming, and I realized that I should have prepared better by wearing a corset for a few hours each day in the weeks up to beginning shooting.”

It’s impossible to get the silhouette of the 1840s without the binding undergarment that women wore, she said. If the limited series’ actresses look like they’re comfortable, Greig added, “It’s really great acting.”

Alice Eve ("Bombshell") and Ella Purnell ("Sweetbitter") also star in the series and joined in a presentation to TV critics Saturday. The six-part drama will debut April 12.

“Belgravia,” set in the grand London neighborhood of that name, was adapted by Fellowes from his eponymous 2016 novel. Asked to compare the series to "Downton Abbey," the hit TV drama that unfolded in the early 1900s, Fellowes said the projects reflect the periods in which they’re set.

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"We laughed," remembered Hy Thurman, a white man from Tennessee and a member of a new called the Young Patriots.

The police mistreated them like the police mistreated blacks, Lee told the crowd. Landlords also refused to change living conditions in their homes like the homes of black residents, he said.

What do you want in your community? What do you want here?” he asked. Lee also enlisted the Puerto Rican group, the Young Lords, to join the new multi-ethnic struggle.

The coalition began pressing landlords about conditions and challenged police on their tactics. When eight police officers from the Cook County state’s attorney’s office raided an apartment and killed Illinois Black Panther leader Fred Hampton, the coalition helped Republican Bernard Carey defeat Democratic Cook County State’s Attorney Edward V. Hanrahan.

It wasn’t the first time there was an attempt to forge a multicultural alliance. New Mexico-born education pioneer George L. Sanchez and NAACP lawyer Thurgood Marshall corresponded in the late 1940s on ways to fight segregation. Japansese Americans would join Latinos in California to push for desegregation.

During the Civil Rights movement, Mexican American and African American advocates tried to create a coalition in Houston. The Houston group fought even over whether they should be called the Black/Brown or Brown/Black Coalition until future Congresswoman Barbara Jordan told participants to call themselves the B and B Coalition.

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"Downton Abbey," the hit TV drama that unfolded in the early 1900s, Fellowes said the projects reflect the periods in which they’re set.

For the Epix limited series, it’s the “rise of the great Victorian era of manufacturing and money and ... the expansion of London,” he said. “Whereas you could say that ‘Downton’ was on the other side of the hill, it was part of the decline, particularly as we follow it through the ’20s.”

"Belgravia" is a “can-do show,” he said. “It’s really about people achieving what they want, despite the difficulties the society places in their path. ... But I hope it is essentially a kind of uplifting tale.”

Fellowes was pleased by the reception for last year’s big screen version of "Downton Abbey," which arrived four years after the series ended on PBS, but was noncommittal about the possibility of a second film. He’s got another TV series in the works, "The Gilded Age" for HBO, set in 1880s America.
At Sundance, an annual rebirth for American movies

By JAKE COYLE
NEW YORK (AP) — The Sundance Film Festival, coming at the start of a new movie calendar, is an annual rite of renewal. New movies. New filmmakers. New voices. And that feels especially welcome this year.

Sundance always rolls around just as the worst movies are being dumped in theaters (see: “Dolittle”) and Hollywood’s long-running awards season is petering out. This year, the run-up to the Oscars has been dispiringly homogenous, coalescing around a field of nominees lacking in diversity both behind and in front of the camera. With some notable exceptions, it feels like the same old.

Sundance, though, is a different story.

This year’s festival, in Park City, Utah, is not only its most inclusive edition yet — 44% of its 118 feature-length films were directed or co-directed by women, 34% were directed or co-directed by a person of color — but features a dynamic slate of proudly unconventional narrative and documentary films.

“Zola,” from director Janicza Bravo and co-writer Jeremy O. Harris, is based on a viral Twitter thread from 2015. “Nine Days,” the feature directing debut of Edson Oda, is set in a surreal pre-life realm where an interviewer (Winston Duke) is selecting souls to be born.

My protagonist, her passion is filmmaking. It just took me a little bit longer to articulate that for myself,” says Blank. “I know that people have labeled me a late bloomer but I’ve been writing for years. I don’t think I’m the person who’s late.”

Like many others premiering films this week in Park City, Blank has been through the lab programs of the Sundance Institute, the nonprofit founded by Robert Redford that also出品s “The Last Thing He Wanted,” a Joan Didion adaptation starring Anne Hathaway and Ben Affleck.
Rocker Ozzy Osbourne announces Parkinson's diagnosis

NEW YORK (AP) — Rocker Ozzy Osbourne says that he's been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, a nervous system disorder that affects movement. The 71-year-old Grammy winner and former vocalist for the metal band Black Sabbath said during an interview on "Good Morning America" that aired Tuesday that the diagnosis came after a fall last year. Osbourne had to cancel tour dates last year due to health troubles. Osbourne said he really wants to get well and get back to performing because he misses his fans. His wife, Sharon Osbourne, told GMA that the diagnosis "was not a death sentence by any stretch of the imagination," but he had good days and bad days. Osbourne and his family, including his children and wife, were the stars of their own reality show called "The Osbournes."
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