

As Neon Dims,
Despair Grows
On Vegas Strip

Service Workers Taking
a Devastating Blow

By **SABRINA TAVERNISE**

When Valicia Anderson starts to count the people she knows in Las Vegas who have lost their jobs, she runs out of fingers fast.

Her husband, the breadwinner of her family and a restaurant worker in the Rio casino. All 25 of his co-workers. Her grown son, in a temp agency. The technician who does her nails. The barber who cuts her husband’s hair. Her best friend, a waitress. The three servers and a manager at the TGI Friday’s that is her family’s favorite treat.

She has to think hard to come up with a single person who is still being paid. So when the events of the last month start to overwhelm her, Mrs. Anderson walks into her bathroom, closes the door, sits at her vanity and takes deep breaths.

“You are pushing people up against a corner,” said Mrs. Anderson. Referring to officials in charge of the pandemic response, she added, “They want you to stay home, and you’re doing that, but they’re not helping you financially to keep you afloat while you’re at home.”

She added, “It doesn’t make sense.”

As the bottom fell out of the American economy, few places were hit harder than Las Vegas, where a full one-third of the local economy is in the leisure and hospitality industry, more than in any other major metropolitan area in

Continued on Page A8



MATTHEW ABBOTT FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Bondi Beach in Australia is closed over virus restrictions.

New Zealand
And Australia
Squash Curve

By **DAMIEN CAVE**

SYDNEY, Australia — Thousands of miles from President Trump’s combative news briefings, a conservative leader in Australia and a progressive prime minister in New Zealand are steadily guiding their countries toward a rapid suppression of the coronavirus outbreak.

Both nations are now reporting just a handful of new infections each day, down from hundreds in March, and they are converging toward an extraordinary goal: completely eliminating the virus from their island nations.

Whether they get to zero or not, what Australia and New Zealand have already accomplished is a remarkable cause for hope. Scott Morrison of Australia, a conservative Christian, and Jacinda Ardern, New Zealand’s darling of the left, are both succeeding with throwback democracy — in which partisanship recedes, experts lead, and quiet coordination matters more than firing up the base.

“This is certainly distinct from the United States,” said Dr. Peter Collignon, a physician and professor of microbiology at the Australian National University who has worked for the World Health Organization. “Here it’s not a time

Continued on Page A7

Gasping for Breaths the Size of a Tablespoon

Healthy Hiker’s Grave Illness Highlights Virus’s Agonizing Mysteries

By **PAM BELLUCK**

HINGHAM, Mass. — “Is he going to make it?” Kim Bello asked, clutching her phone, alone in her yard.

She had slipped outside so her three children, playing games in the living room, could be shielded from a wrenching conversation with a doctor treating her husband, Jim. For two weeks, he had been battling the coronavirus at Massachusetts General Hospital, on a ventilator and, for the past nine days, connected to a last-resort artificial heart-lung machine as well.

The physician, Dr. Emmy Rubin, gently told Ms. Bello that while her husband had a chance of surviving, “If you’re asking for an honest opinion, it’s more likely than not that he won’t.”

Mr. Bello, 49, an athletic and healthy lawyer, had developed a 103 degree fever in early March after a hike in the White Mountains in New Hampshire and landed in a suburban emergency room six days later, struggling to breathe.

Now, despite all his doctors had done, his lungs looked white as bone on his latest X-ray, with virtually no air-filled spaces — “one of the worst chest X-rays I’ve ever seen,” Dr. Paul Currier, another of his doctors, said.

As he lay in the intensive care unit, even a touch that caused slight movement to his heavily sedated and chemically paralyzed body could send his oxygen levels into a tailspin. Doctors worried his heart would stop, and if it did, they realized they wouldn’t be able to resuscitate him.

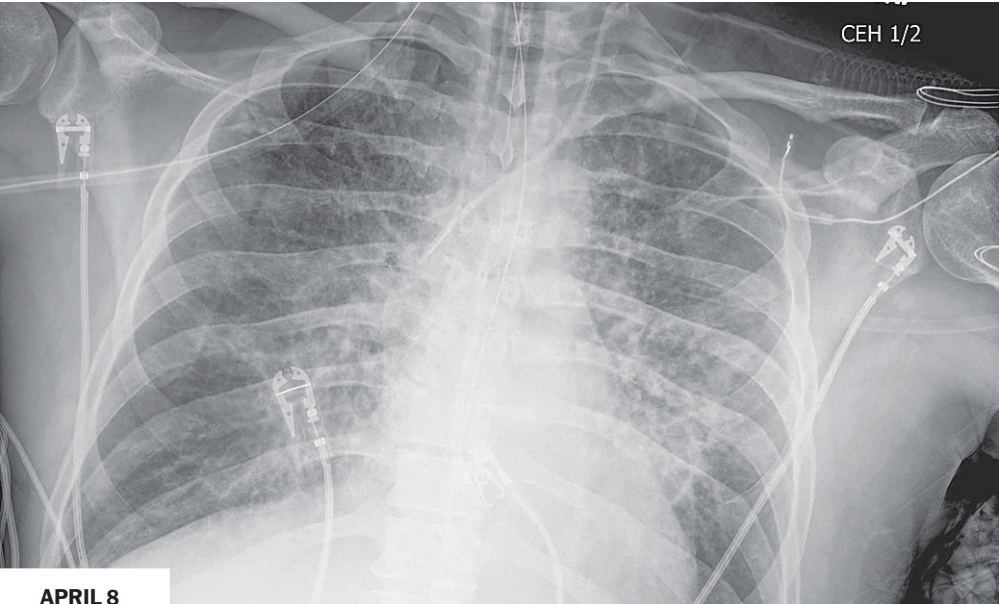
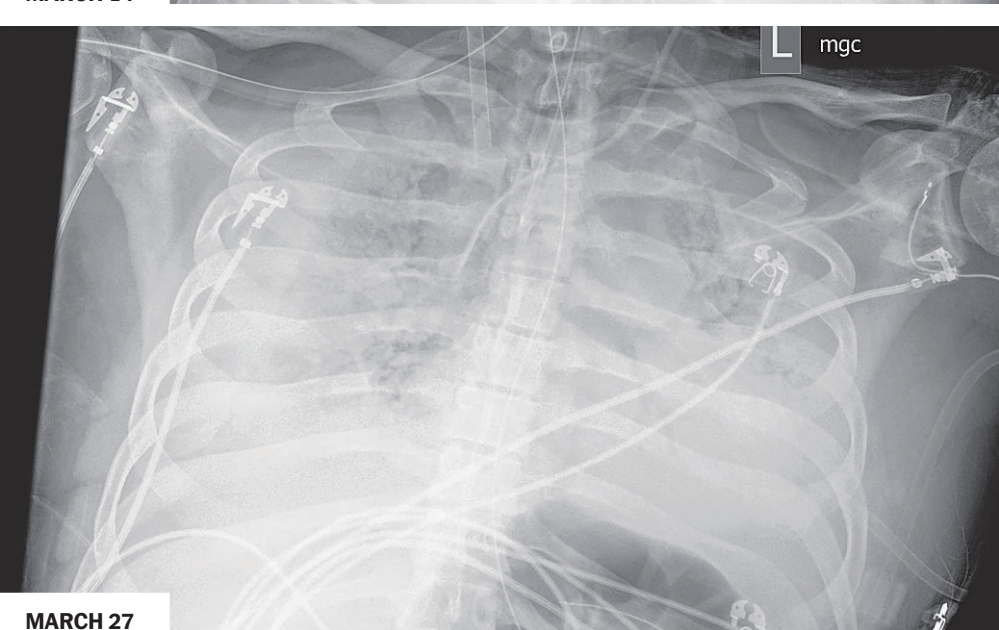
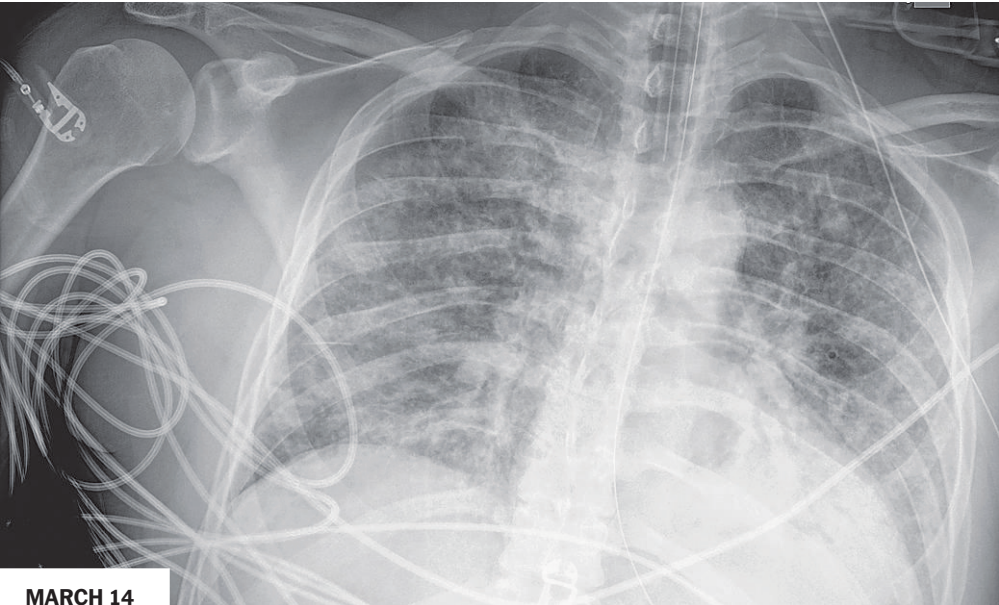
They had tried everything to help him, including experimental drugs, a low-tech maneuver of flipping him on his belly to improve airflow and the most sophisticated life support machine.

They were considering one more “Hail Mary” medical maneuver, but setting it up required cutting the machine-supplied oxygen for 30 seconds, a gap they did not think he could survive.

“Even if those were things that could help him, trying to do those would kill him,” said Dr. Yuval Raz, a key specialist on Mr. Bello’s team.

Mr. Bello’s cataclysmic spiral from avid skier, cyclist and runner to grievously ill patient — and the heartbreaking and triumphant twists in doctors’ relentless efforts to save him — underscores the agonizing challenges confronting even highly trained physicians and well-equipped hospitals battling a ferociously capricious virus.

Continued on Page A14



PHOTOGRAPHS VIA MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL

Jim Bello’s chest X-rays from his stay at Mass General, where he was on a ventilator for 32 days. In his first, top, white space indicates areas of his lungs that were filled with fluid and inflamed cells; at middle, a total “whiteout”; above, the lungs starting to clear again.

A Call Pierces the Lulls for Exhausted Paramedics: ‘Possible Covid’



ERIN SCHIAFF/THE NEW YORK TIMES

The paramedics Kenny Cheng, left, and Sean Mahoney looked at information on a 911 call as it came in from their dispatcher.

By **ALI WATKINS**

For seven and a half hours, the two New York City paramedics had worked a surprisingly normal shift: a few people with difficulty breathing, one trip to the hospital — and, miraculously it seemed, no clear cases of coronavirus.

They were about to head back to their station when an urgent call flashed over their dispatch screen: cardiac arrest, with a patient who had been feeling sick for a week.

“Heads up,” a radio barked. “Possible Covid.”

The paramedics, Sean Mahoney and Kenny Cheng, rushed to the apartment building, donned gowns, goggles and face masks and restarted the patient’s heart. But then the person crashed. The ambulance doors closed as Mr. Cheng frantically began chest compressions. Moments later, the patient was dead.

Such is the disturbing new normal for the city’s paramedics,

whose days can be mundane until — suddenly — they are not.

The peak of the coronavirus epidemic in New York City — when paramedics were declaring scores of people dead a day — has passed, at least for now. Yet the virus still casts a shadow over everything they do. And when it resurfaces, it does so swiftly and with a vengeance.

Like the rest of the city, paramedics are facing an unnerving uncertainty: When can they see their loved ones again? When, if ever, can they return to normal? And what if the virus comes back when they do?

“It’s a little bit overwhelming,” said Mr. Mahoney, 40. “But that’s what we signed up to do, right?”

Nearly two months into the coronavirus crisis, the strain has taken a heavy emotional and physical toll on paramedics. The city employs around 4,500 paramedics and emergency medical technicians, who are but-

Continued on Page A16

Late Edition

Today, plenty of clouds, showers, chilly, high 49. Tonight, some clearing, evening showers, low 40. Tomorrow, partly sunny, high 60. Weather map appears on Page C8.

LARGE COMPANIES
TAKE BAILOUT AID
IN DUBIOUS GAINS

LOANS AIMED AT OTHERS

Millions Go to Applicants
Facing Financial and
Legal Problems

This article is by **Jessica Silver-Greenberg, David Enrich, Jesse Drucker and Stacy Cowley.**

A company in Georgia paid \$6.5 million to resolve a Justice Department investigation — and, two weeks later, received a \$10 million federally backed loan to help it survive the coronavirus crisis.

Another company, AutoWeb, disclosed last week that it had paid its chief executive \$1.7 million in 2019 — a week after it received \$1.4 million from the same loan program.

And Intellinetics, a software company in Ohio, got \$838,700 from the government program — and then agreed, the following week, to spend at least \$300,000 to purchase a rival firm.

The vast economic rescue package that President Trump signed into law last month included \$349 billion in low-interest loans for small businesses. The so-called Paycheck Protection Program was supposed to help prevent small companies — generally those with fewer than 500 employees in the United States — from capsizing as the economy sinks into what looks like a severe recession.

The loan program was meant for companies that could no longer finance themselves through traditional means, like raising money in the markets or borrowing from banks under existing credit lines. The law required that the federal money — which comes at a low 1 percent interest rate and in some cases doesn’t need to be paid back — be spent on things like payroll or rent.

But the program has been riddled with problems. Within days of its start, its money ran out, prompting Congress to approve an additional \$310 billion in funding.

Continued on Page A9

A Disinfectant
That May Mar
Trump’s Teflon

By **MATT FLEGENHEIMER**

President Trump’s self-assessment has been consistent.

“I’m, like, a very smart person,” he assured voters in 2016.

“A very stable genius,” he ruled two years later.

“I’m not a doctor,” he allowed on Thursday, pointing to his skull inside the White House briefing room, “but I’m, like, a person that has a good you-know-what.”

Mr. Trump’s performance that evening, when he suggested that injections of disinfectants into the human body could help combat the coronavirus, did not sound like the work of a doctor, a genius, or a person with a good you-know-what.

Even by the turbulent standards of this president, his musings on virus remedies have landed with uncommon force, drawing widespread condemnation as dangerous to the health of Americans and inspiring a near-universal alarm that many of his past remarks — whether offensive or fear-mongering or simply untrue — did not.

Mr. Trump’s typical name-calling can be recast to receptive audiences as mere “counter-

Continued on Page A10

INTERNATIONAL A17-19

U.S. Now Points to Iran Deal

To pressure Tehran, the secretary of state is set to argue that the U.S. remains a participant in the Obama-era nuclear accord, which President Trump abandoned two years ago. PAGE A18

Jailed After Finding Graves

The discovery of a Stalin-era site by Yuri Dmitriev “has clearly made some people very uncomfortable,” his daughter says. PAGE A17

Rumors Badger North Korea

Speculation over its leader’s health, and his possible death, has only increased over the past two weeks. PAGE A19

SPORTSMONDAY D1-6

Where the Score Didn’t Matter

Sopan Deb writes about how he reconnected with his father after 30 years, on a clay tennis court in India. PAGE D1

Katie Ledecky Hits the Books

The five-time Olympic champ is studying infectious diseases at Stanford and finding creative ways to train. PAGE D2



NATIONAL A20-21

A Murky Killing in Georgia

A 25-year-old black man running through a neighborhood was shot. A prosecutor argued that his white pursuers should not be charged. PAGE A20

BUSINESS B1-6

Michelin Revives Production

Amid union objections in France, the tire company’s C.E.O. says it’s time to “learn how to live with Covid-19.” PAGE B1

Condé Nast’s Looming Crisis

Anna Wintour made the company the embodiment of boomer excess. Can it survive the challenges ahead? PAGE B1

ARTS C1-7

Exploring Forced Migration

Serge Alain Nitegeka can’t leave South Africa, but his art, on the refugee condition, is traveling. PAGE C1

Bringing Back the ’90s

Young stars have become enamored with artifacts of the Y2K era. Below, Normani’s “Motivation” video. PAGE C2



OBITUARIES D7-8

Inspiration for ‘Bull Durham’

An erratic pitcher with an amazing fastball, Steve Dalkowski never made it to the majors. He was 80. PAGE D7

Overlooked No More

An amateur scientist, Eunice Foote found that greenhouse gases would raise Earth’s temperature. PAGE D8

EDITORIAL, OP-ED A22-23

Kirsten Gillibrand

PAGE A23

