

national hellenic FREE PRESS

VOL. 42

NO. 407

CHICAGO, IL.

FEBRUARY, 2020

St. Paul

Louis A. Palivos
Part 1



Who was the writer of 14 Epistles in the New Testament? Who is the Apostle to the Gentiles? Did he remain faithful to the Old Testament? Who began zealously persecuting the early Christian Believers but was transformed to become the first after the One (Jesus Christ)? Who brought Christianity to Greece and impacted the Western World? Who is probably the greatest Christian Theologian? Who incorporated Greek philosophers and Greek words to his theology? Who was especially called on by the Lord Jesus Christ? Why didn't the Holy Spirit allow him to evangelize in certain places?

St. Paul's background Paul was known as Saul. He was a Pharisee. He grew up in Tarsus, a city in modern day Turkey. He studied Greek and Hebrew. He was a Roman citizen. He persecuted the early Church going so far as to get legal orders from the Great Sanhedrin of Jerusalem to go to Damascus and capture Believers. He was present at the stoning death of the first Christian martyr, Stephan. "And Paul consented to his death." Acts 8:1. He probably had heard or perhaps even knew Jesus Christ. The Holy Scriptures do not tell us if Paul had met Jesus Christ before his crucifixion and death.

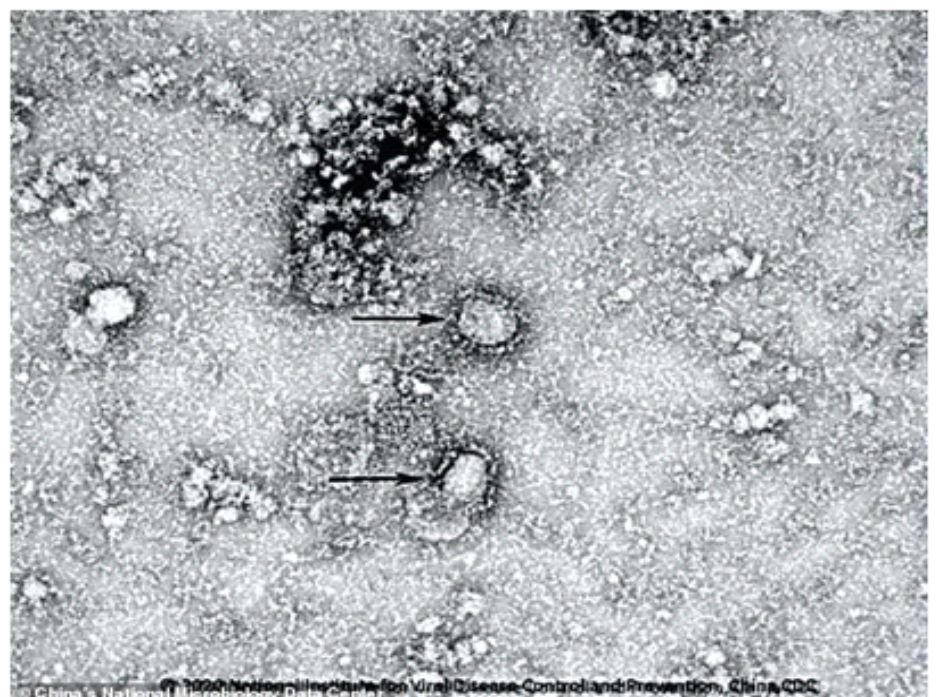
St. Paul's Conversion Having received orders from the High Priest and Sanhedrin in Jerusalem, Saul started to go to Damascus. Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads." So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" Then the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one. Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one. But they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank. Acts 9:1-9

At the time of this supernatural event, it is not clear if Saul was walking or fell from a horse, on the road to Damascus. Christ's disciple, Ananias prayed, laid his hands on Saul's head, and the Holy Spirit filled Saul. From being literally blinded for 3 days, he gained his eyesight back when scales fell from his eyes. His natural vision was lost for a while only to gain his spiritual vision. After this event, he proclaimed that Jesus is the Son of God. Acts 9:20. Now he would be

(Continued p.2)

The Corona Virus— 1918 All Over Again?

by Jane M. Orient, M.D.



Clusters of a dozen or so deaths may get nonstop "if-it-bleeds-it-leads" press coverage. But the lack of preparedness for the really, really big threats may be met with virtual radio silence—until panic breaks out.

The worst, possibly existential, threat is the stealthy, invisible one that multiplies exponentially—in the accurate sense of the term: 400 cases today, 800 tomorrow, then 1600, 3200, 6400, 128000, 256000, 512000, and 1.024 million after only eight doubling times. Biological threats proliferate—until they run out of susceptible victims.

In 1918, the great influenza pandemic killed as many people in 11 months as the medieval Black Death did in 4 years. Ultimately, at least 50 million may have perished. Young healthy people, especially young soldiers headed off to the front in World War I, succumbed quickly. To avoid interfering with the war effort, the U.S. government denied and covered up the threat, preventing the implementation of public health measures.

Since then, the world has gotten smaller. A virus that jumps the species barrier from animals to humans in a meat market in China can cross the Pacific in hours. And despite the expenditure of \$80 billion on a National Biologic Defense, the U.S. is arguably no better prepared than it was in 1918, state Steven Hatfill, M.D., and coauthors in their new book Three Seconds until Midnight.

As in 1918, we lack a vaccine or wonder drugs, but must rely on non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPI), and on public health authorities to track and try to contain the spread of infection.

Accurate information is critical. Can we trust governmental authorities to tell the truth? Travel restrictions, quarantine, closing businesses, and cancelling public events have a huge economic and potential political cost.

(Continued p.2)

NATIONAL HELLENIC
FREE PRESS

PUBLISHER
SOTIRIS REKOUMIS
EDITOR
DENISE REKOUMIS
LAYOUTS
JOHN REKOUMIS
CONTRIBUTORS

DR. STAVROS BASSEAS, JOHN REKOUMIS,
DENISE REKOUMIS, DR JORDAN TSOLAKIDIS,
CHRIS MERENTITIS DR. LOUIS PALIVOS

THE PLATFORM OF THE GREEK PRESS

- 1.To applaud the achievements of our ethnic group
- 2.To support the ideas of the Hellenic-Christian tradition
- 3.To promote the preservation of the Greek language
- 4.To encourage all worthy Community causes
- 5 To assist all the Greek-American fraternal, cultural patriotic and religious organizations
- 6.To install Americanism in the Greek-American community
- 7.To advance the just causes of Hellenism.
- 8. To promote the ideals Greece has given to humanity.

St. Paul Louis A. Palivos

Part 1

these cities, later, he would follow-up with his Epistles.

At Athens, Paul was vexed with what he observed: numerous idols. However, the Athenians were also seeking to fulfill their unfulfilled desires with various schools of philosophy that clashed: Mystery Religions, Gnosticism, Epicureism, Stoicism, Olympian Gods and Roman Theology were in full blossom.

Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols. Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the *Gentile* worshipers, and in the market-place daily with those who happened to be there. Then certain Epicurean and Stoic philosophers encountered him. And some said, “What does this babblers want to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods,” because he preached to them Jesus and the resurrection. And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new doctrine *is* of which you speak? For you are bringing some strange things to our ears. Therefore we want to know what these things mean.” For all the Athenians and the foreigners who were there spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing. Addressing the Areopagus Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, “Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshiped with men’s hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, ‘For we are also His offspring.’ Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man’s devising. Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.” And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, while others said, “We will hear you again on this *matter*.” So Paul departed from among them. However, some men joined him and believed, among them Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman named Damaris, and others with them. Acts 17: 16-34

To this day, St. Paul’s message is written on a plaque on the steps to the Supreme Court, at the Acropolis. To this day, the clash of ideas that the then Greeks dealt with are similar to the clash of ideas today: materialism, religiosity and various philosophies. What follows is St. Paul’s theology, a very short version, as no one can rise to the Godly inspiration of St. Paul, from his Epistle writings.

Condemnation for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Rom 3:23

Justification They are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus. Rom 3:24

Sanctification But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Rom. 6:22-23

Holy Spirit Helps

Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what

The Corona Virus—1918 All
Over Again?

There can also be incentives to exaggerate the threat, in order to sell poorly tested vaccines or drugs. The 1976 swine flu epidemic was almost a non-event; more people were probably injured or even died from adverse effects of the heavily promoted vaccine.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has so far declined to declare the corona virus outbreak a global emergency, although cases have been reported in more than a dozen or so countries. China reported only hundreds of “confirmed” cases—while countless additional cases were not tested because of lack of diagnostic test kits.

The *New England Journal of Medicine* writes, “Another Decade, Another Coronavirus.” This 2019-nCoV virus is the third zoonotic (animal) coronavirus to infect humans in two decades. The SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) and MERS (Middle East respiratory syndrome) were contained. Other coronaviruses cause mild cold-like syndromes.

This virus has occasioned the quarantine of entire cities, for the first time since medieval times. This could not be done other than in authoritarian China, states virologist Steven Hatfill, but even there is unlikely to be effective—especially if 5 million people had left before the order was implemented.

The People’s Liberation Army has sent 450 medical personnel to Wuhan to help out at local hospitals, which are crammed with patients lying in packed corridors. Construction workers are reportedly trying to build a 1,000-bed hospital in Wuhan in five days. The U.S. and other nations are evacuating their citizens from Wuhan.

A report of 41 hospitalized patients in Wuhan, published in *The Lancet*, showed that patients were relatively young (median age 49) and fewer than half had an underlying illness. Only 66% had been exposed to the Huanan seafood market, the apparent source of the infection. One patient (2%) had no fever; all had pneumonia; 29% had severe respiratory distress syndrome; and 12% had acute cardiac injury. Most cases may be very mild, facilitating more rapid spread.

The corona virus is transmitted by droplets coming into contact with mucous membranes, including the eye. It can persist on surfaces for days. People without fever or symptoms can transmit the illness during the incubation period, which might be as long as two weeks. At present, definitive diagnostic testing is available only from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

In a severe outbreak, people whose job is not critical may need to stay home. Those who do not have a supply of food, essential medications, or other needed supplies would likely end up in a frantic crowd. Personal protective gear, for people who need to be in contact with the public or care for a sick family member, is already out of stock in medical supply houses. This includes gloves, wrap-around eye protection, and N-95 protective masks—regular surgical masks are probably of little help.

Panic is never helpful; staying calm is always good advice. But failure to heed previous warnings of the need for robust disaster planning, and complacency about medical technology and governmental resources, has set the stage for potential unprecedented disaster.

Individuals need to recognize that they themselves, and not 911 or the emergency room or the Federal Emergency Management Agency, may hold the key to their family’s and their community’s survival. Local authorities need to know that they may be on their own. For now, stock up on supplies; cover those coughs and sneezes; wash hands frequently for at least 20 seconds; avoid crowds; and stay aware, as the situation could change rapidly.

(From p.1)

known as Paul.

St. Paul at Athens, Greece Paul traveled to Greece twice and once to Cyprus. He went to Neapolis, Amphipolis, Philippi, Apollonia, Thessalonica, Berea, Athens and Corinth. As a result of preaching at these cities, later, he would follow-up with his Epistles.

At Athens, Paul was vexed with what he observed: numerous idols. However, the Athenians were also seeking to fulfill their unfulfilled desires with various schools of philosophy that clashed: Mystery Religions, Gnosticism, Epicureism, Stoicism, Olympian Gods and Roman Theology were in full blossom.

Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols. Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the *Gentile* worshipers, and in the market-place daily with those who happened to be there. Then certain Epicurean and Stoic philosophers encountered him. And some said, “What does this babblers want to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods,” because he preached to them Jesus and the resurrection. And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new doctrine *is* of which you speak? For you are bringing some strange things to our ears. Therefore we want to know what these things mean.” For all the Athenians and the

(Continued p. 3)

Pappas seeks good luck for Cook County for 2020 with Greek tradition of cutting the Vasilopita

Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas, His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael of the Greek Orthodox Church and Consul General of Greece Ekaterina Dimakis today celebrated the New Year with the Greek tradition of cutting the Vasilopita.

“This celebration is a serious yet festive way to welcome the New Year to the County Building,” Pappas said.

Participating in the celebration were: Toni Preckwinkle, president of the Cook County Board of Commissioners; State’s Attorney Kim Foxx; Commissioner John Daley (11th), and Commissioner Bridget Gainer (10th). They were joined by other elected officials, consuls general, Honorary Cook County Deputy Treasurers and community leaders. The celebration was held in the Treasurer’s Office.

To celebrate the New Year, Greeks traditionally bake a special “pita,” which can be a loaf of bread or a cake in which a coin is hidden. It is called Vasilopita, which means St. Basil’s bread.

In the fourth century, when St. Basil the Great was the archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia, he gave the poor sweetened bread with gold coins inside. The tradition evolved into an expression of good wishes and a sign of “luck” for the persons whose bread contains a coin. His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael distributed the Vasilopita to see who will have especially good fortune for 2020.



Joining Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas at a Vasilopita celebration were, from left, Father Chrysanthos Kerkeres of St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Chicago; Cook County State’s Attorney Kim Foxx; Toni Preckwinkle, president of the Cook County Board of Commissioners; Pappas; His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael of the Greek Orthodox Church, and Consul General of Greece Ekaterina Dimakis. The celebration was held Jan. 30, 2020, in the Treasurer’s Office, 118 N. Clark St., Room 112, Chicago, Ill.

foreigners who were there spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing. Addressing the Areopagus Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, “Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are

very religious; for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshiped with men’s hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, ‘For we are also His offspring.’ Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man’s devising. Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.” And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, while others said, “We will hear you again on this *matter*.” So Paul departed from among them. However, some men joined him and believed, among them Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman named Damaris, and others with them. Acts 17: 16-34”

To this day, St. Paul’s message is written on a plaque on the steps to the Supreme Court, at the Acropolis. To this day, the clash of ideas that the then Greeks dealt with are similar to the clash of ideas today: materialism, religiosity and various philosophies.

(Next Issue part no. 2)

Turkey says open to talks but doesn't rule out Hague



In what was seen as an attempt at diplomatic grandstanding, Turkey on Friday said it does not exclude the possibility of resolving its differences with Greece at the International Court of Justice at The Hague while at the same time berating Athens for refusing Ankara’s invitations to restart exploratory talks.

In a statement on Friday, Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hami Aksoy said President Recep Tayyip Erdogan proposed at his meetings with the Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis in New York and London reinvigorating “all dialogue channels with Greece, including the exploratory talks.” He added that Erdogan “is even prepared to start a new dialogue channel for the Eastern Mediterranean.”

Aksoy said this was Turkey’s approach during exploratory talks held between 2002 and 2016, which, he said, were suspended upon the request of Greece. He also said Greece was violating the demilitarized status of the Aegean islands and that it expressed reservations in 1993 regarding the International Court’s jurisdiction on the matter. He added that Turkey “would like to address the issue of violation of the demilitarized status of the Aegean Islands together with the other Aegean disputes with a view to resolve them through dialogue. In doing so we also do not exclude any means of peaceful settlement to be mutually agreed by both sides, including International Court of Justice,” he added.

He accused Greece of not cooperating, complaining to the European Union and seeking solutions from third parties. “Greece is gravely mistaken if she thinks that she would obtain results through third countries whenever she faces difficulties,” he concluded. Meanwhile, Mitsotakis said in an interview with the Politico website that Turkey’s memorandum with the Tripoli government in Libya is another reflection of Ankara’s aggressive and illegal behavior in the region which is further complicating the situation in the North African country.

Witness in Novartis case claims there was plan to jail politicians

Testifying on Friday in the probe into the alleged bribery scandal implicating Swiss pharmaceutical company Novartis and Greek politicians and doctors, deputy prosecutor Ioannis Angelis alleged that there was an organized plan to jail three politicians, including former prime minister Antonis Samaras, on the eve of national elections last year.

Angelis told Supreme Court deputy prosecutor Evangelos Zacharis the other two politicians were current Development Minister Adonis Georgiadis and Movement for Change lawmaker Andreas Loverdos. Both had served as health ministers.

Angelis, who is among witnesses that have claimed there was political interference in the case, said that he discussed the plan with former Supreme Court prosecutor Xeni Dimitriou and General Inspector of Public Administration Maria Papaspyrou.

Zacharis is now expected to decide if and when Dimitriou and Papaspyrou will be summoned to testify in light of Angelis’ claim that they were aware of the plan.

Due to the gravity of his claims, his testimony was sent by the deputy Supreme Court prosecutor to Parliament so that it can be included in the House’s ongoing probe into alleged interference in the case by former alternate justice minister Dimitris Papangelopoulos. Meanwhile on Friday, corruption prosecutor Eleni Touloupaki denied the claim by former financial crimes prosecutor Panayiotis Athanasiou that she received preferential treatment at a private hospital due to her ties to Papangelopoulos. She claimed that she received treatment at the private hospital thanks to the help of her brother, a vascular surgeon.



HELLENIC SOCIETY OF CONSTANTINOPLE ΤΟ ΚΟΨΙΜΟ ΤΗΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΟΠΙΤΑΣ 202 ΤΟΥ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΥ ΣΥΛΛΟΓΟΥ ΚΩΝΣΤΑΝΤΙΝΟΠΟΛΙΤΩΝ



Την Κυριακή, 19 Ιανουαρίου, ο Ελληνικός Σύλλογος Κωνσταντινουπολιτών



τις ευχές τους και γενναιόδωρα την υποστήριξή τους στα μέλη και έργο του Συλλόγου.

υποδέχτηκε στην ομογένεια σε μια όμορφη συγκέντρωση για το ετήσιο κόψιμο της Βασιλόπιτας του, στην κοινοτική αίθουσα των Αγίων Ταξιαρχιών και Αγίου Χαραλάμπους στο Niles, παρουσία του Πατρός Γεώργιου Λαμπέρη. Παρ' όλο που η θερμοκρασία έξω ήταν μόλις 20°F, παρευρέθηκαν 65 άτομα που καλοπροαίρετα πρόσφεραν

Πολιτισμού, Μελίνας Μερκούρης, για να επαναπατριστούν οι θησαυροί μας

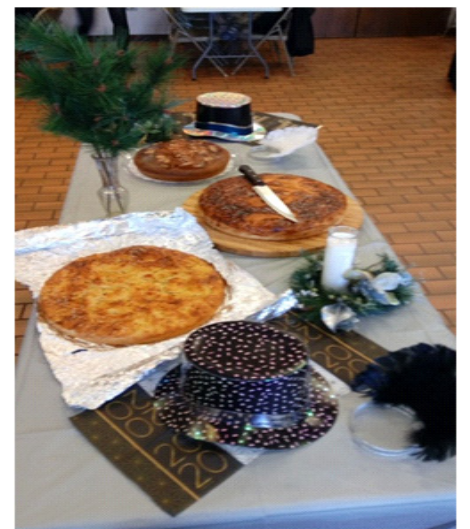


στο Μουσείο Ακρόπολης. Ακολούθησε σύντομο, αγγλόφωνο ντοκιμαντέρ που ανέλυε την αρπαγή των αρχαίων αγαλμάτων του Παρθενώνα από το Λόρδο Έλτζιν το 1801.

Στην συνέχεια ο κ. Νικόλαος Χαρισιάδης μίλησε για την ιστορία της Βασιλόπιτας και ακολούθησαν τα Πρωτοχρονιάτικα κάλαντα. Το κόψιμο της Βασιλόπιτας ξεκίνησε η κα. Αγγελική Στέφενσον, το πρεσβύτερο μέλος του συλλόγου, και την συνέχισε η πρόεδρος, κα. Άννα

Χαρισιάδου. Το τυχερό φλουρί της Βασιλόπιτας το κέρδισε ο γιός της προέδρου κ. Λεωνίδας Χαρισιάδης!

Μοιράστηκαν νοστιμότητα σπιτικά μεζεδάκια, γιορτινά εδέσματα, παραδοσιακά γλυκίσματα, αναψυκτικά και καφέ. Όλοι πέρασαν ένα μεσημέρι ενημερωτικό και φιλόξενο στην ζεστή ατμόσφαιρα που δημιούργησε ο Σύλλογος Κωνσταντινουπολιτών Σικάγου.



**ΕΥΧΟΜΑΣΤΕ ΥΓΕΙΑ ΚΑΙ
ΕΥΤΥΧΙΑ ΓΙΑ ΤΟ ΝΕΟ ΕΤΟΣ
2020!**

Η κα. Εύα Κουριάλη-Thomas παρουσίασε μία σύντομη ομιλία με θέμα την επιστροφή των αρχαίων αγαλμάτων του Παρθενώνα από το Βρετανικό Μουσείο. Αναφέρθηκε επίσης στον "αγώνα ζωής" της αείμνηστης Υπουργού



Founded by Peter Parthenis Sr. in 1974 and still family-owned today, Grecian Delight Foods is proud of its rich Greek heritage. We manufacture and market top quality authentic Greek and specialty Mediterranean foods for the foodservice and retail industries. From the best gyro meats to Greek yogurt, hummus and fine pastries, people rely on Grecian Delight Foods' commitment to provide superior products made from the finest ingredients.

Grecian Delight Foods is always looking for candidates who strengthen our ability to grow and maintain the high standards of our customers. Our success is based on superior performance, competitive strategies, professional integrity, quality products and our people. We remain steeped in Greek tradition and encourage you to inquire about career opportunities. Please email your resume to jadelman@greciandelight.com

Ask for Grecian Delight Foods at your favorite Chicago restaurants and grocery stores!



**GYROS • HUMMUS • SPREADS • GREEK YOGURT • PITA • FLATBREADS
SHAWARMA • FALAFEL • MOUSAKA • PASTICHIO • BAKLAVA • AND MORE
847-364-1010 • www.greciandelight.com**

NEWS FROM GREECE

Government defends plan for floating barrier in Aegean



Following criticism by Amnesty International and other human rights groups, the government on Friday continued to defend its plan for a floating barrier in the Aegean to curb an increased influx of migrants from Turkey as the European Commission and Germany appeared to distance themselves from the scheme.

Migration Minister Notis Mitarakis referred to a “positive measure that will help monitor areas close to the Turkish coast,” adding that the floating barrier “sends out the message that we are not a free-for-all and that we’re taking all necessary measures to protect the borders.”

Right groups have condemned the measure amid fears that it will increase the risks faced by migrants crossing the Aegean.

German government spokesperson Steffen Seibert refused to comment on the news.

The European Commission said that although the protection of external borders lies in the hands of European Union member-states, EU law applies when physical barriers prevent asylum seekers from applying for protection.

UN to post EEZ maps of Libya, Turkey deal

Athens is bracing for the United Nations’ Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea to post the geographical coordinates outlined in the maritime border agreement signed by Turkey and the Tripoli-based government in Libya on November 29, 2019.

The inclusion of the memorandum’s sea zone maps in the UN’s database is expected to give them an official character, much to the concern of Athens, which is preparing for whatever consequence this may entail.

Greece, which is situated geographically between Turkey and Libya, has vehemently denounced the memorandum as illegal and a blatant violation of its sovereignty.

For its part, Turkey has conveyed that the posting of the maps by the UN will essentially make the memorandum official and will pave the way for Ankara to begin explor-

atory drilling activities for natural resources in the maritime zones that are outlined in the accord as part of Turkey’s exclusive economic zone (EEZ), including an area off southern Crete.

Based on the geographical distortions Turkey has introduced in order to justify the meeting of its EEZ with that of Libya’s, the islands of Kasos, Karpathos, Kastellorizo and Rhodes are completely overlooked. Moreover, Turkey’s maps show the larger island of Crete as having a limited effect on the process of delimiting an EEZ.

On the contrary, in order to achieve this delimitation with Libya, Ankara has relied on uninhabited Turkish islets, which are assigned full effect in determining the EEZ.

Athens has sought to highlight these distortions at the highest diplomatic level. However, given that the memorandum is a bilateral agreement between two internationally recognized governments, its objections are expected to achieve only limited results.

Stricter rules for demos and rallies in cities



Seeking to put an end to mass disruptions in the Greek capital and other large cities whenever a march or demonstration is held with a small number of participants, the government has drafted legislation that will be tabled to Parliament imminently. The draft bill also aims to protect cities from violence caused by groups gatecrashing otherwise peaceful rallies.

The bill, seen by Kathimerini and expected to trigger political confrontations, stipulates that marches comprising a small number of people must take place on a designated section of the road, instead of blocking entire avenues and causing major traffic disruptions. It will also allow police to designate an alternate route or area for a march if it threatens to disrupt social and economic activity in a given area.

In addition, each march will be assigned an “organizer” who will also be responsible for ensuring

it is peaceful and will, to this end, cooperate with police. The organizer will be held responsible for any damages caused by the march but will be cleared if he or she has taken all the necessary precautions.

Moreover, the bill foresees a police liaison between the authority overseeing the demonstration and the organizer to ensure the march proceeds smoothly.

A digital platform will also be created to provide citizens with real-time information on march routes and traffic arrangements.

Finally, the bill states that it will be a criminal offense for anyone to participate in a demonstration that has been prohibited by police.

At the same time, it seeks to criminalize the act of disrupting a demonstration by intrusions or acts of violence and gives police the right to stop a march in its tracks if it is being conducted illegally or if participants do not comply with the rules set beforehand.

Migration ministry halts expropriations for a week after backlash



Greek Migration Minister Notis Mitarakis announced on Monday that he will delay the announced expropriations of land for the creation of new detention camps on five Aegean islands until Friday, after facing strong opposition by local communities.

Last week, the government announced it will issue a legislative act to expropriate properties, land and sites in a bid to speed up the building of closed camps on the islands mostly affected by migration.

The council of the North Aegean Region responded by announcing it would take legal action against the plan and suspended all cooperation with the government.

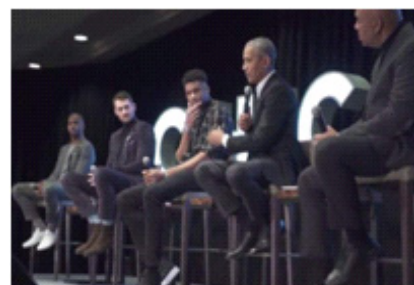
Speaking to public broadcaster ERT on Monday, Mitarakis said he was halting the expropriations to allow for new talks with islanders.

He also said the requisitions are “nothing more than a lease of those premises” for three years, adding that the aim is to reduce the time asylum seekers remain in the camps to below six months.

Government spokesman Stelios Petsas said last week the structures will shelter new arrivals in order to facilitate the identification and asy-

lum processes, and to detain migrants who exhibit abusive behavior and those who are not entitled to asylum and are slated for return to their country of origin.

Obama panel celebrates off-court work of NBA stars



Giannis Antetokounmpo is passionate about helping children in Greece and Africa. Kevin Love is trying to shine the brightest light he can on mental health by sharing his own struggles. Chris Paul is aiming to ensure that technology comes to schools where it hasn’t been affordable.

Former President Barack Obama is aware of all those endeavors. And he’s trying to make sure plenty of other people find out as well.

That’s why Obama invited that trio of NBA stars to sit alongside him for a panel discussion hosted by his foundation on Saturday, saying he invited that trio of basketball stars to laud what he called their “extraordinary leadership” when it comes to their off-court work.

“It’s so much bigger than basketball,” Love said.

Obama clearly agrees. The foundation that was created in 2014 has championed causes like the ones that are near and dear to Antetokounmpo, Paul and Love, which is why the 44th President decided to invite them to sit for what was called a “fireside chat.”

Most of the conversation had nothing to do with basketball, which is exactly the way it was planned.

“Part of the reason I wanted to convene these three, in addition to being amazing athletes, they’re good people and each of them are at different stages in their careers,” Obama said. “You’ve got old Chris Paul down at the end, the young guy (Antetokounmpo) here and Kevin somewhere in the middle. But each of them has shown character on the court but also off the court. And the work I’m doing after the presidency is entirely focused on how do we lift up and identify and amplify and support the amazing next generation of leaders that are coming up.”

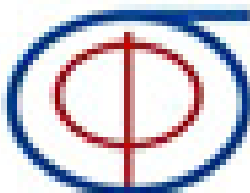
Obama is a longtime and passionate basketball fan — this event, in his hometown of Chicago, was his second official event during NBA All-Star weekend in the Windy City after one with children and first- and second-year players Friday — and he has aligned with NBA players many times before to highlight certain messages.

In February 2019, Obama sat with Golden State Warriors star Stephen Curry to mark the fifth anniversary of My Brother’s Keeper — an initiative he launched after the 2012 shooting death of unarmed Florida teen Trayvon Martin. The death of Martin, a 17-year-old African-American, sparked protests over racial profiling.

SPONSORS



National Sponsors



SigmaPharm
LABORATORIES

Supporting Sponsors/Exhibitors



TGS National
Wholesalers
of Chicago



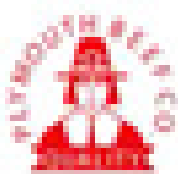
KOUTSOUDAKIS
& IAKOVOU

LAW GROUP PLLC

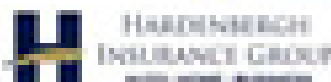
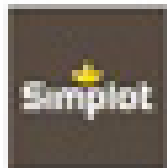
Mariyana Spyropoulos,
Commissioner,
MWED of Chicago



Cargo 360
GATE CHANGING SERVICES



RE/MAX



Supporting Organizations



MAGAF



QUANTIS
Chamber of Commerce



HANG



Media Sponsors



Tourism Today



HELLENIC NEWS OF AMERICA

Η ΝΑΥΤΕΜΠΟΡΙΚΗ

online
chat

Κλείσε την online συνεδρία σου με έναν απο τους καταρτισμένους διαιτολόγους μας.

www.gaiasdiet.gr
@gaiasdiet.gr @GaiasDiet

Healthy Teeth & Gums for Life!

IFANTIS
DENTAL CARE
IMPLANT, COSMETIC, AND ORTHODONTIC FAMILY DENTISTRY
DR. JOHN IFANTIS, D.D.S.

Gentle Doctor,
Friendly & Professional Staff,
Relaxing Environment,
Convenient Appt. Times

NEW PATIENT OFFER

\$39 Reg \$209
Save \$230!

Complete Exam • Personalized Consultation
All Necessary 3D Digital X-Rays
Professional Cleaning*

*Unless certain dental conditions exist. Expires 7/31/18. ScanQR

847.443.8243
9251 WAUKEGAN RD. | MORTON GROVE
WWW.IFANTISDENTALCARE.COM

THE LAW OFFICE OF GEORGE C. XAMPLAS • 25 E WASHINGTON ST, SUITE 700, CHICAGO, IL 60602 • (312) 345-0510

Xamplas

Helping our clients navigate the labyrinth of Greek law

- GREEK REAL ESTATE
- GREEK TAX ISSUES

- GREEK INHERITANCE & WILLS
- IMMIGRATION & PASSPORT

- POWER OF ATTORNEY
- GREEK BUSINESS LAW

www.xamplaslaws.com

Trump impeachment trial: What acquittal would mean for 2020 election



Donald Trump's Senate impeachment trial is all but over. Barring an unforeseen and unexpected blockbuster development, a largely party-line vote will acquit him of the two charges brought by the House of Representatives, which itself approved those articles of impeachment on a nearly party-line vote.

Both sides will soon be left to sift through the political rubble just nine months before a national election that has the entire House, more than a third of the Senate and the presidency itself on the ballot.

According to polls, the nation's political disposition is much as it was before the impeachment process began. The US is sharply divided along partisan lines. The president's approval ratings hover in the low to mid-40s, roughly where they've been the entirety of his term in office. His re-election chances are dicey but far from slim.

The decision not to seek witnesses - which polls show Americans overwhelmingly wanted - may be forgotten before long. After all, Democrats and Republicans had very different views about what "witnesses" means. The former wanted to hear from Trump administration officials like John Bolton and Mick Mulvaney, who they think could corroborate the charges against the president. The latter sought to call Joe Biden's son Hunter, head impeachment manager Adam Schiff and the whistleblower - and will be just as happy to see the whole matter put to rest. Impeachment didn't change the existing political disposition in the US; instead, it was subsumed by it. Olls don't tell the whole story, however, and there are other signs that the impeachment proceedings have made an impact.

A Republican base energised

At a rally in Des Moines, Iowa, on Thursday night, a basketball arena packed with supporters watched Trump once again rail against what he called the impeachment "hoax". He said that past impeachments proceedings - of Andrew Johnson in 1863, Richard Nixon in 1973 and Bill Clinton in 1999 - were "dark periods" in US history, but his presidency was a "happy" one. The cheering crowd seemed to agree. The political strategy for the White House at this point is clear - to paint impeachment as just another example of a Washington establishment that has been out to get the president - and, by connection, those who support him - from the beginning. "They're not after me, they're after you," Trump wrote in a December tweet. "I'm just in the way."

If Trump's campaign blueprint is to rally the base to support him in November - "the largest grass-roots campaign in US history", in the words of Trump campaign manager Brad Parscale - the accusation by House Democrats and subsequent exoneration by Senate Republicans could be music to Republican ears.

A Democratic base reflective

In the months leading up to the start of the House's impeachment investigation, a big question for Democrats was whether continued resistance to the move by the chamber's leadership - including Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Intelligence Committee Chair Adam Schiff - risked dispiriting their base voters who wanted to take the fight to the president. In the end those restive Democrats got the impeachment they wanted - a black mark on his presidency - if not the result they hoped for. Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren was one of the first major Democratic presidential candidates to call for Trump's impeachment, and at an organising event for her supporters in Des Moines on Friday night, many were already looking ahead to November.

Biden damaged?

There is no evidence indicating that Biden engaged in any kind of misconduct in Ukraine, but in politics such technicalities don't always matter. True or not, if hurts, it hurts. An during the opening arguments for the president's defence team, former Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi did her best to make it hurt.

The impeachment investigation itself - and Biden's ties to it - may also be enough to adversely affect Biden's presidential campaign, even if Trump's attempt to get Ukraine to launch an investigation ultimately failed.

After Bondi's presentation, Iowa Republican Senator Jodi Ernst was practically giddy as she suggested to reporters that Biden's presidential ambitions may have taken a hit. "I'm really interested to see how this discussion today informs and influences the Iowa caucus voters, those Democratic caucus-goers," she said. "Will they be supporting Vice-President Biden at this point? Not certain about that." Biden has tried to turn Republican interest in damaging his political prospects into a strength, tweeting last week that Ernst and Trump are "scared to death I'll be the nominee". In a Democratic nomination contest that is close, as will be the general election in the fall, even a shadow doubt could tilt the scales.

Is Turkey's East Mediterranean gamble a risk worth taking?



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan attends a joint news conference with German Chancellor Angela Merkel in Istanbul, Friday.

Looking back at 2019 it will no doubt be remembered as the year that Turkey upped the ante in the deep waters of the East Medi-

terranean by adopting and promoting a highly provocative, if not belligerent, stand. In what appears to be a well-thought-out plan, Ankara has over the years very consistently pegged its claims for hydrocarbon exploration in large swaths of the sea areas off Cyprus, Greece and lately Libya.

In February 2018, Turkish naval units succeeded in scaring away a drillship operated by Eni as it was getting ready to prospect for gas in Block 3 in the economic exclusion zone (EEZ) of the Republic of Cyprus. Then, in the spring of last year, the Fatih drillship, operated by Turkey's TPAO, carried out exploration work within the island's EEZ west of Paphos. Thus Turkey has sent an unequivocally strong message that it is disputing Cyprus' EEZ. This message was further amplified last summer when yet another TPAO drillship carried out exploration in an offshore area east of Cyprus.

According to maps published by various Turkish government departments, Cyprus, with the exception of the Turkish-occupied northern part, is not entitled to an EEZ, with Turkey claiming control instead. In the same vein, Turkey has laid claim to half of the Aegean Sea and the area up to the eastern coast of Crete. If that wasn't enough, on November 13, Ankara took another bold step by encroaching on a vast area of Greece's sea zone east of Rhodes - i.e. from the 28th up until the 32nd meridian - by submitting detailed coordinates to the United Nations.

Building fast on this cunning move, Turkey surprised even its closest allies by announcing the signing on November 27 of a bilateral "security and military cooperation" memorandum with the besieged, but United Nations-recognized Government of National Accord (GNA) of Libya. Furthermore, the two countries signed an agreement establishing new maritime boundaries between them, clearly infringing on Greece's territorial waters and EEZ and sparking an immediate outcry from Athens, which saw its sea zone violated again.

But Turkey's grandstanding in the East Mediterranean is totally in line with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's neo-Ottoman aspirations and his "Blue Homeland" (Mavi Vatan) vision, whereby the mainland is surrounded by an ample territorial sea zone. Another important reason which explains Turkey's forceful behavior is its ongoing quest to discover and exploit much needed hydrocarbon resources.

With a constantly rising population, now exceeding 83 million, and even faster rising energy demand, Turkey, which imports almost 75 percent of its fuel, is desperately trying to reduce its energy dependence. Having been excluded from the oil-rich areas of Kirkuk and Mosul, following the demise of the Ottoman Empire after the First World War, Ankara is now eyeing the Levant, beneath whose waters some 2.0 trillion cubic meters of gas - considerably higher than Caspian gas reserves - have been discovered during the last decade, with Israel and Egypt already covering all their gas needs from indigenous production and with Cyprus and Lebanon soon to follow suit. With more deposits being confirmed every year, Turkey feels bitter at having been left out of what amounts to an energy bonanza.

Turkey's very imaginative, but highly contentious decision to ignore Greece's territorial waters and impinge on its EEZ has resulted in a fierce reaction from Athens, which has spared no effort to lodge bitter complaints with the UN and the European Council and also brief its Arab allies and Washington. Athens, which has repeatedly denounced Ankara's expansionist policies and gross violation of international maritime law, is now seeking some form of retribution by demanding European solidarity and sanctions (unlikely) against Turkey.

As Greece is now trying to develop its by no means insignificant hydrocarbon resources in offshore areas in the Ionian and south of Crete, and has signed concession agreements to that effect with major oil companies, including ExxonMobil, Total and Repsol, Turkey's latest action to openly challenge Greece's rights in its undeclared, yet effective EEZ is posing an existential threat. According to senior EC officials in Brussels, the sea blocks which have been granted for exploration were delineated in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Convention for the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and published, along with maps, in early 2015 in the official journal of the European Union, together with the announcement for the second international oil round.

As Erdogan is now contemplating his next move on the Mediterranean chessboard, he is faced with mounting criticism at home and abroad, from both foes and allies, who are fearful of Turkey's involvement in a prolonged and uncontrolled military conflict in North Africa.

Should Greece decide to defend its maritime zone and protect future offshore drilling operations, most likely aided by Israel and Egypt, with whom the country has close defense pacts, and with US consent on account of the strong American naval and air presence on Crete, the game for Turkey could take a turn for the worse as it will find itself cornered. However, given the high appeal that such moves have on President Erdogan's wide electoral base and the rich proceeds that offshore hydrocarbon deposits promise, many in Ankara believe that the risk is worth taking. **Costis Stambolis** is the chairman and executive director of the Institute of Energy for Southeast Europe (IENE).