Tornadoes devastate Tennessee, killing at least 22 people

By TRAVIS LOLLER and KIMBERLEE KRUESI
NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Tornadoes ripped across Tennessee as families slept early Tuesday, shredding more than 140 buildings and burying people in piles of rubble and wrecked basements. At least 22 people were killed, many of them before they could even get out of bed, authorities said.

Sirens and cellphone alerts sounded, but the twisters that struck around 2 a.m. moved so quickly that many people in their path could not flee to safer areas. “It hit so fast, a lot of folks didn’t have time to take shelter,” Putnam County Mayor Randy Porter said. “Many of these folks were sleeping.”

One twister wrecked homes and businesses across a 10-mile (16 kilometer) stretch of downtown Nashville. Continued on next page
Continued from front

It smashed more than three dozen buildings, including destroying the tower and stained glass of a historic church. Another tornado damaged more than 100 structures along a 2-mile (3.2-kilometer) path of destruction in Putnam County, wiping some homes from their foundations and depositing the wreckage far away. Daybreak revealed landscapes littered with blown-down walls and roofs, snapped power lines and huge broken trees, making many city streets and rural roads impassable. Schools, courts, transit lines, an airport and the state Capitol were closed. More than a dozen polling stations were also damaged, forcing Super Tuesday voters to wait in long lines at alternative sites.

“Daybreak revealed landscapes littered with blown-down walls and roofs, snapped power lines and huge broken trees, making many city streets and rural roads impassable. Schools, courts, transit lines, an airport and the state Capitol were closed. More than a dozen polling stations were also damaged, forcing Super Tuesday voters to wait in long lines at alternative sites.”

The death toll climbed steadily as first responders gingerly pulled apart wreckage. Sheriff Eddie Farris said only 30 percent of the Putnam County disaster area had received a “hard check” by midday. “A lot of these homes had basements, and we’re hopeful there are still people down in there,” he said.

Nashville residents walked around in dismay on streets and sidewalks littered with debris, in neighborhoods where missing walls and roofs left living rooms and kitchens exposed. Manor homes came to rest on cars, streets and piles of rubble.

“It is heartbreaking. We have had loss of life all across the state,” said Gov. Bill Lee, who ordered nonessential workers to stay home and then boarded a helicopter to survey the damage. President Donald Trump announced plans to visit the disaster area on Friday.

“We send our love and our prayers of the nation to every family that was affected,” he said. “We will get there, and we will recover, and we will rebuild, and we will help them.” The tornadoes were spawned by a line of severe storms that stretched from Alabama into western Pennsylvania. In Nashville, the twisters’ path was mostly north and east of the heart of downtown, sparing many of the city’s busiest tourism draws — the honky tonks of Broadway, the Grand Ole Opry House, the storied Ryman Auditorium and the convention center.

Instead the storm tore through the largely African American area of Bordeaux as well as neighborhoods transformed by a recent building boom. German-town and East Nashville are two of the city’s trendiest hotspots, with restaurants, music venues, high-end apartment complexes and rising home prices threatening to drive out longtime residents.

“The dogs started barking before the sirens went off. They knew what was coming,” said Paula Wade, of East Nashville. “Then we heard the roar … Something made me just sit straight up in bed, and something came through the window right above my head. If I hadn’t moved, I would’ve gotten a face full of glass.”

Then she looked across the street and saw the damage at East End United Methodist Church.

“Within about 10 seconds, the house started shaking,” Carl Peters said. “I jumped on top of the ground. He jumped on top of me. The ceiling landed on top of him … we’re grateful to be alive.”

With more than a dozen Super Tuesday polling places in Nashville’s Davidson County damaged, voters were sent to other locations, some of them with long lines. The Tennessee secretary of state delayed opening polls in the disaster area for an hour, but said they would close as scheduled Tuesday night. The Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law urged the governor and elections officials to extend the primary through at least the end of the week.

The tornado blew down a major Tennessee Valley Authority transmission line in Putnam County, and Nashville Electric tweeted that four of its substations were damaged, leaving more than 44,000 customers in the dark.

The severe weather also damaged gas lines, water mains and cellphone towers, making the rescue and recovery efforts much more difficult, authorities said.

Schools were closed in Nashville and beyond as families who were suddenly homeless tried to figure out their next steps. Hundreds of people went to a Red Cross shelter at the Nashville Farmers Market, just north of the state Capitol, but a power outage there forced them to move again to the Centennial Sportsplex.

The weather also reduced much of the interior of the long-closed Tennessee State Prison in Shelbyville to huge piles of bricks, the state Department of Corrections said in a tweet. The prison formed the set of “The Green Mile” and other films.
Court considers whether men-only draft is constitutional

By KEVIN McGILL
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) —

Weeks before a govern-
ment commission weighs
in on the subject, a federal
appeals court panel was
urged Tuesday to rule un-
constitutional the military’s
all-male draft registration
system.

But the three members of
the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of
Appeals appeared skepti-
cal that they should do so
in light of a 1981 Supreme
Court ruling that upheld the
men-only draft registration
system.

Judges Carl Stewart, Don
Willett and Jacques Weiner
questioned whether the
1981 precedent could be
disregarded, even when
the military decided in 2015
to allow women into com-
batt roles.

“Doesn’t free us to en-
gage in anticipatory over-
ruling does it?” Willett asked
during Tuesday’s hearing.
The session was held before
an audience of roughly 50
students, faculty members
and other observers at Tu-
lane University.

Marc Angelucci, an attor-
ey arguing for the Nation-
al Coalition for Men and
two men challenging the
male-only draft, said the
1981 case was decided at
a time when women were
largely absent from com-
batt.

Having women in com-
batt roles now significantly
changes the circumstanc-
es, Angelucci said. And, he
said, lower courts are not
bound to outdated prec-
cedents when the facts
change so significantly.

Arguing for the govern-
ment, U.S. Justice Depart-
ment lawyer Claire Mur-
ray said lower courts don’t
have the authority to over-
turn the Supreme Court
precedent.

She added that the courts
must defer to Congress in
matters governing the mili-
tary draft. Congress has not
moved to require women
to register.

She said Congress has le-
gitimate considerations in
determining whether to
draft women in the event
of a wartime emergency
necessitating the return of
conscription. Those con-
siderations include antici-
pated mortality rates for
women in combat, and the
need for equipment and
facilities for women drafted
in equal numbers to men.

Those arguments are of
little consequence, Weiner
said, if the court holds that
the 1981 Supreme Court
ruling constitutes an insur-
mountable precedent.

The appeals panel is con-
sidering whether to up-
hold a Texas-based federal
judge’s 2019 ruling that the
men-only draft is unconsta-
tutional. It did not indicate
when it would rule.
WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump confirmed Tuesday that he spoke on the phone to a Taliban leader, making him the first U.S. president believed to ever speak directly with the militant group that harbored al-Qaida before the 9/11 attacks and is responsible for the deaths of thousands of U.S. troops in nearly 20 years of fighting in Afghanistan.

"We had a very good conversation with the leader of the Taliban today, and they're looking to get this ended, and we're looking to get it ended. I think we all have a very common interest," Trump said. "We had, actually, a very good talk with the leader of the Taliban."

Tuesday's call, which the Taliban said lasted 35 minutes, came days after the United States and the Taliban signed an agreement calling for the withdrawal of American troops — allowing Trump to make progress on a key campaign promise to extract the U.S. pledge to end the "endless wars" and paving the way for the future for the nation.

"The country really has to get it ended. We've been there for 20 years. Other presidents have tried and they were unsuccessful," he said.

In addition to the tweet, the Afghan Taliban also released a statement, saying the phone call took place shortly after 9:30 a.m. EST. SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors communications from militant organizations, said the Taliban statement claimed the call was held in the presence of a number of members of the Taliban negotiating committee and Zalmay Khalilzad, the U.S. envoy who negotiated the deal.

According to the statement, the phone conversation was about how both sides will implement the agreement. Baradar assured Trump that if the United States honored the agreement, then the U.S. and the Taliban will have "positive bilateral relations," the statement said.

The statement said the Taliban leader told Trump: "Mr. President! Take determined actions in regards to the withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan and do not allow anyone to take actions that violate the terms of the agreement, thus embroiling you even further in this prolonged war."

The White House provided no additional details about what was said on the call. In the past, people have wrongly believed that President Ronald Reagan had a meeting with the Taliban. In 1983, Reagan hosted five "Afghan freedom fighters" from the Oval Office. At the time, the U.S. was backing the Afghan mujahedeen, or holy warriors, against the Soviet Union. The Taliban was not formed until the 1990s.

In the 1980s, the U.S. was among those who encouraged hundreds of Arab fighters to travel to Afghanistan to fight alongside the Afghan government. Today, many of those fighters, including those who made up the Taliban leadership, while others are in power in the U.S.-backed Afghan government.

As the war came to a close in 1988, many of the Arab fighters united to follow the wealthy Saudi leader Osama bin Laden to create al-Qaida, which orchestrated the attacks on the United States on Sept. 11, 2001.
U.S. prosecutors tie Honduras president to drug trafficker

By CLAUDIA TORRENS

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. prosecutors said Tuesday that Honduras’ president met a drug trafficker around 2013 and took $25,000 in exchange for protecting the trafficker from law enforcement.

The U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York issued a statement referring to President Juan Orlando Hernández only as a “high-ranking Honduran official” or as “CC-4,” a co-conspirator. But in court documents, it identified “CC-4” as president of Honduras and brother of former congressman Juan Antonio Hernández Alvarado, who was convicted on drug charges last year. In previous filings, U.S. prosecutors have described “CC-4” as the winner of the 2013 presidential elections.

It was not clear if the alleged incident involving the trafficker occurred before or after federal congressman Juan Orlando Hernández won the 2013 presidential election. He took office in January 2014.

He has not been charged and did not immediately comment on the allegations, but he has repeatedly denied earlier allegations of connections to traffickers.

U.S. prosecutors arrested Geovanny Daniel Fuentes Ramírez at Miami International Airport on Sunday on charges of conspiring to import cocaine into the U.S. and related weapons charges.

They say Fuentes met with Juan Orlando Hernández on several occasions and spoke of a cocaine laboratory that Fuentes was running near Puerto Cortes on the Atlantic coast. Juan Orlando Hernández expressed interest in access to the lab because it was so close to the port, according to court documents, which did not explain why he was interested.

The documents say Juan Orlando Hernández and Fuentes agreed “to facilitate the use of Honduran armed forces personnel as security” for Fuentes’ drug-trafficking activities.

It also said that Hernández instructed Fuentes that his brother, Hernández Alvarado, “was managing drug-trafficking activities in Honduras and that Fuentes should report directly to Hernández Alvarado for purposes of drug trafficking.”

U.S. Attorney Geoffrey Berman said in the statement that “Fuentes Ramírez paved the way for unimpeded shipment of multi-ton loads of cocaine by bribing police and a high-ranking Honduran politician, and reporting directly to Tony Hernandez, another co-conspirator in the scheme and himself a former Honduran congressman.”

It’s not the first time U.S. prosecutors have linked President Hernández to the drug trade.

Last August, prosecutors said he had used $1.5 million from drug traffickers to help win the presidency in 2013. During his brother’s trial in New York last year, prosecutors repeatedly suggested President Hernández had benefited from the drug traffickers’ financial support.

His brother is scheduled to be sentenced in April. Hernández won re-election in 2017 in elections plagued with irregularities. Yet Hernández has maintained the support of the Trump administration, which has pressured Honduras to slow the flow of migrants out of the country.

The U.S. government plans to soon begin sending asylum-seekers from other countries to Honduras. During a January visit to Honduras, acting U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf said, “Honduras is a valued and proven partner to the United States in managing migration and promoting security and prosperity in Central America.”

Associated Press
Tensions rise as U.S. death toll from coronavirus reaches 9

By GENE JOHNSON and CARLA K. JOHNSON
Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Tensions over how to contain the coronavirus escalated Tuesday in the United States as the death toll climbed to nine and lawmakers expressed doubts about the government’s ability to ramp up testing fast enough to deal with the crisis.

All of the deaths have occurred in Washington state, and most were residents of a nursing home in suburban Seattle. The number of infections in the U.S. overall climbed past 100, scattered across at least 15 states, with 27 cases in Washington alone.

“What is happening now in the United States may be the beginning of what is happening abroad,” said Dr. Nancy Messonnier of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, noting that in China, where the outbreak began more than two months ago, older and sicker people are about twice as likely to become seriously ill as those who are younger and healthier. Most cases have been mild.

The nursing home outbreak apparently seeded the first case in North Carolina, authorities said, as a Wake County resident who had visited the Washington state nursing home tested positive but is in isolation at home and is doing well, according to the North Carolina governor’s office.

In suburban Seattle, 27 firefighters and paramedics who responded to calls at the nursing home were tested for the virus Tuesday using a drive-thru system set up in a hospital parking area.

Thirty-year-old firefighter Kevin Grimstad took care of two patients Jan. 29 at Life Care Center in Kirkland. He is among 10 from the Kirkland Fire Department who responded to calls at the nursing facility.

“Grimstad, his wife and 6-month-old son have taken turns recovering from fevers, coughs and congestion,” said a news release from the Washington state Department of Health. “They’re all feeling better, but we know they’re still sick.”

Doctors turned recovering from fever on Tuesday at the nursing center grimly said Grimstad, his wife and 6-month-old son have turned recovering from fevers, coughs and congestion. They’re all feeling better, but wish they knew more about the virus.

“For us, it’s crazy. A couple of weeks ago, it seemed like a foreign thing and now we’re getting tested,” Grimstad said. “If I was exposed a month ago, the problem is more widespread than we know.”

In the nation’s capital, officials moved on a number of fronts.

A bipartisan $7.5 billion emergency bill to fund the government’s response to the outbreak worked its way through Congress.

The Federal Reserve announced the biggest interest-rate cut in over a decade to try to fend off damage to the U.S. economy from the factory shutdowns, travel restrictions and other disruptions around the globe. On Wall Street, stocks rallied briefly after a worker from home after a worker from a production line-only classes through the end of March.

“We do not feel it is prudent to wait until there is a known case to take action,” said Dr. Anne Schuchat of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In Washington state, residents of the Kirkland nursing home were among 10 from the Kirkland Fire Department who took care of two patients Jan. 29 at Life Care Center in Kirkland.

Also, the Food and Drug Administration sought to ease a shortage of face masks by giving health care workers the OK to use an industrial type of respirator mask designed to protect construction crews from dust and debris.

Lawmakers on Capitol Hill expressed skepticism about U.S. health officials’ claims that testing for the new virus should be widely available soon.

CDC test kits delivered to states and cities in January proved faulty, authorities said.

They’re all feeling better, but wish they knew more about the virus.

“We have seen a broader spread of the virus. So, we saw a risk to the economy and we chose to act,” Fed Chairman Jerome Powell said.

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FDA has been working with a private company to get as many as 2,500 test kits out to labs by the end of the week. Each kit should enable a lab to run about 500 tests, he said. But health officials were careful about making promises.

“I am optimistic, but I want to remain humble,” said Dr. Anne Schuchat of the CDC.

In Washington state, researchers believe the virus may have been circulating undetected for weeks. That has raised fears that there could be hundreds of undiagnosed cases in the area.

Some people who want to be tested for the virus in the state are encountering confusion, a lack of testing options and other problems as health authorities scramble to deal with the crisis.

“The people across my state are really scared. I’m hearing from people who are sick, who want to get tested and don’t know where to go,” Murray said. “It’s unacceptable that people in my state can’t even get an answer as to whether or not they are infected.”

One lab was already testing for coronavirus in Washington state and a second was scheduled to begin doing so Tuesday.

Among the rising fears, a school district north of Seattle closed for training on conducting remote lessons via computer in case schools have to be shut down for an extended period, while a private school said it would conduct online-only classes through the end of March.

“We do not feel it is prudent to wait until there is a known case to take action,” the school, Eastside Prep in Kirkland, said on its website.

A Department of Homeland Security facility just south of Seattle instructed all its employees to work from home after a worker became ill after visiting the nursing home at the center of the outbreak.

Elsewhere around the world, the crisis continued to ebb in China, where hundreds of patients were released from hospitals and new infections dropped to just 125 on Tuesday, the lowest in several weeks. But the crisis seemed to shift westward, with alarmingly fast-growing clusters of infections and deaths in South Korea, Iran and Italy.

Meanwhile, more than 92,000 people have been sickened and 3,100 have died, the vast majority of them in China. Most cases have been mild.

“What China shows is that early containment and identification of cases can work, but we now need to implement that in other countries,” said Dr. Nathalie MacDermott, an infectious-disease expert at King’s College London.

A man wearing a mask and goggles rides his bike out of the parking lot at the Life Care Center is shown in Kirkland, Wash., near Seattle, Tuesday, March 3, 2020.
BOSTON (AP) — Peter Pan Bus Lines, a major Northeast carrier, will continue to allow federal immigration officials on its buses to conduct routine checks for immigrants living in the country illegally, saying it could help stem human trafficking, the company said this week.

Peter Pan, based in Springfield, Massachusetts, “has always and will continue to cooperate with law enforcement,” Christopher Crean, vice president of safety and security, said Monday.

Some of the bus line’s rivals have revised or are reviewing their longstanding policies. But Peter Pan remains concerned about the potential for child trafficking on its buses, Crean said.

The company is a member of Truckers Against Trafficking, an industry group formed to fight human trafficking, as well as a similar effort by businesses in western Massachusetts.

“It would be contradictory for us not to allow them on, especially if it could result in stopping a young child from being trafficked,” Crean said. “I don’t think we’ll look at this issue any differently now, whether it’s Border Patrol or other law enforcement.”

The company wasn’t able to provide an estimate for how many times in recent years immigration officials have boarded the company’s buses.

But Crean said it was “not frequent,” given the company’s routes are concentrated on transit between major Northeast cities including Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Washington.

Greyhound, the nation’s largest bus company, said last month it would stop allowing Border Patrol agents to board its buses without a warrant.

New Hampshire-based Concord Coach Lines, which connects communities in New Hampshire and Maine with Boston and New York City, followed suit Friday. The announcements came after The Associated Press reported on a U.S. Customs and Border Protection memo saying its agents can’t board private buses without the consent of the bus company.

Greyhound and other companies had previously insisted they had no choice but to allow the immigration checks even if they didn’t like them.

The American Civil Liberties Union has been calling on motorcoach companies to allow Border Patrol agents onto their buses only if they have a warrant, noting that the agency has been stepping up enforcement beyond the country’s immediate borders in recent years.

“Peter Pan Bus Lines is in the business of transporting its passengers safely from place to place,” the civil rights group’s New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont chapters said in a joint letter to the company in 2018.

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Dozens of U.S. passengers who were moved to a Texas air base after potentially being exposed to the coronavirus on a cruise ship were released Tuesday and allowed to go home, a day after local leaders declared a public health emergency and sought to delay the process so that more patient testing could be done.

More than 120 passengers who were moved two weeks ago from a Diamond Princess cruise ship stranded in Japan and kept in quarantine on Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio were released “in an orderly way to minimize potential exposure to the San Antonio community,” according to a statement issued by city officials. Many were bused to San Antonio International Airport, where they were escorted to ticket counters and through security. Others who live in Texas were escorted to car rental counters.

The release was originally scheduled for Monday but was delayed by a lawsuit filed by the city. San Antonio officials had wanted additional assurances that none of the released passengers had tested positive for the new coronavirus, after a woman was mistakenly released from quarantine over the weekend despite testing positive for it.

A federal judge denied the city’s request for a temporary restraining order, though, leading to the release of 122 passengers late Monday and on Tuesday.

Seven passengers were kept in quarantine at the air base for various reasons, Laura Mayes, a city spokeswoman, told The Associated Press.

Terri Feil, of Houston, said she and her husband, David Feil, were among at least four of the passengers who were released late Monday afternoon after officials from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said they were free to go.

“We were jumping up and down for joy,” Feil said. The couple’s son drove from Houston to pick them up. “We were not going to give one person a chance to change their mind,” Feil said.

The patient who was released Saturday was conditionally released and will monitor herself.

The release will be coordinated, not prolonged over several days, and passengers will not stay in local hotels and will go directly to the airport, Nirenberg said.

The patient who was released over the weekend visited a local mall and the airport before she was brought back into isolation once the positive test was discovered, city officials said. There have not been any known cases of the illness being transmitted in the community, Nirenberg said.
Greens, Thunberg say EU climate law lacks ambition

By SAMUEL PETREQUIN
Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Climate activists and Green members of the European Parliament are urging the European Union to be more ambitious as the bloc gets ready to unveil plans for a climate law to cut greenhouse gas emissions to zero by mid-century.

While the Greens urged the 27-nation bloc to raise its 2030 climate targets, a group of 34 youth climate activists, including Greta Thunberg, wrote an open letter Tuesday to EU leaders explaining why they think the planned law is “a surrender.”

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, who has put climate change at the top of her priorities and pledged to make Europe the first climate-literate continent by 2050, will present her plans on Wednesday. To add luster to the event, she has invited Thunberg to discuss the climate legislation with her and EU commissioners.

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While the Greens urged the 27-nation bloc to raise its 2030 climate targets, a group of 34 youth climate activists, including Greta Thunberg, wrote an open letter Tuesday to EU leaders explaining why they think the planned law is “a surrender.”

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In light of the tone of the letter, it’s unlikely that Thunberg will only sit and watch. “Any climate law or policy that is not based on the current best available science and does not include the global aspect of equity or climate justice — principles at the very heart of the Paris Agreement — will do more harm than good,” the group said. “Such a law sends a strong signal that real, sufficient action is being taken when in fact it’s not.”

The group stressed that instead of setting long-term goals, the EU should focus on the “CO2 budget which applies for today.”

Such CO2 budgets are used to measure the additional emissions that can enter the atmosphere without global warming exceeding a certain level. World leaders agreed five years ago in Paris to keep global warming below 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit), ideally no more than 1.5 C (2.7 F) by the end of the century. But scientists say countries will miss both of those goals by a wide margin unless drastic steps are taken to begin cutting greenhouse gas emissions this year.

“Distant net-zero emission targets will mean absolutely nothing if we just continue to ignore the carbon dioxide budget — which applies for today, not a faraway future,” the climate activists said.

“If high emissions continue like now, even for a few years, that remaining budget will soon be completely used up.”

According to a leaked draft of the proposals establishing the 2050 goal, the European Commission is proposing a mechanism for regularly raising the EU’s emissions reduction target over the next three decades, but there is no plan for an increase of the EU’s overall emissions goal for 2030.

In the draft, the European Commission said it will review the EU’s current target of 40% greenhouse gas reduction and “explore options for a new 2030 target of 50% to 55% emission reductions compared with 1990 levels.”

Both environmental group Greenpeace and Green lawmakers in the European Parliament say that delaying an upgraded 2030 target will have damaging political consequences.

Michael Bloss, a lawmaker with the German Green Party, said it’s essential that the 2030 target should be fixed well ahead of the U.N. climate talks that will be held in Glasgow in November if Europe wants to apply pressure on big-emitting countries such as China.

“We need our European goal published as soon as possible,” he said Tuesday. “The commission’s delaying tactics in putting forward the updated 2030 target is irresponsible. Emissions must be reduced by at least 65% by 2030 and should could be phased out by 2050 at the latest if we are to comply with the Paris Climate Agreement.”

Greenpeace said by failing to include a 2030 target, “there is a very real risk that the EU could go empty handed to the U.N. climate conference in Glasgow.”

Ukraine's prime minister submits resignation, lawmakers say

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Lawmakers in Ukraine said Tuesday that the parliament is gearing up for a vote to accept the resignation of the nation’s prime minister.

Honcharuk first offered his resignation in January after he was caught on tape saying Zelenskiy — a former sitcom star with no previous political experience — knows nothing about the economy. Zelenskiy then called the situation "unpleasant" but asked Honcharuk to stay on the job.

It wasn’t immediately clear what prompted Honcharuk now to step down. Trump was impeached in December on two counts by the Democratic-run House, but Republican-run Senate acquitted him on both counts.
By ANDREW WILKS and NICHOLAS PAPHITIS

ANKARA (AP) — Facing a potential wave of nearly a million people fleeing fighting in northern Syria, Turkey has thrown open its borders with Greece to thousands of refugees and other migrants trying to enter Europe, and has threatened to send “millions” more.

Turkey hosts 4 million refugees, some 3.6 million of them from Syria. Previously, their movement inside Turkey was strictly regulated and under a 2016 deal with the European Union, Turkey tightened border controls. Since Ankara announced last week that it would not impede those seeking to enter Europe, thousands of Afghans, Iranians, Pakistanis and others from Africa and Asia have rushed to try their luck.

Although the push ostensibly stems from the conflict to Turkey’s south, Greek officials say very few of the recent arrivals are Syrians. Most of those arrested Monday were Afghans, Pakistanis and Moroccans. Figures from January, before the intensified fighting in Syria, show 35 percent of those who entered Greece from Turkey were Afghans. Syrians accounted for 14 percent.

HOW MANY HAVE CROSSED INTO GREECE?

By late Tuesday, Greek authorities had arrested and charged 218 people with illegal entry after crossing the land border with Turkey. About 26,500 attempts to pass have been thwarted since Saturday, although the pressure seemed to be slackening both on land and at sea. About 520 arrived on the Greek islands in the 24 hours up to Tuesday morning, down from nearly 1,000 a day earlier. According to the U.N.’s International Organization of Migration, 13,000 had gathered at the 212-kilometer (132-mile) border by Saturday evening. Turkey, meanwhile, says that more than 100,000 refugees have left its territory but there is no evidence to support this claim. Uneasy NATO allies Greece and Turkey are historic regional rivals who came close to war three times in the past half-century, and even before this crisis relations were tense over undersea exploration rights.

WHY HAS ERDOGAN OPENED THE GATES?

Turkey has long complained about the lack of support it receives for shouldering the burden of caring for the world’s largest refugee population. Despite the promise of 6 billion euros to pay for services for Syrians, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan wants to renegotiate the deal with the EU. He says Turkey has spent $40 billion to date on hosting refugees. Ankara also seeks support for its policy in Syria, where it opposes Syrian President Bashar Assad and Kurdish fighters linked to the PKK, which has fought a 35-year insurgency inside Turkey. Erdogan wants to use some of that $40 billion to resettle Kurds in October to resettle refugees from Turkey but the plan has met with little international support.

COULD THIS BE 2015 ALL OVER AGAIN?

In 2015, a million refugees reached Europe, crossing mainly from Turkey to Greece, and to a lesser degree from countries such as Libya to Italy. Although Erdogan said Monday that “millions” would soon be waiting to cross the Greek border, EU border states such as Greece and Bulgaria have quickly mobilized police, border guards and the military to deal with the scenario and seem better prepared than in 2015. Sea crossings, however, are much harder to stop. With the Turkish coast guard doing nothing to halt migrant boats heading for the Greek islands, once the flimsy, overcrowded vessels are inside Greek waters, they can’t be turned back. Very often, their occupants need to be rescued from sinking or crippled boats. Late last year arrivals in Greece were at their highest level since 2016, even before Turkey removed its border controls, and the EU fears a repeat of the crisis that triggered divisions among member states.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR GREECE?

Even before the current crisis, Greece was struggling to cope with tens of thousands of migrants who had entered from Turkey, Greece sent to continue to more prosperous EU countries such as Germany, but are stuck in Greece following border shutdowns in countries further along their route. Island migrant camps are many times above capacity — more than 20,000 people are on Lesbos alone — and living conditions there are dire. Under the EU-Turkey deal, new arrivals must stay on the islands until their asylum bids are processed, but the lengthy asylum process has led to a big backlog. Greek residents are running out of patience after five years of bearing the brunt of Europe’s migrant influx, and Greek government efforts last week to build new detention camps on Lesbos and Chios provoked riots on the islands.
In her 1st official statement, Kim's sister slams S. Korea

By HYUNG-JIN KIM
SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — In her first known official statement, the younger sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on Tuesday leveled diatribes and insults on South Korea for protesting over her country’s latest live-fire exercises.

Believed to be in her early 30s, Kim Yo Jong is in charge of propaganda affairs and has frequently appeared at her brother’s major public events including summits with U.S. President Donald Trump and other regional leaders. But her statement carried by state media, the first in kind, indicated her political status has been further elevated.

In the statement, she criticized South Korea’s presidential office of Blue House for expressing strong concerns over the North’s firing exercises and urging it to stop such an act that doesn’t contribute to efforts to reduce military animosities.

“As far as I know, the South side is also fond of joint military exercises and it is pre-occupied with all the disgusting acts like purchasing ultra-modern military hardware,” Kim Yo Jong said. “They meant they need to get militarily prepared but we should be discouraged from military exercises. Such a gangster-like assertion can never be expected from those with normal way of thinking.”

Describing the Blue House as “a mere child” and “a burnt child dreading fire,” she went on to say that “how come can all its words and acts be so perfectly foolish in detail.”

Kim Yo Jong still didn’t mention by name liberal South Korean President Moon Jae-in, whom she met several times. She only said: “The South side’s response is so regretful and disappointing but it is somewhat fortunate that it was not direct statement of the president.”

Earlier Tuesday, state media said Kim Jong Un supervised a live-fire rocket artillery exercise in an apparent reference to the two short-range ballistic missile launches reported by South Korea the day earlier. On Saturday, North Korea said Kim Jong Un also guided an artillery drill aimed at testing the combat readiness of military units.

The back-to-back firing exercises were an apparent show of force by Kim, who had earlier vowed to bolster his nuclear deterrent and warned of “shocking action” over now-stalled nuclear negotiations with Trump. The latest firing drills were his first weapons tests since late November.

Kim Yo Jong’s statement was issued in her capacity as a first vice-department director of the Workers’ Party’s Central Committee. She also serves as an alternate member of the North’s powerful Politburo and a member of the rubber-stamp parliament. South Korean officials and experts say she’s virtually the North’s top propaganda official.

China denounces U.S. cap on reporter numbers as prejudicial

BEIJING (AP) — China on Tuesday denounced a move by the Trump administration to cap the number of Chinese state-run media journalists who can work in the United States as “based on the Cold War mentality and ideological prejudice.”

The State Department announced Monday that a total of 100 journalists from five outlets would be given visas, citing in part China’s increasingly harsh surveillance, harassment and intimidation of American and other foreign journalists in China for the move.

The decision “severely interrupted Chinese media’s normal reporting tasks in the United States (and) seriously tarnished Chinese media’s reputation,” foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said Tuesday.

“Based on the Cold War mentality and ideological prejudice, the U.S. State Department suppressed Chinese media agencies with political means in the United States for unexplained reasons,” Zhao said at a daily briefing. China reserves the right to take further measures in response, he said.

The U.S. announcement followed the expulsion last month by China of three Wall Street Journal reporters over an opinion column headline that the foreign ministry called racist, and the release of survey results by the Foreign Correspondents’ Club of China showing a continuing deterioration in working conditions for overseas media in China.

The FCCC report found that Chinese authorities have “weaponized visas” for foreign media by issuing press credentials with shortened terms of validity to dozens of journalists in 2019, in addition to expelling four since August. It called that “one of the most brazen attempts in the post-Mao Zedong era to influence foreign news organizations and to punish those whose work the Chinese government deems unacceptable.”

The U.S. said it is not planning to place any restrictions on the content of Chinese media but that it is seeking “reciprocity” and a “level playing field.” The five Chinese outlets, including the Xinhua News Agency and China Global Television Network, currently employ about 160 Chinese citizens in the U.S. There are about 75 Americans and other foreigners authorized to work for U.S. news outlets inside China, according to the White House.

Last month, the administration designated Xinhua, CGTN and three others as foreign missions, requiring them to register their properties and employees in the U.S. The State Department said that was in recognition of the fact that “they are effectively controlled” by the Chinese government.

Chinese citizens working for other media organizations in the United States are unaffected by the cap, the State Department said. China’s ruling Communist Party and state outlets now dominate Chinese-language media in the U.S. and have made inroads into the struggling mainstream English-language press through vast ad purchases and the placement of newspaper inserts.
ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkey shot down a Syrian fighter jet in Syria’s Idlib province Tuesday, marking the third such incident in as many days, as steady clashes between the two national armies continued over a Russia-backed Syrian government offensive near the Turkish border.

State-run Syrian media said troops shot down a Turkish drone, keeping up a clash in the skies over the northwestern province that has gone on for days and signaled a new stage in the 9-year-old war.

Ahead of a much-anticipated summit later this week between the presidents of Turkey and Russia, the two main power brokers in Syria, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov again laid the blame for the escalation squarely on Turkey.

Russian officials have said they hold Turkey responsible for the collapse of a cease-fire agreement reached in Sochi, Russia in 2018, saying Ankara had not held up its end to rein in militants who continued attacking Syrian and Russian targets.

“The solution to the problem lies in implementing the (Sochi) agreements. They are not being implemented,” Lavrov said after meeting with his Finnish colleague Pekka Haavisto in Helsinki on Tuesday. He expressed hope that the scheduled Thursday meeting between Russian and Turkish presidents in Moscow will change the situation.

Keeping up the pressure on the battlefield, Turkey’s military downed a war-plane belonging to Syrian government forces — the third time they have done so since Sunday. The Syrian military said Turkish forces targeted a warplane with a missile as it was carrying out operations against “terrorist groups” in the rebel-held Idlib region, causing it to crash northwest of the town of Maaret al-Numan. The fate of the crew was not clear.

Turkey has sent thousands of troops into Idlib to support the opposition fighters holed up there, but hasn’t been able to roll back the government’s advance.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said he hopes to broker a cease-fire in Syria later this week when he meets with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow.

But the Russian-backed offensive into the country’s last rebel-held area has led to increasingly frequent clashes between the Syrian and Turkish armies that have killed dozens on both sides. It has also threatened a collapse in Turkish cooperation with Moscow, a key backer of Syrian President Bashar Assad.

A Turkish soldier was killed and another wounded Monday night, Turkey’s Defense Ministry said, raising to 55 the number of Turkish losses this month in clashes with Russian-backed Syrian forces. The death toll includes 33 Turkish soldiers killed Thursday in a single airstrike.

The government’s offensive has also sparked one of the Syrian war’s worst humanitarian crises. Almost a million Syrian civilians have fled north toward the sealed Turkish border, overwhelming camps already crowded above capacity.

In this photo taken Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2020 a man makes his way through a Johannesburg street with collected recyclable materials to be sold as scrap.

By ANDREW MELDRUM

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Widespread power cuts are blamed for pushing South Africa’s economy, the continent’s most industrialized, into recession, according to official statistics released Tuesday.

The South African economy shrank by 1.4% in the fourth quarter of 2019 from the previous three-month period, after contracting by 0.8% in the third quarter, according to Stats SA. A recession is commonly defined as two consecutive quarters of economic decline.

“The South African nation-wide power blackouts are blamed for the larger than expected decline in the fourth quarter. The state-owned power utility, Eskom, has been unable to meet demand and has had to implement rotating cuts in electricity to residences, factories, mines and businesses,” Eskom’s “inability to meet demand on a sustained basis is a key reason for South Africa’s very slow growth record of just 0.9% a year in 2015 19,” said Pat Thaker, the Economist Intelligence Unit’s regional director for the Middle East and Africa.

“Eskom is, in effect, capping South Africa’s growth potential and preventing a significant rebound.”

South Africa’s economy grew by just 0.2% in 2019 and 0.8% in 2018, according to the official statistics. Seven out of 10 of the country’s sectors contracted in the fourth quarter, including agriculture, which dropped by 7.6%, manufacturing, which dropped 1.8%, and transport, which declined 7.2%.

South Africa’s economic growth forecast for 2020 has been cut to 0.9%.
Mexican clerical abuse victims skeptical of Vatican mission

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Victims of clerical sex abuse have expressed skepticism over a Vatican investigative commission that will collect statements and information about abuse in Mexico, though most said they would meet with Pope Francis’ investigators.

“They will meet with bishops and victims who want to speak with them. They promise confidentiality,” said Blan López-Antúnez, who was abused by a Legion of Christ school director in Cancun between the ages of 8 and 10 years old. “The results of this visit must be measured only based on the facts, the reports, because I’m already tired of the fake action that operates at all levels of the Church.”

The Vatican announced Tuesday that two investigators — Charles Scicluna, archbishop of Malta and deputy secretary for the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and Jordi Bertomeu — will be in Mexico City March 20-27. They will meet with bishops, leaders of religious orders and victims who want to meet with Pope Francis’ investigators.

Mexican clerical abuse victims skeptical of Vatican mission

“An alleged gunman, a man with a motorcycle helmet pointing a pistol at a group of people led by Guaidó during a Saturday street rally,” said Alvaro Cabello in a news conference. “There has to be intervention. Mexico, which has the second highest number of Catholics in the world, has been accumulating cases of abuse and cover-ups for years. Meanwhile more and more victims like López-Antúnez are speaking up in the face of Vatican claims of zero tolerance to say that they are still waiting for justice. The Mexican Episcopal Conference says the commission is coming at its request. It is made up by the same church officials who went to Chile in 2018 to investigate one case and returned with 2,600 pages of statements from more than 60 victims. It led Pope Francis to ask forgiveness and led to legal action. “There has to be intervention from some other external authority to determine criminal responsibility because if it is only the ecclesiastic commission, it’s very difficult for something to happen,” said Alberto Athié, a former Mexican priest who has campaigned for more than 20 years for victims of clerical abuse. If not, the commission could become just another example of the Vatican going through the motions but not getting to the bottom of it.

For that reason, Athié believes a proposal before the Mexican Senate to create an independent investigative commission is critical, because it could “reconstruct the truth and turn over to the proper authorities all of those responsible,” including the abusers and those who covered up their actions.

The number of victims in Mexico is unknown. The best known case in Mexico is that of Rev. Marcial Maciel, founder of the Legion of Christ religious order.

Venezuelan official denies threat to Guaidó as a 'lie'

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — A powerful ally of Venezuela’s President Nicolás Maduro on Monday denied any type of armed threats against U.S.-backed opposition leader Juan Guaidó, as shown in a widely circulated photograph.

The image taken by a member of Guaidó’s press team depicts an armed man in street clothes and a motorcycle helmet pointing a pistol at a group of people led by Guaidó during a Saturday street rally. Opposition leaders marching with Guaidó said that socialist hardliners loyal to Maduro also opened fire to intimidate opposition supporters at the event in the central city of Barquisimeto, injuring a 16-year-old boy who was shot in the leg.

However, Maduro ally and socialist party boss Diosdado Cabello in a news conference in the center of Caracas, flew in on a helicopter to the bottom of it.

In this photo released by the Juan Guaidó’s Press Office, an unidentified man aims a gun at a crowd as opposition leader Juan Guaidó, center right in light blue shirt, meets with supporters during a rally in Barquisimeto, Venezuela, Saturday, Feb. 29, 2020.

Venezuelan official denies threat to Guaidó as a 'lie'
Children’s artwork Global Money Week Aruba handed over to Fundashon di Museo Aruba

ORANJESTAD — In fostering financial education in Aruba over the past two years, the Central Bank of Aruba has led the initiative to annually organize a national financial education program in the form of Global Money Week Aruba (GMWA). In order to organize this national financial education program, which is directed towards children, the CBA collaborates with local partners such as Aruba Bank N.V., Banco di Caribe, Caribbean Mercantile Bank, CIBC First Caribbean, Ennia, the Government of Aruba (Futura & IDEA), Guardian Group, Kiwanis Club of Aruba, Qredits, RBC, and Setar N.V., as well as many other collaborators.

By way of an interactive “financial treasure hunt”, more than 50 elementary school classes completed the financial education route in downtown San Nicolas in 2018 and 2019. The children visited 7 different stations that follow the financial cycle: Discover, Learn, Earn, Save, Spend, Share and Innovate. At each station, the children touched upon a topic, and learned in an interactive way about the different characteristics of the florin banknotes, the purposes and uses of money, as well as how to make responsible choices in financial matters.

During both years the children also participated in a Global Money Week Aruba art project at the SAVE station, which is hosted by Guardian Group, CIBC First Caribbean, and ENNIA. The children collectively created an art work made out of coins. On December 18th 2019, this art work was officially handed over to Fundashon di Museo Aruba (FMA) as a symbol of gratitude and collaboration between the partners of GMWA.

Globally, the importance of financial education is acknowledged as imperative to personal financial well-being, as well as a necessary condition for developing a sustainable and inclusive society. The increasing relevance of financial education as an important life skill, particularly for the next generation, is featured prominently on national agenda’s as observed by the organization of the Global Money Week.

For more information about GMWA and our plans and initiatives for 2020, which this year will take place during the week of March 23-27 in downtown Oranjestad, please visit and follow our Facebook page ‘Global Money Week Aruba’.

Aruba to Me

ORANJESTAD – We would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island. Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is ……. Send your picture with text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory in our newspaper. Isn’t that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today’s newspaper we received a great picture from Barry and Connie Robb from Steubenville Ohio.

They wrote:

Aruba to me is “Life in the Slow Lane”
The NEW Tierra del Sol Restaurant: A fresh contemporary scenic surprise

They call it Aruba’s first “Premium Casual Dining” experience. It does do right to that concept but there is so much more to it. The restaurant at Tierra del Sol transformed into a place of light, fresh looks, elegant though laid-back setting and the choice between inside and outside dining. Those two areas flow into each other in a natural way. Families with children dine on the big tables, some business men take a quick bite inside and a group of golfers enjoy a meal after their game. It is a fantastic concept that is accessible for all without losing its essence: great food in a stylish interior design.

Inspired by nature the restaurant is letting in the outside while the menu reflects what guests are looking for nowadays: variation, adults & kid’s choices, great prices with a friendly service.

12 Appetizers, 3 soups, 8 salad bowls, homemade pastas (5) and pizzas (4), 13 wraps- sandwiches- burgers, 8 entrees (2 sides included), a kids menu and of course sweets make up for an extensive menu with something for everyone. A beverage menu offers 11 beers and drafts, homemade sangria, bubbles and wines, premium cocktails and spirits. You can keep coming back and try something else every time.

“Casual dining is hot in the United States now because people do not always want to dress up, sit for hours on a table and get a big check presented at the end. We give an answer to the need of quality food in a modern, cool environment with friendly prices and service,” says Marketing & Sales Executive, Ghislaine de Windt K. In short: you can’t go wrong, come over and try it out!
NOORD — Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba’s loyal and friendly visitors as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba and Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The Distinguished visitor certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 10 years and more consecutively. The Goodwill Ambassador certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 20 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were couple Salvatore & Rosalia Agrusa living in the United States, but originally from Italy, and their daughter Francesca & Pietro Biundo as well, and all were honored as Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba.

Couple Francesca & Pietro brought their four kids down; Antonino Biundo, Caterina Biundo, Salvatore Biundo, and Rosalia Biundo, and all their kids were honored as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. Couple Salvatore & Rosalia Agrusa not only fell in-love with the island, but also brought children, grandchildren, friends and many more to our beautiful island.

These lovely people stated that they love the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches and picturesque sunsets, delicious variety of foods, its safety, and Aruba’s warm and friendly people who have become like family to them.

Richardson together with their wonderful neighbor Rosemarie Leest put together this honoring for this great tight-knit family. Upon arrival at the Agrusa’s and Biundo’s family home in Boe-goeroei, Richardson presented the certificates to the honorees, handed over some presents and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home.
A smart Caribbean island can be the high-end champion

By Cdr. Bud Slabbaert

ORANJESTAD — In the Caribbean, too little attention is given to the visitor segment of high-end clientele that use private jets to come to a destination. Better not consider them tourists or treat them as tourists. Every passenger who arrives on a private jet is a potential investor in the region... provided that the destination will meet their standards and criteria, and that they eventually fall in love with the island.

They will make the preferred destination part of their lifestyle and invest in that element of their way of life. They are repeat visitors and usually attract other personalities of their social circles to be their guest, which has a multiplying effect. They appreciate authenticity, discretion, serenity, and locations where beautification and cleanliness are taken seriously. Mediocrity and fakeness are unacceptable. Yet, they love some simplicity and a laid-back atmosphere in a luxury setting. And they’re trying to find what ailing living in their country back home is.

Tourism authorities who say “hmm, yes, we also want those ALSO”, are most likely not getting them. This segment does not fit in with cruise ship tourism or forms of over-tourism. This segment requires a different approach and strategy.

In the Caribbean there is a relatively small number of destinations that qualify for pursuing the development of this segment in a full out effort. Those are the ones where serious high-net-worth individuals should be able to explore the potential of a return of investment that may be different than you think; it is satisfaction and joy rather than interest rates on their capital. They have enough that already; they are looking for what is missing, a paradise resembling environment.

A safe living environment with an insignificant to zero crime rate is important to them. A stable reliable island government to deal with. Not to forget a quality infrastructure. They’re not looking for a highway to speed on, but they definitely don’t appreciate potholes in the roads. Yet, they love a somewhat rural atmosphere. They love a natural landscape that is beautified by orange blossoming flamboyant trees and pink flowering bougainvillea bushes.

Some islands that have the potential to attract this clientele, should consider joining efforts and form a task force or action group that focuses on this segment and come up with refreshing and useful advice and suggestions. No, not a ‘study group’. I hate that word ‘study’. One doesn’t need a heap of accumulated theory collected in a report that defends itself from being read because of its thickness. The last thing needed is a committee that wastes hours and keeps minutes. The group should definitely not be an assembled choir whose members can only sing the shanties of their own ship.

The taskforce should be an independent and impartial group and the members should consist of thinkers and movers-and-shakers with brains that are as clear as Bohemian Crystal glass. Persons who are not afraid to express themselves in straightforward wording which may be so hot that it singes the eyebrows of the listeners.

Why would you want this clientele anyway and what is the sense of this so-called wealth tourism or high-end tourism? Finally, we are getting to the point! This is the clientele that spends approximately ten times as much per person than the average mass-tourism visitor. US$ 800 plus for a hotel room night is not uncommon, US$ 30,000 dollar plus for a week’s villa rental is not unusual. Got it?

It is not just the positive economic impact that characterizes this segment. Since this clientele does not accept mediocrity, the island is more or less compelled to upgrade its infrastructure, facilities, and services which may contribute to an improved overall standard and quality of life of the island’s community. This clientele is also willing to pay higher wages or charges for services. Just think about the saying ‘success breeds success’. A word of caution though. The improvements may not become a financial burden for the ‘native’ members of the island community. Greed of developers must not hurt the common islander. There are a few islands where the development of this segment could be successful. However, it is necessary to prepare a strategy first. This is not a matter of opening a can of magic to have a fast food dinner on the table. This clientele does not visit vacation expos. Advertising doesn’t do the trick. Articles by reputable journalists in selected glossy lifestyle magazines may be one way to attract the attention. But before anything will be published, there needs be substance to base the article on.

It is wise for these few islands to form a task force as mentioned before. But why? Why a joined effort when these islands will be competitors with the same objectives? There is no such a thing as competition. The clientele will determine what it likes and what suits it best. Since every island is different and often unique, there are choices. First attract this clientele to the region, then offer the options, and the client will decide.

Not trying to do anything about finding new ways for improving the socio-economics of an island may be called complacency. I would categorize it as “The Continuing Art of Suffering in Silence”.

About the author
Cdr. Bud Slabbaert is the Chairman and Coordinator of the Caribbean Aviation Meetup, an annual results and solution oriented conference for stakeholders of ‘airlift’ in the Caribbean which will be June 16-18 on St.Maarten. Mr. Slabbaert’s background is accentuated by aviation business development, strategic communication, and journalism.
A weekly calendar with a selection of what’s going on in Aruba

**Wednesday 04**

**Art Talk**
- Prins Bernard Cultuurfonds Caribisch Gebied and Aruba EU desk in partnership with Unoca presents a Panel discussion about funding and the creative process of artists on Aruba. Guest speakers: Rebecca Roos, Nelson Gonzalez, Amy Lasten, Carlos Bislip , Ana Maria Hernandez, Prins Bernard Cultuurfonds president Halder Lam, Unoca president Adrienne Fraser & Aruba EU desk president Gerlien Croes.
- 6pm-9pm
- Cas di Cultura, Oranjestad
- Facebook: Cas di Cultura - Aruba’s Cultural Platform since 1958

**Thursday 05**

‘A Touch of Aruba’
- It’s showtime! Every Thursday Nico Connor together with NLG Dancers will heat up the night with the Sweetpan Music and Cultural Show.
- 7:30pm – 9:30pm
- Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort
- Facebook: Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort

**Friday 06**

**Stories Of Heritage: The Night of Patroon**
- “Stories of Heritage” is a series of events where they present various projects that discusses important themes in Caribbean Culture.
- 7pm – 9pm
- Crystal Theater, Renaissance
- Facebook: Recent

**Saturday 07**

It’s 5’oclock somewhere
- Have you heard about the newest bar in town? The other-state-of-mind 5 o’clock Somewhere Bar & Grill opened recently. Get yourself some great energy because this will definitely make you happy.
- Open from noon
- Renaissance Marketplace, Oranjestad
- Facebook: 5 o’clock Somewhere Bar and Grill

**Sunday 08**

**Full Moon Labyrinth Chanting Circle**
- Join us for a Chanting Circle at the Aruba Peace Labyrinth on this magical Full Moon Friday night. We will chant sacred mantras and songs for compassion, healing and peace for ourselves, nature and Mother Earth. And express much gratitude to our Ancestors.
- Kindly bring a cushion or chair to be comfortable in the circle and maybe a sweater to stay warm!
- 7pm-8:30pm
- Aruba Peace Labyrinth
- Facebook: Aruba Peace Labyrinth

**Monday 09**

**Italy for a night at Casa Nonna**
- Take a genuine trip to the most emblematic corners of Italy enjoying a 4-course menu inspired by Sicily at Casa Nonna New York
- From 5pm to 10pm
- The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba
- Facebook The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba

**Tuesday 10**

**Etnia Nativa**
- Explore the Native Aruban Art Gallery & Museum where all the produce and exhibit proceeds from discarded as well as recollected materials, recycled in beautiful art pieces inspired on Aruba’s archaic Cultures. Anthony Croes will be delighted to give you a personal one hour tour.
- Make your appointment
- Westpunt 37-A, Noord
- Facebook: Etnia Nativa
The 4-letter word from Azinger that stirs Ryder Cup

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer
ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — The Ryder Cup is more than six months away, and all it took was a four-letter word from Paul Azinger to get Europe worked up over defending more than just the gold trophy.

Azinger regrets using the word, one he says he slips into speech all the time.
T-H-A-T.
The scene was Sunday at the Honda Classic, where Azinger was working as the lead analyst for NBC Sports. The context was Tommy Fleetwood of England, now the No. 10 player in the world, trying to win for the first time on the PGA Tour.

Fleetwood did not achieve this ranking by accident. He has five European Tour victories, twice against strong fields in Abu Dhabi, another in the French Open in 2017 at Le Golf National, where a year later he would go 4-1 in the Ryder Cup. He was runner-up to Brooks Koepka at Shinnecock Hills and to Shane Lowry at Royal Portrush.

His best finish at a regular PGA Tour event was a tie for third last year at Bay Hill.

“A lot of pressure here,” Azinger said on the broadcast. “You’re trying to prove to everybody that you’ve got what it takes. These guys know, you can win all you want on that European Tour or in the international game and all that, but you have to win on the PGA Tour.”

That European Tour.

Continued on page 22

Heat stun Bucks 105-89, holding Antetokounmpo to 13 points

Milwaukee Bucks guard George Hill (3) takes a knee to the midsection as Miami Heat guard Goran Dragic (7) goes up to shoot during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, March 2, 2020, in Miami.
An NCAA Tournament with empty arenas? It can't be ruled out

By The Associated Press

Imagine an NCAA Tournament with no fans in the arenas. What normally would be thought an impossibility isn’t so far-fetched as the United States and the rest of the world attempt to contain the spread of the new coronavirus.

An advocacy group for college athletes has urged the NCAA to consider holding its winter sports championships with no fans, and the idea has not been dismissed out of hand.

“If you can think of it, it’s something that we’ve gone through an analysis around,” NCAA Chief Operating Officer Donald Remy told Bloomberg News on Tuesday. “We’ve contingency planned for all circumstances. The NCAA declined further comment to The Associated Press on the possibility of no fans in the stands. Presumably, the games still would be televised.

The virus has sickened more than 92,000 people and killed 3,100 worldwide, the vast majority of them in China. Nine people have died in the U.S., all in Washington state. Most cases have been mild.

Also Tuesday, the NCAA announced it has established an advisory panel of medical, public health and epidemiology experts and NCAA schools to address the virus, also known as COVID-19. NCAA Chief Medical Officer Dr. Brian Hainline will lead the group.

“The NCAA is committed to conducting its championships and events in a safe and responsible manner,” Remy said in a statement. “Today we are planning to conduct our championships as planned; however, we are evaluating the COVID-19 situation daily and will make decisions accordingly.”

Hainline said the advisory group will make recommendations on competition based on evolving medical protocols established by the Centers for Disease Control, the National institutes of Health and state and local authorities.

“We are in daily contact with the CDC and are advising leadership on the Association’s response to this outbreak,” he said.

The NCAA generates nearly $1 billion a year, most of it coming from the men’s basketball tournament through media rights fees, corporate sponsorships and ticket sales.

Total attendance for the 2019 tournament was 688,753, an average of 19,132 per game. The Final Four at U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis drew 72,711 for the semifinals and 72,062 for the championship game.

Attendance for the 2019 women’s basketball tournament was 274,873, an average of 6,545 per game.

The men’s tournament is scheduled to open March 17 and the women’s tournament begins on March 20. The men’s Final Four will be played the first weekend in April at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta, and the women’s Final Four is set for Smoothie King Center in New Orleans.

The NCAA wrestling tournament is March 19-21 at U.S. Bank Stadium, the first time the event has been held in a football stadium. The tournament is expected to break the attendance record of 113,743, set in Cleveland in 2018.

Conference basketball tournaments are set to begin next week, and the Big East, Pac-12, Mountain West, West Coast and Western Athletic conferences said in statements to the AP that they are proceeding as if their tournaments will go on but monitoring the situation. The WAC noted that if its tournament is not completed, the tournament’s No. 1 seed will advance to the NCAA Tournament as the league’s automatic qualifier.

Sporting events across the globe have been canceled or contested with no spectators allowed in stadiums or arenas.

Ramogi Huma, executive director of the National College Players Association urged the NCAA and the schools to take steps to protect athletes.

Avs edge Red Wings 2-1 for 7th straight; 9 in row on road

By The Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Gabriel Landeskog withstood a crunching hit while making a pass that sprung Logan O’Connor for a breakaway goal in the second period, and the Colorado Avalanche beat the Detroit Red Wings 2-1 on Monday night for their season-best seventh straight victory.

Vladislav Namestnikov also scored for the Avalanche, who extended a franchise record with their ninth consecutive road win. Michael Huthens made 17 saves.

Anthony Mantha had the only goal for Detroit, which dropped to 3-18-2 in its last 23 games.

OILERS 8, PREDATORS 3
NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Leon Draisaitl had the first four-goal game of his career and added an assist as Edmonton beat Nashville to sweep the season series.

Connor McDavid scored the go-ahead goal in the third period and had four assists. Kailer Yamamoto and Josh Archibald each had a goal and an assist, and Zack Kassian also scored as Edmonton won its second straight. Ryan Nugent-Hopkins and Darnell Nurse had three assists apiece.

Edmonton is second in the Pacific Division and pulled within two points of first-place Vegas with a game in hand.

Edmonton broke open a tie game by scoring three of five goals in the third in a span of 2:21.

Draisaitl, the NHL’s scoring leader, got his hat trick at 8:28. Then he chased Pekka Rinne from the goalie’s first start since Feb. 21 with his 42nd goal of the season at 9:55.

It was the first time Rinne, the 2018 Vezina Trophy winner, had allowed eight goals in a game.

Roman Josi and Calle Jamtropk scored 14 seconds apart, and Nick Bonino also had a goal for Nashville. The Predators remain in the second wild-card spot in the Western Conference thanks to two games in hand on Winnipeg and Arizona, with all three at 72 points.

Colorado Avalanche right wing Joonas Donskoi (72) tries to redirect the puck to Detroit Red Wings goaltender Jonathan Bernier (45) as Alex Biega (3) defends in the first period of an NHL hockey game Monday, March 2, 2020, in Detroit. The Associated Press
Heat stifle Bucks, get 2nd win of season over NBA leaders

By The Associated Press
MIAMI (AP) — Jae Crowder and Jimmy Butler each scored 18 points, Goran Dragić added 15 and the Miami Heat beat the Milwaukee Bucks 125-123 on Monday, March 2, 2020, in Miami. Tim Hardaway Jr. led Dallas with 29 points, while Gary Trent Jr. added 24. The Heat won their second straight game, led by Butler, who matched the franchise playoff record of 37 points, 6.4 assists and 12 rebounds. They overcame a 21-point deficit and put the Bucks away with a 36-17 run in the third quarter.

PACERS 116, SPURS 111
SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Malcolm Brogdon scored 26 points, T.J. Warren added 23 and Indiana rallied to beat San Antonio after blowing a 15-point lead. Indiana won its fourth straight, moving into a fifth-place tie with Philadelphia in the Eastern Conference. Patty Mills scored 24 points to lead San Antonio and Trey Lyles added 20. The Spurs, who have lost eight of 11, dropped four games behind the Memphis Grizzlies for eighth place. BULLS 109, MAVERICKS 107
CHICAGO (AP) — Coby White scored 19 points, Otto Porter Jr. added 18 in his return from a broken left foot and Chicago hung on to beat Dallas when Luka Doncic’s desperation heave bounced off the rim. Dennis Smith Jr. had 21 points and nine rebounds but missed a pull-up jumper on Houston’s final attempt. The Chicago Bulls held off a late rally by the Dallas Mavericks in a 109-107 victory.

Nets' Kyrie Irving has surgery for right shoulder injury

By The Associated Press
NEW YORK (AP) — Kyrie Irving underwent surgery Tuesday to repair the injured right shoulder that ended his first season with the Brooklyn Nets after just 20 games. The Nets said the procedure to relieve the impingement was performed by Dr. Riley Williams III at the Hospital for Special Surgery. The team said Irving is expected to make a full recovery. Irving began having trouble with the shoulder as he worked to get back in shape after another injury in the preseason. The pain worsened in November, early in the regular season, and he missed 26 games before returning in January. Irving got a cortisone shot on Dec. 24 but acknowledged that surgery still might be necessary. The decision to have it was reached last month on the night the Nets returned from the All-Star break. Finishing with averages of 27.4 points, 6.4 assists and 5.2 rebounds, and became the first player in franchise history to have multiple 50-point games in a season. He also missed time because of a sprained right knee. Irving signed with Brooklyn in July along with Kevin Durant, who is expected to miss the entire season while recovering from surgery to repair his Achilles tendon. The Nets are trying to hang onto a playoff spot without them, sitting in eighth place in the Eastern Conference with a 23-23 record. Irving spent the last two seasons with Boston. He missed both visits this season because of the shoulder injury.
NBA to players: Avoid high-fives as virus concern grows

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer
MIAMI (AP) — The NBA has told players to avoid high-fiving fans and strangers and avoid taking anything for autographs, the league’s latest response to its ongoing monitoring of the coronavirus crisis that has spread to most corners of the planet.

The league, in a memo sent to teams on Sunday and obtained Monday by The Associated Press, offered 10 recommendations to players with hopes of decreasing risks of getting the virus — among them, not taking items such as pens, markers, balls and jerseys from autograph seekers.

The NBA also told teams that it is consulting “with infectious disease experts, including the Centers for Disease Control” and infectious disease researchers at Columbia University in New York.

“We are also in regular communication with each other, NBA teams including team physicians and athletic training staffs, other professional sports leagues, and of course, many of you,” the league wrote in its memo to teams, their physicians and athletic training staffs. ESPN first reported on the contents of the memo.

Some players are already heeding the advice.

“Corona,” Bobby Portis of the New York Knicks said as he offered some fist-bump greetings on Monday night before his team faced the Utah Jazz.

Jimmy Butler of the Miami Heat said he wasn’t necessarily worried or thinking about avoiding high-fives. “I don’t think about any of that,” Butler said. “I’m still going to be who I am. We’re still going to be who we are.”

Portland guard CJ McCollum said in a tweet on Saturday that he is taking the matter seriously, saying he is “officially taking a break from signing autographs until further notice.”

“You just have to be careful,” McCollum said Monday night in Orlando. “Obviously it’s affecting people, especially people who are displaying weaker immune systems and people over 60. You’ve got to check yourself and wash your hands, try to reduce contact with outsiders and outside germs.”

McCollum has tweeted or retweeted several virus-related posts in the last couple of days.

“The coronavirus remains a situation with the potential to change rapidly — the NBA and the Players Association will continue to work with leading experts and team physicians to provide up-to-date information and recommended practices that should be followed to prevent the spread of the coronavirus,” the league said in the memo.

Many of the tips offered by the NBA fell under common-sense level of best practices when it comes to illness prevention: avoiding contact with people who are sick, staying home when feeling ill, cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces. The league also suggested players make sure they “are up to date with all routine vaccinations, including the flu vaccine.”

The worldwide death toll topped 3,000 on Monday, and the number of those infected rose to about 89,000 in 70 countries on every continent but Antarctica. In the U.S., the virus has been blamed for six deaths, all in Washington state.

“Containment is feasible and must remain the top priority for all countries,” World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said.

Virus forces Basketball Africa League to push back season

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

Concerns surrounding the coronavirus have forced the postponement of the inaugural Basketball Africa League season, which was to start later this month. No rescheduling plan was announced.

A total of seven African nations — Egypt, Senegal, Nigeria, Angola, Tunisia, Morocco and Rwanda — were to play host to games during the inaugural season.

The virus, COVID-19, has been found in four of those countries so far: Tunisia, Morocco, Senegal and Nigeria. The first case in Senegal was announced just this week, and with the first BAL games to be played there, the league had little choice but to call off plans to play.

“Following the recommendation of the Senegalese government regarding the escalating health concerns related to the coronavirus, the BAL’s inaugural season will be postponed,” Basketball Africa League President Amadou Gallo Fall said. “I am disappointed we are not able to tip off this historic league as scheduled.”

Fall’s statement only said the league would be postponed “at a later date.”

Fears over the virus have wreaked havoc on countless sporting events around the globe, some canceled altogether, others being played with no fans present. It has prompted concerns that the Tokyo Olympics will not be held as planned this summer, though officials have stressed that the games are still slated to go on — for now.

“We are going to have the games on the 24th of July,” International Olympic Committee spokesman Mark Adams said at a briefing.

The news of the African league’s postponement came one day after the NBA told players to avoid high-fiving fans and strangers and avoid taking anything for autographs, the league’s latest response in its ongoing monitoring of the viral outbreak.

The league, in a memo sent to teams on Sunday and obtained Monday by The Associated Press, offered 10 recommendations to players with hopes of decreasing risks of getting the virus — among them, not taking items such as pens, markers, balls and jerseys from autograph seekers.
McEnroe not counting out Federer out after latest surgery

By KYLIE HIGHTOWER

BOSTON (AP) — Hall of Famer John McEnroe doesn’t think tennis has seen the last of Roger Federer playing at an elite level following the 38-year-old’s recent knee surgery.

Federer announced last month that he will miss the French Open and at least three other tournaments while he recovers. Federer indicated he would return by Wimbledon in late June.

The Swiss star has spent more weeks ranked No. 1 than any player and owns a men’s record 20 Grand Slam titles. He currently is ranked No. 4 behind Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal and Dominic Thiem.

McEnroe was in Boston Tuesday promoting the fourth edition of the Laver Cup, which will be held at TD Garden in September. He said watching Federer competing at age 38 has parallels to another dominant athlete in Boston.

"It’s like asking the same question on Tom Brady. You know, it’s the exact same thing," McEnroe said.

"I mean, how they keep doing it would be the first thing at their age. It’s phenomenal, right? I mean, how in the world are these guys still playing at such a high level? I’ve admired watching Tom Brady because he makes players around him better. But you’re out there on your own and you’re 38, and you could be turning 39 on a tennis court with the wear and tear. That’s really tough. … It’s already amazing he’s made it this far."

McEnroe was coaching Milos Raonic in 2014 when he beat Federer at Wimbledon, the only time Raonic has beaten him in a major. "Then Roger limped off the court and didn’t play for six months. And I thought, you know, that’s pretty much it," McEnroe said. "That’s four years ago. And he came back after not having played for six months and managed to win the Australian Open (the next) year, winning three best-of-five set matches, which is virtually unheard of to begin with, and to win three majors post-surgery. So you never can count him out." Federer, whose TEAM8 management company helped create the Laver Cup, has played in each of the first three editions of the event, which pits a six-man team from Europe against a team made up of players from the rest of the world. McEnroe and his former rival Bjorn Borg served as captains of Team World and Team Europe, respectively, for the first three events in Prague (2017), Chicago (2018) and Geneva (2019) — all won by the European team.

They will reprise those roles for the fourth edition in Boston from Sept. 25-27, which has been added to the official ATP calendar.

McEnroe said his latest meetings with Borg as coaches have been as intense as they were when they were tour players.

"There’s a lot of a lot of money at stake and pride," McEnroe said.

Associated Press

John McEnroe, Captain of Team World for the Laver Cup, trades jerseys with Boston Celtics forward Gordon Hayward before a game against the Brooklyn Nets, Tuesday, March 3, 2020, in Boston.

Associated Press

Tommy Fleetwood of England hits from the third tee during the fourth round of the Honda Classic golf tournament, Sunday, March 1, 2020, in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

Associated Press

Continued from page 18

"Bad grammar," Azinger said Monday. "If I had said ‘the’ European Tour, the whole thing would have been different.”

Maybe.

Either way, that was his lone regret.

"I’ve said this a million times, and it’s how I changed the selection process for the Ryder Cup," said Azinger, the winning captain in 2003. "The only thing pros choke for are cash and prestige. And the PGA Tour has the most of both.”

Lee Westwood was among those offended, saying on Twitter (the comment was later deleted) that Azinger was being disrespectful of the competitive structure of the European Tour.

"I’m sorry, it’s pretty offensive," Westwood said. "If I could have been there, I would have joined if they had the opportunity this week. They will reprise those roles for the first three events in Prague (2017), Chicago (2018) and Geneva (2019) — all won by the European team."

Fleetwood has been added to the official ATP calendar.

The Ryder Cup is Sept. 25-27, which has been added to the official ATP calendar.

Tyrrell Hatton or Matt Wallace will get another opportunity this week.

"That’s a big reason why Europe wins so heavily on the Ryder Cup schedule. It’s the one time Europe can prove it stands on equal footing. But that’s a fallacy.

Europe has great players, 10 of whom have combined to win 14 majors in the last decade. All of those major champions play on the PGA Tour on a regular basis, and some of them live in America.

Westwood isn’t on that list, but with 41 wins around the world across four decades, his record speaks for itself. Azinger was bothered only by the notion that Westwood took his comments as being disrespectful of his career.

"I would never do that," Azinger said. "Europe has great players. But the European Tour is nowhere close to the PGA Tour in depth of fields, amount of ranking points, television exposure and most of all, money. The total purse at the Qatar Masters this week is $1.75 million. The winner of the Arnold Palmer Invitational gets $1.674 million.

That explains why 43 of the top 50 in the world play a full PGA Tour schedule. Most of the other seven would join if they had the chance. To beat the best in golf means coming to America — not every week, but most weeks."

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Associated Press

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There is prestige. There is cash. The PGA Tour has the most of both. Fleetwood will get another chance. Or maybe the opportunity this week will fail to Rafa Cabrera Bello, Tyrrell Hatton or Matt Wallace. And maybe Azinger will not sound as dismissive about the tour where they have won tournaments. If not soon, the Europeans will have a say in September. There is no cash to be won at the Ryder Cup, only prestige. For Europe, the latter will go a long way."
Judge, Stanton likely to start on IL; Sale elbow hurting

Injured New York Yankees outfielders Aaron Judge and Giancarlo Stanton are likely to miss New York's opener at Baltimore on March 26. Judge is having more tests to determine the cause of soreness in the right pectoral area near his shoulder. Judge has not hit in the field since spring training started, and the right fielder felt discomfort Friday when he took batting practice for the second straight day in an indoor cage.

"He feels it more now in the pec," general manager Brian Cashman said Tuesday. "It's moved down toward the pec. We're just trying to figure it out and determine what's bothering him. In the meantime, I can just tell you he is feeling better in the last 48 hours."

Stanton strained his right calf on Feb. 26 during defensive drills. Cashman thinks Stanton will be back in April.

"For the time frame, obviously, we've got to get the healing component done for a Grade 1 strain and then rehab it," Cashman said. "With arguably what, 3 1/2 weeks to go before opening day I think we'd rather be safe than sorry."

CHRIS SALE
Boston Red Sox ace Chris Sale has soreness in his throwing elbow and has undergone an MRI. Manager Ron Roenicke said Sale felt the soreness in his elbow Monday morning, the day after his 18-pitch batting practice session. Team doctors reviewed the MRI results and sent them to Dr. James Andrews.

Sale's batting practice session Sunday was the first time he faced hitters since he gave up five runs over 4 2/3 innings in a win at Cleveland on Aug. 13. He went on the injured list with elbow inflammation, finishing 6-11 with a 4.40 ERA in 25 starts — his fewest wins and starts and highest ERA in a full season since 2012.

YANKEES 9, RED SOX 1
Masahiro Tanaka struck out five over three perfect innings in his second start, and DJ LeMahieu had a two-run single in a six-run first inning off Martin Pérez. Gío Urshela hit his first home run, a solo shot. Five of the six runs off Pérez were unearned. He allowed four hits and a walk, Retiring two batters, Rafael Devers hit his second home run, among just two hits for the Red Sox.

CARDINALS 6, ASTROS 3
Paul Goldschmidt homered off Justin Verlander, who allowed three runs — two earned — and two in five innings with five strikeouts. Garrett Cooper had a solo home run and Chad Wallach, the son of former MLB player Tim Wallach, added an RBI single off Syndergaard. Jeff McNeil led off the Mets' first inning with his first home run. Jordan Yamamoto yielded pone run and four hits in three innings.

NATIONALS 5, ORIOLES 3
Max Scherzer allowed two runs and five hits over 3 1/3 innings with five strikeouts in his second start. Andrew Stevenson and Howie Kendrick had RBI singles. Juan Soto hit a two-run double and Asdrúbal Cabrera added a sacrifice fly in a five-run fifth inning. Pedro Severino had an RBI triple, Mason Williams singled in a run and Chris Davis had a sacrifice fly for Baltimore, giving him seven RBIs in six games.

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RAYS 5, BRAVES 2
Brandon Lowe singled and walked twice. Austin Riley hit a two-run homer for Atlanta and Ronald Acuña Jr. went 0-for-3, dropping his average to .105. Ozzie Albies had two hits and is hitting .444 in 18 at-bats.

TWINS 5, TIGERS 1
Marvin González hit his first home run and had a two-run double, and Miguel Sanó hit his first homer. Randy Dobnak, in line for the fifth spot in the rotation, allowed one hit in three shutout innings. Closer Taylor Rogers struck out two in a scoreless inning. Kody Clemens, a son of Roger Clemens, hit his first homer for Detroit.

ANGELS 11, INDIANS 7
Michael Hermosillo had a three-run homer and RBI single for the Angels. Andrew Heaney allowed two runs and three hits in three innings. Cleveland's Franmil Reyes hit his third home run. César Hernández also hit a two-run homer and Carlos Santana had a solo shot. Carlos Carrasco allowed two runs and three hits over two innings in his first start.

RANGERS 6, GIANTS 5
Willie Calhoun hit his first home run and Buster Posey added an RBI single for San Francisco. Logan Webb, in line for the fifth spot in the rotation, allowed one run and three hits in 2 1/3 innings. Texas started Jordan Lyles yielded three runs and three hits in three innings. Isiah Kiner-Falefa hit his third home run. Joey Gallo went 0 for 3 with two strikeouts and is hitting .188.

CUBS 10, ROCKIES 1
Nolan Arenado hit his second home run, a two-run drive. Ian Happ led off the game with a home run and added an RBI single. Wilson Contreras had a two-run single for Chicago. Carlos Quintana gave up three runs and in two innings.

PADRES 9, BREWERS 0
Garrett Richards, who struggled in three September starts last season after recovering from Tommy John surgery in July 2018, allowed one hit over two scoreless innings in his first spring training start. Abraham Almonte hit a grand slam in a seven-run third inning and Trent Grisham homered. San Diego starter Shelby Miller walked two with three strikeouts in two scoreless innings. Logan Morrison had the Brewers' only hit.

ATHLETICS 6, WHITE SOX 5
Oakland prospect Jorge Mateo had three singles, stole his third base and drove in two runs. Ryan Goins had a two-run single. Nicky Delmonico singled and hit his first home run for Chicago. White Sox starter Michael Kopech allowed five runs in 2 1/3 innings.

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Fasting, Religious Wisdom

Based on a chapter in Prescriptions from Paradise, Introduction to Biocompatible Medicine. By Carlos M. Viana

Religious dietary recommendations, sometimes prohibitions, like folk sayings and remedies have an uncanny insight into the human condition. As a clinical nutritionist, I enjoy trying to unravel the basis for these laws. Likewise, I am interested in traditional methods of cooking foods. Why do spinach and potatoes or cloves and ham seem to go so naturally together? Spinach, a great natural source of iron, contains oxalic acid which can raise uric acid and aggravate a gout attack. However, cooked and eaten with potatoes, the alkalizing quality of potatoes reduces inflammation and prevents a uric acid reaction. Meanwhile, everyone knows that pork has to be cooked well because these animals may more easily become infected with bacteria and parasites. Cloves, used traditional pork recipes, have natural oils that kill bacteria and parasites. Interestingly, reflecting the dietary prohibitions of the Old Testament, clinically, we have found pork to be detrimental to all metabolic blood types.

Spring reminds me that every major world religion and many indigenous belief systems incorporate fasting. “Fasting” means abstaining from food or some types of food. The idea of the fasting in spring has been fixed firmly in all religious disciplines as a mechanism to purify oneself and become more receptive to their deity’s message. The Christian Bible has thirty-three passages about fasting during what they call the Lenten season. Pope John Paul II stated that Penitential fasting is therapy for the soul. In fact, for Catholics all days of Lent are supposed to be fasting days. Muslims throughout the world will be fasting during the sacred month of Ramadan. The Jewish fast of the firstborn takes place in the spring, during Passover.

As a natural physician I am aware that beyond religious faith, fasting is an ancient healing strategy. Many traditional cultures, including Oriental, East Indian, and Native American, have found short periods of abstaining from food to be curative and revitalizing. Hippocrates prescribed fasting. Fasting was practiced by Plato, Socrates and Mahatma Gandhi. In modern Europe, clinics that support therapeutic fasting are quite common. In Sweden it’s practically a religious discipline I see that the religious obligation of corporate fasting. “Fasting” means abstaining from food or some types of food. The idea of the fasting in spring has been fixed firmly in all religious disciplines as a mechanism to purify oneself and become more receptive to their deity’s message. The Christian Bible has thirty-three passages about fasting during what they call the Lenten season. Pope John Paul II stated that Penitential fasting is therapy for the soul. In fact, for Catholics all days of Lent are supposed to be fasting days. Muslims throughout the world will be fasting during the sacred month of Ramadan. The Jewish fast of the firstborn takes place in the spring, during Passover.

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ECB's Lagarde: 'Ready to take targeted action' on economy

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — The head of the European Central Bank said Monday that Europe's top monetary authority is ready to take "appropriate and targeted measures" if necessary to support the economy against the headwinds from the new coronavirus.

Christine Lagarde said in a statement that the virus "is a fast developing situation which creates risks for the economic outlook." She said the bank would closely monitor developments and act "as necessary and commensurate with the underlying risks."

Lagarde's remarks come as stock markets have risen in the U.S. on speculation that central banks may step in with action to support the global economy against the disruption caused by the spread of the virus. That is the case even though some economists think central bank action might only have symbolic value, since lower interest rates cannot re-open businesses that have been closed to prevent the spread of the virus.

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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:

Clue: "Blondie"

Answer: 6 Chix

6 Chix

I'm not going anywhere with you looking like that.

Blondie

Boss, are you more impressed if someone demands a raise or if they are more humble and polite about it?

In that case, Boss, may I please have a raise?

Nicely requested, Sunbeam.

And thank you for asking, but the answer is still a solid no.

Mother Goose & Grimm

I'm stinking in the rain, just stinking in the rain, what a glorious feeling...

Baby Blues

Hi again, viewers! Time for another wondrous word.

Today we're going to venture into my son's hidden bunker for the episode of my life.

Zits

Hi, guys, come on in!

Just put your coats and stuff anywhere.

And keep the noise down! I promised my dad we wouldn't annoy him.
**Classifieds**

**Halley Time Travel**

**For Rent**

- Marriott Surf Club
  - 2 BR Ocean Side $4 K
  - 6 March to 13 March 2020
- Marriott Ocean Club
  - 1 BR Ocean View $3 K
  - 20 March to 27 March 2020
- Marriott Surf Club
  - Platinum Season
    - 1 BR Ocean View $ 10 K
    - 1 BR Ocean Front $ 20 K
    - 2 BR Ocean View $ 17 K
    - 2 BR Ocean Front $ 26 K
- Marriott Surf Club
  - Platinum Season
    - 2 BR Ocean View $ 17 K
    - 2 BR Ocean Side $ 18 K
    - 2 BR Ocean Front $ 26 K
    - 3 BR Ocean View $ 26 K
- Aruba Divi Phoenix
  - 1 BR WK # 8
    - building 6 on the 4 th floor
    - 27 weeks remain $15 K
  - 1 BR WK # 11
    - building 7 on the 3rd floor
    - 33 weeks remain $15 K
- Aruba Divi Phoenix
  - 2 BR PH WK # 11/12
    - building 9 on the 7 th floor
    - 30 weeks remain $35 K each
- Divi Links Golf
  - 1 BR WK # 6
    - Birdie on the 2 sd floor
    - 19 weeks remain $ 8 K
  - Studio WK # 5, 7, 8 $8 K each
  - Birdie 1 on Ground floor
    - 22/27/23 weeks remain

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  - Week 2/1113 (18k)
  - Week 5/1315 (18k)
  - Week 556/1521 (20k/Wk.)
  - Week 78/1408 (18k/Wk.)
  - Week 8/1113/8/1409 (17k/Wk.)
  - Week 9/1218 (18k)
  - Week 10/1207 (15k)
  - Weeks 11-15 also available!

**For Rent**

- Divi Links Golf
  - 1 BR WK # 8/9 $9,5 K each
  - Eagle 9 Ground floor
    - 27 and 19 weeks remain
  - 1 BR WK # 11 $9 K
  - Birdie 3 with 26 weeks remain
- Divi Links Golf
  - 1 BR WK 12/13 $ 9.5 K each
  - Birdie 10 Ground Floor
    - 33/34 weeks remain
  - Studio WK # 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
  - Birdie 9 3rd floor $10 K each
  - 38 weeks remain each
- Divi Village
  - 2 BR WK 13 $ 14 K
  - Building C 3rd floor
    - 28 weeks remain
- Renaissance Suites
  - 1 BR WK # 9 $ 9 K
  - 4th floor harbor view
    - 18R sleep $4 $1200 each
  - 6 to 20 February 2020
- Playa Linda Beach Resort
  - Studio wk 10 and 11 $25K both
    - weeks ground floor on Palm Beach
- Dutch Village
  - 1 BR WK 7 and 8 $ 9 K each
    - 15 weeks remain each
  - 2 BR WK 7 $ 18 K
    - 25 weeks remain
- Dutch Village
  - 1 BR WK 9 $9 K
  - 12 weeks remain
  - 1 BR WK 9 $9 K
  - 1 BR WK 7 and 8 $9 K each
  - 12/24 weeks remain
  - 16 weeks remain

**FOR SALE BY OWNER**

- Divi Village Golf
  - Bldg. E 1 BR 2 Bath, 2 patios
dock, hot tub. grill. Floating week (wk 51-wk15) 19 weeks remaining $8000
  - janellemickelson@gmail.com

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  - Week 5/1315 (18k)
  - Week 556/1521 (20k/Wk.)
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  - Week 8/1113/8/1409 (17k/Wk.)
  - Week 9/1218 (18k)
  - Week 10/1207 (15k)
  - Weeks 11-15 also available!

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Exxon outlines its steps to reduce harmful methane emissions

By CATHY BUSSEWITZ
AP Business Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — Exxon Mobil on Tuesday outlined how it is reducing the methane its operations release into the atmosphere, detailing its efforts as governments around the globe write new rules to regulate the harmful greenhouse gas.

The oil and gas giant is seeking to influence the way those rules are written, hoping companies and regulators adopt the procedures Exxon says helped reduce methane emissions by 20% in some of its U.S. drilling operations over the past two years.

“Our industry has developed high-tech advances to curb emissions, and we also hope this framework will be helpful for governments as they develop new regulations,” said Darren Woods, chairman and CEO of Exxon, in a statement accompanying a document outlining Exxon’s procedures for reducing methane emissions.

Some environmental advocates see Exxon’s move as a rebuke of President Donald Trump’s Environmental Protection Agency, which in August proposed relaxing regulations on methane emissions. But they also said Exxon needs to be much more aggressive in its efforts to curtail global warming.

“The steps Exxon Mobil has taken and the commitments the company announced are nowhere near sufficient to get us there,” said Kathy Mulvey, accountability campaign director at the Union of Concerned Scientists. “We need to see much more ambitious and urgent actions taken by companies like Exxon Mobil.”

Methane has 86 times the global warming potential of carbon dioxide over a 20-year period, according to the Union of Concerned Scientists. It is the main component of natural gas, and when companies drill for oil, they generally also get natural gas, whether they want it or not. Methane is released in the atmosphere during extraction and distribution of natural gas, and while many scientists agree this is a major problem, there is little data to show exactly how much is leaking into the atmosphere.

Last year, Exxon and other oil giants pushed back the EPA’s proposal to relax regulations on methane emissions. At the time, many had already invested in equipment and upgrades to satisfy emissions regulations enacted under former President Barack Obama.

Major oil companies are also under pressure from investors to prove they will be able to adapt to future regulations that aim to curtail global warming.

“With the climate crisis upon us, companies can’t afford to ignore their contributions to climate change,” said Ben Ratner, senior director at the Environmental Defense Fund. “In at least one or two parts of [Exxon’s methane] framework, what they are recommending appeared to fall considerably short of what would be considered the best available operational practice and regulatory requirements.”

Exxon’s model framework included establishing a leak detection and repair program to identify and fix gas leaks as soon as possible, with inspections for leaks happening at least once per year. Some major oil companies are conducting inspections monthly, using sensors mounted on drones, Ratner said.

“The truth is it needs to be much more, and we need to be driving to a world of continuous, real-time monitoring and rapid mitigation of this highly potent greenhouse gas,” Ratner said. “Once-a-year inspection is not necessary, and we hope companies and governments agree to go above and beyond what’s presented in the model.”

The company also suggested that if an oil and gas operator has a leak at a natural gas site, it would be better to burn it off, or “flare” it, instead of releasing methane directly into the atmosphere. It suggested improving the combustion effects, to ensure that any methane isn’t accidentally released as a result of incomplete combustion.

‘Sustainable gardening’ includes many eco-friendly practices

By DEAN FOSDICK

“Sustainable” is one of gardening’s trendiest buzzwords, yet it carries a range of definitions. Just what does it mean in practical terms, and how important is it to the average gardener?

Very important, according to a recent plant trends study by horticulturists with the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS). It found strong interest in native plants, “re-wilding” gardens, growing edibles, and going easy on wildlife, among other concerns.

“More and more people are supporting sustainability, where the social, environmental and economic factors balance,” said Mark Tancig, a horticulture agent with University of Florida Food and Agricultural Sciences Extension. “That means planting things that don’t require as much water or fertilizer. Using plants that resist disease and insects. Choosing native plants in mixtures that attract wildlife.

“That not only saves you money, but they look good, too,” Tancig said. “They’re restorative to the environment.”

Sustainable isn’t necessarily the same as organic, noted Erica Chernoh, an Oregon State University Extension horticulturist.

“Organic” has become legally recognized,” Chernoh said. “Sustainability is more of an open book, combining ecological, sociological and economic factors.”

“They can do that by not over-fertilizing, by eliminating any spraying that isn’t necessary,” she said.
LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Recording Academy on Monday fired Deborah Dugan, its former president who called into question the integrity of the Grammy Awards nominations process and said she was sexually harassed by a top lawyer for the organization, which she called a boys’ club that coddled and favored powerful men.

The academy said the decision was reached after “two exhaustive, costly independent investigations” about Dugan and her allegations. It said the reviews found “consistent management deficiencies and failures,” though no specifics were offered.

Dugan had been on administrative leave since mid-January, when she was ousted after a complaint of mistreatment from a longtime Recording Academy employee, which the academy said Monday was one of multiple complaints from people across the organization. Dugan had raised several issues about the way the organization ran and accused its top lawyers of acting inappropriately toward her during a business meeting, which she detailed in a discrimination complaint filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Dugan said Monday that the academy’s investigations did not include interviews with her, or address her claims of conflict of interest and voting irregularities.

“While I am disappointed by this latest development, I am not surprised given the Academy’s pattern of dealing with whistle blowers,” she said in a statement. “So, instead of trying to reform the corrupt institution from within, I will continue to work to hold accountable those who continue to self-deal, taint the Grammy voting process and discriminate against women and people of color.”

Dugan’s ouster played out days before the academy’s most important night, the Grammy Awards, a ceremony that made no mention of her or her allegations of a rigged voting process for some of the ceremony’s top awards.

The academy said it had engaged in some settlement discussions with Dugan but opted to fire her instead, and will begin the search for a new CEO.

“We could not reward her with a lucrative settlement and thereby set a precedent that behavior like hers has no consequence,” the academy’s executive committee wrote in a letter to members. “Our members and employees, and the entire music industry, deserve better than that.”

Dugan’s attorneys said in a statement that the academy’s decision to fire her immediately notified media outlets “further demonstrates that it will stop at nothing to protect and maintain a culture of misogyny, discrimination, sexual harassment, corruption and conflicts of interest.”

Dugan’s EEOC complaint alleged that Joel Katz, an influential music attorney and the academy’s general counsel, tried to woo her romantically and attempted to kiss her against her wishes during a dinner last year that had been presented as a business meeting.

Chanel hosts pared-down show as virus keeps many VIPs away

By THOMAS ADAMSON
Associated Press
Paris (AP) — Chanel staged a comparatively low-key affair for Paris Fashion Week as the coronavirus outbreak kept many of the regular VIPs and fashion editors away. The stalwart Parisian design house streamed its show online.

Some of the guests who came to see Chanel’s fall collection up close Tuesday wore CC-branded face masks. Artistic director Virginie Viard channeled restraint in the collection, a marked departure from her predecessor and mentor, the late Karl Lagerfeld. Although the show took place at the Grand Palais exhibition hall on the Champs-Elysees, simplicity was the Chanel “mot du jour,” from the set of tiered white steps to the pared-down aesthetic of the monochrome display.

Here are some highlights on the last day of Paris Fashion Week for fall-winter 2020 ready-to-wear:

CHANEL
“A very simple, very pure momentum. Romanticism, but without any flourishes,” is how Viard described the collection, said Viard. Evoking French film director Claude Chabrol’s 1968 film “The Does,” a drama about seduction that focuses on bisexual lovers, female models walked the runway together and chatted like intimates for the first looks. The models wore stylish retro black leather boots, ones with a brandy bell-shaped collar at the mid-calf that turned out to be the collection’s leitmotif. Viard’s simplest designs were the most effective: A black silk bodice dress with the top thereof off and dropped Juliette sleeves. Modeled by Cindy Crawford’s daughter, Kaia Gerber, it had guests clicking their cameras. Voluminous studded jodhpurs opened up at the bottom cut a beautiful silhouette. This design, Viard said, was an homage to Lagerfeld’s personal style. A loose wool jacket in Chanel’s emblematic pink with a soft-spiky collar was also a high point. The one drawback of the tasteful showing were some of the overly flashy jewelry that often distracted the eye from the show’s central aesthetic.

MIU MIU
There has been renewed focus on Miuccia Prada after she announced during Milan Fashion Week that she had hired designer Raf Simons as co-creative director of the family house that she directed to icon status.

The first show since then for Prada’s little sister brand, Miu Miu, did not disappoint creatively. The “intellectual” fashion display was a pastiche of itself. Bright color, intentionally contrasting checks, faux animal fur and supremely shimmering silk gowns emerged divergent references for disruptive and quirky effect. Old school glamour came in a emerald green crinkled silk column dress modeled with a lucrative settlement.

Associated Press
Long-rumored Woody Allen memoir coming in April

By HILLEL ITALIE
Associated press

NEW YORK (AP) — A memoir by Woody Allen, rumored for years and once thought unpublishable in the #MeToo era, is coming out next month.

Grand Central Publishing, a division of Hachette Book Group, announced Monday that the book is called “Apropos of Nothing” and will be released April 7.

“The book is a comprehensive account of his life, both personal and professional, and describes his work in films, theater, television, nightclubs, and print,” according to Grand Central. “Allen also writes of his relationships with family, friends, and the loves of his life.”

Financial terms were not disclosed for the book, which Grand Central quietly acquired a year ago, and a spokesman declined to provide further details about the book’s contents. In addition to the U.S., “Apropos of Nothing” will be released in Canada, Italy, France, Germany and Spain, followed by releases in “countries around the world.” Allen will do “several interviews” for the book, Grand Central announced.

The 84-year-old Allen is an Oscar-winning filmmaker, known for such works as “Annie Hall” and “The Purple Rose of Cairo,” and is among the most influential comedians of his time. But allegations by daughter Dylan Farrow that he molested her as a child in the early 1990s have effectively idled his movie career in the U.S. Amazon Studios backed out of a production and distribution deal with Allen, and numerous actors have said they won’t work with him anymore. His “A Rainy Day In New York” was released in Europe last year but not in this country.

His current production, “Rifkin’s Festival,” starring Christoph Waltz and Gina Gershon, was shot last summer and is seeking distribution.

Allen has denied any wrongdoing, and he was never charged after two separate investigations in the 1990s. But Dylan’s allegations have received new attention in the #MeToo era.

An Allen memoir nearly came out more than a decade ago. He had reportedly reached a multimillion-dollar deal with Penguin in 2003, but changed his mind. In 2018-2019, several publishers, citing #MeToo concerns, reportedly rebuffed an Allen representative, as was his mind. In 2018-2019, several publishers, citing #MeToo concerns, reportedly rebuffed an Allen representative. But according to a Grand Central spokesman, a deal was reached in March 2019 after Publisher and Senior Vice President Ben Sevier read a completed draft of the book.

An Allen memoir once seemed the most obvious of publications. He has had a celebrated career as a performer and director, and is known for wordplay and one-liners. He has won three Academy awards for his screenplays and has been a published writer for decades.

his comic essays appearing in The New Yorker and elsewhere. His previous books include the essay collections “Without Feathers” and “Getting Even.”

Allen’s agreement with Hachette means he shares a publisher with one of his literary heroes, J.D. Salinger, and one of his biggest detractors, his son Ronan Farrow, whose “Catch and Kill” was released last year by the Hachette division Little, Brown and Company.

Farrow won a Pulitizer Prize for his #MeToo reporting on producer Harvey Weinstein, and for years has been estranged from his father, as is Ronan’s mother, Mia Farrow, who starred in “The Purple Rose of Cairo,” “Hannah and Her Sisters” and other Allen movies.

The New Yorker now owns Macmillan will publish Dylan Farrow’s debut novel, “Hush,” billed as a “powerful feminist fantasy full of surprising insights.”

‘Judge Judy’ will end 25-year run, but star sticking around

NEW YORK (AP) — “Judge Judy” will be ending, but Judge Judy isn’t going anywhere.

Confused? Judy Sheindlin’s announcement Monday that her popular syndicated courtroom show will end production in 2021 sets the stage for her return in a different format even as her old show may not really go anywhere.

The tough-talking former New York family court judge has ruled her television courtroom since 1996 and its popularity made her the highest-paid personality in TV. She announced on “Ellen” that next season will be her 25th and last making original episodes of “Judge Judy.”

After that, the 77-year-old mediator will be making a new show called “Justice for All” that will debut in fall 2021.

“If you’re not tired, you’re not supposed to stop,” Sheindlin told Ellen DeGeneres. CBS, meanwhile, has made a two-year deal with stations that currently carry “Judge Judy” to air reruns of the program. Based on 25 years of a regular production schedule, it’s likely there are some 5,000 episodes of the program in CBS’ library, said Bill Carroll, a program consultant and expert in the syndication market.

Currently, most markets air two half-hour episodes of “Judge Judy” back-to-back on weekdays, and the second one is usually a rerun from a past year.
'Inside the Actors Studio' host James Lipton dies at 93

LOS ANGELES (AP) — James Lipton, an actor-turned-drama-school-dean who got hundreds of Hollywood luminaries to open up about their life and art and became an unlikely celebrity himself as the longtime host of "Inside the Actors Studio," died Monday.

Lipton died of bladder cancer at his New York home, his wife, Kedakai Lipton, told The Associated Press. He was 93.

The Detroit-born Lipton began the Bravo show in 1994 that also served as a class for his students at the Actors Studio Drama School, where he was then dean.

He often said his only requirement for a guest was whether they had something to teach his students. His first guest, Paul Newman, set a standard of stardom for those that would follow, including Meryl Streep, Robert De Niro, Glenn Close, Steven Spielberg and Barbra Streisand.

"Rest in peace, James Lipton," the stack of blue note cards that held his actor's process, which was so refreshing," Streisand said in a Twitter post.

Lipton was known, and often parodied, for his highbrow and sometimes worshipful tone with his subjects, and for his intensive preparation, represented by a stack of blue note cards that held his meticulously researched questions. When Will Ferrell played Lipton on "Saturday Night Live," the stack of cards was nearly a foot thick.

Many other media-shy actors were willing to appear on "Inside the Actors Studio" because Lipton focused on their craft and not the usual celebrity chatter or project promotion.

"People don't come on to sell a movie and you never hear the words, 'I'm opening in Vegas in two weeks,'" Lipton told the AP in 1996 interview. "That's what most talk shows depend upon, and that's fine, but with us we're getting together to dig as deep as we can."

He was not afraid to get personal, however, and his stunned interviewees often asked "How did you know that?" when he asked about something from their childhood or private life.

Julia Roberts asked Lipton if he had talked to her mother after one set of questions, and Sally Field in her first-season appearance asked, "Have you been reading my diary? Talking to my shrink?"

"Obviously we deal in lots of anecdotes, and even some gossip and secrets," Lipton told the AP, "but they're tied together by a concern for and devotion to craft."

He ended every interview with a set of soul-searching questions he derived from French television host Bernard Pivot, including, "What is your favorite curse word?" and "If God exists, what would you like to hear him say after your death?"

Lipton's own childhood was made financially perilous by the divorce of his parents, poet and journalist Lawrence Lipton and teacher Betty Weinberg.

"I always had to work, from the age of 13. When my father left, we had nothing," Lipton said in a Parade magazine article in 2013. While he dallied in acting as a youngster, he intended to pursue law and the male chauvinist Paris of that time, the women couldn't get jobs and, in the male chauvinist Paris of that time, the women couldn't get work at all. It was perfectly respectable to work at a Nursing Home, Lipton said.

Back home in the U.S., he studied acting with famed teacher Stella Adler as well as production and directing at New York University and the New School. His 1950s stage and screen credits included "The Autum Garden" on Broadway and a stint as actor and then writer on the TV soap opera "The Guiding Light." Lipton wrote the book and the lyrics for two Broadway musicals, "No-where to Go but Up" (1962) and "Sherry!" (1967).

In the 1990s, as a vice president of the Actors Studio, Lipton helped create the Actors Studio Drama School that brought together the resources of the studio and the New School. He was the founding dean of the graduate-level school, which in 2005 relocated to Pace University, where Lipton remained its dean emeritus.

Despite his TV show's guest list of nearly every A-list actor of recent decades, Lipton never got the guest he wanted most, Marlon Brando.

"He was reclusive in the last years of his life," Lipton told Parade. "He said, 'I'm never going to do your show. The studio's always taking credit for me. I was trained by Stella Adler.'" Lipton said, "So was I. Come on. We'll talk about Stella. I've had a pretty good roster of guests without Marlon.'"

Lipton said his favorite guest on the show was Bradley Cooper, because he was a former student.

"The night that one of my students has achieved so much that he or she comes back and sits down in that chair would be the night that I have waited for since we started this thing."

Lipton told Larry King in 2016, "It turned out to be Bradley Cooper.'"

Lipton and Cooper, who can be seen asking Sean Penn a question in a 1999 episode of the show, both cleared up when he returned as a guest in 2011.

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Other than Brando and Jack Nicholson, another favorite of his who he never came to the studio's always taking credit for me."

The former student.

"The night that one of my students has achieved so much that he or she comes back and sits down in that chair would be the night that I have waited for since we started this thing."

Lipton told Larry King in 2016, "It turned out to be Bradley Cooper.'"

Lipton and Cooper, who can be seen asking Sean Penn a question in a 1999 episode of the show, both cleared up when he returned as a guest in 2011.