

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

The West

Trump responded to the Iranian attack on the Iraqi base where US soldiers were stationed earlier this week in a press conference. There were no casualties on any as a result of the missiles, although Iran took the highly unusual step of claiming responsibility for the strike.

The Middle East

Iran accidentally shot down a Ukrainian Airlines flight immediately after it took off this week, according to US officials. Most of the victims were Iranian, although there were citizens of many different countries onboard.

Focus: Ghosn's Escape

Carlos Ghosn's trial has exposed the nature of Japan's legal system as the former Nissan CEO speaks for the first time since his escape. He tells his story of being placed in solitary confinement without being charged and of being interrogated without lawyers present.

Volume XIII

2020 has continued to roll out high profile stories in what is turning out to be a news-fueled start to the year. Iranian General Soleimani's death maintains its place in the headlines, Iran shoots down a passenger jet by accident, and the fires in Australia continue to rage. Carlos Ghosn also spoke for the first time since his movie-style escape from Japan, maintaining his innocence and shedding light on the opaque Japanese legal system. Back at home, the House still hasn't turned over its articles of impeachment to the Senate.

We also have a strong list of events from jazz to theater shows to a no-pants subway rides. They are sure to help you break out of the cold-weather post-New Years doldrums.

Koalas and Australia



Curtsey of LA Times

Among the many efforts to help those affected by Australia's raging wildfire is the San Diego Zoo, which is helping to save animals affected by the blaze. This is a picture of one of the rescued koalas.

Letter From The Editor

Dear Reader:

With the festivities of New Years seemingly long gone, 2020 has so far turned out to be an incredibly news-heavy year. From daring escapes in boxes to misfired missiles, our inboxes are flooded with stories that seem destined for a movie. We are working all week long to make sure you get the most up-to-date information about these developing stories!

We are also improving and expanding our “What’s Up this Weekend?” section, with a new emphasis on smaller arts-based events around the city. This is partially based on feedback from readers like you, and is also part of our desire to support the arts as much as possible. If you’ve visited or attended any of these events and would like to share your thoughts, let us know!

Your editor,

Chris Sabaitis



Something Delicious

It's hard to pass up an article about food written by a chef who heads a Michelin-starred restaurant, especially when he suggests a recipe that will make your mouth water. While the article says "Dave Beran has little patience for cooking at home," he has experimented with various dishes to come up with something delicious that will also save on time. Check out the full article [here](#).

Ingredients

- 21 cup shelled walnuts
- 3½ tablespoons walnut oil
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1 head radicchio, preferably trevisano, cored and sliced crosswise into ½-inch crescents
- ½ shallot, minced
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 4 medium heads Belgian endive, root ends trimmed and leaves separated
- ½ cup shaved Comté cheese
- 1 medium grapefruit
- ½ lemon

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Toss walnuts in 1½ tablespoons walnut oil to lightly coat, and season with salt. Bake until nuts brown and become aromatic, 5-7 minutes. Let walnuts cool.
2. Meanwhile, supreme grapefruit: Use a knife to trim top and bottom from fruit. Set fruit on end and slice from top to bottom, following curve of fruit, to cut away peel and pith. Release whole segments by inserting blade between membrane and flesh on either side, then removing loosened flesh. Squeeze membrane to capture juice in a small bowl, then discard membrane.
3. Whisk lemon juice and shallots into grapefruit juice and set aside until shallots lightly pickle, about 10 minutes. Whisk in remaining walnut oil and olive oil. Season with salt and pepper.
4. Roughly chop cooled walnuts. In a large bowl, toss together radicchio, walnuts and grapefruit segments. Season with salt and enough dressing to lightly coat. Arrange salad on a platter or individual plates. Cover with Comté shavings.
5. In the same bowl used to dress radicchio, toss endive with enough dressing to coat. Season with salt. Arrange dressed endive over salad and serve.

Finance and Markets

Stocks and gold gained and oil fell earlier this week following the US attack on Iranian General Soleimani, but markets finished the week on a positive note as the Dow broke 29,000 for the first time as tensions in the region relaxed. While investors were initially wary of how Iran would respond to developing events, strong indications from the economy assuaged their fears.

According to the WSJ, December added 145,000 jobs in December, a slowdown from previous months but still a substantial gain for the economy. Additionally, "Private-sector wages advanced 2.9% in December from a year earlier, the smallest annual gain since July 2018."¹ As a result of these numbers investors piled into US treasuries, driving yields even lower.

On a different note, December saw women in the US holding more jobs than men for the first time in a decade as the services industry continues to boom. Of the 145,000 jobs added, 36,000 were for the services sector.²

Headlines

Fallout from Soleimani's Death

The Iranian regime responded to the US's killing of its top general and heir-apparent by firing several rockets at an Iraqi base that houses international soldiers. While local reports initially mentioned that the missiles had resulted in the deaths of US service members, US and other international partners later confirmed that there were no casualties. Lawmakers were briefed on the intelligence that led to the administration's decision to kill the general, as well as possible next steps for the region.³

Iran Shoots Down a Ukrainian Jet

In what has been dubbed by American officials to be a mistake, Iran appears to have shot down a Ukrainian airliner with a surface-to-air missile earlier this week. The Boeing 737, which crashed in Iran shortly after takeoff on Wednesday, was carrying 176 passengers of various nationalities. Canadian investors, who represent the 63 Canadian citizens killed, have been invited to Iran to review the crash site.⁴

While an investigation is currently underway, Iran currently rejects the possibility of a mistake, calling it “scientifically impossible.” They have yet to turn over the blackbox to international investigators.

The Compendious Column

By *Gilad Penn*

The Compendious Column will return next week.

Australian Fires Continue to Rage

The fires in Australia continue to prove difficult to defeat with more than 2,000 homes and 17 million acres of land destroyed in the blaze. “At least 26 people have been killed in the fires, including” two volunteer firefighters. According to reports, “in December, the smoke was so heavy in Sydney that the air quality measured 11 times higher than the ‘hazardous’ level.” Australia is also in the midst of a prolonged draught.⁵

Many countries have offered assistance to the nation, as have several international fire departments. Some animals have also received assistance from the San Diego Zoo, which has saved several animals and are currently assessing habitat damage.⁶

International Fugitive Carlos Ghosn

More news came out this week after former Nissan CEO Carlos Ghosn spoke publicly about his Hollywood-esque escape from Japan for the first time on Wednesday. In a press conference that lasted more than two hours, he related his imprisonment in Japan and shed doubt on the country’s legal system. He professed his innocence and said that Japanese authorities would not give him a fair trial.

According to news reports, Japanese prosecutors enjoy a conviction rate upwards of 99%. According to the country’s rules, “prosecutors can grill suspects repeatedly without their lawyers present” and imprison them with formal charges. As a result of Ghosn’s trial, Japan’s legal system has come under intense international scrutiny.⁷

Pelosi Continues to Hold Onto Impeachment Articles

Impeachment refuses to leave the national consciousness. Members of congress returned to work this week after the year end break, but the House has yet to formally send the Articles of Impeachment to the Senate for trial. While House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has signaled that she might be willing to send them “soon,” there is growing consternation from some House Democrats that fear the delay is causing the process to appear to political.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell also signed onto a proposal that would result in “the dismissal of impeachment articles if Mrs. Pelosi doesn’t send them over within 25 days.” However, the rule requires a 2/3 majority to pass and is therefore unlikely to take effect given the Republicans’ slim margin in the chamber.⁸

What's up this weekend?

[An Alpine Symphony](#)

Where David Geffen Hall, NY Philharmonic

When January 9-11, 2020

What “Paul Lewis performs Grieg’s unabashedly Romantic Piano Concerto, which dances and dazzles with hints of Norwegian melodies. Then join Strauss on a mountain hike and listen for a brilliant sunrise, mountain pasture, ferocious storm, and more in his Alpine Symphony, an orchestral extravaganza requiring 125 musicians and “instruments” such as wind and thunder machines, cow bells, and bird calls.”
—*the website*

[Winter Jazzfest](#)

Where Various Venues—check out the website for more!

When January 8-18, 2020

What “Winter Jazzfest is the annual New York home to the exciting and forward-thinking contemporary jazz music being made today. It attracts a unique, deeply engaged, discerning audience, a diverse range of cultural enthusiasts and music fans from across North America and over 20 countries. The festival also plays host to attendees of the annual Association of Performing Arts Professionals (APAP), who attend Winter Jazzfest in order to discover new talents.” *-the website*

[The Exponential Festival](#)

Where Brooklyn: Bushwick, Clinton Hill, Fort Greene, Williamsburg, Sunset Park

When January, 2020

What “Exponential is the only month-long January festival dedicated to New York City-based emerging artists working in experimental performance. The participants in this multi-artist, multi-venue festival are committed to ecstatic creativity in the face of commercialism. Exponential is driven by inclusiveness and a diversity of artists, forms, and ideas coupled with utopian resource-sharing, mentoring and the championing of risky, rigorous work in eclectic fields to keep theatre kicking.” *-the website*

[No Pants Subway Ride](#)

Where NYC Subway

When January 12, 2020

What “One of the best and most amusing NYC events in January is the No Pants Subway Ride created by Improv Everywhere’s Charlie Todd. In 2002, the funny fella produced the first-ever event and posted it on YouTube, where the short clip quickly gained popularity. Now it has turned into one of the group’s most anticipated events, as thousands of New Yorkers continue the funny tradition on subway cars across

Gotham. Donning winter coats—minus their pants—the straphangers share the same goal: to confuse bystanders. The event had only 150 participants in its first year, but now the prank is an international sensation with over 25 countries involved. Why? Because annual international pranks are fun!” *-the website*

The Truth Has Changed

Where Newman Theater

When January 11-19, 2020

What "THE TRUTH HAS CHANGED traces the arc of misinformation and propaganda in America from 9/11 to Trump. As a reporter and eyewitness on the frontlines of so many of the key moments that have changed this country and changed the world, Josh Fox has many stories to tell. From 9/11 and the Iraq war, to the advent of fracking and the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill, to the relentless smear campaigns against climate scientists, to the fight for 100% renewable energy, to the 2016 presidential campaign, to Standing Rock, Josh has had a front row seat to history unfolding.” *-the website*

Further Reading

<https://news.yahoo.com/shattered-inside-the-secret-battle-to-save-americas-undercover-spies-in-the-digital-age-100029026.html>

- ✦ You think you have it hard? Imagine trying to be a spy in the age of facial recognition. This fascinating article tells the story how American intelligence agencies are grappling with evolving technology.

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Citations

¹ <https://www.wsj.com/articles/global-stocks-wobble-ahead-of-u-s-jobs-report-11578650477>

² <https://www.wsj.com/articles/women-overtake-men-as-majority-of-u-s-workforce-11578670615>

³ <https://thehill.com/policy/international/477279-iranian-leaders-give-mixed-signals-on-demands-following-missile-attacks>

⁴ <https://www.wsj.com/articles/iran-says-it-is-willing-to-share-jets-black-boxes-denies-hostile-act-11578653983>

⁵ <https://www.newsweek.com/11-facts-about-devastating-wildfires-australia-1481495>

⁶ <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-01-09/zoo-researchers-koalas-fires-australia>

⁷ <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-01-08/ghosn-goes-on-the-offensive-in-first-appearance-since-escape>

⁸ <https://www.wsj.com/articles/pelosi-faces-new-call-to-send-impeachment-articles-to-senate-11578582348>