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GREEK TRIBUNE

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AUSTRALIAN NEWS

Interest rates set to rise sooner than expected

Westpac is now expecting the Reserve Bank to start raising official interest rates as early as August, half a year earlier than it previously thought.

The bank's economics team — led by its highly respected veteran chief economist Bill Evans — is tipping a gentle, 0.15-percentage-point cash rate rise in August, followed by another 0.25-percentage-point increase in October.

Financial comparison website RateCity said those two moves would add \$103 a month to interest repayments on a typical \$500,000 mortgage.

Westpac is anticipating the earlier move because it believes the RBA has been far too conservative in its forecasts around unemployment, wages and inflation.

By the August meeting, Westpac expects the Reserve Bank's preferred measures of consumer prices to have met, or exceeded, the mid-point of its 2-3 per cent target

range for three quarters in a row.

The next reading on inflation — the Consumer Price Index for the December quarter — will be released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) this week.

Westpac's economists also expect annual wage growth to be running at 3 per cent by the end of June as a shortage of workers filters through to bigger pay rises from employers to attract and retain staff.

The shortage of available workers was highlighted by data released by the ABS which showed a jobless rate of 4.2 per cent in December, the lowest since August 2008.

Its economists also expect that the reopening of borders will reduce some of the labour shortages that are starting to drive up wages.

"Increasing wage pressures and tightening labour markets are important pre-conditions for these forecasts," Mr Evans noted.

South Australia reaches 90% double vaccination rate

South Australia has recorded 11 COVID-related deaths on Thursday, a record number for the state.

Premier Steven Marshall said the high number might be the result of late reporting of some deaths in aged care. "There is no urgent reporting requirement from residential aged care facilities into SA Health.

Five of the day's deaths occurred in aged care facilities.

The deaths include two men in their 50s, two men and a woman in their 70s, three men and a woman in their 80s, and two men in their 90s.

The state recorded 3,777 new cases, on Thursday, still below the seven-day average.

That brings the total number of active cases to 35,525.

On the same day there were 290 people in hospital with COVID-19 and 29 in ICU.

South Australia has reached its 90 per cent double-vaccination rate for people 12 and over, but the milestone has come three weeks later than authorities had hoped.

The South Australian Premier says his govern-



Premier Steven Marshall

ment will not be signing up to a five-day isolation period for people who test positive to COVID-19.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said yesterday a five-day period is "under active consideration" but that the federal government will take medical advice on any possible change.

Premier Steven Marshall has ruled it out for South Australia, saying the evidence is that people often continue to present with symptoms after five, and even seven, days of isolation.

He said he did not want infectious people out in the community.

In South Australia, the current mandatory isolation period for people who test positive is 10 days.

US WITHDRAWS SUPPORT FROM EASTMED GAS PIPELINE

Turkey gets its way

With a non-paper the US State Department has 'ended' the EastMed project, Greek media have been reporting in the last two days. With a length of 1,900 km and a cost of some 6 billion euros, the Eastern Mediterranean pipeline (Eastmed) was planned to transfer natural gas from the Levantine Basin to Greece and from the to Italy and other European regions.

According to Greek media, the US state Department sent the non-paper to the Greek government, with the formal recipient being the Secretary General of International Economic Relations and Extroversion of the Minister of Foreign Affairs Giannis Smyrliis. The non-paper was reportedly sent also to The Israeli government, however, not to the embassies of Greece, Cyprus and Israel in Washington.

Although the non-paper or parts of it have not been pub-

lished and so far there is not official statement from the government, media report that Washington lists three reasons for not providing diplomatic support to the project.

In a Tweet posted by the Washington correspondent of Greek ERT network, it is stated:

"The non-paper for the EastMed Gas Pipeline lists 3 reasons for Washington not providing diplomatic support 1) environmental protection / energy transition / turn to renewables 2) lack of economic and commercial viability 3) creating tensions in the region."

The US Ambassador to Athens, Geoffrey Pyatt has been reportedly posting on Twitter posts about the issue saying that there has been no change in the State Department regarding the EastMed project.

Nevertheless, U.S. Senator and chairman of the U.S. Senate

Foreign Relations Committee Bob Menendez has asked the State Department for clarifications, ANT1 TV reported from Washington at Sunday noon.

Several Greek media see in the US decision a clear position in favor of Turkey that has vehemently opposed the project.

Some analysts note that the project had problems of financial viability right from the beginning, however, they point out at the geopolitical aspect of the EastMed as "a source of tension in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea and a clear US shifting of balance in favor of Turkey."

The big issue for Greece is, though, that it created a whole narrative around the project cheering that it would turn the country into an energy hub in the area and would increase the geopolitical influence of the country.

In 2013, the construction of the EastMed pipeline was

designated under European Commission Regulation 347/2013 as a Project of Common Interest and during the 2015-2018 period the Commission contributed more than €34.5 million (US\$38.9 million) to complete technical, economic and environmental studies for the project.

The Energy Triangle of Greece, Cyprus, and Israel signed an intergovernmental agreement for the EastMed gas pipeline in Tel Aviv on 20 March 2019 in the presence of United States Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, in a sign of support from Washington for the project. American interest on the pipeline is explained by Washington's demand that its European partners maintain a diversification policy of their energy imports. The pipeline will diversify European gas supplies and lessen dependence on Russian Natural Gas.

Father drowns trying to save daughter

A man has drowned at a popular Adelaide beach after trying to save his young daughter who had been swept offshore.

According to the ABC, the 49-year-old Seaton man swam out to sea at Grange Beach, in Adelaide's west, to rescue his daughter after she was blown offshore on an inflatable tube on Thursday morning.

Michael Napper, 70, was playing with his grandchildren on bodyboards when he saw the man heading into the water to save his daughter.

"I raced out to get to him," Mr Napper said.

"Before I could get there, the little daughter jumped off the tube and into his arms in deep water and he was trying to save her."

He then said the tube was taken away from the pair by a strong wind.

"I managed to get her on the board," he said.

"By the time I got to him he was underwater and the next thing he was floating, and that's when I grabbed him by the trousers and turned him over and got him above the water.

The man was pulled unconscious from the water along with his distressed daughter with the help of other beachgoers.

"I think I could've got to them sooner and I'm sorry I haven't."

Despite CPR attempts by members of the public and paramedics, the father could



Emergency services attended the Grange beach tragedy on Thursday (ABC Photo)

not be revived.

Surf Life Saving SA's Daniel Willetts said there had been four coastal drownings in six weeks in South Australia.

He cautioned against using inflatable toys offshore.

"Already we have seen two incidents of that nature today and that has resulted in the assistance of emergency services. So we urge people, do not take your pool toys

to the beach," Mr Willetts said.

"If you find yourself in a sudden offshore wind, you'll be swept out to sea and you'll find yourself in difficulty."

He urged people to be extra cautious in the coming weeks.

"With the hot weather coming and school holidays ... the beaches are going to be busier ... please swim between the flags, swim at a patrolled area".

GOCSA celebrates Epiphany

Due to Covid restrictions, a much lesser crowd attended the Blessing of the Waters ceremony at Henley Beach on Sunday January 9th, organised by the Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia.

Due to the restrictions, the traditional festival on Henley Square was cancelled this year.

However, the much-anticipated Blessing of the Waters ceremony and the throwing of the cross from Henley jetty drew around 12 swimmers, including three girls, each one hoping to be the lucky one to retrieve it from the water.

This year the lucky swimmer was 30-year-old Chris Likouras of West Beach.

The young man, was presented with a gold cross and a trophy by the Community's President Mr Bill Gonis and

Community Life



Winner of the cross at the Henley jetty on 9 January, was 30 year old Chris Likouras of West Beach - in the photo with members of the GOCSA Administrative Council

Archimandrite Markos Papa-panagioutou who also gave him

his blessings.

Among the special guests

and dignitaries were Matt Cowdrey MP - for ColtonMatt Cowdrey representing the Premier Steven Marshall, Mark Butler MP Federal Member for Hindmarsh, Jayne Stinson MP Member for Badcoe, Jake Hall-Evans - Liberal for Lee, City of Charles Sturt Mayor Angela Evans, Deputy Mayor of City of West Torrens George Vlahos, Councillor of the City of Charles Sturt and new Labor candidate for the State Seat of Colton, Paul Alexandrides.

During the official part of the festival, the Hon Matt Cowdrey MP congratulated Chris Likouras for his effort to retrieve the cross and thanked the Greek community of organising such an important event for Adelaide.

A similar event was also held on the day by the Greek Archdiocese at the Glenelg jetty.

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ABOVE: The Greek Orthodox Community of SA celebrated the Blessing of the Waters on 9 January at Henley Square.

RIGHT: A much smaller than usual crowd, due to Covid restrictions, attended the event. In the photo are, amongst others, Colton MP Matt Cowdrey representing Premier Marshall, Jane Stinson MP representing the Leader of the Opposition Peter Malinauskas, Member for Hindmarsh Mark Buttler MP, Mayor of Charles Sturt Council Angela Evans and Bill Gonis President of GOCSA.

ABOVE RIGHT: The lucky winner to retrieve the cross at the Henley jetty, Chris Likouras from West Beach.



(continued)

What can we conclude from this article on Greek culture?

A generic analysis of the topic - Character formation

The interest in this article stems from the realisation that the Greek youth in Australia is moulded into a different personality to that of their parents and recent Greek migrants. The major influences in play here are;

• The influences of their partially integrated parents and the greater influences by the Australian culture

• Understanding these influences would be very important to the youth in this social setting. I hope this article presents this insight as a helpful stepping stone for them.

AN ANALYSIS OF THE SUBJECT - CHARACTERS FORMATION

I begin with a definition of the term character.

The character is the personal behaviour and attitude that we assign to all the coincidences we face in everyday life and by the incidents from the past that have affected us.

The character is revealed through behaviours such as: Speech, expressions and tone of voice, body gestures and physical attitudes that accompany speech and every social situation occurrence in life.

Behaviours change according to circumstances.

Example - In moments of sadness, joy happiness, conflict, antagonisms, life pressures in every situation, anger, attacks, discussions, entertainment, and so on

The general principles on this matter are studied by psychologists and their findings are based on reputable research.

1. Variety of characters; There is a wide variety of characters, but generally, they

How is culture learned

all fit under two main categories. These are,

- a. Category - Positive/Optimistic characters
- b. Category - Negative/Pessimistic characters

2. The Optimist (Positive) character

a. The behaviour of the positive character is characterised by the following related behaviours.

i. In all the coincidences of life, they try to find positive solutions or to find the hidden positive attributes in any situation.

ii. This attitude is the norm and emerges unconsciously or autonomously. This is a learned behaviour in a subtle and subconscious way through conditioning or forms of formal or informal indoctrinating processes.

An example of an autonomous behaviour. When one puts their shoes on and ties the laces, they do it without thinking about it or remembering whether they had done it.

Who remembers tying their shoelaces this morning?

Each character type is cultivated by almost the same subconscious way of; learning, remembering and executing.

iii. The contradictions on each issue that emerges in their life are rejected and treated as insignificant and inconsequential.

iv. By withdrawing from such coincidences, they choose to retain in their memory only the good and positive conclusions and reject the negative aspects, they do not attempt to remember them and in the main focus on the lessons that add to their bank of wisdom.

v. The positive character is optimistic and because they cultivate positive attitudes in all

the coincidences in their life, they foster a physical aura that aids human attraction and non-threatening human interactions.

vi. The positive character usually avoids anxiety tension and stress from life's encounters and is in a better psychological and spiritual balance. This attitude helps the intellectual state of mind, the rational side and fosters innovation and creativity as well as positive sleeping and resting patterns.

vii. The positive character has the ability to close the door on the negative aspects of all things and any unresolved issues that are fostered by negative circumstances or any that have no positive effect for the future.

3. The pessimistic character, a. The behaviour of the pessimistic character is generally negative and almost opposite to the behaviour of the positive and optimistic character described above.

i. Their attitude toward all coincidences in life is generally defensive or suspicious/untrusting and with a major focus on negative solutions. This attitude results in; controversy, conflicts, undesirable tensions, which end without basis in logic and divisions without conclusions.

ii. When one cultivates such an epic stance, it affects their psychological balance resulting in a personality that obstructs human connectivity. Such a character becomes obsessive and paranoid and unable to foster group synergies, creates suspicious obstacles and becomes socially undesirable.

iii. The pessimistic character memorises eternally past issues that have no relevance to the present and resurrects them out of context in more current

situations in order to imply persecution or cover for an inferiority complex.

iv. The pessimist tries to attract other supportive comrades in support of their thoughts and their paranoid world, to give their standing a sense of reality and certainty and above all, a sense of legitimacy for their thoughts or logic or to simply accomplish emotional sympathy.

v. Pessimists over time distance the optimist from their social settings or positions on issues and, ultimately end up in a state of lonely exclusion.

vi. The pessimistic character does not have the personal strength in character to close the door behind them on the significant or insignificant and unresolved issues that have no positive effect for their future.

vii. The people who are close to their life become victims to their attitudes without the pessimist being conscious or aware of their contribution to this scenario.

viii. Pessimists are not susceptible to any form of education that may help them to address their pessimistic character traits.

ix. Pessimists feel happiness and in a comfortable psychological balance when they are in a state of regret and sadness or disorder. Their general position is based on a mental attitude towards life as follows;

Life has no substance if it does not give them Sorrow, sadness turmoil, confrontation and generally negative experiences

They reject the positives and joyful experiences in their lives or they are nullified as irrelevant and excluded from their concept of reality.

To be continued
Elias Hadjisavvas., ADELAIDE

East Med Gas Feasible Only Through Turkey, Erdogan Says

The EastMed pipeline project, which aimed to bring natural gas from Israel directly to Europe cannot become a reality without Turkey, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Monday.

"This is not a project that can be materialized. They (the U.S.) made all the analyses of this, they saw that there is nothing positive about this business," Erdogan told journalists onboard a plane during his return from Albania, Turkish daily Hurriyet reported.

The U.S. withdrew from the project because it would have been very costly, he added.

Erdogan was referring to the U-turn by the U.S., which has apparently given up on the project.

Greece, Cyprus and Israel signed an agreement in early January 2020 to construct the EastMed pipeline, to be completed by 2025, with an estimated cost of \$7 billion.

The project had been hailed by the European Union, as the pipeline would limit Europe's dependence on Russian gas.

The U.S. had been supportive of the project from the very beginning. Frank Fannon, then-

Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Energy Resources (ENR) was present at a meeting in Athens in August 2019 when the project was agreed on.

However, it appears there is a change of line now, with the U.S. expressing reservations about the pipeline, proposing more green-friendly alternatives.

"This business cannot be done without Turkey. Because if it will be transferred to Europe from here, it will only happen through Turkey," Erdogan stated.

Turkey is eager to resume talks for bringing Israeli gas to Europe, he said.

The president recalled that Israel had earlier proposed to work on the project with Turkey in discussions with former Energy Minister Berat Albayrak.

"The work was going somewhere. Maybe then we could conclude it up with Israel. So, is there no hope of finalizing now? The terms can be discussed. Because the interest analysis of this business is very important," the Turkish president said.

Greece to extend covid restrictions for one more week, at least

Greece will most likely extend the pandemic restrictions for one week, health minister Thanos Plevris indicated on Wednesday citing members of the epidemiologists' committee that is holding its weekly meeting on the course of the pandemic in the country and pressure on the health system.

Speaking to state broadcaster ERT, Plevris said "There is a great concern. It appears that the Omicron peak happened much earlier than expected but there is tremendous pressure on the National Health System from the Delta variant."

Minister Plevris added that while the Omicron variant is at 90% in the community, the percentage is [more evenly] divided in hospitals as there are citizens who were infected with Delta during the Christmas holidays.

"So, it makes sense, in order to monitor the phenomenon, for the measures to be extended. We will wait for the scientists recommendations but there is a common view

among all the scientists that the measures should run for 20-25 days and therefore, if there is a decision to extend them, it will be for another week," Plevris stressed.

Scientists and the health ministry are concerned because of the more serious Delta cases in hospitals and the "hard indicators" of the pandemic, namely the number of intubations and new deaths, which do not appear to be improving at present.

Greece started the week with 101 coronavirus deaths on Monday and 106 on Tuesday.

According to media, restrictions are not expected to be lifted before the end of the month.

The additional restrictions that, among others include, closure of restaurants and entertainment venue at midnight, high protection masks in supermarkets and public transport means, masks in- and outdoors and increased percentage of working from home were imposed on December 30 as daily infections started to soar.

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