

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

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Inside C2

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Bodies retrieved from Kobe Bryant helicopter crash site; air traffic recordings released



Mourners gather near an image of Kobe Bryant shown on a large screen outside the Staples Center after the retired Los Angeles Lakers basketball star was killed in a helicopter crash, in Los Angeles, California, U.S. January 26, 2020. REUTERS/Monica Almeida

CALABASAS, Calif. (Reuters) - The pilot of Kobe Bryant's ill-fated helicopter was flying too low to be monitored in fog, air traffic controller recordings showed on Monday, as coroner's investigators said they had recovered three bodies from the crash site and were searching for more remains.

The Sikorsky S-76 chopper slammed into a steep hillside outside the town of Calabasas, California, about 40 miles (65 km) northwest of downtown Los Angeles, on Sunday, killing all nine people on board, igniting a brush fire and spreading debris over a quarter-acre (1,000 square meters) of grassy terrain.

The dense fog, and its role in the crash, came under scrutiny on Monday as fans, friends and family of the NBA superstar confronted the reality that the charismatic 41-year-old and his 13-year-old daughter, Gianna, were among those on board who died.

RELATED COVERAGE

Factbox: Love and basketball - Profiles of Kobe helicopter crash victims

'He used to climb into the hoops': Kobe's Italian childhood home pays tribute

The Los Angeles County Coroner's Office said in a statement posted to its website that three bodies had been recovered from the debris field and taken to a forensic

science center for identification.

"Today, the search continues in the Calabasas mountainside for the other occupants in the fatal helicopter crash," the coroner's office said.

Bryant, who won five NBA championships in his 20 years with the Los Angeles Lakers, was known since his playing days to travel frequently by helicopter to avoid the Los Angeles area's glacial traffic.

LAKERS GAME CANCELED

The NBA canceled a game scheduled for Staples Center on Tuesday between the Lakers and their cross-town rivals the Clippers.

"The decision was made out of respect for the Lakers organization, which is deeply grieving the tragic loss of Lakers legend Kobe Bryant, his daughter Gianna and seven other people in a helicopter crash on Sunday," the NBA said.

In addition to the Bryants, the crash devastated three other families linked to the Mamba Sports Academy on their way to a girls' basketball tournament: a husband and wife with their 13-year-old daughter; a mother and her 13-year-old daughter; and a basketball coach who was also a mom.

Mourners gather near an image of Kobe Bryant shown on a large screen outside the Staples Center after the retired Los Angeles Lakers basketball star was killed in a helicopter crash, in Los Angeles, California, U.S. January 26, 2020. REUTERS/

Monica Almeida

The ninth victim was the pilot, Ara Zobayan, an experienced former flight instructor who was instrument-rated, or qualified to fly in fog, according to multiple U.S. media accounts.

Witnesses recounted thick fog over the foothills where the helicopter went down.

The fog was so bad that both the Los Angeles Police Department and Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department grounded their helicopter fleets, the Los Angeles Times reported, citing officials.

Air traffic controllers gave the pilot "Special Visual Flight Rules," or clearance to fly in less than optimal weather around the Burbank airport.

A Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) official noted a pilot "does not get a general, or blanket, clearance from the FAA to fly in these conditions. A pilot is responsible for determining whether it is safe to fly in current and expected conditions."

Moreover, the pilot apparently requested "flight following," or constant tracking from controllers, but was informed he was flying too low to be picked up by air traffic control radar. It is unclear if the pilot heard the comment as it comes near the end of the doomed flight.

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Confusion and lost time: how testing woes slowed China's coronavirus response

BEIJING (Reuters) - Yang Zhongyi was still waiting on Monday for a coronavirus test in the Chinese city of Wuhan two weeks after she started to show signs of a fever, even though doctors privately told her family that she almost certainly has been infected, her son Zhang Changchun told Reuters.

Zhang Changchun shows a CT scan image of the lungs of her mother, 53-year old patient Yang Zhongyi, who is a highly suspected case of the new coronavirus yet is unable to get tests to confirm due to local hospitals' lack of testing equipment or beds, according to her son Zhang Changchun, in Wuhan, Hubei province, China January 25, 2020. REUTERS/Zhang Changchun/Handout via Reuters.

Yang, 53, is just one of many Wuhan inhabitants finding it difficult to get tested or receive treatment for the new form of coronavirus, which authorities say has infected 2,800 people and killed at least 80 in China, a situation that may be contributing to the spread of the disease.

Yang has been unable to gain full-time admission to a hospital, her son said. She has been put on drips in unquarantined areas at four separate hospitals in the city to treat her deteriorating lungs, he said, while he is doing what he can to get her tested or admitted full-time.

"My brother and I have been queuing at the hospital every day. We go at 6 and 7 in the morning, and queue for the whole day, but we don't get any new answers," Zhang told Reuters. "Every time the responses are the same: 'There's no bed, wait for the government to give a notice, and follow the news to see what's going on.' The doctors are all very frustrated too."

Officially known as 2019-nCoV, the new form of coronavirus was first identified as the cause of death of a 61-year-old man in Wuhan on Jan. 10, when China shared gene information on the virus with other countries. Some, such as Japan and Thailand, started testing travelers from China for the virus within three days.

However, testing kits for the disease were not distributed to some of Wuhan's hospitals until about Jan. 20, an official at the Hubei Provincial Center for Disease Control and Prevention



FILE PHOTO: U.S. President Donald Trump and China's President Xi Jinping shake hands after making joint statements at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China, November 9, 2017. REUTERS/Damir Sagolj

(Hubei CDC) told Reuters. Before then, samples had to be sent to a laboratory in Beijing for testing, a process that took three to five days to get results, according to Wuhan health authorities.

During that gap, hospitals in the city reduced the number of people under medical observation from 739 to just 82, according to data compiled by Reuters from Wuhan health authorities, and no new cases were reported inside China.

Despite the lack of reliable data and testing capacity in Wuhan, Chinese authorities assured citizens in the days after the virus had been identified that it was not widely transmissible. In previous weeks, it had censored negative online commentary about the situation, and arrested eight people it accused of being "rumor spreaders."

"The doctor didn't wear a mask, we didn't know how to protect ourselves... no one told us anything," a 45-year-old woman surnamed Chen told

Reuters. Her aunt was confirmed to have the virus on Jan. 20, five days after she was hospitalized. "I posted my aunt's photos on (Chinese social media site) Weibo and the police called the hospital authorities. They told me to take it down."

National, regional and city health officials did not respond to requests for comment from Reuters on how the virus outbreak has been handled. National officials did say at a media briefing last week that there were some "loopholes" in initial treatment methods.



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Editor's Choice



A New York City subway sign that has been changed to read "Kobe Bryant Park" in reference to the deceased NBA player is pictured in Manhattan, New York, January 27. REUTERS/Carlo Allegri



Mourners gather near an image of Kobe Bryant shown on a large screen outside the Staples Center after the retired Los Angeles Lakers basketball star was killed in a helicopter crash, in Los Angeles. REUTERS/Monica Almeida



Students offer prayers after taking a holy bath during a ceremony organised to resemble the annual month-long Hindu religious festival of Magh Mela, in Ahmedabad



A survivor reacts as he attends a wreath-laying ceremony at the "death wall" at the former Nazi German concentration and extermination camp Auschwitz, during ceremonies marking the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the camp and International...MORE



Women hold a protest across the street from the court where producer Harvey Weinstein's ongoing sexual assault trial is held in the Manhattan borough of New York City



Poland's President Andrzej Duda, museum director Piotr Cywinski and survivors arrive at Auschwitz, January 27, 2020. Set up by Nazi Germany in occupied Poland in 1940, at first to house Polish political prisoners, it became the largest of the...MORE



Survivors and other guests arrive to attend a wreath-laying ceremony at the "death wall" at Auschwitz, January 27, 2020. A 2019 survey by the U.S.-based Anti-Defamation League showed that about one in four Europeans harbor "pernicious and pervasive"...MORE



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JAPAN TO DUMP ONE MILLION TONS OF RADIOACTIVE WATER INTO PACIFIC



Shown Above: A dead sea lion on California's coast shows high radiation readings.

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

“The operator of the ruined Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant will dump huge quantities of contaminated water from the plant site directly into the Pacific Ocean, Japan’s environment minister has said – a move that would enrage local fishermen. Tepco (Tokyo Electric Power Company) admitted last year that the water in its tanks still contained contaminants beside tritium, even though they had already treated the waste materials. “The only option will be to drain it into the sea and dilute it,” the environment minister, Yoshiaki Harada, told a news briefing in Tokyo on September 10, 2019. One recent study by Hiroshi Miyano, who heads a committee studying the decommissioning of Fukushima Daiichi at the Atomic Energy Society of Japan, said it could take 17 years to discharge the treated water after it has been diluted to reduce radioactive substances to levels that meet the plant’s safety standards. Any decision to dispose of the waste water into the sea would anger local fishermen, who have spent the past eight years

rebuilding their industry. Nearby South Korea has also voiced concern over the impact it would have on the reputation of its own seafood. Last month, Seoul summoned a senior Japanese embassy official to explain how Fukushima Daiichi’s waste water would be dealt with. The government spent 34.5bn yen (£260m) to build a frozen underground wall to prevent groundwater reaching the three damaged reactor buildings. The wall, however, has succeeded only in reducing the flow of groundwater from about 500 tonnes a day to about 100 tonnes a day.



Japan has come under renewed pressure to address the contaminated water problem before Tokyo hosts the Olympics and Paralympics next summer. Six years ago during the city’s bid for the games, the prime minister, Shinzo Abe, assured the international community that the situation was ‘under control.’ Many experts, government officials of other nations, Japanese residents and activists strongly disagree. “The government must commit to the only environmentally acceptable option for managing this water crisis which is long term storage and processing to remove radioactivity, including tritium,” Shaun Burnie, senior nuclear specialist with Greenpeace Germany, said in an email. As far back as 2014, the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) recommended a controlled release of all this water into the ocean as ‘the safest course of action’, and Japan’s Nuclear Regulation Agency (NRA) has made similar recommendations. A ‘Tritiated Water Task Force’ convened by Japan’s Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) in 2013 (PDF) examined five options in detail, including evaporating it and releasing it into the atmosphere, releasing it into the atmosphere as hydrogen gas, injecting it into deep geologic strata, storing it underground, and diluting it and discharging it into the ocean. For reasons of cost, available technology, time required, and ‘safety’, in its final report issued in June, 2016, the task force concluded that ocean discharge was the least objectionable approach. Bottom line...dumping the nuclear waste is cheap and the currents will carry it away from Japan.

Japan seems to expect the world to accept the unproven myth that the ocean can “clean up” their mess by dissolving all the deadly radiation. As the Associated Press plainly noted: “The floating debris will likely be carried by currents off of Japan toward Washington, Oregon and California before turning toward Hawaii and back again toward Asia, circulating in what is known as the North Pacific gyre, said Curt Ebbsmeyer, a Seattle oceanographer who has spent decades tracking flotsam. “All this debris will find a way to reach the West coast or stop in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch,” a swirling mass of concentrated marine litter in the Pacific Ocean, said Luca Centurioni, a researcher at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UC San Diego.” And this process will be repeated over and over again as long as Japan continues to release radiation into the ocean. Japan does not dare release the waste into the atmosphere because history has shown that radiation will continue to fall on the earth for hundreds, or even thousands of years.



for a million tons of waste water every 8 years plus the daily accumulation of solid waste, recontaminated land, each rain, typhoon, earthquake, fire and each time the wind blows that will negatively affect all their efforts. From the leading newspaper in Japan: “Treated water at the Fukushima plant is far too unsafe to be dumped very soon.” “Steps to purify radioactive water build-up at the stricken Fukushima No. 1 nuclear power plant have come to naught, forcing the operator, Tokyo Electric Power Co., to go back to the drawing board.” METI (Japan’s Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry) has been pushing TEPCO to accelerate the processing of contaminated water to show the world gathering in Japan for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics that the situation in Fukushima was under control and the region well on its way to rebuilding.” As of June, 2018, Tepco listed 850,000 tons of contaminated nuclear waste water was already in tanks. (Courtesy The Guardian UK)



Japan is an island nation without adequate land mass to safely store these contaminants away from human populations. They cannot respond quickly to the problem like Russia did to their “toxic accident,” and so they are looking at between 40 to 100 years of “making room”

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The fake-meat boom is real, propelling startups to incredible heights while creating shortages of its own.

Why it matters: The stock market in particular is treating Beyond Meat like a superstar, with its stock price up 4x from last month's IPO. But the companies must prove they can handle the demand.

•“Last summer, locations of A&W Food Services of Canada Inc. were sold out of Beyond Meat's burger for weeks,” the WSJ notes.

•“This spring, restaurants including American WildBurger locations around Chicago have run short of Impossible's burgers. ... Craft & Crew Hospitality in Minneapolis hasn't received scheduled shipments of Impossible burgers for weeks from a local distributor.”

•Both Impossible Foods and Beyond Meat have ramped up production to meet demand. Impossible CFO David Lee told the Journal that “it will take us some time to get back into that synchronization of supply and demand.”

Between the lines: The companies above are struggling to scale up plant-based meat imitators, let alone lab-grown meat, which even optimists estimate would cost \$10 a patty as a best case scenario.

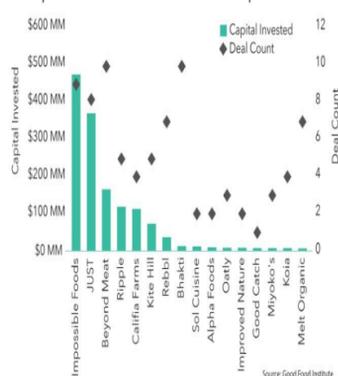
What's next: The cattle industry isn't taking kindly to fake meat, pouring cash into lobbying for regulation on what can be called meat at the federal and state levels, the Washington Post reports.

The Future Of Food



Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

Top-funded Plant-based Food Companies



Impossible Foods touts data revealing that the majority of those who try its product believe it's from an animal. More than 1,500 consumers have taken sensory tests in which they can't tell the difference between a traditional meat burger and the Impossible Burger, and Impossible Foods' flavor scientists conduct at least 100 internal taste tests per week.

White Castle recently marked the first anniversary of its Impossible Slider. “It's a great way for us to offer variety to our customers,” said company vice president Jamie Richardson, especially to younger vegetarians and vegans who now have an option on the meat-centric menu.

There is speculation that privately owned Impossible, which doesn't report revenue, also will go public, especially after Beyond's remarkable debut. But for now Brown said, “we have the money we need to grow our business.”

Impossible Foods announced a \$300 million round of funding on Monday, which brings its venture total to \$750 million. The latest round valued the company at \$2 billion, according to published reports. Since an initial raise of \$9 million in 2011, the company has secured multiple rounds of capital from venture firms and celebrities, including Bill Gates, Peter Thiel's Founders Fund and Khosla Ventures, Jay-Z, Katy Perry, Serena Williams, Google Ventures, Horizons Ventures, UBS and Viking Global Investors. (Courtesy cnbc.com)

making it a crime to advertise or sell any product as meat ‘that is not derived from poultry or livestock.’”

The bottom line: “Fifteen percent of U.S. restaurants offered meatless burgers in March, according to a Technomic Inc. study of menus from 6,000 operators, with the number serving them up 3% from a year earlier.” (Courtesy axios.com)

Related Impossible Foods' Mission To Mass-Produce The Fake Burger Of The Future OVERVIEW

Burger King announced a nationwide rollout of the Impossible Whopper in its nearly 7,300 locations by the end of 2019.

Demand has increased so quickly for plant-based burgers that Impossible Foods is adding a third shift and building a second production line, and they recently recruited more than 100 volunteers from its R&D ranks to work 12-hour shifts in production.

Impossible Foods' mission is completely replacing animals from the food system by 2035, and it may move on to tackle

pork, chicken and fish.



The Impossible Burger made by Impossible Foods

“The only consumer we care about is the hardcore meat lover.”

A statement from the National Cattleman's Beef Association? No!

Those words have become a sort of mantra from Pat Brown, founder and CEO of Impossible Foods, the Redwood City, California-based company behind Brown's brainchild, the plant-based Impossible Burger, and No. 27 on the 2019 CNBC Disruptor 50 list (the company first landed a spot on the Disruptor 50

list in 2015).

“I love vegetarians and vegans as much as the next guy,” said the Stanford biochemist turned entrepreneur and himself a longtime vegan, “but that is not the customer we care about.”

In 2009, Brown blended soy protein, potato protein, coconut oil, sunflower oil and bloodlike “heme” to create the Impossible Burger, which looks, feels, smells, cooks and — according to many hardcore meat lovers — tastes like a cow-based patty. Two years later he launched his company, steadfastly courting carnivores from the get-go. And he's winning them over.

Last month, after a brief but spectacular test in 59 St. Louis stores, Burger King announced a nationwide rollout of the Impossible Whopper in its nearly 7,300 locations by the end of 2019. That headline news overshadowed Impossible's two-year strategic marketing campaign to introduce America to its better-for-you burger by way of more than 7,000 establishments across the country — from high-end restaurants to college cafeterias — as well White Castle, Red Robin and other chains.

Demand for Plant-Based Dishes Grows

- Vegan orders increased in popularity by 19 percent in 2017
- Meat-substitutes are ordered five percent more on Mondays than the rest of the week
- Jackfruit, a trendy plant protein, rose 33 percent in popularity for orders placed on Mondays

#meatlessmonday

•“On Jan. 1, Missouri became the first to regulate the names of aspiring meat alternatives, restricting the word ‘meat’ to only products harvested from livestock.”

•“Nebraska lawmakers are considering

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