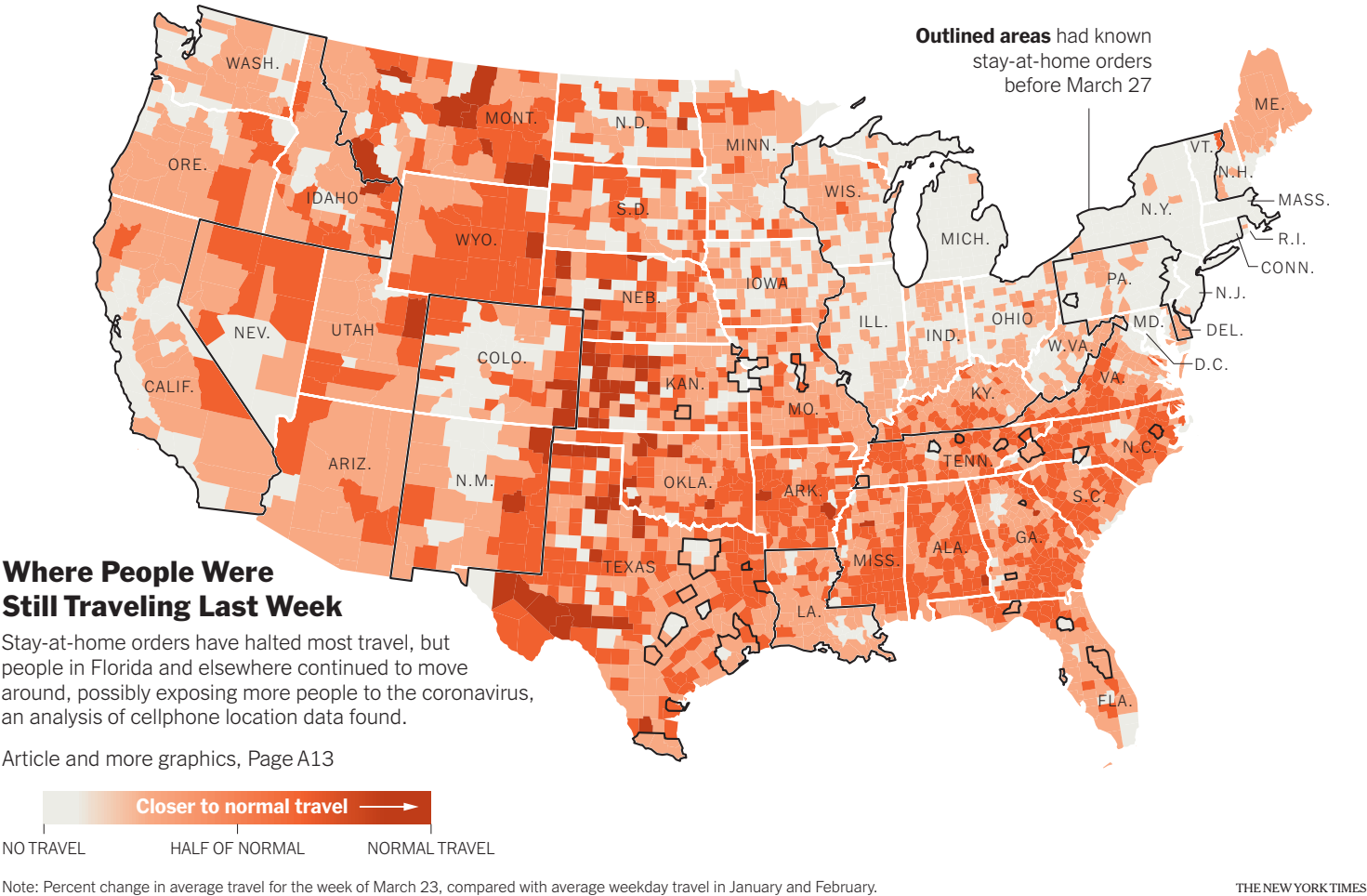


UNRIVALED JOB LOSSES ACCELERATE ACROSS U.S.



Where People Were Still Traveling Last Week

Stay-at-home orders have halted most travel, but people in Florida and elsewhere continued to move around, possibly exposing more people to the coronavirus, an analysis of cellphone location data found.

Article and more graphics, Page A13

Few Unscathed By Toll of Virus Across the City

By MICHAEL WILSON

A New York City Housing Authority retiree ticked off his running tally: an ex-wife sick, a daughter sick and three old friends dead. In Queens, a young poet learned a friend’s parents are in the hospital, one on a ventilator. And Qtina Parson of Parkchester, the Bronx, gave a grim reversal of the cheerful family updates one expects from the proud mother, sister and aunt that she used to sound like just a couple of weeks — a lifetime — ago. “My nephew — sick, he’s 28,” she said. “Him and his girlfriend. My sister-in-law, she’s 46, she had it.” Her son, Marcus, 18, is with relatives in South Carolina, where he has developed a fever and a cough. “But he’s out there cutting grass,” she added, as if saying this aloud would make it true: “I’m telling him it’s his allergies.” New Yorkers have watched in helpless fear as the coronavirus, with dizzying speed and ferocity, truly took hold of the city in recent days. With more than 1,500 dead, many have already lost someone in their circle — a co-worker, an old friend from high school, the parent of a child’s classmate. The parish priest, the elderly neighbor upstairs. A mother, a father. Almost everyone now knows someone who is sick. The story is told in the numbers: There were nearly 52,000 confirmed cases of coronavirus infections in New York City as of Thursday. But the reality of its reach is far worse — one study of cases in China suggested that up to 10 times the people who have tested positive may be infected, which could make the true number in the city close to half a million. And the apex is believed to

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12 Hours With E.M.T.s on Streets Under Siege

By JAN HOFFMAN

PATERSON, N.J. — “Back up, sir!” shouted Kenny Kiefer, a Fire Department battalion chief, his N95 mask muffling his words. “What?” replied the frail older man leaning out the doorway of a shelter and addiction treatment center, who had called 911 because he was having trouble breathing. Smiling timidly, he began to venture down the stairs. Alarmed, Chief Kiefer stepped back and thrust out his palm. “Stay right there!” A few weeks ago, a 911 call for “respiratory distress” would have sent emergency medical technicians — E.M.T.s — rushing into the building to examine the man and take his vitals. Now with coro-

In New Jersey, Swathed in Hazmat Gear and Battling Infection

navirus infections sweeping through the region, the emergency medical workers of Paterson, a poor, industrial city in the penumbra of pandemic-stricken New York, are working in a new, upside-down reality: Don’t go in a home, don’t touch the patient, and don’t take anyone to the hospital, unless absolutely necessary. Chief Kiefer’s job was to assess possible Covid-19 cases, to determine whether a specialized ambulance with E.M.T.s in hazmat suits

should follow up. Keeping his distance on the street, he talked to the man paused on the steps, sizing up his condition. Low fever, headache and intermittent cough. Could he be infected with the coronavirus? Possibly. But he was neither wheezing nor gulping for breath. The chief explained to the man that he could become far sicker by being in the hospital. “So do you just want to stay here?” he coaxed. Looking bewildered, the man nodded and shuffled back inside. The ambulance roared off to answer another call. Day and night, ambulances crisscross the streets of Paterson, the eerie silence of a once-raucous city shredded by siren shrieks so

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CHANG W. LEE/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Fire Department emergency medical technicians carefully working with a patient in Paterson, N.J.

Touting Cure Brings ‘Simple Country Doctor’ Cheers, and Doubts

By KEVIN ROOSE and MATTHEW ROSENBERG

Last month, residents of Kiryas Joel, a New York village of 35,000 Hasidic Jews roughly an hour’s drive from Manhattan, began hearing about a promising treatment for the coronavirus that had been rippling through their community. The source was Dr. Vladimir Ze-

lenko, 46, a mild-mannered family doctor with offices near the village. Since early March, his clinics had treated people with coronavirus-like symptoms, and he had developed an experimental treatment consisting of an antimalarial medication called hydroxychloroquine, the antibiotic azithromycin and zinc sulfate. After testing this three-drug cocktail on hundreds of patients, some of whom had only mild or

Trump Allies Pin Hopes on Unproven Claims

moderate symptoms when they arrived, Dr. Zelenko claimed that 100 percent of them had survived the virus with no hospitalizations and no need for a ventilator. “I’m seeing tremendous pos-

itive results,” he said in a March 21 video, which was addressed to President Trump and eventually posted to YouTube and Facebook. What happened next is a modern pandemic parable that illustrates how the coronavirus is colliding with our fragile information ecosystem: a jumble of facts, falsehoods and viral rumors patched together from Twitter threads and shards of online

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An Additional 6.6 Million Apply for Benefits as Commerce Grinds to a Near Halt

By BEN CASSELMAN and PATRICIA COHEN

A staggering 6.6 million people applied for unemployment benefits last week as the coronavirus outbreak ravaged nearly every corner of the American economy, the Labor Department reported Thursday. The speed and scale of the job losses are without precedent. In just two weeks, the pandemic has left nearly 10 million Americans out of work, more than in the worst months of the last recession. Until last month, the worst week for unemployment filings was 695,000 in 1982. “What usually takes months or quarters to happen in a recession is happening in a matter of weeks,” said Michelle Meyer, chief U.S. economist for Bank of America Merrill Lynch. The latest gauge of the pandemic’s economic devastation came as the virus itself kept up its relentless spread. More than a million cases — and more than 50,000 deaths — have been reported around the world. In the United States, emerging hot spots outside New York include Louisiana, where cases jumped 43 percent in a day, bringing the total to more than 9,000. Michigan also had a spike, with the state reporting over 9,000 cases, most in the Detroit area. Even the stunning figures on jobless claims are an incomplete reflection of how fully the pandemic has brought commerce to a halt. Many people who have lost

jobs or income did not initially qualify for benefits. Others, encountering state unemployment offices that were overwhelmed by the deluge of claimants, were unsuccessful in filing. Congress has stepped in with a \$2 trillion emergency outlay that aims to keep both families and businesses solvent. But possible hitches are surfacing. Banks and other lenders who are meant to play a crucial role in a lending program for small businesses say they still await information they need to take part, and they are bracing for a flood of demand. In any case, economists say the vast federal spending plan can, at best, limit the damage — and may not even be enough to do that, as the tendrils of the pandemic reach deeper into the American economy. The Congressional Budget Office said on Thursday that it expected unemployment to top 10 percent for the second quarter of 2020 — as high as the peak in the last recession — and to remain at 9 percent at the end of 2021. In February, the unemployment rate was 3.5 percent, a half-century low. The impact was initially concentrated in tourism, hospitality and related industries. But now the pain is spreading much more widely. The Institute for Supply Management said Wednesday

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CONGRESS Speaker Nancy Pelosi is forming a special committee to scrutinize the Trump administration’s pandemic response. PAGE A11

FACE COVERINGS The Trump administration is considering issuing an advisory for all Americans to wear cloth masks out in public. PAGE A12

Media Dissent Fades as Modi Tightens Grip

By VINDU GOEL and JEFFREY GETTLEMAN

NEW DELHI — The Media One anchorman Vinesh Kunhiraman went on air as usual on March 6, ready to tell the station’s five million viewers in India’s Kerala State about the death anniversary of a beloved comedian and the latest news on the coronavirus pandemic. Just a few minutes into the broadcast, he saw the managing editor rush to the studio floor, gesturing wildly. “I realized something was not right,” Mr. Kunhiraman recalled. The station’s uplink suddenly went dead. Mr. Kunhiraman’s image dissolved into a blue screen. A bland message told viewers there was no signal. “We regret the inconvenience,” it said. But this was no technical difficulty. The station had been cut off by an order from India’s Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The government decided to block the channel for 48 hours because it had covered February’s biggest news story — the mob attacks on Muslims in New Delhi that flared into broader unrest — in a way that seemed “critical toward Delhi Police and R.S.S.,” the order said. The R.S.S. is a Hindu-nationalist social movement with close ties to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bharatiya Janata Party. “It was shocking the central government took such a decision,” said R. Subhash, an editor at Media One. “It was an attack on the freedom of the press.” India’s free press has played a crucial role in protecting this country’s democracy since its independence from Britain in 1947.

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POOL PHOTO BY MANDEL NGAN

Saudi Arabia’s crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman.

Trump Hungry For Good News Via an Oil Truce

This article is by Michael Crowley, Clifford Krauss and Andrew E. Kramer.

WASHINGTON — When oil prices crashed in early March after a dispute between Russia and Saudi Arabia, President Trump put a positive spin on the news. “Good for the consumer, gasoline prices coming down!” he wrote on Twitter as markets tumbled. On Tuesday, Mr. Trump said that falling gasoline prices amounted to “the greatest tax cut we’ve ever given.” But the president has also nervously eyed the dire threat that American energy producers face from rock-bottom oil prices, and American officials have spent weeks pressing Saudi Arabia and Russia to settle a dispute that has created a global oil glut and further shaken an already-traumatized global economy. Leaning on two authoritarian leaders he has befriended as president, Mr. Trump spoke this week with President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia and the Saudi crown

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Audi-Lamborghini Love Story
It was a match made in German-Italian heaven when Audi stepped in to buy the maker of exotic sports cars. PAGE B4

Lenders Brace for Deluge
One thing is certain about the \$349 billion small-business loan program starting Friday: huge demand. PAGE B1

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Breach on Refugee Quotas
Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic failed to live up to a deal to distribute 160,000 asylum seekers, the European Court of Justice ruled. PAGE A18

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New Orleans’s Jazz Patriarch
Ellis Marsalis was the father of Wynton and Branford and a prominent performer and educator. He was 85. PAGE A23

Stage and Screen Songwriter
Adam Schlesinger, 52, of Fountains of Wayne, brought pop-rock perfection to the film “That Thing You Do!” PAGE A24

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Democrats Delay Convention
Wanting to maintain the live energy of its most galvanizing event, the Democratic Party is aiming to convene in Milwaukee in mid-August. PAGE A22

The Dangers of Democracy
Wisconsin is still planning to hold elections on Tuesday, thrusting thousands of poll workers into harm’s way. PAGE A20

Choosing a Running Mate
Joseph R. Biden Jr. and his associates are consulting allies as they weigh the options — including a woman of color — for the Democratic candidate for vice president. PAGE A21



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Picturing a Changed World
Great photographers have turned to Instagram to cure corona claustrophobia and show our new reality. PAGE C16

All the Jokes That Fit
Why can’t elephants dance? We’d tell you now, but then you might not turn to our two Times for Kids pages. PAGE C8

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Japan gave back the 1940 Olympics because of a war against China and political infighting. PAGE B9

The Masters on Halloween?
The governing bodies of golf’s biggest tournaments are considering concessions to salvage the season. PAGE B9

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David Brooks PAGE A26

