



VICTOR J. BLUE FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Precious Anderson met her son for the first time at the Brooklyn Hospital Center. She had the coronavirus, and the baby had to be delivered over two months early.

Stricken Ship Exposes a Rift In the Military

This article is by Thomas Gibbons-Neff, Eric Schmitt, Helene Cooper and John Ismay.

WASHINGTON — The captain had reached a breaking point. The aircraft carrier he commanded, the Theodore Roosevelt, was docked in Guam as the coronavirus raced unchecked through its narrow corridors. The warship’s doctors estimated that more than 50 crew members would die, but Capt. Brett E. Crozier’s superiors were balking at what they considered his drastic request to evacuate nearly the entire ship. Captain Crozier was haunted by the Diamond Princess, a cruise ship of 2,600 passengers in individual cabins where the virus had killed eight people and infected more than 700. The situation on his ship had the potential to be far worse: nearly 5,000 sailors crammed in shared berths, sometimes stacked three high. Eight of his sailors with severe Covid-19 symptoms had already been evacuated to the Navy’s hospital in Guam. On March 30, after four days of rebuffs from his superiors, Captain Crozier sat down to compose an email. “Sailors don’t need to die,” he wrote to 20 other people, all Navy personnel in the Pacific, asking for help. A Naval Academy graduate with nearly 30 years of military service, the captain knew the email would most likely end

Continued on Page A8

PUBLIC DISCORD President Trump alluded to frustration with Dr. Anthony S. Fauci. **PAGE A9**

How Meeting Of Drugmaker Sowed Illness

By FARAH STOCKMAN and KIM BARKER

BOSTON — On the first Monday in March, Michel Vounatsos, chief executive of the drug company Biogen, appeared in good spirits. The company’s new Alzheimer’s drug was showing promise after years of setbacks. Revenue had never been higher. Onstage at an elite health care conference in Boston, Mr. Vounatsos spoke of the drug’s “remarkable journey.” Asked if the coronavirus that was ravaging China would disrupt supply chains and upend the company’s big plans, Mr. Vounatsos said no. “So far, so good,” he said. But even as he spoke, the virus was silently spreading among Biogen’s senior executives, who did not know they had been infected days earlier at the company’s annual leadership meeting. Biogen employees, most feeling healthy, boarded planes full of passengers. They drove home to their families. And they carried the virus to at least six states, the District of Columbia and three countries, outstripping the ability of local public health officials to trace the spread. The Biogen meeting was one of the earliest examples in the U.S. of what epidemiologists call “super-spreading events” of Covid-19, where a small gathering of people leads to a huge number of infections. Unlike the most infamous clusters of cases stemming from a nursing home outside Seattle or a 40th birthday party in Connecticut

Continued on Page A16

In Brooklyn, New Life Pierces the Veil of Death

By SHERI FINK

The worried doctors stood together after their rounds, weighing the risks. A 31-year-old pregnant woman was in peril, her lungs ravaged by the coronavirus. If they delivered her baby now, it might reduce the strain on her body and help her recover. But it was more than two months before the due date, and the infant would probably have difficulty breathing, feeding and maintaining temperature and be at risk for long-term health problems. The surgery itself, a cesarean section, would be a stressor for the mother. In the end, the three obstetricians agreed: Neither the mother, on a ventilator, nor the child in her womb was getting enough oxygen, and the best chance to save

Even With Mothers Ill, Maternity Ward Is a Reason for Hope

both was to bring the baby into the world. Today. “We needed to do something,” said Dr. Erroll Byer Jr., chairman of the department of obstetrics and gynecology at the Brooklyn Hospital Center, reflecting on that morning nearly two weeks ago. The woman, Precious Anderson, was one of three critically ill expectant mothers at the same time in the community hospital, an unusual circumstance. Dr. Byer walked back and forth between the maternity floor and the intensive care unit, checking on

her. The obstetrics unit, which delivers about 2,600 babies a year, is typically a place of celebration and fulfilled hopes. But amid the pandemic, it has been transformed. Nearly 200 babies have arrived since the beginning of March, according to Dr. Byer. Twenty-nine pregnant or delivering women have had suspected or confirmed cases of Covid-19, the disease caused by the virus. They have been kept separate from other patients, and medical workers wear protective clothing when attending to them. Hallways where women walked as they endured labor are empty, with the mothers-to-be confined to their rooms. Multiple doctors and nurses in the department have fallen ill. Even healthy pregnant women

Continued on Page A12



BRIAN KAISER FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Ready for Battle Again

Thousands of used masks are being decontaminated to help resupply health care workers. **PAGE B3.**

For Americans Living in Poverty, Keeping 6 Feet Apart Is a Luxury Beyond Reach

By JASON DePARLE

WASHINGTON — There are corners of America where social distancing is practiced with care, but the house in Robesonia, Pa., that Mark Stokes shares with 10 other people is not among them. Housemates come and go to jobs in fast food and a chocolate factory, sharing a single shower. Dirty dishes crowd the kitchen that no one cleans. Lacking a bed, Mr. Stokes, a freshman at Kutztown University, sleeps on the floor in the room of a friend who took him in when the dorms closed. No stranger to hardship, Mr. Stokes, who spent part of high school living in a car, worries that the crowded conditions will expose him to coronavirus. But like

many poor Americans, he says the sanctioned solution — six feet of physical space — is a luxury he cannot afford. “It’s just so many people in the house and there’s nothing I can do about it — it’s not my house,” he said, in a voice rising in distress. “You can’t be six feet apart when you have to rely on other people’s space.” With the pandemic exposing

and compounding inequality in matters large and small, access to private, controllable space has emerged as a new class divide — more valuable than ever to those who have it and potentially fatal to those who do not. Inmates, farmworkers, detained immigrants, Native Americans and homeless families are among the discrete groups whose dilemmas have attracted notice.

What they share may be little beyond poverty and one of its overlooked costs: the perils of proximity. In addition to heightened risk of contagion, close quarters can worsen a host of ills, from flared tempers to child abuse and domestic violence. “The pandemic is a reminder that privacy is at a premium

Continued on Page A15

OIL GIANTS AGREE TO LIMIT OUTPUT, COOLING TENSIONS

LARGEST CUTBACK EVER

Deal Shaped by Trump Allays Russia-Saudi Arabia Dispute

By CLIFFORD KRAUSS

HOUSTON — Oil-producing nations on Sunday agreed to the largest production cut ever negotiated, in an unprecedented coordinated effort by Russia, Saudi Arabia and the United States to stabilize oil prices and, indirectly, global financial markets. Saudi Arabia and Russia typically take the lead in setting global production goals. But President Trump, facing a re-election campaign, a plunging economy and American oil companies struggling with collapsing prices, took the unusual step of getting involved after the two countries entered a price war a month ago. Mr. Trump had made an agreement a key priority.

It was unclear, however, whether the cuts would be enough to bolster prices. Before the coronavirus crisis, 100 million barrels of oil each day fueled global commerce, but demand is down about 35 percent. While significant, the cuts agreed to on Sunday still fall far short of what is needed to bring oil production in line with demand.

The plan by OPEC, Russia and other allied producers in a group known as OPEC Plus will slash 9.7 million barrels a day in May and June, or close to 10 percent of the world’s output. While the planned cut is slightly smaller than a tentative pact reached last week, the deal should bring some relief to struggling economies in the Middle East and Africa and global oil companies, including American firms that directly and indirectly employ 10 million workers. Analysts expect oil prices, which soared above \$100 a barrel only six years ago, to remain below \$40 for the foreseeable future. The American oil benchmark price was just over \$23 a barrel on Sunday night. “This is at least a temporary re-

Continued on Page A15

New York Feud Playing Politics With Pandemic

This article is by Jesse McKinley, Eliza Shapiro and Jeffery C. Mays.

ALBANY, N.Y. — Late on Friday, Mayor Bill de Blasio made the momentous decision to keep New York City’s 1,800 public schools closed through the end of June. He told just a select few, including Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, the country’s top infectious disease expert, who gave his blessing. But Mr. de Blasio did not reach out to Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo, his fellow Democrat and frequent political foe, until Saturday morning. The mayor’s top aides said he called Mr. Cuomo just a few minutes before he was to announce the news to the public. Mr. de Blasio did not get through. So the mayor sent a text message. Less than three hours later, Mr. Cuomo used his news briefing to discount the mayor’s decision as a mere “opinion” and insisted that he, and not Mr. de Blasio, controlled the destiny of the city’s own school system, the nation’s largest. The episode was a glaring example of the persistent dysfunction between the two men, an of-

Continued on Page A11



INTERNATIONAL A17-18

Dutch Tulip Industry Collapses

Demand has evaporated as flower shops around the globe close down and celebrations are canceled. **PAGE A18**

The Foreign Legion, Up Close

Before social distancing, a cramped tank-like vehicle in Mali was a breeding ground for camaraderie. **PAGE A17**

NATIONAL A19-21

Examining a Biden Allegation

Tara Reade, a former aide, has accused Joseph R. Biden Jr. of sexually assaulting her in 1993 and says she told others. The Times investigated. **PAGE A20**

Solace in a Time of Anguish

As the pandemic raged on, millions adapted rituals and grasped for hope in the story of the Resurrection. **PAGE A19**

BUSINESS B1-8

The New Killer App

The humble phone call has made a comeback: The volume of calls has surged more than internet use. **PAGE B1**



SPORTSMONDAY D1-5

Can’t Go to the Gym? Log On

Fitness coaches like Tilita Lutterloh, above, are leading online workouts for a nation stuck at home. **PAGE D1**

N.F.L. Eases Marijuana Rules

Many players had been asking for a more liberal testing policy that is in line with the other pro sports. **PAGE D1**

OBITUARIES D6-7

A Racecar Driving Great

Known for his brash, puckish persona, Stirling Moss won 212 of his 529 races, including 16 Grand Prix victories, but never won the Grand Prix Championship title. He was 90. **PAGE D6**

Overlooked No More

F. N. Souza, India’s anti-establishment artist, embraced the sacred and profane in erotically charged images. Several of his paintings fetched record auction prices for Indian art. **PAGE D6**

EDITORIAL, OP-ED A22-23

Jennifer Senior

PAGE A23



ARTS C1-8

The Bright Side of a Delay

At age 57, Deborah Roberts will soon have her first solo museum exhibition, — that is, when events allow. Above, “Red, White and Blue.” **PAGE C1**

