

For fixer, biggest rescue — or caper — yet?

Ex-soldier purportedly behind Ghosn flight has a history of exploits and legal scrapes

By Dugan Arnett
and Jonathan Saltzman
GLOBE STAFF

In his 20s during the Cold War, Michael Taylor was part of a secretive military team tasked with stopping a Soviet invasion of Europe with hand-carried “suitcase nukes.”

Later in the Middle East, while running his own security company, Taylor stopped “armed criminals who sought to take us hostage,” one grateful client said.

At home in Harvard, he’s a father of three, the neighbor who plows your driveway. But work acquaintances describe the square-jawed Taylor as a real-

life action hero, a fearless patriot who decorates his office in American flags and considers the national anthem his favorite song. Tales of his exploits — culled from interviews and court documents — seem ripped from a Tom Clancy novel.

He has carried out overseas rescues and undercover drug-trafficking work. In the world of international security, he has established himself as a fix-it man with a Rolodex of high-level foreign contacts.

And now, in what may be his most daring — or brazen — escapade yet, TAYLOR, Page A6



MARK WILSON/GLOBE FILE PHOTO/2010

Michael Taylor coached football at Lawrence Academy.

‘He is a controversial figure.’

PAUL KELLY, a former federal prosecutor



PHOTOS BY NIC ANTAYA FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

Kristina Mey (left) and Jenny Gauvin helped Karen Mey get out of bed. Karen Mey was diagnosed with ALS in 2016.

Scarcity of care

ALS patients need intensive help. But with low pay, trained aides are hard to find, leaving families to shoulder the draining burden alone.



Karen Mey teared up as her husband, Steven, talked about their challenges.

By Felice J. Freyer
GLOBE STAFF

MILFORD — Karen Mey lies motionless beneath a tan electric blanket pulled up to her chin. Next to her recliner, a machine the size of a toaster oven huffs rhythmically like a person in deep sleep, pumping air through a corrugated tube into a plastic valve in her neck.

Even though her body is immobile, Mey’s eyes are animated, filling with mirth or tears as she participates in the living room conversation among her husband, daughter, and a personal care attendant. Mey smiles often, and she voices affirmation (“Uh-huh! Uh-huh!”), disagreement (“Uh-uh”), dismay (“Awww”), and words that only those who know her well can understand.

At age 54, seven years after amyotrophic lateral sclerosis started destroying the connections between brain and muscle, Mey remains a vibrant presence in her family’s life. But as her husband and children piece together the resources to keep her home, they are confronting a new worry.

Mey, who needs constant care, can stay home in large part because her family was lucky enough to find Jenny Gauvin, the 33-year-old personal care attendant who tends to her 40 hours a

Warm all over

Sunday: Rain early, warm. High: 64-69. Low: 30-35.

Monday: Noticeably cooler. High: 39-44. Low: 34-49. Sunrise: 7:12. Sunset: 4:33.

Complete report, **B11**.

Reckoning comes for recycling programs

Soaring collection costs leave communities at a loss

By David Abel
GLOBE STAFF

WESTFIELD — On a recent afternoon here, with urgency in the air, local officials huddled to consider what until recently was unthinkable. Should they abandon their popular curbside recycling program? Or spend millions to build a plant to process plastic and paper on their own?

With the recycling market across the country mired in crisis, a growing number of cities and towns are facing a painful reckoning: whether they can still afford to collect bottles, cans, plastics, and paper, which have so plummeted in value that in some cases they have become effectively worthless.

“We’re looking at going from paying nothing to paying \$500,000 a year,” said Dave Billips, the director of public works in Westfield, referring to the city’s recycling costs. “That’s going to have a major impact.”

It’s a reckoning hitting home across Massachusetts. Boston, for example, is now paying nearly \$5 million to have recycling collections carted away, up from just \$200,000 in 2017. City officials said they do not plan to end the program.

The crisis began two years ago when China announced it would no longer accept large amounts of paper and plastic from the United States, which for years had exported huge collections of material there and elsewhere in Asia, because much was contaminated and unusable.

RECYCLING, Page A14

Overall revenue from combined recycling streams is depressed. Price differences between the end of 2018 and the end of 2019 are:
Corrugated cardboard \$70/ton \$25/ton
Mixed paper \$4.69/ton -\$2/ton
Aluminum cans 60 cents/pound 51 cents/pound

Warren tries a reach across the middle

Senator rebuffs charge she is too far left to be elected

By Jess Bidgood
GLOBE STAFF

When Senator Elizabeth Warren took the stage in the waning light of a frigid winter evening for her first presidential event in Iowa more than a year ago and called for “big structural change,” Lisa Koch declared she was “all the way in” for the Massachusetts liberal.

But for Koch, an attorney who lined up outside the bowling alley in Council Bluffs well before the event inside began, mixed in with her excitement was concern about the breadth of Warren’s potential appeal as a presidential candidate — in other words, her electability.

“Older white men are not going to like her. There’s going to be women who don’t like her either,” Koch said. She added: “I hope she has a chance.”

More than a year later, as Warren stood onstage Saturday in a school in Mason City, Iowa, a question from a volunteer who had been knocking on doors for her showed how those

WARREN, Page A14

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Already giving up on your New Year’s resolutions? Here are 8 ways to stay on track. **Globe Magazine**.

Springlike weather drew crowds to Castle Island and elsewhere as temperatures reached a record high in Boston. **Metro, B1**.

The works of JMW Turner make up an irresistible exhibition at Mystic Seaport Museum in Connecticut. **SundayArts, N1**.

The TWA Hotel is a time machine to the glamorous world of vintage travel at JFK Airport. **Travel, M1**.



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WITH: NEW ENGLAND DESTINATIONS
BOSTON SUNDAY GLOBE JANUARY 12, 2020 | BOSTONGLOBE.COM/TRAVEL

CHRISTOPHER MUTHER



The lovingly restored TWA terminal at JFK Airport offers patrons an ultimate escape to 1962

ABOVE AND BELOW TWA Hotel employees dressed in vintage flight attendant uniforms welcome guests to the hotel at JFK Airport. Retro details offer reminders of the former terminal's golden age.

The future whirled into 1962 with an entrance to rival that of Kitty Carlisle in an ostrich feather gown. John Glenn orbited the earth and President Kennedy asked Congress for \$531 million to put a man on the moon before the end of the decade. The Jetsons buzzed into Sunday nights and a song named after a communications satellite topped the pop charts. That promise of the future, a future gleaming with dishwashing robots and cities rising on the moon, manifested itself on earth in the most spectacular way with a neofuturistic airport terminal at JFK (then Idlewild Airport) for Trans World Airlines. The TWA Flight Center was a white, winged structure that appeared to have landed in Queens from a yet-undiscovered solar system. Its architect, Eero Saarinen, who also designed the St. Louis Gateway Arch, had pulled the buoyant spirit of the moment and translated it into an earthbound structure for the Jet Age.



DAVID MITCHELL

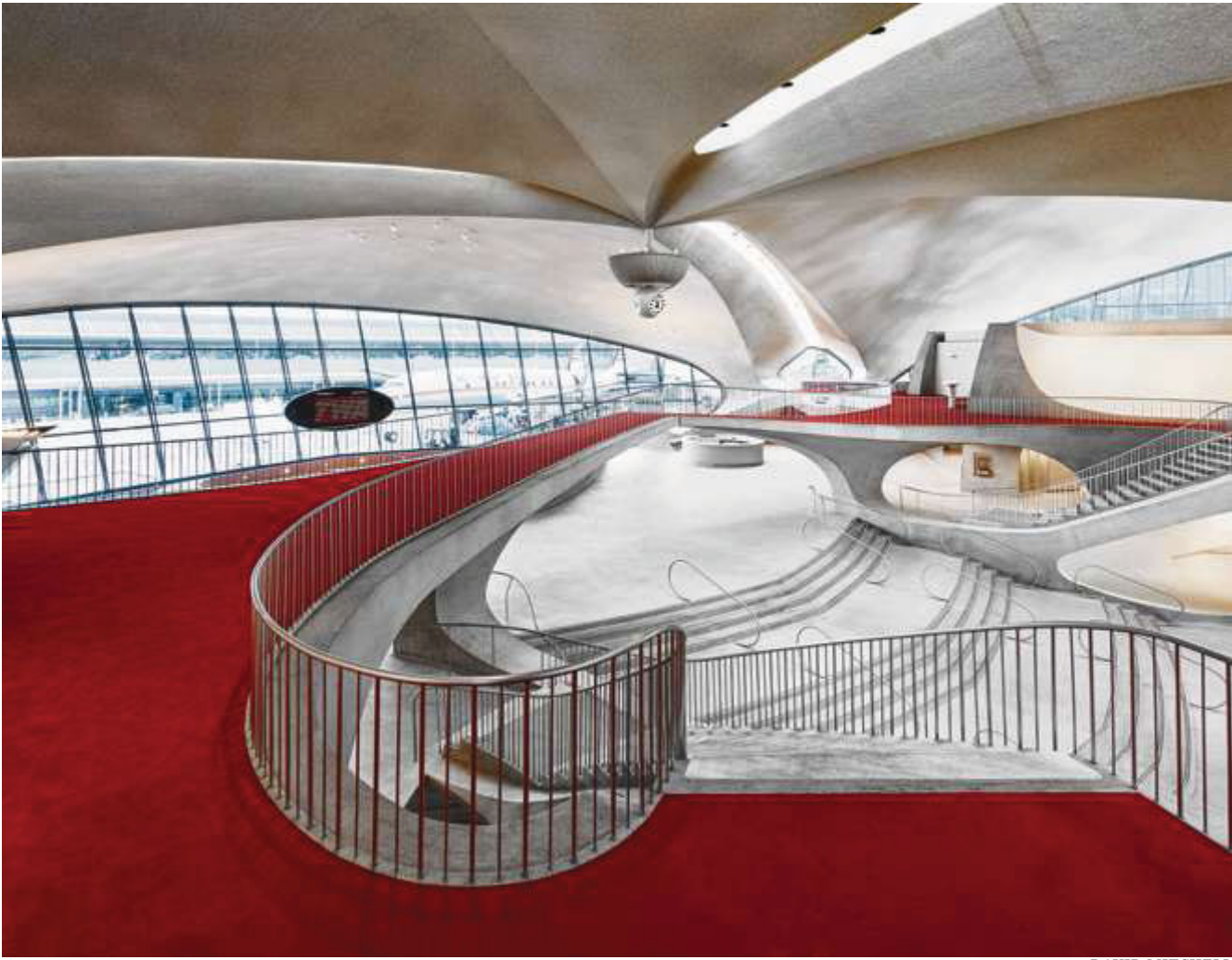
And this is where our story begins. As 2019 came to a “good riddance” end, Saarinen’s futuristic TWA Flight Center, which was reborn last year as the TWA Hotel, offered an entirely different mood. Inside the hotel it was New Year’s Eve 1962. The Four Seasons — or at least the cast of “Jersey Boys” — were singing “Big Girls Don’t Cry” on the flaming red carpet of the sunken lounge. Revelers in suits and satin dresses did the watusi with sweating glasses of bubbly in their hands on the cantilevered catwalk overhead. It was the ultimate escape from the world outside the hotel, where travelers in nearby terminals were shouldering the weight of the world, and the weight of their suitcases. But here, in Saarinen’s airport masterpiece, all of that seemed decades away. I was spending New Year’s Eve at a special 1962-themed New Year’s Eve party, dancing in a tuxedo near a woman who was a dead ringer for Christina Hendricks in “Mad Men.” Many of the partygoers had taken the theme to heart and their wardrobe captured the glamour of the era.

TWA HOTEL, Page M6

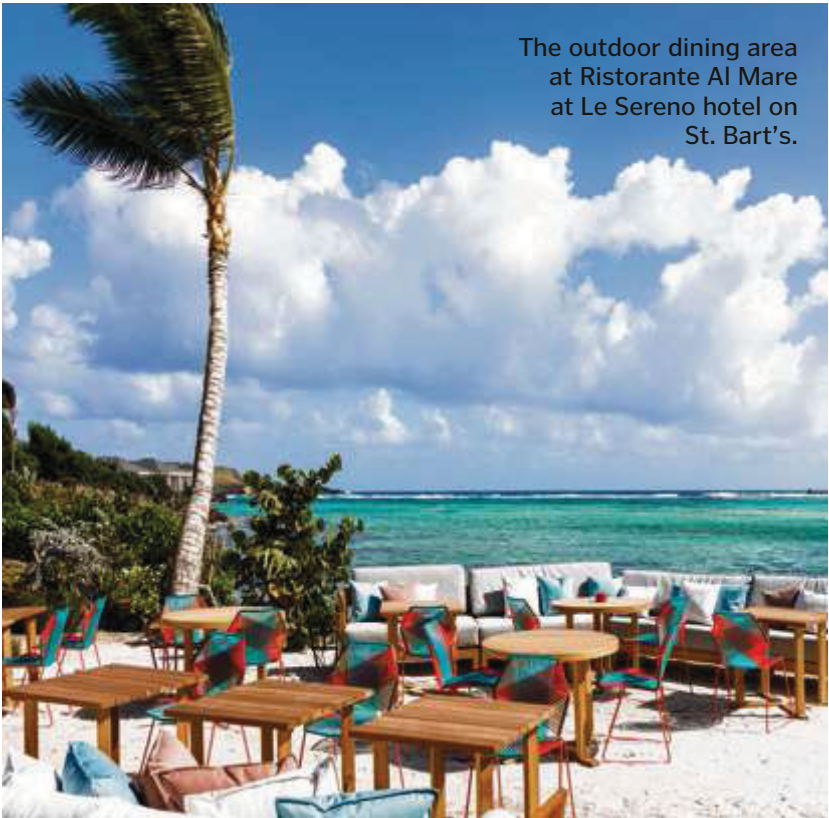
NEW YORK



BELOW An example of Eero Saarinen’s breathtaking architecture in the TWA Hotel in New York.



DAVID MITCHELL



LE SERENO

ST. BART'S IS BACK, AND BETTER THAN EVER

Since getting destroyed in 2017 by Hurricane Irma, the island has come back in grand fashion

GRAND CUL-DE-SAC, Saint Barthélemy

The only way to describe it was pure relief. Two years ago I scrolled through photos of St. Bart’s after the Caribbean island was leveled by Hurricane Irma and felt my heart sink to my stomach. Much the way that everyone has a favorite flavor of jelly bean or a favorite Spice Girl, those who spend time in the Caribbean come away with a favorite island. Mine is St. Bart’s. Also, in case you’re wondering, my favorite Spice Girl is Posh Spice.

A year after Irma roared through I started hearing that St. Bart’s had already pulled off an incredible recovery, but I needed to see it myself. Honestly, what were the chances that it would take only a year or so to fully come back from the first category 5 hurricane to ever hit the Leeward Islands? Also, it offered a very convenient excuse to go back to my favorite Caribbean destination.

So last month, just before the celebrities and the island’s jeunesse dorée returned for the sun-soaked high season, I flew down to see if what I was reading was accurate. Not only was I relieved that the island had come back, I was astounded that it looked even better than the last time I was there. Unsightly power lines were buried, narrow winding roads were widened, and hotels and restaurants had taken the opportunity to rebuild better than before.

As my ferry lurched into the capital city of Gustavia, I could see that all the high-end boutiques were back and the restaurants were crowded with locals and the first throngs of holiday season tourists. The Christmas lights hanging throughout the town made it all the more festive.

“It’s incredible how quickly we’ve come back, and it’s shocking because the hurricane we had in 2017 was the strongest hurricane ever to hit us,” said Nils Dufau, president of the St. Barthélemy Tourism Committee. “We

ST. BARTS, Page M3

Inside

PLANE FUN
KID FRIENDLY SKIES

A pilot, dad, and author of a children’s book on air travel talks about how to make family flights enjoyable.

M5



St. Bart’s is back, better than ever

►ST. BARTS
Continued from Page M1

have about 30 hotels, 10 of them are five-star, we have about 800 villas. Everything is like new. Everything is completely reconstructed.”

The island, an overseas collectivity of France with a year-round population of 10,000, is best known as an escape for bold names such as Leonardo DiCaprio, Gwen Stefani, and Beyoncé. Dufau said the island’s focus on high-end tourism is partially what allowed it to come back more quickly.

Many other Caribbean islands depend on mass tourism from cruise ships, and when the masses are gone, so is the economy. St. Bart’s limits cruise ships to those with no more than 300 passengers. During peak season the population of the island doubles to 20,000. Other Caribbean islands see hundreds of thousands of cruise passengers in their ports every year. After Maria and Irma struck in 2017, those ships were slow to return, leaving local economies in shambles.

St. Bart’s devotees were back in 2018 as the hotels and villas began to reopen. Its airport, a tiny strip that hugs the sea, was mostly unaffected by Irma.

St. Bart’s holds a special place in my heart not only because of its beautiful beaches and French cuisine, but because it’s the first place I ever traveled on a solo vacation. Solo travel was a daunting proposition for me in 2011, and I had no idea what to expect. I was on the verge of night sweats as the trip approached, worried about dining by myself or sitting in bars alone.

My fears were pure twaddle. I ended up meeting fantastic people and the only time I dined alone was when I chose to. I have fond memories of sitting at the bar at Le Sereno hotel and meeting people who then invited me to spend time on their boats or explore the town. Against my mother’s advice, I talked to strangers, and I went on their boats.

I stayed at Le Sereno on this trip as well so I could walk out into the clear blue lagoon at the hotel’s beach and watch the sea turtles bob up and down. After Irma the property was completely rebuilt and now, like all of the island’s five-star hotels, the experience is like staying in a brand new hotel.

As you may have gathered, St. Bart’s is not where to go when you’re looking to do the Carib-



A look down at Gustavia, the capital city of St. Bart’s, and a person windsurfing off the Caribbean island.



bean on the cheap, but you can rent an entire house on Airbnb for less than \$150 a night, and you can eat at more casual restaurants such as the lively burger dive Le Select, or grab a gourmet pizza and a glass of wine at L’isoletta. On those nights when you want to splurge, try Orega. I don’t know if I’m just lucky, but to date I’ve never had a bad meal in St. Bart’s.

But this particular trip wasn’t about getting out to the restaurants (although I did) or spending time at the beaches (I did that, too). Instead, it was about reconnecting with a place that dazzled me and made me feel entirely welcome during my first ever solo vacation. The very least I could do in return was check in and see how my old friend had weathered the storm.

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